

# ACAMSTODAY

The Anti-Money Laundering Association for the Career-minded Professional

## ACAMS' 5th Annual Conference in review – A member's perspective

When making a decision each year to take several days from a busy work schedule to attend a conference in your area of practice and with numerous choices, disappointment comes swiftly if the wrong selection is made. This year, I chose to attend the ACAMS 5th Annual Conference to continue my professional growth and competency and to re-energize my own creativity in the field of AML compliance. I was not disappointed.

Educational, professional, a forum for discussion and new ideas, an incubator for best practices — the ACAMS 5th Annual Conference, held in September of this year was a success in all these arenas. Both substantively and logistically, the conference kept its registrants squarely in sight.

Logistically the event was a pleasant surprise. First, team ACAMS offered us "around the neck" canvas badges with a compact - small, yet readable - program tucked neatly inside. Secondly, the conference book was only one inch thick thus eliminating the need to use our Federal Express or UPS accounts just to get it home. Finally, we were provided conference materials on a CD-ROM. This was clearly a conference designed with the registrants in mind.



Substantively, the conference continued to provide a reliable format combining sessions, workshops and roundtables to deliver the program that updated, advised, and instructed registrants in compliance program develop- (continued on p. 9)

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**Hany Abou-El-Fotouh, CAMS**

Abou-El-Fotouh, Head of Compliance of Oman International Bank, was awarded the *Community Impact Award* for outstanding contributions within the AML community by ACAMS at its 5th Annual Conference in Las Vegas. He has been

actively promoting the culture and knowledge of AML/CFT in the Middle East and is founder and moderator of the Middle East Compliance Officers Forum (MECOF), which aims to be a communication channel connecting compliance professionals in the region. He is also founder and moderator of the 'Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Compliance Services Group,' which is responsible for posting commercial and business advertisements in relation to compliance and AML services including jobs, software, conferences, training, events and consulting. He is very active within ACAMS, and has been involved as a founding member of the ACAMS United Arab Emirates local chapter and a member of the ACAMS Middle East Taskforce.

**Kenneth L. Bryant, MSCJ, CPP, CFE, CRP, CAMS, COMP, AML, FCoI**

Kenneth Bryant, Managing Director for Bryant & Associates, LLC and co-founder of AML/CFT Industry Standards and Best Practices Group was appointed as Chairman of a steering committee that will form the Council of Standards and Practices of the

National Money Transmitters Association (NMTA) on October 30-31, 2006 at the International Money Transmitters Convention in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. "I am excited to be involved with such a progressive organization as the NMTA, an organization who recognized the need for a standards and practices group in accordance with international best practice," Bryant stated.

The Council of Standards and Practices (CSP) will serve as an association of those AML professionals who service the Money Services Business (MSB) industry. The CSP will be committed to further AML compliance in the MSB industry, and serve as a forum for the exchange of ideas and the setting of compliance standards in the field. It will also advise the NMTA on compliance standards and aid in the development of a member review and certification program.

Bryant has more than fifteen years experience in the United States and overseas as a money laundering investigator, compliance officer/money laundering reporting officer, enforcement regulator and a counter terrorism and counter narcotics consultant. He has a Master of Science degree in Criminal Justice, summa cum laude, and holds seven board certifications covering the areas of risk management, financial due diligence, financial operations, regulatory compliance, and anti-money laundering. While in the Cayman Islands, he participated in the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and International Monetary Fund (IMF)/World Bank reviews and was seconded to the regulator to establish the enforcement division. He now resides in the United States where he manages and operates a global asset protection and risk mitigation consultancy. He advises governments, international bodies, regulatory agencies, financial institutions, consulting firms, and AML vendors on a global basis.

**John J. Byrne, CAMS**

John J. Byrne, one of ACAMS' advisory board members and soon to be chairman of the ACAMS advisory board, received the 2006 Distinguished Service Award at the American Bankers Association's 20th Annual Regulatory Compliance Conference

in Orlando, Florida in June. Fifteen leading bank executives in the compliance profession selected Byrne as the winner, and recognized his outstanding leadership, initiative, and accomplishment in the banking regulatory compliance management field. With his extensive experience and knowledge in the field, Byrne has been a valuable asset to ACAMS and its members and will lead the association to its next chapter in 2007.

Byrne is currently a senior vice president at Bank of America, which he joined in 2005 following 22 years at the American Bankers Association. There, he was responsible for ABA's lobbying, regulatory and educational efforts on money laundering, and other compliance issues. He is also a member of the Treasury Department's Bank Secrecy Act Advisory Board, and was the first private sector recipient of the "Director's Medal for Exceptional Service" from the Treasury Department's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN).

He has written extensively on money laundering and privacy issues and is a frequent contributor and advisor to Money Laundering Alert, Bankers Hot-