



## MICHELE M. PALMER

CO-OWNER

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT  
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

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### Education

University of Vienna (Austria)  
Diploma in Business Marketing  
Vienna Business School (Austria)  
Cambridge University (U.K.)  
English and English Literature

### Languages

English, German, Italian,  
French, Russian, Spanish

### Professional Memberships INDIVIDUAL AND FIRM

Central Intelligence Retirees Association  
Council of International Investigators (CII)  
Diplomatic and Consular Officer, Retired  
Institute of Professional Investigators, U.K.  
Overseas Security Advisory Committee, U.S.  
Department of State, Office of Diplomatic  
Security, OSAC Constituent  
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# CACHET INTERNATIONAL

INTERNATIONAL CORPORATE INTELLIGENCE



## ABOUT

Michele M. Palmer is the Executive Vice President of Cachet International Inc. and Director of Operations. She is a recognized expert on corporate due diligence, offshore companies and banks, international asset tracing and, more recently, asset recovery management.

Since co-founding Cachet International in 1998, Michele continued to add to her already extensive first-hand experience in carrying out sensitive international investigations. Using her fluency in and working knowledge of six foreign languages, she has been a hands-on manager in contracting and leading investigations in more than 160 countries worldwide. Her efforts have led to the discovery of billions in hidden assets and of identifying the hidden ultimate beneficial owners behind hundreds of offshore companies. Cachet International offers a range of services such as Tracing Assets, Financial Intelligence, Background Reports, Piercing Offshore Structures and Trusts, High Net Worth and Complex Fraud Investigations, Business Intelligence Reports, Asset Confirmation Services and Asset Recovery Management.

Prior to co-founding Cachet International, Michele was very successful in her work for the Directorate of Operations of the Central Intelligence Agency and a series of sensitive and specialized positions overseas with the U.S. Department of State.

In the private sector, Michele worked in Europe as a co-founder and manager in a tax consulting company in Austria, business manager for an international import-export firm in Switzerland and independent international consultant assisting the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) as well as the European Central Bank (ECB) and several other financial institutions throughout Eastern Europe and the Russian Federation.

Because of her international experience, her professional advice is sought by lawyers seeking to pursue international asset tracing and recovery operations.

## EXPERTISE

**Asset, UBO (Ultimate Beneficial Ownership) Identification and Due Diligence Investigations.** With over 32 years of international investigative experience, Michele Palmer directs a successful international investigative company that specializes in sensitive international investigations in 160 countries including all known offshore tax havens. As an expert in sensitive and complex investigations, she is frequently chosen by law firms, insurance companies, high net worth individuals (HNWI), government departments and financial institutions around the world.

**Recognition.** Selected as a Fellow of the prestigious British Institute of Professional Investigators (IPI) and designated as a Certified International Investigator (CII) by the Council of International Investigators, Michele Palmer is a recognized expert on international asset tracing and ultimate beneficial ownership investigations in all major offshore tax havens. She frequently advises lawyers on investigative and recovery strategies.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**International Investigations:** Michele Palmer started her career in the intelligence, investigative and financial industries in 1974. Following her CIA and State Department service, she co-founded and directed a successful international investigative company that specializes in international sensitive financial investigations and enhanced due diligence (EDD) in over 160

countries. Her efforts have led to the discovery of over \$3 billion USD in hidden assets and piercing beneficial identity shields of hundreds of offshore companies. She has also performed thousands of due diligence investigations – many of which were complex and conducted under very challenging conditions. Her clients are U.S. and international law firms some of them belonging to the Magic Circle law firms and several foreign governments.

**International Business.** Michele Palmer founded a tax consulting company in Vienna, Austria, that continues in business today. She also served as business manager for a private international industrial trading company in Switzerland. As a result of this experience, she gained invaluable specialized knowledge and extensive high-level contacts in various industries including international banking and trade.

**Government Service.** Employing her fluency in and working knowledge of six languages, Michele Palmer successfully worked for 15 years in the Central Intelligence Agency's Directorate of Operations. The details of her work remain classified. In addition, she was employed for 11 years in a series of specialized positions with the U.S. Department of State and finally as a special assistant to the U.S. Ambassador in Germany for sensitive exchanges with the German leadership during the German re-unification process with East Germany in 1990 which culminated in the unification of Germany October 1990.

**International Banking.** Michele Palmer worked as an independent international consultant assisting the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) as well as the European Central Bank (ECB) and several other financial institutions throughout Eastern Europe and the Russian Federation in providing Eastern European companies with financing.

