

The International Councilor

March-April 2010

The Newsletter of the Council of International Investigators

Issue 3

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President's Report



By Nancy S. Barber

This is the busy season for CII as we close out our membership renewals, gear up for our electronic board meeting and start planning for our AGM in Wales in September, 2010.

I am happy to report that our renewals reflect a strong and healthy membership. The success of our renewal rate can be attributed to CII's electronic dues renewal online. I would like to thank our Treasurer, Rod Webb, and our CII office -- in particular, Sarah Luczyk -- for making this one of the most successful renewal seasons in several years. The report regarding membership renewals has been posted on the website for our electronic board meeting that was held from April 1 – April 12, 2010.

REGIONAL MEETINGS

Tis the season of regional meetings at CII.

Glenn Eiden hosted a well-attend regional meeting at Trader Vic's in Chicago, Illinois USA on April 22, 2010 during the NCISS Conference in Chicago. CII joined NCISS last year, along with the sister organizations in Canada and Europe, as part of our Privacy Committee's support of organizations working on legislation in all three regions. CII was also a sponsor of the NCISS conference. More than 30 CII members attended Glenn's event.



Brett Mikkelson will be hosting a regional meeting in Panama from May 21 - 23, 2010. Details are available on the web site. For details, contact Brett Mikkelson at brett@bminvestigations.com. I am planning to attend and hoping to see more of my CII friends there.

On the same weekend, on the other side of the pond, Raul Fat, will be hosting the regional meeting in Bucharest, Romania from May 21 - 23, 2010. For details, contact Raul Fat at office@tinvestigations.ro.

I want to thank our hosts for organizing the regional meetings, which are a great way to meet CII folks and introduce CII to potential members in the region.

MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

And, as we look forward to the AGM, I would remind our members that they should start thinking about nominations for two awards given out at the AGM. The nominations are for the Meritorious Service Award and the Investigator of the Year Award.

The Meritorious Service Award (MSA) is given to any member of the Council. No more than one MSA Medal is awarded to any one person. The MSA may be awarded posthumously. Nominations may be submitted by anyone. No member may nominate him or herself. Nominations must be submitted in writing to the Committee chair and may include supporting statements. Nominations must be received up to forty five (45) days prior to the AGM. The MSA, is, of course, awarded at the AGM. Any nominations should be forwarded to me at nickb@aol.com.

INVESTIGATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

At the Council's Annual Meeting held in Edinburgh, Scotland in October, 1976, the President of The Association of British Investigators at the time, Zena Scott Archer, personally delivered a silver loving cup to the Council with the request by the A.B.I. that it be presented each year to a Council member who best exemplifies the high professional and moral standards of the Council.

Each year at the Annual General Meeting, a Certified Member of the Council of International Investigators is honored as the "International Investigator of the Year". Nominations may be made by any person during the year, and election is by a majority vote taken during the annual general meeting, after the Reading of the nominations and supporting documentation.

Since the recipient must surrender the trophy at the end of a year, another award was initiated to remain the personal possession of each annual recipient. This award is known as the "Keith Rogers Memorial Plaque". It honors one of the respected original founders

of our Council, Keith M. Rogers, now deceased. CII will be forever grateful to The Association of British Investigators for what has become an extremely proud tradition in our Council.

Only certified members of the Council are eligible for the award. Nominations **MUST BE MADE IN WRITING** and submitted to the Chair of the IIOY Committee. The current winner of the award, Steve Kirby, always holds that position. All nominations should be forwarded to him: skirby@kirbyinvestigations.com. Nominations must contain details of outstanding professional services rendered to a client, the profession or the Council. Selection will be made at the AGM by secret written ballot. All nominations must be received 45 days prior to the AGM.

In closing, as with every year, we have members resign for personal or business reasons, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their years of service, and to express hope that the opportunity may come that they are able to rejoin us. They include Cheryl Fischer, William Savage, Phil Peart and Kevin Ripa. CII owes these members a thank-you for their years of membership and service.

Finally, I would like to thank the board members and officers for their time and support. We are fortunate to have a very active team this year, and I believe the regional meetings are a reflection of a lot of behind-the-scenes work by our ERD Alan Marr, our Membership Committee headed up by Eddy Sigrist, and our PR Committee headed up by Sheila Ponnosamy. And, I would be remiss in not including Tom Davies, who has managed the world of electronic board meetings with skill, and in some instances, cunning, but gets all of us together and voting!

The CII website is undergoing the final touches, and you should be seeing the results any day now. I would like to thank Roy Whitehouse, Rod Webb and Sarah Luczyk for all of the hard work involved in getting the web site upgraded.

