

ACi Banking Forum

16 June, 2026 9:00 - 18:30

Barclays Bank, Canary Wharf



Hosted by
BARCLAYS

Agenda

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Time	Session	Speakers
8:30 - 9:00	Arrival and Registration	
9:15 - 9:30	ACi Welcome address	Ashu Sharma , Chief Strategy Officer, ACi
9:30 - 10:00	Opening Fireside Chat	Ashu Sharma , Chief Strategy Officer, ACi Matt Fitzwater , Group Chief Compliance Officer, Barclays
10:00 - 10:45	Panel 1: The Future of Whistleblowing Investigations: Operating Models That Evolve with Complexity and Scale	Moderator: Simran Bharaj , Director of Events and relationship Management, ACi Sarah Alderson , Head of Investigations, Lloyds Banking Group Robert Clarke , Global Head of Investigative Policy and Independent Review, Citi Clive Robins , Head of Whistleblowing, Nationwide Chris Durrant , Director of Professional Standards and Business Ethics, Aviva Chris Singh , Managing Director, Group Head of Consumer Protection, Wholesale Conduct and Regulatory Compliance
10:45 - 11:15	Expert Presentation: Rethinking Internal Fraud Investigations: New Perspectives and Evidence	Dr Claire Norman-Maillet , Fraud Expert
11:15 - 11:30	Short Comfort Break	
11:30 - 12:15	Panel 2: AI and Investigations: Enhancing Capability Without Losing Human Judgment	Moderator: Oonagh Van Den Berg , Independent FC Expert Oliver Walsh , Fraud and Complex Investigations, Credit Agricole CIB James Grant , Senior Advisory Services Consultant, KLDiscovery Global Advisory Anne Medlycott , Head of Investigations, JPM Chase Ben Donaldson OBE , Managing Director Global Head of FIU, Barclays Adrian Searle , Board Advisor, ex Director of NECC

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Time	Session	Speakers
12:15 - 13:00	Panel 3: Investigations in the Public Eye: Social Media, NDAs, and Reputation Risk	<p>Moderator: Joe Stubbs, Country Manager and VP Sales UK, Navex</p> <p>Andy Noble, Head of Speak Up and Whistleblowing, Natwest</p> <p>Tilly Harries, Director of Workplace Resolution and Investigations, Lloyds</p> <p>Alan Ward, Partner, Regulatory and Criminal Investigations, Stephenson Harwood</p>
13:00 - 14:00	Buffet Lunch and Networking	
14:00 - 14:45	Panel 4: Complexity is the New Normal: Managing High-Risk and Sensitive Investigations	<p>Moderator: Arpita Dutt, Expert WB Employment Lawyer, Investigator and Chair of Whistleblowing think tank Parrhesia</p> <p>Yamini Patel, Independent and Previous Head of Investigations EU, UK and Russia, Citi</p> <p>Neel Chakerabati, CEO of Praetorian Global-Intelligence and Investigations</p> <p>Lewis Barnes, VP FIU Global Financial Crime, Morgan Stanley</p> <p>Mick Walsh, Managing Director Physical Security and Investigations, Barclays</p>
14:45 - 15:30	Panel 5: Legal Privilege Under Pressure: Protection, Risk, and Misuse	<p>Moderator: Simran Bharaj, Director of Events and relationship Management, ACi</p> <p>Saima Hanif KC, 3VB</p> <p>James Sullivan, Chief Risk Officer, BCB Group</p> <p>Greg Brandman, Regulatory Litigation and ex FCA Enforcement Manager, Eversheds</p> <p>Brona Reeves, Managing Director, Employment, Incentives, Pensions, Legal, Barclays</p>
15:30 - 16:00	Short Comfort Break	
16:00 - 16:45	Panel 6: Enforcement Is Changing: Maintaining high Investigation Standards in a Shifting Regulatory and Geopolitical Landscape	<p>Moderator: Priya Giuliani, Partner, Financial Crime Investigations and Compliance, HKA</p> <p>Jamas Hodiwalla KC, Matrix Chambers</p> <p>Tom Littlechild, Assistant GC, International Financial Crime and Regulatory Expert, Wells Fargo</p> <p>Maureen Lewis, Managing Director - Litigation, Investigations & Enforcement, Barclays</p>
16:50	Closing Remarks	
16:55 - 18:30	Post Event Drinks	

