



## CBAI Continues to Gain National Attention for Its Advocacy Regarding Reimbursements for Fraudulently Altered Returned Checks

CBAI's advocacy on behalf of Illinois community banks about reimbursements for fraud returns continues to receive national attention in an in-depth investigative report titled *In a Heist Worth Billions: Sham Bank Accounts, Secret Online Marketplaces, and Too Little Being Done to Stop it\**. The article describes in stunning detail the far-reaching cycle of fraud perpetrated by criminals which is responsible for more than tripling the volume of check fraud in the past five years.

The section titled *The Recklessness of Big Banks* accurately states that community bankers are in disbelief that the largest banks apparently succumb to competitive pressure and rush to quickly open accounts without effectively combatting fraudulent account openings. CBAI's Senior Vice President of Federal Governmental Relations, David Schroeder, was quoted as saying, "That these accounts are being opened shows that the [large] banks don't have robust (anti-money laundering) programs [KYC, CDD, CIP] and the regulators aren't making sure that they do." Schroeder went on to say, "We need to hold these large banks to their responsibility to stop opening these accounts that are at the heart of this criminal enterprise."

The article details CBAI's leadership in bringing its community bank members' experience to light in letters to the OCC, FDIC and Federal Reserve and urging them to intervene. Illinois community bankers have asked CBAI for direction on how to escalate complaints against the largest banks to the senior individuals at the federal regulators responsible for supervising them. CBAI is in the final stages of framing this direction to escalate complaints which will be shared with its members.

*\*This article was a collaboration between The Conversation and Georgia State University's Evidence-Based Cybersecurity Research Group, Directed by Professor David Maimon.*

[Read CBAI Letter to Regulators »](#)

[Read the Investigative Report »](#)

[View YouTube: Behind the Scenes of the Investigation: Heist Worth Billions »](#)

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