And, of course, thanks to Ken Cummins and his team, for his work on the Councilor. Finally, I would like to thank Joan Beach who remains the heart and soul of CII for her work at keeping us all apprised of membership news, those nice notes you get from her, and, of course, the baby blankets. I saw many of you in Chicago, and I am hoping to see many more in Panama, Bucharest or Wales later this year.

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Welsh Green Beckons You to Cardiff this September

AGM Preview

By Laurence Brown, AGM Co-Host

Dear Members, Colleagues and Friends,

When you think of Wales, you probably – and wrongly – think of a dreary, grey island with lots of rain and people whose accents are harder to comprehend than the average British bloke you encounter in a pub.



Well, to dissuade you from this impression, let me quote from the authoritative article that appeared in the March 21, 2010, Sunday edition of the esteemed *Washington Post* newspaper under the headline: “Wales, the greenest place on Earth,” penned by Pamela Petro.

“For two decades I've been exhausting my vocabulary seeking names for all the shades of green in the Welsh countryside,” Petro writes. “Pastures are Crayola green; windbreaks are jade; spring mosses are the chartreuse of an avocado's innards. The ribboning hills after it has rained, when sunlight breaks through shark-colored clouds, throb pure neon. Distance makes the mountains aquamarine.”

“These days, Wales can add another green to its palette: the green that comes from being one of the most environmentally progressive nations on Earth.”

“The good news for travelers like me is that Wales's commitment to sustainability isn't a fad dreamed up by a government focus group. It's a way of being that permeates every nook of Welsh life, with deep roots in Welsh history and culture and in the very environment: the hills, the sea, the valleys, the rain, even the sheep.”

If that doesn't make you want sign up for the AGM right now, then click on this web link below and read the whole article:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/story/2010/03/19/ST2010031903214.html?sid=ST2010031903214>

Then sign up!

Plans are proceeding nicely for the 56th Annual General Meeting, which is being held in Cardiff, the Capital City of Wales, Cardiff, from the 14th to 18th September. We are pleased to announce that we have secured a great hotel venue in the heart of the City, within walking distance to many of the city's attractions, and the other venues where we will be hosting some of the entertainment and networking events.

All of the information concerning the event is now posted on the CII website, where you will find details of the Hotel, the program, the networking events, sponsorship opportunity, and registration. Please visit www.cii2.org.

The program in brief: along side which will run a program for partners (log on to see full details):

14 September 2010 ~ **Opening Ceremony at Cardiff Castle**

15 September 2010 ~ **Networking Day**

16 September 2010 ~ **Opening Ceremony ~ Annual General Meeting ~ Welsh Night Out**

17 September 2010 ~ **Conference Day ~ Gala Dinner**

18 September 2010 ~ **Golf Day (optional)**



The theme of the conference is Internet crime, focusing on Internet /cyber crime and the effect that it has on your clients, who could so easily be the victims of such crime. Our speakers will come from different backgrounds and experience, including law enforcement, the video industry, our world of Private Investigations and even a contribution from the Welsh government, through its e-crime initiative. This array of experience will create a unique collective view of this issue.

If you are planning to come to the AGM, please register as soon as possible to assist us with our planning, and to ensure you secure accommodation at the hotel at our preferential rate. To assist you can book the hotel room using the following link:

<https://www.conferencebookings.co.uk/delegate/CDFCII2010>



So come to Cardiff for all this and a few surprises along the way.

Meet old friends, make new ones.

Wales, the host of the 2010 Ryder Cup and the home of the CII 2010 AGM and Conference, decked out in all of its finest greenery, beckons you.

And a warm welcome awaits you all.

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The Role of the Private Investigator in Loss Prevention



By Kelly E. Riddle

From Shrinkage is a term that causes the security industry to cringe. Utterance of the word immediately conjures up an image of a person discretely snatching an article of clothing and jamming it into the trap door of a “wrapped present” the shoplifter is carrying under an arm, We are all well aware of many industry-accepted methods of dealing with the common types of theft and pilferage in retail settings, including CCTV systems, electronic sensors on merchandise and undercover loss prevention personnel.

But what do you do when a problem exists outside of the normal box?

Private investigators, from their very creation by the Pinkerton Detective Agency, were birthed based on those out-of-the-box problems. Loss prevention personnel are trained and educated to protect a specific geographic location such as a mall,

convenience store, manufacturing plant or similar asset. Private investigators are trained and educated based on an ever-changing client, location and operating method. Take either out of their field of expertise and you will usually end up with a duck-out-of-water. However, there are times when the two agencies can collaborate and work effectively to achieve a successful end. Unfortunately, many of these opportunities are often missed or simply overlooked.

