

3RD ANNUAL
AML/CFT

Anti-Money Laundering & Countering
the Financing of Terrorism

CONFERENCE

AGENDA

FEBRUARY 23 - 25, 2026

Belize Civic Center
Belize City, Belize



Public-Private Collaboration: Strengthening AML/CFT/CPF Efforts through Partnership and Innovation





PRESENTS THE

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FEBRUARY 23 - 25, 2026

8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Belize Civic Center
Belize City, Belize

MEET OUR HOSTS



Ishmael Quiroz

Executive Director, Economic Development Council and Director of Public/Private Dialogue in the Office of the Prime Minister of Belize

Ishmael Quiroz is Executive Director of BELTRAIDE, Belize's trade and investment promotion agency, with over 20 years of experience in national and international civil service. He has expertise in public-private dialogue, investment and trade promotion, socio-economic development, business climate reform, and innovation. Ishmael has led initiatives including the modernization of Belize's Companies Act, digital transformation projects, and the expansion of entrepreneurship and microenterprise growth to drive sustainable economic and social impact.

He previously served as Director of Public-Private Dialogue in the Office of the Prime Minister and spent nearly a decade with the Inter-American Development Bank, specializing in private-sector operations.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Corporate Management from Anglia Ruskin University, UK, and a Master of Science in Economics from Galen University, Belize. Ishmael is a Paul Harris Fellow, served two terms as President of the Rotary Club of Belmopan, and sits on the Board of Directors of the Belize Audubon Society.



William Neal

Communication and Government Affairs Officer, Belize Sugar Industries Ltd

William A. Neal is the Communication and Government Affairs Officer at Belize Sugar Industries Ltd. (BSI) and a former Dean of Student Affairs at the University of Belize. He holds a Master of Arts in English (Technical and Professional Communication) from East Carolina University, earned through a full academic scholarship from the Organization of American States.

William is widely recognized for his work as a television host and journalist, having hosted programs including Open Your Eyes, KTV, Duets, and KTV - The Remix, and worked with Great Belize Television (Channel 5 Belize), earning multiple awards, including two CNN World Report Awards. He was awarded an MBE in 2007 for his contributions to the arts and entertainment in Belize and is a long-standing advocate for youth and the arts. Throughout his career, William has held diverse roles, including Communications Officer for UNICEF, Director of the Institute of Creative Arts, PR consultant for the Inter-American Development Bank, and educator at the primary and secondary levels. He has over 25 years of experience in journalism, communications, and media.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Marilyn Gardiner Usher

Chair, National Anti-Money Laundering Committee



On behalf of Belize's Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), I am pleased to present this brochure on Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) compliance.

The integrity of Belize's financial system is a shared national responsibility. Money laundering and terrorist financing threaten not only economic stability, but also public trust, national security, and Belize's standing within the global financial community. As financial crimes grow more sophisticated, so too must our collective commitment to prevention, detection, and enforcement.

The FIU remains steadfast in its mandate to safeguard Belize's financial system through intelligence-led analysis, effective supervision, and close collaboration with domestic and international partners. Compliance with AML/CFT obligations is not merely a regulatory requirement; it is a vital tool in protecting our communities, strengthening our economy, and ensuring that Belize remains a trusted jurisdiction for legitimate business and investment.

This brochure is intended to provide guidance, clarity, and support to reporting entities and stakeholders in understanding their responsibilities under Belize's AML/CFT framework. Through continued cooperation, capacity building, and adherence to best practices, we can collectively reduce financial crime and uphold the highest standards of transparency and accountability.

I encourage all stakeholders to engage proactively with the FIU, remain vigilant, and commit fully to compliance. Together, we can protect Belize's financial system and contribute to a safer and more resilient future.

3RD ANNUAL
AML/CFT FEB. 23 - 25, 2026
 CONFERENCE

AGENDA

DAY 1

GENERAL SESSION MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD, 2026

8:30 AM – 9:00 AM	Registration	
	OPENING SESSION	
9:00 AM – 9:10 AM	Opening Remarks	Ishmael Quiroz - Host <i>Executive Director, BELTRAIDE</i>
9:10 AM – 9:20 AM	National Anthems <i>United States of America, Belize</i>	
9:20 AM – 9:25 AM	Opening Prayer	Elder Stephen Robinson
9:25 AM – 9:35 AM	Welcome Remarks	Marilyn Gardiner-Usher <i>Director, Financial Intelligence Unit</i>
9:35 AM – 9:45 AM	Special Guest Speaker	Madam Katharine Beamer <i>Charge d’Affaires, US Embassy in Belmopan</i>
9:45 AM – 9:55 AM	Keynote Address	Hon. Christopher Coye <i>Senator, People’s United Party & Founding Partner, Courtenay Coye LLP</i>
9:55 AM – 10:10 AM	Closing Remarks	Dr. Vincent Palacio <i>President, University of Belize</i>
10:10 AM – 10:40 AM	EXIT OF SPECIAL GUESTS / PHOTOS / COFFEE BREAK	

TOPIC ONE: Mutual Evaluation Challenges and Way Forward

10:40 AM – 11:10 AM	CFATF Mutual Evaluation Process, Expectations and Follow-Up- A Global Perspective	Andrew Dalip <i>Attorney at Law, International Consultant & Special Legal Advisor</i>
11:10 AM – 11:40 AM	Charting Compliance Success: Belize's Mutual Evaluation Achievements & Latest MER Insights	Leni Ysaguirre McGann <i>Attorney at Law, Courtenay Coye LLP & Former Director, FIU</i>
11:40 AM – 12:00 PM	Q&A	
12:00 PM – 1:15 PM	LUNCH	

TOPIC TWO: Updates on the National Risk Assessment Exercise

1:15 PM – 1:45 PM	From Vulnerability to Vigilance: National Risk Overview, Sector Insights, and the Road Ahead	Ashton Longworth <i>Assistant Manager, Compliance Methodology and Practice, Central Bank of Belize & Former NRA Coordinator, FIU</i>
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TOPIC THREE: Strengthening Belize's AML/CFT Framework in the Digital Age: A Technical Deep Dive into Emerging Cybersecurity Threats

1:45 PM – 2:15 PM	Managing Seized Data for Law Enforcement in a Digital Age	Lilita Infante <i>Chief Executive Officer, Crypto Asset Technology Labs, Inc & Ex-DEA</i>
2:15 PM – 2:45 PM	AI and Cybersecurity in AML/CFT	Tony Marshall <i>Founder, CQCore Solutions Training & Consultancy</i>
2:45 PM – 3:00 PM	Q&A	
3:00 PM – 3:15 PM	COFFEE BREAK	

TOPIC FOUR: From Compliance to Exposure: How Documentation Is Assessed Under AML/CFT Regulation

