



# California Network for Licensed Investigators

Your FREE Networking Resource for the California Professional Investigator

## CNLI QUARTERLY

Fall 2019

### CNLI VOLUNTEERS

We are completely a volunteer group with openings for managing the List Serve, Membership, Newsletters, and other positions.

### NETWORK SUCCESS

CNLI can only become a success with your help. Please invite friends and colleagues to join our FREE investigator network. Again, the only requirement is that they are licensed.

### NEWSLETTER

The newsletter will be digitally distributed in a pdf format. It is also expected to be much more extensive in the future. We are looking for submissions such as related news articles, industry articles, etc. If you are not the author, we will ensure, with the authors permission, that they receive credit for their piece.

### Why join CNLI?

Are you looking for a new way to meet and network with fellow investigators but, want to save time and money?

Are you just starting out and need work? Or are you established, yet need to expand your pool of contacts?

There are over 10,000 P.I.s in California, yet only 10% are members of an association. CNLI offers the platform for you to enhance your networking for FREE! Join us and many other professionals at:

[www.CNLI-group.com](http://www.CNLI-group.com)

### Legislative Update



Thanks to the members of CALI, it is being reported that the California Licensed Investigator industry will have an exemption written into CA Assembly Bill AB 5, which otherwise would have eliminated sub-contractors for P.I.'s, requiring them to be employees.

### California governor signs gig economy labor bill into law

September 18, 2019



SAN FRANCISCO (Reuters) - California Governor Gavin Newsom on Wednesday signed into law a controversial labor bill, AB 5, which spells out when companies must treat "gig economy" contract workers as employees.

The new law has been opposed by companies that depend heavily on independent workers, including ride hailing and delivery services.



Please bear with us as we build the website and develop the services. We have already encountered some minor issues using free software that we are trying to either revise or replace; the website address being one such issue.



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### Investigator Spotlight

**Thomas Sheridan**  
**Affiliated Investigative Services**  
**P.I. # 7799**

After graduating from Arizona State University, Thomas Sheridan taught Elementary School in Phoenix Arizona. He relocated to Southern California and in 1963 and became employed by Robert Marshall Investigations. That began his career as a Private Investigator. Tom remained in the business and over the years he worked as a Field Investigator Supervisor and Office Manager at several investigation agencies.

In 1975 Tom opened Affiliated Investigative Services a State of California Licensed Private Investigation Agency. While his agency conducts primarily Sub-Rosa in State and Longshore matters, he said he and his employees have handled just about every type of investigation imaginable. When speaking about the "old" days, he describes "Rope-Jobs" a method / trick used by investigators to entice individuals who had disability claims to be active. As he says, they were fun days until in the very early 1970's when the State Courts became involved and eventually prohibited Rope-Jobs. Investigators were then forced to go back to long hours of boring surveillance.

Tom says never in a thousand years did I expect to spend my life as a Private Investigator. My Father was an attorney and I heard him speak of investigators. It was only after I became involved in the business that I not only enjoyed the work but I felt I had knack for it.

After 56 years Tom and Affiliated Investigative Services are still going strong. Tom is ready, willing and able to assist any investigator in any way he can.

### Did you know?

When Tom started working in the P.I. industry, his camera system was the same one that Marine Corps Sgt. Bill Genaut used during the flag raising at Iwo Jima in 1945.



The Bell & Howell Auto Master





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Please visit our [Useful Links](#) page we created on our website, designed for your research convenience. We plan to update and add to the list routinely. If you know of any useful research links, please feel free to suggest them.

Here are a couple useful CA codes to research and know.

California Civil Code 1708.8 (drones)  
California Penal Code 637.7 (GPS)

### IMPLIED CONTRACTS

When I opened my business in 1999, my first business contract was maybe three paragraphs contained on one page. Today, it has expanded to four pages; sometimes due to recommendations from seasoned investigators or attorney David Queen, while other times it was updated in response to a bad experience when dealing with a difficult client.

In the normal course of business when taking in a new client and/or case, you go through the routine consultation process: discussing the facts, work to be performed, costs from start to finish, retainer amount, etc. where terms of the agreement are fully and explicitly stated. This is an Express Contract, where you have four basic elements: An Agreement, Consideration, Contractual Capacity and Legality.

However, it is not uncommon to accept a rush case over the phone from a law firm or business where maybe there is not time to meet the client or draft a detailed contract. When you start to perform the work, this could be considered an Implied Contract. You reached a verbal agreement, performed the service and the client had an opportunity to reject the service. This verbal agreement can be very weak in court if your fees or services ever come into question.

I have always found it effective in the interim of meeting with the client, to write a quick Thank You email encapsulating our conversation and the quick details of the case such as hourly rate, scope of investigation, etc. as documentation to support your side of the agreement should there ever be a dispute. Additionally, should the client expand the scope of the investigation, make certain the change is documented and reiterated with the client.



### Santa Barbara Surveillance Systems

[www.sbsurvco.com](http://www.sbsurvco.com)

**1-800-961-2100**