As a private investigator, I can recount cases where we relied on the expertise and scope of the loss prevention personnel. For example, we were asked to conduct surveillance on a person who had alleged a disabling injury to his legs due to a work-related injury and was confined to a wheelchair. Upon following the subject to a mall, we quickly contacted the loss prevention personnel within the establishment. The mall's CCTV equipment enabled discreet surveillance of the person, and video was captured of the subject standing up and moving about without the wheelchair to examine clothing. Using proper protocol, our client was able to obtain a copy of the video.

Why PIs Should Handle Employee and Vendor-Related Investigations

On the other hand, loss prevention departments encounter numerous occasions when the use of their own employees is not suitable. An example of this would include an employee suspected of embezzlement, a vendor-related situation or the complication of multiple geographic locations. While loss prevention personnel could possibly handle the incident, the potential for discovery and subsequent human resource issues dramatically increases. Inappropriate action against an employee could result in discrimination lawsuits, worker's compensation stress-related claims, and morale issues with other employees, just to cite a few of the potential problems. Should problems arise during the investigation of a vendor, this could create a public relations dilemma that could affect the supply of product for the entire company.

One such example occurred when a vendor of a particular international company came under suspicion. The loss prevention personnel believed they needed the assistance of investigators due to the mobility of trucks and the international issues involved. One truck per week left our client's plant in Mexico, and by the time it reached the Texas border, one-quarter to one-half of the cargo had disappeared. Our investigators conducted surveillance on three trucks in a row, and each arrived without incident along the way.

Going back to square one, we met with the loss prevention personnel at the plant to determine general operating procedures. The plant operated from 6 a.m. until 6:p.m. six days a week, and loss prevention had already reviewed video during these hours without finding anything peculiar. According to information provided, the truck that left the plant each week was loaded the day before, and the driver came in and left with the rig the following morning. As investigators, we took a different approach and conducted surveillance at the plant the evening the truck was loaded. That evening, our investigators watched all employees leave for the day. However, three people returned just after midnight and pulled a forklift up against the doors of the trailer. They removed the hinge pins, used the forklift to move the doors out of the way, and then took some of the merchandise. After replacing the doors with seals intact, they left the plant with the purloined merchandise.

Private investigators, like loss prevention personnel, often have working relationships with law enforcement officials. Many times, however, this relationship is dramatically different. In the general sense, loss prevention personnel work with local law enforcement when someone is detained after having committed a theft. The police officer meets with loss prevention, makes a report and takes custody of the perpetrator.

The private investigator, on the other hand, typically works on a different level with law enforcement and is often with detectives and not patrol personnel. Through this working relationship, private investigators work closely with specialized sting operations after the investigator develops the case to a point where law enforcement gets involved.

Many private investigators have established themselves as assets to both loss prevention departments and police officials through their exhaustive database capabilities. Whereas government agencies are restricted by budgets, private investigators are restricted only by their client's budgets, which differ vastly. Because of this, private investigators have access to more database sources than the typical police official. Conversely, this same rule applies for most loss prevention departments, which do not normally have the need to run exhaustive data searches on individuals. In the event loss prevention identifies what is believed to be a team or several teams that consistently are observed being involved in criminal behavior, the use of outside databases through private investigators may help further identify these subjects as being associated with one another.

Many investigations start with a preliminary assessment of a situation by loss prevention that result in bringing in private investigators to assist. In the process, the private investigators develop information and leads that, with law enforcement's cooperation, can turn into a successful prosecution of the subjects involved. The critical part of this process is each entity realizing the need for help outside of its particular unit. When properly executed, all parties achieve their goals and share in the successful operation.

Protecting Trade Secrets, Detecting Counterfeit Products

When corporate management requests something out of the ordinary -- such as a countermeasures sweep to determine how trade secrets, client information or conversations are being leaked -- partnering with private investigators allows the task to be handled quickly and professionally. In this manner, the loss prevention personnel are kept in the inner workings and maintain their position with management while being a clearinghouse for security issues.

Countermeasures, or “bug sweeps,” are a highly skilled, technical segment of the private investigation industry. The equipment utilized is extremely sensitive and expensive, requiring a great deal of expertise to properly conduct this type of investigation. Many companies are establishing standing procedures requiring conference rooms and the offices of upper management to be inspected on a routine basis due to the highly competitive world market. Hostile takeovers, splitting stocks, new patents and inventions, union disagreements, and numerous other reasons account for this increase in the use of countermeasures.

For those companies operating outside of the United States where wire-tapping laws are lax or non-existent, listening devices and hidden cameras are often part of the business climate. In one such case, we conducted an investigation in South America for a client as a preventive measure. During the sweep, our investigators located six hidden cameras and four concealed microphones. As the investigation continued, we determined money was being siphoned off from two cash registers that were intentionally unplugged from the cash management system. This prompted surveillance to be conducted to further document evidence against those employees involved in the thefts.

