

ASSET FORFEITURE 2025 CONFERENCE

FAIRMONT HOTEL VANCOUVER | JUNE 17-18, 2025

AGENDA



VANCOUVER ANTI-
CORRUPTION INSTITUTE

ASSET FORFEITURE 2025 CONFERENCE

On June 17 and 18, 2025, the Vancouver Anti-Corruption Institute is hosting its third major conference: Asset Forfeiture – 2025. It follows upon the success of our previous conferences on Whistleblowers and Public Integrity (2022) and Combatting Crypto Crime (2023). Chaired by the Right Honourable Kim Campbell, former Prime Minister of Canada, the Conference will focus on key issues associated with asset forfeiture as a tool to target wealth acquired unlawfully, including:

- The growing significance of asset forfeiture in light of the 2025–26 Financial Action Task Force (FATF) examination of Canada
- The inclusion of civil forfeiture in the FATF Recommendations
- Criminal forfeiture practices in Canada
- The adoption of Unexplained Wealth Orders (UWOs) in British Columbia and Manitoba and their implications, and
- The increasing role of civil litigation in pursuing illegally acquired assets

The Conference is designed for a national and international audience, including law enforcement, prosecutors, asset managers, civil forfeiture practitioners, legal professionals in both criminal and civil law, academics, and other professionals working in financial crime enforcement and asset recovery.

The Conference qualifies for 10 hours of CPD for B.C. lawyers.



DAY 1 – JUNE 17

8:00 – 8:45 AM • **Continental Breakfast and Registration**

8:45 – 9:00 AM • **Welcome**

Dr. Peter German, KC – ICCLR President & Executive Director; Chair of the VACI Advisory Committee

9:00 – 9:15 AM • **Introductory Remarks**

Rt. Hon. Kim Campbell – Conference Chair

9:15 – 10:30 AM • **Keynote Speakers**

Professor Barry Rider – Cambridge University and Chair of the Cambridge International Symposium on Economic Crime

Kevin Brosseau – Commissioner of Canada's Fight Against Fentanyl, Privy Council Office

10:30 – 10:45 AM • **Coffee Break**

10:45 – 11:45 AM • **Civil Forfeiture in Canada**

Phil Tawtel – Executive Director, Civil Forfeiture Office, British Columbia

Melinda Murray – Executive Director, Criminal Property Forfeiture, Manitoba

Moderator: Jeffrey Simser – Former Director of Civil Forfeiture, Ministry of the Attorney General in Toronto and VACI Expert

11:45 – 1:00 PM	● Lunch
1:00 – 2:30 PM	● Criminal Forfeiture in Canada Supt. Adam MacIntosh – RCMP, Officer in Charge, Financial Integrity, E-Division John Neal – Crown Counsel, BC Prosecution Service Pam Meneguzzi – Prosecutor, Public Prosecution Service of Canada Daniel Song, KC – Defence Counsel, Pringle Law <i>Moderator: Brock Martland, KC – Senior Criminal Lawyer, Martland & Saulnier</i>
2:30 – 3:00 PM	● Coffee Break
3:00 – 4:30 PM	● Unexplained Wealth Orders Andrew Dornbierer – Head of Policy and Research at the Basel Institute's International Centre for Asset Recovery (ICAR) Sarah Nelligan – Barrister & Solicitor, Litigation Group, Legal Services Branch, Ministry of Attorney General <i>Moderator and Speaker: Jeffrey Simser – Former Director of Civil Forfeiture, Ministry of the Attorney General in Toronto and VACI Expert</i>
4:45 – 6:00 PM	● Reception Hosted by Hira Rowan LLP <i>Remarks – Rt. Hon. Kim Campbell, Conference Chair & Ravi Hira, KC</i>
6:00 – 8:00 PM	● Conference Dinner with Keynote Speaker Rita Trichur – Senior Business Writer and Columnist, The Globe and Mail A Journalist's Perspective on Financial Crime in Canada

