



# THE THOMAS W. WATHEN ACADEMY OF INDUSTRIAL SECURITY

THE NATIONAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW INSTITUTE

## TRADE SECRET PROTECTION AND ENFORCEMENT OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

*Chaired by: Peter J. Toren, Partner, Brown & Wood LLP*

*Wednesday, March 28, 2001*

- 8:00 am**      **REGISTRATION AND COFFEE**
- 8:30 am**      **Welcome and Opening Remarks**  
*Professor James P. Chandler, National Intellectual Property Law  
Institute (NIPLI), Peter J. Toren, Brown & Wood, LLP*
- 8:45 am**      **Electronic Information and Challenges of Secrecy**  
*Maynard C. Anderson, Arcadia Group Worldwide,  
Former Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Security Policy  
U.S. Department of Defense*
- 9:45 am**      **BREAK**
- 10:00 am**     **Prosecution and Government Perspectives**  
*David Green, Deputy Chief, Computer Crime and Intellectual  
Property Section, U.S. Department of Justice  
Lead Prosecutor, United States v. Four Pillars, et al.  
Joseph Metcalfe, Trial Attorney, Computer Crime and Intellectual  
Property Section, U.S. Department of Justice*
- 11:00 am**     **Conducting Corporate Investigations of Theft of Trade Secrets**  
*Lynn E. Mattice, Director of Corporate Security, Boston Scientific  
Corporation*

- 12:00 pm LUNCH**
- 1:30 pm Conducting Competitive Intelligence Investigations**  
*William DeGenaro, DeGenaro & Associates*
- 2:15 pm The Impact of the EEA on Competitive Intelligence Investigations**  
*Richard Horowitz, Attorney and SCIP Member*
- 3:00 pm BREAK**
- 3:15 pm Protecting Confidential Corporate Information**  
*Peter J. Toren, Moderator*
- 4:15 pm Wrap Up**
- 6:00 pm Cocktails and Gala Dinner / Dance**  
**Honoree: Thomas W. Wathen**  
*The Four Seasons Hotel, Washington, D.C.*

*Thursday, March 29, 2001*

- 8:00 am COFFEE AND INTRODUCTIONS**
- 8:30 am Working With the Government: The Pros and Cons of Making a Criminal Case**  
*Peter J. Toren, Brown & Wood, LLP*
- 9:30 am BREAK**
- 9:45 am Trade Secret Law in the Federal Courts**  
*Evan A. Raynes, Attorney, Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner, LLP*
- 10:45 am Proposed New Federal Trade Secret Law Amending the EEA and Creating Civil Remedies**  
*Professor James P. Chandler, NIPLI*
- 11:30 am Panel**  
*Moderator: Peter J. Toren*  
*Panelists: Joseph Metcalfe, Richard Horowitz, Evan Raynes, Lynn Mattice, William DeGenaro and David Green*
- 12:00 pm Concluding Remarks and Adjournment**  
*Peter J. Toren, Professor James P. Chandler*

## **Biographical Information for Joseph Metcalfe**

Joseph Metcalfe is a Department of Justice trial attorney in the Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section in the Criminal Division. In this capacity, Mr. Metcalfe deals with a wide variety of legal issues that arise in relation to new technologies. Mr. Metcalfe has participated in investigating and prosecuting cases involving computer intrusions, criminal copyright and trademark crimes, and the seizure of electronic information. The primary focus of Mr. Metcalfe's work in the Computer Crime Section relates to enforcement of the Economic Espionage Act.

Since 1995, Mr. Metcalfe has been an Adjunct Professor of Law at Georgetown University Law Center. Prior to working at the Justice Department, he served as staff attorney with the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia for six years. He began his legal career as an E. Barrett Prettyman Fellow in the Criminal Justice Clinic at Georgetown University Law Center.

Mr. Metcalfe received his J.D. from Harvard Law School and a Bachelor of Arts from Stanford University.

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## LYNN E. MATTICE

Mr. Mattice is Corporate Director of Security for Boston Scientific Corporation headquartered in Natick, Massachusetts. Boston Scientific is one of the world's largest medical device company, specializing in state-of-the-art minimally invasive medical and surgical products. In addition, he heads his own consulting firm specializing in innovative security, loss prevention and risk management programs. His key areas of focus include: intellectual property & information security, due diligence, vulnerability analysis, strategic planning, crisis management and contingency planning, as well as process management methodology and effective use of business measurements in security. His peers have recognized him as a visionary for his utilization of total quality/continuous improvement techniques in the development of global security and loss prevention programs that create shareholder value and produce measurable results. Mr. Mattice has served as Corporate Security Director for three major corporations. His experience base traverses the defense, intelligence, electronics, medical, consumer products and service industries. Additionally, he headed a university affiliated educational institution dedicated to serving the law enforcement and private security sectors.