**Asset Recovery Management.** Having seen many clients encounter difficulty in the complex environment of international asset recovery, Michele Palmer began to assist in the actual recovery process of assets by hand-picking the best asset recovery lawyers in the U.S. and offshore to ensure that the most efficient and effective recovery means are brought to bear. In short, she now provides "one stop" shopping for asset location and recovery that includes some of the most experienced and successful asset recovery lawyers in the world.

**Gaming Industry.** After performing hundreds of discreet asset location investigations for large entertainment and gaming companies, in November 2007 Michele Palmer co-founded Clear View World Wide LLC, a debt collection firm that specializes in high-end debt collection, primarily for the gaming industry. In 2008, she passed the exhaustive vetting of the Nevada State Gaming Control Commission to be licensed to perform investigations for the Commission.

**Foreign Experience.** After living and working in foreign countries for several decades, Michele Palmer has a unique and profound understanding of foreign business and the complexities of a variety of cultural environments. Further, her actual practical experience in international business, government operations, and collection of sensitive intelligence gives her exceptional international capabilities that far exceed the skills and resources of those in conventional investigative firms.

## **CASE STUDIES**

Having located over US \$2 billion in recoverable funds for our clients in 2019, we were happy to start 2020 with another strong success. After over one year of delaying and impeding by three sovereign states, the defendant country has agreed to pay a U.S. litigation firm an eight-figure settlement in a massive liability suit. These governments consistently obstructed progress in this suit, and it was only when met with our continued supply of detailed information and facts that these governments agreed to cease their resistance to this suit and pay the

victims. We were very grateful to help the deserving families of the victims to obtain an eight-figure settlement.

In 2019, a Cachet International client achieved a settlement of nearly €1 billion after a UK court issued an interim relief measure supported by findings stemming from Cachet International's eight-month investigation headed by Michele Palmer. The court issued a freezing order – *ex parte* (i.e., without the defendant's knowledge) – that instantly froze all of the defendant's assets *worldwide*, even though the defendant's holdings in the UK were relatively modest. Michele Palmer provided the client's lawyers with the information on this unique tool, which is described in detail by UK attorney Keith Oliver in "[Civil Interim Measures in England](#)." Mr. Oliver is a senior partner at Peters & Peters in London and widely acknowledged as an expert on UK interim measures.

On behalf of lawyers representing governments in Africa, Asia and Europe, Michele Palmer led successful investigations to locate assets stolen from those governments by former government officials.

On behalf of lawyers representing one of the largest Russian companies, Michele Palmer led Cachet International's investigative efforts in locating \$400 million USD in hidden bank assets in jurisdictions on three continents and owned by multiple shell companies whose ultimate beneficial owners were sophisticated money launderers.

Michele Palmer led a groundbreaking investigation in proving that a major diamond dealer was using the same raw diamonds as collateral in several different banks on several different continents.

In representing a European high profile client who had been defrauded of hundreds of millions of dollars by his business partners, Michele Palmer was able to locate the hidden assets at various European banks. These banks were specializing in providing private banking services ("black curtain accounts") that were known only and managed by the bank's private wealth managers designated to these highest net worth clients.

On behalf of lawyers representing major creditor banks, Michele Palmer identified a fugitive billionaire's assets totaling several hundred million US dollars and Euros, as well large portfolios of exquisite real estate held in the names of over 100 shell companies. These shell companies were spread out across several continents and set up for the sole purpose of hiding the target's wealth who claimed to have been nearly bankrupt.

On behalf of one of the largest entertainment corporations in the world, Michele Palmer located in China, Japan and Thailand the high-flying fugitive debtors who had gambled away fortunes of hundreds of millions of dollars in just a few days, only to take the next plane and escape their casino creditors. She located these fugitives' assets in Luxembourg, Liechtenstein, Channel Islands, BVI, Panama and Belize.

Michele Palmer was retained to locate assets to settle a judgment of \$20 million USD. She conducted an international asset search that located seven previously unknown accounts and over \$2 billion USD in assets in various jurisdictions around the globe. Several previous investigators employed by the client reported that "the target persons were broke."

More recently, in searching for assets to satisfy a \$300 million USD judgment, she was successful in locating over \$1 billion USD in tangible assets by identifying their actual (ultimate beneficial) owners. These actual owners had set up a variety of shell companies in exotic tax havens for the sole purpose of protecting their high value assets from a "freeze and seize order" by the courts. They will not enjoy ownership of their luxurious hard assets much longer.