

Keith Barger

MFS, MCSE, CCE



Principal/Practice Leader Advisory Services

Keith Barger is a Principal in the Advisory Services practice with Grant Thornton and the Practice Leader for Forensic Accounting and Investigative Services with the Houston office. In addition Keith is the practice leader for Grant Thornton's Forensic Technology Services. Keith specializes in multi-disciplinary investigations, data analytics and electronic data discovery in support of investigations and civil litigation and provides advisory services regarding investigative and technology related matters. Keith also provides expert witness testimony when appropriate in connection with these services.

Prior to joining Grant Thornton, Keith served as a Director in KPMG's Forensic practice in Houston, Texas. Keith joined KPMG in 2006 after six years as a Special Agent and Digital Forensics and e-Discovery Western Regional Coordinator with the Department of Treasury and Department Justice, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). Keith has over 18 years of investigative experience spanning multiple disciplines. Keith has overseen complex investigations on behalf of global clients involving financial reporting fraud, FCPA, AML, embezzlement, corruption, insurance claims fraud, government reimbursement fraud, money

laundering, corporate espionage, contract fraud, procurement fraud, and international disputes, providing expert witness testimony where appropriate. In addition, Keith has extensive experience with e-Discovery, the Amended Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, digital forensic investigations, forensic methodologies, computer evidence recovery, and data analysis.

Experience

Keith has extensive domestic and international experience in providing oversight and investigative services in a variety of countries to include Asia Pacific (most recently China), the European Union (EU) and South America. His expertise includes project management with the ability to organize and manage resources so that projects are completed within defined scope, time and cost constraints. This most notably involves coordination among executive level management, diverse business units, legal entities and third party outsourced business processes. His experience includes assessing business processes, policy and procedures and the ability to make recommendations regarding change management.

Keith is responsible for the development, implementation and delivery of business

intelligence and forensic data analytics to a variety of clients across multiple services lines. His direction and oversight in the area of forensic investigative data analytics enables clients to establish data analysis equal to and in several instances exceeding the government's capability. It can easily identify trends for monitoring or auditing activity within corporations, forecast government focus or inquiry issues identify trends requiring negotiation, auditing or confirming activity regarding the government's case against a corporation.

Specifically, with regard to U.S. Healthcare Keith's data analytics expertise assists clients in assessing compliance with federal and state requirements for Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement requests (transaction focused), assess business models, performance, and payment structures, assess the reimbursement process undertaken by healthcare providers (process focused), efficiently manage and assess compliance risks using data analytics and interactive dashboards capable of continuous monitoring, measure performance comparing actual metrics against the expected performance.

In addition, his development of an investigative data analytics and business intelligence framework is being used and considered by a number of state, local and federal government entities as part of governmental grants and federal stimulus and recovery efforts.

Keith leads efforts in the development of proactive litigation readiness services on behalf of clients. The service addresses issues and compliance related to the Amended Rules of Federal Civil Procedure, mapping of electronically stored information (ESI) and improved automated process flow across legal, IT, and business units. Keith has delivered on e-Discovery services for Global clients providing a variety of solutions including those related to EU privacy issues.

Keith has developed training and lectured, in conjunction with external law firms, to General Counsels, IT professionals, and corporate executives with regard to various types of investigations, data mining and data analytics as well as e-Discovery and the Amended Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

Selected Engagement Experience

- Keith has conducted and overseen large embezzlement cases on behalf clients involving the creation of fictitious vendors, the processing of valid invoices to fictitious vendors and the redirection of payments to the fraudulent vendor. This involved the tracing of assets, wire fraud, forgery of documents and the examination of SAP, General Ledgers, Inventory control systems and asset tracking.
- Keith has directed and overseen Anti-Fraud, Waste, and Abuse initiatives with regard to government grant disbursements. These involved identifying issues centered on program business logic, policies and procedures, verifying data integrity and eligibility data and identify fraudulent activities by applicants.
- Keith has overseen diverse teams of forensic professionals in providing litigation readiness services, investigative services and e-Discovery related services to major clients in the oil and gas industry.
- Directed and oversaw a large litigation matter involving the collection, preservation, processing and production of electronically stored information from over 16 different countries. This involved resolving issues with a variety of differing international privacy issues and coordinating with several international entities on behalf of a global logistics company.

