

VIKAS CHIKURTHI, CAMS

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Financial Crimes Compliance | Risk Management Professional | Compliance Manager

An innovative Compliance and AML professional equipped with a wealth of experience driving regulatory processes and internal controls in all areas of commercial and retail banking and financial operations to elevate an organization's risk posture. Highly adept at designing and implementing process audits, compliance assessments and mitigation plans to future proof an organization and stakeholders. Heightened communication skills underline an ability to provide compliance and risk focused advisory to clients while coaching teams and stakeholders on regulatory best practices.

VALUE ADDED SKILL SETS

Bank Secrecy Act | Financial Crimes Compliance | Transaction Monitoring | Customer Risk Scoring | Sanctions | Fraud Aggregation | Payment Services | PEP Screening | Anti-Human Trafficking monitoring | Client Relationship Management | Compliance | Data Integrity | Process Review | Regulatory Compliance | Process Improvement | Performance Reports | SOP Design | Internal Controls | Financial Analysis | Policy Implementation | Fraud Prevention |

RECENT EXPERIENCE

DISCOVER FINANCIAL SERVICES

Riverwoods, IL | Senior Manager, Compliance Programs | 12/2017 – Present

While ensuring the adoption of robust AML programming, and increasing the overall risk posture across the portfolio of Discover's new products, I successfully:

Senior Manager, Compliance Programs | 08/2023 - Present

- Responsible for the strategy, management, and oversight of Transaction Monitoring model, Customer Risk Scoring model, PEP and Adverse media screening, 314(a) screening, Customer Identification Program and Fraud SAR filing.
- Designed effective, strategic, and innovative solutions by maximizing efficiencies, enhancing processes, mitigating risks, and ensuring the Business can drive new product offerings seamlessly and without delay.
- Review and assess internal control processes while ensuring compliance with all internal Financial Crimes Compliance policies and programs.
- Implemented Machine-Learning based models for AML Transaction Monitoring and Customer Risk Scoring.
- Consult on internal audit frameworks and identify existing AML compliance quality issues.
- Work with business and other departments including Compliance to define trends, opportunities, root causes and enhancements.
- Designed out-of-the box solutions to design in-house screening process for PEP, Adverse Media and 314(a)-screening.

Principal Compliance Specialist, AML Surveillance Strategy | 11/2021 – 07/2023

- Maintained accountability for AML monitoring models across Bank & Payment Services, AML Sanctions, and Fraud and identified opportunities for increased effectiveness.
- Monitored coverage assessments and ensures risk-based coverage and consistency between systems.
- Responded to requests related to exams, audits, and other reviews with no findings and satisfactory ratings.
- Promoted collaboration between business lines to integrate AML Compliance within the organizations culture and daily workflows.

Principal Process Management Specialist, Operational Excellence | 01/2020 – 10/2021

- Deployed root cause analysis to uncover and resolve systemic compliance issues.
- Promoted a project management approach to seamlessly implement and ensure enterprise-wide adoption of the compliance management system.
- Innovated an analytical tool to visualize and analyze legal requirements, taxonomy, process maps, procedures, controls, incidents, gaps, opportunities, customer complaints and change log processes

Principal / Lead Business Analyst – AML Compliance | 12/2017 – 12/2020

- Developed the strategy roadmap for the AML/KYC operations team while defining the long-term strategy to help clear the backlog of over 10,000 KYC alerts.
- Automated data gathering to streamline KYC operations to increase overall effectiveness and responsiveness. Resulting in improved ADO from 4.5hours to 2.5hours.
- Conducted periodic KYC process reviews, to uncover and respond to gaps and vulnerabilities.
- Provided technical guidance concerning the business implications of the application of various systems.

QUADRATIC SOLUTIONS

Riverwoods, IL | Project Manager, AML Compliance | 01/2017 – 12/2017

Assessing the organization's needs and requirements, surveying stakeholders to develop user stories and business cases, while spearheading the design and ramp-up of the organization's AML program, I:

- Established the compliance program's framework, designing schedules and delivery timetables.
- Product managed the program's design and launch, working with stakeholders across the organization to standardize and drive implementation and adoption.
- Chaired regular scrum style review sessions to assess and resolve risks to seamless development and implementation.
- Deployed risk management guidelines to assess project feasibility and profitability.
- Collaborated with management team to define KPIs on delivering the project pipeline.

Previous Professional Experience

- Value Labs | Hyderabad, India | Quality Assurance Lead | 08/2015 – 07/2016
- Tata Consultancy Services | Mumbai, India | Software Engineer | 12/2009 – 12/2014

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

Bachelor of Technology (2009)

Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University | Hyderabad, India

Certifications

- Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialist (CAMS)
- Lean Six Sigma Green Belt (Purdue University)
- Microsoft Certified Technology Specialist (MCTS):
SQL Server 2008, Business Intelligence Development and Maintenance Certification
- IBM Certified Designer - Cognos 10
BI Reports Certification
- International Software Testing Qualifications Board (ISTQB)
Certified Tester - Foundation Level

TECHNICAL SKILLSETS AND LANGUAGES

- MS Office Suite | Python | Java | C | C++ | SQL | Tableau
- English | Hindi | Telugu

Formal References Will Be Provided Upon Request