

Partners who Steal from Partners

Paul McLaughlin

“The lawyer who typically commits fraud,” says forensic and investigative accountant Robert Lindquist “is a middle-aged or slightly older male who has some sort of addiction—drugs, alcohol, women, gambling—or some desperate need to maintain a persona as a high roller or super achiever. There are many exceptions, but this is by far the overwhelming rule.”

Chairman of Lindquist Avey Macdonald Baskerville Inc., one of North America’s leading firms of forensic accountants and corporate investigators, the Washington-based Lindquist has spent more than 20 years tracking the people and unraveling the paper trails left behind by “greedy and needy individuals” who have committed financial misdeeds. A pioneer of “forensic” accounting, Lindquist began his career in Canada in 1972. “White collar crime was really on the rise,” he says, “and we saw the need for professional accountants to specialize in corporate and criminal investigations, litigation support and the presentation of expert testimony .

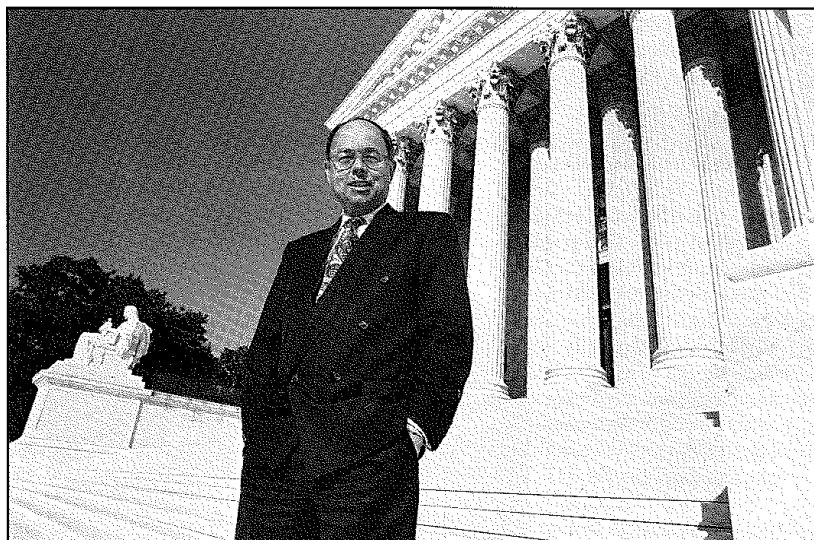
Bloodhounds of the Bottom Line

Dubbed “The Bloodhounds of the

Bottom Line” by the media, Lindquist’s firm became known for its dogged pursuit of information and individuals. Among its most famous cases was an investigation on behalf of the Romanian government following the overthrow of dictator Nicolae

Lindquist and a team of investigators traced an incredibly complex people and paper trail through Romania, Switzerland, Austria, Cyprus and Greece.

The vast majority of their engagements, however, are resolved out of



© 1993 John Eisele / National Journal

Forensic accountant Robert Lindquist doesn’t believe fraud is rampant in law firms, but says “there’s a lot more potential for fraud than most lawyers care to admit.”

Ceausescu. Charged with the daunting task of unearthing Ceausescu’s secretive international business transactions and locating where he had hidden up to an alleged several billion dollars in bank accounts throughout the world,

court and beyond the public eye. “We recently completed a huge procurement fraud investigation on behalf of a Fortune 500 corporation,” says Lindquist, adamantly refusing to divulge specific details that might

AT ISSUE

ber the video footage of Mr. Ferri "sport plinking" on a range in Nevada.)

Conflicting Views

While the gun lobby successfully diverts society into "angels on the head of a pin" debates over some possible sporting use of a given weapon, mothers, fathers and children continue to die.

Currently, only four states have moved to ban assault weapons of war—and the National Rifle Association has spent millions trying to defeat or overturn the bans. In 1989, California became the first state to ban the sale of some assault weapons. New Jersey followed in 1990, and recently beat back an NRA attempt to overturn that law.

In 1992, Hawaii banned the sale and manufacture of assault pistols and pistol ammunition magazines that hold more than 10 rounds. On June 8, 1993, Connecticut Governor Lowell Weicker

signed that state's assault weapon ban into law.

There are two measures in Congress to ban military-style assault weapons. Two senators have taken the lead on this issue. Senator DeConcini is sponsoring legislation that would ban specific weapons by trade name. Senator Metzenbaum has proposed legislation that would also apply to "copy cat" weapons that have been renamed or slightly modified to avoid the ban. California's experience has shown that a broad ban is needed, otherwise it is too easy to create allegedly legal knock-offs of an illegal weapon.

Conclusion

Every major national law enforcement organization in America supports a nationwide ban on assault weapons, including the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the National Sheriffs' Association, and the 203,000-member rank and file Fraternal Order

of Police. Labor, medical, religious, civil rights and civic groups also support such legislation.

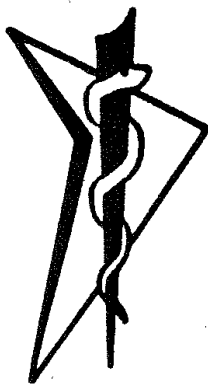
Those who want to do something about gun violence in this country should not expect overnight miracles. Incredibly, the Brady Bill was first introduced in 1987, and despite the public's overwhelming support, is still not law. However, if we use the power of our profession, and the strength of our numbers, we can help make a difference in upholding the rule of law over the rule of the jungle.

¹The author is grateful to Handgun Control, Inc. of Washington, D.C., for gathering the facts set forth in this article.

Charles G. Ehrlich is a partner in the San Francisco law firm Pettit & Martin, where a gunman killed eight and wounded six on July 1, 1993. In response, Mr. Ehrlich founded Legal Community Against Violence (LCAV) to more forcefully address gun violence issues.

EMS THEORY & PRACTICE

EXPERT WITNESS PROVIDERS • TRAUMA VICTIM PRACTICE CONSULTING
RISK ANALYSIS • LOSS PREVENTION & QUALITY ASSURANCE REVIEWS



Expert testimony/opinions for all Emergency Medical Service (EMS) /Ambulance situations

OVER TWENTY YEARS OF EMS/AMBULANCE EXPERIENCE PROVIDING
EXPERTISE FOR THE LEGAL AND INSURANCE PROFESSIONS

LAW - EMS Expert Witness Provider

for, but not limited to:

- Ambulance Response
- Dispatch
- Management
- Rescue & Extrication
- Training
- Treatment by EMTs, paramedics or other providers

INSURANCE - Advice, Reviews & Opinions

for, but not limited to:

- Liability Issues
- Loss Prevention
- Policies & Procedures
- Safety Audits
- Quality Assurance



Richard Hansson, Esq., EMT-P • 242 West Fifth Ave. • Roselle, NJ 07203-1140 • 908-245-4888