

# NCWCCR FOCUS

National Consortium for White Collar Crime Research

Volume 4, Issue No. 1

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## REGAINING OUR *FOCUS*

Allow me to take a few moments to welcome you to this issue of the *NCWCCR Focus*. Consider it your vehicle for cohesiveness—a catalyst for the Consortium and its members to exchange information and ideas in hopes of charting a new course for economic crime research.

To close this year, we have embarked on several new initiatives. A brief recap of where we are with those projects follows. I am pleased to report that significant progress has been made since our last meeting, but there is much more work to be done. In 2001, our commitment to you will be to expand our membership and, at the same time, encourage greater participation between members. In that spirit, we are pleased to offer you this retooled publication. Each issue will be an opportunity to discuss new economic crime research, accomplishments, challenges, and professional opportunities. The newsletter will be distributed quarterly. Our next issue will be available in February.

The Research staff at the National White Collar Crime Center looks forward to working with you in the coming year. Best wishes to you and yours for a happy holiday season.

Don Rebovich, Research Director  
National White Collar Crime Center

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## NCWCCR ACTIVITY REPORT

The following is a brief report of scheduled projects and pending initiatives that resulted from the ASC 1999 meeting in Toronto, Canada.

- ▣ Task - Initiate a listserv with the objective of getting more input from members (particularly on the NSF proposal). The listserv will also provide members with a venue to communicate. List serv was initiated in January of 2000 and to date we have 47 subscribers.
  
- ▣ Task - Recruit new members. Send membership packets to all the presenters on white-collar crime panels at the ASC Conference that aren't currently members. We have added 14 new members since the last ASC meeting.
  
- ▣ Task - There was agreement on the Center acting as a conduit for the exchange of information and being responsible for organizing a meeting/workshop and instructional/informational sessions, expanding the interest in white collar crime, and producing a journal. We have arranged for a luncheon at ASC 2000 and have restarted production of the *Focus*, the quarterly newsletter for the Consortium. For more details, please see Page 11.

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## RECIPIENTS OF THE OUTSTANDING SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Frank Cullen and Mike Benson received this year's Outstanding Scholarship Award for the book titled **Combating Corporate Crime: Local Prosecutors at Work** from the Crime and Juvenile Delinquency Division of SSSP. **Combating Corporate Crime: Local Prosecutors at Work** by Michael L. Benson and Francis T. Cullen was published in 1998 by Northeastern University Press. The book reports the results of a project funded by the National Institute of Justice to investigate how local prosecutors respond to corporate crime. The study is the first of its kind to assess how local governments respond to corporate crime. It combines data drawn from a nationally representative survey of local prosecutors with qualitative interviews of prosecutors and other justice officials in four urban jurisdictions.

The quantitative sections of the book describe the social context and scope of the corporate crime problem for local prosecutors. Information is presented on the number and types of corporate prosecutions at the local level and on variation in rates of prosecution by city size and region of the country. Prosecutors attitudes toward corporate crime and the problems they encounter in prosecuting these cases are treated. The authors also develop and test a contextual theory of prosecutorial activity against corporate crime. In the chapters based on qualitative interviews, the authors discuss prosecutorial decision-making shaped by the culture of prosecution. They also address the process of corporate crime investigation and problems of networking and interagency relations. The book concludes with a number of suggestions for improving local responses to corporate crime.

## UPDATE PROJECT DRUGMARKET REPORT

On behalf of member Michael A. Lytle, the NCWCCR staff is pleased to announce the availability of the Project DrugMARKET Report (2 volumes) which reports research on technology applications to assist in the investigation and prosecution of money laundering. The study was funded by the Department of Defense Counterdrug Technology Development Program Office in 1999. Copies of the report will be made available to requesters, but such requests must be made on official letterhead. Mail or fax requests to:

Michael A. Lytle  
SAIC  
4001 Fairfax Dr, Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22203-1617  
Fax: (703) 841-4761

## INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZED WHITE COLLAR CRIME LINKS

**Jay Albanese** of Virginia Commonwealth University is working on a project that compares organized crime and corruption in the U.S. with the Ukraine. He is working with 5 Ukrainian research partners in this effort to study differences in the "organization" of these criminal activities and crime groups. During the course of this research it has become apparent that considerable overlap exists between organized and white collar crime activities in the nexus among criminals--business--and corrupt government officials. Jay would like to talk with anyone (in or out of the U.S.) who has insights, research findings, or contacts with people from Eastern European nations. The perspectives and experiences of researchers or other professionals, and anyone else are desired. Jay can be reached at jsalbane@vcu.edu.