Speakers



Ashu Sharma, Chief Strategy Officer, ACi

Ash has over 20 years' experience in investigations and financial crime risk mitigation. He currently manages a global investigation hub at Anglo American Plc, overseeing corporate ethics, compliance, and financial crime investigations. Previously, Ash held regional and group roles at a global bank, leading internal fraud risk, background vetting, and significant global investigations. He is a Certified Fraud Examiner, Certified Financial Crime Specialist, and Certified Cryptocurrency Investigator.



Matt Fitzwater, Group Chief Compliance, Barclays

Matt is Group Chief Compliance Officer at Barclays and a member of the Group Executive Committee. Since joining Barclays in 2014, he has held several senior legal roles including Interim Co Group General Counsel, Group Centre General Counsel, and Global Head of Litigation, Investigation, and Enforcement. Prior to Barclays, Matt was Special Counsel at Sullivan & Cromwell in New York, representing major financial institutions in criminal and regulatory matters. He graduated from The Ohio State University College of Law in 2001 and Miami University summa cum laude in 1998.



Simran Bharaj, Director of Events and Relationship Management, ACi

Simran is a financial crime subject matter expert and Director of GKSB Consultancy with over 20 years' experience across consultancy and senior regulatory roles, including several years at the Financial Conduct Authority as a financial crime supervisor. She supports firms under regulatory or law enforcement scrutiny through remediation, crisis management, and transformation programmes, and is frequently appointed as interim MLRO and Head of Financial Crime. A recognised thought leader, she regularly chairs AML conferences, writes for Thomson Reuters Regulatory Intelligence and the Financial Times, and serves as Pro Bono Senior Advisor to anti-human trafficking charity Stop the Traffik.



Sarah Alderson, Head of Investigations, Lloyds Banking Group

Sarah is Head of Investigations within the Workplace Resolution & Investigations function at Lloyds Banking Group, leading teams responsible for investigating complex whistleblowing and conduct matters. She brings over ten years' experience in whistleblowing and complex investigations in financial services within the SM&CR framework. Prior to financial services, Sarah spent five years in consultancy developing forensic accountancy expertise, and was seconded to the Serious Fraud Office as an investigator on the LIBOR investigation, utilising eDiscovery and data analysis expertise to support criminal prosecution.



Robert Clarke, Global Head of Investigative Policy and Independent Review, Citi

Rob is Managing Director and Global Head of Investigative Policy and Independent Review at Citi, where he has held investigation operations and leadership roles across EMEA and globally since joining in 2002. Prior to Citi, he was a detective in the City of London Police Fraud Squad. Rob became Global Head of IPIR in 2022, having previously served as Global Head of Investigation Operations, including a three-year relocation to Citi's New York headquarters. He has played a leading role in establishing Citi's enterprise frameworks for investigation, escalation, and whistleblowing management, and brings over 30 years of experience across fraud, money laundering, cyber security, and conduct investigations.

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Clive Robins, Head of Whistleblowing, Nationwide

Clive oversees the whistleblowing functions for both Nationwide Building Society and Virgin Money. He joined Nationwide in 2019 following three years at the Competition and Markets Authority, where he managed the external whistleblowing framework. Prior to regulatory roles, Clive served for 32 years in the British Armed Forces as a member of the Royal Military Police, holding senior positions including Director of Investigations, Head of Intelligence, and Head of Covert Policing.



