



Introduction

Hello, My name is Troy Hartwell. I am the principal Investigator at Hart 2 Hart Investigations. I have served my community and nation as a Border Patrol Agent, A Police Officer and now as a Criminal Defense Investigator. I also serve on the Board of Directors of OALI (Oregon Association of Licensed Investigators) as the Northwest Region 2 Director.

I currently lead a team of licensed Private Investigators, and we work cases all over the state of Oregon. We have been operating since 2017, we work all criminal cases; everything from minor misdemeanors, class C and B felonies, ballot measure 11 crimes and more serious crimes such as Murder and J-Law cases.

We provide service and expertise that is not only crucial to maintaining a balance in the justice system but is also necessary for a Criminal Defense Attorney to effectively represent and provide a rigorous defense for their clients.

Background, challenges

We have seen numerous changes within this industry landscape. We have witnessed an explosion in the amount of digital discovery that is associated with a criminal case, gone are the days of a 5-page police report and maybe one or two recorded phone calls. We now process and analyze hundreds of gigabytes of information if not more in any given case, especially with grand jury testimony and BWC (Body Worn Camera footage).

Technical expertise, interviewing skills, report writing, discovery management, organizational ability are just some of a long list of needed skills for a decent criminal defense Investigator to possess.

My agency struggles to stay competitive with wages/contractor pay.

Hart 2 Hart Investigations rarely finds an already licensed Private Investigator, we have built a business model of offering training and mentorship to those individuals who are not licensed but have a personal desire to be Criminal Defense Investigators.

We offer a training program which includes a 48-hour basic training course held on Saturdays for 6 weeks, after which the successful students are offered a contractor position as a Defense Investigator with our Agency.

This basic training is just the beginning as being a Criminal Defense Investigator is a challenge in this ever-changing environment. Continuing education is not just a requirement but a need to stay relevant and serve our community properly.

With OPDC current rate for investigators at \$55 an hour, it makes it extremely difficult to attract, train, equip and retain good, qualified people who are motivated to provide exceptional service.

As far as timing, obviously the sooner this could be implemented the sooner, Investigators like me throughout the state can more effectively assist in the unrepresented crisis.

Closing

With an increase to \$75 an hour, we can attract more qualified people, offer more comprehensive training and keep technologically viable. My agency would pass this increase on to our contractors and everyone would benefit, especially the defendants.