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ACAMS to Honor Outstanding Anti-Money Laundering Professionals at Annual Conference

MIAMI – AUGUST 16, 2010 – The Association of Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialists (ACAMS) will once again pay tribute to its members by presenting the “ACAMS AML Professional of the Year Award” at its 9th Annual Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada.

“This is the fourth year we have offered the award at our annual conference, and each year, we are increasingly impressed by the professionalism and dedication demonstrated by the nominees,” said ACAMS Executive Vice President John Byrne, CAMS. “There are many men and women in the AML field working above and beyond to advance the global effort to combat money laundering, terrorist financing and financial crime, and we are pleased to extend to them this much-deserved recognition.”

The “ACAMS AML Professional of the Year Award” recognizes a professional who has made strong contributions to the field, such as leading a successful money laundering investigations enforcing and /or increasing awareness of key laws or regulations, implementing an innovative AML/Sanctions/Financial Crime training method, creating or revamping an AML or related program or process, and detecting a money laundering scheme, among many other related activities. The winner is selected by the ACAMS Staff.

This year’s finalists include Darin Jarret, Vice President and BSA/AML Compliance Officer, Zions Bank; Meryl Lutsky, Chief, Money Laundering Investigations Unit New York State Crime Proceeds Strike Force, New York Attorney General’s Office; and Daniel Wager, Supervisor Special Agent ICE/DHS, Director, NY HIFCA.

Darrin Jarret – AML/BSA Champion

Jarret received a nod for his innovation in implementing a new annual training strategy for his bank after a review in which examiners requested to see more face-to-face BSA/AML training. Darrin not only developed a board-approved annual strategy that included in-person regional trainings for more than 1,000 retail employees as well as an all-employee video that was posted on the bank’s employee intranet page, he also found ways to instill the importance of BSA/AML compliance into the company’s culture.

Since then, examiners have praised Zions for one of the best BSA/AML Training Programs they have seen.

Meryl Lutsky – A Life’s Calling.

Lutsky was devoted to the prevention of fraud, corruption and money laundering even before she started working in the field when at the age of 19, she and her college roommate launched their own investigation into a local drug ring near campus that resulted in law enforcement performing a clean sweep of the park. More recently, with the New York Attorney General’s Office, Lutsky led

an investigation of a fraud ring whose crimes included identity theft, money laundering, bank fraud, and wire fraud. Twenty members of the ring have been indicted and losses from the ring's criminal activities currently total more than \$25 million. She has also created a task force consisting of federal and state prosecutors, law enforcement, and regulators, and continues to be actively involved in educating and training financial institutions on how to strengthen their financial fraud controls.

Daniel Wager – The Full Spectrum.

Wager received a nomination on the basis of his extensive, multi-faceted career in which he served the Department of Homeland Security – Immigration and Customs Enforcement (DHS-ICE), the U.S. Customs Service, and the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Labor Racketeering and Fraud Investigations. His experience spans the conduct of investigations into traditional organized crime, fraud, narcotics, insider trading, arms exports, national security and terrorism. Wager is a veteran of U.S. Army Special Operations and Military Intelligence, with combat service in Panama and Iraq and has received commendations from the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Central Intelligence Agency for his work in national security investigations.

"All three finalists are deserving of recognition by the AML community," said Byrne. "Each one brings something different to the table, but all show incredible passion and commitment for their work and most importantly are dedicated to sharing their knowledge and enthusiasm. This will be a difficult decision."

For more information on eligibility requirements and the nomination process, visit <http://www.acamsglobal.org/awards.asp>.

About the Association of Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialists

ACAMS is an international membership organization dedicated to enhancing the knowledge and skills of AML professionals from a wide range of industries. It serves nearly 10,000 members in 160 countries with extensive resources designed to develop and sharpen the skills required for superior job performance and career advancement. Its CAMS® certification is the most widely recognized AML certification among compliance professionals worldwide. Visit the ACAMS website at www.ACAMS.org.

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