Additionally, private investigators are consistently working more closely with loss prevention personnel regarding counterfeit products. Some of the many items finding their way into mainstream businesses include purses, sunglasses, blue jeans, watches and items with trademark-protected logos. The counterfeiters are very sophisticated in their ability to copy the original items, and the counterfeited products typically are being manufactured in Asia. Private investigators are regularly employed by many of the large corporations in an effort to prevent the introduction of counterfeit products.

These products are often found in flea markets, convenience stores, dollar stores and similar retail establishments. However, investigators have begun to find these illegal items in several large and very well-known national retail stores throughout the United States. This detection is due to the increasing working relationship between private investigators and the loss prevention departments.

One of the professional sports associations spent millions of dollars creating a new hologram as part of its ongoing attempt to prevent illegal sales of its products. One of the loss prevention sources our agency has cultivated a relationship with contacted our investigators to report the discovery of a strange-looking new label. This company had begun receiving limited supplies of a product from a new vendor and was suspicious of the labeling. Upon inspection, it was determined the hologram had already been copied before it had ever been placed on any legitimate merchandise. An exhaustive investigation was conducted, and led back to a leak within the plant’s production personnel.

The discovery of counterfeit products can damage a retailer’s reputation. One international retail company received negative media attention when counterfeit products were found in many of its stores. Damaging press coverage can also cause stockholders to panic and the price of stocks to plummet. On the other hand, many companies use the topic of counterfeit product enforcement as a means to bring positive attention to their company.

The world enterprise system has created the need for private investigators with solid networks in other countries to assist loss prevention operations. Tracking products and equipment often requires the use of investigative techniques including global positioning systems (GPS), covert product escort, surveillance, undercover operatives and the involvement of multiple agencies in widespread geographic locations. It is at these times when the world of loss prevention and private investigation collaborate.

Covert product escort can involve loss prevention personnel discretely marking the item or shipment using ultraviolet pens or other methods. Once the items are properly marked for evidentiary reasons, covert surveillance can further track them. In some cases, an undercover operative can be utilized to travel with the item in an attempt to determine when and how the loss occurs. It is at this point that private investigators are often employed as the operative, or in conducting the covert surveillance.

An example of this entailed the loss prevention unit of a department store marking cans and boxes of baby food formula. Law enforcement had notified area stores that a group of individuals were suspected of large and concentrated thefts of baby formula. The group would move into a particular city, quickly hit all stores and move on to the next city. One member of the group would enter a store, purchase a case of baby formula and exit the store. That subject would hand the receipt to another individual who would return to the store and walk out with another case of formula. This would continue until all formula had been stolen. The receipt would act as proof of purchase in the event one of the thieves was stopped. In this particular case, loss prevention identified the subjects and passed the surveillance off to investigators who followed the vehicles. The staging area was a storage unit, and after several days of surveillance, the perpetrators loaded the items onto a tractor-trailer rig bound for the airport. Through the cooperation of loss prevention personnel, private investigators and law enforcement, a large theft ring was uncovered and apprehended.

Working with Loss Prevention to Meet Corporate Management’s Needs

Since the loss prevention department normally wears many different hats, it is not uncommon for its personnel to be called upon to assist with the escort of corporate executives while in town or traveling. This means covert and discrete observation of the executives, and once again is an area where private investigators may be called upon to assist. In countries known for kidnappings, loss prevention is also called upon to keep abreast of current U.S. State Department warnings and advisories to travelers. For this reason, it is extremely important to have contacts in the local country where executives may travel. Private investigators are a good source for this as they have a good working knowledge of the expectations and attitudes of private businesses while also having

good communication with law enforcement. Even if loss prevention personnel travel with executives, pre-travel intelligence information from a local private investigator can be a valuable resource.

Businesses with both a storefront and large Internet retail operation can be targets for fraudulent product returns. Through various websites that are “pass-through” businesses which advertise and sell other companies’ products without actually having a store, warehouse or other tangible business location, a business can have products returned that did not actually come from the store to begin with. Credit card fraud also poses a problem because an item can be purchased using a fraudulent credit card. Once the product is received, the person can return the item to the store for the money. In doing so, the so-called buyer is getting cash for an item he/she did not pay for in the first place. Loss prevention personnel and private investigators are called upon to investigate and identify subjects engaged in these activities, as well as determine the validity of the purchase.