He is a past Chairman of the Board of Directors for the National Intellectual Property Law Institute in Washington, D.C. and remains a counselor to the President of the Institute. Mr. Mattice is also an industry advisor to the National Counterintelligence Center and served as a member of the U.S. State Department's Overseas Security Advisory Council. He was one of eleven industry representatives appointed to a joint government and industry task force established by Presidential Directive in 1991, focused at developing a new National Industrial Security Program (NISP) to replace the myriad of duplicative government security regulations. Mr. Mattice was recognized for his efforts as one of the principal architects of the NISP by way of a special joint commendation signed by the Secretary of Defense, Director of Central Intelligence and the Secretary of Energy. In 1992, he received a special commendation from the Department of Defense citing his visionary leadership in the advancement of security education. The Federal Bureau of Investigation honored him in 1996 with its *Outstanding Community Service Award for Law Enforcement Assistance*, along with a personal letter of commendation from Director Freeh.

Mr. Mattice was approached by the President of the American Society for Industrial Security in late 1992 and was asked to lead a special ad hoc group charged with determining the best manner in which to institute total quality management and other business-based processes in the security profession. Subsequently ASIS created a Council on Business Practices and appointed Mr. Mattice as the Charter Chairman of the Council. He has served on the Strategic Visioning Committee, Membership Committee and Education Committee for the International Security Management Association. He was instrumental in establishing an Executive Development Education Program Series for the membership of the International

**Security Management Association in 1999 and he currently chairs the committee responsible for those programs.**

**He is a frequent guest lecturer on a variety of business and security related topics such as: *Total Quality Management for Security; Understanding Intellectual Capital and How To Protect It; Strategic Planning for Security Professionals; Developing Effective Business Enterprise Safeguards; Corporate Security - As A Value Creating Business Unit.***

**Mr. Mattice attended school at California State University - Long Beach and served on the Advisory Board for the Graduate and Undergraduate level Leadership and Management Program in Security (LaMPS) at Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan. Mr. Mattice has also been certified as an Expert Witness at both the Federal and State Court level.**

**Professional affiliations include the International Security Management Association, the American Society for Industrial Security, American Society for Quality Control, Society for Competitive Intelligence Professionals and the International Association of Chiefs of Police.**

## PROFESSOR JAMES P. CHANDLER

*President of the*  
**NATIONAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW INSTITUTE**  
*Chairman of*  
**THE CHANDLER LAW FIRM CHARTERED**  
*B.A., University of California, Berkeley*  
*J.D., University of California, Davis*  
*LL.M., Harvard University*

During his illustrious career, Professor James P. Chandler has compiled an enviable academic record while distinguishing himself in numerous areas of both United States and international law. His professional life is notable for the continuous offering of both his time and expertise to help create and maintain organizations dedicated to the advancement of his profession.

A gifted academic, Professor Chandler received a Graduate Fellowship to Harvard University in 1970 where he was a scholar in residence and in 1971 was a Fellow in the Academy of Engineering of the National Academy of Sciences. In 1972, Professor Chandler accepted an appointment as a Faculty Fellow in the Stanford University Engineering Department followed by an appointment in 1975 as Distinguished Visiting Professor of Law at the University of Mississippi School of Law. Breaking new ground, Professor Chandler moved to Washington, D.C. in 1977 to accept an appointment as Professor of Law and Director of the Computers in Law Institute at the George Washington University National Law Center. Professor Chandler's reputation as a pioneer and leading expert in the field of intellectual property law grew rapidly and in 1984 he returned to his *alma mater*, Harvard University, as a Visiting Scholar. Since taking Emeritus status from the George Washington University in 1994, he has been pursuing the advancement of the study and practice of intellectual property law in the United States and around the world.

The Science and Technology Section of the American Bar Association owes its founding, in part, to Professor Chandler. He served as a member of the Section Council and as academic advisor to the Section, which addresses legal problems and complications arising from the creation of new technologies. In another capacity for the Bar Association, Professor Chandler served as vice-chairman of the International Intellectual Property Rights Committee and as a member of the National Security Advisory Committee.