3:15 PM – 3:45 PM	When Documentation Becomes Risk: How Regulators Interpret Identity, Access, and Evidence Across AML/CFT Frameworks	Stanley I. Foodman <i>Chief Executive Officer & Founder, Foodman CPAs & Advisors</i>
3:45 PM – 3:50 PM	Q&A	

3:50 PM – 4:00 PM	CLOSING REMARKS	
4:00 PM – 5:30 PM	COMPLIANCE CONNECT NETWORKING MIXER	<i>This exclusive event is being hosted in partnership with Finance Belize, Transworld Compliance, and Foodman CPAs and Advisors, and is reserved for members of NAMLC, Speakers, Hosts & Heads of Department. (Attendance is by Invitation Only)</i>

DAY 1

BREAKOUT SESSION
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD, 2026

1:15 PM – 1:45 PM	Registration	
OPENING SESSION		
1:45 PM – 1:50 PM	Welcome and Opening Remarks	William Neal <i>Co-Host</i>
SESSION ONE: Combating Proliferation Financing: Leveraging Advanced Analytics and Institutional Vigilance		
1:50 PM – 2:20 PM	Leveraging Data Analytics to Identify Proliferation Financing Red Flags	Duane Vasquez <i>Retired Special Agent & Former Financial Crimes Investigative Advisor, FIU</i>
2:20 PM – 2:50 PM	Proliferation Financing: The Hidden Threat to Global Financial Systems	Andrew Dalip <i>Attorney at Law, International Consultant & Special Legal Advisor</i>
2:50 PM – 3:00 PM	Q&A	
3:00 PM – 3:15 PM	COFFEE BREAK	
SESSION TWO: Securing Seized Crypto Assets: Practical Solutions for Storage and Realisation		
3:15 PM – 3:45 PM	Crypto Seizures – A Successful Storage and Realization Solution	Richard Strike <i>Richard Strike, Director, GentiumUK Limited, Managing Director, ComplyCrypto Depository & Former UK Detective</i>
3:45 PM – 3:50 PM	Q&A	
3:50 PM – 4:00 PM	CLOSING REMARKS	

DAY 2

GENERAL SESSION
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH, 2026

8:00 AM – 8:30 AM	Registration	
8:30 AM – 8:40 AM	Welcome and Opening Remarks	Ishmael Quiroz - Host <i>Executive Director, BELTRAIDE</i>

TOPIC ONE: Transparency, Ethics, and Risk-Based Oversight in Modern Financial Systems

8:40 AM – 9:10 AM	Red Flags and Risks: The Intersection of Fraud and Money Laundering	Ricardo Gomez <i>Principal, Risk Advisory Services, Kaufman Rossin</i>
9:10 AM – 9:40 AM	Good Conduct and Ethics, Compliance, and the IOSCO Principles in the Virtual Assets World	Franco Destro <i>Special Counsel to the Financial Services Commission's Director General</i>
9:40 AM – 10:10 AM	Risk-Based Supervision of DNFBPs	Derek Benjamin <i>Certified Anti-Money Laundering, Prevention of Terrorism & Financial Crime Specialist / Money Laundering & Financing of Terrorism Risk Management Expert</i>
10:10 AM – 10:20 AM	Q&A	
10:20 AM – 10:35 AM	COFFEE BREAK	

TOPIC TWO: Building Resilient Compliance Systems Amid Technological and Regulatory Change

10:35 AM – 11:05 AM	OSINT Skills for the Compliance Sector	Tony Marshall <i>Founder, CQCore Solutions Training & Consultancy</i>
11:05 AM – 11:35 AM	Strengthening the Country's Procedural Process – Investigative, Legislative, and Sanctions	Dercene Staine <i>Legal Advisor, FIU</i>
11:35 AM – 12:05 PM	Proactive Risk Identification: A Cornerstone of Effective AML/CFT Programs	Emory Perera <i>Managing Director, X-perience Compliance Solutions</i>
12:05 PM – 12:15 PM	Q&A	
12:15 PM – 1:15 PM	LUNCH	

TOPIC THREE: Practical Approaches to Risk, Transparency, and Due Diligence

1:15 PM – 1:45 PM	Risk Assessment and Management	Michelle Martin <i>Chairman & CEO, ComplianceAid / AMLFC Institute</i>
1:45 PM – 2:15 PM	Peeling Back the Layers: Unravelling Complex Beneficial Ownership Structures	Melissa Cunningham Ferguson <i>Attorney-at-Law</i>
2:15 PM – 2:45 PM	When is EDD necessary, and How can it be Effectively Implemented?	Heidi-Lynn Sutton <i>Legal and Compliance Professional & Barrister, H.D. Sutton Law Chambers</i>
2:45 PM – 3:00 PM	Q&A	
3:00 PM – 3:15 PM	COFFEE BREAK	

TOPIC FOUR: Regulating VASPs: Finding the Right Balance Between Oversight and Innovation

3:15 PM – 3:45 PM	Crypto Assets & Virtual Asset Service Providers (VASPs): Risk or Opportunity	Franco Destro <i>Special Counsel to the Financial Services Commission's Director General</i>
3:45 PM – 3:50 PM	Q&A	

TOPIC FIVE: Panel 2 - Discussion on Derisking

3:50 PM – 4:20 PM	<p>DERISKING: A Global Perspective and the Belizean Experience</p> <p>TOPICS TO INCLUDE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current Status of Derisking Globally • Role of Regulators in Home Countries of Correspondent Banks • What Regulators Can and Cannot Do <p>MODERATOR: Laetitia Solis-Murillo <i>Deputy Governor, Monetary & Financial Systems, Central Bank of Belize</i></p> <p>PANELISTS:</p> <p>Bryant J. Moravek <i>Principal, AML & Sanctions Compliance, Kaufman Rossin, P.A.</i></p> <p>Filippo Alario <i>Chairman & Chief Executive Officer, Belize Bank Limited</i></p>	
4:20 PM – 4:30 PM	CLOSING REMARKS	

DAY 2

BREAKOUT SESSION
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH, 2026

8:00 AM – 8:30 AM	Registration	
	OPENING SESSION	
8:30 AM – 8:40 AM	Welcome and Recap of Day 1	William Neal Co-Host
SESSION ONE: Scaling AML Training and Adapting Compliance in a Digital Financial Era		
8:40 AM – 9:10 AM	Leveraging E-learning Tools to Scale AML Training Initiatives	Derick Conorque Finance Coordinator, University of Belize
9:10 AM – 9:40 AM	Evaluating Impact and Adaptability: "The Role of Financial Sanctions in a Dynamic Threat Landscape"	Andrew Dalip FIU's Special Legal Advisor Attorney at Law, International Consultant & Special Legal Advisor
9:40 AM – 10:10 AM	Harnessing Innovation While Strengthening Regulatory Oversight in the Digital Financial Era	Simone Martin Chief Executive Officer & Founder of Ignus Solutions Limited and Chasing Compliance
10:10 AM – 10:20 AM	Q&A	
10:20 AM – 10:35 AM	COFFEE BREAK	
SESSION TWO: Practical Strategies and Emerging Technologies in AML/CFT and Virtual Asset Compliance		
10:35 AM – 11:05 AM	The Impact of Real-world Case Studies in AML/CFT/CPF Training Programs	Fredric E. Gushin Chief Executive Officer, Spectrum Gaming Group
11:05 AM – 11:35 AM	Balancing Anonymity and Accountability in Virtual Assets Transactions	Richard Strike Director, GentiumUK Limited, Managing Director, ComplyCrypto Depository & Former UK Detective
11:35 AM – 12:05 PM	Law Enforcement Technology and Cryptocurrency Asset Recovery / Seizures	Lilita Infante Chief Executive Officer, Crypto Asset Technology Labs, Inc & Ex-DEA
12:05 PM – 12:15 PM	Q&A	

