



**MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF
PROFESSIONAL INVESTIGATORS**

MCPI SUMMER NEWSLETTER

August 2018

MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF PROFESSIONAL INVESTIGATORS | 37637 Five Mile Rd, #236, Livonia, MI 48154

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MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF PROFESSIONAL INVESTIGATORS

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 ethics and confidentiality to promote trust and support amongst our clients and colleagues.*

In This Issue...

President’s Message	2
MCPI Board of Directors	3
MCPI Intervenes with Amicus Brief to Attorney General’s Office	4
2018 Annual Training Conference	5
Featured Sleuth.....	6
Unlicensed Activity Committee (UAC) Report	7
MCPI 2018 Spring Membership Meeting Photos.....	8
MCPI New Website	9
Keep Your Information Updated in the MCPI Database.....	9
Safety, Security & The Professional Investigator	10
Good Read—Recommendation	12
MCPI Vendor Sponsors	13

Save the Date!

October 10, 2018

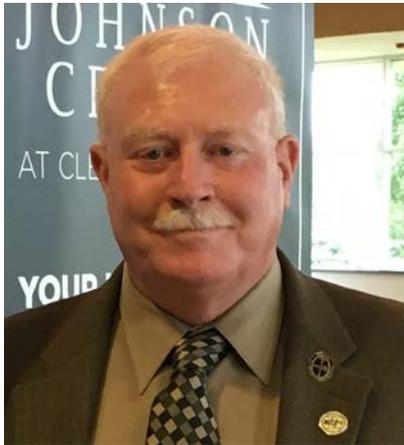
Annual Training Event

MSU Henry Center (Lansing, MI)

Register Online!

www.mcpihome.com

President's Message



Dear Members,

As I write this, we are almost wrapping up with summer 2018. Wishing our members a healthy and happy summer season.

MCPI continues to add new members, some are former law enforcement, some are former investigators in other occupations and some are students who are looking for a foothold or a hand in starting a brand-new career as a private investigator. MCPI is getting more traffic to our website with people searching for help with a variety of investigations—we refer people back to the “find an investigator” tab, letting them know to search by location and specialty area. If you’ve not updated your information on the website recently, take a quick look and make sure your information is up to date.

Your MCPI Board of Directors, along with a few others in support, donate a lot of time to keep MCPI a valuable tool for our membership. I would ask our members to take a moment to say thank you to your Board - Steve Crane, Cheri Gelnak, Jane Boudreau, Katherine Johnson, Mike Cook and Jim Schoenherr. Also, to our Committee Chairs - Candace Ivy, Legislative Chair; Mike Cote, Election Chair; and Sue Hardesty who works to assist Katherine Johnston, Website Chair. Again, ALL of these members donate a tremendous amount of time working on MCPI business for our membership

Looking forward to seeing everyone in Lansing on October 10th—have a safe summer!

Sincerely,

Jerry Hardesty

President, MCPI

MCPI Board of Directors

President



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MCPI Intervenes with Amicus Brief to Attorney General's Office

On March 30, 2018, the Michigan Attorney General's office served a search warrant on MCPI member, *N1 Discovery, LLC*. The search warrant required N1 Discovery to release all materials (i.e., forensic images, reports, email, invoices, etc.) including attorney communications, related to a current N1 Discovery matter. N1 Discovery refused to surrender the material, invoking the investigator privilege and citing the Michigan Professional Investigator's Act, MCL 338.821, et seq. The Michigan Attorney General's office then filed a show cause order in Wayne County Circuit Court to compel N1 Discovery to surrender all requested material.

After N1 Discovery's attorneys filed briefs in support of its position, N1 Discovery reached out to the MCPI to inform them of the challenge to the statutory investigator privilege designated in the Michigan Professional Investigator's Act.

MCPI supported N1 Discovery and engaged the law firms of *Akouri & Associates* and the *Makowski Legal Group* to file an amicus curiae brief on behalf of the MCPI. The MCPI attorneys prepared the brief, citing the Michigan Professional Investigator's Act, MCL 338.821, et seq., as well as the case of *Ravary v Reed*, 163 Mich App 447; 415 NW2d 240 (1987), outlining that the information being sought by the Attorney General's search warrant was protected by the statutory investigator privilege and that N1 Discovery would be in violation of the law if it released the material.

After the Michigan Attorney General's office received the briefs supporting N1 Discovery's position, the Attorney General's Office agreed that the Michigan Professional Investigator's Act did establish the investigator privilege and withdrew their search warrant and show cause request.

The MCPI was instrumental in supporting its member and protecting the Michigan Professional Investigator's Act for ALL licensed professional investigators!

2018 Annual Training Conference

REGISTER ONLINE NOW! → www.mcpihome.com

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2018

MCPI's Annual Training Day will be held on October 10, 2018, at Michigan State University's *Henry Center for Executive Development* in Lansing, Michigan.

