



The TASIU Observer

January 2016

The Official Newsletter of the Texas Association of Special Investigation Units

In this issue...

- 2.....Officers, Directors and Committees
- 3.....December Meeting
- 4.....Dues Renewal Notice
- 5.....Employment Opportunities
- 7.....Articles on the Web
- 8.....State & Regulatory News
- 9.....Texas Antifraud Vendors Directory

Upcoming Meetings

HOUSTON

Wednesday, January 13, 2016

Auditorium

2900 N. Loop W. (basement)
Houston, TX 77090

AGENDA:

- 9:00am Chapter Business
- 9:30am Guest Speaker Dr. Rick Wakefield, IHC – *Common Injuries and Treatment*
- 10:30am NICB

SAN ANTONIO

Thursday, March 3, 2016

Fred Loya Auditorium
8603 Ingram Rd.
San Antonio, TX 78245

AGENDA:

- 9:00 a.m. Chapter Business
- 9:30 a.m. Guest Speaker – TBA
- 10:30 a.m. NICB starts

TASIU meets in both Houston and San Antonio to provide updates on chapter activity and 1-hour of antifraud training for our members.

A link to upcoming TASIU training can be found at www.tasiu.org.

TASIU and NICB work together to schedule their respective meetings on the same day for convenience.

*TDI CE credit may be offered. Please have TDI adjuster license #.

Texas Antifraud Vendors Directory

Please be sure to check out our Texas Antifraud Vendors Directory in this issue.

We hope it becomes a valuable reference for you as a one-stop directory for claim investigative needs and suggest printing copies for your claim office bulletin boards.

To our vendors, thanks for your support.

Happy New from TASIU!

I hope the New Year finds you all enthusiastic and ready to take on the challenges that lay ahead. 2016 is going to be a great year with many new opportunities for us, and I'm excited about our plans!

We will be implementing our Claim Representative Anti-Fraud Partner recognition program in the near future, which will allow us to expand on our mission of awareness and education. There will be more to follow on this issue as it evolves.

Also, it's time to renew your membership. Please take a moment to do so today at TASIU.org. Also, feel free to introduce potential new members. Remember that we have Associate membership, Law Enforcement Membership and Legal Advocate membership categories available.

Please plan to join us at our next chapter meetings:

San Antonio - Thursday, January 7 at 9am, in the Fred Loya Auditorium, 8603 Ingram Road; and Houston - Wednesday January 13 at 9am in the NICB Basement Auditorium, 2950 N. Loop West.

I look forward to seeing you there!

Regards,



Parker Straus, LLP

Lawyers Bringing Facts Into Focus

<http://www.parkerllp.com>

2015 Seminar Flagship Sponsor

TASIU was officially formed as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization by a group of Houston SIU investigators in 1993. TASIU now meets in both Houston and San Antonio.

The TASIU Observer is published monthly and distributed throughout the Texas SIU community. If you would like to submit an article for consideration, please submit your inquiry to David Godell, godell.david@aaa-texas.com.

TASIU OFFICERS:

President (2014-2016): **Doug Endicott**, AAA, endicott.doug@aaa-texas.com
 Vice President (2014-2016): **Pamela Stiefel**, The Hartford, pamelastiefel@thehartford.com
 Secretary (2014-2016): **Khrys Fisher**, Allstate, Khrys.Fisher@Allstate.com
 Treasurer (2014-2016): **Les Sutton**, Kemper, LSutton@Kemper.com
 Sergeant at Arms (H): **Stephen Schoonover**, HCFMO, stephen.schoonover@fmo.hctx.net
 TASIU Counsel: **Tom J. Usery**, Law Office of Tom J. Usery, PLLC, tju@userypllc.com

TASIU BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Director (2014-2016) **Rick Luna**, The Hartford, richard.luna@thehartford.com
 Director (2014-2016) **Darren Ravey**, Farmers Insurance, darren.ravey@farmersinsurance.com
 Director (2014-2016) **Keith Barbier**, USAA, keith.barbier@usaa.com
 Director (2015-2017) **Jesse Lopez**, noahsmile@msn.com
 Director (2015-2017) **Don Oberhoff**, Texas Farm Bureau, doberhoff@txfb-ins.com

TASIU COMMITTEES:

Membership Education & Training Constitution & Bylaws Laws & Legislation

- San Antonio - Outreach & Awareness - Nominations & Awards
 - Newsletter - Seminar
 - Website

Anti-trust Statement: As Members of this organization or participants in our meetings, we need to be mindful of the constraints of the Anti-trust laws. There shall be no discussions of agreements or concerted actions that may restrain competition. The prohibition includes exchange of information concerning individual company rates, coverages, market practices, claims settlement practices, or any other competitive aspect of an individual companies operation. Each member or participant is obligated to speak up immediately to prevent any discussion falling outside the bounds indicated.