12:15 PM – 1:15 PM	LUNCH	
SESSION THREE: Panel 2: Discussion on CRS and FATCA Act & Data Quality, Controls, Audits & Readiness		
1:15 PM – 2:15 PM	<p>PART 1: Making CRS/FATCA Work Day-to-Day (Operations Panel)</p> <p>TOPICS TO INCLUDE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Onboarding and self-certifications • Identification of controlling persons • Aligning CRS/FATCA classifications • XML preparation and corrections <p>PART 2: Data Quality, Controls, Audits & Readiness (Assurance Panel)</p> <p>TOPICS TO INCLUDE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The three lines of defense • BTS queries and effectiveness testing • Identifying deficiencies • How stronger controls support Belize’s reputation and correspondent banking confidence <p>MODERATOR: Hero Balani <i>Chief Executive Officer, Finance Belize</i></p> <p>PANELISTS:</p> <p>Lisa Clare <i>Deputy Director General Policy & Programs, Belize Tax Service Department</i></p> <p>Emory Perera <i>Managing Director, X-perience Compliance Solutions</i></p> <p>Stanley I. Foodman <i>Chief Executive Officer & Founder, Foodman CPAs and Advisors</i></p>	
SESSION FOUR: The Fight Against Financial Crime - Agency-Level Updates and Lessons Learned		
2:15 PM – 2:45 PM	Insurance Fraud - A Brief History and Current Trends	Susana Marshalleck <i>General Manager, Atlantic Insurance Company Limited</i>
2:45 PM – 2:50 PM	Q&A	
2:50 PM – 3:00 PM	CLOSING REMARKS	
3:00 PM – 3:15 PM	COFFEE BREAK	

DAY 3

GENERAL SESSION WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH, 2026

8:00 A. M. – 8:30 AM	Registration	
	OPENING SESSION	
8:30 AM – 8:40 AM	Welcome Remarks and Recap of Day 2	Ishmael Quiroz - Host <i>Executive Director, BELTRAIDE</i>
TOPIC ONE: Unlocking the Full Potential of STRs: From Compliance Obligations to Tools for Crime Prevention		
8:40 AM – 9:10 AM	STRs Beyond Compliance: Disrupting Financial Crime Effectively	Heidi-Lynn Sutton <i>Legal and Compliance Professional & Barrister, H.D. Sutton Law Chambers</i>
9:10 AM – 9:40 AM	Enhancing STR Quality: Turning Data into Actionable Insights	Renisha Briceno <i>Senior Financial Analyst, FIU</i>
9:40 AM – 10:10 AM	From Awareness to Action: The Role of Suspicious Transaction Reporting in DNFBP AML/CFT Success	Simone Martin <i>Chief Executive Officer & Founder of Ignus Solutions Limited & Chasing Compliance</i>
10:10 AM – 10:20 AM	Q&A	
10:20 AM – 10:35 AM	COFFEE BREAK	
TOPIC TWO: Optimizing AML Practices: Training, Due Diligence, and Frameworks		
10:35 AM – 11:05 AM	Tailoring AML Training for Different Organizational Levels	Fredric E. Gushin <i>Chief Executive Officer, Spectrum Gaming Group</i>
11:05 AM – 11:35 AM	Challenges in Conducting EDD on Complex Organizational Structures	Adrienne Lodge <i>Chief Operating Officer, NFC Global</i>
11:35 AM – 12:05 PM	Building Resilience in Compliance Frameworks through Technology, Transparency, and Collaboration	Derek Benjamin <i>Certified Anti-Money Laundering, Prevention of Terrorism & Financial Crime Specialist & Money Laundering & Financing of Terrorism Risk Management Expert</i>

12:05 PM – 12:15 PM	Q&A	
12:15 PM – 1:15 PM	LUNCH	
TOPIC THREE: Technology-Driven AML/CFT: AI, Reporting, and Cyber Risk		
1:15 PM – 1:45 PM	AI in Regulatory Reporting and Compliance	Michelle Martin <i>Chairman & Chief Executive Officer, ComplianceAid & AMLFC Institute</i>
1:45 PM – 2:15 PM	AI-Powered AML/CFT Framework: Enhancing Detection and Prevention	Jeremy Stephen <i>Economist & Financial Analyst Consultant</i>
2:15 PM – 2:45 PM	The Risk of AI-Generated Deepfakes (including Synthetic IDs) and Deepfake Detection	Shiva Bissessar <i>Managing Director, Pinaka Consulting</i>
2:45 PM – 3:00 PM	COFFEE BREAK	
3:00 PM – 3:45 PM	All Presenters Round-Up	
3:45 PM – 4:00 PM	CLOSING REMARKS	

DAY 3

BREAKOUT SESSION WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH, 2026

8:00 AM – 8:30 AM	Registration	
	OPENING SESSION	
8:30 AM – 8:40 AM	Welcome & Opening Remarks	William Neal <i>Co-Host</i>
SESSION ONE: Navigating the Complexities of Fraud and AML/CFT Compliance in a Changing World		
8:40 AM – 9:10 AM	Connecting the Dots: The Overlap Between Fraud and Money Laundering	Jose Can <i>Compliance Officer, Holy Redeemer Credit Union</i>
9:10 AM – 9:40 AM	Fraud Typologies and Emerging Schemes: Staying One Step Ahead	Aleesha Taylor <i>Deputy Compliance Officer, Holy Redeemer Credit Union</i>
9:40 AM – 10:10 AM	Securities Sector Exposure: AML/CFT Red Flags, Typologies & Supervisory Challenges	Sharlene Jones <i>Director, Compliance, Financial Services Commission</i>

