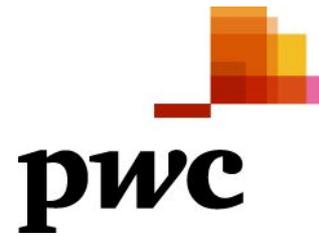


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PwC Joins Ranks of Supporters on 12 November as Co-Sponsor of International Fraud Awareness Week

Bloemfontein, Free State – PwC is pleased to announce that it will once again be participating as co-sponsor in International Fraud Awareness Week, **12 – 18**

November 2017. Presented under the auspices of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE), this is the 8th year of PwC's involvement in #fraudweek.

At the outset, we would like to thank our co-sponsors, the **Free State Department of Treasury, Standard Bank & the University of the Free State's Business School**, for their continued support and the success achieved in this initiative.

In the 8th year of our support of this initiative, we find ourselves in a world that is unpredictable and rife with uncertainty. Times like these raise the possibility of events that may lead to crises. Understanding how to be ready to respond to economic, environmental and geopolitical crises at a time of rapid social, regulatory and digital change, is critical. When a crisis hits, we may be tempted to react emotionally or simply overreact. Who has not been tempted to immediately suspend a fraudster? Or to react in a commercial dispute with "I'll see you in Court!"

It is at this critical juncture where an opportunity presents itself to re-think our response. Being prepared to face crises and then managing them well can deliver real benefits with a positive impact. But that requires a mind shift in our decision-making.

- Are there quicker ways to solve disputes without incurring further costs?
- Should one risk further reputational damage in order to “have your day in Court?”
- Does the assertion of our legal rights ensure the most efficient outcome?
- And what can we expect from the forensic practitioner when resolving conflict?

By changing our pre-conceived ideas of how to respond to conflict, we might just discover easier, quicker and more cost-efficient ways to reach the same, or even a better result.

In considering the objective and the best interest of the victim, one becomes compelled to contemplate **a more collaborative approach**. By definition such an approach will include the parties agreeing to find a resolution without rushing to Court or at least to cut down on Court time and costs. Even in the Law of Criminal Procedure, earnest parties may find mechanisms to expedite the criminal process with little compromise.

Acknowledging differences, finding ways to accommodate different views and seeking common ground, form a large part of **the collaboration approach**. Our

emotional involvement often discourages us from this approach. But this is where a calm, independent voice like that of the forensic practitioner can add value. In the words of Jane Wells, we can “*Learn the wisdom of compromise, for it is better to bend a little than to break.*”

The fraud landscape is continually changing, and so is the way in which we are resolving conflict. During #fraudweek 2017, we will be considering ***the collaborative approach***: Let us consider the value that ***an independent mediator*** can bring; let us ***collaborate before we advocate***. Along with our co-sponsors and this year’s participants, we look forward to the next level of conversations during this year’s #fraudweek seminar.

About PwC

At PwC, our purpose is to build trust in society and solve important problems. We’re a network of firms in 157 countries with more than 208,000 people who are committed to delivering quality in assurance, advisory and tax services. PwC refers to the PwC network and/or one or more of its member firms, each of which is a separate legal entity. Please see www.pwc.com/structure for further details.