## MEMBER PUBLICATIONS

**David Weisburd** and **Elin Waring** (with Ellen Chayet). *White Collar Crime and Criminal Careers*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (forthcoming, February, 2001).

Criminal career research has become a central criminological focus over the last two decades. Despite the importance of the criminal career paradigm it has generally not been applied to white collar offenders. In this book, Weisburd and Waring examine the criminal careers and social backgrounds of almost 1000 offenders convicted of white collar crimes in U.S. federal courts. This study provides important and new information on the nature of offending among white collar criminals, and the ways in which the criminal careers of these offenders differ from those found in common crime samples. It shows that white collar offenders often are repeat criminals, but that the frequency and seriousness of their offending differs markedly from common crime offenders. Their data also show that convicted white collar offenders end their criminal careers later in the life course than do common criminals, though white collar offenders, like common crime offenders, do not evidence a high degree of specialization. Drawing from their study, as well as other criminal career research, Weisburd and Waring are led to a portrait of crimes and criminals that focuses less on the social and developmental factors that distinguish offenders from non-offenders and more on the importance of the immediate context of crime and its role in leading otherwise conventional people to violate the law.

The following article has just been published by **David O. Friedrichs**, "Crime in High Places: A Criminological Perspective on the Clinton Case," Pp. 281-300, in Jeffery T. Ulmer, Ed., *Sociology of Crime, Law and Deviance*. Amsterdam: JAI/Elsevier. 2000.

**David Friedrichs'** *Law in Our Lives: An Introduction* (Roxbury Publishing Co.) is presently in press.

## MEMBER PUBLICATIONS (CONT.)

### Contemporary Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice: Essays in Honor of Gilbert Geis

Edited by Henry N. Pontell and David Shichor, Prentice Hall, 2001

This volume was assembled in honor of the preeminent criminologist and scholar, Gilbert Geis, on the occasion of his seventy-fifth birthday. As one of the most prolific writers in criminology and the social sciences, having published over twenty books and over three hundred articles, chapters and monographs over the past six decades, Gil's work has covered an incredibly broad range of topics. In this volume, his colleagues were invited to submit works that also cover a broad terrain. While many chapters are related to the topic of white collar crime, for which Gil is perhaps best known, his friends have also honored him by providing original, interesting and relevant pieces in such areas as punishment and social control, public policy issues, comparative criminology, law, victimology, and policing, that are important reading for scholars, students and practitioners alike. We hope that this collection of essays is suitable recognition of Gil's contribution to our field. In the spirit of his devotion to his students, the proceeds of this book will go into a scholarship fund established at the University of California, Irvine. Copies of the book will be available at ASC in San Francisco this November.

**Hank Vandenburg**, Assistant Professor, Sociology, SUNY Oswego recently had his book *Feeding Frenzy: Organizational Deviance in the Texas Psychiatric Hospital Industry* published by University Press of America. The book, an outgrowth of Vandenburg's dissertation, is based half on interviews with hospital executives and half on statistical analysis of physician stipends and admission figures. Interviewees asserted that physician stipends were, for all practical purposes, incentives or kickbacks to psychiatrists who admitted patients, and the statistical analysis seemed to bear this out. Vandenburg is currently working on analysis of health care cost figures to see if it is possible to discover signs of fraud by noting outliers across regions and procedures.

