



When BAD DEBTS go WRONG

Conflict Marbella, the new dedicated consultancy service in the region, provides a range of bespoke intelligence, investigation, security and risk advice supported from its head office in London. Tapping into the wide range of services from parent company Conflict International, Conflict Marbella can offer worldwide assistance with local representatives on the coast able to create bespoke solutions.

Tracing and locating assets is a particularly difficult task to perform without seeking professional help. Conflict are global leaders in using investigative and surveillance techniques to help track hidden assets in most parts of the world and discover to whom they are registered.

Whether it's UK property or bank accounts, or property owned overseas and foreign assets, their exact location can often be either unknown or deliberately hidden. Conflict also traces the source of shares, bonds, investments, trusts, funds and corporate assets. All evidence and asset search findings are compiled into a detailed report which is legally admissible in any court proceedings.

ONLINE AND ON THE GROUND

Conflict Marbella director Mike LaCorte says their investigative resources go through a number of phases. "We will always begin by assessing and compiling a report from what we can uncover from Open Source Intelligence. This allows us to drill down to understand more about the subject we are investigating and also discovering which jurisdictions are likely to hold the assets we are tracing."

"We search many different databases; from property registrations and credit checks to bankruptcy, anti-fraud and even private plane or boat registry checks. Depending on the subject, we can also delve further into potential leads in the country or countries of interest."

Although all the initial searches are made using publicly available information conducted legally within the parameters of the UK's Data Protection Act, only those with investigative and intelligence experience in asset tracing will then be able to take that forward to the next stage.

He added: "Once we have identified where hidden assets may be held, we are now in a position to further explore the assets identified in a particular jurisdiction with the objective of obtaining some form of documentation that links it to the subject of our enquiry. This could involve ordering documents related to offshore companies or deploying field agents in the country concerned to examine registries locally."

With the background checks fully completed, the investigation can now continue on the ground. Using experienced agents with knowledge of



Mike LaCorte, a founder of Conflict International has over 20 years experience in the investigation industry. He has been instrumental in drawing a number of high profile corporate and private investigation cases to a conclusion and his expertise in gathering legally admissible evidence is highly regarded. Mike speaks English, Spanish and Italian, and has just been elected 1st Vice President of the World Association of Detectives.

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Mike LaCorte says the crucial part of this operation is to uncover more details about the previously unknown assets and the money used to obtain them. "Using surveillance we are able to look into the subject's lifestyle and spending habits, monitor any financial institutions visited and capture activity via video in public places



to determine whether the subject is benefiting from income or money that had been kept secret from our client."

HOW DO YOU RECOVER THE HIDDEN ASSETS?

After enough evidence has been gathered to link the assets to the subject, Conflict can then approach the person concerned.

"The final stage of our role can then involve initiating a meeting with the subject where we present them with information of what we have discovered. Often this can lead to negotiation over the money that is

owed. If that is unsuccessful, we can then work with legal support to freeze the assets with a view to recovery via the courts."

"Conflict has worked on some fairly complex cases in the past with banks concerned about their exposure to certain debts or individuals involved in a divorce who may have had a partner leading a double life. We are ultimately here to uncover the truth and it's always rewarding to get a result for a client who has suspicions that they are not seeing the full picture."

Contact Conflict International

To arrange a no obligation chat with Mike LaCorte about how we may be able to assist please email info@conflictinternational.com

conflictinternational.com

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