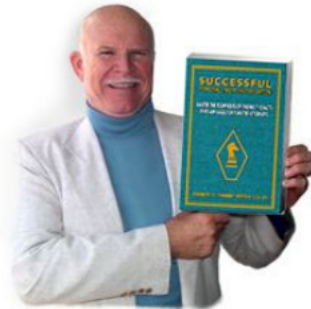




Domestic Violence



In the Next Issue...

A review of Frank Ritters Book: "Successful Personal Injury Investigation".

Professional Investigators of California P.I.C.A.

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President's Message

By: Ken Shigut

Wow, I just realized that this month I celebrate my one year anniversary as a PICA Member! Honestly, we have gone through so much that it feels like it is already my second year and not simply the end of my first.

When I joined PICA in May 2002, there were 33 PICA Members. Today, I am more than proud to inform you that we have well over 200 members and receive new membership applications on almost a daily basis. I believe we will have reached the 300th member mark by the end of this year.

During this past year, we have constructed an extremely democratic set of Bylaws that is based on the simple premise of membership participation by voting by mail and term limits. We want and need fresh blood and realize that it is the fresh blood of new leadership that often brings with it new and vibrant ideas. PICA is not afraid and has never been slow to change and evolution. Stagnation will kill PICA and all the dreams and efforts contributed to date to this organization.

We have had two very successful PICA membership gatherings. The first was the Los Angeles Dinner Meeting in October 2002 that had over 100 in attendance at a time when we did not have much more than 100 members. Keep in mind that this was just a relatively simple dinner meeting and not a conference. That meeting drove home the fact that PICA was officially on the radar screen and a legitimate Statewide PI Association to be respected and reckoned with.

The second gathering was our March 2003 Sacramento Annual Meeting that was a dinner meeting followed by a

Feature Article

By: Deirdre M. Kraft, ESQ.

INVESTIGATING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES

Domestic violence is a prevalent area of litigation, both in Criminal and in Family Court. This article discusses the Family Court aspects. A future article will discuss the Criminal Court aspects.

Not many years ago, domestic violence was considered a “private family matter” that the courts were loathe to get involved in. However, times have definitely changed. This article is intended to give you a basic outline of the various aspects that you must consider when structuring your investigation. It also presumes that the parties are adults, not abused children.

THESE CASES CAN GET MESSY

Family law investigations have their own immediate and inherent complications. Not only has each party had ongoing and intimate access to the other party, probably for years, but they also have a complicated emotional relationship, which has a strong tendency to make emotions run very high.

In Family Court, you should be aware that the fallout of Domestic Violence cases has changed dramatically over the past years. The stakes are high on who prevails on these matters. Under current California law:

1) There is a legal presumption that the party who is a victim of Domestic Violence will be given sole exclusive legal and/or physical custody of any minor children of the marriage, whether or not any of the physical violence or threats occurred against the children themselves.

2) The party who can show that they are/were abused or threatened will get temporary exclusive use of the family home, complete with an immediate kick-out order against the other party.

3) Once a Temporary Restraining Order is in place, absent a clear showing of provable falsehoods, the Courts are extremely reluctant to remove the T.R.O. They would far rather be wrong by granting one where it was not needed than to undo a T.R.O and have a victim get killed on their watch.

4) The perpetrator of Domestic Violence must surrender all firearms to the police, or show proof that they have been sold. They are normally not allowed to use weapons as a part of their job, either, thereby torpedoing the career of people of certain professions who have a T.R.O taken out against them.

THE VICTIM MAY NOT COOPERATE WITH YOU

Normally, dealing in criminal law with a victim who has been injured and put into the hospital by some whacko on the street, they can't wait to tell you all about it, in long detail. Not so with Domestic Violence Victims. Despite the above stated legal advantages, you may find that some of the victims that you will interview want nothing to do with you. Many have little faith in the legal systems ability to protect them, have no faith in your ability to protect them, and are extremely reluctant to do anything that is going to further infuriate the perpetrator. Some are still trapped in the “learned victim” dynamic and have not broken out of it, or will never do so. Some are just far too embarrassed at having gotten into this situation and do not want any public record of it having occurred. Many are still hoping

to “work it out” and reclaim their relationship. Don't presume you will get a warm arrival when going to interview the victim.