Chris Durrant, Director of Professional Standards and Business Ethics, Aviva

Chris leads Aviva's Investigation and Speak Up services, Business Ethics Code, and Individual Accountability Regime Office, overseeing a team of 40 across the Aviva Group. He provides regular input to Boards and Committees on employee behaviour and conduct, and represents Aviva at Financial Services Investigations and Whistleblowing Forums. Prior to Aviva, Chris spent 21 years at Deloitte, where he delivered investigation and dispute advisory services predominantly to financial services clients, with a focus on conduct risk, and led Deloitte's Audio Solutions Service within its wider Surveillance and Discovery offering.



Chris Singh, Managing Director, Group Head of Consumer Protection, Wholesale Conduct and Regulatory Compliance

Chris was appointed Head of Consumer Protection, Wholesale Conduct, and Regulatory Compliance at Barclays in January 2024, overseeing key compliance functions including data privacy, market surveillance, whistleblowing, and regulatory oversight. He joined Barclays in 2022 as Chief of Staff to the Group Chief Compliance Officer before taking on his current role. Prior to Barclays, Christopher served as Group Head of Regulatory Compliance at Revolut, and before that spent ten years at the Financial Conduct Authority supervising the Barclays Group and working within thematic and enforcement teams. He has a legal background, having been called to the Bar and admitted to the Roll of Solicitors in England and Wales.



Dr Claire Norman-Maillet, Fraud Expert

Claire is a multi-award-winning counter-fraud expert with over a decade's experience in financial services across operations, strategy, risk and product. She was awarded her doctorate in January 2026, with her PhD thesis offering novel insights into internal fraud. Claire regularly delivers keynotes on fraud, organisational culture, disability and neurodivergence, and as a person who stammers and has ADHD, brings unique authenticity to her work. Having spoken at events worldwide, she is one of the most in-demand counter-fraud and disability speakers.



Oonagh Van Den Berg, Independent FC Expert

Oonagh is a global financial crime and regulatory compliance strategist, author, and founder of Virtual Risk Solutions and RAW Compliance, and creator of the Modernising Compliance book series. With over 20 years of international experience, she has built and led compliance and financial crime frameworks at leading institutions including JPMorgan, HSBC, Citigroup, Standard Chartered, and Deutsche Bank, as well as within the European Central Bank ecosystem. She advises institutions, regulators, and fintechs on modernising compliance through data architecture, technology, and AI-driven risk frameworks.

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Oliver Walsh, Fraud and Complex Investigations, Credit Agricole

Oliver has over 12 years of experience in financial crime, fraud prevention, and investigations. He began his career as an Investigator in Retail Banking before transitioning to Asset Management, where he took on a broader Financial Crime role. Oliver led a team handling financial crime investigations, fraud prevention, and intelligence dissemination. Oliver currently works at Crédit Agricole Corporate Investment Bank, where his responsibilities span investigations both inside and outside the financial crime space, fraud prevention and other AML matters.



James Grant, Senior Advisory Services Consultant, KLDISCOVERY Global Advisory

James is a Senior Advisory Services Consultant in KLDISCOVERY's Global Advisory Team, with a decade of experience in eDiscovery and computer forensics. He advises clients on defensible technologies and workflows across the full EDRM lifecycle, supporting complex litigation, regulatory investigations, and public inquiries. His current focus is guiding clients through the adoption of generative AI in eDiscovery. Prior to KLDISCOVERY, James led the litigation technology team at Eversheds Sutherland, supporting high-profile matters including the Post Office Horizon IT Inquiry, the Angiolini Inquiry, ENRC v SFO, and the 1MDB fraud litigation.



Anne Medlycott, Head of Investigations, JPMorgan Chase

Anne is Head of Investigations for the EMEA region within Global Security at JPMorgan Chase. She oversees investigations across all lines of business in EMEA, covering matters of internal employee conduct as well as external fraud involving criminal misuse of the firm's brand. Anne joined the firm in February 2024 after a 21-year policing career, predominantly as a detective, where she led operational teams in public protection, fraud, and Serious and Organised Crime. She brings deep investigative experience and a practical, risk-aware approach to safeguarding the firm, its people and clients.



