

OCTOBER 2023 EDITION



CALI JOURNAL

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF LICENSED INVESTIGATORS



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Founded in 1947, CALI is a non-profit organization devoted to protecting and enhancing the private investigation industry in California and the United States.

CALI is the largest Private Investigator association in the world. With 1100 members throughout the country, CALI is focused on advancing the industry through a strong legislative program and numerous educational offerings, including an annual conference, Webinars, new licensee training, professional development programs, and CALI's proprietary Certified Professional Investigator (CPI) designation to qualified investigators in California.

CALI has a full-time lobbyist in Sacramento. CALI's legislative advocate interfaces with California legislators to protect Private Investigators' ability to serve their clients, as well as to support and oppose legislation impacting all California Private Investigators.

CALI strives to protect the consumers' rights while advocating for access to all public records and data that professional investigations can responsibly access.

CALI Active members are licensed by the California Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) and the Bureau of Security and Investigative Services (BSIS). As a professional organization, CALI is managed by a volunteer Board of Directors comprising members throughout California and an Executive Director, retained full-time to support CALI and its programs.

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California Association of Licensed Investigators
26895 Aliso Creek Rd #B-485
Aliso Viejo, CA 92656 USA
949-715-5401
info@cali-pi.org

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26895 Aliso Creek Rd #B-485
Aliso Viejo, CA 92656

Maria Lagunas
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949-715-5401
949-502-0450 Fax
info@cali-pi.org
www.cali-pi.org

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President's Message

Frank W. Huntington, III, CPI



CALI President Frank W. Huntington, III

It took a few days, but I finally recovered from CALI's 2023 54th Annual Conference held in the beautiful Sonoma Wine Country. All the hard work, planning and preparation put in by Conference Chairs Chad Ragan and Roberto Rivera, CPI, along with the committee, and CALI Executive Director Maria Lagunas made this one of the best conferences CALI has ever put on! The only problem now is that we must continue topping ourselves, which will be difficult to do!

We had attendees from not only all over the United States, but from England, Mexico, South Korea and Ukraine. Shout out to our Big 3 Partners: Bill Ferguson and Bob Washington from Texas, and Tim and Amy O'Rourke from Florida. Thanks to our national partners at NCISS who held their Board meeting and elections during our conference. Congratulations to their new President Kelly Cory, and elected board members Cynthia Cavalié-Gonzalez and Hanley Chan.



NCISS President Kelly Cory and
CALI President Frank W. Huntington, III

Speaking of NCISS, at our Annual Business Meeting, CALI and NCISS member John Talaganis presented our own Jerry Desmond with the John J. Duffy Memorial Achievement Award. This award is the highest honor NCISS bestows. Congratulations Jerry, very well deserved!

Our first keynote speaker was Sacramento County District Attorney Thien Ho who presented on his life story and his prosecution of the Golden State Killer. Thien did an excellent job and had the crowd on the edge of their seats! The conference continued with several break-out sessions very well attended and appreciated by the attendees.



L-R: FALI VP Tim O'Rourke, CALI
President Frank W. Huntington, III
and TALI President Bill Ferguson

Friday evening came the President's Banquet where it was my great honor to present the CALI President's Award to both Chad Ragan and Roberto Rivera, CPI, for their several years of hard work as the Conference Chairs. Congratulations to Roberto for also receiving the Investigator of the Year Award! Lastly, to both Tony Suggs and Howard Dratch, congratulations on receiving the Governor of the Year Award!

Saturday's closing keynote speaker was Frances Dinkelspiel, author of *"Tangled Vines: Greed, Murder, Obsession, and an Arsonist in the Vineyards of California."* Frances gave a wonderful presentation of the costliest wine warehouse fire in history as well as the fraud that permeates the wine industry. Hopefully, some of our CALI members can find a way to expand into wine fraud investigations.

Speaking of next year, CALI has already secured our conference venue, the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Golf Resort Palm Springs, October 17-19, 2024. Please, mark your calendars now and plan on joining us.

Besides the conference, remember that CALI has many more activities throughout the year including NLITE, Legislative Day, in-person and virtual training opportunities, just to name a few. Consult the CALI website for a full [calendar of events](#).

