



Craig Smith, CLI

CERTIFIED LEGAL INVESTIGATOR · LICENSED PRIVATE DETECTIVE
(WYOMING) · U.S. ARMY OIF VETERAN

(303) 815-6832

BrightStarInvestigations.com

americasinvestigator.pages.dev

3,600+

INVOICED MATTERS

4,300+

SURVEILLANCE HRS

500+

WITNESS INTERVIEWS

350+

REPORTS AUTHORED

50+

COURT APPEARANCES

12 yrs

CONTINUOUS PRACTICE

PROFILE

Founder and principal investigator of BrightStar Investigations (2014–present), with 3,600+ documented matters in criminal defense, surveillance, missing persons, skip tracing and intelligence work for attorneys, law firms, corporations and private clients across the U.S. and internationally. Investigations admitted as evidence; has testified as a witness in criminal and civil proceedings. Licensed Private Detective in Wyoming; operates throughout Colorado and nationwide.

EXPERIENCE

BrightStar Investigations — Founder & Principal Investigator · 2014 – Present · Colorado Springs & Denver, CO · Nationwide & international

- 4,300+ documented hours of mobile, fixed and covert surveillance across Colorado and multiple states
- Process service including high-conflict and evasive subjects
- Skip tracing and missing persons operations across multiple jurisdictions
- 50+ documented court appearances as investigator or witness in criminal and civil proceedings
- 500+ formal witness interviews, documented and produced for trial use

BrightStar Intelligence Group — Intelligence Officer · 2013 – 2015 · Colorado · Worldwide cyber intelligence operations

- Directed, produced and delivered intelligence products for global cyber intelligence clients
- Intelligence collection and analysis on international persons of interest
- Cyber intelligence collection for the personal protection of a foreign dignitary

One World Labs — Open Source Intelligence Analyst · 2012 – 2013 · Denver, Colorado

- Red cell intelligence collection; 5,000+ pages of digital footprint analysis
- Counterintelligence advisement and security analysis across a broad client base
- Targeting operations for red cell operators in the Arabic language

Battelle Memorial Institute — Intelligence Analyst Intern · 2006 – 2007 · Columbus, Ohio

- Exploited hundreds of Arabic and Farsi websites for U.S. government clients
- Built an entity-focused database of 1,000+ entries in Arabic

SELECTED PUBLIC CASES

People v. John Lott · 21CR5956, El Paso County — Criminal defense investigator.

People v. Shaquille Brown · 2023CR5091, El Paso County — Criminal defense investigator.

People v. Carie Hallford · 23CR4856, El Paso County — Criminal defense investigator.

People v. Lauren Marie Dooley · 22CR5167, El Paso County — Criminal defense investigator.

Club Q shooting — civil litigation · Colorado Springs, Colorado — Investigative support in civil litigation arising from the Club Q shooting.

People v. Noel Bertrand · 11CR1542, Denver District Court — Post-conviction relief investigator.

Confidential high-profile engagements — handled under confidentiality agreements.

CREDENTIALS

Certified Legal Investigator (CLI)

National Association of Legal Investigators (NALI) · Credential held since 2020

Licensed Private Detective (Wyoming)

State of Wyoming · Active license in good standing

Horatio Alger Military Scholar

Mercyhurst University, Institute for Intelligence Studies

AFFILIATIONS

NALI — National Association of Legal Investigators
Certified Legal Investigator · Active member

PPIAC — Professional Private Investigators Association of Colorado

Former board member · Active member

Intellenet — International investigative network

Active member · Global investigative partnerships

EDUCATION

Mercyhurst University — Institute for Intelligence Studies · 2008

Bachelor of Arts, Intelligence Studies · Minor in Arabic Language

Canisius College · 2010

Master of Science in Education (MS Ed.)

University of Colorado

Doctoral coursework completed

MILITARY SERVICE

United States Army, 1999 – 2004 · 4th Infantry Division · Fort Carson, Colorado · Honorably discharged. Invasion phase of Operation Iraqi Freedom (Mar–Dec 2003); 75+ combat missions. Also OEF and ONE.

Army Commendation Medal · Army Achievement Medal (2nd Award) · Army Good Conduct Medal · National Defense Service Medal (2nd Award) · Iraq Campaign Medal (2 Campaign Stars)

LANGUAGES

English (native) · Arabic (professional proficiency) · Czech / Čeština (conversational) · Farsi (reading proficiency)

TOOLS

X1 Social Discovery · CLEAR · i2 Analyst Notebook · Hunchly · PGP & encryption suites · Investigative databases · OSINT platforms · Data analytics toolsets