

Program: White-collar Psychopaths

Speaker: Greg Wright, President, Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, Central Indiana Chapter

Introduced by: Hank Wolfla

Attendance: 144

Guests: Bill Fohey, Fletcher Graham, Jerry Johnson

Scribe: Hank Wolfla

Editor: Jim Willson

Today Gregg Wright, CFE, CFP provided another one of his interesting talks, this one on Psychopaths. His talk was based up on the work of Robert D. Hare, PhD the author of *Without Conscience* and *Snakes in Suits*, and the creator of the standard tool of diagnosing psychopaths. The following careers have the highest proportion of psychopaths from Kevin Dutton: 1. CEO 2. Lawyer 3. Media Executives 4. Salesperson 5. Surgeon 6. Journalist 7. Police Officer 8. Clergy 9. Chef 10. Civil servant. Who are these people: Psychopath, Sociopath, Anti-social Personality

Disorder. The Anti-social Personality Disorder (APSD) is a broad diagnostic category found in the American Psychiatric Association (APA) DSM-IV ASPD is similar to Sociopathy. The difference between APSD of APA is that the ASPD focuses more on behavior, while the Psychopathy Checklist focuses on personality traits. APA publishes the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders ("DSM-IV Made Easy"). They are divided into 3 disorders: Paranoid, Schizoid, Schizotypal; anti-social, borderline, histrionic, narcissistic; avoidant, dependent, obsessive-compulsive, anxious and tense.

Gregg then introduced a case study that he uses in his psychopath lectures to students. He first reviewed the Pulitzer author Norman Mailer who had two Pulitzer awards one at the beginning of his career and another at the end. Norman Mailer was paid a quarter of a million dollars to do a book about Gary Gilmore. Mailer had never met or talked to Gary, but only had a few letters from his girlfriend. Mailer was in trouble, since he had little knowledge about Gary. While Gary was awaiting his death sentence in prison, he knew another prisoner by the name of Jack Abbott. Abbott wrote Mailer and said that Gilmore embellished his experiences. Abbott provided Mailer information and asked Mailer to help him write a book called *In the Belly of the Beast*. Abbott was able to be released in 1981 and later received a glowing review from the New York Times Book Review for his book. At the same time, he was released from prison and 8 weeks later killed a man in the alley of a restaurant in NYC.

The Criminal Psychologist Robert Hare, PhD used Jack Abbott as an example of a psychopath. Hare used the following checklist to prove this. Interpersonal: superficial charm-glibness, grandiose sense of worth, deceitful pathological lying; Affective: lack of remorse or guilt, lack of empathy, failure to accept responsibility for own actions; Lifestyle: impulsive-disregard for safety of self or others, irresponsibility – does not honor obligations or laws; An Anti-social history: poor behavior controls – irritability, anger, aggressive against people or animals, adolescent (age 13-18) anti-social behavior problems, adult anti-social behavior. Using the checklist above Gregg reviewed the background of Abbott and it was clear he met all of these check points. If a person has 8 or more of these check points, they are considered a psychopath. This check list is used by police, FBI, and some human resource departments. Gregg feels that if you find a person that meets these check points, the best thing you can do is RUN. Between 1-2% of the general population are considered to be a psychopaths, and 16% of the male prison population meet these check points. Forty-four percent of police killings are done by psychopaths. Besides the books mentioned Gregg also recommends:



Greg Wright