10:10 AM – 10:20 AM	Q&A	
10:20 AM – 10:35 AM	COFFEE BREAK	
SESSION TWO: Following the Money: Financial Intelligence as a Tool to Disrupt Human and Wildlife Trafficking Networks		
10:35 AM – 11:05 AM	Case Studies: Exposing the Financial Networks behind Wildlife Trafficking	Yamira Novelo Fuentes <i>Counter Wildlife Trafficking Technical Coordinator, Wildlife Conservation Society Belize</i>
11:05 AM – 11:35 AM	Identifying Red Flags and Typologies of Human Trafficking-Related Financial Activity	Jaunna Murillo Palacio <i>National Coordinator, Anti-Trafficking in Persons Council / Ministry of Human Development, Family Support & Gender Affairs</i>
SESSION THREE: Navigating Stakeholder Expectations: Strategies for Transparency and Collaboration in Compliance Audits		
11:35 AM – 12:05 PM	Managing Relationships with Regulators, Board Members, and Stakeholders while Overseeing the Compliance and Audit Processes	Dr. Philippa Duncan <i>Chief Risk Officer, Heritage Bank Limited</i>
12:05 PM – 12:10 PM	Q&A	
12:10 PM – 12:15 PM	CLOSING REMARKS	
12:15 PM – 1:15 PM	LUNCH	
Kindly note that the General Session continues until 4:00 PM		

MEET OUR PRESENTERS



ANDREW DALIP

*Attorney-at-law, AML/CFT/CFP & Environmental Law
Consultant & Special Legal Advisor*

Andrew Dalip, Jr. is an attorney-at-law and international consultant specializing in AML/CFT/CFP and environmental law. He has served as Special Legal Advisor to three Attorneys General and led the development and implementation of targeted financial sanctions under United Nations Security Council Resolutions, including Trinidad and Tobago's first listing on the UN ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida global sanctions list. He has held senior leadership roles as Deputy Chair of Trinidad and Tobago's National Anti-Money Laundering Committee and as Chair of the CFATF Planning Committee, where he contributed to CFATF's Strategic Plan and Mutual Evaluation Execution Plan.

A Certified Assessor under the FATF 4th Round Methodology, Andrew has extensive experience in Mutual Evaluations, enhanced follow-up, and the International Co-operation Review Group (ICRG) process, and holds the CAMS, Certified Global Sanctions Specialist, and Advanced CAMS-Audit designations. He played a key role in Trinidad and Tobago's removal from the FATF Grey List and now advises national authorities in the Americas, the Middle East, and North Africa on FATF compliance, mutual evaluation preparedness, and national risk assessments. Notably, he supported Belize through its 4th Round Mutual Evaluation, resulting in the highest global ratings under the FATF 40 Recommendations and placement in Regular Follow-Up. Andrew continues to advise jurisdictions preparing for the FATF 5th Round Mutual Evaluation and regularly publishes and speaks on FATF and EU high-risk country listings, proliferation financing, terrorism, corruption, and environmental law.



LENI YSAGUIRRE MCGANN

Attorney-at-Law & Former Director, Financial Intelligence Unit

Leni Ysaguirre McGann is a senior legal and compliance professional and a leading authority on financial regulation and anti-money laundering in Belize. She is currently a Senior Associate Attorney at Courtenay Coye LLP, advising on corporate, commercial, and regulatory compliance matters, with over a decade of specialized experience in AML/CFT policy, regulatory enforcement, and financial crime prosecution. Prior to entering private practice in August 2025, Mrs. Ysaguirre McGann served for more than ten years at the Financial Intelligence Unit of Belize as Legal Officer, Deputy Director, and Director. During her tenure, she chaired the National Anti-Money Laundering Committee and led the update of Belize's National Risk Assessment and the country's successful engagement with the CFATF 4th Round Mutual Evaluation, under which Belize achieved the highest technical compliance ratings globally. She also served as a long-standing member of Belize's delegation to the CFATF and is a certified FATF 4th Round Assessor. Mrs. Ysaguirre McGann was admitted to the Bar in Belize in 2014 and holds a Legal Education Certificate from the Norman Manley Law School, an LL.B. from the University of the West Indies, and a B.A. in International Financial Markets from Anglia Ruskin University.



ASHTON LONGSWORTH

Assistant Manager, Compliance Methodology and Practice, Central Bank of Belize & Former NRA Coordinator, FIU

Ashton Longsworth is the Assistant Manager of Compliance Methodology and Practice at the Central Bank of Belize, with over 15 years of professional experience and more than 12 years of specialized expertise in AML/CFT regulation, supervision, and risk-based compliance. He joined the Central Bank in 2017 and plays a key role in supervising Belize's financial sector and ensuring alignment with international standards. From November 2023 to October 2025, he was seconded to the Financial Intelligence Unit as National Risk Assessment Coordinator, leading the update of Belize's national money laundering and terrorist financing risk assessment and representing Belize at the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force as champion for Immediate Outcome 1 (IO.1). His contributions were instrumental in Belize achieving a Substantial Level of Effectiveness for IO.1, a cornerstone of the country's strong Mutual Evaluation results.



LILITA INFANTE

Chief Executive Officer, Crypto Asset Technology Labs, Inc. & Ex-DEA

Lilita Infante is the Chief Executive Officer and Founder of CAT Labs, a technology company providing digital asset identification and seizure tools to combat cryptocurrency-enabled crime. She leads a team of cryptography, digital forensics, and technology experts developing tools to help governments and the private sector investigate illicit cryptocurrency activity and related national security threats. Previously, Ms. Infante served for 10 years as a Special Agent with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), where she pioneered the agency's first Counternarcotic Cyber Investigations Task Force, focused on Dark Web and cryptocurrency-enabled crimes. She led investigations that dismantled major crypto criminal networks, including Hydra Market, the world's largest Dark Web marketplace. Ms. Infante has received multiple awards for her work, including the U.S. Attorney's Office Law Enforcement Officer of the Year (2018) and the Homeland Security Investigations Associate Executive Director's Award (2023). She has also developed investigative techniques, policies, and best practices for cryptocurrency and Dark Web investigations, now used by law enforcement and intelligence agencies worldwide. She holds a Master's Degree in General Management from Harvard University and a Bachelor's Degree in Economics from Columbia University.

TONY MARSHALL

Founder, CQCore Solutions Training & Consultancy



Tony Marshall is a career investigator with over 25 years of experience and the owner of CQCore Solutions. He is an OSINT, intelligence, and online and digital exposure specialist. An active member of the international OSINT community, Tony has presented and trained on OSINT, operational security (OPSEC), and online and digital exposure risks across the United Kingdom, Europe, and internationally. He also maintains his own platform, The-OSINT-Toolbox, sharing OSINT resources and expertise.



STANLEY I. FOODMAN

Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Foodman CPAs & Advisors, Miami, Florida

Stanley Foodman works with financial institutions, regulators, legal advisors, high net worth individuals, and emerging technology firms on how regulatory expectations are applied and interpreted in practice across AML/CFT, sanctions, and cross-border compliance frameworks. His work focuses on documentation, governance, and decision-making, particularly how identity, access, and records are evaluated under supervisory and enforcement review. Stanley's experience spans both the public and private sectors. He previously served as an auxiliary special agent with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, working on money laundering, bank fraud, and asset recovery matters, and has consulted on civil money laundering cases for the U.S. Attorney's Office in Miami. He holds multiple professional designations, including CPA, CFE, CAMS, and TEP, has served on the Board of Directors of the Financial and International Business Association (f/k/a Florida International Bankers Association), and regularly speaks on AML/CFT oversight, regulatory risk, and supervisory expectations.



