For immediate release

Almost 200 professionals attend ACAMS Ireland launch

- Keynote speaker Domhnall Cullinan, Head of AML at Central Bank of Ireland stressed "the importance of working together to combat money laundering and terrorist financing", adding: "the launch of a Chapter of ACAMS in Ireland will assist compliance professionals to better understand money laundering and terrorism financing risks and lead to even greater compliance measures to ensure compliance with AML/CFT obligations."

Friday 15th January 2016, Dublin, London: The Association of Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialists, (ACAMS), held a highly successful launch event last night to mark the official start of its work in Ireland and the opening of an ACAMS Ireland Chapter. Almost 200 professionals from the financial services and compliance sector attended, including representatives from Ireland’s largest financial institutions, international banks, funds and insurance sectors, law firms and FinTechs.

Keynote speaker Domhnall Cullinan, Head of the Anti-Money Laundering Division at the Central Bank of Ireland (CBI), reviewed the challenges faced by both supervisors and compliance professionals in Ireland. His detailed speech highlighted changes to the regulatory landscape with the introduction of the 4th Anti-Money Laundering Directive; the assessment of Ireland’s AML framework by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF); the increased focus on terrorist financing given the proliferation of global terrorist events; the Central Bank’s proactive outreach and engagement with the private sector; and the importance of working together to combat money laundering and terrorist financing.

Following this, a panel of experts expanded on some of the challenges facing the financial community in the light of increased compliance regulation at home and abroad, as well as the opportunities for the sector outlined in Ireland’s ’5 years to Excellence Strategy’ and ACAMS’ direct contribution to anti-financial crime education and knowledge building to effect successful outcomes. Panel speakers included Domhnall
Cullinan; ACAMS Chief Analyst and Editor in Chief of Moneylaundering.com, Kieran Beer; Ireland Chapter Co-Chair and Head of AML, Sanctions and Anti-Bribery and Corruption (FCC) for HSBC Ireland, Elizabeth Henry. ACAMS Executive Vice President, John Byrne moderated the discussions.

As an organisation, ACAMS is dedicated to helping its members improve the detection and prevention of money laundering and financial crime, plus enabling financial institutions and FinTech companies to improve due diligence procedures and comply with the wide range of complex AML laws, regulations and sanctions challenges. The launch in Ireland marks an important milestone for ACAMS, whose membership is growing rapidly across Europe and now exceeds 32,000 members worldwide. As part of its global investment strategy, ACAMS is committed to opening local Chapters across Europe and the Irish AML community will also be supported with continuing professional development (CPD) and education events.

During his speech, keynote speaker Domhnall Cullinan, Head of the Anti-Money Laundering Division at the Central Bank of Ireland (CBI), said “the Central Bank's interest is ensuring that there is effective supervision and compliance taking place, with both industry and supervisors working together to ensure the shared goal of preventing money laundering and terrorist financing is fulfilled.” He concluded: “The efforts of the Central Bank are focused on ensuring that there is an understanding of money laundering and terrorist financing risks among our regulated population and that there are steps taken to mitigate those risks. We are mandated to ensure compliance with AML regulations and to ensure that the appropriate measures are taken by industry to ensure compliance...the launch of a Chapter of ACAMs in Ireland will assist compliance professionals to better understand ML and TF risks and lead to even greater compliance measures to ensure compliance with AML/CFT obligations.”

Elizabeth Henry, Co-Chair of ACAMS Ireland Chapter said, “The ACAMS Ireland Chapter believes the need to meet and share knowledge is especially pertinent, due to ever evolving technologies to move money and cross-jurisdictional impacts of legislative controls. We welcome members from government organisations and across industry within SMEs, Irish companies and the large multi-nationals that operate here in Ireland.”

Angela Salter, Head of Europe for ACAMS said, "The launch event verified the huge levels of optimism around the progress Ireland has already made and demonstrated a clear
sense that the country is 'on track' to achieve the government's goal of becoming an EU hub for banking and FinTech companies. For any organisation that employs anti financial crime professionals or intends to expand its global compliance function, ACAMS is an outstanding training and professional development partner offering the world’s most widely recognised AML qualification.”

**Relevance of ACAMS’ Ireland Chapter**

Historically, organisations have been attracted to Ireland thanks to its highly educated workforce, high levels of employee retention and advantageous tax regime. The country is already a preferred European hub location for many international financial and technology institutions including Airbnb Ireland, eBay, Google, Microsoft and PayPal.

For any organisation wishing to establish its European AML compliance hub in Ireland, ACAMS is well placed to be their primary professional training and education partner, as it is unique in offering a truly global qualification founded on industry best practice. CAMS®, the Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialist credential is regarded as the global gold standard for AML certifications and recognised internationally by financial institutions, law enforcement and government regulators. Those who gain CAMS position themselves as industry leaders and are highly valued by employers, with salaries 42% higher than non-certified colleagues, according to the [2015 ACAMS AML/CFT/FCP Compensation Survey](#).

**ACAMS Ireland Chapter Board Members include:**

Co-Chairs: Therese Agnew from JP Morgan Commerce Solutions and Elizabeth Henry from HSBC Ireland.

Board Members: Paul Barry from HSBC Ireland, Mark Bonham from Airbnb Ireland, Stephen Gray from Elavon Financial Services Ltd., Sana Khan from Arista Networks Inc., Oisin Kilgallen from DMS Bank & Trust Ltd., Kevin Nolan from Wells Fargo and Micheál Sheehy from Microsoft.

**Event details**

The ACAMS Ireland and ACAMS Ireland Chapter launch with evening networking reception & AML/CTF VIP presentations took place on Thursday, 14th January 2016 at
the Westin Hotel, Dublin. For more information visit http://www.acams.org/ireland-aml-event/.

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About ACAMS
ACAMS is the largest international membership organisation dedicated to enhancing the knowledge and skills of AML and financial crime prevention professionals from a wide range of industries, firms and agencies with extensive resources designed to develop and sharpen the skills required for superior job performance and career advancement. The CAMS certification is the most widely recognised AML certification among compliance professionals worldwide.

ACAMS Chapter Development Programme focuses the association's international anti-money laundering education and training at a local level. ACAMS now has more than 50 Chapters worldwide including European Chapters in Cyprus, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands and UK with Nordics and Poland Chapters launching later in 2016. Visit www.acams.org for more information.

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