

Annual Economic Crime Summit to Spotlight Identity Theft

RICHMOND, VA - September 19, 2001 - Over a half a million individuals fell victim to identity theft in 2000, according to credit bureau statistics. Identity theft is becoming known as the fastest growing crime of our time. With the help of the National White Collar Crime Center (NW3C) and the Coalition for the Prevention of Economic Crime (CPEC), law enforcement and risk management professionals from around the globe are focusing their attention on how to best combat this emerging threat.

Efforts by the NW3C and CPEC include co-hosting the 2002 Economic Crime Summit, Working Together to Reduce the Impact of Economic Crime, where nearly 1,000 public and private sector fraud professionals will gather May 5-8, in Crystal City, Va., to share best practices and methodologies to combat, investigate, and prosecute identity theft and other economic crimes.

"Identity theft is a white collar crime that has caught the public's consciousness. Everyone is being affected by it," said Michael Mansfield, Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney, Queens District Attorney's Office at a recent International Association of Financial Crime Investigators conference. "If not personally, they know someone it has happened to. No one is safe from identity theft — not even when you're dead."

The 2002 Economic Crime Summit agenda has been reformatted to provide law enforcement and business professionals with the most comprehensive information available on economic crime. The Summit will offer a unique venue where public and private sector professionals join in the sharing of information on economic crime. Since its inception six years ago, the Economic Crime Summit has united both sectors, emphasizing the importance of a united front in fighting and preventing fraud.

"The Summit's program is collectively about raising awareness," said Frank Halpin, president, The Halpin Group, Inc. and board of trustees member for the (CPEC). "Working together to utilize the resources and expertise of both the public law enforcement community and the private sector is essential in combating white collar crime and high-tech criminals."

Attendee registration rates for the 2002 Economic Crime Summit are \$395 for government and law enforcement and \$495 for private sector businesses. Registration will be taken for this event beginning September 30, 2001 through April 30, 2002. A \$25 discount will be offered to those who register via the Web.

For more information on the Economic Crime Summit, visit www.summit.nw3c.org