

## IN THIS ISSUE

The Future of Fraud  
and Forensics

Q&A with Judge  
Barbara Jung

Current & Future  
Career Trends in  
Computer Forensics

### Contact Information

**Thomas Coogan**  
Associate Dean, Forensics &  
Director, Center for  
Forensic Excellence  
443-352-4075  
tcoogan@stevenson.edu

**Angela Reynolds**  
Director, School of  
Graduate and Professional  
Studies Recruiting &  
Admissions  
443-352-4414  
amreynolds@stevenson.edu

## The Future of Fraud and Forensics

Over the past decade, the fraud examination and forensic accounting fields have drastically evolved. What does that mean for the next 10 years in these fields? Certified Fraud Examiner and former Special Agent Colin May predicts the next generation of investigators, forensic auditors, and digital evidence examiners will encounter the following as they move forward in their careers:

- Increased use of and changes in technology
- Expanding demand for investigators with global business and international financial knowledge and skills
- A triad of related fraud schemes that involve or target older citizens

The use of technology continues to exponentially grow in forensics, especially in fraud examination. In the future, it would not be surprising if digital evidence skills were required for even entry-level police officers or if they were taught within most police academies. Additionally, the skills of digital evidence specialists within the private sector including law and accounting firms will continue to be heavily relied upon. Therefore, forensic professionals seeking career advancement should pursue training and experience in both computer forensics and financial investigations.

Colin believes the second area of future developments includes the importance of understanding international investigations and global business practices. Whether it involves countering overseas financial terrorists or identifying corrupt payments to government officials in other countries – every business, international or not, could be a potential target. Additionally, acquiring fraud investigation skills will enable professionals to investigate, analyze, and manage relationships with foreign entities, all of which are useful tools within a successful fraud investigation career.

Per Colin, “the human services fraud trifecta” is quickly becoming the most prominent type of fraud. Easy to accomplish and generally harder to prove, the trifecta includes healthcare fraud, elder abuse and financial exploitation, and identity theft. Additionally, these trending plots are centered around preying on the aging U.S. population. The more common schemes include securities and investment schemes (like Ponzi scams), medical identity theft, trust fund or financial account theft, and traditional healthcare fraud.

All three of these predictions have common thread – data. The future of fraud investigation will require prospective leaders to be adept at understanding large data sets and working with experts in statistics, computer programming, and other fields in order to identify trends, isolate anomalies, and execute informed business decisions. In fact, advising business leaders may be the largest opportunity for many fraud examiners. This opportunity could eventually move investigators into the “C-Suite” themselves as Chief Financial Officers, Chief Operations Officers, or CEOs. Investigators with anti-fraud experiences and skills are extremely valuable to organizations because of their inherent values in ethics, integrity, professional skepticism, and their heavy reliance on validated information sources.

Although many changes will occur in the future, Colin predicts that most white-collar crime will still remain “all about the money.” The baseline skills of any investigator will always include the ability to collect financial evidence, conduct interviews, and analyze fund flows (aka “following the money”). Additionally, investigators must be skilled at honing the communication abilities of report writing and interviewing sources.

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The importance of continuous learning and skill development can never be underestimated.

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Judge Barbara Jung is an Adjunct Instructor at Stevenson University's School of Graduate and Professional Studies. She teaches an evidence course within the Forensic Studies master's program that provides students with an understanding of the federal rules of evidence and how they are used in the criminal courts. The recovery, preparation, and presentation of evidence are also covered within the course.

What does all of this mean for current students and professionals? Regardless of where an individual presently is in their career, the importance of continuous learning and skill development can never be underestimated. Learning new skills is a valuable avenue to preserve and develop one's anti-fraud prowess whether you are a forensic novice or a career seeker or changer.

To stay ahead of the game and become adept at investigating or analyzing fraud, Colin offers this simple advice, "gain experience." For professionals, that is fairly easy advice to follow because they are already in the field, but for younger students Colin highly recommends seeking out multiple internships.

## Q&A with Judge Barbara Jung

Stevenson University interviewed Judge Barbara Jung about her illustrious career in the legal field and sought her advice for students or professionals wishing to follow in her successful footsteps.

### **Please tell us about your education and professional background.**

I received my degree from Towson University in General Studies with a concentration in Law Enforcement and then graduated from law school at the University of Baltimore. While at the University of Baltimore, I did an internship at the Baltimore County State's Attorney's Office. I was offered a job as a law clerk and finished my law degree at night while working full-time. Once I passed the bar exam, I was offered a job as an Assistant State's Attorney.

For 13 years, I was employed at the State's Attorney's Office and worked my way up from a District Court Assistant to Circuit Court trying felonies. I was promoted to the Chief of the Child Abuse and Sex Offense Unit then to Chief of the District Court Division. I left the State's Attorney's Office when I was appointed to be a District Court Judge.

During my time at the State's Attorney's Office, I tried thousands of cases from misdemeanor theft to murder cases. Unfortunately, I was involved with many cases in which the victim was a small child who had to testify about horrific incidents. Representing victims who have been hurt is a very rewarding job, but on the flip side, losing a case when the evidence was not sufficient enough is extremely difficult.

