



Forensic Accounting Today

Newsletter of Ron J. Anfuso, CPA/ABV - An Accountancy Corp.

Ron J. Anfuso, CPA, ABV, CFF, CDFA, FABFA
Phone: (310) 378-6606 • E-mail: rja@anfusco.com
Website: www.anfusocpa.com



Issue 3

Since our first newsletter, the question I have been asked most is what the initials after my name stand for. Assuming you are familiar with the requirements to achieve CPA status, let us look at the others:

Accredited in Business Valuation (ABV) and **Certified in Financial Forensics (CFF)** are accreditations granted by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. These designations are exclusively for CPAs who demonstrate their business valuation expertise and Forensic Accounting experience and pass a written examination (ABV only).

Certified Divorce Financial Analysts (CDFA) have received training and certification to 1) serve as financial experts on divorce cases, 2) present powerful data to support legal arguments, and 3) offer financially sound settlement options.

Diplomate status is awarded by the **Fellow of the American Board of Forensic Accounting (FABFA)** to those who have completed at least one of the **American College of Forensic Examiners International's** credentialing programs and made professional contributions to the field of forensics. It recognizes achievement and excellence, and establishes the Diplomate as a distinguished top professional.

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How to Choose the Right Forensic Accountant

By Ron J. Anfuso, CPA, ABV, CFF, CDFA, FABFA

You can ensure you will select a Forensic Accountant who will meet your needs by conducting a little due diligence during the selection process. Make sure you do the following:

- *Ask the accountant for a list of attorneys in your area who refer to him.* (If he will not provide you with a comprehensive list, do not select him.)
- *Make sure the accountant is available enough to give your case the attention it needs.* Some firms have their accountants take on too big of a caseload. Therefore, ask the potential accountant about his turnaround time. Speak with some of the accountant's referral sources about their experiences with the accountant's timeliness.
- *Ask the accountant to share some sample reports with you* (with the identifying information redacted, of course).
- *Make sure you are not retaining a "hired gun."* (If judges respect the accountant, you can rest assured this is not the case. It would be prudent to find out if judges ever appoint the accountant under Evidence Code §730.)
- *Ask how many times he has testified.* (It is also helpful if you have a chance to see the accountant testify.) The more experienced the accountant is in court, the greater the chance he will be an asset to your case.
- *Ask the accountant's referring attorneys whether he is competent in court.* Find out who your witness will be. (Will that accountant appear for you in court every time or might another one of the firm's staff accountants appear instead?)
- *Question the accountant about fees.* Make sure you are comfortable with the rate and how the accountant bills.

Making an accurate evaluation will best ensure your selection will provide timely, quality work and positively impact your reputation. So, be diligent.

Do You Need a Financial Expert to Speak to Your Study Group or Bar Event?

Ron J. Anfuso can address any Forensic Accounting topic, including Moore/Marsden; marital standard of living and support needs analysis; financial specialists and Collaborative Law; gross cash flow available for support; DissoMaster™; divorce tax issues; divorce: what to expect; and business valuations. To discuss your group's needs, call Ron today!



Imagine...

A Forensic Accountant Who Actually Returns Your Phone Calls Within 24 Hours

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