



# Newsletter

## CLEAR Organizational Updates

Issue 39 May 2017

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### SAVE THE DATE!!!!

The 2017 CLEAR Conference will be held October 16-19 at the Menger Hotel in San Antonio, TX.

The hotel is near the Riverwalk and next to the Alamo.

Keep checking our website for updated information. We are updating regularly!!  
<https://www.clearusa.org/>



The Board of Directors want to let our members know about a few organizational updates that will be happening over the upcoming weeks that we will be doing to strengthen the organization. We have been growing at a consistent pace, and now that we have close to 3,000 members, we need to take steps to manage everything more efficiently.

Here are a few things we are doing:

- 1. A new website** — we currently have a new website under construction. We will continue to maintain the highest level of security, while adding flexibility and the ability to make updates as needed.
- 2. New positions added to the Board of Directors** — We have added two positions. Government/Technical Liaison which initially will oversee development of our new webpage and interaction with various governmental agencies. Additionally, we added the position of Vendor/Sponsor Development. Due to our growth, and the overwhelming support from the vendor community, this is becoming an area where someone with specific experience in this area is needed. [See page 2 for more details.](#)
- 3. Filled a vacated Vice President position** — John Clark had previously been a Vice President, but John took the position of Government/Technical Liaison and his vacancy has been filled by Ben Dugan.
- 4. And finally, we are currently looking for some State Reps.** If you are either LP or Law Enforcement and have an interest in representing your state, please contact Chris Schkade — [chris.schkade@walgreens.com](mailto:chris.schkade@walgreens.com)



# The Board of Directors would like to announce a few changes

- Ben Dugan (The Zellman Group—3rd from the right in the group picture below) has taken on a Vice President position
- John Clark has taken on the responsibility of Government/Technical liaison (not sure what that means, but it sounds important)
- Pat Dineen (Previously of Protection 1 and Stanley, pictured below) has taken on a new role of Vendor/Sponsor development



We needed to make these changes because of the growth of the organization and we are confident that these changes will continue to assist in the growth of our organization!



President – Curt Crum , Boise Police Department

Vice President – Ben Dugan, Zellman Group

Vice President – Sgt. Rich Rossman , Broward County Sheriff's Department

National Secretary – ORC Officer Cody Evans , Boise Police Department

National Treasurer – Dave Collins , LPC, CFI, Signet Jewelers

Training Co-Director – Mark Falkner , Director of Security - Fashion Show Las Vegas

Training Co-Director – Mitzi Perry LPQ, St. Petersburg Police Department

State Representative Coordinator – Chris Schkade LPC, Walgreens

Legislative Chairman – Eric Bieghler, 7-11

Government/Technical Liaison - John Clark, PCI Services

Vendor/Sponsor Development – Pat Dineen

Regional Director – Jason Davies

Regional Director – Tony Sheppard LPC, CVS

## Executive Advisory Board

Jack Gee – Ft. Lauderdale Police (Ret.), 1st Past President - CLEAR

Millie Faii – San Diego County Sheriff's Department (Ret.)

Mille Kresevich LPC, Luxottica

Mark Neapolitan , LPC, CFI, Signet Jewelers



A National Association

**CLEAR Mission:**

Build and support partnership across all investigative channels, accomplished through open communication and networking, training together toward the further development of the investigator and lastly, by supporting legislation which strengthens laws related to property crimes.

# Jewelers' Security Alliance Offers \$10,000 Reward For Violent Jewelry Gunpoint Robbery Suspects

**Courtesy Jewelers' Security Alliance**—The Jewelers' Security Alliance is offering a reward of up to \$10,000 for information leading to the arrest of the black male and female robbery suspects pictured below who are believed to have carried out four violent armed robberies of jewelry stores in GA. If you have information, please call JSA on its Reward Hotline at 800-325-1883. If you wish to remain anonymous, measures will be taken to insure the protection of your identity, yet allow the payment of the reward.



## ROBBERY SUSPECTS ZIP TIE SALES ASSOCIATES

**Conyers, GA – April 18, 2017**

The suspects pictured above entered a retail jewelry store shortly after opening. After walking towards the rear of the store, the male suspect removed a gun from his waistband, jumped over a showcase, and forced sales associates face down to the floor. The female suspect then helped zip tie the sales associates, and walked to the door and locked it. The suspects took the showcase keys and removed merchandise from numerous showcases. Five minutes later they walked out of the store with a duffel bag containing a large amount of jewelry items. The black male and female suspects are both described as in their 30s. If you have information, contact Corporal Buck Vaughn of the Conyers Police Department, 770-929-4233.

**Marietta, GA – February 25, 2014** – The suspects ordered sales associates to the floor at gunpoint and flex cuffed their hands and ankles. The male suspect (pictured to the right) was described at that time as 30-years-old, athletic build, 5'10" with tattoos of script writing on his neck. The black female was described as 35-40-years-old, with an athletic build. It was also reported that a third suspect, a black male, 40-50-years-old, 5'10", may have been with the male and fe-



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Dave Collins



# The “Mozart of Shoplifting” Caught Again

By Clifford Ward - Chicago Tribune April 28, 2017

When reputed master shoplifter Ignatius M. Pollara traveled from Florida to Chicago in 2015, he came for what authorities called a business trip — a planned whirlwind of thefts from stores in four different areas and then, after four nights, a flight home. But it looks like his trip won't end until sometime in 2018 and will include some unplanned nights with the Illinois Department of Corrections.

