

ATMs to Sarbanes-Oxley

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BODY:

It is the rare legal practitioner who will not at some point be called on to structure an effective financial investigation, whether in the criminal, civil or administrative arenas. The work of virtually every agent, detective and private investigator will include (if not center on) a financial component on a recurring basis.

No such investigation should be commenced without first consulting David Marshall Nissman's latest book, "Follow the Money: A Guide to Financial and Money Laundering Investigations." Creatively written in a scholarly yet eminently practical style, "Follow the Money" is chock-full of advice, ideas and resources for every conceivable type of financial investigation -- whether in the context of fraud, identity theft, money laundering, asset forfeiture, tax, banking or regulatory offenses, "hawalas" or alternate remittance systems, smuggling, or simply asset tracing.

For example, chapter 1 alone addresses legal and investigative issues concerning geographical targeting orders, online banks, digitizing records, computer records and the Rules of Evidence, the banking system, the bank regulatory system, check processing, offshore financial centers, international business companies, automated teller machines, e-commerce, encryption and electronic money, Internet electronic communication, Web sites, smart cards, "phishing," prepaid value cards, the Bank Secrecy Act, the Access Device Statute, the Right to Financial Privacy Act, identity theft, financial interviews of informants, investigating accounting frauds, investigative methods used in tax cases, audit privilege and immunity, model subpoena language for financial institution records, corporate records, credit card company records, telephone company records and securities firm records.

The book is composed of 16 chapters.

"Follow the Money" is designed to help legal and investigative professionals conduct financial investigations and then persuasively present the results in a courtroom. Nissman has tackled an enormously complex subject and presented it in a pragmatic, easily understood format, which is clearly and logically organized. The reader is assisted with both basic and sophisticated investigative techniques, and cautioned to avoid potential pitfalls that could later cause legal nightmares.

Complicated legal concepts are plainly explained. The effects of recent legislation such as the USA Patriot Act and Sarbanes-Oxley Act, and the emerging field of corporate compliance programs, are all examined. The full gamut of financial crime schemes is addressed in a manner enabling the reader to quickly recognize their elements.

In addition, the book scrutinizes the complex nature of techniques used for money laundering sting investigations, new reporting requirements, bulk cash transfers, alternative remittance systems, and using wire transfers to advance fraud.

While of obvious value to prosecutors and agents, the book is equally valuable to the criminal defense bar. Moreover, it is indispensable to any attorney providing representation to an individual or organizational client whose interests are furthered by a properly conducted financial investigation.

-- Peter G. Baroni

FOLLOW THE MONEY: A Guide to Financial and Money Laundering Investigations.
By David Marshall Nissman. Corpus Juris Publishing Co.: Conyers, Ga. (770) 760-0637;
www.cjpbooks.com.

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