ACAMS Recognizes AML Pioneer, IRS Veteran and Premier BSA Expert in Special Ceremony in Vegas

LAS VEGAS – September 30, 2014 – The Association of Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialists (ACAMS) presented to Michael McDonald, former agent with the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division the ACAMS AML Pioneer Award during a special ceremony at its 13th Annual AML Conference in Las Vegas for his longtime service to both the industry and the association.

On-site were renowned AML experts and veterans offering insight into the impact McDonald has had not only on the industry but on ACAMS and their own careers.

"Mike has been the backbone of ACAMS since its inception. Much of ACAMS early success can be directly attributed to Mike. While many of us have been part of ACAMS from the beginning, Mike is the one person I can point to who has rolled up his sleeves every single day to make ACAMS work," said ACAMS Advisory Board Member Daniel D. Soto, CAMS, Chief Compliance Officer, Ally Financial, Inc.

"I think back to the early days when Mike was at every meeting, every conference, every board meeting and conducted all the CAMS prep sessions. He continues to be as passionate today as he was then about making ACAMS work for its members. He has been truly remarkable in his support of ACAMS and I cannot think of anyone better to represent the organization."

McDonald served for 27 years with the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division during which he held several field agent and managerial positions and directed investigative resources in many high profile money laundering task forces. He was the lead manager in the development of the first money laundering task force, Operation Greenback and the first IRS Coordinator to the Florida/Caribbean Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force and the South Florida High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Task Force (HIDTA). He became widely known as one of the government's premier experts on money laundering and the Bank Secrecy Act.

He retired in 1998 and formed a Miami-based consulting firm specializing in international money laundering, Bank Secrecy Act, Patriot Act, asset forfeiture, compliance and related matters. The firm is a network of retired Special Agents, each with in-depth experience in money laundering investigations.

"Mike is my favorite money laundering expert and such a wonderful person. He is a renowned AML pioneer, and an insightful mentor. I am sure I am not alone in my gratitude to him for everything he has taught me. He shares his knowledge with a great passion to make positive impact on everyone around him, and the AML world in general," said Saskia Rietbroek, CAMS, Partner, AML Services International LLC.

"Mike has been with ACAMS before it was ACAMS, and just an idea. His devotion and support of every aspect of ACAMS through the years has made him the most influential individual involved with the association. One of the main reasons ACAMS is the premiere AML association in the world today is because of Mike," said Gregory Calpakis, CAMS, Federal Bank Examiner, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency.

About ACAMS

ACAMS is the largest international membership organization dedicated to enhancing the knowledge and skills of AML and financial crime professionals from a wide range of industries 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 www.acams.org for more information.

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