

# SCALI Memories

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Robert H. Joseph, CLI

My background is primarily in legal investigations, counter espionage and security. I fell into this field by accident after I got out of the Marine Corps when a Greenville law firm hired me to be their investigator. After a couple of years I joined the National Association of Legal Investigators (NALI) to obtain some education in the investigative business. Back in those days there was no real association for PIs in the Nation much less in South Carolina.

I got to know a couple of other investigators in South Carolina through NALI, which, in those days, was the only PI association that had some sort of PI networking going on. Dave Mac Dougall was the other SC NALI member. We would call each other when we needed anything in the PI field when it concerned a “how to” question.

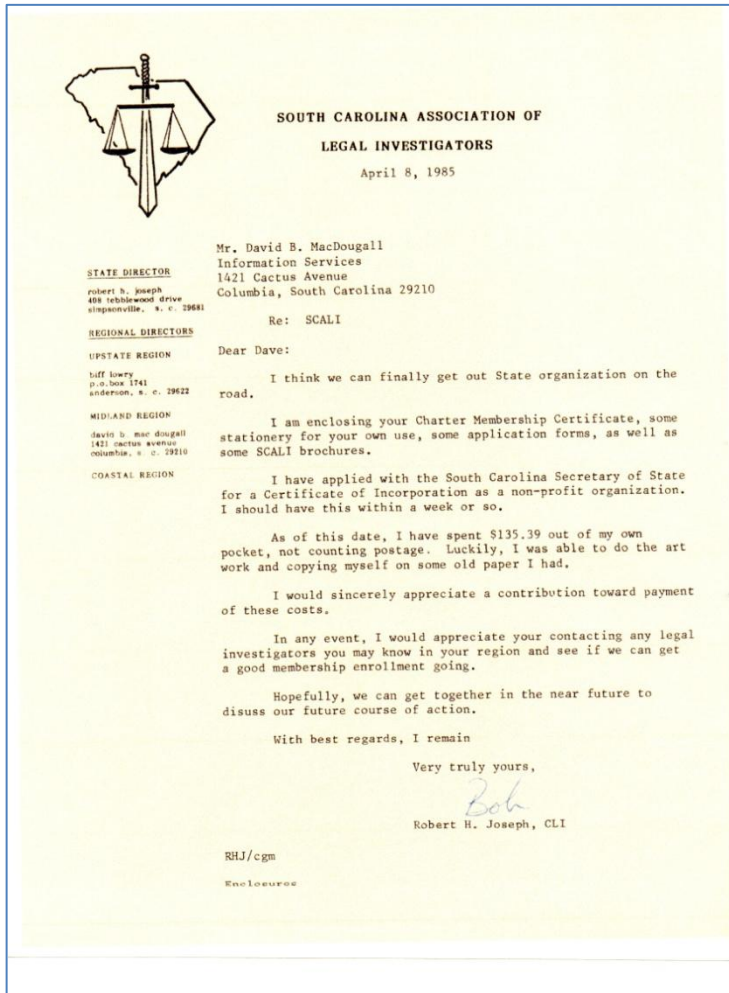
In early 1985 Dave and I got together and we met with a couple of other PI's at the Quality Inn Hotel on Pleasantburg Drive in Greenville to discuss the validity of having a South Carolina PI Association. Back then we thought of legal investigators who worked primarily for attorneys.

We rented a small boardroom for the 5 or 6 of us to sit down and hash out the requirements we wanted for an education association geared toward legal and private investigators. We came up with the name South Carolina Association of Legal Investigators. Later in the summer of 1985 we were incorporated as a not-for-profit educational corporation. So the South Carolina Association of Legal Investigators, Inc. (SCALI) was born as the official educational and networking, private and legal investigator association. ( see attached April 8, 1985 letter)

We then decided that we should model SCALI after NALI. Our basic constitution and by-laws reflected this make up and still does today. We forgo the usual make up of President, Vice President, Treasurer, etc. and used the Director as the head and three Regional Directors (Piedmont Region, Midland Region, and Coastal Region) as the officers to run the association. Our thinking was that the buck stops with the Director who was the principle guiding force for SCALI and still is today.

The first problem we had to overcome was the identification and recruitment of other legal investigators and private investigators around the state. Remember, there was no official publication other than the PI licensing list that SLED maintained. With that list in hand we announced our association to possible members. We made one mistake: we required two years of investigative experience for the membership requirement. Not many people would join and those that needed the most education did not have this time requirement. Our membership dragged along like an eagle without wings.

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The JOURNAL , SCALI's official publication was started and mailed to prospective members. In those first years the JOURNAL only consisted of 4 pages, then 6, then 8 and so on as time and money permitted. Dave Mac Dougall was the top article contributor and still is today. The Director was also the Editor-Publisher, Secretary, Accountant and wore the many hats required to run SCALI.