We will be hosting an informative and captivating line-up of presenters. Presentation topics include:

- [Fraud Within Troubled Companies: Case Studies and Investigative Strategies](#)
Bob Krawczyk, CFE, CPA, Mackinac Partners
- [Indigent Defense Commission: Overview and Opportunities for PIs](#)
Marla McCowan and Tonya Grillo
- [Marijuana in Michigan: Opportunities for PIs](#)
Steve Miller, G&S Private Investigations
- [PI Industry Legislative Update](#)
Candace Ivy, Legislative Chair
- [Complex Investigations & Interviewing Techniques](#)
William Kucyk, Action Impact

We will also announce the results of the 2018 MCPI Board of Directors Election. Thank you to all who have voted in this election!

We will host this training at **MSU's Henry Center**, an award-winning conference center, located at **3535 Forest Road, Lansing, MI 48910**. For your convenience, this venue is connected to the **Candlewood Suites** hotel, where overnight guests can enjoy membership privileges to the University Club of MSU, a full-service spa and fitness center, complimentary parking, and discounts at the Forest Akers Golf Course. **MCPI has secured special overnight rates at this hotel for our training attendees!**

Registration for this event is live at www.mcpihome.com. As space is limited, please register as soon as possible! If you need to pay at the door, please notify us **no later than** October 1, 2018, by sending an email to kjohnston@mackinacpartners.com.

Venue Website: www.msuhenrycenter.org

Venue Phone: (517) 353-4350

We look forward to seeing you in October!

Featured Sleuth

Written By: Russ Rheume



Edward (Ed) T. White of Edward T. White and Son Professional Services, L.L.C. is our current Featured Sleuth. Ed was born in Fitzhugh, Arkansas. The family moved to Michigan and settled in Inkster, where Ed attended and graduated from Inkster High School. After graduation he went to the Detroit Institute of Technology and Eastern Michigan University majoring in Special Education and Psychology.

While attending college, Ed was drafted in the U.S. Army and spent twenty-one (21) months in Alaska. During his stint in Alaska, he enrolled in classes at the University of Alaska. He then served in Vietnam as a Medical Specialist. After being Honorably Discharged, he joined the Detroit Police Department (DPD) in 1968. During the twenty-seven (27) years Ed spent with DPD, he was eventually put in charge of the Liquor Enforcement Division Vice and License Section. Liquor Enforcement was responsible to oversee activity in all the bars, party stores and blind pigs in the City of Detroit, anywhere liquor was sold. Ed retired in 1996 from the Detroit Police Department.

In 1998, Ed obtained his Professional Investigator's License. He specializes in appeals for incarcerated inmates. He looks for ulterior motives, alternate theories, etc. Ed also investigates insurance fraud claims, conducts surveillance, and executes other types of investigations for his clients.

Ed has been married to his wife, Sandra Ruth White, for 49 years. Sandra worked as a Social Worker for the State of Michigan. They have two children: daughter, Dionne Denise White, and son, Edward Austin White. Dionne is a Mathematical Statistician for the Center for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta. Edward works for the Wayne County Friend of the Court, setting up and scheduling cases for parents who owe support.

Ed is an avid chess player. He played for the chess team while at Eastern University and continues the challenge privately with friends and associates. Ed and Sandra have gone to Las Vegas and Georgia to visit their daughter and love to travel to other places around the country.

Edward T. White and Son Professional Services, L.L.C. has a mailing address of: P.O. BOX 351021, Detroit, MI 48235

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Unlicensed Activity Committee (UAC) Report

Earlier this year, it was brought to our attention that four (4) agencies in the state were possibly operating as professional investigators without a license. The MCPI was founded on integrity, professionalism, and high industry standards, and we take claims like these very seriously. Our members maintain the highest standard of ethics and confidentiality to promote trust and support amongst clients and colleagues, and practices such as operating a professional investigations agency without a license can tarnish the positive public image that we strive to maintain. Upon hearing these allegations, MCPI acted on the information provided to review and research these agencies.

Entity One

- Advertises as providing services in: employee theft prevention, detection; residential and commercial alarms; and undercover shoppers;
- Has never been issued a Professional Investigator's license in the state of Michigan;
- Operating since 2002 under President (*name omitted*).

Entity Two

- Virginia corporation with Midwest office located in Michigan;
- Branded as a background screening and risk management corporation providing pre-employment screening services such as drug-testing and fingerprinting services;
- Has never been issued a Professional Investigator's license in the state of Michigan;
- Operating from 2003 under (*name omitted*) until being sold 3/31/2018.

