



The Source

Sep 2026

The latest news, company stories, and industry updates.

INSIDE

Behind the scenes

Stories form the front lines of criminal defense investigations

Industry Update

Covering important topics in criminal defense.

Referral Group

Spotlighting experts in our industry who make a lasting difference inside and outside the courtroom.



Beyond the Charge: Investigation Matters

Some cases remind us exactly why defense investigation matters.

One Logic Source Co-Owner and Criminal Defense Investigator Laura Gallardo-Chandler recently worked alongside defense attorney Emily Croucher on a case involving a client who was originally facing an extremely serious charge of First Degree Rape involving a child under the age of 12.

From the beginning, Laura believed there was far more to the story than what appeared in the initial allegations, and she was

determined to thoroughly investigate the circumstances surrounding the case.

The investigation was not easy. Several critical witnesses, including the child's mother, were experiencing homelessness, making them difficult to locate and maintain contact with. Laura continued working to locate witnesses, conduct interviews, follow up on information, and develop facts that were important to the defense.

That persistence mattered.

Through the combined efforts of the defense team, attorney Emily Croucher ultimately secured a resolution that dramatically changed the client's circumstances. The original charge was resolved through a plea to Wanton Endangerment with a five-year sentence. Because the client had already served the required time, he was released from custody.

For Laura and the One Logic Source team, seeing the client walk out of jail represented more than the conclusion of a case. It was a reminder of why defense investigators continue digging even when witnesses are difficult to locate, circumstances are complicated, and the allegations are serious.

The client's next chapter is just as important. He has voluntarily chosen to enter rehabilitation and continue working toward sobriety. He recognizes the role drugs played in the circumstances that brought him into the criminal justice system and is determined not to return to that life.

A criminal charge tells you what someone has been accused of. It does not tell you the entire story.

Defense investigation means finding the people who are difficult to find, asking questions that still need to be asked, and continuing to investigate when giving up would be easier.

At One Logic Source, we don't assume. We investigate.



Referral Group Spotlight: Visitor Day!

The OLS Referral Group is opening its virtual doors for a special Visitor Day on October 21st at 12:00 PM Eastern.

Our referral group brings together professionals from a variety of industries with one goal in mind: building meaningful business relationships and creating opportunities to support one another through trusted referrals.

Visitor Day is a chance to sit in on a meeting, meet current members, learn how the group operates, and see whether the network could be a good fit for your business. There is **no cost to attend** and no obligation to join.

Whether you're looking to expand your professional network, develop new referral partnerships, or simply connect with other business professionals, we invite you to join us.

For meeting information or to reserve your spot, contact april.merkel@onelogicsource.com.



Welcoming Ryan Smith to the Team

We're excited to welcome Ryan Smith to One Logic Source as our newest investigator, joining the team in October.

Ryan brings an unusually broad investigative background spanning law enforcement, violent crime investigations, federal court work, and private investigations. He began his law enforcement career in 2008 and later spent several years with the Madison County Sheriff's Office in Tennessee, where he served as a patrol deputy and investigator with the Violent Crimes Unit.

During that time, Ryan investigated cases involving homicide, violent crime, crimes against children, financial evidence, and digital evidence, following cases from the initial scene through prosecution. His experience also includes extensive interviewing and interrogation work, case documentation, and courtroom testimony.

Ryan is also a graduate of the National Forensic Academy at the University of Tennessee, completing hundreds of hours of specialized

October 21st | 12:00 PM Eastern | Virtual | Free to Attend



Attorney Spotlight: Zach Baber

This month we're highlighting Zach Baber of Baber & Baber, P.C. in Columbia City, Indiana.

Zach is a criminal defense attorney who handles everything from misdemeanors and OWIs to serious felony cases. Before going into private practice, he worked as a public defender and also spent time working with the Kentucky Innocence Project, giving him experience with criminal cases from a few different angles.

Criminal defense is also something that runs in the family. Zach grew up watching his father practice law, which helped shape his own interest in advocating for people going through some of the hardest moments of their lives. He later attended Salmon P. Chase College of Law, where he focused heavily on trial advocacy, storytelling, and jury selection.

Today, Zach practices throughout Northeast Indiana and handles criminal defense, DUI/OWI cases, expungements, record sealing, and restoration of firearm rights.

forensic training, including coursework in areas such as bloodstain pattern analysis and shooting incident reconstruction. He holds a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and is a graduate of the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy.

In 2018, Ryan began working as a U.S. Probation Officer with the United States District Court for the Western District of Tennessee, where his role included managing a high-volume federal caseload involving both pretrial and post-conviction matters. His work included background investigations, behavioral and threat-related risk assessments, structured interviewing, and the evaluation of complex information used in federal court proceedings.

That combination of field investigation, forensic training, and federal experience gives Ryan a perspective that fits extremely well with the work we do. His background strengthens our capabilities in criminal defense investigations, complex case analysis, violent crime matters, background investigations, interviews, and cases involving extensive records or evidence review.

We're looking forward to having Ryan on board and to the additional experience and expertise he'll bring to our clients and our investigative team beginning this October.

Outside of the courtroom, Zach coaches football at Central Noble High School, is a husband and father of two, and created Build My Law Practice to help other attorneys navigate building and growing their own practices.

We're glad to have another experienced criminal defense attorney in our network and look forward to getting to know Zach better!



Intern Spotlight: Welcome Summer South

We're excited to welcome Summer South as our new intern!

Summer is currently studying Business Administration at Georgetown College and brings experience in customer service along with strong communication, organizational, leadership, and computer skills.

As part of her internship, Summer will be helping run our office on **Saturdays** while also spending time with our team during the week to gain hands on investigative training and learn more about the



BNI Spotlight: Enhancing Life Gym

For many people, walking into a gym can feel intimidating, especially if you've never considered yourself a "gym person," you're working through pain or an injury, or you simply aren't sure where to begin. Enhancing Life Gym was built to offer something different.

Enhancing Life Gym is a small, welcoming space designed to meet people where they are. Their semi private training sessions allow each person to follow an individualized program at their own pace, while still having a coach nearby for guidance and support. There's no pressure to keep up with the person next to you and no one size fits all workout.

Many of their clients come in managing chronic pain, osteoporosis, recovering from surgery, or simply feeling uncertain about what their body is capable of after years away from exercise. The focus is on safely building strength, confidence, and independence in a way that makes sense for each individual.

And the goal extends well beyond the gym. Whether it's keeping up with family, working in the yard, traveling, getting up and down from the floor, or continuing a favorite hobby, Enhancing Life Gym helps people build the

day to day work that goes into private investigations.

We're looking forward to giving Summer the opportunity to learn more about the field, develop new skills, and gain practical experience while also becoming an important part of our office operations.

Please join us in welcoming Summer to the team!

strength they need to keep doing the things that matter to them.

That same focus on quality of life carries into the gym's community programming. On **Saturday, October 24, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**, Enhancing Life Gym will host **Navigating Elderly Care with Lauren Sword**. The conversation will cover home care, independent living, assisted living, memory care, and nursing homes, including how families can begin making these decisions before they reach a crisis point. The event will also address an important part of elderly care that can sometimes be overlooked: supporting the family members and loved ones who step into caregiving roles.

To learn more about Enhancing Life Gym, visit **[EnhancingLifeGym.com](https://enhancinglifegym.com)**.