

**INTRODUCTION TO
PRIVATE INVESTIGATION**

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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An Honorably Discharged Veteran from the United States Navy, Mr. Travers has a total of six years of experience in Law Enforcement, specifically in Criminal Investigations and Police Training and Supervision. He possesses professional certificates from the California State Peace Officer Standards and Training; Basic, Intermediate, Advanced Officer Training, Hostage Negotiations, and Field Training Officer Certificates. In addition, Mr. Travers has experience in Loss Prevention and Private and Personnel Security, having served as the former Manager of Security, Southern California, for McDonnell Douglas Corporation.

Mr. Travers is a California State Licensed Investigator, since 1984, and his investigative work has been chronicled in *People* magazine, various cable networks, and on television stations such as CBS, NBC, ABC, KTTV, KCOP, KHJ, KTLA, and the TV movie and series "Renegade." His work has also been recognized in the front-page headlines of newspapers around the country, including the *Los Angeles Times*, the *New York Times*, the *Sacramento Bee*, the *Riverside Press Enterprise*, the *Los Angeles Daily News*, and the *Inland Empire Daily Bulletin*.

For ten years, Mr. Travers has taught investigation and has served as Director of Education for Four Star Incorporated School of Investigation, U.S. Colleges Inc. and Private Investigative Research Company Schools of Professional Investigation and Security. He has testified as an expert witness and conducted investigations regarding police practices and investigative technique in California State and United States Federal Courts.

Mr. Travers is currently a Pastor for National Christian Information Center, Inc. and ministers on a Harley Davidson Motorcycle as founder of "Born Again-Cross of Calvary" Christian Motorcycle Ministry www.ThePreacher.tv. He also serves as a counselor with the Stephens Ministry at Calvary Chapel Capo Beach in Dana Point, CA and serves as a Licensed Investigator and Educator with his son Joshua with the Christian Intelligence Agency and CIA School of Investigation.

Second Edition

INTRODUCTION TO PRIVATE INVESTIGATION

Essential Knowledge and Procedures
for the Private Investigator

By

JOSEPH ANTHONY TRAVERS, C.P.I.



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*For
My Lord and Savior
Jesus of Nazareth
And
My Son
Joshua of Dana Point*

FOREWORD

I read the first edition of *Introduction to Private Investigation* while I was still a police officer. It prompted me to come to the realization that I haven't been objective in my career as a police officer.

As a police officer I was trained and programmed to believe that the police officers and the District Attorneys are on the same team, and we were the "good guys." Most police officers believed that all defendants and their defense attorneys were on the "opposing team." Therefore the mindset was that police work at times was a sport, we had to win. I didn't lie in my reports, or on the stand in the courtroom. But I frequently conducted my investigations in a way that would benefit the District Attorney's prosecution. My loyalty was always to the DA.

For 19 years I often handled my investigations without objectivity. Without properly conducting thorough investigations with due diligence. Without making every effort to turn over every stone. My thought process was, my job was solely to arrest the accused and believe the victim. Then I would leave it to the justice system to figure it out.

Sadly it wasn't until I became a private eye, that I came to understand the true meaning of the *Scales of Justice*, and the *United States Constitution*. I wish I could go back and regain my 19 years of police work. Doing it always with objectivity.

This book will help you accomplish that understanding. It will provide you with the basic skills, knowledge and required tools before you go into battle within the Scales of Justice. Because the truth never changes. It is "the same, yesterday, today and forever."

BILL RHETTS, LPI

HI-CALIBER Investigations

Chief Investigator

Chaplain

Inland Police Officers Coalition, Inc.

Founder and Executive Director

Note: In the year 2001, Bill received "Special Congressional Recognition" for "outstanding and invaluable service to the community."

FOREWORD

Over the years, the most curious phenomenon that I have encountered in my work as a Private Investigator is the misconceptions of what a P.I. does, and the “glamorous” lifestyle we lead! Our public image is so far off the mark; it was refreshing for me to see a book introduced that helped to clear up this distortion, and also, to bring us closer to the 21st century! Joseph Travers’ *Introduction to Private Investigation* creates a realistic account of just what is expected of a P.I., and what types of people are cut out for this type of work. Also, we are brought up to date on laws, technology, equipment, and case studies that are more pertinent to the 90’s, and to the types of challenges facing the P.I.’s of today.

Our world is changing at such a rapid pace, and it is difficult to keep up with that pace. It is equally difficult to choose a career that is both rewarding and financially lucrative. The good news is that the field of investigation is becoming more and more diverse, offering opportunity in every direction, not just from the standpoint of law enforcement, but in the private sector as well. Mr. Travers’ book deals with material that has never been touched on before in a book designed to educate private investigators about their craft. His information is accurate, current, and practicable.

I am personally a strong believer in specialization. My advice would be to find a niche that you enjoy, educate yourself to the level of “expert,” and design and implement a marketing plan, to begin your journey into this exciting field. *Introduction to Private Investigation* opens the door to that journey. I highly recommend anyone presently involved in or considering a career change into the field of professional investigation to allow this book to help guide the way.

GLEN S. GOODMAN

Chairman

California Institute for Professional Investigators

FOREWORD

The private investigation industry has changed dramatically in the past half-century. From a time when the typical P.I. had the reputation of being a booze-slugging, woman-chasing roughneck—to today’s investigators, professional men and women dedicated to preserving justice in the public and private sectors.

Investigators play an important role in the civil and criminal justice systems in this country. Their contribution to the war on crime is largely unknown and unrecognized. Today’s investigators search out the facts for many crimes, including insurance fraud, arson, industrial espionage, theft, and drug abuse. Their clients include insurance companies, attorneys, private employers, and government agencies.