Advertise with TASIU and get noticed by the Texas SIU community.

http://www.tasiu.org/content.aspx?page_id=87&club_id=62802&item_id=72138



The Texas Association of Special Investigation Units is the Texas-South chapter of the International Association of Special Investigation Units.

The IASIU Mission:

- Promoting a coordinated effort within the industry to combat insurance fraud;
- Providing education and training for insurance investigator;
- Developing greater awareness of the insurance fraud problem;
- Encouraging high professional standards of conduct among insurance investigators; and
- Supporting legislation that acts as a deterrent to the crime of insurance fraud.

www.iasiu.org

2015 Seminar Super Platinum Sponsor



TASIU COUNSEL



Tom J. Usery
 Law Office of Tom J. Usery,
 PLLC

21 Waterway Avenue, Suite 300
 The Woodlands, TX 77380

(281) 362-2797 – Office

(713) 725-5517 – Mobile

tju@userypllc.com

TASIU Annual Business Meeting and Christmas Luncheon

On Wednesday December 9, 2015, The Texas South Chapter of IASIU held it's annual business meeting and joint NICB Task Force Christmas Luncheon.

This year, TASIU was extremely pleased to have four sponsors for the meeting: Milan G. Marinkovich & Associates, PLLC; Rimkus; Haag Global; and GloBlue Technologies. Each sponsor provided a brief presentation of their products and services, which was very informative and well-received by the membership. TASIU is looking forward to continuing these partnerships well into the foreseeable future.



(Pictured: TASIU Officers & Directors, Tommy Short, Bruna Daigle, and Adrian Da Silva of Globlue Technologies; George Buschardt of Haag Global; and Milan Marinkovitch with Milan G. Marinkovitch & Associates, PLLC)

Officer and Director Elections were also conducted. Here is an updated roster of the 2016 -18 TASIU Officers and Directors:

TASIU OFFICERS:

President (2016-2018): Doug Endicott, AAA Texas, Endicott.doug@aaa-texas.com; doug_endicott@hotmail.com (preferred for TASIU business)

Vice President (2016 – 2018): Pamela Stiefel, The Hartford, pamela.stiefel@thehartford.com

Secretary (2016 – 2018): Khrys Fisher, Allstate, khrys.fisher@allstate.com

Treasurer (2016 – 2018): Les Sutton, Kemper, LSutton@Kemper.com

Sergeant at Arms (2016 – 2018) Steve Schoonover, Harris County Fire Marshal, stephen.schoonover@fmo.hctx.net

TASIU Counsel: Tom J. Usery, Law Office of Tom J. Usery, PLLC, tju@userypllc.com

TASIU BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Director (2016-2018) Rick Luna, The Hartford, richard.luna@thehartford.com

Director (2016-2018) Darren Ravey, Farmers Insurance, darren.ravey@farmersinsurance.com

Director (2016-2018) Keith Barbier, USAA, keith.barbier@usaa.com

Director (2015-2017) Jesse Lopez, noahsmile@msn.com

Director (2015-2017) Don Oberhoff, Texas Farm Bureau, doberhoff@txfb-ins.com

Toys, Food & Fun: TASIU also experienced outstanding participation in our annual toy drive for the USMC Toys For Tots program! The generosity of our membership was overwhelming! Afterwards, a catered luncheon was enjoyed by the meeting participants, during which door prizes consisting of ten holiday pies were given away. We're already looking forward to our meeting next year!

Dues Renewal Notice

Annual dues for TASIU are due next month (December). Please remember to be eligible for membership you must be a member in good standing (dues paid) of IASIU. If you are running for an officer / director position, please be sure to have your dues current prior to running. Payment can be made on-line, by cash, or by check. Please check the website for more information.



