

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Kourtney McCarty
Director of Marketing
kmccarty@acams.org
Tel. + 1 786.871.3109

Anti-Money Laundering Association Announces 20,000th Member
Organization Doubles Membership in Three Years

MIAMI, Fla., March 17, 2014 – The Association of Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialists (ACAMS), established in 2001, has grown to become the world’s largest anti-money laundering and financial crime prevention organization. The association has grown steadily in Europe and has experienced accelerated growth in emerging markets, particularly in Asia and Latin America.

Today, ACAMS announces that Aarthy Rangarajan is the association's 20,000th member. Rangarajan, originally from India and based in Singapore, is responsible for the Records Management Policy Standards at the Royal Bank of Scotland, where she has worked the last 14 years.

“This milestone is a significant achievement for ACAMS,” notes John J. Byrne, CAMS, Executive Vice President at ACAMS. “Clearly, there is a need for quality compliance education and professional training in the AML and financial crime prevention community.” Byrne adds, “We have worked to build our association according to the needs of our membership. ACAMS develops targeted products and services to help our members be more effective in their jobs and ensure financial institutions protect themselves from costly enforcement actions, as well as provide a conduit between the public and private sectors.”

Ted Weissberg, CAMS, Chief Executive Officer at ACAMS, expects a continuation of the organization’s momentum: “Based on what we are hearing from the community – specifically the challenges that institutions face in staying compliant with continually evolving demands – we predict that our membership will continue to grow at a rapid pace.”

Asked why she decided to join ACAMS, Rangarajan cites career development as her primary motivation: “I think compliance certification is a great advantage, especially for people like me who have a diversified banking experience.” Rangarajan says she is also motivated by society at large, “I think a banker can contribute better to society by having a good understanding of issues and application of controls related to money laundering and terrorist financing. [T]he financial industry is in a state in which we need more

holistic compliance professionals who are able to understand the bigger picture and help to protect the industry as well as society.”

In just over three years, ACAMS has doubled its membership and expanded to nearly 40 local chapters worldwide. That growth is fueled by several new products and services, including:

- **ACAMS Risk Assessment.** A membership-driven tool that provides financial institutions a standardized means of measuring, understanding, and explaining their AML risk.
- **Advanced Certifications.** An extension of the organization’s Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialist (CAMS) program, ACAMS has developed two advanced-level designations focused in the areas of Audit and Financial Crimes Investigations.
- **Salary Surveys.** Annual salary surveys provide insight into median salary levels, analyzed by various criteria including experience, organization size, age and gender, and job and education level.
- **Growth in International Markets.** ACAMS has grown its membership base significantly outside of the United States, and has recently penned agreements with organizations in Brazil and China as those markets deal with mounting compliance issues associated with their rapidly-growing economies. The organization also hosts several regional conferences in Asia, Europe, Latin America, Africa, and the Middle East.

Rangarajan offers advice to newcomers to the AML and financial crime prevention community, saying, “Compliance is a great career choice or a career shift. Before venturing into this [field], one must have some basic knowledge about the industry to better appreciate the aspects of compliance. [ACAMS] has been great and very quick in getting me started on this program.”

Press Inquiries

Members of the press may contact Kourtney McCarty at kmccarty@acams.org or +1 786.871.3109.

About the Association of Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialists® (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.