Private investigators and loss prevention personnel may find themselves sharing information regarding insurance claims. If an employee files a worker’s compensation claim with the company’s insurance provider and is out of work due to the injury, the insurance company may hire an investigator to review the facts relating to the incident. This may require a physical inspection and photographs of the accident site as well as interviews with witnesses and co-workers. Should CCTV be available, a review of this may also be appropriate. Loss prevention personnel can be of assistance in each of these venues as they often have working knowledge of the employee, the accident site and of the incident in question. Once the investigator performs the initial analysis, he/she may be called upon to conduct surveillance of the injured party to further document the validity of the injury. Loss prevention may be able to share valuable information about vehicles, part-time jobs, extra-curricular activities or hobbies of the injured, and other pertinent information.

My agency was asked to conduct an investigation on a subject who had allegedly received a back injury while at work. There were no witnesses or other documentation to either prove or refute the allegation. While conducting the preliminary investigation, loss prevention personnel indicated the subject was known to frequent bars and dance establishments, and to get into frequent arguments with his spouse. While investigating these leads, our investigators determined the subject had been named in a police incident report the Saturday before the alleged injury on Monday. According to the police report, the subject and his spouse had been at a bar and an altercation took place. The employee in question had been involved in a fight and scuffle before police arrived. No arrest was made, but the incident report was filed. Surveillance was conducted that indicated that the subject did not have an injury. The information passed to our investigators by the loss prevention personnel was instrumental in terminating a fraudulent insurance claim.

In some instances, loss prevention is called into personal situations that start outside of the workplace. Domestic violence can spill over into the job and can involve verbal arguments and physical confrontations that can escalate, like many domestic situations, into violence. The fact that a person has a spouse or ex-spouse who is disruptive to the workforce is not typically grounds for termination, and often requires a great deal of compassion and assistance from loss prevention. This may involve walking the person to and from vehicles, screening calls and visitors, and preventing the disclosure of work schedules and other information to outside callers. Not all situations involve spousal threats and may in fact result from employee threats. Regardless of the care within the workplace, private investigators are often utilized to help control the situation, prevent violence and limit corporate liability. Federal laws require an employer to provide a safe work environment.

Private investigators have many opportunities to work hand in hand with loss prevention departments. Do not overlook this opportunity for business development.

Mr. Kelly E. Riddle of Kelmar & Associates, Inc. has more than 30 years of investigative experience after his law enforcement career in various departments including the SWAT team. He was chosen as the “PI of the Year” by the National Association of Investigative Specialists. He has been designated an expert in surveillance, insurance investigations, nursing home abuse and computer investigations. Mr. Riddle is also on the Board of Directors and is the President-Elect for the Texas Association of Licensed Investigators (TALI) as well as being on the Board of Directors for the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas.

Mr. Riddle is the author of 10 books and has published more than 40 articles. He has been the guest speaker at more than 400 events and has been on national TV, radio and newspapers.

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Immigration from China - Security Concerns and Opportunities for PIs



By Hai Yang

Since the opening of China and the reforms of the 1980s, the daily lives of the people have been getting richer and richer, and more and more people have been able to choose to migrate to other countries in pursue of a better life, a better educational environment for their children.

Chinese people mostly chose to immigrate to the developed West and European countries, such as the United States, Canada, Australia, France, Italy, Germany and elsewhere. The immigrants from China's coastal areas and border regions -- especially Zhejiang, Guangdong and Fujian -- account for a majority of the total number of immigrants from China, and they are the primary source for immigrants headed to the U.S., Canada and the west.

According to the statistical report from Canada’s citizenship and immigration department, the number of Chinese immigration to Canada reached 29,336 in 2008, surpassing all other source countries of immigrants to Canada. The latest figures from the

Australian Bureau of Statistics show that China instead of the U.K., became the biggest source country of immigrants to Australia in 2009. Furthermore, Chinese immigrants to the U.S. have increased four times over the past 26 years. It is obvious from these figures that China has become a big source country for immigrants with an ever-increasing flow exiting the nation each year.

How do Chinese people migrate to other countries? There are two means: legal and illegal immigration. Legal immigration includes immigration of technology, investment, federally sanctioned immigration and other approved methods. Illegal immigration generally consists of two types. One is legal entry but illegally overstaying the allowed period in the destination country. These immigrants legally enter other countries by holding regular passports and visas but lose their legal status by exceeding the expiration of the validity of visa. The other one is illegal entry and stealthily living in the destination country. These immigrants avoid legal exit procedures from China and do not obtain valid visas, but are intent on sneaking into another country to illegally reside in it.

The number of Chinese immigrating illegally keeps rising, especially in recent years. China's illegal immigration problem, with the major illegal immigration activity located in coastal areas like Fujian, not only attracts worldwide concerns but also arouse worries from Chinese fellows. According to statistics compiled by the United States Department of Homeland Security, of the total 11.55 million illegal immigrants in America in January 2006, Chinese illegal immigrants accounted for 2 percent or 190,000 persons. Similar statistics from the Department of Interior of France, estimated that Chinese illegal immigrants in that country totaled between 30,000-50,000 as of August, 2009.