Recognizing the need for legal guidance in the area of computer law, Professor Chandler lent his expertise to help create the Computer Law Association of America. This Association, which specializes in the law governing computing technologies, included him on its Board of Directors from 1972 to 1982.

Professor Chandler has spent much of his professional life in the classroom all around the United States and around the world. He receives numerous invitations to lecture internationally and has been active in the international legal community since 1975. In recent years, he has

lectured at the Russian Intellectual Property Law Institute in Moscow, Kyoto University in Japan, Sun Yat Sen University and the Schiead Patent Agency in Guangzhou, China, Beijing University, Shanghai University, and Ankara University in Turkey. His advice and counsel is sought regularly from intellectual property lawyers and professionals, judges, and government representatives from all over the world, including Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas. He receives students from the United States and around the world to participate in lectures, symposia, courses and seminars in Washington, D.C. where he offers advanced intellectual property law training and scholarship as President of the NATIONAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW INSTITUTE (NIPLI).

In addition to his professorships and academic affiliations, Professor Chandler has numerous publications to his credit as well as being the co-author of a teaching text on computer law and author of a treatise on patent law. He recently published an article on Patent Protection of Computer Programs in the *Minnesota Intellectual Property Review*. Professor Chandler is the original author of the *Economic Espionage Act of 1996* (EEA) and worked closely with the Executive and Legislative Branches of the U.S. Government in support of the enactment of this legislation. He is frequently consulted by the U.S. Government, legal community, and private industry in the fields of economic espionage, intellectual property, and information and systems security issues arising from the use of computer technologies. So prominent is his reputation in the field of intellectual property law that from 1993 to 1995 Barclays Law Publishers published his analyses of cases decided by the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

At the request of President Clinton, Professor Chandler recently accepted an appointment to the National Infrastructure Assurance Council (NIAC), a council established by Executive Order in July 1999. The NIAC's mission is to enhance the partnership of the public and private sectors to address threats to the Nation's critical infrastructure. It will provide recommendations born of its work to both the National Security Council and the National Economic Council.

Professor Chandler is truly a leading figure and admirable scholar in intellectual property law and in the protection of United States national and economic security. His career has been both lengthy and fruitful. His former and present contributions to academia, government and the private sector will be long remembered and revered.

## **Peter J. Toren**

Mr. Toren is a partner with Brown & Wood LLP in New York City, where he is the co-head of the Intellectual Property Group. He specializes in patent, copyright, trademark, trade secret and cyberlaw litigation. He is also an Adjunct Professor of Law at Hofstra University Law School where he teaches cyberlaw. Before entering private practice, Mr. Toren was one of the first trial attorneys with the Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section of the Criminal Division of the United States Department of Justice. While at Justice, he was in charge of prosecutions for violations of copyright, trademark and trade secret law and the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act.

He is the author of numerous articles on a variety of Intellectual Property and cyberlaw related topics, including *Software and Business Methods are Patentable in the U.S. (Get Over It); Patent Problems? The Solution . . .*; *Protecting Inventions as Trade Secrets: A Better Way When Patents are Inappropriate, Unavailable*; *Protecting Prevailing Intellectual Property*; *Intellectual Property Due Diligence in the Acquisition of or Investment in Technology Companies*; *The Patentability of Business Methods*; *The Criminalization of Trademark Counterfeiting*; *EEA Violations Could Trigger Criminal Sanctions*; *Federal Prosecution of Violations of Intellectual Property Rights (Copyrights, Trademarks and Trade Secrets)*; and *Understanding the Economic Espionage Act of 1996*.

He is also a columnist and member of the advisory board of E-Commerce Law Journal and is writing a book on intellectual property crimes. Finally, he has lectured extensively on protecting intellectual property rights and on cyberlaw issues and has taught U.S. law to Russian judges, prosecutors and defense attorneys through the Central and East European Law Initiative ("CEELI") sponsored by the American Bar Association.

In addition to a law degree, Mr. Toren has a masters degree in International Affairs from Columbia University.



## MAYNARD C. ANDERSON

Currently, President and Managing Director of Arcadia Group Worldwide, Inc., engaged in matters of national and international security. He is founder of the nonprofit *Arcadia Institute*, and a principal in the Strategic Trade Advisory Group, Inc. He has served as a Member of the Board of Directors and Faculty in the field of counterintelligence in the **National Intellectual Property Law Institute** since 1993.