CHECK ALL OF YOUR SOURCES

You may come up with nothing at all in terms of prior arrests. Frequently, these victims do not call the police when they are being beaten, or they call to cancel the request for help. If you are able to determine which local law enforcement officer is on that beat, or has been in the past, they can be a wealth of information. Former officers are especially good, because they know they will not have to deal with these people tomorrow after taking sides today. Talk to neighbors, in this neighborhood and in older neighborhoods. People remember these type of incidents. While current neighbors may not want to get involved, former neighbors are wonderful sources of information. They feel free to talk without wondering if they will come home the next night to broken windshields.

Talk to the victim's present and past employers. See if they have a history of coming in to work with unexplained or repeated injuries. You would be surprised how often a victim leaves a job after an on-premises or parking lot altercation on that job with the perpetrator, or because they were too embarrassed to show up on the job with yet another black eye.

INTERVIEWING TECHNIQUES FOR THE PARTIES

If at all possible, interview both parties as soon as you possibly can after the incident, before they have time to rationalize it, make excuses for it, or otherwise deal with it in their own mind.

I've been doing these cases for many years, and I can assure you, with neither

party will you get the best results by taking on a neutral, business-like attitude. It's time to polish your acting skills. Take very close note of their demeanor. It can tell you far more than their words. However, your own demeanor is what will determine how much you get from these parties.

INTERVIEWING THE PERPETRATOR

While interviewing the perpetrator, do not behave at all sympathetically to the victim, no matter how sorry the perpetrator may seem now, even if they are crying. Reason - generally, the perpetrators are very, very sorry that they got caught, but not regretful of their actions. They still feel justified in doing what they did. If they sense that you are of the same mindset (fake it), they will go into "boasting" mode, which is when you get lots of useful information out of them. They will even tell you about long-past incidents. Even if you represent the victim, through voice tones and eye-rolling, give every attitudinal indication that you do not believe the victim, or that working with them is driving you so crazy that you can understand why someone would want to beat them. Keep it casual. Don't act like it's a big deal. Normally, once they sense a kindred soul, their self-protective instincts fade quite a lot. Dr. Jekyll can turn right back into Mr. Hyde in no time at all. This is the single best way I have found to get the truth out of these parties.

If you have little experience in dealing with domestic violence perpetrators, you may be surprised that some of them come across as the most charming, easy-going guys that you can imagine. Co-workers and bosses may tell you about what wonderful, cooperative people the perpetrator is. Don't be fooled. These people can do a complete personality turn-around as

soon as they walk in their own front door.

Many years before I became an attorney, I worked as a 911 dispatcher. I worked with a Deputy who was out on injury, he was wonderful. He was mellow, and had a great sense of humor, and was very popular with co-workers, the kind of guy that everyone wanted to take out to lunch. One day, he did not show up at work. It turned out that he was not there because he had gone home the night before and beaten his wife to death with a baseball bat, in front of their 12-year old son.

INTERVIEWING THE VICTIM

When interviewing the victim, they normally become uncomfortable talking to anyone who they feel is not sympathetic to their position, or is being businesslike and just doing their job. They are hurt and embarrassed. They appreciate a sympathetic, understanding approach. They may give you detailed explanations of how it was really all their own fault. Do not agree with them (they don't really want you to), but take careful note. It's part of the dynamic used to prove the case.

True D.V. victims have an uncanny memory for exact details of each and every incident of abuse. They will remember the conversation that led up to it, the events of the abuse, what the perpetrator threatened them with, and they will not have to constantly stop and think to recall details. When asking about specific incidents, listen for this clarity of memory. It can tell you a lot about who is a legitimate victim.

Domestic violence victims who are early in the cycle (the ones who really mean it when they say that once is enough) are usually the most angry. They do not have a victim mentality and are often

livid that this was done to them. Victims of a few incidents can even retain this red-hot fury. However, the emotions change after longer-term repeated incidents. So do the type of people who are still there to take it.

While many are, or course, emotionally devastated, some mid-range victims are surprisingly calm about it. Many were abused in their homes growing up and almost think of it as a normal day. Don't let this fool you into doubting the truth of it. In a first-time victim, I would find it suspicious. In a repeat victim, it's not suspicious at all.