DUANE VASQUEZ

Retired Special Agent, ATSG Corp/US Embassy & Former Financial Crimes Investigative Advisor, FIU

Duane Vasquez is a retired federal agent and accomplished criminal investigator with extensive experience in federal law enforcement, including over four years of accounting experience. During his tenure with the U.S. Postal Service Office of Inspector General, he conducted complex criminal, civil, and administrative investigations involving fraud, waste, and abuse, including narcotics, contract fraud, healthcare fraud, financial fraud, mail theft, and employee misconduct. He also served as a Subject Matter Expert for mail theft, contract fraud, and narcotics programs. Mr. Vasquez has served as a keynote speaker at the 2015 Predictive Analytics World for Government Conference and the 2022 FBI Virtual Currency Symposium. From January 2024 to April 2025, he served as Financial Crimes Investigative Advisor to Belize's Financial Intelligence Unit through support from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs.



RICHARD STRIKE

Director, GentiumUK Ltd, Managing Director, ComplyCrypto Depository & Former UK Detective

Richard Strike is a former UK detective and accredited financial investigator with over 20 years' experience in financial crime, AML/CFT enforcement, and cryptocurrency investigations. He is Director of Gentium UK and Co-Founder of a UK-regulated Crypto Asset Service Provider, specialising in virtual asset investigations, regulatory compliance, and asset seizure, custody, and recovery. Mr. Strike works internationally with governments, regulators, FIUs, law enforcement agencies, and organisations including GIZ, the Council of Europe, FCDO, and UNODC, with extensive experience across Africa, Europe, and the Caribbean. He has led advisory and capacity-building programmes on FATF Recommendation 15, VA/VASP risk assessments, and risk-based supervision. His work in Ghana supported the creation of the National Cryptocurrency Task Force and contributed to the country's first major cryptocurrency seizure exceeding \$15 million. A certified Chainalysis training partner and frequent international speaker, he delivers practitioner-led insights on cryptocurrency risk, investigations, and compliance.



RICARDO GOMEZ

Principal, Risk Advisory Services, Kaufman Rossin

Ricardo Gomez is a Principal in Kaufman Rossin's Risk Advisory Services practice and an international attorney and compliance advisor. He leads cross-border risk advisory engagements for clients in the financial, legal, and corporate sectors, counseling institutions across the United States, Canada, Latin America, and the Caribbean on anti-money laundering (AML), sanctions, and financial crime compliance. Ricardo specializes in designing and enhancing compliance programs for banks, broker-dealers, credit unions, insurance companies, and emerging fintech and cryptocurrency firms. He has directed independent BSA/AML/OFAC reviews, risk assessments, and remediation projects for institutions in more than 35 countries, and frequently leads complex due diligence investigations involving cross-border transactions. He is a Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialist (CAMS) and an active member of the Association of Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialists (ACAMS). Ricardo holds a law degree from Escuela Libre de Derecho in Mexico and a Master's degree from the University of Miami School of Law.



FRANCO DESTRO

Special Counsel to the Financial Services Commission's Director General

Franco Destro is an international financial regulation expert with over 20 years of experience as a securities regulator, global compliance executive, and regulatory advisor. He is the Principal of Ethical Investor Services LLC, advising financial services commissions in developing jurisdictions on regulatory framework development, international compliance standards, and capital markets strategy. Previously, Mr. Destro served as International Counsel at the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, representing the SEC at IOSCO and the Financial Stability Board and negotiating multilateral agreements on cross-border enforcement and regulatory cooperation. He later served as Global Chief Compliance Officer at London Stock Exchange Group's Information Services Division, advising senior leadership and leading major regulatory initiatives, including Brexit licensing. Earlier in his career, he held senior regulatory and strategy roles at Moody's Corporation and practiced law at leading international firms. Mr. Destro currently works closely with the Financial Services Commission of Belize as Special Counsel to the Director General on regulatory framework development, IOSCO engagement, and the design of legislation for digital assets and OTC leveraged products. He holds an LL.M. from Columbia Law School, a J.D. from the University of Padova, and an M.S. in International Affairs, and is a member of the New York State Bar.



DEREK BENJAMIN

Certified AML & Financial Crimes Specialist & ML/TF Risk Management Expert

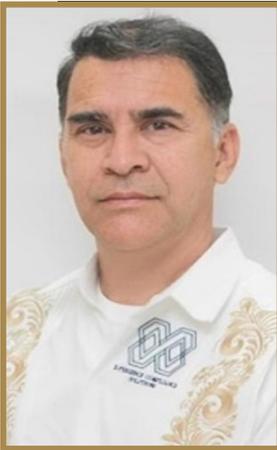
Derek J. Benjamin is a certified Anti-Money Laundering, Counter-Terrorism Financing, and Financial Crime Specialist (CAMLFC & CAMS) with extensive experience in regulatory compliance and the banking sector. He is an expert in money laundering and terrorism financing risk management and has contributed to advancing national compliance and enforcement initiatives. Mr. Benjamin served as Manager of the Financial Compliance Unit at the Office of National Drug and Money Laundering Control Policy in Antigua, bringing over 18 years of experience in national compliance and enforcement. He also has more than 20 years of professional experience in the domestic banking industry, providing him with deep expertise in financial systems and risk management practices. He is a certified CFATF Financial Examiner (3rd and 4th rounds) and served as the point of contact for Antigua's 1st Round National Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing Risk Assessment Coordinating Group. Mr. Benjamin remains actively engaged in emerging trends and typologies in financial crime prevention and is committed to sharing knowledge across the field.



DERCENE STAINE

Legal Advisor, Financial Intelligence Unit

Dercene Staine is the Legal Advisor to Belize's Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), a position he has held since June 2025. He previously served as an FIU investigator from 2013 to 2016 during his 18-year career with the Belize Police Department, where he rose to the rank of Assistant Superintendent of Police. After completing his legal studies and being admitted as an Attorney-at-Law, he served as Principal Prosecutor at the National Prosecution Branch before rejoining the FIU. Mr. Staine is a certified FATF 5th Round assessor and currently chairs both the Policy and Legislative Drafting Working Group and the National Targeted Financial Sanctions Task Force under Belize's National Anti-Money Laundering Committee (NAMLC).