CVI CLAIMS VERIFICATION INC.
Nationwide

Nationwide SIU Special Investigation and Surveillance
FLAT RATE INVESTIGATION SERVICES ACROSS TEXAS

1-888-284-2000 • www.cvi.com • cases@cvi.com

Following license numbers in accordance with state regulations. All others on file. CA 23418 • OR 33741 • AZ 1539670 • NV 1219 • TX A13677
NC BPH001628P6 • FL A0002019 • IL 117001507 • NY 11000022200 • VA 11-3010

Jeffrey Abrams
Forensic Analysts, Inc.
(281) 558-9396
Jeffrey_abrams@hotmail.com

P.O. Box 440846
Houston, TX 77244

BAIN & BARKLEY
A Partnership of Professional Corporations

ATTORNEYS

Stephen D. Bain	Michael "Tate" Barkley
Christy Amuny	Greg Chandler
Fraud Investigation	Examinations Under Oath
First and Third Party Litigation	Insurance Coverage Issues

Sugar Land (281) 980-3100
Beaumont (409) 833-0398
steve@bainlaw.net

BILLY COX GROUP
FORENSIC CRASH ANALYSIS

Billy S. Cox, Jr.
President - CEO

O: 713.466.8480 • C: 979.595.1233
billy_cox@billycoxgroup.com • www.billycoxgroup.com
15551 FM 362 • Navasota, Texas 77868

Every person who receives and/or reads The Observer is empowered to pass it along to other claims professionals. The Observer subscribes to and follows the strictest standards concerning the IASIU standards, anti-trust statement, and mission.



Employment Opportunities

Does your company have an SIU position to post / announce? E-mail the information to godel.david@aaa-texas.com.

Job Title: Special Agent

Job City: Houston & San Antonio (2 Positions)

Company Name: National Insurance Crime Bureau

Job Description: The Special Agent is the primary NICB contact with its member companies in providing advice with regard to preventing and combating insurance related crime and fraud in their designated geographical areas. NICB Special Agents provide a wide range of expertise to member companies and law enforcement in multiple areas related to medical billing fraud, property and casualty fraud, workers compensation fraud, vehicle theft, cargo theft and the theft of specialized equipment*.

Responsibilities:

- Review questionable claims submitted by member companies to independently decide which ones merit further investigation for possible fraud and/or criminal activity.
- Make an independent determination as to the best method to proceed on the questionable claims which will be further investigated.
- Request claim files from member companies and review the claim files to make an independent determination whether or not there is evidence of fraud or criminal activity.
- When opening a case or writing reports, determine the security designation.
- Coordinate multi-carrier, multi-claim investigations with law enforcement and member companies.
- After evaluation of the facts of an investigative matter, if the Special Agent is of the opinion that a crime has occurred, he or she then makes a recommendation to law enforcement as to which individuals and/or entities have in the Special Agent's judgment, violated a criminal statute(s).
- After evaluation of the facts of an investigative matter, if the Special Agent is of the opinion that a licensed professional, such as a doctor or lawyer, should have adverse action taken against their professional license, then the Special Agent will make a recommendation as to what complaint should be made to the licensing authority.
- When presenting a matter to law enforcement or prosecutors for further investigation, prepares an investigative report detailing their findings.
- Hosts meetings with member companies and law enforcement to provide training and information on the latest trends in insurance related crime and fraud.
- Provide training to member company's claims and SIU personnel, along with law enforcement in how to identify insurance related crime and fraud.
- May testify in court, usually as a subject matter or expert witness.
- May provide interviews to the press as the representative of the NICB in the areas within Special Agent's subject matter expertise.
- May provide advice to member companies and governmental authorities with regard to recommended legislative changes.
- Maintain membership in appropriate professional organizations and may assume a leadership position in such organizations which further NICB's mission.
- Act as a consultant to member companies in the assigned geographic area on identifying insurance related crime and fraud.
- Author *ForeWarn* Alerts to be provided to designated Member Company personnel providing updates on investigations and information on fraud related schemes and trends.

- Work within the budget for their operation, including providing and overseeing money budgeted to support law enforcement operations.
- Identify potential new member companies.
- Become a recognized functional expert in identifying insurance related crime and fraud
- Such other duties as may be required to fulfill NICB's mission.

Qualifications:

- Relevant college degree preferred
- Valid Driver's License
- Minimum of 3 years of similar experience
- Insurance industry or law enforcement experience preferred
- Ability to pass an FBI background check
- Good computer skills - Working knowledge of selected Microsoft Office applications
- Experience making independent decisions on matters of significance

.To Apply: Houston: <http://careers.iasiu.org/jobs/7820152/special-agent>

San Antonio: <http://careers.iasiu.org/jobs/7820156/special-agent>

Job Title: Special Agent – Medical Fraud Task Force

Job City: Dallas

Company Name: National Insurance Crime Bureau

Job Description: The Special Agent functions as the investigative arm of the NICB, working in cooperation with member insurance companies, law enforcement and other associated agencies to combat insurance related crime. Responsible for initiating and conducting medical fraud investigations which result in the dismantlement of clinics and staged accident rings, arrests of those involved, loss mitigations, restitution and reduction of insurance fraud.