A new paperback edition of the book *Criminal Justice: Brief Edition* has just been published by Allyn & Bacon publishers (copyright 2001). The author of the book is **Jay Albanese**. The book is the only book for introductory criminal justice classes that has a separate chapter on economic crime. This chapter has separate sections of computer crime, corporate crime, political crime, and organized crime. The book also has a dedicated web site with Internet links, practice tests, a "jeopardy" game, and other pedagogical tools.

**Larry Nichols** has recently published a journal article and a book chapter. The recent journal article is titled: "Constructing White-Collar Crime: Claims in Criminology and Management Education," *Business and Society Review* 105, 2 (summer 2000):221-246. (sole authored) and the chapter is in the edited volume: "Dialogical Constructionism: Toward Holistic Understanding of Social Problems Discourse." Pp. 55-65 in *Perspectives on Social Problems*, edited by James A. Holstein and Gale Miller. (Stamford, CT: JAI Press). (sole authored)

## RINA PILOT STUDY : WHITE COLLAR CRIME AMONG RUSSIAN IMMIGRANTS

New York based Research Institute for New Americans (RINA) has started a pilot study on white collar crime among immigrants from the former Soviet Union in the US using the following four questions:

"White collar crime generally categorized as financial crimes are those schemes to defraud, embezzle or misapply the money, funds, securities or credits of individuals, businesses, and/or financial institutions by manipulation, misrepresentation, falsification or deceit". (FBI definition)

1. Have you ever experienced or heard about any specific case of white collar crime committed by a Russian immigrant in the US?
2. Who, in your opinion, generally becomes a victim of such kind of crime in US?
3. Are you ready to take action (or already taking action) in order to protect yourself from white collar crimes, and what means would you prefer?
4. From whom and how often do you expect white collar crimes?

This is the first survey of such kind ever conducted among Russian immigrants in US. For the first stage of the pilot study, 136 individuals were randomly selected from RINA's research panel of 1,500 respondents who represent the entire 400,000 Russian speaking immigrant population in New York. Below are some of the statistics that reflects people's awareness of the white collar crime phenomena.

Among the sample of 136 respondents there are: 51 immigrants from Ukraine, 37 from Russia, 23 from Belarus, and 25 from five other national republics of the former Soviet Union; 70 women 66 men. All 136 have arrived to the US before 1994.

Eight percent of all interviewed answered that they "suffered personally" and another 2% said they have "a member of the family or a close friend who suffered", about 40% of all interviewed said they "heard from other immigrants", 15% "know from Russian-American mass media", 3% "know from American mass media", about 30% "never heard or suffered".

By the middle of November, RINA is planning to complete the pilot study that will include 150 new cases bringing the total number of interviews to about 300. The results will include statistics and analysis of attitudes toward white collar crime in Russian speaking communities in New York. In addition to its 1,500 database in New York, RINA is working to build up similar databases (research panels) in Boston and Philadelphia of 500 respondents in each city. RINA is looking for appropriate funding from any interested agencies to be able to conduct a full scale study on this white collar crime issue. Please contact Dr. Leonid Khotin for further information. **Dr. Leonid Khotin**, UC Berkeley, Galleo@uclink4.berkeley.edu, temporary phone - 212-304-2881, fax - 212-304-3723.

## NATIONAL BUSINESS SURVEY

Summarized by Scott Hage, National White Collar Crime Center (NW3C)

Since February, the NW3C Research Section has been developing a survey of United States businesses on white collar crime experience. This project began with the assembly of an advisory group of subject matter experts and a literature review of existing business surveys and studies. Since March we have gone on to purchase a sample representative of businesses in the U.S.

The advisory group consisted of Jay Albanese (Virginia Commonwealth University), Jim Blair (Pennsylvania Securities Commission), Michael Blankenship (East Tennessee State University), John Gill (Association of Certified Fraud Examiners), Frank Hagan (Mercyhurst College), Ronald Heater (Card Alert Services), Bill Puncer (National Fraud Center), Gary Rabe (Minot State), Neil Shover (University of Tennessee), and Henry "Hank" Vandenburg (SUNY - Oswego). This group met on March 16 and 17 in Morgantown, WV and assisted the Research Section in developing survey topics. From this meeting the first draft was produced.