In all of the cases that I have handled of long-term Domestic Violence victims, I have never seen this red-hot anger among them. They seem extremely and incurably tired. They seem worn out and sometimes non-emotional. Often the one who initiated the break-up was not them, but their spouse. Emotions bubble right below the surface and they often dissolve into tears when discussing the history, which can be many years long. Take note of any patterns in the abuse. They could be a critical point of evidence if the perpetrator violates their T.R.O.

I hope that this article helps you in preparing and performing your investigation into domestic violence matters. If you have any questions, please feel free to E-mail me at westwind15usa@yahoo.com.

Deirdre M. Kraft is an attorney practicing family law and civil litigation in the Shasta County, CA. area.



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The P.I. Museum
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"A Look at Our History"
By Ben Harroll

The source of the following information was from a variety of documents recently provided by Ms. Noreene DeKoning, Associate Governmental Program Analyst at BSIS. Ms. DeKoning is a long time CA State Government employee. A little known "secret" is that very effective communication with our BSIS is now easier than ever thanks to Noreene and others via e-mail; check it out. Noreene's unique ability to locate and preserve some of BSIS's early records is truly a gift to us all now and to those in the future who may wish to take a look back.

In a precedent setting gesture of BSIS support for all of the nearly 10,000 California Private Investigators, Chief Steven V. Giorgi allowed the P.I. Museum access to its oldest records. On Monday March 3rd, 2003 (following PICA's 1st ABM & Seminars) the Chief entrusted the following historic treasures and artifacts to me. The loan of these materials will allow further study and possibly even scanning to a CD for the P.I. Museum

thus allowing wider sharing of these materials which include among them the following...

Private Investigator Directory of California, Detective License Bureau, State Board of Prison Directories: 1941, 1943, 1945-1946, 1946-1947, 1947-1948

Private Investigator Directory Bulletin's: No.6 1950, No. 7 1951, No.11 1955, No.12 1956

Private Investigator and Adjuster Act with Rules and Regulations for the years 1974 and 1978

**A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE
REGULATION OF PRIVATE
INVESTIGATORS IN
CALIFORNIA**

The Bureau of Security and Investigative Services' activities were originally under the purview of the State Board of Prison Directors. Called the Detective License Bureau it officially came into being on August 11, 1915. At that time it served as an enforcement agency under the provisions of Chapter 635, Statutes of 1915. Headquarters were in Room 9 of the Ferry Building in San Francisco.

The responsibility for the enforcement of the "Private Detective License Act" was placed in the hands of the State Parole Officer. A Private Eye would have paid the princely sum of \$10.00 for a license then.

The 1915 statute required a license for any person or agency that was in the business of furnishing or supplying information on personal character, business kind or character, and occupation of any person or business. The Act required the filing of a surety bond conditioned for the good faith and honest conduct of the licensee's business. All violations were misdemeanors, and enforcement was to be executed by the Board of Prison Directors from the fees collected from licensing.

The Board had the authority to revoke a license at any time if cause were shown. The intent of this licensing law was to provide a fair regulatory environment and establish some level of scrutiny prior to an applicant becoming a private investigator. The public would benefit in better protection of their welfare and safety, and the industry would benefit through an increase in perceived legitimacy of their industry by the consumer.

The license holders soon realized that the scope of the law under which they were being licensed was by far inadequate and, with other interested parties, sought its revision. They also soon discovered that the job of properly enforcing the law required a real full time enforcement officer. The State Legislature were made aware of this situation and the act to license and regulate the business of private detectives and detective agencies was amended under the provisions of Chapter 885, 1927 session of the



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Continued from page 4

Legislature when the activities of “investigators” were included within the meaning of the so-called “Private Detective License Act”. This further broadening of the scope of this act is significant in that it indicated recognition by the Legislature at that time that the now general practice of individuals, firms, associations or corporations were in fact engaged in the detective business, not so much for the detection of crime and the apprehension of criminals but for various other purposes which they considered a responsibility of State government. That Legislature back then apparently concluded that under modern conditions, the general term “detective” means also the gathering of evidence in civil cases, investigation of the habits, reputation, moral character, actions and financial responsibility of persons employed or seeking employment; of persons seeking loans, insurance policies, fidelity bonds, claims and a variety of other circumstances.

