

Author Biography (Extended)

Mr. Sheetz is a former native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where he attended Kiski Area Sr. High School. Upon graduation, Mr. Sheetz enrolled in, and subsequently graduated from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania Municipal Police Academy earning distinction as the class marksman, and in 1983 began a distinguished law enforcement career. In 1986 Mr. Sheetz relocated to West Palm Beach Florida and began working for the Lake Clarke Shores Police Department where he quickly earned the rank of Detective. Although a small bedroom community, Lake Clarke Shores offered considerable opportunity and Mr. Sheetz quickly became immersed in complex investigation of narcotics and money laundering spanning state and international borders. During his tenure at Lake Clarke Shores Mr. Sheetz recorded a record number of both arrests and seizures, including the joint seizure of a waterfront Mansion in a combined effort between the Lake Clarke Shores Police Department, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

In 1989, Mr. Sheetz left Lake Clarke Shores Police Department to take a position with the neighboring city of Palm Beach Gardens. Shortly after his arrival in Palm Beach Gardens, Mr. Sheetz was called away for service in the United States Army during Operation Desert Storm. As a reservist, Mr. Sheetz had attended the United States Army Military Police Academy at Ft. McClellan Alabama in 1985, where he graduated valedictorian and received an assignment to the Office of the Provost Marshal for the 3220th United States Army Garrison at West Palm Beach, Florida. It was here that he served for six years as Sergeant until the expiration of his term of active service at the conclusion of Operation Desert Storm.

During Desert Storm, Mr. Sheetz was assigned to Ft. Stewart, Georgia, the home of the 24th Infantry Division, where he served as Sergeant of an investigative team following up on state, military and federal crimes. At the conclusion of Desert Storm, Mr. Sheetz returned home to West Palm Beach, where he became a founding member of the Palm Beach Gardens Special Investigation Unit. While assigned to the SIU as an agent, Mr. Sheetz conducted numerous investigations into narcotics, racketeering and money laundering crimes as well as complex economic and computer crimes. During one investigation in particular, Mr. Sheetz uncovered one of the then largest indoor Hydroponic Marijuana growing operation in the state of Florida.

In 1992, Mr. Sheetz transferred to the Palm Beach Gardens Police Department Detective Division where he assumed the role of economic crime detective and distinguished himself as an expert in the area of financial crime.

In 1995, Mr. Sheetz returned to school and entered Northwood University's West Palm Beach campus pursuing a degree in Business Administration with a concentration in accounting. During Mr. Sheetz undergraduate academic career, he earned academic honors with numerous appointments to the President's list, and graduated *Summa Cum Laude* with a Bachelor of Business Administration in 1997.

Shortly after graduation, in August 1997, Mr. Sheetz entered the University of Miami School of Law in Coral Gables, Florida as an evening student. During Mr. Sheetz' first two years of law school, he continued to serve as a detective for the Palm Beach Gardens Police Department by day, while attending classes, often four times a week, in the evenings at the University of Miami School of Law.

During Mr. Sheetz' first year of law school, he distinguished himself academically earning a direct invitation to join the editorial staff of the *University of Miami Law Review*—the law school's premiere scholarly journal. During the coming two years, Mr. Sheetz participated as an assistant editor on the review staff and continued to refine his writing and legal research skills.

During law school Mr. Sheetz earned several academic distinctions including two C.A.L.I. awards for academic excellence in Legal Research and Writing and Internet Governance respectively. Additionally, Mr. Sheetz received the *Corpus Juris Secundum* Award for outstanding scholastic excellence in the study of contracts for the year 1997-1998.

At the conclusion of Mr. Sheetz' second year of law school, he decided to retire from Palm Beach Gardens Police Department and complete his final year of law school on a full-time basis. During his final year of law school, Mr. Sheetz was awarded the Dean's Full Scholarship for academic excellence.

In 2000, Mr. Sheetz completed his legal education earning a *Juris Doctor*. In December 2000, Mr. Sheetz graduated *magna cum laude* in the top 10% of his class earning entry to the prestigious Order of the Coif—a legal honor society reserved for graduates of high academic distinction. Mr. Sheetz is currently a member of the Order of the Coif.

Upon graduation, Mr. Sheetz decided to forego the burdens of practicing law and chose instead a term as an appellate clerk for the Fourth District Court of Appeal in West Palm Beach, Florida. As an intermediate appellate court for the State of Florida, the Fourth District Court of Appeal offered Mr. Sheetz the unique opportunity to further refine his research and writing skills, and to continue his education through relationships with respected scholars, distinguished clerks, and respected appellate judges. As a clerk for the Honorable Judge Bobby Gunther, Mr. Sheetz had the rare opportunity to examine some of the most controversial legal questions facing the legal community at the time.

Concurrently, Mr. Sheetz began his professional teaching career with his 2001 appointment as Adjunct Professor of Business Law at Northwood University's West Palm Beach Campus. In 2002, Mr. Sheetz joined the faculty of American InterContinental University at their south Florida campus, as an adjunct professor. In 2003 he joined the faculty of the American InterContinental University's School of Criminal Justice, where he currently serves as an Assistant Professor. He teaches *Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Death Investigation, Criminal Investigation, Business Law, Introduction to Police Work, Advanced Studies of Law Enforcement, Advanced Topics in Criminal Justice, Drugs and Crime and Criminology*.

Mr. Sheetz' first book-length work, *Forensic Accounting and Fraud Investigation for Non-Experts* is a collaborative effort with Howard Silverstone and is currently in its second edition, available from John Wiley and Sons. This comprehensive work draws upon Mr. Sheetz' experience and expertise in the area of financial crime investigation combined with his legal experience to provide a thorough guide to investigating frauds and financial crimes. This text appeals both to financial managers and professional investigators alike due to its combined approach to synthesizing the fundamentals of accounting with the basics of conducting fraud investigations. *Forensic Accounting and Fraud Investigation* is currently in its second edition and has been translated into Chinese.

Mr. Sheetz' second book titled, *Computer Forensics: The Essential Guide for Lawyers, Accountants, and Managers* is also available from Wiley and Sons. *Computer Forensics* offers a practical, non-technical look at the potential and limitations of computer forensics.

Mr. Sheetz' most recent book, *Kill for Thrill: The Crime Spree that Rocked Western Pennsylvania*, is a true crime, historical account of a seven-day killing spree over the 1979 Christmas holiday in rural Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. This book is due for release in early 2009.

Mr. Sheetz currently lives with his wife Susan in suburban Fort Lauderdale about an hour from Miami where both enjoy photography, outdoor activities and the wonderful south Florida weather. He may be reached through his website at www.michaelsheetz.com