With the changing of our fiscal year and extension of terms, CALI will be doing a few things differently this year regarding both statewide and district elections. Please see the [note from elections chair](#) Jay Rosenzweig explaining the procedures. And, if you are interested in serving on one of the many [committees](#) that truly make this Association run, please let me know.

I can now announce that I plan on running for one more term as President. If Y'all (sorry, that is an acknowledgment to our friends in TALI) choose to elect me one more time, I would truly appreciate it and strive to continue serving CALI. With that, I again thank you for entrusting me with this position and remind you to email me any time with ideas, concerns, and yes, even criticisms.

Lastly, I cannot ever express my gratitude to our Executive Director, Maria Lagunas. Maria is the true driving force behind all that we do and has proven herself to be an invaluable part of this Association. Please show her your appreciation whenever you see her.

Thanks everyone, thanks for making the 2023 conference a huge success and for being a dedicated member of CALI!

F.W. Huntington, III

Frank W. Huntington, III, CPI
CALI President



L-R: CALI Director-At-Large Chad Ragan, CALI President Frank W. Huntington, III CPI and CALI Director-At-Large Roberto Rivera, CPI



SAVE *the* DATE

CALI 55th Annual Conference
October 17-19, 2024
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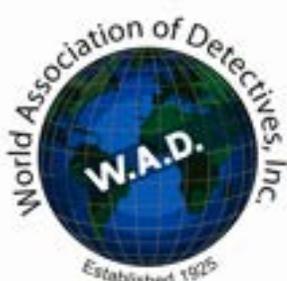
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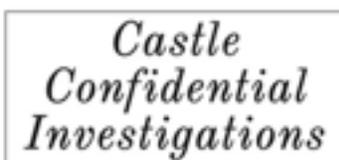


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The CALI Scholarship Program is part of CALI's long-term commitment to education and training for new investigators entering the industry. Thanks to CALI Past President Chris Reynolds of Chris Reynolds Investigations for generously underwriting eight scholarships and everyone who participated and donated to the fundraiser or played in our golf tournament this year. The contributions help eligible CALI members receive a scholarship for a paid entry to the CALI Annual Conference.

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CALI Secretary Tawni Tyndall, CPI, helping out at the Scholarship table

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Welcome New Members!



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Heidi Chebahtah

Chad Howard

Robert Livingston

Justin Lloyd

Ted Lopez

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1-3: Jim Zimmer, Frank W. Huntington, III, Clint Anderson, and Brian Fujuchi



CALI VP, Anthony Hopkins, CPI



Adam Ricotta and Angelique Tafeyo

2023 CALI CONFERENCE RECAP

By Natasha Emmons, PI



Attendees arrived early at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Rohnert Park for CALI's 54th Annual Conference August 24-26. Some attended the pre-conference educational sessions on In-Depth Social Media Investigations and How to Do Business with the Government and Small Business Certifications, while others hit the links next door for the traditional golf tourney on Thursday. The whole group met up Thursday night for a poolside welcome reception with wine tasting from St. Francis Winery.

After a networking breakfast with the 25 trade show exhibitors and a legislative update, the opening keynote Friday was an up-close presentation by Golden State Killer prosecutor Thien Ho from the Sacramento County District Attorney's office with the inside scoop on this remarkable investigation and prosecution. He answered questions about all facets of the investigation and posed for photos with "fans" afterward. The day continued with three breakout sessions offering nine different presentations in total. And the 270 attendees put on their individual ideas of fancy for the evening's President's Banquet & Awards ceremony.



Sacramento County District Attorney Thien Ho and CALI President Frank W. Huntington, III



2023 CALI Annual Business Meeting

After dinner, attendees met our Ukrainian private investigator member Igor Tymofeyev and his granddaughter Viktoriia, who took the stage to thank CALI for helping to relocate Viktoriia in her escape from the war in Ukraine. A moment of silence was held for all of the victims of the country's ongoing war with Russia.

Award winners that night included:

- Investigator of the Year Award – Roberto Rivera, CPI
- President's Awards – Chad Ragan and Roberto Rivera, CPI
- Governor of the Year Awards – Howard Dratch (Los Angeles) and Tony Suggs (East Bay)
- Frank W. Huntington, III, was recognized for his service as Chairman of the Board for 10 years
- Jerry Desmond, Jr., our Legislative Advocate was presented with the John J. Duffy Award from NCISS for his contribution to the private investigation and security professions.