By 1927, the definition of a private detective was expanded to include private patrol operators. The requirements of the 1915 law were still not stringent enough to have an impact on unscrupulous behaviors of some private investigators and, in the coming years, a variety of amendments were added in attempts to upgrade the standards and qualifying procedures for investigators. It was in 1927 when Senate Bill 857 repealed the original Act of 1915 and established a new Act to license detectives and detective agencies. This Act included more stringent conditions for obtaining a license such as requirements of five personal character references, the posting of a bond, the addition of private patrol work, and a \$50.00 licensing and renewal fee.

In 1944 the penal system was reorganized and the Department of Professional and Vocational Standards took over these responsibilities. In 1970, the now old Department of Professional and Vocational Standards was renamed the Department of Consumer Affairs.

It was in 1947 however, when the legislature worked in cooperation with the then newly formed California Association of Private Investigators to draft a new Private Detective Act. The new Act included experience requirements for applicants, provisions for examination, and a detailed statement of causes for disciplinary action. The overall effect of this new legislation was to ensure that the public was dealing with knowledgeable and ethical private investigators, and the industry would only have to deal with one set of standards and permits to conduct business. The private investigation industry was looking for the additional benefit of providing a more favorable public view of the industry and limiting the increasing numbers of the many less-competent private investigators. General opinion held that the new requirements would now allow this to begin to happen.

Since their inception, both the Detective Act and the Bureau have assumed various names until they ultimately became the five separate industry acts and the Bureau of Security and Investigative Services of today. In 1955, the Private Detective Act was renamed to become the Private Investigators and Adjusters Act, and the Detective Licensing Bureau became the Bureau of Private Investigators and Adjusters. In 1970, when the Collection Agency Licensing Bureau was placed under the Bureau’s purview, the Bureau was renamed as the Bureau of Collection and Investigative Services.

It was not until 1993, with the passage of Assembly Bill 936, that the Bureau formally became the Bureau of Security and Investigative Services. Throughout the Bureau’s history, various acts related to the security industry were created and placed under its authority.

Efforts from 1947 until today have focused on increasing the competency of practitioners. Examinations have been updated to reflect the changing type of work that private investigators are performing. Recent changes to the law include an increase in experience requirements from 3,000 to 6,000 hours. Well into the twentieth century private investigators focused on domestic and some types of criminal cases. Many cases were contracted by members of the general public who did not have the capacity to judge if a detective was competent or honest.

Today’s investigator is more focused than in the past on civil investigations and on contracts with businesses and attorneys. This change in customer market also has now generated a change in the profile of a private investigator. The private investigator of the early 1900’s was typically not college educated and dealt with a fairly elemental level of technical knowledge. Often, investigators were former policemen or military that had no other form of special training. Increasingly, modern investigators are becoming college educated and technically competent in specialty areas (e.g., computer information theft). They face far more complex cases and issues (e.g., sexual harassment in schools and the workplace) and require more scientific knowledge (e.g., the preservation of evidence).

The future will require that private investigators have greater access to all areas of expertise as well as to the

Half The Business Is Getting The Business!

By Jack W. Murray, MBA, CLI, CFE, CCDI

One of the most frequently asked questions I get from both new and old time investigators is “where do we get new clients?”

The first consideration is “what kind of clients and/or cases do you want?” the first distinction I make is between retail and commercial clients. By this I mean do you want to deal with the general public or are you looking for attorneys, insurance companies etc.

Both require different marketing approaches. This month we’re going to look at the commercial accounts. This is an area I have the most experience in, as we rarely ever take retail accounts any more.

In order to market to this segment of the population, you have to know three things: First, and most important, what kind of cases do the prospective clients handle? If they’re attorneys, do they do criminal defense, family law, personal injury, insurance defense, white-collar crime, etc. After you make that determination the next step is to make a list of all the services that they might require from an investigator, surveillance, background, witness statements, asset tracing, etc. Finally, match up those services that you offer, with the services that THEY NEED.

There are two basic approaches to reaching the segments you have identified as those that could benefit from your services. I call them the shotgun and the rifle approaches.

In the shotgun approach fall such techniques as mass mailings, trade association ads, and yellow page ads. With the rifle approach, you identify

specific targets for your advertising and marketing efforts. You go so far as to narrow it down to specific people at an insurance company or at a law office and you contact them directly as well as by mail

Where do you get the names? One way is through Associations. The State Bar in Texas will sell us labels for attorneys that are Board certified in specific areas. I’m not sure how that works in California. Another source is the Trial Lawyers groups, and the Association of Insurance Defense Lawyers. There are several sub divisions within both of these groups.

