

B U S I N E S S I N V E S T I G A T I O N S



EMPOWERING BUSINESS WITH INTELLIGENCE

 **STEELE.**

E N T E R P R I S E R I S K M A N A G E M E N T S O L U T I O N S



PRESENCE PROWESS PARTNERSHIP PERFORMANCE

GET THE ANSWER ... IS YOUR COMPANY AT RISK?

The Steele Foundation's Business Intelligence Services provide investigative options for the international company or local corporation. Businesses in today's competitive markets are faced with a growing spectrum of concerns. As new legislation is presented to the business community, your company's responsibility and liability will become more complex. Our service structure is able to help clarify corporate responsibilities and introduce a range of investigation services to assist in protecting your company and its interests.

As a global firm, we rely on our own resources to effectively identify and cultivate business intelligence. The Steele Foundation employs a diverse team of highly qualified professionals with academic and practical experience in law, finance, business, auditing, accounting, consulting, information technology, competitive intelligence gathering and law enforcement.

BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE ... A PROACTIVE APPROACH TO REDUCING RISK

We believe in employing proactive measures to minimize liability and provide sound advice and services to mitigate loss. The survival of your company may hinge on issues such as employee integrity, a safe and secure work environment and product liability. Identifying who and what a company should be concerned about is the first step in employing an effective investigation program. Investigations of employees, vendors, competitors and potential business partners will reduce the possibility of employee misconduct, financial misconduct, trademark infringement, and the theft of proprietary information.

The Steele Foundation provides intelligence and reliable insight into the strengths, vulnerabilities and strategies of competitors and potential business partners. We provide sophisticated investigations into intellectual property matters and business intelligence on companies and individuals, reporting on their history, market position, technical capabilities, strategic direction and the industries and countries in which they operate.

EMPOWERING BUSINESS WITH INTELLIGENCE

The following list of core investigative competencies reflects our organization's success and commitment to excellence:

BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE

- Anti-Corruption Programs (FCPA) Pre-Transaction Intelligence
- Due Diligence
- Background Investigations
- Employment Investigations
- Market Profiles and Intelligence
- Competitor Intelligence
- Mergers and Acquisitions

FRAUD INVESTIGATIONS

- Industrial Espionage and Breaches of Commercial Integrity
- Counterfeiting and Infringement Copyright
- Insider Dealing
- Insolvency and Bankruptcy Fraud
- Corruption and Breaches of Trust
- Misappropriation of Corporate Assets
- Manipulation of Financial Statements

CORPORATE INVESTIGATIONS

- Theft of Intellectual Property
- Corporate Espionage
- Sexual Harassment and Other Employee Misconduct
- Intelligence in Contests for Corporate Control
- Product Diversion
- Grey Market Investigations
- Litigation Support/Vetting Experts





Strategic Intelligence ... Make An Informed Decision

Due diligence, or the attention and care legally expected in the examination of information, is an important and time-consuming responsibility. Current and prospective business relationships should be carefully examined to ensure that no adverse history or conflict of interests exist between your company, its employees and a prospective business partner. The Steele Foundation can assist your company in conducting due diligence investigations that encompass information ranging from determination of customer financial status to desirability of acquisition targets.

A thorough investigation will identify accurate intelligence — whether it is adverse or positive, as well as crucial mitigating circumstances. Having this data available enhances the decision making process. A company should not rely solely on information obtained from public record databases to provide an accurate profile of an individual or business. Redundancy and collaboration is necessary. The Steele Foundation maintains strategic human intelligence sources in the field as well as effective researchers in key organizations to efficiently provide accurate and competitive information. We are able to uncover potential problem areas or provide reassurance that the transaction or relationship may proceed with confidence.

Business Intelligence ... The Case For Active Prosecution

Theft of “intellectual property” such as patents, trademarks, copyrights, registered designs and trade secrets has become a serious problem in today’s business community. Intellectual property theft can cost millions of dollars in lost profits, and can wear away the integrity of a trademark, making your company vulnerable to litigation. In some cases, low-quality counterfeit products can pose a threat to consumers’ safety as well. The Steele Foundation is able to track down the source and distribution channels of counterfeit products. Once identified, investigators are able to work with the appropriate legal officials to confiscate the counterfeits and assist in litigation.

Contracts with vendors and suppliers are crucial to your company’s profitability. If a vendor doesn’t honor an agreement, the consequences can damage your company’s finances and reputation. Through its global network of human intelligence sources and field investigators, The Steele Foundation uncovers incidents of product diversion, trans-shipment or other contractual violations. We investigate allegations of territorial abuse, identify the responsible parties and develop evidence to support those allegations so that your company can take legal action to terminate the relationship and/or prosecute.

Establishing an Effective Corporate Investigation Program

The spectrum of employee misconduct crosses many boundaries. Corporate espionage has reached epidemic proportions in literally every business community. No company is safe from employee misconduct. Technology and the growth of high-tech communication have made the theft of proprietary information a viable crime for even the most elementary employees.

Current business trends of downsizing and outsourcing responsibilities to a vendor expose your company to a variety of liabilities such as trans-shipment, corporate espionage, product liability, and adverse media exposure. Likewise, a vendor providing a substandard caliber of personnel or product may expose your company to adverse media or public embarrassment. The monetary cost of such a catastrophe virtually always exceeds the cost of conducting due diligence to prevent such an incident.