After the presentations, the DJ took over and the dance floor came alive and photos were taken.

On Saturday morning, after another networking breakfast with the exhibitors, the breakout educational sessions continued, with two different sessions offering six different presentations. (All of these were eligible for credits toward CALI's Certified Professional Investigator designation. The CPI exam also was offered on-site this year.)

Our closing keynote was Frances Dinkelspiel, author of the investigative book *"Tangled Vines: Greed, Murder, Obsession and an Arsonist in the Vineyards of California,"* was followed by a lunch where all the winners of exhibitor swag and raffle loot were announced. The hardy few still standing attended the cocktail hour and cigar night later that evening.

Save the Date! Next year's CALI Conference is scheduled for October 17-19, 2024, in the Palm Springs area.



L-R: NCISS President Kelly Cory, Jerry Desmond and John Talaganis



L-R: Francie Koehler, Igor Tymofeyev and his granddaughter Viktoriia

2023 CALI CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Chad Ragan, Co-Chair, Central Coast District

Roberto Rivera, Co-Chair, San Jose District

Brian Bishop, Central Coast District

Frank W. Huntington, III, CALI President, Sacramento District

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2023 INVESTIGATOR OF THE YEAR

AWARD PROUDLY PRESENTED TO

ROBERTO RIVERA, CPI



In the past year, the recipient of this prestigious award, private investigator Roberto Rivera, undertook a remarkable criminal case in Santa Clara County involving the kidnapping of an infant. Within just one day of the abduction, Roberto successfully located the missing baby and reunified the child with their anxious mother. Furthermore, his expertise led to his appointment by the Santa Clara County Superior Court to provide essential defense investigative services, primarily in complex and high-stakes criminal cases, encompassing numerous counts of robbery and attempted robbery. Roberto's dedication extended beyond paid assignments as he contributed pro bono investigative work to the Innocence Project, demonstrating his commitment to justice.

Roberto Rivera is an exceptional leader within CALI (California Association of Licensed Investigators), devoting a substantial amount of his time serving on the Board of Directors. His pivotal role in the Conference Committee significantly contributes to the organization's accomplishments. In addition to his leadership, Roberto serves as a CALI mentor, offering guidance to both new members and current leaders, fostering growth and excellence.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Roberto serves as a role model and mentor to the youth in his community. As the President of Kiwanis Educated Youth, a club dedicated to nurturing leadership and character development among young individuals, he has made a lasting impact. His community involvement includes activities such as park clean-ups, graffiti removal, providing meals to those in need, holiday donation drives, and fundraising efforts at local voting centers.

Let us wholeheartedly applaud this year's Investigator of the Year, Roberto Rivera, CPI, for his outstanding contributions and unwavering commitment to justice, leadership, and community service.

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2023 GOVERNOR OF THE YEAR

PROUDLY PRESENTED TO

HOWARD DRATCH, CPI, AND TONY SUGGS



Howard Dratch, CPI,
Los Angeles District Governor



Tony Suggs, East Bay District Governor

As the CALI Vice President of Administrative Services, I work closely with every district to help the districts achieve their goals and host events for the members. I am thrilled to announce the recipients of this year's CALI District Governor of the Year award: Howard Dratch and Tony Suggs. This esteemed award recognizes their exceptional dedication to their districts and outstanding service as District Governors within CALI.

Howard Dratch and Tony Suggs have exemplified unwavering commitment and tireless service to their respective districts, earning them this well-deserved recognition. Both Howard and Tony have served as District Governors for several years, where their passion for advancing the profession of licensed investigators in California shined bright as they strived to bring their districts the best speakers and meeting venues.

Their contributions extended beyond the local level, as they generously volunteered their time and expertise at statewide training events and the annual CALI conference. Their commitment to enhancing the skills and knowledge of fellow investigators across the state has left an indelible mark on the organization.

In recognition of their dedication and adaptability, when CALI decided to transition from traditional meetings to innovative mixers, Howard Dratch and Tony Suggs readily embraced the change. They worked diligently to fulfill the vision of the CALI Board of Directors, ensuring that CALI's events and gatherings continued to be engaging and valuable to the membership.