For a listing of Special Investigation Unit Associations try, www.iasiu.com/chapter/index.cfm

For the California Association of Independent Insurance Adjusters, (good source for defense attorneys) go to www.caia.org.

For the Federation of Insurance and Corporate Counsel try, www.TheFederation.org

There are also various regional associations of claims specialists. Ask your insurance agent to get this for you, or look for their web page. The Sacramento Claims Association has no web page (that I’m aware of) but their telephone number is 877-410-6433.

Once you have identified the potentials, what do you do to make them clients? Find out the name of the secretary or paralegal that handles the correspondence

There are several ways to do this, but I have found that what works for me is to first send them some of my printed materials and a cover letter saying I will call them in a few days. Give it a few

days, then call and ask if they have had a chance to look at your material and try to get that in person interview.

Spend a few minutes with that person on the telephone. Be prepared; don’t waste their time or yours. Tell them who you are and what you do that could HELP THEM. Be polite even if they turn you down cold!

Follow up with a letter, thank them for their time and courtesy on the telephone, again ask them if you might have a few minutes of their time, in person, to further explore how you can HELP THEM!

Obviously you have to have several of these projects going at the same time because some of them will be non-productive. To help to do this create your own database of who you mailed to and when, who you called, and when, and what kind of follow up you had.

This will not work on a hit and miss schedule. Try and allocate a specific time each week to do marketing calls! Four hours may be enough in the beginning to follow up with what you have going and to initiate new calls. Eventually, you’re going to need at least eight hours. That can be one session, or two, or three but you must schedule it and stick to the schedule for it to be effective. One hit can make all the work worthwhile.

Good luck and remember, “Half the business is getting the business!”

Jack Murray is a Licensed PI in Texas. He has written several text for the Investigative industry and we hear there is a new one on the horizon. Stay Tuned!

four speaker all day seminar complete with half a dozen vendors. We had over 50 attendees at this gathering even though we had less than 10 members from the Sacramento area at the time. The majority of participants were Southern California based members who believed enough in the program to drive and fly up to Sacramento for the weekend.

We are currently planning an even more successful year end dinner/seminar weekend in November 2003 that will be held in San Diego. We strongly believe that we can break the 100 member attendance mark and double the amount of participating vendors. PICA will continue to hold our membership gatherings up and down our great state in an effort to bring our functions and gatherings to as many PICA members as possible. PICA also believes in holding our gatherings in California and keeping our California PI's money in our great State.

Over this past year, PICA has formed a very warm and significant relationship with BSIS Chief Giorgi and his top office personnel. The Chief was our guest speaker at both the Los Angeles and Sacramento PICA gatherings and has always been there for PICA. The Chief is a regular featured contributor in our bi-monthly newsletter, The PICA Investigative Reporter, wherein he answers questions posed to him by the membership.

Speaking of the newsletter, from a rough idea to what you are holding in your hands as you read this, Editor Jim Kitt has evolved our membership newsletter into a professional publication that we can be proud of. Jim is always on the look out for new articles and for new advertisers that help defray the cost of our publishing out newsletter.

We are in the process of holding our first round of local district meetings and will soon be able to offer our members Official PICA Merchandise such as coffee cups, lapel pins, mouse pads and polo shirts in an effort to build camaraderie within our organization as well as raise money for our organization.

We have done all of this and continue to grow while working within our very reasonable membership dues rate of \$99.00. We have been successful at this for two main reasons; one, we continue to grow PICA with new members, and two, this is an all volunteer organization so that all monies received stay within our organization and does not drift into anyone's pocket books.

PICA will only continue to grow, evolve and function well if we can maintain the all volunteer work force that we now have. PICA continually needs members, like you, that will contribute from time to time to help this organization mature and succeed. The way I see it you have two options as a PICA member; you can sign up and sit back and wait for nice things to happen with PICA or you can roll up your sleeves and from time to time contribute by getting involved on a project, committee or on the board.

We have been fortunate in that we have had members who have taken PICA's vision to heart and offered their time and resources in an effort to help PICA grow, evolve and mature. I ask that all of you consider what you can do to help maintain PICA as the best and fastest growing PI Association in the land.