Ben Donaldson OBE, Managing Director Global Head of FIU, Barclays

Ben is the Global Head of the Financial Intelligence Unit and SARs Oversight Team at Barclays. He was previously Managing Director for Economic Crime at UK Finance. Prior to that, Ben had a 23-year career in Defence.



Adrian Searle, Board Advisor, ex Director of NECC

Adrian is a former Director of the National Economic Crime Centre (NECC) and UK Financial Intelligence Unit, where he led the UK's operational response to fraud and economic crime, including the largest ever operation against global money laundering and a data fusion initiative with seven UK banks. Prior to this, he served as Head of Security and Data Risk at NatWest Bank and Head of Incident Management at the National Cyber Security Centre, leading the UK's response to nationally significant cyber incidents. He also brings experience from national security policy roles and the British Army. Adrian now advises technology and start-up companies on fraud, economic crime, and cyber security.

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Joe Stubbs, Country Manager & VP Sales UK, Navex

Joe is Country Manager, UK at NAVEX, helping organisations navigate complex regulatory landscapes through scalable governance, risk, and compliance solutions. With over 20 years of revenue leadership experience in SaaS, he has previously held senior roles at Cognism, Ceros, and Adestra, driving growth across EMEA and APAC markets. Joe is known for building high-performing teams and combining commercial expertise with deep knowledge of sales strategy and market expansion. He also serves as a Non-Executive Director, providing strategic guidance to support business growth.



Andy Noble, Head of Speak Up and Whistleblowing, Natwest

Andy is Head of Whistleblowing and Speak Up at NatWest Group, where he has worked since 1984 across front line and risk roles spanning compliance, operational risk, credit risk, and financial crime. Following the introduction of new whistleblowing regulations in 2016, he led the development and implementation of NatWest's group-wide whistleblowing framework. Andy also served as a Special Constable with the Metropolitan Police Service for 29 years, receiving a long service award from the Commissioner prior to retiring in 2018.



Tilly Harries, Director of Workplace Resolution and Investigations, Lloyds

Tilly is Group Workplace Resolution and Investigations Director at Lloyds Banking Group, leading the bank's centre of expertise for workplace resolution, investigations, and conduct-related matters. Prior to Lloyds, she was Head of Workplace Investigations and Conduct at PwC, overseeing complex investigations and cultural transformation programmes. A seasoned employment law barrister and people consultant, Tilly brings over 20 years' experience in HR compliance, people risk, equality law, and cultural change, working closely with senior leaders, legal teams, and regulators to strengthen trust and accountability.



Alan Ward, Partner, Regulatory and Criminal Investigations, Stephenson Harwood

Alan is a partner at Stephenson Harwood LLP specialising in advising financial institutions and corporates on regulatory and criminal investigations. He advises banks, asset managers, and trading houses on FCA and PRA investigations, internal misconduct inquiries, and whistleblower disclosures. Alan has represented clients in high-profile cases including FCA v Lopez & Ors before the Upper Tribunal, and matters involving LIBOR, FX manipulation, Tesco, and Olympus Corporation. He is ranked as a Next Generation Partner in Legal 500 (2026) for Contentious Financial Services, and his team holds a Band 1 ranking for representing senior individuals in contentious financial services investigations.



Arpita Dutt, Expert WB Employment Lawyer, Investigator and Chair of Whistleblowing think tank, Parrhesia

Arpita is Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of UK charity think tank Parrhesia Inc and a former employment law partner and litigator with over 23 years' experience specialising in equality and whistleblowing cases. In her policy and advocacy role, she has contributed to landmark legislative developments including the Employment Rights Act 2025 and co-drafted the whistleblowing guidance to the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act 2023. She also produces the Parrhesia Tapes podcast, raising awareness of whistleblowers' experiences. A former co-founding partner of BDBF LLP, Arpita was top-ranked in Legal 500 and Chambers & Partners for over 12 years and achieved national Hot 100 Lawyer status. She now leads Arpita Dutt Consulting Ltd, specialising in independent workplace investigations and professional mediation.

