

A man with a beard and bald head, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and red patterned tie, stands in a library. He is leaning on a wooden bookshelf filled with books. The background is a wall of bookshelves filled with books of various colors.

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**INVESTIGATOR OF
THE YEAR 2021:
MATTHEW
SPAIER**

**CRIMINALISTICS:
The New Frontier
for Private
Investigators**

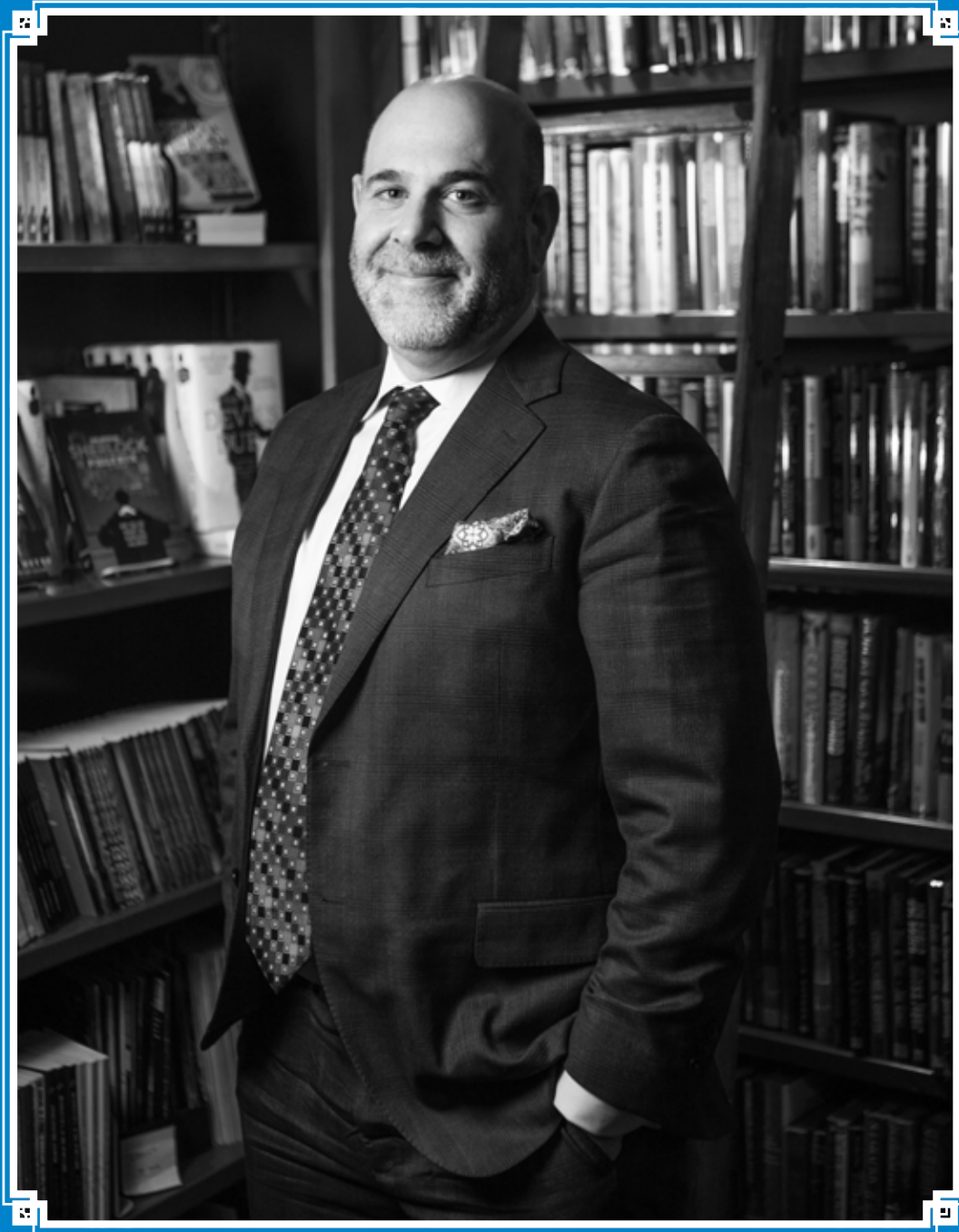
**CRIMINAL
DEFENSE
INVESTIGATIONS**

PI MAGAZINE'S TOP PIS OF 2022

INVESTIGATOR OF THE YEAR 2021

Matthew Spaier

Satellite Investigations / Investigator's Toolbox



Each year when we begin the selection process for PI Magazine's Investigator of the Year award, we realize just how many incredibly talented individuals are working within our profession. The list of men and women is truly a who's who of this profession. These are the individuals who operate their businesses in the most professional manner, elevating us all while at the same time overcoming the stereotype many outside of our profession may have, usually based upon what they see on television.

