Chinelo Opara, CFCS, CAMS.

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A Certified Financial Crime Specialist with 8 years of demonstrated experience in financial crime investigation, intelligence gathering, risk identification and mitigation, and asset tracing and recovery. Proficient in compliance, fraud prevention and detection, and risk mitigation. Conversant with both national and international laws, standards, and regulations on Fraud Prevention and Anti-Money Laundering/Counter-Terrorist Financing (AML/CTF) leading to the successful facilitation and completion of over 100 Money Laundering and financial crime cases, showcasing analytical rigor and commitment to ethical investigative practices.

EXPERIENCE

Financial Crime Specialist

Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA), Nigeria   **[Aug 2020 – till date]**

Core Functions: Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing Investigation, Sanctions, Asset Recovery, and Prosecution

- Placed on secondment by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to investigate over ninety bribery and corruption cases in relation to the Dasuki Gate with recorded convictions in the last four years.
- Draft detailed investigation reports with insights into the investigation and recommendations for policy action.
- Investigated assigned financial crimes cases including fraud, terrorist financing, and recovered over NGN20 billion worth of assets identified as proceeds of crimes.
- Gave evidence in court on criminal and civil cases with successful convictions and court injunctions respectively.
- Analyzed data and financial records of terrorist financiers to identify trends and the potential risks of terrorist activities across the 36 states of Nigeria.
- Reviewed Sanctions list databases for screening suspected terrorist financiers and Money Laundering offenders.
- Participated in the government's food security program by setting up fraud preventive mechanisms in the processes and distribution of grains across the 774 local governments of the federation.

Assistant Superintendent of the EFCC/Financial Crime Investigator

Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Nigeria   **[Mar 2017 – Jan 2025]**

Core Functions: Financial Crime Investigation, Law Enforcement, Risk Assessment, Asset Recovery, and Prosecution

- Successfully investigated and prosecuted fraud and high-profile Anti-Money Laundering and Anti-Bribery and Corruption (ABC) cases including commercial banking and financial services, pension fraud, and public institutional fraud.
- Successfully identified and recovered proceeds of crime in both domestic and foreign-currency assets of over NGN 11 billion and $40 million respectively.
- Conduct interviews with complainants, witnesses, and suspects of cases assigned.
- Led a team of investigators to conduct surveillance and execute search and arrest warrants.
- Investigate Suspicious Transaction Reports (STRs) and Suspicious Account Reports (SARs) from the Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU) as reported by financial institutions and designated non-financial Institutions
- Investigate suspected violations of the Money Laundering Act by reviewing and analyzing financial statements and records
- Assess the risk of internal fraud and suspicious financial activity in Ministries, Departments, and Agencies
- Collaborate with internal and external stakeholders including commercial banks, the Central Bank of Nigeria, the Securities and Exchange Commission, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol), and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).
- Support research, and policy formulation for mitigating the risk of systemic corruption and bribery amongst public officeholders.

Academic Tutor, National Youth Service Scheme (NYSC), Bayelsa, Nigeria   **[May 2015 – May 2016]**

- Tutored about 50+ final-year secondary school students in Economics in compliance with the designed school curriculum
- Prepared learning materials and led preparations for final senior secondary examinations

EDUCATION

Masters in International Affairs and Diplomacy (In Progress)
Ahmadu Bello University, Nigeria

Bachelor of Science
Economics, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria

CORE COMPETENCIES

- Financial Crime Investigation
- Risk Assessment and Mitigation
- Asset Tracing and Recovery
- Data Analysis and Trend Identification
- Regulatory Compliance and Legal Expertise (FATF 40+ Recommendations, AML/CFT Laws, Wolfsberg Principles)
- Stakeholder Collaboration (Interpol, FBI, CBN, SEC, NFIU)
- Policy Development and Strategic Planning
- Technology Proficiency: MS Excel, Tableau, Power BI

SOFT SKILLS

Analytical Thinking | Excellent Communication | Leadership | Collaboration | Adaptability

MEMBERSHIPS, CERTIFICATIONS & TRAINING

- **Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialist (CAMS)**, Association of Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialists (ACAMS). **[March, 2025]**
- **Certified Financial Crime Specialist (CFCS)**, Association of Certified Financial Crime Specialists **[January 2023]** (ACFCS) Alpharetta, Georgia, U.S.A.
- **Excel for Investigators,** EFCC Academy **[Aug 2022]**

AWARDS

- Award of Excellence by the National Security Adviser to the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria **(Oct 2024)**
- 2nd Runner Up at the EFCC/Nigerian Army Cadet Training **(May 2017)**
- Leadership Award as the Most Consistent Class Captain (High School) **(July 2009**)
- Best Graduating Student in the Commercial Class (High School) **(July 2009)**

LANGUAGES

- English (Proficient)
- Basic written and oral French (A2, Alliance Francaise)
- Igbo.
- Hausa.
- Yoruba