



**Tiffany R. Couch, CPA/CFF, CFE**  
*Principal*

Ms. Couch has more than 13 years of experience in the field of accounting. Her expertise is in matters involving fraud investigation, forensic accounting, contract and regulatory compliance, internal control risk assessment, and complex litigation. Professional background and experience includes audit, tax, and business consulting services for government entities and privately held business entities in a range of industries including aerospace, agriculture, automotive, banking, biotechnology, broadcasting, computer technology, construction, health care, insurance, manufacturing, newspaper, professional service providers, retail, timber, and transportation.

Ms. Couch is an honoree of the 2007 Accomplished & Under 40. Community businesses and agencies recognize their “rising stars” in this event, which is hosted by the Vancouver Business Journal and sponsored by the law firm of Schwabe, Williamson, & Wyatt.

Acuity Group is a three-time winner of the Vancouver Business Journal’s annual Business Growth Awards. Acuity was awarded the 2007 Start-Up Business of the Year; and the 2008 and 2009 Fastest Growing Business in the 1-5 year category. This event recognizes fiscal year growth of Southwest Washington’s top companies.

## **Employment History**

Before forming Acuity Group PLLC, Ms. Couch was a manager with RGL Forensic Accountants and Consultants. Prior to that, she was a manager of Litigation, Forensic Accounting, and Investigative Services, for Moss Adams LLP in Portland, Oregon. Previously Ms. Couch was a manager at M. Green and Company, LLP Certified Public Accountants in Visalia, California; a member of the litigation support group at Knight, Vale, and Gregory in Tacoma, Washington; an accounting manager with Johnson International Company in Seattle, Washington; and a business analyst for Boeing Company in Renton, Washington.

## **Education**

Bachelor of Science, Accounting, Central Washington University, *cum laude*, 1997

## Professional Designations and Affiliations

- Certified Public Accountant licensed in California and Washington, with practice privileges in Oregon
- Certified in Financial Forensics
- Certified Fraud Examiner
- Washington State Society of CPAs (WSCPA)
  - Vice President of the WSCPA Southwest Chapter Board of Directors, 2008-Current
  - President of the WSCPA Southwest Chapter Board of Directors, 2006-2008
- Member of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE)
- Member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA)
- Member of the AICPA Forensic and Valuation Services Section

## Expert Witness Testimony

Superior Court of the State of Arizona, County of Maricopa – April 2010

***Gun Bo, LLC vs. John Cork, et al***

Superior Court of the State of Washington, County of Cowlitz – February 2010 and March 2010

***LaChance v. LaChance***

Superior Court of the State of Washington, County of Douglas – January 2010

***Shou Shia Wang v. Ta Chi, Inc. v. Jong Seng Cold Storage LLC, et al.***

Superior Court of the State of Washington, County of Yakima – August 2009

***Ken Wilcox and Kim Wilcox, husband and wife, dba KW Farms vs. Clasen Fruit and Cold Storage Company, et al.***

Superior Court of the State of Washington, County of Kittitas – May 2009 and March 2010

***Bhisham Saini and Neena Saini, husband and wife (Plaintiff), PNS Properties, Inc. (Derivative Plaintiff) vs. PNS Properties, Inc., Parminder Singh Gillon, and Bhupinder Gillon***

United States District Court, Eastern District of Washington – August 2008

***St. Paul Cathedral School v. United States of America***

State of Oregon Circuit Court, County of Multnomah – May 2007

***William T. Brisson vs. Farmers Insurance Company of Oregon, et al***

## Representative Project Experience

- For an agricultural conglomerate, performed a fraud examination that culminated in a report documenting 325 instances of falsified check activity resulting in substantial loss to the corporation. Provided ongoing services that included an internal controls review and financial statement reconstruction. Findings were instrumental in the client's recovery of funds on an employee dishonesty claim. Findings also resulted in the conviction of the client's former accounts payable clerk.
- In the matter of an estate dispute, analyzed multiple bank statements and canceled checks to establish the unauthorized use of estate funds and the extent of misuse. The findings were instrumental in prompting the parties in the dispute to agree to a settlement.
- Provided expert witness testimony for a long-standing community private school in their attempt to recover penalties and interest paid to the Internal Revenue Service after it was discovered their payroll taxes has been delinquent for 18 months. Investigation revealed ongoing fraudulent schemes that nearly closed the school.
- Conducted a fraud investigation for two leading Washington State fruit growers and warehouses after it was discovered their former joint controller had admitted to taking a significant sum of money. Investigation revealed the sum was much larger; findings were instrumental in the recovery of over \$1M in insurance proceeds and the conviction of the former controller.
- For an archdiocese, performed onsite interviews and reviewed the books and records of various parishes in response to parishioner allegations insinuating misappropriation of church funds.
- For an automobile accident claim, analyzed detailed payroll records, deposition testimony, and opposing expert reports to determine whether the actual hours worked and gross wages paid to the claimant supported his claim. Analyzed documents dated before and after the date of loss, prepared detailed schedules and trial exhibits for legal counsel and provided expert witness testimony at trial.