Editors note:

Ken Shigut is the President of PICA and the Owner of Shoreline Investigations located in Tarzana, CA. With over eighteen years in the industry, Ken is

often the "Go to" guy even for veterans. Ken has invested uncountable hours into developing PICA into an organization to be taken seriously. Ken can be contacted at: (818) 344-2193 or e-mail: ken@shorelinepi.com

Continued from page 6

broadest possible access to information sources in order to continue to serve a more demanding client. The communities of sworn law enforcement officers (local, state and federal) along with government representatives are slowly realizing that this is indeed inevitable and the general public will surely emerge to bring this to pass.

The PI Museum needs your help

We are looking for Individuals who are willing to assist in the archiving of some of the printed material. This would include scanning documents for storage on to CD for preservation.

If you are near the San Diego area or would like to assist please contact Ben Harroll at 619-239-6991 or E-Mail: benharroll@cox.net

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Someone poisoned my dog!

By K. "Beau" Beauregard

Ok, you're sitting at your desk and the phone rings. You answer it with anticipation of your next big case; "this one will put me on the map, this one will make me famous", you think as you answer the phone. The caller states "Someone poisoned my dog, can you catch them?" At first you think, I don't know how to do this, so I should refer him/her to someone who "specializes in animal crimes". Don't be so fast to sell yourself short.

Investigating as animal poisoning is no different than investigating any other crime of violence. Before you can start your investigation you have to be sure the dog did, in fact, die by poisoning. The only way to do so is to have a necropsy performed on the body. A necropsy is an autopsy for an animal. The best way to do this is to take the body to your local County Vet. It is best to get it there as soon as possible. Often times, the body will be too decayed to determine the cause to death. Even if the owner had put the body in the freezer, it should still be sent for a necropsy. Once the Vet determines the animal died by poisoning, that is when the investigation really gets started.

To get the timeline of the death, you need to ask the owner, "When was the last time you saw your dog alive?" They will often tell you, "When I went to work this morning". You then ask, "When did you discover your dog had died?" By asking these questions, you can get a timeline for the death of the animal.

You then need to ask why they think their dog was poisoned. They will say something to the effect, "I found some hamburger (or other food) in my yard. I didn't feed my dog that". At that point you need to ask if they saved it. If so, it should be sent to a lab for analysis. The lab will be able to determine if a poison is in the sample. Then the poison should be compared to what the County Vet determined killed the dog. If there is a match, you now know for sure someone killed your client's dog. Be aware you do not need to have to sample for the crime to have occurred. The Vet already told you the dog died from poisoning.

The next step in the investigation is to do a neighborhood canvas. The key to success in

this type of investigation is to talk to every person who was home on the day and time of the incident. The only way to do a thorough neighborhood check is to talk to each neighbor. Not just the neighbors on both sides of your client's home. If no one is home, leave your card asking them to call you. If they do not call, you will need to go back at a time you think they may be home. Therefore you need to keep accurate notes of who was home and who was not. Be sure to talk with the neighborhood kids. They are a wealth of information. Find the neighborhood "busy body". You know, the person who just has to know everything that goes on in their neighborhood.

When talking to the neighbors be sure to ask if your client's dog was a nuisance in the neighborhood. Was it always barking at night keeping everyone awake, was it running loose and relieving himself in the their yard? What you are trying to do is identify a possible suspect; someone who has an axe to grind

about your client's dog. If one of the neighbors indeed has an axe to grind, you now have a possible suspect.

The only way to discover who poisoned the dog, is to locate someone who saw anyone throw something in the yard of your client's home. If you have a possible suspect, but no actual witness, it is perfectly acceptable to tell them, "I have a witness who saw you do it". The suspect will then either admit or deny they had any involvement in the crime.

Although poisoning of an animal is only a misdemeanor per California Penal Code 596, the suspect should also be charged with 597.(a) PC, which states "...anyone who maliciously and intentionally kills an animal", is guilty of a felony.

You may not be able to solve the case, but you sure did much more investigation than most of your local law enforcement agencies would in this type of crime.

