

Benefits of an Investigator in Litigation

Some of the obvious things a private investigator can do to assist an attorney preparing for litigation include the following:

- Locate witnesses and other important parties;

Most of us who own or lease our residences, purchase on credit, subscribe to common services like cell phones and cable TV, and promptly notify MVD of our address changes as legally required, have established paper trails and digital footprints that any novice can follow right to our doorstep. Many other people – commonly those you need most to find – live “off the grid” and aren’t easily found. Because investigators have access to resources and databases that an average civilian doesn’t – not to mention the experience and know how to use those resources – they can often locate people and find information that others can’t.

One resource I have found to be particularly effective at helping me find people who no longer reside at their last reported address is known as “ALPR”. Automatic License Plate Reader (ALPR) cameras have proliferated across America in the past few years and are in wide-spread and ever-increasing use by both by law enforcement and the private sector. There are many who oppose this technology citing privacy concerns and I have attached an excerpt from the ACLU Publication – “YOU ARE BEING TRACKED” – that discusses how the use of this technology has led to the emergence of numerous privately-owned databases that contain literally billions of records that are growing at exponential rates.

Regardless of whether you support or oppose this technology I have found ALPR data to be one of the most effective tools I, as a licensed private investigator, have at my disposal to locate individuals an attorney or other client has asked me to find. This data may help you find someone important to your case and a private investigator who has access to and knows how to use this data can be a valuable partner to your cause.

Although much of the research an investigator performs can be accomplished without the investigator ever leaving his or her computer, there are times when that just doesn’t get the job done and the only viable avenues left involve knocking on doors and making phone calls. On those occasions you need an experienced investigator who can establish rapport with people from any station and elicit whatever information they may have that is relevant to your

cause. Sometimes the person who says “I really don’t want to get involved” will eventually tell what they know if handled properly by a skilled interviewer who can allay that person’s fears and establish trust.

- Search private databases for relevant information;

I as a private investigator subscribe to a confidential database service that gives me access to information that is not available to most private citizens. I must have a legally authorized purpose to access this information and am constrained from releasing any confidential reports I access to unauthorized parties. If you don’t have access to this information yourself or through your firm, you may benefit from hiring an investigator who can access this information on your behalf and use it to help achieve your objectives.

- Physically visit and examine venues;

This can often reveal information you would never know otherwise. Could the witness (often a police officer) have really seen what they claim at the place from which they say they saw it? Sometimes a scene investigation is required to resolve that question. If you can’t visit the scene yourself, having an investigator do so who can produce photographs and diagrams when necessary can make a difference in your case.

- Conduct surveillance;

Sometimes this is the only viable avenue to get the information you need. Some investigators make their living billing for hours spent on surveillances that often produce no useful information. A successful surveillance requires careful planning, the proper resources, and skillful execution. These resources include:

Cameras (different cameras are needed for different applications);

Communication (cell phones alone usually won’t cut it on team operations);

Personnel (rarely is a single investigator, working alone, enough to get the job done);

Sensors and trackers (there are times these are required) – I have a tracker in my proverbial toolbox and rarely use it, but it has produced results on those occasions I could not have produced otherwise.

When surveillance is needed, you should employ an investigator who has the right resources and a proven track record of getting results. I will not agree to work a surveillance that does not have a clearly defined and realistically achievable objective. I am not interested in following someone to see if I can catch them doing something wrong (I don't do domestic surveillance and have generally regretted making exceptions to that rule). I regularly work with a small group of qualified investigators who share this philosophy and I have used them as sub-contractors to either conduct or assist me on surveillance projects or have referred potential clients to them directly when they were better equipped than I to handle the project at hand.

- Gather and evaluate data;

I consider myself to be a “data guy” and believe any private investigator worth his or her salt has similar inclinations. I didn't plan this or even see it coming but I have become an expert in evaluating AVL data from police vehicles and other sources which has on far more occasions than I thought possible served to impeach an officer's account of events and yielded case dismissals, new plea offers too good to pass up, or sustained Motions to Suppress. I have spoken on this topic on several occasions, most recently in West Chester Ohio at the national conference of NALI (National Association of Litigation Investigators) this past June. I have also evaluated GPS data from police trackers and from other sources such as a Google Timeline.