Entity Three

- Advertises as providing services in: criminal searches; civil searches; driver's license checks; and more;
- Professional Investigator license lapsed in 2006 and has not been renewed since;
- Operating since 2001 under (*name omitted*) and (*name omitted*).

Entity Four

- Advertises as providing services in: pre-employment screening; background investigations; court record retrievals; employment verification; and more;
- Professional Investigator license lapsed in 2016 and has not been renewed since;
- Operating since 2000 under President (*name omitted*).

As licensed professional investigators ourselves, we are aware that the services these agencies provide may constitute as investigative services and thus violate the Michigan Professional Licensure Act, and can face felony charges. With that information, we filed a complaint with the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) Inspections and Investigations section, to take action and received a Notice of Response from Respondent in April. In conclusion, after filing our complaints and receiving their responses, we submitted secondary responses and await final decision from LARA.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jim Schoenherr, MCPI Sergeant at Arms, UAC Chair

MCPI 2018 Spring Membership Meeting Photos

Mt. Brighton Ski Resort—Mt. Brighton, MI



MCPI New Website

www.mcpihome.com



In June, MCPI launched a new website which brought many improvements to members. The new website tool is also used for:

- Maintaining membership data
- Member portal (including ability to edit your profile and listing, view purchase receipts, and utilize Q&A forums)
- Online payment of dues
- Directory of all active MCPI members and PIs
- Online “members only” access to presentation deliverables
- Event registration and management
- Email blasts to all MCPI members
- Announcements and newsletters

It is important that you ‘*verify*’ your email address so that you can be included in mass e-mailings if you haven’t already done so. You should have received an email with a link to do the verification and create your login for the website.

Please contact Katherine Johnston (kjohnston@mackinacpartners.com) or Sue Hardesty (sue@hardestyPI.com) if you need additional information or assistance.

Keep Your Information Updated in the MCPI Database

Using the Member Portal on the MCPI website you can update your contact information, areas of specialty, and choose what information is displayed on the membership list.

MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF PROFESSIONAL INVESTIGATORS

HOME ABOUT US MEMBER INFO EVENTS MEMBERSHIP NEWS CONTACT US

MEMBER AREA

Member Information Editor
Renew Now
Membership List
Surveys
Classifieds
Downloads
Add a Prospect
View My Order History

Welcome Katherine Johnston, CFE. **LOG OUT**

Please take a few moments to verify your information is correct.

Safety, Security & The Professional Investigator

Written By: Kitty Hailey, CLI

A majority of investigators are sole practitioners. Routines vary from day to day. There is generally no set pattern to life in the field of investigation as cases don't happen 9 – 5. Witnesses aren't always home during the regular work day. Fortunately, this allows ample time to play golf and arrange a schedule around picking up children from day care. Unfortunately, it creates a safety issue. Interviews are often conducted in the homes of strangers, in rough neighborhoods and after dark. We sometimes forget to think of ourselves first. The issue of personal safety is infrequently raised; yet it is the most important part of an investigator's job.

In my own experience as a criminal defense, civil rights and personal injury investigator I can attest to numerous harrowing experiences where danger came in unexpected forms. I clearly remember the growling Pitbull I did not see when I walked up the front porch steps, the reluctant witness with the sawed-off shotgun, the enamored client who believed I was much more than just his investigator and the 6'6" brothers who physically muscled me out the door because they were angry at me for representing the man who killed their friend.

As an investigator with the Federal Defender Capital Habeas Unit the issue of safety came in many forms. We worked around the country and most often, alone. I would take one or two airplanes to my destination and then rent a car to drive more than a hundred miles into the Ozarks or up into rural West Virginia. While beautiful places to hike and vacation with family and friends, they are truly frightening to navigate alone while tired and unsure if the witness to a decades old murder is truly interested in having an engaging conversation with a stranger from Philly. In my long experience as a professional investigator I have navigated swollen backwoods rivers in a Ford Fiesta, outrun one tornado and hunkered down for two more; alone and frightened. I've bravely stood up to gang members in the "Badlands" of North Philadelphia and squeamishly watched bugs, rats and assorted rodents nibbling off of garbage on the floors of trailers in rural America as I attempted to keep my composure and continue with an interview.

Even with a gun permit in one state, there is not always the ability to carry in another. And then, would that really put me at an advantage? Or is my handy pepper mace a better friend? Are the three years of Ju-jitsu sufficient to protect me against the 280 lb. Quarterback who doesn't want to talk to me? I go to the gym every day, but is that going to save me if I'm followed or kidnapped or held hostage in a stranger's home? I ask myself these questions and I worry about those that do not.