DAY 2 – JUNE 18

8:00 – 8:45 AM	●	Continental Breakfast
8:45 – 9:00 AM	●	Introduction to Day Two
9:00 – 10:00 AM	●	Corruption and Magnitsky Sir William Browder – CEO Hermitage Capital Management, Head of the Global Magnitsky Justice Campaign and Author of <i>Red Notice</i> and <i>Freezing Order</i> (appearing virtually) <i>Introduced by Alexandra Wrage – President and Founder of TRACE International and VACI Advisory Committee Member</i>
10:00 – 11:00 AM	●	American Approaches to Asset Recovery Steve Welk – Partner, Dentons, Los Angeles and Former Chief of Asset Forfeiture Division for US Attorney's Office, Southern District of California Evelyn Baltodano Sheehan – Partner, Kobre & Kim and Former Deputy Chief of Asset Forfeiture Division for US Attorney's Office, Southern District of Florida <i>Moderator and Speaker: Stefan Cassella – Former Deputy Chief of the Justice Department's Asset Forfeiture and Money Laundering Section, Chief of the Asset Forfeiture and Money Laundering Section in the U.S. Attorney's Office and VACI Expert</i>
11:00 – 11:15 AM	●	Coffee Break
11:15 – 12:15 PM	●	Innovation: The Irish Criminal Assets Bureau Barry Butler – Inspector, Criminal Assets Bureau, Dublin (appearing virtually) <i>Introduced by Phil Tawtel – Executive Director, Civil Forfeiture Office, British Columbia</i>

12:15 – 1:15 PM

● **Lunch**

1:15 – 2:15 PM

● **Taking the Profit Out of Crime – Disruption**

Harald Wuigk – Assistant Director, Criminal Investigations Section, Intelligence and Investigations Division, Pacific Region, Canada Border Services Agency

Jas Mann – Assistant Director, Criminal Investigations Division, Western Region, Canada Revenue Agency

Tony Brunke – Manager, Criminal Investigations Division Illicit Income Audit Program, Canada Revenue Agency

Jennie Symington – CID Collections Liaison Officer, D Criminal Investigations Division, Western Region, Canada Revenue Agency

Sgt. Christian Bichler – Federal Policing, Pacific Region, INSET, Royal Canadian Mountain Police

Moderator: Phil Tawtel – Executive Director, Civil Forfeiture Office, British Columbia

2:15 – 2:45 PM

● **Coffee Break**



2:45 – 3:45 PM

● **It's a Wrap – Conference Takeaways**

Professor Barry Rider – Cambridge University and Chair of the Cambridge International Symposium on Economic Crime

Phil Tawtel – Executive Director, Civil Forfeiture Office, British Columbia

Melinda Murray – Executive Director, Criminal Property Forfeiture, Manitoba

Jeffrey Simser – Former Director of Civil Forfeiture, Ministry of the Attorney General in Toronto and VACI Expert

Stefan Cassella – Former Deputy Chief of the Justice Department's Asset Forfeiture and Money Laundering Section, Chief of the Asset Forfeiture and Money Laundering Section in the U.S. Attorney's Office and VACI Expert

*Moderator: Dr. Peter German, KC – ICCLR President & Executive Director;
Chair of the VACI Advisory Committee*

3:45 – 4:00 PM

● **Closing Remarks**

Rt. Hon. Kim Campbell – Conference Chair

4:00 PM

● **End of Conference**

The Conference is generously supported by civil forfeiture funds of the Governments of British Columbia and Manitoba.



THE VANCOUVER ANTI-CORRUPTION INSTITUTE

The Vancouver Anti-Corruption Institute is a not for profit organization dedicated to the advancement of the Rule of Law in Canada and abroad, with an emphasis on anti-corruption and anti-money laundering efforts.

Corruption is anathema to the Rule of Law and attacks the very core of societies. VACI is dedicated to fighting corruption by fostering awareness of the tremendous damage which corruption inflicts in countries around the world. VACI is focused on education, research, training, and helping international organizations, governments and communities develop strategies to counter corruption in all its forms. Through our work, we hope to make a difference by supporting domestic and international efforts to strengthen public institutions and rid countries of corruption.

The Institute is the first of its kind in Canada. Situated in Vancouver, a large, multi-cultural city with close ties west and south, VACI focuses its work on Asia and the Americas. It does so in collaboration with the International Centre for Criminal Law Reform, a program network institute of the UNODC.