



Supply Chain Operations & Technologies
 Supply Chain Vendor Compliance
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I have just returned from Los Angeles where I had the honor of presenting at the 96th annual conference of the Institute of Management Accountants. Any association that has been around long enough to have had ninety-six years of conferences is certainly one to be admired for its strong membership. There were over 600 conference attendees and over 60 attendees in my session on auditing for supply chain fraud, the subject of my first book.

Since the conference drew attendees from all over the world I thought I would help give my session audience a perspective, albeit from a somewhat humorous vantage point, on my exposure to fraud while I tell them a little about my personal and professional background.

Displaying a map of Florida and pointing to the South Florida (Miami – Fort Lauderdale – Palm Beach) area, I highlighted some of the notable ways in which the state of Florida, and the South Florida area in particular, tops the national lists for various fraud topics:

- Former Fort Lauderdale attorney Scott Rothstein brought down all those around him, personally and professionally, in his \$1.4B law firm fraud;
- South Florida is #1 in the US for personal identification theft;
- South Florida is #1 in the US for tax return fraud;
- South Florida is #1 in the US for mortgage fraud from 2010-2014;
- South Florida is #1 in the US for Medicare fraud, deemed a "hot spot";
- South Florida is top-five in the US for home value decline;
- Governor Rick Scott is the former CEO of the company who paid the largest Medicare fraud fine in history, \$1.7B, though he escaped "Scott-free" from prosecution;
- 5% of Miami-Dade county mayors faced fraud charges in 2013-2014.

(I also pointed out to my audience that the state of Florida ranks #1 in the United States for lightning strikes and shark attacks though I did not believe either were targeting the right people. This earned a good chuckle from the crowd.)

Where did I learn about all of these fraud facts? From my daily newspaper. For my newsletter readers who do not know what that is, and as I explained to my session audience, it is the papyery thing that tells you today what happened yesterday. I still get it and enjoy the daily read and review.

The IMA conference was a wonderful opportunity to speak to an engaging audience, attend interesting sessions, meet other professionals, and share stories. The conference was held at the beautiful Westin Bonaventure hotel which itself has been used in nearly one dozen major motion pictures.

I stayed in Los Angeles for a few extra days of sight-seeing. At one museum I caught both the exhibition of the Dead Sea Scrolls, truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to view these incredible antiquities, and then walked over to be amazed by the space shuttle Endeavour. I toured Griffiths Observatory, the famed Chinese Theater and the saw all of the hand-and-foot prints in concrete, saw the stars along Hollywood Boulevard, toured Paramount Studios, and toured the Max Factor building which includes arguably the largest collection of Marilyn Monroe memorabilia in the world. The weather was dry and cool and beautiful the entire week.

For more information in the Institute of Management Accounts please go to www.imanet.org.

Thanks.

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