The CALI District Governor of the Year award underscores CALI's commitment to recognizing outstanding leaders who make contributions to the organization and the licensed investigator community. Howard Dratch and Tony Suggs join a distinguished group of past recipients who have demonstrated exceptional leadership and dedication.

Please join me in congratulating Howard Dratch and Tony Suggs for their outstanding achievements and contributions to CALI. Their dedication serves as an inspiration to us all.

Lee Wolfe, CPI, CPFI
CALI Vice President of Administrative Services

Golf, Pre-Conference Sessions, Wine Tasting & Welcome Reception



Networking Continued!



Thank You to our Conference Presenters!



Thien Ho, Sacramento
County District Attorney



Francesa Dimbelagiel,
Southern Canal Jurisdiction



Frank W. Huntington, III



Michael Robney, CFE



Neil Gaddall



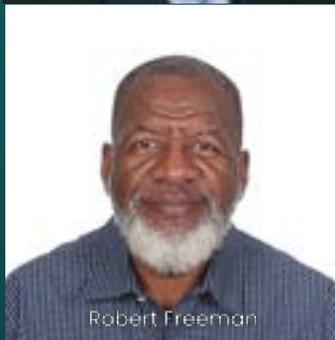
Lonnie Dworkin



Robert Estee, CPI



Tara Godoy, RN, BSN, CFN, LNC



Robert Freeman



Richard Malone, CPA



Jay Paulino, CPI



Isaac Peck



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President's Banquet & Awards



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Closing Keynote, Awards, Cigar Night & Cocktail Hour



