



Fraud and Forensic Accounting Section

The Ohio Society's Professional Community



Forensic professional backs the highly sought after CFF credential

"The forensic field is on the move and more organizations are feeling the impact of internal unethical behavior having a direct negative impact on their businesses," said Jean M. Pavlin, CPA, CFE, a senior manager with Walthall, Drake & Wallace LLP.

The AICPA established the Certified in Financial Forensics (CFF) in 2008 for CPAs specializing in forensic accounting. CPAs who demonstrate expertise can earn the CFF credential in several forensic capacities including:

- Bankruptcy
- Insolvency and reorganization
- Computer forensic analysis
- Economic damages calculations
- Family law
- Fraud prevention, detection and response
- Financial statement misrepresentation
- Valuations

Pavlin backs acquiring the CFF credential believing it will augment a CPA's image, increase opportunities from referral sources and is becoming a highly sought after skill set.

"A career path in the forensic field can provide a wide range of diversity, such as criminology, internal and external auditing, fraud investigation, law investigation and more," Pavlin said. "The door of opportunity is wide open in this field and the self-gratification of knowing you made a difference is truly a reward."

Pavlin spoke highly of the CFF credential, saying it's a further enhancement of the "most trusted business advisor" image that already distinguishes CPAs from other professions. "This credential will give the CPA a greater depth of specialized knowledge and a broader breadth of unique skills."

"The forensic field changes every day, just like technology. New scams are invented daily by perpetrators with the intention of harming others with their creative ideas only to benefit themselves."

Visit the [AICPA website](#) for more information about the CFF credential.