



MIGNOLET  
BUSINESS RESEARCH CONSULTANTS, INC.

**There's More Than  
One Way to Fake It.**

**She Faked It!**  
**Is that Company Legit?**



For more than three decades Jean Mignolet has served in law enforcement and private investigation, managing all aspects of general investigative business. She specializes in in-depth background investigations, and is the top choice of attorneys, corporations, small business owners and individuals who require all types of investigative services.

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Jean,

This past week I spent a few days at the National Association of Legal Investigators (NALI) Annual Conference in Denver Colorado. It's such a pleasure to see investigators that I've worked with for over 30 years, meet new professionals and listen to entertaining speakers. Topics included the latest investigative techniques in internet research; preserving, analyzing and organizing that data; use of excessive force; and how to get the interview and the investigation of premises liability.

NALI, like other professional investigative associations, are facing a membership crises due to the overall age of the memberships. The legal community **MUST** emphasize to younger investigators the need for education and networking with more experienced PIs.

Prior to attending, I spent some time hand crafting some jewelry that was donated for our annual scholarship auction. Our generous members funded scholarships for the next couple of years!  
Let's all encourage licensed private investigators to

Join Our Mailing List!

## FAKIN' IT TO MAKE IT



It may be a tough job market but faking your credentials can catch up to you. The problem is that even if a Head Hunting Company offers their top notch candidate, they may not know their true background either. **Hire a competent PI to be absolutely sure about their credentials. Google searches do not give the whole story.**

If a six figure job is being filled it's better for you, the employer, to be safe than sorry after you have paid the employee all that money, wouldn't you agree? Unfortunately, many corporations are hiring people without the proper credentials.

A woman employee in Tampa with a six-figure paycheck, a big house, expensive clothes, a boat, jet skis, Rolex watches, and more confessed that it was all built on a lie! A professional PI would have looked deeply into her

become professionals through on-going education. Gumshoes NO MORE !!!!

*Jean Mignolet*

*A reminder that prior issues of the newsletter are viewable from [my website](#).*

## How Do I know if a Company is Legitimate?



**Not all companies are authentic and it's worth your while to double check to see if they are legitimate before you deal with them. This is also true when we are verifying an applicant's employment on their resume.**

If you are contemplating buying from a company that you haven't heard of, find out as much as you can about that company. Scammers do exist and you don't want to be the next person to be duped if you can help it.

You must be diligent and have a healthy suspicion whenever you commit to purchase or "supply" a company with your personal details. This goes for online merchants or brick and mortar shops.

background and thus the company she worked for would not have been victimized.

Andrea, the liar decided to apply for a stockbroker position. Even though the position called for a degree, she simply made up a business administration degree from Akron University. She landed the job and quickly moved up the corporate ladder. Andrea's career was soaring on phony credentials which apparently millions of us do.

**By some estimates over half of all resumes contain a lie or lies.** Not ethical and easily caught before the damage is done if these people are investigated properly. That's where I come in; a certified, skillful and professional PI would have uncovered the discrepancies.

Most companies don't use Private Investigators which is the **gold standard** for those who want to screen out the fakes.

Many of these fakes are getting jobs but at what cost to everyone involved? It's like playing poker where you bluff and bluff again but at some point you will get caught. Staffer Sarah

Take a look at these 5 details you should read before your encounter with a "shop" you are not familiar with:

### **1. Check for concrete details**

Be certain that the store actually exists. Does it have a concrete building somewhere? Check their website for a phone number (landline preferably) and call that number taking note of who answers. If you are put through to a call center or if no one picks up the phone, this would be a red flag.

Look for a physical address on the company's website and be sure it's an address you can actually write to. It's even better if it's a registered office.

### **2. See what others say**

Put the company's name into a search engine *i.e.* Google, and see what results you get. See if past customers have had bad experiences with the companies. If so, take these negative warnings seriously. Just as well if there all GOOD results for the company, that would encourage you to believe that they are legitimate.

While forums online are not Gospel they are useful indicators when you are trying to figure out whether a company is legitimate or not.

### **3. Check the Financial Regulatory Agencies**

If you are looking at a company that is part of the financial sector and deals in financial services or products, there's one simple way to check out their credentials with state and federal government regulatory and enforcement agencies. Check the financial regulatory agencies.

### **4. Check out their website**

Lang, from "20/20" was sent out to see what happens with fake credentials. Now she knows nothing at all about the alcohol industry but with fake credentials and her huge lies she comes up with a job at "Oyster Island Brewery". They took her on face value. It's worth it to hire me to check out the person in your interview pool just before you sign on the dotted line.

The TV show "20/20"'s producer Michael, who is clueless about marketing got a job at "Performa marketing" and a current job as marketing director at "Altman research. Seriously, if you are that willing to give your money out so quickly it's a mistake.

If you are one of the few companies who thoroughly check resumes and job references it's time you got savvy. At the end of the day these people are lying and if they lied to get into your company what else are they capable of? Don't you think it would be detrimental to have them work for you?

Additionally **don't be taken by elaborate websites...** call me and I can find out if they are actually legitimate. You'd be

Obviously if you are dealing with an online company their website will be your first port of call. When dealing with an offline company seeking out their website is a good way to find out more about them.

Be sure to look for specifics on the company on their website that may give you better insight on the company. If the English is poor throughout the website and they purport to be trading as a UK or a US Company, they may not be legitimate.

See if there are testimonials from clients and/or customers. Although you can't rely on them completely they can be somewhat helpful. Take notice to see if they seem genuine. Also look for their privacy policy and the history of the company. It will have information such as long as it's been in operation, what their ethics are, and what their mission statement is. Also check out their return policies and be sure there is a policy if the goods don't appear at your doorstep.

Before considering giving up payment details, it's important that you check for 'https://' at the start of the url and that there is a padlock or key symbol displaying in your browser. It's a good idea to pay with a credit card but pay close attention to your next statement for any discrepancies. You will better track the transaction. This way, if the company turns out to be a fake, they can't empty our bank account.

### **5. Go with your gut**

Finally, one of the best pieces of advice is to go with your gut feeling about a company.

***If you have any suspicions walk away and take your business elsewhere - it's better to be safe than sorry.***

surprised at what is getting past you. One phony address given was actually a Dunkin Donuts!

Anyone who is faking by any means is taking a huge gamble. Andrea, the living liar says it's not worth lying. After she came clean she lost her career, her marriage and had to start all over. However, the company let legitimate candidates walk away while the company now stands with egg on its proverbial face. Don't have egg on your face. Call me. Get it done correctly.



*Happy*  
**FOURTH OF**  
*July!*