- Obtain and critically evaluate surveillance video;

I have been amazed (perhaps a better word is dismayed) at how often police fail to secure video from obvious sources when it was there for the taking. I have often helped obtain video after-the-fact that has sometimes proven helpful to the case. I have also been surprised how often (I have some compelling examples to share) the video does not depict what a police report professes it to show. I have reviewed video from as many as 13 or more cameras for a single incident that required many hours of careful review. A good investigator can assist you by conducting this careful review and extracting pertinent data for presentation in a format helpful to your case.

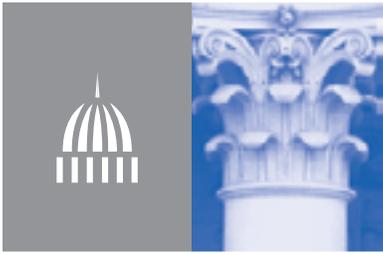
- Critically evaluate police investigations and reports;

A good investigator can help you identify investigation flaws that might otherwise escape your notice. The cliché “two minds are better than one” certainly applies. My many years of police experience have given me an above average ability to critically dissect flawed police investigations. As a former proud employee of the Phoenix Police Department, I am often disappointed at the generally poor quality of investigations I see coming out of the agency and wonder what it will take to turn that around. In my new role I have to let that go and focus on the task at hand and that is to identify the flaws in investigations and gather information that will get us to the proverbial truth.

I never envisioned, during my years working in law enforcement, my future role working with defense attorneys. I am proud to say I have helped clear three separate defendants who were wrongfully charged based on sloppy police investigations who were completely innocent of the charged offenses and were themselves the victims of identity theft. I have to say those cases have given me greater satisfaction than most of my prior accomplishments as a member of law enforcement.

- Help you win your case;

To sum things up I believe the greatest benefit you gain from hiring a qualified investigator is to increase your odds of winning your case. If you have a case that simply can't be won because the truth lies on the other side, the fact you employed an investigator to do everything that reasonably could be done to assist you in providing a diligent defense can help you avoid or survive any potential claims that you failed to provide effective assistance.



Automated License Plate Readers

By Pam Greenberg

Automated license plate readers (ALPRs) capture computer-readable images of license plates. These high-tech devices allow law enforcement agencies to compare plate numbers against those of stolen cars or cars driven by people suspected of being involved in criminal or terrorist activities. ALPR systems also are used by the private sector, for example, to repossess vehicles if payments are in default, to monitor parking or to control access to private property, among other purposes. As ALPR use has increased, state lawmakers have begun to address the complex issues they raise about privacy and appropriate uses of the data.

ALPRs are rapidly becoming widely used by law enforcement agencies. A 2012 survey by the Police Executive Research Forum found that 71 percent of police departments responding used the systems, and 85 percent planned to expand their use or purchase new equipment.

Although ALPRs typically are not mentioned in most state public records laws, the data they collect is often considered public, since such laws often are based on the presumption that the information is open to public disclosure unless specifically exempted or otherwise prohibited. The systems, however, have raised concerns that the information collected may be inaccurate, shared without restrictions, retained longer than necessary, and used or abused in ways that could infringe upon citizens' privacy. Restricting access to ALPR data can protect people from being tracked and alleviate concerns about confidentiality, but it also can limit oversight of government use of the tool.

Concerns About Using Data From ALPRs. The large amount of ALPR data being collected is growing more quickly than are policies and procedures governing their use, say privacy advocates. ALPRs capture and retain the location information and photographs of all vehicles, regardless of whether the driver is a suspect or wanted for a crime. In a review of retention policies of law enforcement agencies in 2012, the [American Civil Liberties Union](#) found that many retain data on innocent Americans for long periods of time. Inaccuracies in databases used with ALPRs could lead to false matches of license plates to innocent individuals.

Further, ALPRs can collect detailed location information, such as trips to church, medical facilities, political protests, bars or other locations that could be used to build a profile or permanent record of a person's movements. This type of surveillance can create a chilling effect on individuals, who may feel pressured to limit their normal activities, say civil libertarians.

Another concern is that workers with access to ALPR data could misuse it for personal reasons or share or sell it without authorization. Also, some private companies reportedly have amassed millions of license plate scans, leading to concerns about the data being shared or sold for questionable purposes.

Did You Know?

- Automated license plate reader (ALPRs) systems combine high-speed cameras and sophisticated software to capture and convert license plate images into data that can be compared with information in other databases.
- Cameras used in ALPRs may be mobile or stationary and are small enough to be mounted on police cars, road signs or traffic lights, or placed at the sides of roads or on bridges.
- License plate reader systems can collect a driver's geographic location, along with the date and time a vehicle was in a particular place.