## Project Experience (cont.)

- Retained as an independent neutral third party to provide a peer review of expert opinions delivered in a series of reports for a multimillion dollar construction contract dispute. Reviewed 14 expert reports and the deposition testimony of multiple witnesses; interviewed the financial and construction experts representing the plaintiffs and defendants; analyzed multiple years of accounting data and construction contracts; and provided a report of findings to the case arbitrators.
- As a result of a loss of funding, a startup company risked closure just as their product was to be released. In an attempt to manage cash flow, management and several key employees chose to defer their pay for a period of several years. Reviewed and analyzed payroll records and state unemployment records for several years to verify the amount of deferred pay due to these employees. Findings were used to repay key employees once the company became solvent.
- For an international manufacturer of automobile accessories, audited executive management expense reports for a period of several years to identify questionable claims based on criteria specified by the client. Documented potential patterns of abuse and trended the findings.
- For a national media company in a joint-venture dispute that threatened to close one of its publication holdings, assisted in reviewing case documents that numbered more than 1 million pages and analyzed audit work papers that spanned a 5-year period. Identified core case issues, including questionable accruals and expense adjustments in key years.

## Lectures

- Guest Lecturer, *"Considering Fraud in a Financial Statement Audit"*, Auditing (Acct 433), Washington State University, Vancouver (Dr. Claire Latham), March 2009 and March 2010
- Guest Lecturer, *"Using Data Analysis in Fraud Examinations"*, Fraud and Forensic Accounting (Acctg 438), University of Maryland, University College (Prof. David P. Weber), March 2009
- Guest Lecturer, *"Using Data Analysis in Fraud Examinations"*, Forensic Studies and Law (FSLAW 662), Stevenson University (Prof. David P. Weber), March 2009

## Tiffany R. Couch, CPA/CFF, CFE (cont.)

### Presentations

- *Assess Your Company's Vulnerability to Fraud*, WSCPA Business and Industry Conference, May 2010
- *So, You Want to Be a Fraud Examiner*, ACFE Canadian Conference, May 2010
- *Understanding Accountant-Speak*, CLE Series for Schwabe, Williamson and Wyatt, Spring 2010
- *So, You Want to Be a Fraud Examiner*, ACFE Webinar, February 2010
- *Cooking the Books with QuickBooks*, WSCPA Fraud Conference, Co-Presenter, December 2009
- *Assess Your Company's Vulnerability to Fraud*, Institute of Management Accountants, Portland Chapter, October 2009
- *An Ounce of Prevention is worth a Pound of Cure*, Portland ACFE Chapter Regional Conference, Co-Presenter, May 2009
- *Recession, a Recipe for Fraud?*, American Society of Women Accountants' Regional Conference, May 2009
- *Recession, a Recipe for Fraud?*, WSCPA Southwest Chapter Meeting, May 2009
- *Recession, a Recipe for Fraud?*, Entrepreneurs Organization, Portland, Oregon Chapter, March 2009
- *Recession, a Recipe for Fraud?*, Kelly Resources, Portland, OR, March 2009
- *Cooking the Books with QuickBooks*, WSCPA Litigation/Valuation Meeting, Co-Presenter, February 2009
- *Assess Your Company's Vulnerability to Fraud*, NW Summit for Financial Professionals, May 2008
- *Assess Your Company's Vulnerability to Fraud*, SW Medical Practice Administrators, April 2008
- *Assess Your Company's Vulnerability to Fraud*, American Society of Women Accountants, September 2007
- *Get a Grip on your SCRIP, Internal controls for SCRIP fundraising*, Seattle Archdiocese, April 2007
- *Fraud and Risk Management in the Age of Check 21*, WSCPA Southwest Chapter, co-presenter with Wells Fargo Bank, December 2006
- *Back to Basics, Fraud 101*, Moss Adams Litigation Support Conference, May 2006
- *Back to Basics, Fraud 101*, Seattle Archdiocese, March 2006

### Publications

- Couch, Tiffany (2009, November/December). *Fraud Risk – The CPA's role in Educating Clients*. *Washington CPA Magazine*, 52, 3.
- Couch, Tiffany (2009, July 24). *Faltering economy leads to increase in corporate fraud*. *Portland Business Journal*, 26, 20.
- Couch, Tiffany (2009, July 24). *Desperate times – not so desperate measures*. *Vancouver Business Journal*, 16, 16.

## Tiffany R. Couch, CPA/CFF, CFE (cont.)

### **Community Involvement**

- Friends of Hospice Southwest, Co-Treasurer, June 2006-Present
- YWCA Clark County, Finance Council, September 2008-July 2009
- Rotary Club of Downtown Vancouver