An extensive literature review was conducted on past related surveys. We reviewed surveys administered by the United Nations Interregional Crime & Justice Research Institute, the Australian Institute of Criminology, and the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners.

Another part of our preparation has been to seek out the endorsement of our project by nationally recognized and respected organizations. We received such support from the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners and the National Coalition for the Prevention of Economic Crime.

Currently, the section is finalizing pre-test versions that, once tested, will give us the most effective instrument to use in this survey. Once the pre-test is complete, we will be mailing out the instrument. When finished, this study will help establish key characteristics of white collar crimes committed against businesses in the U.S. The data gathered in questionnaire sections on general fraud victimization, Internet crimes, and the standards of compliance with the law will be integral to the determination of the extent of these crimes and the development of effective crime prevention programs in the future.

Our goal is to have the survey administered and completed by the end of the year.

## NEW NCWCCR MEMBERS

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| *Husam Al-Abed         | Jordan Reference Systems Center                        |
| *John Krimmel          | The College of New Jersey                              |
| *Richard Hollinger     | University of Florida                                  |
| *William Patsche       | Office of Law Enforcement Technology Commercialization |
| *Robin Lotz            | Office of Law Enforcement Technology Commercialization |
| *Tom McLaughlin        | Office of Law Enforcement Technology Commercialization |
| *Diane Quinn           | Office of Law Enforcement Technology Commercialization |
| *Dhruba Bora           | Wheeling Jesuit University                             |
| *Larry Driscoll        | Wheeling Jesuit University                             |
| *Kimberly Detardo-Bora | Wheeling Jesuit University                             |
| *William Laufer        | University of Pennsylvania                             |
| *Karen A. Mason        | Washington State University-Pullman                    |
| *Henry Vandenburg      | State University of New York-Oswego                    |
| *Leonid Khotin         | University of California-Berkeley                      |

\* Denotes a new member since the last ASC meeting.

## ECONOMIC CRIME SUMMIT

Mark your calendar for May 6-9, 2001 and plan to join more than 1,000 public and private sector economic crime and security professionals from across the United States and around the globe to discuss the very latest economic crime trends and prevention initiatives. The next Economic Crime Summit will take place in Los Angeles, California at the Regal Biltmore Hotel.

Hosted and co-sponsored for the fifth year by the National White Collar Crime Center ([www.nw3c.org](http://www.nw3c.org)) and the National Coalition for the Prevention of Economic Crime ([www.ncpec.org](http://www.ncpec.org)), this annual event is recognized as the single most important venue to spotlight current trends and initiatives on the economic crime forefront.

With more than 30 sessions hosted by high-profile fraud experts, the Economic Crime Summit brings you the latest in continuing industry education. Five special interest tracks provide a unique venue to learn more about your area of interest or expertise. Additional event and registration information can be found on-line at [www.summit.nw3c.org](http://www.summit.nw3c.org).

### Special Interest Tracks

- Academia and research
- Corporations/businesses
- Internet fraud
- Public sector investigation
- Victim services

## INTERNET FRAUD COMPLAINT CENTER UPDATE

Submitted by Julie Beckner, IFCC Internet Fraud Complaint Specialist

The Internet Fraud Complaint Center (IFCC) is a partnership between the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the National White Collar Crime Center (NW3C). The IFCC's mission is to address fraud committed over the Internet.

Launched May 8, 2000, the Internet Fraud Complaint Center (IFCC) has received, via its Internet web site, 7,745 complaints from individuals who feel they have been defrauded. The IFCC staff is composed of 64 dedicated employees from the NW3C, FBI, and other law enforcement agencies. These employees are responsible for reviewing, processing, and referring complaints to the appropriate local, state, or federal law enforcement agencies that have jurisdiction over a complaint filed with the IFCC.