SLED was one of our main detractors for reasons I still do not understand today. In 1990 we proposed changes in the Private Detective (now officially known as Private Investigator) laws. These proposals included:

- a) Mandatory PI education
- b) No tech school training only training by experienced PIs and law enforcement officers
- c) a waiting period for training of new hires.
- d) a grandfather clause for those with extensive experience in the private as well as the public investigative field, and:

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e) two categories for PI's fire arms carry: one concealed and one not concealed both with extensive fire arm training.

Thanks to SLED Captain Joe Dorton, (now PI Joe Dorton and a SCALI member) who was with SLED Regulatory – the SLED body overseeing PIs and Security Guards – and his close relationship with SCALI , the PI profession now has some good laws on the books that actually include some of our 1990 proposals. Dave Mac Dougall is to be commended as well as the other SLED appointed permanent members of the SLED-PI Business Advisory Committee (Vicki Childs, Dave MacDougall and I who worked diligently along with the SCALI Appointed Permanent Members (Steve Abrams, Guy Johnson and Hyatt Whetsell) to make the PI regulations, as they are today, a reality.

Of course education in any field cannot go on without seminars or educational conferences. SCALI was and is no exception. From early on our thinking was that yearly seminars and/or conferences should be held for SCALI members and non-member investigators alike. So far so good. we held at least one educational seminar and or a conference for every year since 1985. It was easy at first. Our turn-out was good when we had 25 investigators in attendance. The venues were small and it was no problem to find a place either in Greenville, Columbia, Charleston or Myrtle Beach to hold such an event. We can't say that anymore. Now we have to go to the mega hotels to accommodate SCALI events that play host to 150-160 investigators.

A number of PI associations grew up over the years. Almost every state has one, some have more. There are now large National associations as well. However, having said this, SCALI is the one that over the years garnered the reputation of being one of – if not - the best run and best educational association in the Nation.

We should all be proud to have a hand in this reputation. Not just the SCALI officers but especially the membership. As without the membership there is no association.

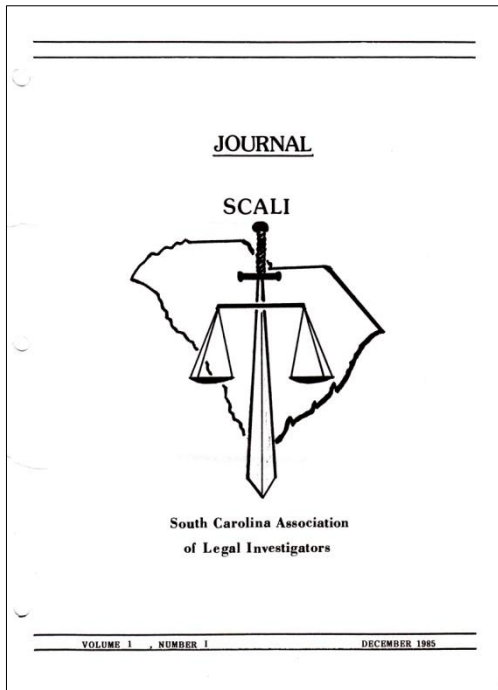


The SCALI logo was designed in 1985 by Robert H. Joseph, CLI and is a registered service mark.

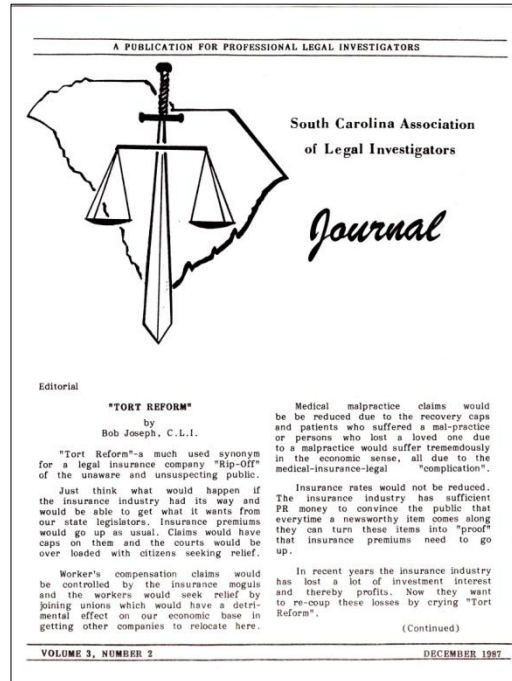
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## The Many Faces of the SCALI JOURNAL

