



**MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF
PROFESSIONAL INVESTIGATORS**

Up-Close

DECEMBER, 2023

MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF PROFESSIONAL INVESTIGATORS: 37637 FIVE MILE ROAD, #236, LIVONIA, MI 48154

www.mcpihome.com

MCPI MISSION STATEMENT: The Michigan Council of Professional Investigators (MCPI) is an organizational network of investigators from across the State of Michigan founded on integrity, professionalism, and high industry standards. Our organization will strive to provide investigators with education, legislative support, business opportunities, and synergistic forums to gather and exchange ideas. The MCPI members maintain the highest standard of this and confidentiality to promote trust and support amongst our clients and colleagues.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Jerry Hardesty

Greetings Members,

As we approach the New Year, I hope that everyone had a great holiday season and that you were able to share some valuable time with friends and family!

MCPI finished 2023 by hosting **CDITC's Criminal Defense Investigator training** in Lansing . We hosted private investigators from across the state for the 3-day intensive training class. Of the 45 participants who attended, 20 participants went on to take the certification test and passed to become CDITC certified criminal defense investigators. We also had one public defender (attorney) who attended the class. This is a very high percentage of participants who completed certification-congratulations' to all!

The Board of Directors met recently to review the membership survey results and begin planning for 2024. Thank you to those who provided feedback. Your input will be used to guide many activities in 2024. The majority of survey respondents said **Networking and Knowledge Sharing** are the most important benefits of an MCPI membership. The Board is working to provide even more meetings, training, and networking opportunities in 2024 with a focus on the topics that were most requested. We will be looking for MCPI members to become committee volunteers, webinar presenters, and regional representatives around Michigan to help make 2024 the best year ever. I encourage members to reach out to me directly, or to any Board Member if you want to be more involved in MCPI's progress.

We are planning quarterly in-person meetings at select locations throughout the State of Michigan in 2024, expanding from the Metro-Detroit area. Our first meeting will be held near Grand Rapids in February, so stay tuned for more details!

On February 28-29, MCPI will be offering **OSINT Tactical Investigations Training** in Lansing. Visit the MCPI website to register. Many of you will remember Michele Stewart as one of our most liked presenters at the Fall Conference in 2022. She has an amazing wealth of information for investigators utilizing internet searches, social media, and Open-Source Intelligence as a tool, which seems to be all of us! It is an absolute privilege to have her in Michigan for 2-days, so take advantage of this opportunity if you can!

Keep an eye out for other announcements and plans throughout the year. It is because of the strong involvement of MCPI membership that this organization is able to thrive and grow!! It will be critical for more membership involvement as we look to continue to improve MCPI. Your current board members are doing 99.99% of the work hosting events, and doing all of the planning for events, not to mention day-to-day operations of MCPI. The board is going to need to recruit MCPI members to join committees and assist as we move forward.

Happy New Year! I hope you all have a wonderful holiday and enter the new year safe and relaxed, ready to take on new challenges together. Thanks for your support and dedication-more will be asked of you in the near future!

Jerry Hardesty

2023 - 2024 MCPI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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SAVE THE DATES:

January 18, 2024 4:00 to 5:30 PM

Webinar - Human Trafficking

Speaker: Michael Morgan, MA, Teachout Security Solutions

No charge for MCPI Members - Please join us!!

February 28-29, 2023 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

OSINT Tactical Investigations Training

Presented by: Michele Stuart

Location: MSU Henry Center, Lansing, Michigan

September 12, 2024 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

2024 MCPI Fall Conference

Sign up now our website: www.mcpihome.com

2024 MCPI LISTSERV RULES & GUIDELINES:

One of the great benefits for MCPI Members has been our **listserv**. Every month we see outstanding communication, networking, shared ideas, help with locating experts, and referrals to cases around the State. This service provides us with an opportunity to meet and work with other PI's who we may not have previously known, to support each other, and to share our knowledge and experiences. As we continue to interact and support each other through the listserv, please also remember the importance of our listserv Rules and Guidelines:

This listserv is owned by MCPI and is a privilege to its members. Posts are not moderated and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or endorsement of MCPI. Please follow these rules:

- The listserv shall only be utilized by current MCPI members, in good standing.
 - The listserv may only be used as a means for discussion, networking, Q&A, and/or to otherwise further professional development within the professional investigation industry.
 - No reposting of other member's messages without their approval.
 - No flaming, profanity, obscenity, blatant advertising or libelous comments will be tolerated.
 - No personal attacks of any kind are allowed.
 - An identifying email signature is required on all posts.
 - Posts to this listserv are to concern areas of interest to MCPI and/or the field of professional investigators (PIs). This list is professional and business oriented.
 - No use of this listserv to address disputes with a member, non-member, or the MCPI.
 - No disseminating of messages from, or on behalf of, those that have been removed from the listserv or those that are not current MCPI members.
- **Any violation of these rules could result in a suspension or removal from the listserv and/or MCPI. Disciplinary Action for offenders will be acted upon at the discretion of the MCPI Board of Directors.

Thank you for your support of MCPI!

WELCOME to our newest Members:

Nathan Gross, Eric Luthy, Stephen Miller, Patrick Ong,
Thomas Paugh



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OSINT TACTICAL INVESTIGATIONS TRAINING

BY MICHELE STUART

OSINT in TACTICAL INVESTIGATIONS: Identifying Actionable Intelligence

The internet provides investigators with the ability to ascertain information on subjects efficiently. Focusing on the individual is not always the answer. Identifying actionable intelligence is an extremely important aspect in research to assist in the identification, movement, business associations, relatives, addresses / telephone numbers of individuals. Additionally, correct searches of social media platforms can assist in identifying suspects and witnesses in an investigation. In this class, you will learn how to utilize correct search patterns, identify and use open source resources and search social media platforms.

Course Objectives

- ✓ Artificial Intelligence / Sock Puppets / Facial Recognition
- ✓ Search Engines and Effective Searching Techniques
- ✓ Internet Open Sources - Actional Intelligence
- ✓ Public Record Searches / Domain ID / Misc
- ✓ Using Social Networking Sites
- ✓ Geo-locational Abilities from Applications

February 28-29, 2024

8:00am - 5:00pm

Location:

MSU Henry Center for Executive Development
3535 Forest Road, Lansing, MI 48910

Hotel: Candlewood Suites - East Lansing

3545 Forest Road, Lansing, MI 48910

Phone: 517-351-8181

Studio Suite \$ 99/night

1-Bedroom Suite \$139/night

Registration Fee: \$495

Includes continental breakfast and buffet lunch

No refunds for cancellations after February 21st

Contact MCPI:

- ☎ 517-482-0706
- 🌐 www.mcpihome.com
- 📍 37637 Five Mile Road #236
Livonia, MI 48154

Register at:

www.mcpihome.com/calendar.php

FEATURED SLEUTH

By Russ Rheume

Meet George Gergis, Certified Legal Investigator. George has been a private sector investigator since 1990 and is one of less than 80 Certified Legal Investigators in the country as well as a Board Certified Criminal Defense Investigator and Insurance Fraud Certified.

He is currently the principal investigator for Investigative Support Unit, Inc. in Northern Indiana and Chicago, Illinois specializing in Legal and Corporate Investigations. He has been handling a variety of criminal and civil cases, including cases in some of the most urban areas of our country and some of the most rural areas.

George started working as an investigator when Kodak was still making camera film, and his office was receiving calls on rotary phones. He is licensed in multiple states and works for attorneys and law firms throughout the region and nation.



During his career, George has worked for various Regional, National and International investigative firms and has held some of the highest positions in management, including Vice-President of Operations, Surveillance Director, Investigations Supervisor, Chief Investigator, as well as Senior Investigator and Field Investigator.

Tired of the bureaucratic and profit focus management of cases, George left the corporate culture over a decade ago to go his own way and started Investigative Support Unit. Where he can practice his trade by focusing on a lead generating methodology approach to investigations and on seeking the truth without limitations, so that justice can be facilitated for his clients.

He drinks more coffee than a human should be allowed to drink, and over the years of working cases ranging from some of the most sophisticated to some of the nastiest cases he has advanced his sarcasm to the point that sometimes he does not even know he's joking.

George has also committed much of his volunteer time to the profession by assisting and leading efforts with many associations in our profession. He is currently the President and INspi (Indiana Society of Professional Investigators) and during his leadership developed a Quality Standards for Investigations Guide, which is the foundation for an accreditation program for investigative firms. He is also the Assistant National Director for NALI (National Association of Legal Investigators) and has assistant in the implementation and oversight of many programs in our field.

FEATURED SLEUTH (cont.)