The rise in illegal migration has brought about a host of problems. Developed countries face issues in the area of security, social stability and future international relations with other countries which suffer direct and indirect damage. Illegal immigration has become an important, non-traditional security problem commonly recognized over the world. Some countries and regions are hoisting the banner of strengthening border monitoring and cracking down on illegal immigration.

During the process of reducing illegal immigrants, immigration offices in several countries also found another phenomenon -- many Chinese applicants fabricated their application documents. Applicants hid their true identity information and criminal records, and exaggerated their wealth and educational degrees to deceive immigration officials. To avoid the probability of disqualified applicants obtaining visas, immigration officials must intensify verification procedures. Objective and active identity verification serves as the most important way to learn about an applicant, followed by screening personal properties and checking current and past employment. It is advisable for officials to review and verify the materials provided by applicants through public searches -- which is legal, convenient and provides a quick turnaround.

The applicant's basic identity, education and employment credentials are usually basic information required to be checked for either technical immigration or investment immigration. However, as personal information is always restricted by privacy laws and considerations, there are no public databases to search. Accordingly, investigators have to interview local authorities for verification of identity information. The same is applies for work experience verification. Educational background can be checked in the relevant databases if sufficient search authorizations are provided, such as the copy of degree or graduation certificate. However, due to the emergence of these databases only recently, it is advisable to also contact the school for to validate records dating back many years.

Professional qualification, financial standing and information that may impact adversely on immigration approval are also of concern to immigration officials. The circumstances differ from area to area, and databases are not comprehensive, which makes searches difficult and unreliable. While the investigation is always carried out using databases, it is supplemented by phone interviews and even site visits. A release form issued by the applicant is greatly helpful in this regard.

Thus, it is advisable to undertake careful screening of the immigration applicants from China, and to call on local resources in China for verification, to keep undesirable immigrants out.

Mr. Hai Yang, a former Beijing Police investigator, set up the Investigation Department of The L & A Law Firm with his cooperators, and in the same year, he founded Beijing Steele Business Investigation Center, which was one of the earliest business investigation agents in China. Mr. Yang is a member of many international associations, including ABI, WAD, ACFE; and has been appointed as China Regional Director of CII.

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Treasured Moments for CII Family



Rod Webb's grandson Kaiden

Regional Meetings

First Eastern European Event-- ever!!!

May 21-22, 2010

Raul Fat is anxious to welcome all CII members and their guests when he hosts the first Eastern European Event May 21-22 2010 in Bucharest, Romania. Raul has worked diligently to create a Regional Meeting and weekend filled with culture and entertainment. Transportation is not an issue given that Bucharest Henri Coanda International Airport provides direct flights to and from most European Airports. The airport is only twenty minutes by tax or shuttle bus to the heart of downtown Bucharest. See www.otp-airport.ro for further details.



The program begins on Friday May 21 2010 when CII Members congregate between 17:30 and 18:00 hrs at the Universitatii Square. (The Square is one of the most popular meeting places in Bucharest and is nick named the 'Km 0' of all Romanian Roads). The group will take an hour walking tour through the heart of Bucharest, known as the historic Lipschani area before joining Raul in a traditional Romanian meal at Caru cu Bere Restaurant (www.carucubere.ro). Members will be invited to order off the menu and pay for their own meals.



On Saturday May 22, a minibus will collect the members from their respective hotels for a guided bus tour of the main attractions of Bucharest. The tour will include "Little Paris" as Bucharest was known in the 1900's and an overview of communist influence and modern developments. The highlight is a visit to the colossal Parliament Palace, formerly known as the People's Palace, built by the Communist Party leader, Nicolae Ceausescu. Other than the Pentagon, this is the largest administrative building in the world. (A passport or other identity is required in order to access the building). Saturday afternoon is free to members and guests to further explore the city's numerous restaurants and shopping opportunities or return to their hotel for a respite before the evening gala.

On Saturday evening, May 22 2010, members will meet at 6:30 PM at the English Bar of Athenee Palace Hilton, 103 Episcopiei Street. The gala dinner will be held in the Marcu private room. Dress is business casual. Saturday's program will cost approximately Euro 100 per person and includes the minibus tour, the Palace of Parliament visit and the Gala dinner. What a deal! Raul has asked that members and guests with special meal or drink requirements notify Raul at office@tinvestigations.ro.



Accommodations

Raul has recommended two four star hotels and negotiated special rates for attendees and guests. There is no online booking system so if members have difficulty communicating with the hotel via email, Raul has generously agreed to coordinate at office@tinvestigations.ro.

