

# CI TIMES



## The Fractured Court System

We all remember where we were and what we were doing the moment we found out about the devastation that took place on September 11, 2001. A major dilemma that was brought to light as a result of the 9/11 Commission Report is that internal intelligence agencies did not share information amongst themselves, leading to our countries vulnerability. Today, employers face a similar problem with criminal records research which is why it's so important to have a team of researchers who have the knowledge to assemble data from a



network of resources. Many people have a pre-conceived notion that criminal records are stored in one place and information is available via Social Security number. This idea, while well intentioned, could not be further from the truth. The fact is, the US Court System is incredibly fractured and divided. The FBI and other law enforcement entities have access to the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) but private employers are generally prohibited.

Most courts do not share data with one another leading to poor record keeping and difficult research. There is a local court in every village, town, city, and county in addition to superior courts for each jurisdiction as well. In addition, let us also not forget that there are federal courts in each state which are divided into districts (sometimes multiple districts for each state).

### County Records

The county court system consists of over 3,000 county courts. CI recommends completing an address verification search prior to running county criminal searches to develop a criteria of counties to be searched. Generally, violations of state law will be held in county courts such as larceny offenses, robbery, fraud, and sex offenses all of which occur within state lines. County criminal searches reveal both misdemeanor and felony records throughout the country with New York being the exception.

County level searches in New York State only reveal felony records. The reason being, misdemeanor cases in New York State are held at the village, town and city level – and they DO NOT report court records to the county courts. There are 1,164 village, town and city courts in New York State. The only entity that houses this data is the New York State Office of Court Administration and again, the records ARE NOT available at the county level.

### Statewide Records

Statewide court record searches can be convenient and cost effective in the sense that data is confined within one entity. Certain states, such as New York State, provide extensive criminal record information. Specifically, CI's New York Statewide and Cursory Indicator New York searches provide the most misdemeanor and felony information when it relates to criminal records in NY State.

### Federal Records

Federal court records are entirely separate from state court records. For this reason it's important to also consider federal court searches. The federal court system consists of 89 districts within the 50 states. Both misdemeanor and felony cases are heard at the federal level and generally involve crimes that cross state lines and laws enacted by congress such as tax law, the postal service, and most notably serious drug offenses.

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## Client Clue

### Schedule Your Compliance and Cost Analysis Today

Give us a call today at (800) 284-0906 to speak directly to Greg or Michelle who will be happy to get your analysis started, or email us at [info@commercialinvestigationsllc.com](mailto:info@commercialinvestigationsllc.com)

### It's the perfect time for a Compliance and Cost Analysis

Our team of background investigations experts keep up with the latest industry standards and best practices so you don't have to.

### A free tune-up for your background investigations process

At no cost to you, the Commercial Investigations LLC team can analyze your current background investigations process.

### We'll protect you from liability

Our experts will compare your practices to similar organizations within your industry, as well as the latest federal and state regulations to help keep you informed about up-to-date compliance standards.

## Due Diligence: On the Campaign Trail

After his latest attempts at trying to become a volunteer at The Ray of Hope Foundation were foiled, Due Diligence took a long look at himself in the mirror and tried to figure out what keeps on going wrong.

He admired his wavy hair, nice smile, and friendly disposition and a thought struck him almost immediately: he was going to go into politics! He now needed a fresh new start and a foot in the door to become the next President of the United States. He set off to find a political party that he could volunteer at and begin fresh.

After strolling the streets, taking a look at the many campaign signs posted on front lawns, in windows and on the side of buildings he decided to begin his career with the "We the People Political Party." Due filled out the application to become a volunteer (If only We the People Political Party utilized C.I.'s brand new Volunteer Screening Services!), and within seconds someone from the campaign office got in touch with him. So impressed with his degree from Purdue, his work experiences, and his interview, they decided there was no way to start him as a volunteer but promote him directly to the Campaign Manager!

Oh what trouble Due could get in with this type of position!

If only We the People Political Party had done a more thorough job conducting Due's background investigation. It is with great sadness to report that because "We the People Political Party" doesn't utilize C.I.'s services, and instead performed a background check through Second Rate Screening, Due Diligence was able to slip through the cracks. As a result, many of the nefarious activities that Due has done in the past went undetected. Second Rate Screenings only searched Due's current name on a local-level criminal record check, in addition to taking Due's word on his college degree. Those who utilize CI's services know that there are many ways bad eggs can get past basic level screening services. That's why it's important to conduct the most thorough background checks possible so that applicants like Due can't slip through the cracks.

In order to learn more about these services and other products offered by Commercial Investigations please contact a CI representative at (800) 284-0906. Stay tuned to find out what Due is up to next!