EMORY PERERA

Managing Director, X-perience Compliance Solutions

Emory Perera is the Managing Director of X-perience Compliance Solutions, which provides AML/CFT/CPF risk assessments, audits, training, and policy manual development and gap analysis. He holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Murray State University, Kentucky, U.S.A., and is a certified member of the Association of Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialists and the Financial & International Business Association. Emory brings over 21 years of banking experience, primarily in AML compliance, including roles as Senior Financial Examiner with Belize's Financial Intelligence Unit and General Manager of the AML Compliance Department at The Belize Bank Limited until October 2025. In these roles, he managed responses to AML/CFT/CPF audits, policy development, training, and international reporting requirements such as the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act and Common Reporting Standards. He now serves as a consultant to reporting entities across financial institutions, law firms, remittance services, and company formation sectors, providing training, risk assessments, audits, and policy advisory services.



MICHELLE MARTIN

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of ComplianceAid & AMLFC Institute

Michelle Martin is Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of ComplianceAid and the AMLFC Institute, with over 32 years of experience across banking, credit unions, insurance, gaming, and other financial industries, as well as regulatory compliance, accounting, and financial crime prevention. She is a Certified Anti-Money Laundering & Financial Crimes Prevention Professional (CAMLFC) and Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialist (CAMS) and is the founder of the AMLFC Institute. Ms. Martin has trained over 2,500 senior public officials, members of parliament, and ministers across the Americas and has been an invited speaker at more than 80 conferences in 72 countries. She has developed and implemented over 100 AML/BSA/OFAC/CFT/CFP/FCP/HT/ABC compliance programs, policies, and risk assessment frameworks for financial institutions operating in multiple jurisdictions, and has contributed extensively to public education and mainstream media on financial crime and compliance issues. Ms. Martin holds a Bachelor's and a Master's in Accounting from Florida International University.



MELISSA CUNNINGHAM FERGUSON

Attorney at Law

Melissa Ferguson is an Attorney-at-Law called to the Bar in Jamaica, a company director, and a regulatory compliance professional with nearly 20 years of experience in company law, corporate governance, and commercial law across the public and private sectors. She has held senior public-sector roles in Jamaica, overseeing the regulation of companies and business entities, including statutory compliance, corporate registries, regulatory procedures, legislative review, and comparative legal research. Her work has contributed to strengthening corporate governance and AML/CFT frameworks and includes regulatory training, public education, and tutoring at the tertiary and professional levels, including collaboration with regulators in Belize on legislative reforms and the regulation of non-profit and non-governmental organisations. In the private sector, she served as Chief Legal Officer and Company Secretary for a publicly traded company, advising boards on governance, compliance, internal controls, complex transactions, and litigation risk. Ms. Ferguson holds an LL.B. (Hons) and a Certificate in Legal Education and currently practices as a sole legal practitioner while leading a consultancy in corporate governance and regulatory compliance.



HEIDI-LYNN SUTTON

Legal and Compliance Professional & Barrister, H.D. Sutton Law Chambers

Heidi-Lynn Sutton is a legal and compliance professional and Barrister, holding an LL.B. (Hons) from the University of Wolverhampton, a Postgraduate Diploma in Professional Legal Skills from City University London and the Inns of Court School of Law, and a Legal Education Certificate from the Hugh Wooding Law School. She is a Chartered Director of the Caribbean Corporate Governance Institute, a Fellow and Expert Practitioner Member of the International Compliance Association, and was called to the Bar in England and Wales in 2002 and in the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis in 2003. Ms. Sutton served the Nevis Island Administration from 2003 to 2010 as Legal Counsel, Registrar of Companies, and Senior Legal Counsel, and later provided consultancy services in financial services regulation and supervision. From February 2014 to March 2025, she served as Regulator at the Financial Services Regulatory Commission (Nevis Branch), holding key leadership roles in national and regional AML/CFT, tax transparency, and financial services governance frameworks. She has represented the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis at CFATF Plenaries and OECD Global Forum meetings and is trained as a Global Forum Assessor on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes, having participated in onsite assessments in the Czech Republic and the United Arab Emirates.



BRYANT J. MORAVEK

Principal, AML& Sanctions Compliance, Kaufman Rossin P.A.

Bryant J. Moravek is a Principal in AML & Sanctions Compliance at Kaufman Rossin, P.A. in New York City, where he advises clients on complex BSA/AML and sanctions compliance and investigative matters. He directs consulting engagements including enforcement action remediation, transaction look-backs, risk assessments, independent compliance testing, model validations, and system calibrations. Mr. Moravek has over 40 years of experience in banking, regulatory compliance, and financial crime investigation. He is a federally designated expert in the Bank Secrecy Act, having testified in U.S. Federal District Court and before the U.S. Senate Banking Committee. He has served as Senior Bank Examiner at the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Senior Special Agent at FinCEN, and Supervisory Special Agent with the U.S. Secret Service. He also served as Senior Advisor to U.S. Senator Alfonse D'Amato, Chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, and as a BSA/AML/Sanctions Compliance Officer for multinational financial institutions. He holds a bachelor's degree in the Administration of Justice from Moravian University and is a Certified Global Sanctions Specialist, Certified Crypto Asset Specialist, and Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialist.



FILIPPO ALARIO

Chairman & Chief Executive Officer, Belize Bank Limited

Filippo Alario is the Chairman and CEO of Belize Bank Limited. Mr. Alario previously held the position of Deputy CEO and CRO of the Belize Bank Group. Throughout his distinguished 30-year banking career, Mr. Alario has held several executive management positions at leading international and regional financial institutions in the Caribbean. He has a wealth of experience in the areas of corporate finance, investment banking, project financing, strategy, and execution. He is currently responsible for leading the bank in its digital transformation journey, leveraging technology to enhance the customer experience, streamline operations, and expand financial inclusion initiatives throughout Belize.



DERICK CONORQUIE

Finance Coordinator, University of Belize

Derick Conorquie is a banking and finance professional with over 15 years of progressive leadership experience across multiple financial sectors. He currently serves as Coordinator of the Institute of Banking and Finance at the University of Belize, where he also lectures in Anti-Money Laundering, Financial Management, and Economics. He holds a Master of Science in Finance and Financial Law from the University of London and a Bachelor of Science in Economics and Law from the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus. His professional qualifications include certifications in risk management, andragogy, public speaking, and court-connected mediation. Derick has extensive experience in domestic and international banking, insurance, and real estate, with expertise in financial strategy, governance, and risk management. Through his professional and academic roles, he contributes to the advancement of the financial services industry in Belize and fosters regulatory compliance, sustainable growth, and stakeholder confidence.



