

# **CERTIFIED FRAUD EXAMINER OF THE YEAR**

**Speech by Jonathan Le Roux (ACFE SA Past President)**

The Certified Fraud Examiner of the Year Award is presented to a Certified Fraud Examiner “CFE” who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in the field of fraud examination.

## **CRITERIA:**

1. The Nominee must have been instrumental in introducing innovative anti-fraud tools, controls, techniques, or methodologies in his/her organisation. There should be a willingness to have an article published on the subject. A brief paper on the subject should accompany the nomination, and/or
2. The Nominee must have contributed to the ACFE SA through active participation at Board or Regional level, by having articles published on topical subjects in local or overseas antifraud related periodicals, or making presentations on topical subjects at local or international level, etc.
3. The nominee played a significant role in an investigation(s) of significant fraud(s);
4. The nominee played a significant role in the design and installation(s) of anti-fraud controls;
5. The nominee made a significant contribution to the field of anti-fraud training or education; or
6. The nominee contributed significantly to the discipline of fraud examination.

## **ELIGIBILITY:**

1. CFEs registered with the local South African Chapter are eligible to receive this award;
2. This person must be a CFE in good standing;
3. The nominee must display strong ethical and professional values.

## **MOTIVATION:**

This nominee has been a Certified Fraud Examiner in good standing for approximately 20 years and has over 40 years of experience in criminal investigations.

The nominee has implemented the following anti-fraud controls within their business:

- a. Continuous fraud training for his employees
- b. Continuous fraud training for Management
- c. Management review of Forensic reports
- d. A Code of Conduct policy to be adhered to by all staff members

The nominee has also ensured that the following anti-fraud controls are implemented at the beginning of their forensic investigations:

1. Formal fraud risk assessments to identify specific fraud schemes and the risk that the fraud places on the client, evaluate and implement fraud controls to mitigate residual and future fraud activities.
2. The nominee recommends all clientele add an anti-fraud policy within their employment hiring processes
3. Monetary rewards are offered for whistle-blower/ tip-off information
4. Anonymous tip-off hotline

Leading his company, the nominee, investigated private-sector fraud matters in 2021 with a total fraud amount in excess of R22m.

With each and every case, the nominee met with the client to understand the merits of the crime. The nominee personally conducts background searches and desktop investigations, interviewing of suspects, witnesses and victims of the crime, and obtains sworn statements that will be used in the police docket and future criminal/civil prosecutions. The nominee further provides continuous additional assistance to the South African Police Services and national prosecutors to ensure that clients' police dockets are thoroughly understood and where possible, expedited.

Not only does the nominee spend the majority of their time investigating fraud, they also ensure that they share their extensive knowledge of fraud detection and deterrence in the following ways:

- One-on-one coaching and/or mentoring of junior police investigators in the discipline of uncovering fraud.
- The nominee provides their staff with on-the-job training in every case that we are involved in.
- In March 2021, the nominee presented on fraud and corruption at the Inaugural BizNews Investment Conference.
- In or about June 2021, the nominee created an infographic information leaflet regarding 'How to spot invoice interception & redirection scams'. This was distributed to the public domain, including all members of the Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

In or about August 2021, the nominee provided expert witness testimony in a R1.2 billion lawsuit trial brought against the Mpumalanga government at the Pretoria High Court.

In 2013, Forensics for Justice carried out an in-depth investigation which included spending days on end waiting in queues at the Deeds Office in Pretoria and inspecting farms in Mpumalanga, proving that majority of the land restitution claims in Mpumalanga, under then MEC for Agriculture, David Mabuza and his friend and business associate Sonnyboy Maphanga were fake. In 2016, the nominee opened a

fraud and corruption docket against the erstwhile Mpumalanga Premier David Mabuza (present Deputy President of South Africa).

Prior to Covid-19, the nominee was a regular presenter at ACFE conferences, including many local South African chapters, two South African national conferences, as well as the 2015 International Conference in Baltimore.

- In 1994, the nominee was awarded police official of the year, for finalising a very complex fraud case.
- In 2002, the nominee received a commendation from the Canadian Government for his work in reducing human trafficking.
- In 2003, the nominee received a commendation from the Australian Government for his work in reducing human trafficking.
- In 2011, the nominee was made a Paul Harris Fellow, by Rotary Club International, for his work in bringing down a corrupt head of Interpol.
- In 2014, the nominee received CFE of the year in South Africa, for his work in training CFEs in anti-corruption measures.

The nominee was instrumental in putting two South African Police Commissioners behind bars and getting them fired.

### **Stop Me if You Can: How the Capture of the Criminal Justice System in South Africa was Disrupted and Reversed (3 January 2022)**

Whilst this book may have been published just shy of a 2021 release date, the significant role played by the nominee for more than a decade in combatting fraud and corruption cannot be discounted.

The nominee has forty-five years of experience in law enforcement. He is also a:

1. US Department of Justice Certified Document Examiner
2. Certified Voice Stress Analyst
3. Certified Aviation Security Specialist
4. Fellow of the Institute of Directors

The nominee's integrity is unwavering and their dedication to fighting the good fight in the name of fraud prevention and criminal justice is relentless. On countless occasions, the nominee's life and the life of their family and associates have been threatened by criminals and criminal enterprises in retaliation for the fraud and forensic investigations he undertakes. Between 2015 and 2018, the nominee was viciously attacked by corrupt police and prosecution officials, to try and stop them from exposing the dark underbelly of corruption in South Africa's criminal justice system.

The nominee's offices were unlawfully raided four times. They were unlawfully arrested and detained and tortured twice. Their legal counsel was kidnapped and taken away for a whole weekend. The nominee was arraigned on seven separate false and malicious trials and was acquitted on all of them. Those that persecuted the nominee are now on trial for corruption, including one chief of police, eleven other generals, and many other ranks. Put bluntly, the nominee led the charge against corruption and won, not once but twice the nominee took down a corrupt chief of police.

The nominee has elected for 100% of the profits from the sale of his aforementioned publication to be donated to Forensics for Justice in support of the fight against fraud and corruption. The nominee is a leader in the anti-fraud community and provides hope to South Africans that a positive change is coming, and they are truly deserving of this accolade.

The nominee has continued his relentless pursuit to combat corruption within SAPS and otherwise despite the significant personal risks, this poses to himself, his family and colleagues. The nominee has achieved continued unprecedented successes, most recently influencing the arrest of SAPS former Commissioner Kgomoetso Phahlane in September 2022 to name one of many during the last year.

**WINNER of Certified Fraud Examiner of the Year for 2022 is:**

**Paul O'Sullivan**