*To Be Continued . . .*



## The Fractured Court System (contd.)

### Databases

CI has compared, tested and refined databases to ensure that information is delivered accurately and in a timely manner. However, databases are outdated the moment after they are updated and it's important to consider retrieving information from a primary source (i.e county or statewide). Database searches are a valuable starting point and provide a wide array of data that might not otherwise be available when searching with a narrow scope.

The U.S. Court system is a tangled web with many intricacies and moving parts. It's important to take a step back and question if the practices and policies that are currently in place are prepared to deal with the challenges being presented. Is your background screening vendor prepared and knowledgeable enough to deliver you the most accurate and up-to-date

information considering what's at stake? CI is prepared to deliver the most accurate information in a timely fashion. Call us at (800) 284-0906.



### Meet Due Diligence

#### Last Scene from Due

Last time, Due's antics led him to the Ray of Hope Foundation, an organization that caters to underprivileged youths. His hope was to network, build his resume, and earn some valuable new skills. However, due to his... spotty past, Due should not be working with the future of America!

Fortunately, The Ray of Hope Foundation utilizes CI's new Volunteer Screening Solutions (VSS) service. The all new, completely seamless, paperless, and secure solution to volunteer screening. Because of this, Due's history was revealed to the Volunteer Managers and his application was duly denied.

To see Due's past reports, view his page online at:  
[www.commercialinvestigationsllc.com/duespage](http://www.commercialinvestigationsllc.com/duespage)

Read previous issues of CI Times to see the full details of Due's life at  
[www.commercialinvestigationsllc.com/newsolder](http://www.commercialinvestigationsllc.com/newsolder)



# Name the Eagle

(and win a \$100 gift card)

Throughout the month of September, Commercial Investigations LLC celebrated the launch of our re-imagined logo with the Name the Eagle activity on our official Facebook page at facebook.com/commercialinvestigationllc. Fans on Facebook get to help name the eagle mascot in our newly unveiled logo, and once a winner is chosen, they will receive a \$100 gift card along with a donation made in their name to Tuesday's Children. Jane Russo of designjane ltd. will be judging the submissions on October 11th.

Commercial Investigations officially unveiled an enhanced new logo to reflect recent growth. We're celebrating the launch throughout September by hosting a competition and donating to a 9/11 charity organization.

Michelle Pyan, President of Commercial Investigations, said "we wanted our logo to better reflect how we've grown to become more innovative while remaining true to our roots. Also, the launch date was planned months ahead and since it coincided with 9/11, we'd like to honor the victims and contribute a donation to TuesdaysChildren.org, a charity that aims to meet the needs of individuals impacted by the events of September 11, 2001 (which has become a day of remembrance and volunteerism). We're helping organizations with volunteerism through our new software launch this Fall, so the timing is perfect to honor those volunteers who lost their lives on that tragic day."

## Commercial Investigations LLC

A Licensed Private Investigative Agency

Providing the Proactive Truth in high quality Background Investigations through human intervention with an investigative approach.

### Background Investigations

CI provides accurate, timely, cost-effective and fully compliant reports delivered with exceptional client service.

New York State  
Department of Economic Development  
Certified Woman Owned Business Enterprise  
(Certification # 49494)

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### Inquiry Spotlight

#### Origin

Origin starts by taking the subject's Social Security number and running our SSN & Address Information inquiry:

#### Validates:

- ✓ the subject's disclosed name – criminals are experts at covering up information, including previous names used
- ✓ the proper spelling of the subject's name(s)
- ✓ the subject's disclosed date of birth
- ✓ the subject's disclosed address
- ✓ the disclosed SSN is a SSN issued by the Social Security Administration
- ✓ the subject's disclosed Social Security Number as being associated with the subject

#### Reports:

- ✓ the state in which the SSN was issued
- ✓ the year or approximate years the SSN was issued
- ✓ additional addresses related to the subject

All names, including subject's primary name as given on their Consent Form, and any additional names (aliases) revealed in the SSN & Address Information inquiry results are then run through our Multijurisdictional Criminal inquiry. With only one inquiry, you comb more than 345 million criminal records. Included in CI's Multijurisdictional Criminal inquiry is our Multistate Sex Offender Registry inquiry which provides sex offender case information. This provides the data you want, the quality you demand and the updates necessary to ensure you get the best possible information.

The addition of Origin allows CI clients to enhance their due diligence by adding another level to their criminal record data searches. However, not all counties, states or departments of correction data are included. Thus, CI does not recommend that clients utilize the Origin inquiry as their only criminal record inquiry but as an enhancement to an already established state, county and federal criminal record package.

Origin is the best way to start any and all background investigations. It is also the best way to validate a subject's identity and personal identifiers, e.g. name(s), DOB, SSN and address(es).

Origin identifies jurisdictions where it would be prudent to do more thorough criminal, sex offender searches, and other inquiries.

Contact CI at (800) 284-0906 or info@commercialinvestigationllc.com for more information on CI's Origin™ inquiry.