I was appointed to the bench by Governor Schaeffer having served on the District Court bench for over 20 years. In Maryland, the District Court is responsible for trying misdemeanors and civil cases when the claim is less than \$30,000. In 2012, I began teaching Introduction to Criminal Justice and Constitutional Law at the Community College of Baltimore County and in 2015, I began teaching an evidence course at Stevenson University's School of Graduate and Professional Studies.

### **Were you always interested in a career in the judicial court system?**

I did not consider a career as a judge until spending many years as an Assistant State's Attorney. Becoming a judge is not an easy feat, especially as a woman in the late 1980's. At the time I was appointed, only two other women had been appointed to the Bench in Baltimore County. As a judge, an individual can make a difference in the lives of many people and I have happily served since my appointment.

### **What education and degrees are required to become a judge?**

A person must have experience as a lawyer. To become a lawyer, one must have an undergraduate degree and a Juris Doctorate degree.

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### **What are the skills and personal characteristics needed to be an effective judge?**

To be an effective judge one needs to be a competent attorney. Additionally, a successful judge respects all that enter the courtroom, even all litigants and criminal defendants. It's necessary to have both compassion and the grit to send someone to jail. Patience and the ability to listen as well as making decisions quickly after listening to both sides are also important skills as a judge.

### **What are your most memorable experiences in court?**

As a State's Attorney, my most memorable cases involved child victims. These cases are tough to try emotionally and evidence-wise, but if the defendant is successfully convicted, then the child will be safe. A memorable case I tried as an attorney involved a 15-year-old accused of murder. It was revealed that the defendant stabbed a woman multiple times. And although she was able to call 911, she unfortunately died at the scene while on the phone with the 911 operator.

As a judge, the cases that are most rewarding involve criminals who have turned their lives around after spending time in jail. It seems sometimes a defendant needs to lose their freedom to realize that they need to make changes in their lives.

### **How do emerging technologies affect the judicial system?**

There are many new technologies that affect the judicial system. In the criminal arena, the two most important are DNA fingerprinting and cell phone technology. Computers being used as a vehicle to commit crimes is also on the rise. Additionally, the use of computers, email, text messaging, and social media has affected how cases are solved and tried in court.

### **Additionally, how does the media, TV, and social media affect it?**

The media and TV do not affect the District Court. Rarely do the cases that we try attract media attention. Social media, however, does affect how cases are solved and tried in court because it requires the attorneys and judges to understand how social media works.

### **What advice would give a forensic student or professional interested in pursuing a career as a judge?**

My most important advice is to attempt to find what makes you happy in a career. Often, a student can gain that knowledge through the classes they take. My college major was chosen because I enjoyed the classes. Starting out, I did not have an endgame in mind when I selected the major – it chose me. The best way to find your passion and hopefully land a job is through internships. Students should try as many internships as possible, especially if they are interested in becoming an Assistant State's Attorney.

If a student is interested in becoming a judge, they must obviously go to law school, but then also get a job as an attorney who does litigation-trying cases in court. This could be in the criminal arena as a state's attorney, public defender, or representing defendants as a private attorney. In the area of civil law, the attorney could represent plaintiffs in personal injury cases or represent insurance companies as defense counsel. The type of law does not matter but make sure you are going to court and trying cases. An attorney, whether in the criminal or civil arena, should vigorously represent their clients while practicing civility with their colleagues and opponents. For both careers, your integrity is of utmost importance. It takes a lifetime to build a reputation as an ethical attorney and takes only one miscue to lose that reputation. In short, whether as a lawyer or a judge, strive to be a good person.

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## **Current & Future Career Trends in Computer Forensics**

There are a number of different areas on the rise within the computer forensics industry. For example, e-discovery has become more prevalent in direct response to the need for litigation and legal support. Additionally, hiring in the area of incident response has increased due to the amount of data breaches experienced within small and large organizations. The need for incident response positions will likely continue to rise as large data breaches occur and companies are held liable. An increase in the areas of preventative measures such as threat analyses has also appeared in the industry, which requires individuals to have a broad understanding of forensics.

Professionals or students that want to break into the field of computer forensics are encouraged to start in a related field such as information technology, computer/network security work, security operations center (SOC) work, or entry level triage/forensics. To enter the classified space, it is typically easier to become hired in "secret eligible" positions rather than jumping right into Top Secret/Sensitive Compartmented Information (TS/SCI) positions.

The computer forensics field is constantly evolving which requires professionals to continue their education and keep current in the industry. Professionals can take industry training given by SANS and other training organizations. If they are a contractor or consultant, continuing education is often dictated by the terms of the contract. In the future, there will be a need to address more network forensics as people continue to depend on Internet usage.

# IN THE TIME IT HAS TAKEN YOU TO READ THIS, **3** PEOPLE WERE AFFECTED BY IDENTITY FRAUD

This summer Stevenson University is offering the course **Advanced Fraud**, a new elective that provides you with the opportunity to further develop your analytical skills by evaluating a current, trending issue in forensics. Delve into the intricate world of fraud through the analysis of a specific topic and learn techniques that can be directly applied to your career.

[www.stevenson.edu/preventfraud](http://www.stevenson.edu/preventfraud)

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