This year I am very proud to announce Matthew Spaier as the recipient of the 2021 PI Magazine Investigator of the Year award.

I literally could end the article right here, as there are probably very few active private investigators in the country who do not know the name Matt Spaier. Simply put – Matt is everywhere!

When the selection is made for this once-a-year award, we look for those individuals who contribute the most over a continuous period to our profession. Some would call this "giving back," but I view one's contributions more along the lines of advancing our profession through one's continued deeds. There are few others in our profession more active than Matt Spaier. Let's take a quick look at how our profession was so lucky to come to call Matt one of its own.

Matt graduated college in 1996 and immediately went to work as a reference checker and field investigator for a large retail investigative firm in New York City. Matt was quickly identified as a go-getter and valuable asset to the firm and within a period of months, Matt found himself as the firm's Director of Operations, a position he held for several years.

Matt has always had the ability to identify opportunity and, feeling the desire to advance further, he was recruited to become a tech-recruiter for several high-level computer and tech-related firms in New York City, a position he held up until the tragedy of September 2001 that shut down so many businesses in New York City.

Matt pivoted and in short order began laying the foundation for things to come, becoming the in-house investigator and paralegal for a large, well-known New York City law firm. As Matt said, "Once investigations gets into your blood – it's there forever" and in 2005, after four incredible years offering investigative and paralegal support, Matt decided to make the big leap that many less ambitious than he would cringe at or run away from. Matt started his own business in 2005 – Satellite Investigations.

As any entrepreneur will attest to, not the least anyone who starts their own investigations business in a large metropolitan city such as New York City, printing the business cards and hanging your "shingle" out is no guarantee of a key to success!

In speaking to Matt many times about business strategy in general, including the interview for this story, Matt is quick to say he was able to identify that key to success early on – it's really quite simple – hard work and a reputation of honesty. These are the cornerstones of Satellite Investigations and from a personal observation – more importantly, the cornerstone of Matthew Spaier – the private investigator – the person.

Over the years Matt has been able to help hundreds of clients, including many large law firms. Today Satellite Investigations provides investigative

support to over 137 law firms in New York State alone! The mainstay of Matt's services is witness statements, asset searches, and defendant locates, which have helped plaintiffs obtain the needed leverage in cases early on, permitting many successful settlements.

Today Matt keeps himself busy by being active in many professional associations such as the Associated Licensed Detectives of New York State (ALDONYS), joining in 2007 and rising to the board position of Regional Director quickly in 2009. Matt presently is the 1st V.P., adding "My membership in ALDONYS enabled me to cover all of New York State for investigations, effectively expanding my investigative reach throughout the entire state."

Matt believes strongly in the advantages of professional associations and is also an active member of the National Association of Legal Investigators (NALI) as well as the National Council of Investigation & Security Services (NCISS), joining in 2012 and presently holding the position of Regional Director for all of the New England region. Matt also is a contributing member of five state associations, often speaking and presenting at conferences and seminars, including representing our profession with the Partners for Justice, New York State Trial Lawyers Association, providing training used in their CLE sessions.

But Matt was not satisfied with a full plate as many would be, and found the time to yet again put on the entrepreneurial cap and in 2018 laid the groundwork for what would become The Investigator's Toolbox we know today.

Matt saw the need for an online community where investigators and supporting businesses could come together and offer the services, experience and knowledge to advance our profession. In a conversation a few months ago, Matt told me: "I saw the need for investigators to have a place to learn and share ideas. My goal was to create a space where we could provide research management for investigators, vendors and support businesses."

Officially launching in September 2020, The Investigator's Toolbox has doubled in size in just one year, with members from nearly every state and six other countries! Matt sees the "toolbox" hosting conferences and seminars in the future and continuing to grow. Today The Investigator's Toolbox is a well-established source for this information and should be as the name states - part of every "investigator's toolbox."

Matt is also the host of his own weekly podcast, PI PERSPECTIVES, and is a continuing author and writer for PI Magazine and Psychology Today, providing readers with his own "perspective" on our profession. He also is a guest lecturer at the prestigious John Jay University. Believe it or not, Matt actually does have some spare time or as I with tongue in cheek call it, "SPAIERTIME" and is an accomplished bass guitarist and writer of music, having released two LPs of his original music. Matt has four children and lives north of NYC.

For those of us who are fortunate enough to know Matthew Spaier, the professional investigator, the podcast host, the author, the association leader, the musician, the creator of Investigator's Toolbox, the entrepreneur – The Man..... you know he's just getting started!

Congratulations to Matt Spaier, PI Magazine's Investigator of the Year for 2021!

Matt can be contacted at www.satellitepi.com or through The Investigator's Toolbox, www.investigators-toolbox.com **PI**

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