Hotel Berthelot (www.hotelberthelot.ro)

Telephone: +40 31 42 55 860

Email: office@hotelberthelot.ro

Contact person: Adrian Ursu

The Hotel Berthelot was recently refurbished and is located in the very heart of Bucharest. Rates are Euro 65 for a single room and Euro 75 Euro for a double room; breakfast and taxes are included.

Hotel Moxa (www.hotelmoxa.com)

Telephone: +40 21 650 55 555

Email: felicia.baran@hotelmoxa.com

Contact person: Felicia Baran

This hotel is walking distance from the previous hotel. Hotel Moxa rates are Euro 50 for a single room and Euro 60 for a double room. The breakfast, taxes and all the other facilities are included.

Please remember that your Euro, Dollar, Pound, Lira, Yen or Shekel is not accepted. Credit cards are accepted in most places but cash is best. The equivalent of Euro 100 in Romanian currency (LEU) is recommended. Otherwise, you will be borrowing cash from your CII comrades!

OUR HOST

Raul Fat is our host for CII's first Eastern European event. Raul graduated from the National Intelligence Academy in Bucharest, Romania in 2000. Following graduation, he worked as an Intelligence Officer for the Romania Intelligence. In 2001, Raul left government work in favor of the private sector where he worked for a business consortium known as CIMP in fields of construction,

transportation, agriculture and commerce.

In 2004, Raul and his partner founded one of the first Romania Private Detective agencies, Total Trust Investigations SRL.

In 2006, Raul founded his own agency known as Transylvania Investigations Service. Raul's specializes in information procurement in Eastern Europe, prompting his involvement in many international investigations as well. He can be reached at office@tinvestigations.ro

Central America Meeting in Panama May 21-23, 2010

Getting there

Welcome to Panama! I am delighted to host the CII Central American regional meeting in balmy Panama City, Republic of Panama. I can't wait to greet you in my adopted country, educating everyone on everything Panama has to offer.

Getting here is very easy. Panama's Tocumen International Airport is the hub of all Central and South America – access to the country is easy with direct flights from all major cities in the region as well as internationally.

The distance from the airport to your Hotel is roughly 40-50 minutes by taxi or shuttle bus. We should also be offering special transportation for Friday and Sunday as well.

Program

Friday 21 May



In the afternoon, for those who arrive early, we are offering a guided tour of the Panama Ruins known as "Panama La Vieja" – "The Old Panama".

The name of "Panamá la Vieja" or Old Panama, may give you the key of what were the fortunes of this city, which suffered fires, threats from indians and pirates, an earthquake, and finally the major attack from Captain Henry Morgan, a british pirate who attacked and plundered the city after his arrival January 28, 1671. As consequence of the series of events that took place during that attack, the city was destroyed and the ruins of the Old Panama, are

what we have left of that city.

At 8 pm we'll be organizing a mixer at the hotel at the pool area or indoors in the event of rain –food and drinks are at the expense of the consumer. Dress is tropic casual.

Saturday 22 May

After breakfast, we will meet and greet Special Investigative Reporter Donald Winner. Mr Winner was an Airforce Intelligence NCO working for Special Operations in Panama and later in Puerto Rico prior to his retirement. Upon retiring, Mr Winner came to Panama and started www.panama-guide.com – a publication with thousands of articles on anything and everything related to the Republic of Panama. Mr Winner has singlehandedly taken down some of the largest fraud rings in Central America using good old gumshoe and interviewing methods that have been lost by some due to the over use and abuse of easy databases. He will be taking questions about Panama and welcomes questions about local politics, crime, tourism and investigations in general.

The afternoon is free although we do have some suggested tours of the area or shopping for those interested:

Panama Canal Tour – An amazing visit to the Miraflores Locks which is one of 3 sets of locks operating the Panama Canal. Here you can visit the museum, observe the boats as they go through the locks, purchase memorabilia, have lunch at the Miraflores Restaurant and much more. Entrance cost is \$8.00 per each adult and the restaurant buffet costs \$25 per person. See these links as well:



More information, visit – <http://www.pancanal.com/eng/index.html>

Live cameras!! - <http://www.pancanal.com/eng/photo/camera-java.html?cam=Miraflores>

Comments by Don Winner - <http://www.panama-guide.com/article.php/2005050718235476>

Tour of Casco Viejo or Casco Antiguo as it is also called – After the fall of Panama La Vieja, settlers rebuilt in what is now called Casco Antiguo.

http://www.nextstop.com/p/C9PI6p_sZ7o/casco-viejo/?guide=nmQJrY8IYIY&card=hSw76bJvB0o&

Shopping at Albrook Mall – Panama is the hub of the Americas, and the Albrook Mall is the hub of Panama. One of the largest and most widely used areas of the city, it is a shoppers dream for just about anything.

