

# Greater Pittsburgh Chapter

February 2010  
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The ACFE is the professional organization for fraud examiners. The mission of the ACFE is to reduce the incidence of fraud and white-collar crime, and to assist the membership in its detection and deterrence.



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## February Speaker

**Brendan Conway**

**Assistant US Attorney**

**The Mortgage Fraud Task Force**

The speaker for February will be Assistant US Attorney Brendan Conway. The Mortgage Fraud Task Force brings together representatives from the U.S. Attorney's Office, U.S. Secret Service, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development - Office of Inspector General, Office of the United States Trustee, Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office, Pennsylvania Department of Banking, Pennsylvania Department of State, Bureau of Enforcement and Investigation and the Allegheny County Sheriff's Office to investigate and prosecute mortgage fraud offenders.

Mortgage fraud is generally described as a scheme involving the submission of false information to lenders and others in order to obtain mortgage loans that would not otherwise

## Upcoming Chapter Events

### February 10, 2010

AUSA Brendan Conway  
Mortgage Fraud Task Force

### March 10, 2010

Speaker Invited

### April 14, 2010

Advanced Excel Techniques  
Speaker Invited

## Meeting Reservations

Please reserve your space for the Chapter meetings in advance. The Chapter must provide an accurate count of attendees to Tambellini's prior to the meetings, and is responsible for paying for meals for no-shows. Additionally, Tambellini's cooks only enough food for the number of registered attendees. While we understand that circumstances come up that cause people to miss meetings, in order to maintain our programs at an affordable rate for all attendees, the Chapter will no longer absorb the cost for attendees missing meetings. Failure to notify the Chapter within 24 hours of a meeting will result in an invoicing of the cost of the meeting to missing attendees. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

## Upcoming ACFE Events

[www.acfe.com](http://www.acfe.com)

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## ACFE News:

### ACFE Awards - Nomination Period to Open Soon

The nomination period for the ACFE Awards opens in February and ACFE members are encouraged to nominate their fellow

have been approved. Such schemes often include the submission of false information to lenders and others in order to obtain loans at higher values and lower rates than would be available through legitimate means. A typical mortgage fraud scheme employs various professionals such as recruiters, attorneys, appraisers, mortgage brokers, and builders. For example, once a victim is recruited, a set of falsified loan application documents, including an inflated appraisal, is prepared and submitted to a victim lender resulting in the issuance of an over-valued loan. Ultimately the property is foreclosed upon due to the inability of the victim buyer to maintain the payments. The lender loses the difference between the foreclosure sale proceeds and the loan balance. The buyer loses any down payment and is left with a credit history that precludes being approved for a mortgage in the future. The conspirators pocket the difference between the overvalued loan and their costs in obtaining the property.

Mr. Conway will speak about the role and responsibilities of the Mortgage Fraud Task Force.

Please join us for this interesting and relevant presentation.

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## January Speaker:

**Joseph A. Paletta, Esq.**

**A View From the Other Side...**

**Key Points in the Defense of White Collar Crimes and Criminals**

The speaker for January was Joseph A. Paletta, Esq. Mr. Paletta is a successful and effective criminal defense attorney with over 21 years of criminal law experience handling various crimes including white collar crime and fraud. He has represented clients in hundreds of cases that alleged violations of the Pennsylvania Crime Code. Mr. Paletta provides representation in many different types of criminal matters.

members for the following awards:

- CFE of the Year
- Educator of the Year
- Outstanding Achievement in Outreach/Community Service
- Chapter of the Year
- Chapter Newsletter of the Year

**New! 2010 CFE Exam Prep Course, U.S. Edition**

Attention ACFE Associate members: Get certified in 2010 with the new [2010 CFE Exam Prep Course](#). Featuring the updated Fraud Prevention and Deterrence section (*formerly Criminology and Ethics*), the 2010 CFE Exam Prep Course is the most comprehensive study tool available to prepare you for the CFE Exam. Purchase the [CFE Exam Prep Course](#) at the ACFE Bookstore and start working toward *your* CFE credential today.

Attorney Paletta provided a handout of the criminal justice flowchart and discussed standard procedures of Pennsylvania state courts.

Mr. Paletta spoke about the duty of a criminal defense attorney to represent his clients within the boundaries of the law. Identify defense for clients based on crimes identified and information available. What are the elements of the crime; what is the evidence and does it prove the elements? If the evidence does not prove the elements of the crime, then defend the client and expose the weaknesses of the case. Review defense strategy decisions; trial (jury/nonjury?), plea bargain, or Rule 586 Disposition in which a refund is made and the charges are dismissed.

Attorney Paletta then spoke about several cases in which he was involved regarding the defense of people charged with embezzlement or pursuing civil cases against people charged with embezzlement.