

A Forum of Investigative Professionals

In 2016, a group of licensed private investigators from five established Connecticut firms created an unofficial forum of industry professionals. The investigators began meeting twice a year with the joint mission of sharing information, educating each other, and developing a fraternity based on respect and comradery in a professional environment.

The forum began to grow and boasted 15 members by mid-2017. The forum became known as the Connecticut Investigators Forum, (CIF). CIF members committed to 100% attendance at all meetings and each participant was encouraged to share some new experience, training, or business issue with the group. Meetings held two to three times a year sparked great discussion and learning by experience sharing.

As interest in CIF began to spread throughout the state and membership grew, the original CIF founders decided to take the organization to the next level. In 2019 CIF created the Connecticut Private Investigators Association (CPIA) and registered the organization as a Connecticut non-profit domestic corporation, complete with a board of directors and bylaws. All start-up costs were absorbed by the original founding members.

Unfortunately, due to the onset of the pandemic in 2020 into 2021, and restrictions by the governor's office regarding gatherings, CPIA meetings ceased, and the association went dormant.

Fast forward to now. CPIA is under new leadership with a board made up of new members and some original founding members. We are eager to bring CPIA back to life and make it even better than before. Informal planning meetings began in 2023 and once again, we are ready to take the next step.

CPIA is actively recruiting new members and development of a new website is underway. Some features of the website will be a secured members-only section, automated membership registration and payment, legal and legislative updates, training opportunities, meeting announcements and a searchable database for public use when searching for an investigator, service, or specialty. We are confident that members will find the website valuable and that it will provide new client and business opportunities. CPIA plans to establish a social media footprint as well. A CPIA LinkedIn page has been created and will soon be loaded with content.

Our first general membership meeting is planned for September of 2024, and we are looking at various venues now. We are currently in talks with a "Connecticut University" law school where we hope to hold our general meeting, co-sponsored by the law school. PI's will meet guest speakers with industry specific presentations and PI's will have the opportunity to introduce their services to aspiring young attorneys.

If you are interested in becoming a member of CPIA, and/or filling two open Director positions on the board, please visit ct-investigators.com or contact CPIA President Don DiStefano at info@detectives-mis.com.

ABOUT THE PRESIDENT:

Don DiStefano, MS,
President of CPIA

Don DiStefano is a retired Detective Sergeant from the San Francisco Bay Area in California. He relocated to Connecticut in 2005 where he began a second career as Director of Investigations with Quinnipiac University Department of Public Safety. Don is a Team ADAM member with the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, a licensed Private Investigator since 2011, and owner of Madison Investigative Services, LLC.