Until February 1994, Mr. Anderson was the acting *Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Security Policy*, with permanent assignment as the *Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Security Policy*. He was responsible for providing staff advice and assistance to the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy and the Secretary of Defense in the development of overall defense policy for international security programs, national disclosure policy, special access programs, NATO security, the Foreign Disclosure and Technical Information System (FORDTIS), and related security policy automation systems, as well as emergency planning and preparedness, crisis management, and special and sensitive activities. He chaired the National Foreign Disclosure Policy Committee which determines what classified weapon systems the United States will share with foreign countries.

Formerly, Mr. Anderson served as the *Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Counterintelligence and Security)*, from 1988-1991, with responsibilities for the management of DoD investigative, security and counterintelligence programs. He served as the focal point for counterintelligence and security policy matters within the Department of Defense and provided day-to-day oversight of world-wide DoD counterintelligence activities. In addition, he served as Chairman of the Advisory Committee for the DoD Security Institute, the DoD Polygraph Institute, and the Defense Personnel Security Research and Education Center. He also chaired the National Advisory Group/Security Countermeasures.

As Director for Security Plans and Programs, Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, 1982-1988, he had responsibilities for reviewing and formulating policies that govern the security practices and programs of the Department of Defense. He also served as the *United States Representative to the NATO Security Committee*; Member, Director of Central Intelligence Security Forum; Chairman, National Industrial Security Advisory Committee; Chairman, Physical Security Review Board, Department of Defense; and Chairman, US/Canada Security Committee. In the office of the Secretary of Defense, he also served as the Deputy Director for Security Policy from 1978-1982.

Mr. Anderson was the *Director, Special Security and Special Activities, Department of the Navy*, 1973-1978; *Assistant Head, Internal Security Division, Naval Investigative Service Headquarters*, 1969-1973; *Supervising Agent*, Naval Investigative Service Office, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, 1968-1969, Member of the Special Operations Group; Headquarters, 1966-1968; and Senior Resident Agent, Saigon, 1964-1965.

Mr. Anderson received the Presidential Rank Award of Meritorious Executive in 1985 and 1992. In 1989, he received the Distinguished Service Award from Luther College. He was the 1990

*Maynard C. Anderson*

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recipient of the National Classification Management Society's Donald B. Woodbridge Award of Excellence. In 1992, he received the Department of Defense Distinguished Civilian Service Award for exceptional contributions to the national security.

Mr. Anderson was born in 1932 in Iowa, is a graduate of Luther College and the Federal Executive Institute. His military service was with the United States Army Counterintelligence Corps as a special agent.

Mr. Anderson has lectured and written extensively on various aspects of management, policy, strategic planning, counterintelligence, security concepts, philosophies and disciplines, as well as national security issues. He is an honorary faculty member of the Defense Security Institute. He has been a lecturer in the School of Criminal justice, College of Social Science, Michigan State university, and is an advisor to the Leadership and Management Program in Security. He lectures at Luther College in the Department of Political Science.

In 1996, he was a lecturer and seminar leader at the Nobel Peace Prize Forum; a participant and lecturer at Vision 2021, a conference concerning security in the 21<sup>st</sup> century; and an advisor to the Commission on Protecting and Reducing Government Secrecy chaired by Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan.

Mr. Anderson is Chairman Emeritus of the Board of Directors of the National Intellectual Property Law Institute. He is a past Director of the Security Affairs Support Association (SASA) and continues to serve as the Chairman of the SASA Policy Committee. He is serving in a four-year appointment as an industry member of the National Industrial Security Program Policy Advisory Committee. Mr. Anderson is a member of the President's Council, the Philanthropic Honor Society of Luther College, and a Biographee in *Who's Who in America (50<sup>th</sup> Edition)*.



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**Business Intelligence Services**

## about DeGenaro & Associates...

William (Bill) DeGenaro has more than 30 years of strategic planning, intelligence and business management experience. An internationally recognized expert, he and his team have produced successful results for companies internationally.

A brief summary of Mr. DeGenaro's experience...

- ✓ President of DeGenaro & Associates
- ✓ Co-founder and principle of The Centre for Operational Business Intelligence
- ✓ Managing Director of an international consulting firm in strategic planning and business intelligence
- ✓ Director of Strategic Countermeasures Planning, Office of the Secretary of Defense for Counterintelligence and Security under the aegis of the Presidents Executive Exchange
- ✓ Director of Business Research and Analysis (Intelligence), 3M Company
- ✓ Director of Innovations Resources, 3M Company
- ✓ Strategic Planning Director, 3M Company
- ✓ Florida Private Investigators License (Florida Agency License A2000017).