Benefits of Using Data From ALPRs. ALPRs have been an effective tool for law enforcement agencies, cutting down on the time required for investigations and decreasing costs for agencies struggling with limited budgets. System cameras can scan thousands of plates in a very short time, allowing police to identify stolen vehicles and drivers who have outstanding traffic violations and expired registrations or plates. For example, a [2011 study](#) by the Police Executive Research Forum concluded that ALPRs used by the Mesa, Ariz., Police Department considerably enhanced the productivity of the auto theft unit, resulting in “nearly 3 times as many ‘hits’ for stolen vehicles, and twice as many vehicle recoveries.”

Automated license plate readers are most commonly used for immediately identifying vehicles on a “hot list,” which requires the license plate data to be retained for only a short time. ALPR systems that store data for longer periods, however, can be used to identify patterns of crime and to locate possible suspects or areas of criminal activity. Police can target their investigations to more serious crimes, such as drug trafficking, burglaries or terrorist activities.

Concerns about privacy should be alleviated, ALPR supporters say, because the data collected does not include personal information about drivers and, until the license plate number is matched to other data, it cannot identify an individual. Further, ALPRs collect information that already is publicly available to anyone.

State Action

Ten states have enacted laws restricting or prohibiting use of ALPRs or ALPR data by law enforcement. Six—Arkansas, Maine, Maryland, New Hampshire, Utah and Vermont—place restrictions on government or law enforcement use of ALPRs. Eight states limit how long data can be retained—ranging from 21 days in Maine to three years in Colorado. Florida, Maine, Maryland and Utah laws specify that ALPR data is confidential and exempt under public records laws.

Arkansas, Maine and New Hampshire also prohibit private use of ALPRs, with limited exceptions. The Arkansas and Utah statutes, however, have been met with court challenges on First Amendment claims. Utah subsequently amended its law in 2014, removing restrictions on private sector use of ALPRs.

NCSL Contact and Resource

Pam Greenberg
NCSL—Denver
(303) 856-1413

NCSL, [Automated License Plate Readers Web page](#)

Additional Resource

RAND Corporation, *License Plate Readers for Law Enforcement: Opportunities and Obstacles*, 2014.

States with Statutes Regulating Automated License Plate Readers

| State | Year Enacted | Citation |
|---------------|--------------|--|
| Arkansas | 2013 | Ark. Code §§12-12-1801 to 12-12-1805 |
| California | 2011 | Calif. Veh. Code §2413 |
| Colorado | 2014 | Colo. Rev. Stat. §24-72-113 |
| Florida | 2014 | Fla. Stat. 316.0777 |
| Maine | 2009 | 29-A M.R.S.A. §2117-A(2) |
| Maryland | 2014 | Md. Public Safety Code §3-509 |
| New Hampshire | 2007 | N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§261.75-b, 236.130 |
| Tennessee | 2014 | Tenn. Code Ann. §55-10-302 |
| Utah | 2013, 2014 | Utah Code Ann. §§41-6a-2001 to -2005 |
| Vermont | 2013 | 23 V.S.A. §§1607, 1608 |

Note: Attorney general opinions in at least two states—New Jersey and Virginia—also restrict collection or use of ALPR data by law enforcement agencies.

Source: NCSL, 2015.



PRIVATE COMPANIES COLLECT LICENSE PLATE DATA WITH NO OVERSIGHT

License plate readers are used not only by law enforcement agencies but also by private companies. This has led to the emergence of numerous privately owned databases containing the location information of vast numbers of Americans.

License plate readers are used in a variety of non-law enforcement roles. Private companies use license plate readers to monitor airports, control access to gated communities, enforce payment in parking garages, and even help customers find their cars in shopping mall parking lots.⁸⁷ While these uses in and of themselves are not objectionable, private companies can scan thousands of plates each day and store information indefinitely, creating huge databases of Americans' movements.