Responsibilities:

- Conducts timely and thorough, multi-claim, multi-carrier criminal investigations.
- Collects, analyzes, and calculates relevant data for use in investigations.
- Works closely with the Field Information Analyst.
- Properly documents all phases of investigative activity.
- Prepares summary investigative presentations for submission to law enforcement/prosecutor.
- Represents NICB in criminal court, often testifying as an expert witness.
- Serves as liaison with member insurance companies, law enforcement and government agencies to promote and provide the full range of NICB services.
- Provides comprehensive training to member insurance companies and L/E on related insurance crime matters.
- Functions as a "technical" expert in medical fraud investigations and identifying insurance fraud schemes/claim file review.
- Maintains membership in appropriate professional organizations.
- Works well with others in a Task Force environment / a team player.
- Establishes and maintains business relationships with member insurance companies, law enforcement, regulatory agencies and vendors.
- Identifies potential new member customers.
- Other duties as assigned.

Qualifications:

- Recognized functional expert.
- Knowledge of medical terminology and procedures.
- Understanding of CPT codes.
- Above average performance sustained over time.
- Ability to interface successfully with a variety of people.
- Ability to work independently under pressure.
- Capacity to travel.
- Good written and verbal communication skills.
- High level of organization skills.
- Sound decision making skills.
- Operate and maintain NICB issued equipment
- High School Diploma (College preferred).
- Valid Driver's License.
- 3 - 5 years of related investigative experience (LE/SIU).
- Insurance industry or law enforcement experience preferred.
- Good computer skills - Working knowledge of selected Microsoft Office applications.

To Apply: <http://careers.iasiu.org/jobs/7820160/special-agent-medical-fraud-task-force>

IASIU also lists job postings. Check it out @ <http://www.iasiu.org/resources/job-posting/investigators/>.

Articles on the Web

Every month we try to find an interesting story of two on the Internet that may be of interest to the SIU community. This month we found several. Because a 30 or more page TASIU newsletter is a bit long, check out these articles by following the links.

"Committing Insurance Fraud is Funny, No Big Deal"

<http://www.insurancefraud.org/blog/?p=3182>

"Claims Staff Faster, Better at Fraud Detection Using Predictive Modeling"

<http://www.propertycasualty360.com/2016/01/01/how-predictive-modeling-is-flagging-fraudulent-claims>

"Oregon Has No Anti-Fraud Law or Infrastructure"

<http://www.insurancefraud.org/blog/?p=3172>

"Severe Weather Caused \$10B+ in Insured Losses in 2015"

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/weather/2016/01/03/tornadoes-severe-storms-insured-losses/78234474/>

"Fraudster Insurance Claims Photobombed by Facebook"

<http://www.businessinsurance.com/article/20151209/NEWS06/151209785/facebook-photobombs-fraudsters-insurance-claims?tags=|329|302>

"Traffic Fatalities, Injuries on the Rise in Texas"

<http://www.newsradioklbf.com/news/texas-news/fatal-injury-wrecks-rise-texas-fourth-straight-year>

"ISO ClaimSearch Mobile App Update Gives Users Additional Functionality"

http://www.verisk.com/blog/claims-2/iso-claimsearch-mobile-app-update-gives-users-additional-functionality/?utm_campaign=VIS-Claims%202015%2012%20December%20CS%20Report%20B&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Eloqua&utm_content=%5bInvestigations%5d%20Read%20how%20four%20billion%20car%20sightings%20can%20make%20a%20powerful%20impact



State Regulatory News

Texas Board of Chiropractic Examiners

The Texas Board of Chiropractic Examiners' website has a new look. Check it out: <http://www.tbce.state.tx.us/>

The recent list of disciplinary actions can be found here: http://www.tbce.state.tx.us/Documents/disc_actions_chiro.pdf

The most recent newsletter, Volume II, Issue 6, was published in October, 2015, and can be located at <https://www.tbce.state.tx.us/NewsLetter/2015/NLOct2015.pdf>.

Texas Medical Board

Read the latest TMB newsletter, published in December, 2015, which includes complaints and discipline:

<http://www.tmb.state.tx.us/dl/CAAA78B5-1F74-A533-7EAE-F9B16EAD775E>.

Read the latest bulletins upon their website, including physician discipline, at <http://www.tmb.state.tx.us/showdoc/press-releases>.