Mr. DeGenaro holds a management degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago and advanced studies at the Joint Military Intelligence College in Washington DC, Harvard University, Columbia University, and University of Minnesota. He is an active member of professional organizations including Operations Security Professionals Society, Security Affairs Support Association, Strategic Leadership Forum, National Military Intelligence Officers

Archives: The National Intellectual Property Institute (NIPLI.org)

Association and the Association of Former Intelligence Officers. He has been elected to the board of directors of Society of Competitive Intelligence Professionals (SCIP) and is a Fellow of the Society.

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## BIOGRAPHY

Richard Horowitz is an attorney concentrating in corporate, international, and security related issues, and holds a private investigator's license. He is a frequent speaker on issues of security and terrorism, legal issues such as money laundering, trade secret law, and the Economic Espionage Act, and on investigative and security techniques. He has spoken to companies such as AT&T-Lucent Technologies and IBM, and to numerous organizations including the American Bar Association, the American Corporate Counsel Association, the American Society for Industrial Security, the National Security Institute, and the World Association of Detectives. He has spoken at conferences in England, Belgium, Canada, Mexico, Argentina, Uruguay, Poland, and Latvia.

In addition, he has written for such publications as *Security Management*, *Money Laundering Alert*, *International Journal of Intelligence and Counterintelligence*, and the *Journal of Counterterrorism and Security International*, and has authored a Policy Analysis on Competitive Intelligence and the Economic Espionage Act for the Society of Competitive Intelligence Professionals, where he serves as a Legal Advisor.

Mr. Horowitz is a member of the Trade Secrets Committee of the American Bar Association and the Economic Crime Committee of the American Society for Industrial Security, and has served as advisor to the National Cargo Security Council on cargo and international trade related money laundering issues. He served as the security consultant for a public relations event held for Bosnia under the auspices of the President of the United Nations General Assembly, and has prepared educational material for use by the U.S. Department of Defense.

After receiving an M.A. in International Relations from New York University in 1982, he moved to Israel where he served in the Israel Defense Forces for six years, attaining the rank of captain. Upon returning to the United States, he held a Mortimer Zuckerman Fellowship from Columbia University.

January 2001

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## **Evan A. Raynes**

Evan Raynes has undergraduate and graduate degrees in history from the University of Michigan. Evan worked in the Soviet studies field for several years at the Smithsonian Institution and other think tanks. His second career in the law has focused on trademark and, more recently, trade secret issues. Evan graduated from George Washington University's law school in 1993, and currently works for Finnegan Henderson



# Department of Justice

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## **JUSTICE DEPARTMENT RELEASES MANUAL TO ADDRESS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CRIME**

### **Outgrowth of Intellectual Property Rights Initiative Provides Resource to Enforce Laws Against Intellectual Property Theft**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - In an effort to assist law enforcement agencies across the country in combatting trademark counterfeiting, copyright piracy, and theft of trade secrets, the Department of Justice today released a manual devoted exclusively to prosecuting intellectual property crime.

The resource, entitled "Prosecuting Intellectual Property Crime," was created by the Criminal Division's Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section (CCIPS) and published by the Office of Legal Education. It contains a variety of materials including: a quick reference chart for typical IP cases; a list of commonly charged IP crimes; explanations of the criminal laws of trademark counterfeiting, copyright piracy, and trade secrets; information about recently enacted criminal IP laws such as the No Electronic Theft (NET) Act and the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA); practical advice on charging IP crimes; and contact information for relevant IP organizations and information.

"This manual will be an essential resource to federal and state law enforcement in the fight against IP crime, particularly in high-technology and cutting edge cases," said Deputy Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr. "At the same time that our information economy is soaring, so is intellectual property theft. With this new manual and the other efforts we have made, we are better equipped to prosecute those who steal our intellectual property."

The new manual is part of the Intellectual Property Initiative, which was launched in San Jose, California, in July 1999 by the Justice Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Customs Service. The initiative is aimed at combating the growing wave of piracy and counterfeiting offenses, both domestically and internationally, with the participation of U.S. Attorney's offices in New York, New Jersey, California, Florida and Massachusetts. The initiative has focused on training activities, improved coordination among law enforcement agencies, increased cooperation with

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industry, and highlighting IP internationally. In addition, following the first-ever meeting of law enforcement experts from G-8 countries to discuss trends in trafficking in counterfeiting and pirated merchandise, hosted by the United States in September, 2000, G-8 countries agreed to address trends in trans border IP crime.

