

Nicole M. Alford, Ph.D., CCITP-F/A

Dr. Nicole M. Alford is a certified insider threat professional, national security expert, and clinical-forensic psychologist with nearly three decades of experience. Most recently, she served as the Lead Program Manager for Insider Trust for Meta (formerly known as Facebook), where she led and executed the development of its insider threat program. She also served as the Head of Insider Protection for Meta Financial Technologies and previously served as the behavioral sciences subject matter expert for the US Department of Energy's (DOE's) Insider Threat Program. In her work developing and transforming insider threat programs, Dr. Alford brings a unique perspective steeped in the science of psychology and human behavior. Currently, Dr. Alford functions as CEO & President of Alford Psychological Consulting, LLC, where she conducts forensic evaluations for the courts.

Dr. Alford has over two decades in the intelligence community, specifically, in HUMINT asset validation, personnel selection and suitability assessment for high-risk occupations, the evaluation, identification and mitigation of counterintelligence (CI) risks, and the development of insider threat policies and programs. She is a former covert CIA officer and leader who served that organization's national security mission for over a decade- with a final tour deployed to the war zones in Afghanistan and Iraq as well as other high-threat areas. Dr. Alford has also developed numerous risk mitigation strategies, programs, and talent management and training efforts aimed primarily at decreasing insider risk along the employee life cycle.

Dr. Alford is an adjunct professor of psychology at Washington Adventist University and previously held adjunct professorships in the clinical psychology doctoral program at Argosy University's Washington, DC Campus and American University, where she has trained and mentored dozens of fledgling psychologists. She is a mental health advocate who has lent her voice to raising awareness and support for causes such as suicide prevention, destigmatizing help-seeking, and championing sensible gun safety laws. Dr. Alford is a member of the Association of Threat Assessment Professionals, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.®, Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter. She has held several board memberships, including the Board of Directors of Pearl Elegance Foundation.

Dr. Alford is a reformed shopaholic who, in her spare time, enjoys international travel, theatre and the arts, time with family and friends, and playing with her dog Ellie.