George grew up in the Chicago area and then moved to the warmth of the Sunshine State, where he started his career. It was in Florida where he met a spring breaker from Indiana; he later married her and return to the Midwest where they raised their two children. When he gets a chance, he enjoys being outdoors during the sunset and playing golf during the afternoons.

George can be contacted at:

GEORGE GERGIS, Legal Investigator | INVESTIGATIVE SUPPORT UNIT

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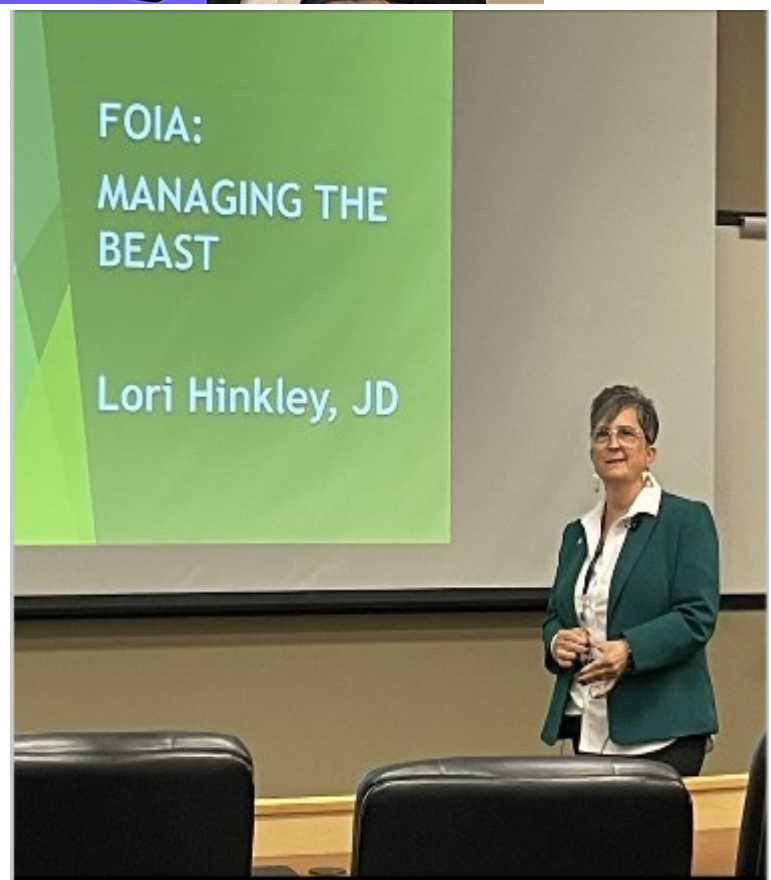
Security Talk, by Joe Koenig

Unfortunately, these are issues you should think about:

- 1. When you go out for dinner/drinks, leave your purse or other carry items in the trunk of your car. If you need to carry something, make sure it is on your person. If something goes down, you need to exit that location as fast as possible. You can't be looking for your carry-in items. Even if you get out alive, because it's a crime scene, you won't have access to anything you left behind for at least a week.**
- 2. Also, as you enter your location (even if outside), take note of all the possible exits. In panic situations, everyone will try to go out the door they entered. Take advantage of the closest/alternative exits and make sure everyone in your party knows where they are.**
- 3. Think about your seating locations and make sure the trained observers in your party are facing locations where issues may develop (the front door, side doors) and be ready when someone in the party says, "Let's go!" and follow them as they lead you out.**
- 4. Think about these things beforehand. In panic situations, you do what your training taught you to do.**
- 5. Share this with your children!!!**

2023 MCPI Fall Conference

All of our Speakers did an amazing job at the Fall Conference, we want to thank: Kelly Riddle for his insight on surveillance and fraud investigations; Jennifer Brown for sharing her knowledge of using Genealogy during Investigations; and Lori Hinkley for helping us all to further understand the FOIA process.



2023 CRIMINAL DEFENSE INVESTIGATION TRAINING

In October, MCPI held a 3-day Criminal Defense Investigation Training with Brandon Perron. The training class was excellent. There were 45 attendees, including 18 MCPI members. After the training, many participants took a written test and applied to become Board-Certified Criminal Defense Investigators (CCDI). Congratulations to all new *Certified Criminal Defense Investigators*! A special THANK YOU to Instructor Brandon Perron, he did an amazing job during this detailed 3-day Seminar!



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