Jonelle Vernon, CFE

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Career Profile

Certified Fraud Examiner with 10+ years of experience in ethics and compliance, forensic accounting, audit, and investigations. As a Senior Ethics and Compliance professional, I utilize my communication, organizational and project management skills to investigate and manage the investigation of complaints received via the Navex Ethics Point system, as well as those received via other reporting mechanisms.

Experience

Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw, GA **2022-Present**
Senior Auditor, Investigations

- Evaluate and assign investigation of complaints received via the Ethics and Compliance Reporting Hotline and other reporting mechanisms, to the appropriate department
- Lead and oversee compliance investigations conducted by various departments within the University, to ensure all allegations have been thoroughly and impartially investigated
- Manage cross functionally and maintain productive client relationships with internal and external stakeholders, such as Legal Affairs, Human Resources, internal colleges and departments, and the University System of Georgia System Office
- Promote ethics awareness and training via creation of marketing materials, participation in campus wide initiatives, and conducting presentations
- Provide quality assurance on investigation reports composed by assigned investigators
- Conduct internal investigations of fraud, waste, abuse, and conflicts of interest
- Advise and provide guidance to investigators on ethics and compliance and best practices regarding investigations
- Update Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to allow for compliance with Board of Regents policies and investigations best practices
- Member of the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy Taskforce – Responsible for leading the creation of the section on Ethical use of AI

Moore Colson, CPA's and Advisors, Atlanta, GA **2020- 2022**
Senior Consulting Associate

- Analyzed client's assets and liabilities to aid in determining net worth for litigation purposes
- Utilized financial statements and tax returns to estimate business value
- Determined business loss based on prior years net profit/loss
- Examined financials to determine instances and extent of alleged fraud
- Testified in civil court proceedings as expert witness
- Processed monthly financials for receivership clients
- Published article related to fraud prevention strategies
- Implemented firm-wide improvements via Work Environment Committee

Office of State Inspector General, Atlanta, GA **2017- 2020**
Financial Examiner

- Conducted criminal and administrative investigations of fraud, waste, and abuse within the State of Georgia's 86 executive branch agencies
- Performed systematic examinations and appraisals of financial records and financial and management reports
- Provided training and guidance on department processes and procedures to new employees, and others as needed
- Utilized data analytic tools to aid in the determination of the extent of financial fraud
- Developed and administered fraud awareness presentations to various stakeholders including state and local government employees, grant recipients and college students
- Analyzed and evaluated the effectiveness of statewide and agency-wide policies and processes to determine deficiencies
- Provided guidance and recommendations on internal control policy and procedure improvement to management within various agencies
- Utilized statewide human capital management and accounting systems to research state of Georgia vendors, employees, and contractors
- Testified as an expert witness before a grand jury in a criminal proceeding
- Collaborated with state and federal agencies to provide investigative assistance for cases involving state and federal funds including providing confidential data on subjects being investigated and interviewing case witnesses and suspected parties
- Reviewed, analyzed, and extracted data from files, records, and reports for the purpose of conducting financial analysis and developing findings, conclusions, and recommendations
- Tracked case activity via case management information systems; Collecting data and developing reports as needed.
- Performed Human Resource duties as needed including reviewing and approving employee timesheets

- Collaborated with team members in the development of the agency's strategic plan and performance metrics

Stief & Castro CPAs and Consultants, Fort Lauderdale, FL **2016- 2017**
Associate Forensic Accountant

- Analyzed client's financial documents to create a lifestyle analysis and aide in the determination of need for alimony
- Examined documents and prepare mandatory disclosure, requests for production, and responses to requests for production
- Utilized client's financial documents to create an Equitable Distribution schedule between the two parties
- Reviewed client's financial documents to determine if there are any instances of asset misappropriation
- Used straight line depreciation to complete depreciation schedules to aide in business valuations
- Determined variances between tax returns and filed financial affidavits

Florida Department of Revenue, Coral Springs, FL
Auditor II **2015- 2016**
Auditor I **2014- 2015**

- Researched issues and relevant statues related to various taxpayer's industries such as restaurants, bars, retail sales, cleaning services, used car dealers, food stores and lessors of nonresidential buildings
- Audit taxpayer's general ledger, federal returns, and other financial statements for reemployment tax and sales and use tax compliance
- Determined if negligence or fraud occurred via tax collected not remitted
- Utilized project management skills to ensure timely completion of the audit
- Established professional relationships with taxpayers
- Created audit work papers to assess various tax issues and document taxpayer nature of business, organizational structure, internal controls, audit assessment in Standard Audit Report
- Explained audit results and taxpayer rights to the taxpayer and their representative
- Trained new employees on audit procedures

Certifications/Training

- Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE) — March 2017
- Wicklander-Zulawski &Associates Criminal Interview and Interrogation Techniques — November 2017
- Contract and Grant Fraud Training — December 2017
- Inspector General Criminal Investigator Academy Essentials of Inspector General Investigations Training — February 2018
- Institute for Applied Management and Law, Inc. Certificate in Conducting Workplace Investigations — April 2019
- Society of of Corporate Compliance and Ethics - Basic Compliance and Ethics Academy — August 2024
- Inclusive Excellence Certification, Kennesaw State University — December 2024

Experience Using the Following Databases and Software Applications

- Intuit QuickBooks
- Navex EthicsPoint– Governance Risk and Compliance Software
- PeopleSoft Human Capital Management System and Financial Management System
- Case Management & Tracking System (CMTS) – used to track and report administrative and criminal investigations
- ScanWriter Data Automation Tool
- ValuSource - Business Valuation software
- MS Office Suite (Excel, Word, PowerPoint)
- WinFMT- an audit system used to create audit cases and work papers
- TLOxp/TransUnion

Board/Committee Leadership

1280 West Homeowner Association Board, Various Leadership Roles — March 2023 - December 2024
Georgia Institute of Technology, Evening MBA Wellness Committee Chair — May 2025 - Current
Net Impact Board Fellow – I Will Survive, Inc. — October 2025- Current
NextOnBoard Membership Co-Chair Elect — January 2026- Current

Education

Georgia Institute of Technology, Scheller College of Business **Atlanta, GA**
Master's in Business Administration Candidate
CHARGE Leadership Development Program Fellow
Florida Atlantic University **Ft. Lauderdale, FL**
Master's in Accounting, Concentration in Forensic Accounting
Georgia State University, J. Mack Robinson College of Business **Atlanta, GA**
Bachelor of Business Administration, Accounting