<http://www.albrookmall.com/>

LAS TINAJAS RESTAURANT –

Starting at 7:00 pm we will gather at the lobby of the hotel. For those who have gone into town, you can also meet right at the restaurant at 8:00 pm. Dinner begins at 8:00 pm and the folkloric presentation begins at 9:00 pm.

Dress code is dinner casual.

[http://www.tinajaspanama.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2&Itemid=2\(=es](http://www.tinajaspanama.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2&Itemid=2(=es)

Costs

Friday's activities will be at the expense of each individual. The trip to Panama La Vieja will cost \$20 each including transportation.

Saturday's dinner program will cost approximately US\$30.00 each plus drinks. The tours in the morning are paid for individually, but are quite inexpensive. The tour to the Casco Viejo may cost a bit more per person depending on how many go in a group it will be roughly \$30 per person plus whatever personal expenses are had along the way. separately and includes the minibus tour, the Palace of Parliament visit and the gala dinner.



Our Regional Meeting Hotel – Radisson Summit Golf and Spa

I chose this location because it's a new facility, it's close to the Canal, Gamboa (lake fishing and tours), the PGA golf course, it's 20 minutes from Panama City and only 35 minutes from Colon for those who wish to venture further out. I have locked in a rate of \$115 plus 10% tax per room for either a King size or 2 Queen beds.

The rate includes the following benefits:

- A welcoming beverage for all guests
- Buffet breakfast
- High speed Internet in the rooms and throughout the hotel
- Use of the pool and gym
- 30% discount on 18 holes of golf
- Express check in and check out

<http://www.radisson.com/hotels/pangolf/services>

<http://www.summitgolfpanama.com/>

OUR HOSTS

Your host for the Regional Meeting in Panama, Brett D. Mikkelson, first arrived Panama in 1990 just after the Panama Invasion "Just Cause". Brett's 20 year background in Latin America initiated with Military Intelligence, where he served in the U.S. Army as a Spanish Linguist Interrogator. Additional military training includes Source Handling, Background Investigations, Surveillance, study of Latin American cultures, Counter-Terrorism, Counter-Narcotics, and more. For a short period of 8 months, he also served with a U.S. Special Operations unit in Panama as an intelligence agent with the J-2 in their daily intelligence objectives, playing an important intelligence role in the unit's deployment missions.

Leaving the service in February, 1994, Mr. Mikkelson opened his first private investigation company, which was dedicated primarily to surveillance and general investigations in the country of Panama. He sold this company in 1998 and opened B.M. Investigations, Inc. with a vision of assisting clients and other investigators on a broader aspect. The concept of bringing all of the needed investigative and related services and contacts under one roof servicing the entire area of Central and South America.

Brett married the love of his life, Sayira Castroverde, on April 28, 2007 and together they have two sons Brett Jr (2yrs) and Brandon (5 months). Sayira runs the company's accounting department and also owns a Soy Candle business. They live together also with Kimberly (17yrs), Brett's daughter from a previous marriage. We're proud to say that Kimberly is going on to study medicine in the United States once she graduates high school at the end of the year.

CII's Regional Director for Central America, Seth Derish is a San Francisco native whose work as a private investigator is internationally recognized. When first licensed in California in 1978, many thought he was the youngest licensed investigator in the state's history as at the time he was only 24 years old. He has worked for most major law firms and financial institutions in Northern

California and his current clientele spans the globe. He partnered with a former judicial police agent, now attorney, to form Costa Rica Investigations, S.A. in 1997. The firm has helped several CII members in the region, not only conducting investigations, but providing leads to other investigators or just plain common sense travel information. Seth maintains his home with his Costa Rican wife and two children in the Heredia Province and has an office across from the Supreme Court in downtown San Jose. He can be reached by calling his U.S. number of 415-648-7007 or in CR at +506-2269-8659, Seth@privateeyes.com

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CII New Applicants

James LeViness
[Investigative Resolutions Inc.](#)
Commack, NY USA
jl@investigativeresolution.com
Applied: 11 March 2010

Harriet Gold
[Gold Investigations, Inc.](#)
Norcross, GA USA
harriet@goldinvestigations.com
Applied: 11 March 2010

John Fisher
JF Consulting Limited
Swindon, Wiltshire, UNITED KINGDOM
jfconsulting@btopenword.com
Applied: 19 April 2010

Andrew de Roy
[Business Intelligence Solutions](#)
Warsaw, POLAND
andrew.deroy@bis-intelligence.com
Applied: 27 April 2010

Caryn Davis
[Lakefront Investigations, Ltd.](#)
Deerfield, IL USA
cjd12354@aol.com
Applied: 13 May 2010