The Bureau of National affairs estimates that \$15-25 billion a year is lost to employee theft. Internal theft occurs at a rate *fifteen times higher* than external theft. The Steele Foundation can assist you in structuring an effective investigation program or we can support your current resources to ward off any such unfortunate event.

PREVENT UNKNOWN LOSS ... LOOKING BEHIND THE NUMBERS

To successfully detect and prevent today's changing forms of business fraud demands a thorough knowledge of how white-collar crimes are committed and the specific techniques and methods to successfully investigate them. If you are concerned about financial discrepancies and financial exposure, you need more than an accountant. The Steele Foundation's team of certified forensic accountants, fraud examiners, private investigators and researchers are experienced in uncovering hidden issues related to financial fraud, white-collar crime, shareholder and partnership disputes, breach of contract disputes, and other complex financial transactions. We partner with your organization to investigate questionable business activities immediately, discreetly and comprehensively so that you can make informed decisions on how to stop loss, recover from an adverse experience, and assertively pursue corrective actions.

Proactively investigating employee misconduct is an essential business practice in order to insure shareholder confidence while controlling corporate liability issues. The Steele Foundation has played a key role in advising companies on The Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, and continues to support our clients' integration of their ethics compliance standards and employee reporting systems. We have a proven track record in instituting legal procedures and other systems of accountability for decision makers so that there are clear and transparent safeguards against conflict of interests.

Virtually every aspect of business yields some degree of financial exposure. The Steele Foundation understands the anatomy of white-collar crime and is able to mitigate your company's exposure by developing proactive programs to prevent irregularities as well as reactive assistance in the following areas of expertise:

- **Analysis of Accounting Transactions and Processes**
- **Transaction "Tracing" and Search for Hidden Assets**
- **Turnaround Strategy and Implementation**
- **Forensic Computer Data Recovery and Analysis**
- **Improvement Studies for Accounting Controls and Processes**
- **Internal Investigations, including Fraud Detection**
- **Fraud and Embezzlement Investigations**
- **Compliance Programs**
- **Breach of Fiduciary Duty and "Out Of Trust" Investigations**
- **Expert Witness Testimony**
- **Determination of Compliance**

WHAT SHOULD AN INVESTIGATION PROGRAM ENCOMPASS?

THE STEELE FOUNDATION RECOMMENDS THAT A BUSINESS DESIGN ITS INVESTIGATION PROGRAM WITH THREE PHASES:

- **PREVENTION:** Implementing investigation and integrity resources to maximize the likelihood of choosing the best candidates, vendors and partners through verification of applicant information.
- **INTERVENTION:** Investigation options to identify current employees causing corporate loss or the risk of corporate loss through collusive vendors or customers.
- **FOLLOW-UP:** On-going security and investigation implementation to assure your company minimizes the possibility of future adverse experiences and compliance with local sentencing guidelines.

PROGRAM BASICS

WHO: Employees, Vendors, Competitors and Potential Business Partners

WHAT: An investigation should identify enough accurate information about the subject to determine if entering into a business relationship with that individual or company may be detrimental or adverse to your company. Topics such as criminal history, civil litigation, consumer credit, financial profiles and assets, personal stability, credential verifications, professional history and reputation, industry associations and affiliations, news and media items, and industry litigation should be examined.

WHEN: Any time your company may enter into a business relationship with an individual or company. Regardless if it is a current or prospective relationship, due diligence should be conducted in order to ensure the integrity of your company's involvement with the subject.

WHY: To avoid the expense and exposure of costly business relationships which can result in violence in the workplace, discrimination and harassment, substance abuse in the workplace, embarrassing and harmful media exposure, the theft of proprietary information, collusion, and liability resulting from the actions of employee misconduct or an imprudent vendor or collusive customer.

WHERE: People and businesses anywhere in the world should be subject to the same scrutiny. Do not develop a false sense of security. If you hire or are doing business with an individual or company in another country or state, you should conduct the same due diligence on that subject as you would on a local level.

HOW: In order to establish a safe and secure infrastructure, a company should: implement effective investigation programs applicable to all employees; educate its employee base and encourage their participation in preventing misconduct; develop a relationship with a professional investigation and security firm which has the resources to address the scope of your company's needs.

THE STEELE FOUNDATION IS DEVELOPING PROACTIVE MEASURES AND POSITIVE IDEAS TO LEAD CORPORATIONS INTO A SAFER AND MORE SECURE TOMORROW. PLEASE CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION OR VISIT OUR WEB SITE: WWW.STEELEFOUNDATION.COM



**THE STEELE FOUNDATION HAS STRATEGICALLY DEVELOPED ITS RESOURCES TO BE ABLE TO WORK
IN CONCERT WITH CLIENTS REGARDLESS OF LOCATION.**

**SERVICES ARE PROVIDED 24 HOURS/DAY, 365 DAYS/YEAR THROUGH 18 OFFICES GLOBALLY,
INCLUDING MEXICO CITY, HONG KONG, LONDON AND LOCATIONS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES.**

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