The growing interest in our profession has hundreds of young men and women entering into a field on nothing but the promise of adventure. Every media depiction of an investigative female is a beautiful young woman with guts, grit and a gun. Every young man is handsome, viral and capable of slamming a 300 lb. uncooperative witness against an iron fence. In truth, the rosy picture of adventure and excitement is replete with potholes and pitfalls. Like realtor's who are asked to show a home in the woods in the dark, we are setting ourselves up as victims if we are not aware of our own safety issues.

As the former owner/operator of a rather large predominately female investigative agency I used to have safety classes monthly. They consisted of either a safety demonstration by a trained personal safety expert or a practical class in the best places to kick, punch or place a well pointed fingernail on an assailant. My own advice (which I follow) was to do the following:

1. Attempt to make planned appointments at a neutral and safe location: restaurant, coffee shop, library, or other public place with semi-privacy access.

2. If a cold call, scope out the neighborhood first (Google is amazingly handy) and recognize routes of exit before parking your car.
3. Remove any enticing materials from the seats of your vehicle or the view of passersby. That includes wrapped gifts, laptop computers, and bags of merchandise or money in the center console. Put them in the trunk BEFORE entering a neighborhood.
4. Women should not carry a pocketbook. It's something that can be taken away easily. Put ID in your pocket or wear a lanyard. There is never need to bring money into a witness's home. Lock it up in the trunk or leave it home.
5. Carry only what you need (cell phone, notepad, statement forms, pens, pencils, recording devices and business cards). Less is more. Mobility is less hampered if there is not much to grab while running. And yes, sometimes we all have to run...or move very quickly.
6. If it's dark or late or the location is iffy, call a friend. Professional associations are a great source of helpful colleagues who are sometimes needed to provide a show of strength. A woman or man walking alone at night from a distant parking space to the home of a stranger is often viewed as a target for robbery, a suspected drug purchaser or a complete idiot for being in a rotten neighborhood after 9 pm.
7. Tell someone of your destination. Even if you do not work with anyone there are options. Leave your schedule and the name and address of the intended destination on your desk. At least it will make it easy for law enforcement to pick up your trail. My own habit is simple. I call a trusted friend and provide the name and address of my destination. I also provide the telephone number for the local police or in many cases, forestry service. My instructions were simple: call me in one hour if I don't report in to you. If you do not reach me in an hour and a half, call the police and give them my info. Again, it might just make it easy to find the body, but that's something.
8. Above all, be aware and be alert. Don't text and walk, especially in a strange neighborhood. Keep your cell phone handy with 911 dialed in but not sent. Pressing one button in an emergency is easier than pressing four.

Do I sound like a worry wart? Maybe. Mostly I want investigators everywhere, men and women alike, to be conscious of the fact that our world is real. People we encounter are unpredictable. There is a level of trust and respect which we should give to others, but we would be foolish to expect it in return.

Kitty Hailey, CLI, was presented with the NALI Publisher Award at the 2018 Annual NALI Conference.

Good Read—Recommendation

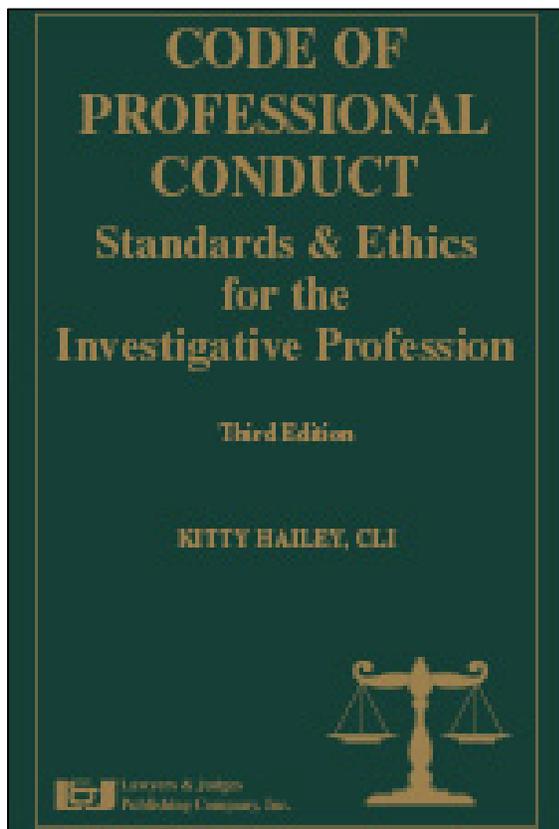
Code of Professional Conduct, By Kitty Hailey, CLI

Standards & Ethics for the Investigative Profession

3rd Edition

The third edition of ethical standards for the professional private investigator will provide you with tools that will clarify and simplify the manner in which you as an investigator should interact with members of the public and within our ranks. Our profession demands that the most diligent, honest and professional conduct be afforded those who pay for the services of the investigator. This third edition has honed the way this is best accomplished.

To order this book go to: www.kittyhailey.com



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