

John A. Cassara Biography



John Cassara began his 26 year government career as an intelligence officer during the Cold War. He later served as a Treasury Special Agent in both the U.S. Secret Service and U.S. Customs Service where he investigated money laundering, trade fraud and international smuggling. He was an undercover arms dealer for two years. For his efforts in the successful international investigation, he was presented the U.S. Attorney of the District of Colombia “law enforcement officer of the year” award.

Assigned overseas, he developed expertise in Middle East money laundering, value transfer and underground financial systems. He also worked six years for Treasury’s Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) and was detailed to the Department of State’s Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs. Mr. Cassara's final assignment was with Treasury's Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence (TFI). Mr. Cassara is considered a subject matter expert in anti-money laundering and terrorist financing, with particular expertise in the areas of money laundering in the Middle East and the growing threat of alternative remittance systems and forms of trade-based money laundering and value transfer.

Since his retirement, he has lectured in the United States and around the world on a variety transnational crime issues. He is also a consultant for government and industry. Mr. Cassara has authored or co-authored several articles and books, including *Hide and Seek*, *Intelligence, Law Enforcement and the Stalled War on Terrorist Finance*, *On the Trail of Terror Finance – What Intelligence and Law Enforcement Officers Need to Know*, *Demons of Gadara*, and *Trade-Based Money Laundering: The Next Frontier in International Money Laundering Enforcement*.

In 1977, Mr. Cassara received his master’s degree in international management from the American Graduate School of International Management (Thunderbird campus), in Phoenix, Arizona. In 1976, he graduated *magna cum laude* from the University of California, San Diego, with a bachelor’s degree in political science.

See www.JohnCassara.com for additional information.