1985-2012



1985



1987



1989



1990

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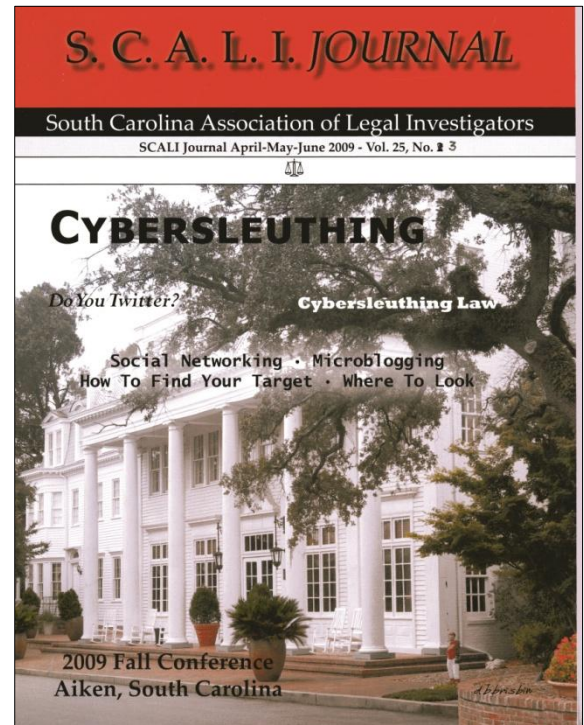
1995



1997



2004

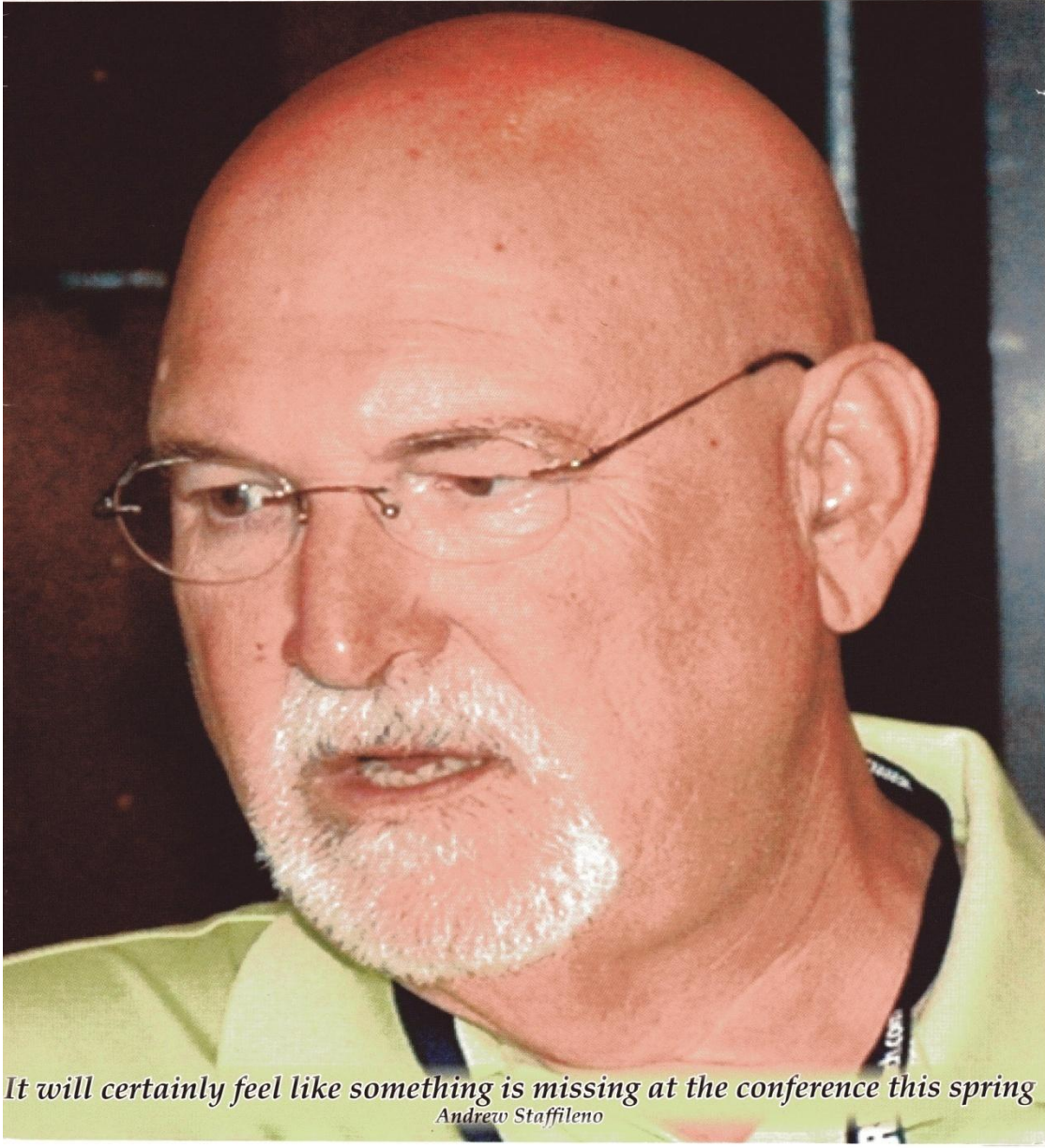


2009

# JOURNAL

*South Carolina Association of Legal Investigators*

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*It will certainly feel like something is missing at the conference this spring*  
*Andrew Staffileno*

2010

The JOURNAL was published with 4 pages in 1985  
to 54 pages in its current edition