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Yamini Patel, Independent and Previous Head of Investigations, EU, UK and Russia, Citi

Yamini is a corporate investigations leader with over 22 years' experience across consultancy, forensic accounting, and global banking. She spent over a decade at Deloitte in audit and forensic investigations before joining Citigroup, where she served most recently as Director of Investigations for the UK and Europe, leading high-risk, cross-border matters including employee misconduct, fraud, and regulatory breaches. Yamini has a strong track record in designing end-to-end investigations frameworks and transforming investigations functions. She is now establishing an independent advisory practice supporting organisations on complex, high-stakes matters requiring independence and deep investigative expertise.



Neel Chakerabati, CEO of Praetorian Global, Intelligence and Investigations

Neel is CEO of Praetorian Global and its intelligence arm Cato & Veil, operating across criminal law, private investigations, and complex dispute resolution. He specialises in high-risk, sensitive matters involving financial crime, asset recovery, organised networks, and cross-border disputes where legal, reputational, and personal safety risks intersect. Neel coordinates multidisciplinary teams including former senior figures from international agencies on complex, multi-jurisdictional investigations. Previously, he worked in Police Intelligence and as a Criminal Defence Consultant at Duncan Lewis Solicitors, developing techniques for decoding criminal structures that earned a Police Borough Commander's Award and were later featured on Channel 4's Hunted.



Lewis Barnes, VP FIU Global Financial Crime, Morgan Stanley

Lewis is Vice President, FIU – Global Financial Crimes at Morgan Stanley, leading intelligence-driven investigations into complex financial crime. With over two decades of experience across law enforcement and the private sector, he has held senior roles at Fidelity International and FACT360, where he helped develop award-winning AI analytics for fraud and insider threat detection. Earlier, Lewis served with the National Crime Agency's International Corruption Unit and as a senior detective in the Metropolitan Police, leading multi-jurisdictional corruption and organised crime investigations.



Mick Walsh, Managing Director Physical Security and Investigations, Barclays

Mick joined Barclays from the UK's National Cyber Crime Unit, where he was Head of Operations, and brings over 30 years of law enforcement experience with the NCA and Metropolitan Police Service. He has extensive expertise in serious and organised crime in covert policing environments, complemented by experience in operational, financial, and risk management strategies. In his decade at Barclays, Mick has global responsibility for physical security, investigations, digital forensics, threat intelligence, insider threat, security culture, police liaison, and court orders functions.

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Simran Bharaj, Director of Events and Relationship Management, ACi

Simran is a financial crime subject matter expert and Director of GKSB Consultancy with over 20 years' experience across consultancy and senior regulatory roles, including several years at the Financial Conduct Authority as a financial crime supervisor. She supports firms under regulatory or law enforcement scrutiny through remediation, crisis management, and transformation programmes, and is frequently appointed as interim MLRO and Head of Financial Crime. A recognised thought leader, she regularly chairs AML conferences, writes for Thomson Reuters Regulatory Intelligence and the Financial Times, and serves as Pro Bono Senior Advisor to anti-human trafficking charity Stop the Traffik.



Saima Hanif KC, 3VB

Saima is a leading silk specialising in sanctions, financial services, banking, and professional discipline, recognised in Chambers and Legal 500 for her exceptional judgement and technical brilliance. Her landmark victories include *Tinney v FCA*, where she set a new precedent representing a Barclays COO in the only reported case where a P1 breach did not result in a ban or fine, and *Sogexia v Raphaels Bank*, where she obtained a rarely-granted mandatory injunction preventing termination of a banking relationship. She has acted as retained counsel for the GFSC, FRC, FSCS, and PRA, and is listed in the Global 2025 100 Women in Investigations review.



James Sullivan (Chief Risk Officer) BCB Group

James is a legal, risk, compliance, and governance executive with over 25 years' experience, including nearly 20 years in leadership roles helping fintech, crypto, and financial institutions scale safely and internationally. He has overseen portfolios of 50+ global licences, delivered VASP, MiCAR, and MiFID approvals, and led major transactions including Bitstamp's \$200m sale to Robinhood. A crisis-tested leader, James has navigated liquidity events, Skilled Person reviews, and complex regulatory interactions with the FCA, PRA, NYDFS, MAS, and others. He specialises in aligning governance and risk strategy with commercial ambition, creating clarity for boards and confidence for regulators.