Pollara, 51, was sentenced Friday in DuPage County to five years in prison on retail theft and burglary convictions. He has been in custody since his arrest in July 2015, when he was arrested outside a Hobby Store in [Lombard](#) for stealing an art pencil set.

With credit for time served, Pollara likely will serve about eight months in prison. However, after that he must return to DuPage to serve nine more months in jail on two separate contempt of court citations he received.

Then he will have to deal with an arrest warrant the state of Florida has issued for parole violation charges, local prosecutors said.

Pollara's reputation had followed him from Florida



**where officials say he made perhaps \$1 million**

from reselling items, often expensive toys such as high-end Lego sets that he had stolen.

**Continued Next Page...**



# “Mozart of Shoplifting” Continued....

In sentencing Pollara, Judge Liam Brennan noted that his crimes were not motivated by traditional reasons, like a drug user or compulsive gambler who steals to feed an addiction.

"This defendant steals because it's convenient to steal, and it helps him live," the judge said.

Given Pollara's criminal history, Brennan said, it would be futile to sentence him to probation, as his attorney had asked.

As part of the sentencing hearing, prosecutors played a segment of a 2014 report on Pollara on the ABC show "20/20" in which a correspondent dubbed him "the Mozart or LeBron James of shoplifting."

Pollara was on parole in Florida when he told authorities in 2015 he planned to visit relatives in Illinois. But Pollara's parole officer, knowing he did not have relatives here, alerted local police, who tailed Pollara for a day as he visited more than two dozen stores in the Schaumburg and Oak Brook areas before arresting him in Lombard.

**Check out the ABC News 20/20 segment here, featuring CLEAR's very own Vice President - Sgt. Rich Rossman from the Broward County Sheriff's Office!!!!!!**

<http://abcnews.go.com/2020/video/thief-shoplifted-millions-27247579>



# Proposed New Illinois ORC Bill

The Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform has proposed that stealing under \$2,000 from retail stores should not be a felony and has led to the introduction of HB 3337. A **second theft-enabling bill, HB 3856, would go farther increasing that threshold to \$2,500**, threatening the safety and well-being of our businesses and communities. All of this is based on the myth that retail theft is not that bad and will save the state money.

Proponents argue that stealing from stores is a crime of need and that increasing the threshold will keep first time offenders out of prison. But 80 percent of retail thieves have the money in their pocket to pay for the item(s) they were attempting to steal. Further, **based on the items most frequently stolen, which include high-**



# \$1.5M in counterfeit items, 70 lbs. of marijuana found in shop

CLARKSVILLE, TN (WSMV - TV) – Reported by Forrest Sanders

Clarksville Police said a shop was bringing in big money with fake stuff. They said counterfeit items are just the beginning of what they found.

The sign says "closed" at Designer Clothing on Fort Campbell Boulevard. Videos on their Facebook page show racks and rows of name brands. Police said a lot of it's not the real deal.

"They had emblems that looked exactly like the real products," said Jim Knoll of the Clarksville Police Department. "You had a Michael Kors emblem, Louis Vuitton. They'd bring purses in, pull the emblems off them and apply these emblems."

Knoll said search warrants served were part of a three-month investigation, working alongside Kroger's Organized Retail Crime Unit and Investigators.



"You look at it, and that's the real deal," he said. "There were Rolexes in there. You pick it up and unless you know what you're looking at, it's the real thing."

Knoll said counterfeit items were far from all they found. He said more than \$24,000 was found, mostly hidden in ceiling tiles, and they found nearly 70 pounds of marijuana.

Knoll said the marijuana has a street value over \$100,000, while the merchandise value for the counterfeit items would be more than \$1.5 million.

"You had different people running all of it," Knoll said.

Chen Fei, Xiu Li, and Sheng Yao Li are being charged with money laundering and use of counterfeit mark or logo. Knoll said other people still run the business. Calls to various numbers for Designer Clothing were not returned by news time.



# Home Depot Million + ORC Case in Miami

After twelve months, Detective Lazaro Daniel from the Miami Dade Police Department was able to identify and eliminate a criminal organization that were costing The Home Depot thousands of dollars daily, to a successful resolution. The case resulted in the dismantling of a criminal enterprise consisting of many individuals, each charged for their involvement in an organized effort to **steal millions of dollars in merchandise** from The Home Depot throughout the southeast United States. The losses attributed to this organized crime ring were documented to be in excess of \$2 million. The thefts crossed multiple states, **over 90 different stores**, and more than 500 transactions involving “box stuffing” of merchandise. The defendants were charged with racketeering and organized retail theft. The search warrants were executed and **\$140 thousand worth of merchandise was recovered**.





**SAVE THE DATE**  
**CLEAR 2017**  
**National Conference**  
**October 16-19, 2017**

Menger Hotel  
San Antonio, Texas  
204 Alamo Plaza San Antonio TX 78205  
210-223-4361

Downtown location  
Near Riverwalk  
Right next to Alamo

Hotel Rate: \$120 plus taxes  
Ask for the Coalition of Law Enforcement  
and Retail  
Group rate



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