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ACAMS Volunteer of the Year Award Named for AML Pioneer Al Gillum

Award honors distinguished members who have greatly contributed to the compliance field

MIAMI – September 12, 2012 – The Association of Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialists (ACAMS) announced that the ACAMS Volunteer of the Year Award will be renamed the Al Gillum ACAMS Volunteer of the Year Award after its distinguished member and AML pioneer. The award is given to those who have played a significant role in ACAMS and have enhanced the association’s standing in the AML, Sanctions, and Financial Crime fields either by contributing to educational events and/or the overall growth of the organization.

“There can be no greater tribute to someone than to know that so many people have benefited from an individual’s work. Al's work in the early days of ACAMS, where he sat on the first Advisory Board, enabled so many AML professionals to enhance their expertise,” said John J Byrne, CAMS, ACAMS executive vice president. “Al epitomizes and embodies what the award stands for.”

Al’s career has spanned more than four decades beginning with the U.S. Postal Service where he initiated the development of an automated tracking system to detect the use of postal money orders in money laundering activities. He went on to serve as anti-money laundering liaison officer, where he worked closely with other federal law enforcement agencies, including the DEA, FBI, U.S. Customs and IRS, to coordinate major money laundering investigations. Al also worked with the Department of Justice to help develop national anti-money laundering strategies.

Even after retiring from the U.S. Postal service, Al remained dedicated to the field, continuing his work with ACAMS, assisting the Postal Service’s current BSA compliance officer as an AML consultant and systems analyst and presenting at and attending seminars, conferences and other AML learning events.
“Each time I have seen Al, he is always the first to shake my hand with a huge smile, to pay me a compliment, and always leave me uplifted,” commented Dan Soto, CAMS, Ally Financial chief compliance officer about Al’s exceptional character.

“Some of ACAMS’ best conferences were the result of Al’s tireless work on chairing the conference planning committees and identifying new and important sessions in which to educate our membership. I cannot think of a more deserving person for whom this honor should be named,” said Rick Small, CAMS, American Express vice president of Enterprise AML, Anti-Corruption and Sanctions.

Al said that his involvement with ACAMS has been a “labor of love.” When asked what advice he would give to those in the AML field he simply stated, “Stay passionate about your work and make it fun.”

“We are proud to continue Al’s legacy by renaming this prestigious award after such a distinguished member of the compliance community,” concluded Byrne.

*The Al Gillum Volunteer of the Year Award* will be presented at the ACAMS Annual Conference in Las Vegas, October 1-3. For more information on the conference and to view past award recipients, visit acamsglobal.org.

**About ACAMS**

ACAMS is the largest international membership organization dedicated to enhancing the knowledge and expertise of financial crime detection and prevention professionals, from a wide range of industries, in both the public and private sectors.

ACAMS serves its members with extensive resources designed to develop and sharpen skill required for superior job performance and career advancement through certifications, moneylaundering.com (the industry’s leading online news and information resource), *ACAMS Today* (the premier AML magazine) international conferences, full day seminars, web seminars, customized training and peer networking opportunities. Visit acams.org for more information.