Perhaps the largest private users of license plate readers are repossession agents who have recognized the value of license plate location information and built enormous private databases with data from all over the country. MVTrac, one of the biggest companies in this industry, claims to have photographs and location data on "a large majority" of registered vehicles in the United States,⁸⁸ while the Digital Recognition Network (DRN) boasts of "a national network of more than 550 affiliates."⁸⁹ These affiliates, most of whom are repossession agents, are located in every major metropolitan area of the United States. DRN fuels rapid growth of its database by offering to fully finance up to five automatic license plate readers for affiliates located in major metropolitan areas, such as New York, Los Angeles, Orlando, Boston, and Washington, D.C., which guarantee they will provide DRN with a minimum of 50,000 aggregate plate scans per month.⁹⁰ DRN affiliates feed location data on up to 50 million vehicles each month (nearly all of which are not wanted for repossession) into DRN's national database.⁹¹ This database now contains over 700 million data points on where American drivers have been.⁹²

Private companies have partnerships with law enforcement. Police departments

87 Michael Harlow, *License Plate Recognition: It's Grown Far Beyond Airports*, *Parking Today* (July 2009), <http://www.parkingtoday.com/article/details.php?id=788>; Martha Groves, *Servant or Snoop in the Parking Garage?*, *L.A. Times* (Jan. 23, 2011), <http://articles.latimes.com/2011/jan/23/local/la-me-santa-monica-parking-20110123>.

88 Angwin & Valentino-Devries, *supra* note 10.

89 Digital Recognition Network, <http://www.drndata.com/index.html>.

90 MVCConnect, LLC et al v. Recovery Database Network, Inc. et al, No. 3:10-cv-01948 (N.D. Tex. Jan. 20, 2011), Amended Complaint, Exhibit 8, ECF No. 31-8. Title to the ALPRs is not transferred from DRN to the affiliates until they have contributed a total of 1,000,000 plate scans.

91 Digital Recognition Network, <http://www.drndata.com/index.html>.

92 *Id.*

can purchase license plate reader data from private corporations. For example, law enforcement agencies can access MVTrac's database and search through data collected by private repossession agencies.⁹³ DRN contributes its affiliate-generated data to the National Vehicle Location Service (NVLS), which is run by Vigilant Solutions, a partner of DRN. NVLS aggregates DRN's data with data received from other private sources, such as access control and parking systems, and from law enforcement agencies.⁹⁴ According to Vigilant, NVLS "is the largest [license plate] data sharing initiative in the United States."⁹⁵ The database holds over 800 million license plate reader records,⁹⁶ and is used by over 2,200 law enforcement agencies and 25,000 United States law enforcement investigators.⁹⁷ Each month, the system adds roughly 1,000 new users⁹⁸ and grows by 35 to 50 million license plate reader records.⁹⁹ Law enforcement agencies that use or have used NVLS include the Milpitas Police Department in California,¹⁰⁰ police in Port Arthur, Texas,¹⁰¹ and Immigration and Customs Enforcement.¹⁰²

These private databases raise serious privacy concerns. Their massive size suggests that they contain a great deal of information about our movements. These huge databases of plate information are not subject to any data security or privacy regulations governing license plate reader data. These companies decide who can access license plate data and for what purposes.

Last year, California considered a bill¹⁰³ that would have required private companies to delete license plate records after 60 days and regulated the sale and sharing of privately held plate data. Due in part to the companies' vigorous opposition, as well as that of law enforcement agencies, the bill died on the Senate floor.¹⁰⁴ Today, these companies continue to operate with no regulation of how they use the data they are rapidly collecting.

93 Angwin & Valentino-Devries, *supra* note 10; MVTRAC, Law Enforcement, <http://mvtrac.com/law-enforcement/>; MVTRAC, MVENFORCE, <http://mvtrac.com/law-enforcement/mvenforce/>.

94 Vigilant Solutions, National Vehicle Location Service FAQs, http://nvls-lpr.com/nvls/nvls_faq.html?pp=1#ans9.

95 Vigilant Solutions, National Vehicle Location Service (NVLS), <http://vigilantsolutions.com/products/nvls>.

96 Vigilant Video, National Vehicle Location Service, p. 2 (2012), <http://vigilantsolutions.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/Vigilant-NVLS-Datasheet-092012.pdf>.

97 *Id.*

98 *Supra* note 24.

99 Vigilant Solutions, National Vehicle Location Service (NVLS), <http://vigilantsolutions.com/products/nvls>.

100 Letter from Milpitas Police Department to ACLU of Northern California (Aug. 8, 2012), Public Records Responses, p. 128, http://www.aclu.org/files/FilesPDFs/ALPR/california/alprpra_milpitaspd_milpitasca.pdf.

101 Port Arthur Police Department, Invoice from Vigilant Video for Annual Subscription Renewal, Public Records Responses, p. 2062, [http://www.aclu.org/files/FilesPDFs/ALPR/texas/alprpra_portharthurPD_portharthurtx \(6\).pdf](http://www.aclu.org/files/FilesPDFs/ALPR/texas/alprpra_portharthurPD_portharthurtx%2062.pdf).