- Directed and led diverse teams of forensic accountants, CFEs, investigators, developers and data analytic professionals for the Louisiana Road Home Program, the largest disaster recovery program in U.S. history, which involved the distribution of 10.5 billion dollars of HUD community development block grant funds to Louisiana residents whose homes were damaged by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The program was directly responsible for the development of a data repository and analytics to identify fraud, waste, and abuse across several areas of the program ranging from false applicant information, duplication of benefits, grant calculation verification, and construction related fraud. Data was accessed, on an ongoing basis, by connecting remotely to client servers to retrieve program related data from a variety of government and private agencies, which were stored on multiple client database servers across hundreds of relational tables. Data marshalling procedures were conducted on database servers and accounted for the normalization of approximately 7 Gigabytes of data on a biweekly basis and greater than 1 Terabyte over the life of the program. Approximately 3,500 data analytic routines and queries were executed against the data to identify anomalous and outlier data. Since the program inception, more than 120,000 grant applications and millions of rows of supporting program data were analyzed. Weekly reports were compiled which outlined the current analytic results and the overall status of the program. Historical comparisons and aging reports were included in the reports that identified relevant metrics of the program such as the status of resolution efforts and outlier cross-relationships.
- Keith has directed advisory professionals in providing services concentrating on the effectiveness of a company's procurement processes and controls. These included testing controls and rules, identifying potential issues within the procurement process, identifying potential fraudulent transactions, as well as providing recommendations on future controls. This project was expanded to include HR and payroll.
- Keith has consulted and managed resources on contract compliance services related to government contracting. This included developing methodologies to categorize transactions based on type of sales, product types, products, quantity and other attributes based on the available data previously provided to the government and company.
- Led a team of forensic associates in the preservation and analysis of digital evidence for a financial firm. Using computer forensic procedures and techniques, data was identified and reconstructed from business computers. The evidence revealed the use of trade secrets to establish a new company in direct competition with the current employer. The case settled out of court.

Professional qualifications and memberships

- Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE)
- International Association of Computer Investigative Specialists (IACIS)
- Academy of Forensic Sciences
- High Technology Crime Investigative Association (HTCIA)
- InfraGard (Federal Bureau of Investigation)
- International Association of Computer Investigative Specialist (IACIS)
- Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer (MCSE)
- Certified Computer Forensics Examiner,

- Certified PDA Examiner (Paraben)
- Certified Cellular Telephone Examiner (Paraben)
- Top Secret Security Clearance 1986 to Present

Invited Lectures Speaking Engagements

- Panelist: “Current Issues Facing the Oil and Gas Industry: e-Discovery,” Joint Panel Discussion with Crowe & Dunlevy and Sandridge Oil Company, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma (June 2008)
- Speaker: “Deleted doesn’t mean Deleted: Managing Electronic Discovery in Today’s Environment”, TSCPA Foundation - 2008 Spring Accounting Expo, Houston, Texas (May 2008)
- Speaker: “Forensic Technology for litigators and support staff”, McKool Smith Presentation, Dallas, Texas (May 2008)
- Speaker: “The e-Discovery Amendments to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure: Their Impact on Business and Litigation”, Houston InfraGard Presentation, Houston, Texas (February 2008)
- Panelist: “Things that go Bump - The myth of business control”, Haynes & Boone Presentation, Houston, Texas (November 2007)
- Speaker: Cross-Border Investigations and Fraud Risk Management; KPMG Insights Seminar 2007; Houston, Texas (September 2007).
- Participated in several DACUMs (Developing a Curriculum) for the development of curriculums by Universities in the area of Digital Forensics (2004, 2005, 2006)
- International Association of Computer Investigative Specialist (IACIS) (2004)
- Department of Justice Digital Forensics Conference (2000 through 2006)
- Lead Instructor for Intermediate and Advance Digital Forensic Certifications at the Federal

Law Enforcement Training Center (2003, 2004)

- InfraGard (2005)
- Invited to lecture and instruct on Digital Forensics National Police Academy Oslo Norway (2003)
- Speaker: “Recurring E-Discovery Challenges Part I: Avoiding the Hidden Pitfalls,” LegalTech NY 2010
- Speaker: “Recurring E-Discovery Challenges Part II: Leadership Lessons from the Trenches.” LegalTech NY 2010
- Moderator: “Using Commodities Flow Analysis, Data Mining, Timelines and Other Tools to Trace The Movement of Value – “Carpe Data” with Technology,” International Asset Recovery Conference (2010)
- Speaker: “Fostering strong collaboration among e-Discovery team members to increase chances of asset recovery success,” International Asset Recovery Conference (2010)
- Speaker: “Using computer forensics and forensic data analysis effectively in asset searching and recovery,” International Asset Recovery Conference (2010)

Accomplishments

- Assisted several universities in developing a curriculum at the graduate and post graduate levels in the area of digital forensics.
- Sole Author of an Electronic Crimes Initiative involving Federal, State, local law enforcement, private corporations and academia within the area of Digital Forensics receiving reoccurring annual funding (2004, 2005).
- Instrumental in the development and testing of the forensic software ILOOK (2001 to Present).
- Founded a partnership with Microsoft Corporation to provide Digital Forensics support via a WEB portal and by direct

contact with engineers to law enforcement
(2006).

Education

- National University - Master of Forensic Science, 1999
- National University Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice, 1998

Contact details

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