The science of investigation is a learned profession. *Webster’s Dictionary* describes the word “investigate” as “to observe or study by close examination and systematic inquiry.” And “learned” is “to gain knowledge of understanding or skill in by study, instruction, or experience.” Therein lies the purpose of this book. There is a constant need for up-to-date technical information to assist professional investigators in their quest for the truth.

This book will enable the professional investigator or apprentice to sharpen the skills they use every day. Be it undercover, surveillance, interviewing, case preparation, or courtroom testimony, even the most seasoned veterans understand the need to be on top of their game in order to provide clients with the best possible results.

We have seen the need for specialized education in the investigation field in order to serve our clients in the private sector. While many investigators have a law enforcement background, and received training to deal with the public and criminal activities, the private sector must play by a different set of rules. Today, sexual harassment and violence in the workplace top the headlines, and require investiga-

tions that ferret out civil liability, not just criminal intent. The need for specialized skills has developed into schools that teach the art of private investigation, how to avoid invasion of privacy, the ability to search public records, and so on.

I applaud the efforts of Joe Travers to write an easy-to-read textbook for investigators. It is filled with practical information and stories which will provide extremely valuable training for us all.

MARK A. MCCLAIN, C.P.I.

President

California Association of Licensed Investigators

PREFACE

*P*riate Investigation is designed to provide the essential knowledge and procedure needed to operate successfully as a private investigator. It is both an instructional textbook for those individuals desiring a career as a private investigator, and a resource manual that can be an invaluable tool for later reference. The approach is a direct, concise style, which facilitates comprehension by novices as well as experienced private investigators, and makes possible competent and professional performance of all types of private investigation. The purpose for writing this book is to fill the existing need within the field for a precise comprehensive text detailing the development of skills necessary for professional investigative work. In addition, there is a lack of recent, up-to-date text books currently available to individuals wishing to learn about private investigation. *Private Investigation* will help fill this void.

The text material has been class-tested from an accredited curriculum approved by the California State Department of Consumer Affairs: Bureaus of Private Postsecondary & Vocational Education, and Security & Investigative Services, and the Arizona Bureau of Private Postsecondary Education. This curriculum has been taught by Educational Designs Institute of Los Angeles, California, and by Private Investigative Research Company, of Rancho Cucamonga, California; U.S. Colleges, Inc. at Rancho Cucamonga, Riverside, Santa Ana, Carlsbad, and San Diego, California, and Phoenix, Arizona, and by Four Star Incorporated, in San Juan Capistrano, Temecula, and San Diego, CA. The curriculum is currently being revised, updated, and taught by the CIA: School of Investigation.

Private Investigation is intended for both the individual without prior investigative experience and the newly licensed private investigator who lacks formal education in a private investigations vocation-

al school. It is also written for those persons possessing a background in police or law enforcement.

One unique attribute of *Private Investigation* is its commitment to the practice of private investigation in the private business sector (Civil Justice) as well as the public sector (Criminal Justice). Another notable quality is its concern with both the portrayal of private investigation as a legitimate professional discipline and the subsequent degradation of the popular, media propagated misconceptions of private investigators.

In the second edition, I have added Chapters 12, "Criminal Defense Investigation," and 13, "Bioethics, Investigation, and the Occult." My first reason for the addition is due to a complete lack of material for each subject pertaining to Professional Investigation. The other reason, a more personal one, comes from my calling as a disciple of Jesus of Nazareth, the Creator of all things, seen and unseen, whom I owe all without reservation. After personally conducting several Criminal Defense Investigations involving major felonies, I found most criminal behavior is connected to the works of darkness . . . evil. Also, my beloved wife, Joeyann, was lost to this world of darkness, causing my pen to paper, my heart to crumble, and my knees to buckle . . . I PRAY!

JOSEPH A. TRAVERS, CPI

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Private Investigation is a result of many years of education and experience. I have not “reinvented the wheel” so-to-speak, but with the help of many colleagues I have only attempted to improve upon the profession of investigation.

I owe a debt of gratitude to many in the field of academia, to those who promote Truth and Integrity. Among the many I have gained inspiration from include Dr. Albert C. Germann, Professor Emeritus Criminal Justice, C.S.U.L.B. and Pastors Chuck Smith, Jon Courson, and Dr. David Hocking of Calvary Chapel Bible College.

Professionally, I have acquired many skills and techniques from many investigators—all too many to mention. Among these include James F. Broder, C.P.P., Vice President of Confidential Management Services, Inc.; Mark A. McClain, C.P.I., President of California Association of Licensed Investigators, and Vice President of Krout and Schneider Investigations; Dana D. Griffith, LPI, of Griffith Investigations; Joel C. Villasenor, C.P.P., CIC Investigations; Vern Horst, LPI, Investigator for Riverside County Sheriff’s Department; Albert Rusas, LPI, Detective for Bell Police Department; Samuel J. D’Amico, LPI, Vice President for Pinkerton Investigations, Inc.; Chaplain Bill Rhett, LPI, Hi-Caliber Investigations; Michael Currier, Attorney at Law; and John and Macie Johnson, Founders/Four Star Private Security, Inc.

A sincere appreciation for technical assistance goes to two of my former students and graduates of Private Investigative Research Company School of Investigations, Julia Cosmides, graduate student at the University of Notre Dame, and Joshua Michael Travers, LPI, Christian Intelligence Agency. A special thanks to my former office manager, Carol Gonzalez, for preaching Jesus. Without their contribution this could not have been possible.

Finally, the continued moral support of my business partner, the Holy Spirit, has allowed me the time and opportunity to complete this endeavor.

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