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Dumb Crooks

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Ask The Bureau Questions and Answers for BSIS

"Field Notes"

From the Editor

In this issue I have combined my column with the BSIS section. This is due partially to the lack of questions posted for BSIS. I must point out that you are missing an opportunity here. In this section of your publication we have the ear of the State. It has been my experience that BSIS has been extremely responsive and willing to go the extra mile in customer service. Now we all have had those frustrating times sitting on hold to get info only to be told something different from each person that you speak to. Here is your chance to get it from the top. I encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity. Please e-mail your questions to:
pikapub@northstarlegal.com

There has been a great deal of work going on behind the scenes in order to produce The PICA Investigative Reporter. You will notice the addition of color in this issue. We were able to do this at an expense that was almost less than the cost of Black and White printing was in past issues. With this issue the majority of the printing cost have been defrayed through advertising and I am optimistic that the next issue will break even, or even better, come in at a profit. However, in order to accomplish this I need your help.

Please tell me the content you would like to see in the PICA IR. When you

have contact with possible Authors, Potential Advertisers or anyone who may contribute in make this publication better let me know. You can refer them directly to me or give me their information and I will call them myself.

In this issue I have included the advertising rates. I encourage all PICA members to place Business Card size ads or better. Support your publication and association. Be advised that I will be scanning in the artwork unless it comes in electronically. Some business cards may not look that great just scanned in, so if you would prefer, you may design a business card size ad and submit that instead of your actual business card. I can not do design work for individuals. I have a great deal of work to do getting this publication together, so what you send is what will be published. The earliest submissions will be placed in the most prominent spots of the publication first and the ones to follow will be placed accordingly. For example, if ABC gets the ad in on the 1st they will get the first BC size slot that opens in the layout, and so forth until the publication fills up. However if ABC only advertises one issue, then the next in line with the most commitment would be moved up to that spot. This is only fair so that we may count on the support throughout the year. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Lawyer busted for sending dog poop to private investigator

Upset because he believed private investigators hired by his ex-wife were going through his garbage, a Naperville attorney allegedly sent an unmarked cardboard box to their Wheaton office. The box alarmed the private investigators, who contacted Wheaton police.

They called in the DuPage County sheriff's department bomb squad, which blasted open the container.

Inside, police found a plastic bag of household garbage and at least 10 smaller bags of stinky dog poop.

Now, Naperville attorney R. Edward Bates is on trial for a misdemeanor count of disorderly conduct for allegedly sending the box and its unpleasant contents last November after a bitter

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Advertising Rates for the PICA Investigative Reporter.

PICA Members:

- Full Page \$200.00
- 1/2 Page \$100.00
- 1/4 Page \$50.00
- Business card \$25.00

Non-Member:

- Full Page \$250.00
- 1/2 Page \$135.00
- 1/4 Page \$75.00
- Business card \$35.00

Questions regarding Advertising or Art Copy dimensions and proofs can be directed to pikapub@northstarlegal.com

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divorce and custody battle.

In an unusual move, Bates asked for a jury to hear the low-level charge, which carries a maximum penalty of up to a year in jail.

During opening statements Wednesday, his attorney insisted Bates, 59, was only trying to ease a tense situation when he mailed the box to J.D. Olson and Associates, a firm of Wheaton private investigators who had been hired by Bates' former wife.

Bates thought the investigators were going through his garbage, and he sent the trash to avoid a confrontation at his home, defense attorney John Wieser said.

"He wanted to avoid any possible conflict," Wieser said of Bates. "It's very clear my client wanted to defuse this situation."

Bates also faxed a letter to Olson and Associates the day before the trash arrived, warning them that his "weekly garbage is being shipped directly to your office."

Private investigator James D. Olson testified that he received the Nov. 4

faxed letter but said he still became concerned when the box arrived at his office the next day.

Olson, a former Wheaton police officer, said that when he telephoned Bates to ask about the box, Bates replied, "I sent you a letter. If you want to know more, open it up."

After that, police destroyed the package and found the messy contents. "I was annoyed, upset and angry . . . that someone would send us dog feces," Olson said.

David Van Slyke is the owner, writer, webmaster and sole employee of The Known Universe websites. His Dumb Crooks, Dopey Net and Jerk

Net websites are among the most popular humor sites on the net, so much so that Dave is frequently heard, as "The Warden" of the "Dumb Crooks" website on radio stations all over North America, from New York City to Vancouver, B.C. David can be contacted through the PICA Investigative Reporter Editor or through his web site at: www.dumbcrooks.com

David has graciously given permission to reprint his article and we look forward to more of his writing and perhaps an interview in the near future. - Editor

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