TMB included in their June 25 press release information about changes concerning CHAPTER 170. PAIN MANGEMENT:

<http://www.tmb.state.tx.us/dl/44C9E691-7BB6-D344-A518-DF63FE0981C9>

Texas State Bar

Recent attorney disciplinary actions can be found starting on page 52 of the January Texas Bar Journal. The direct link is

https://www.texasbar.com/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Table_of_Contents&Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=32213.

The entire Journal can be read on-line at <http://mydigimag.rrd.com/publication/?m=21412&l=1>.

There is an interesting article concerning the False Claims Act that is worth the quick read. "Fraud Alert: What every Texas lawyer should know about the False Claims Act":

https://www.texasbar.com/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Table_of_Contents&Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=31533

JASON D. BATH ATTORNEY AT LAW

BUSH & RAMIREZ, P.L.L.C.
5615 KIRBY DRIVE, SUITE 900
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77005

(713) 626-1555
FAX: (713) 622-8077
jbath@bushramirez.com

HILL COUNTRY EMBROIDERY Dripping Springs, Texas

Don Frisch
512-569-0985

don@hillcountryemb.com

Phyllis Frisch
512-569-4222

phyllis@hillcountryemb.com

www.hillcountryemb.com

MILAN G. MARINKOVICH & ASSOCIATES, PLLC

Milan G. Marinkovich, Esq.
mgm@milanlaw.org

25211 Grogans Mill Road,
Suite 130
The Woodlands, Texas 77380

(832) 232-9600/Phone
(832) 415-0426/Fax
www.milanlaw.org



Texas Antifraud Vendors Directory

The Official Directory of the Texas Association of Special Investigation Units (TASIU)

Forensics	Investigations (continued)
AIC-Fire Investigations ^{EXH} www.AIC-Fire.com 940-321-1702	Evocati Security Services ^{EXH} www.evocatisecurityservices.com 832-928-0618
Armstrong Forensic Laboratory ^{SPO} www.aflab.com 817-275-2691	Hub Enterprises ^{EXH} www.hubenterprises.com 800-873-0933
Billy Cox Group ^{EXH} www.billycoxgroup.com 713-466-8480	Intertel ^{SPO EXH} www.intertelinc.com 800 791-7776
Champion Restoration www.championrestoration.com 281-599-9393	OSS Investigations ^{EXH} www.oss-investigations.com 940 497-9693
Conestoga-Rovers & Associates www.craworld.com 713-734-3090	Texas Investigative Network, Inc. ^{EXH} www.texasinvestigators.com 888-708-2321
Donan Engineering Co., Inc. ^{EXH} www.donan.com 800-482-5611	Veracity Research Company ^{EXH} www.vrcinvestigations.com 800-654-2185
EFI Global ^{EXH} www.efiglobal.com 800-334-0200	Legal
Forensic Analysts, Inc. ^{EXH, SPO} jeffrey_abrams@hotmail.com 281-558-9396	Bain & Barkley ^{SUP} www.bainandbarkley.com 281-980-3100
Gerloff Company, Inc. ^{SUP} www.gerloffinc.com 800-486-3621	David Knight & Associates www.dknight-law.net 713-521-9150
Haag Engineering ^{EXH} www.haagengineering.com 800-527-0168	Johnston Legal Group ^{EXH} www.txinslaw.com 800-771-6946
Nelson Architectural Engineers ^{EXH} www.architecturalengineers.com 877-850-8765	Law Office of Tom J. Usery, PLLC tju@userpllc.com 281 362-2797
ProNet ^{EXH} www.pronetgroup.com 800-216-7268	Parker Straus ^{SPO} www.parkerllp.com 888-638-1796
ReMed Casualty Consulting, Inc. ^{EXH} www.remedcasualty.com 913-248-2521	Rios & Associates www.rioslawfirm.net 713-960-1488
Rimkus Consulting Group ^{EXH} www.rimkus.com 800-580-3228	Miscellaneous
System Engineering and Laboratories (SEAL) ^{EXH} www.sealcorp.com 800-624-0905	Enterprise Rent-A-Car ^{SPO, EXH} www.enterprise.com 800-261-7331
S-E-A Limited ^{EXH} www.sealimited.com 800-880-7324	Hill Country Embroidery ^{EXH} www.hillcountryemb.com 512-569-0985
Investigations	Maria-Gracia O'Connell, Interpreter www.mgointerpreter.com 832 368-6464
Claims Verification, Inc. ^{EXH} www.cvi.com 888-284-2000	Thompson Reuters ^{EXH} www.thompsonreuters.com 646-223-4000
EXH = TASIU Seminar Exhibitor SPO = TASIU Seminar Sponsor SUP = TASIU Antifraud Supporter	