SIMONE MARTIN

Chief Executive Officer and Founder, IGNUS Solutions Limited and Chasing Compliance

Simone Martin is an author, educator, and recently retired financial services regulator with over 23 years of experience. She began her regulatory career at the BVI Financial Services Commission in 2001, working across fiduciary services, insurance, banking, and investment business, and was last appointed Director of Special Projects. Simone has extensive experience in prudential supervision, AML/CFT/CPF compliance, regulatory guidance, and FinTech policy development. She contributed to legislative reform, introduced agile regulatory initiatives such as the Innovation Office with the Anguilla Financial Services Commission, and has served on working groups for the Financial Action Task Force and the Group of International Financial Centers Supervisors. She has authored numerous guidance documents, including those on customer due diligence, virtual assets, institutional risk assessments, and investment business compliance. In addition to her regulatory work, Simone founded IGNUS Solutions Limited, providing compliance, governance, and VASP training and consultancy, and Chasing Compliance, the first membership platform designed by a regulator to empower compliance professionals. She holds an MBA in Management, an undergraduate degree in Accounting, and is a Fellow of the Chartered Governance Institute (UK), a Fellow of the International Compliance Association (UK), and a full member of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners.



FREDRIC E. GUSHIN

Chief Executive Officer, Spectrum Gaming Group

Fredric E. Gushin is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Spectrum Gaming Group, an international consultancy specializing in gaming regulation, policy, and operations, which he established in 1993. He began his career in gaming regulatory oversight with 13 years at the New Jersey Division of Gaming Enforcement, rising to Assistant Director and Assistant Attorney General, and played a key role in the regulation and opening of 12 casino hotels in Atlantic City. Since founding Spectrum, Mr. Gushin has advised clients in over 45 jurisdictions, supporting governmental and private-sector organizations on strategic planning, feasibility and marketing analysis, licensing, AML, and regulatory compliance. For the past 20 years, he has led Spectrum's engagement with the Government of Singapore and its gaming regulator, helping design and implement one of the world's most robust casino regulatory frameworks. He holds a BA from American University, a Juris Doctorate from Rutgers University, and a Master's degree from American University.



LISA CLARE

Deputy Director General Policy & Programs, Belize Tax Service

Lisa Clare is a senior tax official with more than 30 years of experience in tax administration and public sector leadership. Since 2019, she has served as Deputy Director of the Belize Tax Service Department, providing strategic leadership in the development and implementation of national and international tax policy. In her current role, Mrs. Clare oversees the International Cooperation Unit, where she plays a pivotal role in advancing Belize's international tax transparency and cooperation agenda. She is responsible for ensuring compliance with key global standards, including the OECD Base Erosion and Profit Shifting framework, Automatic Exchange of Information, and Country-by-Country Reporting. Her work includes strategic oversight of the implementation, monitoring, and continuous improvement of international tax agreements and commitments, ensuring alignment with OECD and Global Forum requirements. Mrs. Clare's leadership contributes directly to strengthening Belize's anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing frameworks by promoting transparency, effective information exchange, and robust cross-border cooperation. She represents Belize in international and regional tax and transparency forums, engaging with multilateral organizations, global partners, and regional counterparts to foster effective collaboration while advocating for Belize's national interests.



SUSANA MARSHALLECK

General Manager, Atlantic Insurance Company Limited

Susana Marshalleck has over 30 years of banking experience, beginning her career with Barclays Bank before joining Atlantic Bank Ltd. in 2015. She held several senior positions, including Senior Manager of Portfolio Quality, Manager of Business & Retail Banking, and Senior Manager of Business and Medium Enterprise Banking, overseeing retail credit, cash management, and merchant sales functions. Her expertise spans credit business, foreign and trade credit, merchant acquisition and card issuing, and customer service, with a strong focus on service excellence and sales growth. She has earned certifications in sales management, negotiation, human resources, and anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing. In her leadership roles, Susana managed both domestic and international credit operations, guiding teams to achieve financial targets, high-quality customer service, and professional development outcomes. In December 2023, she joined Atlantic Insurance Company Ltd. and became General Manager in May 2024, leading a team of over 100 staff across 12 branches serving all districts of Belize.



RENISHA BRICENO

Senior Financial Analyst, Financial Intelligence Unit

Renisha Briceno is a Senior Financial Analyst at the Financial Intelligence Unit, where she has served for 12 years. She specializes in operational, tactical, and strategic analyses related to Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT). Renisha advises senior management on AML/CFT compliance, supports policy development and implementation, and mentors fellow analysts. She also facilitates the preparation and use of financial intelligence for law enforcement agencies and contributes to working groups involved in Belize's National Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Risk Assessment. Renisha played a key role in Belize's 4th Round Mutual Evaluation and has served as a consultant for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in organizing workshops on trade-based money laundering.



ADRIENNE LODGE

Chief Operating Officer, NFC Global

Adrienne Lodge is the Chief Operating Officer of NFC Global and Director of Research at Spectrum Gaming Group, where she has over two decades of experience in due diligence, risk management, investigative research, and compliance. She works with financial institutions, regulatory agencies, and corporate stakeholders to strengthen compliance frameworks and enhance investigative integrity. Adrienne has overseen thousands of investigations assessing the suitability of applicants for gaming and professional licenses, financial accounts, and citizenship programs, focusing on high-risk sectors such as online gaming and fintech. She has also trained regulatory investigative teams to conduct robust due diligence and identify financial crime risks. She holds a Master's degree in Criminal Justice Administration from Villanova University, graduating summa cum laude, and a Bachelor's degree in Criminology and Biology from Albright College, where she also serves as an Adjunct Professor teaching courses in White Collar Crime, Victimology, Sociology, and the Criminal Justice System. Adrienne is a frequent speaker at industry conferences on due diligence, financial crime, and global compliance.



JEREMY STEPHEN

Economist & Financial Analyst Consultant

Jeremy Stephen is an economist and consultant with extensive experience in private equity and economic advisory across Barbados and the wider Caribbean. A former President of the Barbados Economics Society and former Chairman of COSCAP (Barbados), his core specialties include corporate advisory, financial due diligence, economic analysis, and the economics of cryptocurrencies. He has advised organisations including the Food and Agriculture Organization, the Government of Barbados, the Nevis Island Administration, the Caribbean Development Bank, One Caribbean Media, The Craane Group (Merrill Lynch), and the Barbados Medicinal Cannabis Authority. He is also an FAA-certified Commercial Multi-Engine Pilot. Mr. Stephen has lectured in Banking and Finance at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, and has led and contributed to major regional projects, including blockchain legislative development in Nevis, medicinal cannabis economic modelling in Barbados, debt justice reform advocacy across CARICOM, and economic impact assessments in the Eastern Caribbean. His cryptocurrency research, co-authored with Professor Winston Moore, “Should Cryptocurrencies be Included in the Portfolio of International Reserves Held by the Central Bank of Barbados?”, is widely regarded in regional policy discussions. A Commonwealth Scholar, he holds an MSc in Finance from Imperial College London and a BSc in Economics (First Class Honours) from the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus.



