

Sara Deady

Partner in Sydney

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Sara is a Chartered Accountant and forensic expert specialising in financial crime and regulatory investigations, funds and asset tracing and proactive fraud and corruption risk management.

With more than 15 years of dedicated forensic experience, Sara has led a number of Australia's highest profile civil and criminal investigations across a broad range of industries. Sara works closely with boards, senior executives, and their legal counsel to navigate the complexities of managing employee fraud, misconduct and corruption matters. Her experience includes assisting clients respond to domestic and international regulators as well as law enforcement.

Sara is passionate about delivering quality outcomes for clients and is focused on thorough planning and execution to assist clients make informed decisions.

Sara also partners with clients to review and develop their governance and compliance frameworks. She has extensive experience in benchmarking fraud and corruption programs and performing fraud and corruption risk assessments.

As a highly-regarded specialist in her field, Sara shares her knowledge and expertise by delivering fraud and corruption awareness training in both the public and private sector.

Engagement Experience —

- Led a high-profile investigation into a significant fraud perpetrated against one of the big 4 banks. The investigation involved working closely with the NSW Police and led to the successful conviction of both offenders.
- Part of a large multi-disciplinary team that was engaged to investigate and trace the funds associated with a \$500million equipment leasing fraud.
- Led a major investigation into a large fraud perpetrated by a Finance Manager of a large education provider. Our work involved detailed reconstruction of financial records, quantification of the alleged misappropriation and tracing of funds across over 20 bank accounts. Our work assisted both the criminal prosecution and civil proceedings.
- Led a major investigation into bribery and corruption by senior employees at a global fleet leasing company and one of its major customers. A four month investigation identified significant and long standing issues of fraud, misconduct and accounting irregularities. The investigation involved working closely with the client, its auditors (local and international), its legal advisors, the NSW Police as well as international regulators to identify, quantify and report on the issues identified in a timely and complete manner.



Qualifications & Memberships —

- Member, CA ANZ
- Bachelor of Commerce, Australian National University, Canberra
- Bachelor of Psychology (Honours), Australian National University, Canberra



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- Led the investigation into an alleged fraud perpetrated by a finance manager of a listed media company. Our investigation required significant reconstruction of financial records over a 13 year period, interviews with key management personnel and data analytic procedures to identify any other instances of misconduct. The investigation identified significant and long standing accounting irregularities used to conceal the alleged fraud. The investigation involved working closely with the client, its auditors and its legal advisors to quantify losses and trace funds in relation to pending civil proceedings and to report to the Board on the issues identified.
- Led a fraud and analytics investigation into an alleged fraud perpetrated by an employee of a financial institution. The engagement involved the identification and quantification of loss and resulted in referral to the Australian Federal Police.
- Led a fraud and analytics risk assessment for a large vehicle financing company, following the identification of a large internal fraud. The engagement included an analysis of the businesses core systems, development of detailed process maps, interviews with 30 key staff as well as delivery of a fraud risk assessment workshop to the businesses' key executives.
- Led the team engaged by a listed entity (and endorsed by ASIC) to act as their Independent Expert following the company entering into an Enforceable Undertaking in relation to continuous disclosure obligations. The role of the Independent Expert included a review and assessment of the governance, compliance and risk management frameworks in place to assist the entity in managing its Continuous Disclosure Obligations with the ASX and ASIC. The role also included conducting a series of interviews with staff and the Board and preparation and delivery of training to staff and executives.
- Part of a multi-disciplinary team engaged on behalf of an educational institution to investigate allegations of collusion between a senior staff member and a key supplier. The allegations included overcharging and the provision of kickbacks in return for awarding a \$40m contract. Our investigation required significant reconstruction of financial records and transactions as well as a complex Forensic Technology investigation to access and examine large volumes of data. The matter has been reported to the NSW Police and civil proceedings have commenced.
- Assisted various international financial institutions with investigations into non-compliance with internal and regulatory standards by employees, including suspected insider trading, front running and leaks of market sensitive information.
- Part of the investigation team for the Acting Trusteeship of several public offer superannuation funds including investigating and seeking compensation from the Government in relation to Australia's largest ever superannuation fraud. Our investigations resulted in the receipt in excess of \$50 million in compensation.
- Provided investigation services in Malaysia to a multinational technology company. The worldwide investigation resulted from concerns raised by the US Securities and Exchange Commission in relation to revenue recognition and financial reporting.

Proactive fraud and corruption risk reviews and regulatory experience

- Led a number of fraud and corruption risk assessment engagements across the private, public and not-for profit sector. These engagements have involved consultation with key stakeholders, review and assessment of internal control frameworks, identification and assessment of risks and delivery of clearly articulated mitigation strategies to reduce the risk of fraud and corruption.
- Delivered fraud and corruption training to the private and public sector and delivered investigation training to a number of corporate clients
- Preparation and delivery of risk and governance frameworks, fraud and corruption policies and procedures (including investigation protocols and policies).

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- Managed a fraud and misconduct reporting hotline to over 45 clients, with international offices.
- Managed a pre-employment screening service for a Big-4 professional services firm.