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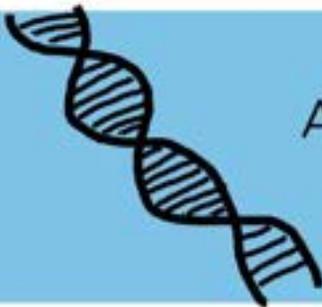
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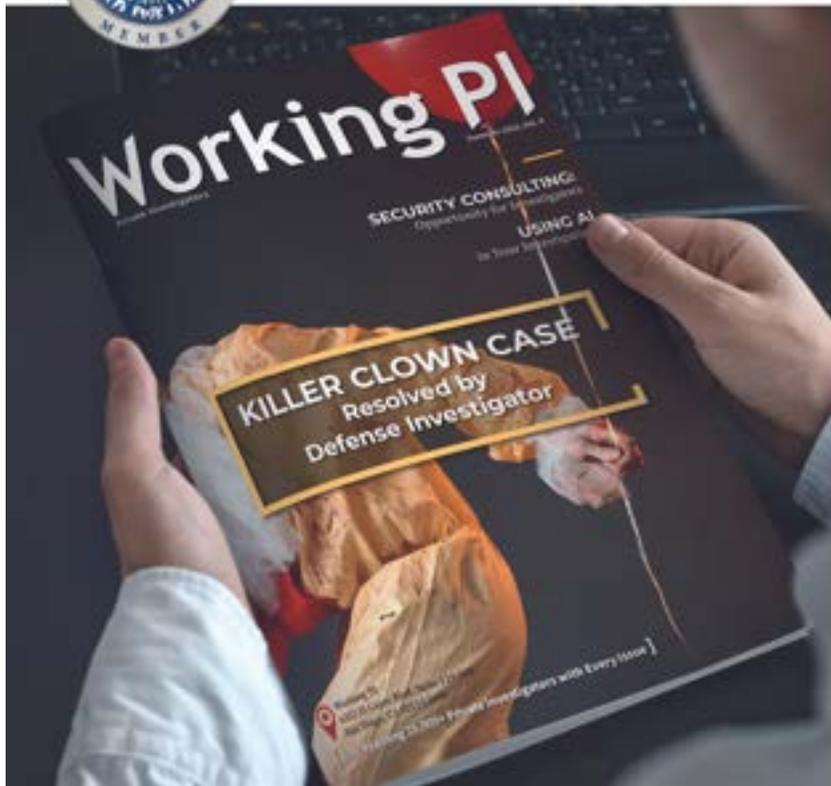
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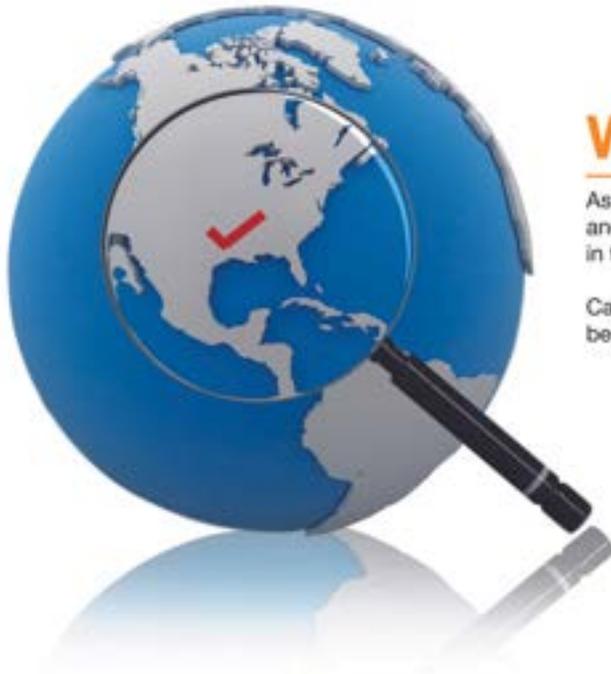
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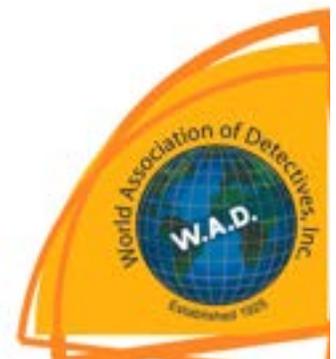
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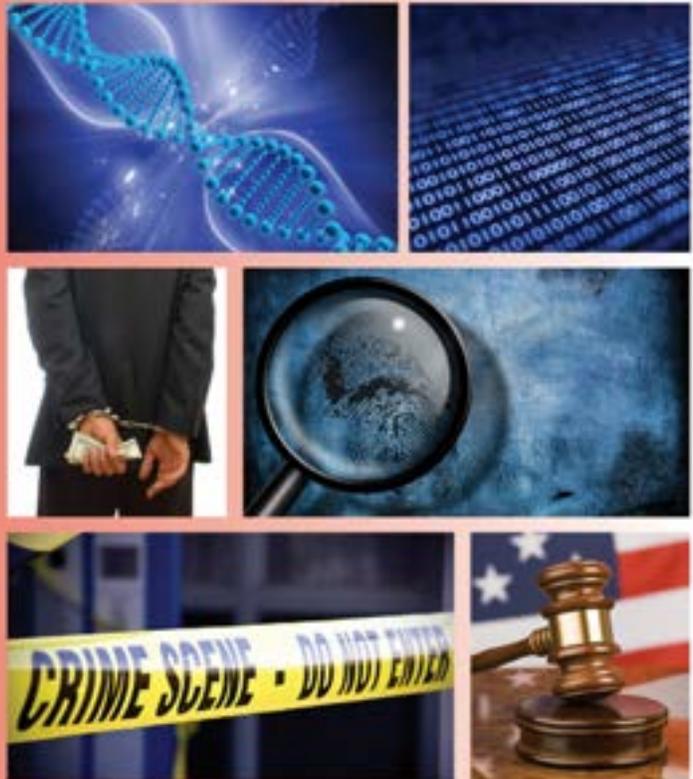
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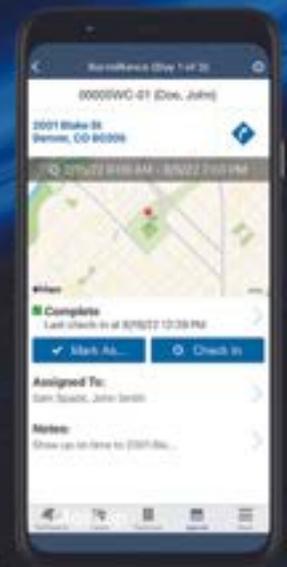
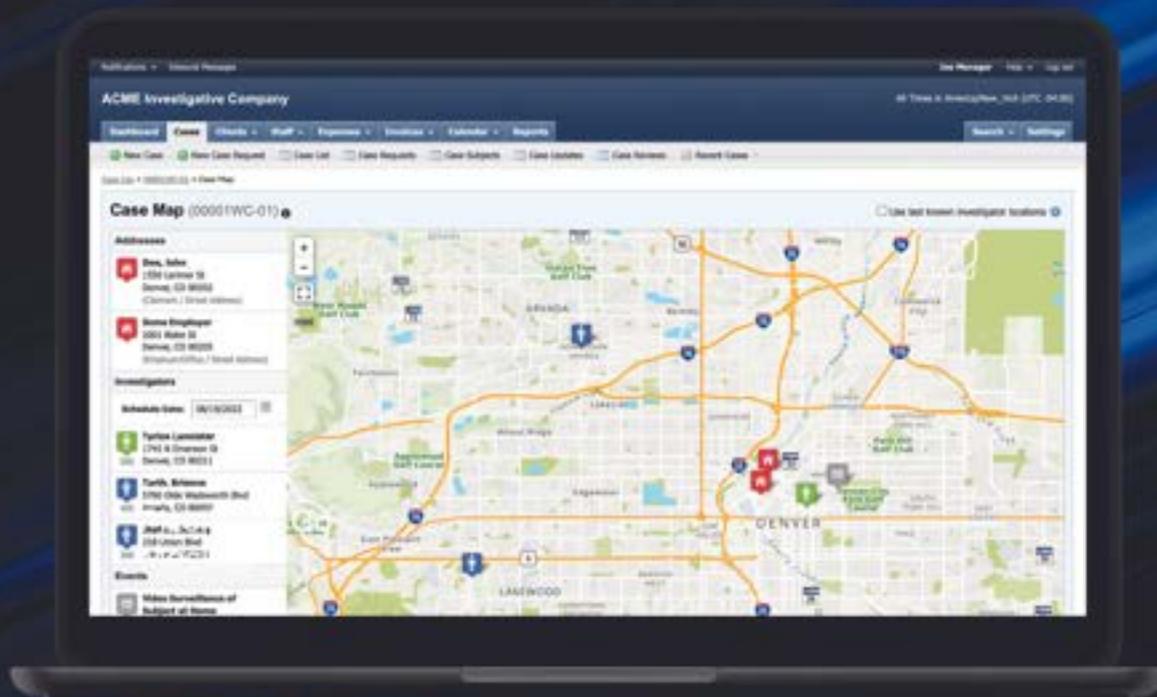
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SHOUT OUT TO CALI MEMBER ANTHONY HOPKINS!

