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TRAINING BULLETIN

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Officer Successfully Appeals Termination and is Ordered Reinstated

By Michael Williamson, Esq.

A San Diego County peace officer with more than 18 years in law enforcement was assigned to San Diego County Gang Task Force working with officers and supervisors from other agencies, including federal officials. Such an assignment is highly coveted, given to only those officers with the highest degree of ethics and integrity. Professional jealousy of the officer's position grew and conflicts with co-workers developed. In spite of the challenges, the officer was successful in his task force assignment.

On April 27, 2012, the officer was inside the police department when he heard a conversation between a sergeant, detective, and a San Diego County District Attorney Investigator concerning the possible whereabouts of a wanted fugitive. The officer recognized the fugitive's name and interjected himself into the conversation

offering information about the possible whereabouts of the fugitive as obtained from an "informant."

According to the officer and corroborated by independent witness testimony, the fugitive information had been previously provided by the officer, but was never acted upon.

Concern over the fugitive information and the manner in which the officer obtained it, led to the initiation of an internal investigation. The officer was questioned no less than 4 times and ordered to write a report regarding the information on the informant and fugitive. The sergeant found the information provided by the officer at his impromptu interviews less than credible. This conclusion was based on the belief that the fugitive's information had been withheld, the "informant" was

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