

Michael Franzese

Former Member of Colombo Organized Crime Family. Current Speaker, author, TV and Film personality.

Please contact a GDA agent for information.

Topics

- Activism / Philanthropy / Civic Engagement
- Crime
- Faith / Spirituality

About Michael Franzese

In 1986, mafia boss, Michael Franzese was named one of the biggest money earners the mob had seen since Al Capone, by Vanity Fair. At the age of 35, Fortune Magazine listed him as number 18 on its list of the "Fifty Most Wealthy and Powerful Mafia Bosses", just 5 behind John Gotti. Avoiding traditional mob domains, Michael masterminded brilliant scams on the edge of the legitimate business world. From auto dealerships and union kickbacks, to financial services and the sports and entertainment industries, to a multi-billion dollar gasoline tax scheme, he earned millions in cash every week at his peak. Not surprisingly, Michael quickly became the target of Manhattan's famed federal prosecutor, Rudy Guiliani. After promising Michael 100 years behind bars after indicting him on racketeering charges, Rudy only came up empty handed. Escaping four more indictments, it seemed Michael Franzese truly was invincible.

While producing Knights of the City, a break dance movie filmed in Florida, Michael met a beautiful dancer from Anaheim, California, named Camille Garcia, whose innocent beauty and faith turned his world upside down. After falling in love and eventually marrying Cammy, Michael took the rap on racketeering charges. Michael pled guilty, accepted a 10 year prison sentence and vowed to do the unthinkable – walk away from the mob. Nobody of his rank had ever just walked away – and lived. Until now.

Michael Franzese is the only high ranking official of a major crime family to ever walk away, without protective custodies, and survive.

Determined to use the compelling experiences of his former life for the benefit of corporate executives, professional and student athletes, at-risk youth, church audiences, and for anyone seeking the inspiration to beat the odds and make positive changes in their lives, he has become a highly regarded motivator and a source of invaluable information. Franzese candidly describes how he survived dozens of grand jury appearances, 5 major racketeering indictments, 5 criminal trials, 7 years in prison and a Mafia death sentence. He tells how he engaged bankers, corporate executives, union officials and professional and student athletes in a wide variety of financial scams. His open and honest presentations are fresh and unique. Audiences are captivated by stories of his personal experiences in organized crime and genuinely affected by his powerful anti-crime messages and eye opening revelations.

His autobiography, Blood Covenant, Michael reveals answers to many mysteries surrounding his incredible journey. Walk the streets with him to find out how he has done what no one else has managed to do.

His latest book, I'll Make You An Offer You Can't Refuse, was recently released by Thomas Nelson, and contains insider business tips from the former mob boss.

Select Keynotes

• TOPIC 1: THE MICHAEL FRANZESE STORY

When Franzese is asked to share his life story, he provides an entertaining, insightful look at his entry into the "life" in La Cosa Nostra. From the intrigue and mystique of the initiation ceremony, to his success, making more money for the mob than anyone since Al Capone – and being the youngest on Fortune's "50 Most Wealthy and Powerful Mob Bosses" list, at #18 (just five behind John Gotti), Franzese delivers what he calls "Mob 101." He describes how the love of a young woman – his wife of more than 20 years – did what five law enforcement agencies could not – end his life in organized crime. The essence of the Michael Franzese story is that if someone like him, a former Capo in the Mob, can change, becoming not only a model citizen, but an accomplished author and speaker, his transformation offers hope and encouragement for anyone. How did he leave? Why is he still alive? All this and more is answered through the presentation, as well as the Q&A session he offers.

• TOPIC 2: DON'T BET ON IT - DANGERS OF GAMBLING



Franzese was recruited out of prison by the NBA, NFL, NHL, MLB, and NCAA to participate in a video to address the issue of organized crime and their impact and involvement in gambling, in particular, as it pertains to professional and collegiate athletes and their sports. From that first involvement, Franzese has become an in-demand speaker, addressing athletes on more than 250 Division 1 campuses, MLB and NBA rookies, and NFL teams. Today, his gambling message has extended to the general college campus, as well as discussing the impact of gambling on business, and the threat of internet gambling and identity theft. He is the first call from media, having appeared on CNN, HBO, ESPN shows, and numerous radio and print interviews about specific gambling issues.

- **TOPIC 3: BUSINESS & INSURANCE FRAUD**

Franzese has conducted seminars for several organizations including National Society of Professional Insurance Investigators, Southern Region Defense Organization, FIFEC Conference, Butte County District Attorney's Office, and in the university setting at business schools for Baylor, Vanderbilt, and Washington State. His presentation looks at how organized crime became involved with businesses, and discusses issues that make businesses vulnerable to criminal activity. Franzese also discusses the impact gambling has on business, with loss of productivity by employees gambling online during business hours, as well as employees, corporate executives, politicians, and other business leaders committing fraud to cover gambling debts.

- **TOPIC 4: CRIMINAL JUSTICE & THE LEGAL SYSTEM**

Having beaten five major indictments, one prosecuted by Rudy Giuliani, who threatened to give him 100 years if convicted, Franzese has a unique perspective on the legal system. He orchestrated and negotiated his plea to racketeering, resulting in a 10 year sentence, which precipitated his departure from the life he once lived successfully. Throughout his indictments and trials, Franzese was represented by top Manhattan lawyers, with numerous grand jury and appellate court appearances. Franzese understands the mindset and experience of one incarcerated, and discusses, candidly, issues regarding the correctional system. Franzese has spoken to local and federal law enforcement gatherings as well as law schools, affording a unique and fascinating perspective.

Select Book Titles

- **2014:** From the Godfather to God the Father: The Michael Franzese Story
- **2010:** I'll Make You an Offer You Can't Refuse: Insider Business Tips from a Former Mob Boss
- **2009:** Blood Covenant: The Story of the "Mafia Prince" Who Publicly Quit the Mob and Lived
- **2009:** The Good, the Bad and the Forgiven
- **1992:** Quitting the Mob: How the "Yuppie Don" Left the Mafia and Lived to Tell His Story

Select Articles

- [Michael Franzese is determined to erase those markings and give those individuals the opportunity to start a new life.](#)

To offer current and former inmates, former gang members and victims of human trafficking who have gone through a faith based, Christ centered discipleship program the opportunity to effectively and safely remove the visible tattoos and offensive markings that serve as a deterrent to their starting a new life as law abiding, productive members of society.

Select Testimonials

Michael Franzese and his entire organization delivered on what they promised. A captivating program with insight and intrigue into the crime underworld. Franzese was flexible and accommodated last minute requests, and was willing to share his journey in an intimate manner being respectful to all that attended. As our 2017 kickoff event we had our largest attendance ever recorded and scored a 9.6 out of 10 for the event program. Michael Franzese was a great draw and has great depth of knowledge and experiences that he generously shares with the audience with a simple and confident delivery. I have personally booked Franzese for a corporate event in 2018, and highly recommend him to fellow YPO'ers. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss how our chapter marketed the event.

— John A. Kailunas II Founder, Regal Financial Group / Regal Investment Advisors / Regulus Advisors