A dedicated Web site located at [www.ifccfbi.gov](http://www.ifccfbi.gov) gives consumers the ability to file Internet fraud complaints on-line with IFCC. Victims of Internet fraud can go directly to the secure IFCC Web site to submit complaint information, making it a fast and efficient forum to file an Internet fraud complaint. IFCC handles and refers complaints from all over the world. The only working stipulation in the IFCC process is that either the victim or the suspect must be located within the US.

Analysts assigned to the IFCC have examined and reviewed the information submitted by victims and have found to date that the average loss of money per complaint is approximately \$900.00. The top three ways people are defrauded, as reported to the IFCC, are electronic auction fraud, financial institution fraud, and investment fraud. Electronic auction fraud has accounted for over 80% of complaints filed on the IFCC web site.

Of the complaints received at the IFCC, the information identifies subjects from fifty-one different countries. The majority of the complaints are against individuals residing in the United States followed by Canada. Other countries include Nigeria, Romania, United Kingdom, Ukraine, Indonesia, Russian Federation, Australia, Germany, and the Netherlands.

At this time, it is too early to project any trends that may develop based on complaints that have been submitted to the IFCC. Trends will begin to develop and continue to be tracked shortly after the first six months of IFCC operation.

The IFCC has received numerous positive comments within complaints thanking us for our services. Many complainants have felt helpless because they did not know whom to turn to for help. The IFCC has provided victims with an easy to use reporting system that can be completed in the privacy of their own homes. Positive feedback from complainants has ranged from the comments that people are happy that we are available for assistance to the comments that the IFCC is greatly needed. The IFCC continues to grow and provide services to both victims and law enforcement around the world.

The Web site  
[www.ifccfbi.gov](http://www.ifccfbi.gov)  
gives consumers  
the ability to file  
Internet fraud  
complaints  
on-line with IFCC

## NW3C RESEARCH SECTION PERSONNEL

All personnel can be reached via e-mail by taking the first initial of their first name and their full last name and then @nw3c.org. The toll free number to the Center is (877) 693-2874 and then that person's extension.

|                |                         |      |
|----------------|-------------------------|------|
| Don Rebovich   | Research Director       | x249 |
| Don Mason      | Senior Legal Researcher | x255 |
| Scott Hage     | Research Assistant      | x280 |
| Brooke Cress   | Section Coordinator     | x264 |
| Jeff Lybarger  | Research Technician     | x262 |
| Paul Klenowski | Research Associate      | x271 |
| Ryan Brown     | Research Assistant      | x228 |
| Kathleen Kern  | Legal Researcher        | x252 |
| John Kane      | Research Associate      | x302 |

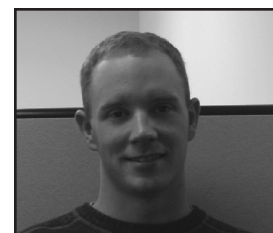
## NEW FACES

**John Kane** began working at the NW3C in July 2000. Prior to joining the NW3C, John served as Assistant Director of Research for the Florida Survey Research Center. He also worked as a Graduate Research Associate for the Security Research Project, a private grant project at the University of Florida that studies various elements of workplace-related crime and deviance. Under the guidance of the project director, criminologist Richard Hollinger, John was involved in a variety of applied white collar crime research projects, including the annual National Retail Security Survey. John received his Master of Arts degree in Sociology from the University of Florida in 1999. As a Research Associate for the NW3C, John is currently involved in preparing the survey instrument and study samples for the National Business Survey, as well as working on a number of other Center-sponsored papers and projects.



John Kane

**Ryan Brown** began his employment at the NW3C in June 2000. Ryan received his Master's of Science degree in Criminal Justice at Eastern Kentucky University in May of 2000. While at EKU, Ryan was a teaching assistant and a graduate research assistant. His areas of research at EKU included victimization, policy, and legal. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice at Fairmont State College. For the NW3C, Ryan has been responsible for researching and identifying innovative methods of evaluating learning and behavioral impact of private sector training programs. The results of his efforts have been used in the redesign of the evaluation of NW3C training programs. His current duties also include contributing to the National Business Survey and processing data requests.



