



# NADA NICHOLS

## FORENSIC ACCOUNTANT

### PROFILE

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Nada is a highly experienced forensic accountant with extensive international experience.

Nada has recently returned from London where she provided forensic accounting services to individuals, corporations, charities/not for profits, major banks, foreign governments, and international law firms.

#### **Nada's experience includes conducting:**

- financial crime and fraud investigations;
- expert witness work, including quantification of loss;
- asset tracing across different financial institutions, entities and countries;
- regulator and court ordered document disclosure; and
- other forensic work, including royalty and cost audits.

Nada brings exceptional project management, data analysis, interviewing and reporting skills to her engagements.

### PROFFESIONAL EXPERIENCE

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Nada's recent experience includes:

- Investigating a shortfall of over GBP 80 million of client monies, allegedly misappropriated by the managing partner of a UK Financial Conduct Authority regulated wealth management firm, on behalf of the court appointed administrators. Nada's role included managing a team of six staff in the investigation, preparing a funds flow analysis, planning and managing the collection and review of several years of data from a variety of sources and interviewing the entity's personnel. Over 40,000 transactions, spread over 50 bank accounts, were analysed to ascertain the sources and application of the funds, and determine the accounting. Nada's role also included the preparation and presentation of our preliminary findings to the UK's Financial Conduct Authority and the firm's administrators.
- Investigating allegations of fraud at a FTSE 350 company involving pre-paid debit cards and the misappropriation of over GBP 1 million by a member of the finance team for personal use. Nada's role involved managing a team of staff, conducting fact-finding meetings/interviews with relevant client personnel including the company's CFO, the review of several thousand electronic documents and the analysis of banking and financial data. Nada also liaised with the firm's auditors regarding enhanced audit procedures following the discovery of the fraud and drafted the investigation findings report for the board of directors and a secondary report for the police. During the investigation phase, Nada discovered several internal control weaknesses, and these were added as recommendations in the report. The board chose to action all the recommendations in the report.
- Investigating allegations of theft and false accounting involving members of a large private hospital following a report by the UK National Crime Agency. Nada's role was to manage the investigation, which involved the review of several thousand emails, and the company's financial and accounting records. Nada interviewed both perpetrators of the fraud, gaining confessions from both, which ultimately lead to the imprisonment of the perpetrators.
- Acting for the respondent, a foreign government department, for 10 years in relation to an investor-state dispute. The foreign investor made several loss of profits and damages claims against the foreign government and brought actions in both the ICC and ICSID arbitral institutes totalling over EUR 1.2 billion. Nada was the primary client contact on each arbitration liaising closely with the government's legal team including Kings Counsel. Nada drafted a significant proportion of the expert witness reports which quantified the losses suffered by the Claimant and attended the arbitral hearings and assisted with the cross examination of the other side's expert.

## QUALIFICATIONS & CERTIFICATIONS

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Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting)  
Bachelor of Laws  
Graduate Certificate in Legal Practice  
Certificate III in Government  
Member of CAANZ

## PROFFESIONAL EXPERIENCE

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- Investigating alleged accounting irregularities with a value in excess of EUR 7 billion by a regulated financial institution for the purpose of a criminal trial against the former directors. Nada assisted with the drafting of the expert witness report into the accounting irregularities, which again stood up to cross examination, and successfully managed the court ordered document disclosure on behalf of her previous firm.
- Undertaking numerous funds flow analyses and asset tracing exercises on behalf of court appointed administrators and liquidators to recover funds to satisfy unpaid creditors.
- Tracing funds in excess of GBP 12 million misappropriated by a former employee of a Russian owned family office and preparing evidence to support the recovery of assets acquired using the misappropriated funds. Nada managed a team of staff in the collection and review of the underlying financial and banking records and the preparation of a detailed funds flow analysis. Nada presented our findings to the client and their litigation team setting out the evidence available to secure recovery of the assets. Nada also assisted the police in their criminal investigation of the theft. As a direct result of Nada's work we were able to recover circa 90% of the misappropriated funds.
- Managing the collection and review of over 3.5 million documents on behalf of a UK administrator in its response to a US court disclosure order in a high profile and highly contentious matter. Nada managed a team of up to 20 staff in collecting, reviewing and producing responsive documents for the US court. Part of Nada's role was to identify and manage potential risks for the firm/administrators.
- Royalty audits on behalf of large UK media corporations, costs/expense audits on behalf of joint venture partners and accounts remediation work.