I am now managing cases with Special Operations/Findingkids.Org, and on a Friday at 4:00 p.m., I received an urgent call from Director John Hallman. There were three juvenile runaways, aged 13 and 14 (two were siblings) from a group home in Santa Rosa that had been missing for one week. This was the first time Social Services reached out to Special Operations, and John wanted to get eyes on the girls ASAP. As I was in San Jose on a Friday evening, I contacted Anthony Hopkins knowing he resided in the area and that he was a private investigator I could count on. Within four hours of receiving the first call from Social Services, we had boots on the ground with Anthony jumping in for service. He went to the spots the girls had been seen hanging out at and a park they'd been sleeping at, they were hanging out with meth users and at risk for trafficking. A diligent search Friday yielded no clues, so he returned late morning the following day, Saturday. This turned out to be quite an active day for all of us, but particularly for Anthony! He spotted the girls, but only two had been entered into the missing persons database, so one walked away while the two siblings were taken into protective custody. After the detention, Anthony hung around the park and spotted the third girl who then boarded a bus. Unfortunately, the Sebastopol Police Department refused to detain her, but quick thinking John Hallman contacted Sonoma County Sheriff's Department, who arrived on scene, with Anthony videotaping and following the bus. The bus was pulled over and the girl safely transported off and placed into protective custody as well.

Special thanks to Anthony for a job well done! Yes, I owe him a "big fat jelly doughnut" and a strong cocktail! Thank you Anthony for an outstanding operation!

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