Greg Brandman, Regulatory Litigation and ex FCA Enforcement Manager, Eversheds

Greg is a partner and head of Eversheds Sutherland's contentious financial services regulatory practice in the UK, with over 25 years' experience advising financial institutions, senior managers, and employees on regulatory risk, litigation, and investigations. A former Manager in the FSA's Enforcement Division, he specialises in representing firms and individuals under FCA, PRA, and other agency investigations covering governance failings, financial crime, market abuse, and mis-selling. Greg also conducts internal investigations and advises on strategic regulatory risk management, and regularly publishes, speaks, and delivers training on financial services regulatory matters.

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Brona Reeves, Managing Director, Employment, Incentives, Pensions Legal, Barclays
Brona is a Managing Director in Barclays Employment, Incentives and Pensions team, leading its support globally for its Operations, Technology and Functional areas as well as its people strategic and regulatory practice. She has worked across all business areas in Barclays, including managing the people aspects of a number of investigation and enforcement actions for 16 years. Prior to this, Brona was a Senior Associate at leading law firm Pinsent Masons.



Priya Giuliani, Partner, Financial Crime Investigations and Compliance Expert, HKA
Priya is a Partner in HKA's Investigations & Compliance practice and a Forensic Accountant with nearly 30 years of experience advising financial institutions, regulators, and law enforcement on complex investigations and financial crime risk management. She has extensive Skilled Person experience under the FCA's s.166 framework and a broad investigative background spanning organised crime, money laundering, sanctions evasion, bribery, fraud, and terrorist financing. A former first in-house forensic accountant at the UK Assets Recovery Agency, Priya has authored expert reports and provided testimony in regulatory and legal proceedings. She is an Accredited Counter Fraud Specialist, holds an ICA AML diploma, and is a Fellow of the ICAEW.



Jamas Hodivala KC, Business Crime and Regulatory Barrister, Matrix Chambers
Jamas is ranked by Chambers & Partners and Legal 500 in Business and Regulatory Crime, Financial Crime, Health & Safety, and Environmental law. He specialises in criminal law matters overlapping with public law, including challenges to investigatory powers by regulators and prosecutors. Jamas is frequently instructed on cases with international elements, including serious fraud, bribery and corruption, money laundering, and civil recovery proceedings. He also advises companies on managing privilege issues throughout investigations, including representing a FTSE 100 company in proceedings to prevent the use of privileged material obtained by an investigator.



Tom Littlechild, Assistant GC, International Financial Crime and Regulatory Expert, Wells Fargo
Tom has 15 years' experience advising on financial crime, sanctions, AML, market abuse, fraud, and regulatory matters. He is currently Wells Fargo's Assistant General Counsel, International, for Financial Crimes, having previously served as Santander UK's dedicated financial crime lawyer and as a senior associate at Ropes & Gray specialising in white collar crime and investigations. Earlier in his career, Tom was an associate at Byrne and Partners (now PCB Byrne) and trained and qualified with Allen & Overy in 2010.



Maureen Lewis, Managing Director, Litigation, Investigations & Enforcement, Barclays
Maureen currently serves as the Head of Litigation, Investigations and Enforcement for EME and APAC at Barclays, where she manages commercial litigation disputes, internal investigations and regulatory enforcement. Prior to joining Barclays in 2024, she served as the Group Head of HSBC's Global Investigations and Regulatory Enforcement. She also worked at Deutsche Bank in its Litigation and Regulatory Enforcement group. Prior to moving in-house, Maureen served as an Assistant Regional Director within the US Securities and Exchange Commission's Division of Enforcement. She began her legal career working as a litigation associate at Davis Polk and Wardwell in New York City.

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