102 ICE, internal emails (Jan. 2011), Public Records Responses, pp. 21223-24, [https://www.aclu.org/files/FilesPDFs/ALPR/federal/ICE/21201-21224_r_ALPR Privacy Documents.pdf](https://www.aclu.org/files/FilesPDFs/ALPR/federal/ICE/21201-21224_r_ALPR%20Privacy%20Documents.pdf).

103 S.B. 1330 (introduced on Feb. 23, 2012), http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/11-12/bill/sen/sb_1301-1350/sb_1330_bill_20120529_amended_sen_v96.pdf. For further discussion, see Farivar, *supra* note 24.

104 Press Release, Digital Recognition Network, Digital Recognition Network Defeats California SB1330 (June 5, 2012), <http://web.archive.org/web/20121209024203/http://drndata.com/pdf/CASB1330Releasev2.060512.pdf>; Angwin & Valentino-Devries, *supra* note 10.

An Overview of Computer Assisted Dispatch (CAD) Systems integrated with Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) Technology – by Ron Hergert

Most modern police agencies employ computer-assisted dispatch (CAD) systems to facilitate and document police officer response to calls for service. CAD systems consist of several modules that provide services at multiple levels in a dispatch center to include call input, call dispatching, call status maintenance, event notes, field unit status and tracking, and call resolution and disposition. Many of these systems also use GIS (geographic information system) geocoding to translate addresses to X and Y coordinates and AVL (automatic vehicle location) technology to track the location of service units. The most expensive and technically complex CAD systems fully utilize the capabilities of geographic information systems (GIS) and automatic vehicle location (AVL) to calculate which service units are closest to addresses where services are needed both in distance and driving time.

In simple terms, Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) is a means for automatically determining and transmitting the geographic location of a vehicle. Most commonly, the location is determined using GPS (global position satellites) and the transmission mechanism is SMS (Short Message Service), GPRS (General Packet Radio Service), a satellite or terrestrial radio from the vehicle to a radio receiver. Regardless of the transmission protocol employed, the location data collected from AVL equipped vehicles can be evaluated both at the time of collection and after-the-fact to give a picture of vehicle travel.

I was employed by the Phoenix Police department for 32 ½ years from May 1975 thru November 2007 and served another 4 years as a lieutenant with the El Mirage Police Department from November of 2007 thru November of 2011. The El Mirage Police Department contracted for dispatch services with the neighboring City of Surprise and both agencies employed Spillman System Technologies software for Computer Assisted Dispatch and Police reporting purposes. The police units in both agencies were equipped with GPS receivers that connected to in-car computers to provide the location information needed for the AVL component of CAD. During my tenure in El Mirage I had occasion to extract archived AVL data for both auditing and investigative purposes on several occasions. I found this information to be very useful to determine where an AVL-equipped vehicle was and what it was doing at specific points in time and on two specific occasions this evidence resolved questions that would otherwise have remained in dispute.

I am currently self-employed as a licensed private investigator (DPS license 1623058) and have had several occasions to evaluate AVL data collected from police vehicles that were driven by officers who were involved in enforcement actions that resulted in arrests and prosecutions. I employ a careful process to distill the pertinent information from sometimes complex and confusing digital reports and to graphically display the information in Google Earth in a format that makes the information easier to understand by reviewers. In many cases I have found the AVL data to support and corroborate the involved officer's written reports and subsequent verbal accounts of his/her actions before, during, and after a particular incident but in

other cases the AVL data has contradicted this other evidence and raised questions that would not otherwise have been raised.

I am of the opinion that AVL data collected and recorded from police vehicles that are involved in enforcement actions provides an objective means for triers of fact to determine truth in much the same way recordings produced by in-car cameras, body worn cameras, or digital audio recorders provide such means. Because of this I believe the concept of due diligence requires an attorney providing a proper defense to request, obtain and evaluate AVL data whenever it is available just as he/she should request, obtain, and evaluate any other available probative evidence to include videos, audio recordings, and or documentary evidence.

(I have attached sample language for use in Discovery and Public Record Requests asking for AVL data.)

1 Sample language for AVL Data Disclosure Request

2
3
4
5
6 **IN THE PHOENIX MUNICIPAL COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA**
7 **IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MARICOPA**

8 STATE OF ARIZONA,

Case Number: <case no. here>

9 Plaintiff,

REQUEST FOR DISCLOSURE

10 vs.