SHIVA BISSESSAR

Managing Director, Pinaka Consulting

Shiva Bissessar has a background in Strategic ICT and Information Security and is a pioneer in digital currency research and retail Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) implementation in the Caribbean. He conducted socio-economic research on digital currency adoption in the region, published by the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in 2016, and served as Programme Manager and strategic advisor for the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank’s retail CBDC pilot, DCash, from 2019 to 2024. In 2023, Shiva led a research project funded by the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) to map illicit virtual asset usage across 15 Caribbean states, performing blockchain analytics and reviewing Virtual Asset and VASP legislation. He currently serves on the National Risk Assessment working group on VA/VASP, which contributed to the enactment of virtual asset legislation in Trinidad and Tobago. Through his consultancy, he provides ransomware prevention and AI-enabled deepfake detection solutions, and advocates for online safety, particularly for children.



JOSE ALFREDO CAN

Compliance Officer, Holy Redeemer Credit Union (HRCU)

Jose Alfredo Can is the Compliance Officer at Holy Redeemer Credit Union Limited, with extensive experience in information technology, auditing, finance, enterprise risk management, and anti-money laundering. He previously served as Internal Audit Manager at Belize Electricity Limited and as Senior Internal Auditor/IT Specialist with FortisBC Holdings Inc. in Canada. Jose began his career with Belize Telecommunications Limited, where he held various IT roles for over 13 years. He has also served on HRCU's Supervisory Committee, including as Chairman, and has conducted training and implementation of Enterprise Risk Management systems for major Belizean companies. He is a certified Anti-Money Laundering Certified Associate through the Financial & International Business Association. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Computer Information Systems from Harding University in Arkansas, USA. Outside of work, he enjoys creative writing, reading, arts, history, and comedy.



ALEESHA TAYLOR

Deputy Compliance Officer, HRCU

Aleesha Taylor is Deputy Compliance Officer at Holy Redeemer Credit Union, bringing over seven years of experience in compliance and AML/CFT/CPF. She plays a key role in strengthening the institution's compliance framework and overall risk management. Aleesha oversees AML/CFT compliance, regulatory governance, internal controls, and operational compliance strategy. She has led improvements to transaction monitoring, customer due diligence, and regulatory reporting processes, ensuring alignment with evolving regulations and international best practices. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Management and is an AML Certified Associate through the Florida International Bankers Association. Aleesha is known for translating complex regulatory requirements into practical solutions and collaborating with leadership to foster a strong culture of compliance, integrity, and accountability. She is particularly passionate about leveraging technology to enhance AML resilience and advancing compliance awareness within the financial services sector.



SHARLENE JONES

Director, Compliance, Financial Services Commission

Sharlene Jones is the Director of Compliance at the Financial Services Commission, with over 30 years of experience in Belize's financial services industry. She leads the regulation and supervision of non-bank financial services providers, ensuring compliance with national legislation, regulatory requirements, and international standards. Before joining the FSC, Mrs. Jones served at the Financial Intelligence Unit, where she coordinated Belize's National Risk Assessment on money laundering and terrorist financing and led compliance supervision for designated non-financial businesses and professions. She also has more than 20 years of experience in domestic banking, including 11 years as Branch Manager of FirstCaribbean International Bank's Belmopan Branch. Mrs. Jones is certified by the AMLFC Institute in AML/CFT, counter-proliferation financing, and financial crimes prevention, and is a Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialist (CAMS) through the Association of Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialists.



YAMIRA NOVELO FUENTES

Counter Wildlife Trafficking Technical Coordinator, Wildlife Conservation Society Belize

Yamira Novelo Fuentes is the Technical Coordinator for Counter Wildlife Trafficking at Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Belize, a role she assumed in October 2023 after joining WCS Belize in 2016 as a Technical Assistant for Terrestrial Programs. She holds a Master's degree in Project Management from Universidad para la Cooperación Internacional, Costa Rica, and a Bachelor's degree in Natural Resources Management from the University of Belize. In her current role, Mrs. Novelo Fuentes leads and supports counter wildlife trafficking efforts across Belize's terrestrial and marine environments, working closely with government agencies and NGO partners on joint enforcement patrols, capacity building, conservation technology implementation, and the development of Belize's draft National Counter Wildlife Trafficking Strategy. She also leads long-term research and monitoring of the Critically Endangered Central American River Turtle within the Maya Forest Corridor. Her expertise includes conservation technology and enforcement tools, particularly the training and implementation of the SMART monitoring system, as well as specialized skills in PCR DNA techniques for CITES-listed shark species identification, drone operations, GIS mapping, and camera trapping.



JAUNNA MURILLO-PALACIO

National Coordinator, ATIPs and Ministry of Human Development, Family Support & Gender Affairs

Jaunna Murrillo-Palacio is a human rights and community development advocate with over six years of experience dedicated to systems strengthening and protecting vulnerable populations. She currently serves as National Coordinator of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Council for the Government of Belize, leading strategic planning, coordination, and implementation of national anti-trafficking initiatives. In this role, she represents Belize at local, regional, and international forums, advocates for legislative reform, and works with government agencies, civil society, and international partners to strengthen responses to human trafficking and related exploitation. Jaunna has contributed to the development of Belize's National Action Plans and the 2024–2028 National Strategy, the modernization of trafficking legislation, and the establishment of the country's first Human Trafficking Management Information System. She has also led geospatial mapping initiatives to identify trafficking vulnerabilities, coordinated national and regional reporting obligations, and helped develop protocols to protect migrant children. Jaunna is an Adjunct Lecturer at the University of Belize, teaching psychology, ethics, and criminology. Jaunna holds a Master of Arts in International Affairs and Diplomacy from the Open University of Catalonia in partnership with UNITAR and a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Andrews University. She has been recognized nationally and internationally, including as the U.S. Embassy's Outstanding Woman Honoree (2024) and the Human Trafficking Institute's Champion of ATIPS Award (2024).



DR. PHILIPPA DUNCAN

Chief Risk Officer, Heritage Bank Limited

Dr. Philippa Duncan is Chief Risk Officer of Heritage Bank in Belize, where she has worked for the past 21 years. She has over 35 years of experience in domestic and offshore banking, as well as serving as a bank examiner with the Central Bank of Belize and the Financial Intelligence Unit. Dr. Duncan is an adjunct lecturer at the University of Belize, her alma mater, and holds an MBA in Banking & Finance from the University of Manchester and a Doctorate in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix. She is a certified professional in anti-money laundering and risk assessment and has published research on correspondent banking de-risking and AML risk assessment methodologies. She participated in the 2003 CFATF mutual evaluation of the British Virgin Islands and defended Belize's mutual evaluation report in 2011. From 2015 to 2017, she represented Heritage Bank on a public-private sector task team addressing de-risking challenges with foreign banks, U.S. authorities, and regional stakeholders. Outside of banking, Dr. Duncan enjoys music and travel and served as President of the Girl Guides Association until July 2025. She is a devoted Methodist and attributes her approach to navigating the evolving AML/CFT landscape to her favorite quote by Steve Jobs: "Stay hungry. Stay foolish."



THANK YOU

The National Anti-Money Laundering Committee and the University of Belize express their sincere gratitude to the participants, hosts, presenters, and the United States Government for their significant contribution to the success of this conference.



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