

LEADERS IN INVESTIGATION AROUND THE WORLD

The team behind Conflict Marbella, the new consultancy service dedicated to assisting clients in the region with bespoke intelligence, investigation, security and risk advice, has been celebrating after being recognised by a leading global body.



Mike's investigation of a blackmail case also won him the prestigious Investigator of the Year award at the WAD's annual conference in Bucharest.

The World Association of Detectives, which aims to uphold the highest ethical practices among its members worldwide, has elected Conflict director Mike LaCorte as its 1st Vice President. Mike's investigation of a blackmail case also won him the prestigious Investigator of the Year award at the WAD's annual conference in Bucharest. It was judged anonymously against entries from many other investigators within the association.

Speaking after his election Mike said: "I am flattered to have been elected to this prestigious post within the WAD. This valuable organisation has a lot to offer the investigative industry across the world and I am planning to play a full part in helping the Association to grow even stronger in the next 12 months.

A lot of people are not aware that there are organisations that strive to uphold professional standards in our industry. I've always been keen that Conflict adheres to reputable policies. Having an active role in the WAD and other bodies such as the Association of British Investigators hopefully helps to reassure the public that the best in our business undertake to operate ethically."

WORLDWIDE RAPID RESPONSE

Conflict Marbella taps into the wide range of services from London-based parent company Conflict International, offering worldwide assistance with local representatives on the coast able to offer bespoke solutions based on specific needs almost anywhere. Mike says membership of organisations such as the WAD creates a global network of reputable investigators.

"The importance of having professional operatives available across the world cannot be understated. Very often, investigations aren't confined to just one country so being able to quickly deploy an investigator who is licensed to operate in the country or countries of interest is vital. A company such as Conflict can quickly build a reliable database of contacts who know the area and importantly the jurisdiction they are working in. We can then gather evidence knowing it will be fully admissible in any legal proceedings."

AWARD-WINNING INVESTIGATIONS

Mike's award of Investigator of the Year came as a big surprise as it was judged against many other high quality nominations all entered anonymously so judges could rule on the work involved without knowing the name of the nominee.

The client was a high-net-worth individual and because of his profile, his identity and business sector have been withheld. He had been blackmailed and extorted for a sizable amount of money and was reluctant to take Mike's initial advice of contacting the police as he felt it may have affected his reputation if the blackmail persisted.

Instead, Mike was asked to operate discreetly to identify the blackmailer with a view to bringing the matter to a satisfactory private conclusion. Conflict conducted a full technical sweep of the client's office and other



"A company such as Conflict can quickly build a reliable database of contacts who know the area and importantly the jurisdiction they are working in. We can then gather evidence knowing it will be fully admissible in any legal proceedings."

addresses and discovered that remote spyware had been installed on a PC and sensitive information had been gathered. A hand-delivered letter was forensically analysed which gave further intelligence.

The client was fully briefed and advised to maintain his daily routines while he was placed under counter surveillance. A deadline given in the blackmail correspondence was ignored and eventually the client was approached by a third party warning that information they had would be made public. This approach was filmed and the person was followed to an address. Further research then linked the third party to an organized criminal gang.

Once links to a gang were established, Mike notified the authorities who logged the information and he briefed them on the sensitive nature of the case. He was keen to put future safeguards in place so a trusted law firm quickly secured a court injunction order.

A meeting was then arranged between Mike and the primary blackmailer which was covertly recorded. Once the evidence gathered by Conflict had been shown, a visibly shocked blackmailer was warned that any future threat would result in the police being alerted and that he would be arrested and charged. The threats stopped and the client was able to maintain his privacy.

A case like this gives a real insight into how discreet investigation can work effectively in difficult situations where the protection of reputation and privacy is paramount.



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

Ramón Gómez de la Serna 22, Edificio King Edward, suite 412, 29602 Marbella
(Strictly by appointment only)

CONFLICT
INTERNATIONAL
INVESTIGATION | SECURITY | INTELLIGENCE