11 <Defendant's Name Here>,
12

(Assigned to the Honorable <name here>)

13 Defendant.

14 The defendant, by and through undersigned counsel, asks the State to make available for
15 examination and reproduction all discoverable material pursuant to 15.1, Arizona Rules of
16 Criminal Procedure. Materials specifically requested include:

- 17 • All CAD System Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) Data and/or GPS Logs recorded for
18 the Police Unit operated by Officer <Name and Serial No. here> of the Phoenix Police
19 Department between <starting date/time here> and <ending date/time here> provided as
20 a digital text file or spreadsheet.

21
22 RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this _____ day of _____
23
24
25

Ron Hergert Consulting

Licensed Private Investigations

Litigation Support • Security • Auditing Services

<date here>

Phoenix Police Department
Code Enforcement Unit
1717 E Grant Street, Suite 100
Phoenix, AZ 85034-3401

Sample of clarifying letter I
attach to standard FOIA Request
for involved police agency

Re: Public Records Request

To Whom It May Concern:

Pursuant to A.R.S. §39-121 through 39-122, I am requesting access to and copies of the following:

- All CAD System Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) data and/or GPS logs recorded for the vehicle operated by Officer <name and serial number here> between <enter start date/time> and <enter end date/time> provided as a digital text file or spreadsheet.

If you choose to deny this request, please provide a written explanation for the denial including a reference to the specific statutory exemption(s) upon which you rely.

Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or require clarification.

Sincerely,



Ron Hergert
DBA Ron Hergert Consulting
DPS License: 1623058

610 E. Bell Road #266

Phoenix, AZ 85022-2393

Office/Fax: (602) 504-1844 - Mobile: (602) 803-8602 – Email: hergertr@gmail.com

Ron Hergert – DBA Ron Hergert Consulting



Ron became a licensed Private Investigator in January, 2012 after finishing a lengthy career in law enforcement. Ron spent 32 ½ years with Phoenix PD and another 4 years with the City of El Mirage PD. While a lieutenant with Phoenix PD he served in numerous specialty assignments to include Internal Affairs, Vice, Narcotics, Family Investigations, Police Academy and Traffic. As a lieutenant with El Mirage PD he helped rebuild that agency after the City cancelled its public safety contract with the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office.

While in private practice Ron has conducted complex administrative investigations for government entities including the Daisy Mountain Fire Department, City of Casa Grande, City of Buckeye, City of Surprise and the White Mountain Apache Tribe. Ron has also collaborated with Investigator Jim Humphrey on government and private sector investigations for over 25 years and regularly collaborates with other Investigators on a variety of projects including asset recovery investigations, surveillance assignments, background investigations, data analysis, and sentencing studies. Ron is a “data guy” and has produced several Access Databases one of which is currently being used by 8 Arizona law enforcement agencies including MCSO, Glendale PD, Peoria PD, Buckeye PD, ADOT and Sierra Vista PD to track vehicles impounded under authority of ARS 28-3511. He downloads mugshots from the MCSO website daily using an automated Python script and currently has over 421,000 sets of mugshots that he manages with another Access Database he developed for the task. He regularly provides mugshots and booking information to attorneys and peer private investigators upon request.

Ron's practice has evolved from initially working primarily for government entities, to now primarily working with private attorneys as an investigator and expert witness on criminal and civil cases. Ron is currently on contract as a qualified investigator for the Phoenix Public Defender's Office. Some of this transition has come about because of Ron's specialized expertise in deciphering and evaluating Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) data from police vehicles. Ron developed this expertise while working in law enforcement and since entering private practice has evaluated AVL data for attorneys on numerous criminal and civil cases where that evaluation has influenced case outcomes. As word of these outcomes has spread, demands for Ron's services in this area have increased. Ron has testified on his analyses on numerous occasions both in motion hearings and trials and two Phoenix City Court Judges ruled him to be a qualified expert on this subject after conducting lengthy evidentiary hearings made necessary by prosecution efforts to exclude his testimony and the data itself.

Formal Education

Bachelor of Arts in Management from University of Phoenix
Graduate of FBI National Academy – 177th Session

Current Employment

Self-employed as Arizona Licensed Private Investigator since 1/20/2012

Career Accomplishments

Retired from Law Enforcement after 36 ½ years

Professional Affiliations

FBI National Academy Associates – Arizona Chapter
Arizona Association of Licensed Private Investigators (AALPI)
Arizona Attorneys for Criminal Justice (AACJ) – Allied Professional

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