Ryan Brown



Jeff Lybarger

**Jeff Lybarger** first became associated with the NW3C in January of 2000 as an Intern from Fairmont State College. After receiving his Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from Fairmont in May, he accepted a full time position as a Research Technician. He plans to pursue an advanced degree at West Virginia University next fall. Jeff is currently conducting a secondary data analysis of white collar crime data from the Uniform Crime Reports for the period of 1990 - 1997. Jeff is also updating the section's bibliographic database of white collar crime resources and has been instrumental in the development of the National Business Survey.



Paul Klenowski

**Paul Klenowski** has been employed with the NW3C since June of 2000. He comes to us from the National Institute of Justice's Office of Law Enforcement Technology Commercialization (OLETC) in Wheeling, WV. At OLETC, Paul researched many different technology based products that eventually went to market for law enforcement and correction officers nationwide. Paul received his Master's in Business Administration (2000) and Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice (1998) from Wheeling Jesuit University. Paul is currently doing extensive work on our National Business Survey. With the creation of the survey, Paul and the rest of the Research staff will attempt to ascertain the scope and characteristics of economic crime and how it affects Corporate America.



Mike Hensley

**Mike Hensley** has recently joined the staff as a part-time Legal Researcher. He holds a BA and MA in Political Science from Marshall University and graduated from the WVU College of Law in May 2000. While in Law school, Hensley interned with the West Virginia's Attorney General's Office and the WVU General Counsel's Office. Hensley also served as President of the WV Bar Association - Law Student Division, participated in the Volunteer Law Clerks Association and Public Interest Advocates. Before entering Law school, Hensley served six years as a Special Assistant in the Elections division of the West Virginia Secretary of State's office. For the NW3C, Mike is assisting the legal researchers by doing legal research, drafting case briefs and summaries, analyzing developments in cyberlaw, and preparing legal memoranda.

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**Cy Hill** began his employment at the NW3C in October 2000 as a part-time Legal Researcher. Cy graduated Summa Cum Laude from Marshall University in 1998 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice. Currently, he is pursuing a Juris Doctor degree at the West Virginia University College of Law. At the WVU College of Law, Cy is a member of the Marlyn Lugar Trial Lawyers Association, Public Interest Advocates and the Volunteer Law Clerks Association. For the NW3C, Cy is assisting the legal researchers by doing legal research, drafting case briefs and summaries, analyzing developments in cyberlaw, and preparing legal memoranda.



Cy Hill

**Kathleen Kern** joined the NW3C as a legal researcher in June of 2000. She received her law degree from Georgetown University Law Center, and is licensed to practice in six states and before the U.S. Supreme Court. Kathleen's civil practice focused on both asbestos-in-building and tobacco litigation. Immediately prior to joining the NW3C, Kathleen litigated and provided public education for a Colorado non-profit legal organization that specialized in high-impact civil rights cases. Kathleen's desire to work with economic crime grew from her experiences working in both the District of Columbia criminal courts, and with the King County Prosecutors office in Seattle. For the NW3C, she is currently tracking the legal developments in the area of economic and computer crime, assisting in the development of legal instruction in the area of digital evidence, and drafting informative materials for use in the NW3C's educational outreach.



Kathleen Kern

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The National White Collar Crime Center is finishing the process of arranging a lunch and working meeting for NCWCCR members. We will hold the workshop in San Francisco on Friday, November 17 from 11:20am to 12:50pm at the annual American Society of Criminology conference. The first order of business will be a vote on the proposed constitution and bylaws developed by Jay Albanese. The second half will be an exploration of limited funding for directed research projects through the NW3C. If you would like to attend the lunch and have not already made arrangements or have any suggestions or comments for the meeting contact Don Rebovich at 877-693-2874, ext. 249 or e-mail him at [drebovich@nw3c.org](mailto:drebovich@nw3c.org). Look forward to seeing you there!



Jeff Lybarger

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