“The Department of Justice is dedicated to fighting intellectual property crime,” said Martha Stansell-Gamm, Chief of the Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section. “The insights and practical guidance in this new manual will help us tackle the complex issues in IP cases that we are seeing every day.”

The manual will be distributed to law enforcement and industry representatives and is available to the public at [www.cybercrime.gov/ipmanual.htm](http://www.cybercrime.gov/ipmanual.htm).

###

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# **Competitive Intelligence and the Economic Espionage Act**

**A Policy Analysis Adopted  
by the  
SCIP Board of Directors**



**Society of Competitive Intelligence Professionals  
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## ***Introduction***

In October 1996, the U.S. president signed into law the Economic Espionage Act (EEA). The EEA makes stealing or obtaining trade secrets by fraud (and buying or receiving secrets so obtained) a U.S. federal crime. Upon passage of the EEA, some members of the competitive intelligence (CI) community expressed concern that the EEA could have implications for the conduct of CI.

After the passage of the EEA, SCIP organized two symposia, one in February 1997 and another in February 1998, on the topic of CI, ethics, and law. The purpose of these events, and of several publications and articles published by SCIP, was to promote education and understanding of the law and its implications for the CI profession among SCIP's membership and in industry at large.

Many members of the Society felt it was important to develop a clear statement to define the impact of the EEA on the CI profession and clear up any confusion about the relationship between the EEA and CI. This policy statement, the result of extensive research and consultation, addresses that relationship. The policy statement was prepared by Richard Horowitz, a SCIP member who is an attorney and private investigator. It was subsequently adopted by the SCIP board of directors and endorsed by leading legal experts. Their endorsements are also included in this booklet.

Competitive intelligence is the legal and ethical collection and synthesis of data and information to enhance business decision making. SCIP members endorse this definition.

— Ava Harth Youngblood, SCIP '98-99 president

## ***SCIP Code of Ethics for CI Professionals***

- To continually strive to increase respect and recognition for the profession.
- To pursue one's duties with zeal and diligence while maintaining the highest degree of professionalism and avoiding all unethical practices.
- To faithfully adhere to and abide by one's company's policies, objectives and guidelines.
- To comply with all applicable laws.
- To accurately disclose all relevant information, including one's identity and organization, prior to all interviews.
- To fully respect all requests for confidentiality of information.
- To promote and encourage full compliance with these ethical standards within one's company, with third party contractors, and within the entire profession.

# *Introduction to the SCIP Policy Analysis on Competitive Intelligence and the Economic Espionage Act*

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Under the auspices of the SCIP ethics committee and as requested by the SCIP board of directors, I have prepared this policy analysis, adopted by SCIP's board of directors.

The question of the EEA's effect on CI has been an issue of concern in the CI industry. I believe that the significant difficulty for many in understanding what effect if any the EEA has on CI is that this issue reflects a confluence of law and security, two topics that are not generally included in a college or graduate school education. For example, the EEA is a statute, and a statute is not prose. Statutes are written without incorporating the underlying legal principles into their wording. The frustration many have felt after reading the EEA and still not understanding how it affects CI is because these underlying legal principles which are essential to understanding the law's application will not emerge from the text, regardless of fonts, graphics, or the statute's layout on the page.

I have always maintained that CI practitioners who act consistently with SCIP's code of ethics should not run afoul of the EEA. It is my hope that this policy analysis will assist members of the CI industry to understand why this is so. For those who would like a more in-depth analysis, see my article "The Economic Espionage Act: The Rules Have Not Changed" in the July-September 1998 volume of *Competitive Intelligence Review*.

I would like to thank Elkan Abramowitz, Mark Halligan, Peter Toren and the board of directors and staff of SCIP for their assistance in the preparation of this document. A special thanks to Mark, Peter and Hamilton Loeb for their assistance to me since I took an active role in this issue. In case there are any further questions, I can be reached at the address above.

Richard Horowitz

## **POLICY ANALYSIS** *Competitive Intelligence and the Economic Espionage Act*

Prepared by Richard Horowitz, Esq.

For the board of directors of Society of Competitive  
Intelligence Professionals

### *Executive Summary*

Seeking competitive information in a legal and ethical manner is an integral component of healthy competition.

The EEA was enacted in order to enable federal law enforcement to investigate and prosecute acts of economic espionage. It adds federal criminal penalties to activities which were already illegal under state law. The EEA does not interfere with the way corporations are entitled to gain a competitive advantage in the marketplace by seeking information on a competitor in a legal manner.

That the EEA does not materially affect competitive intelligence (CI) does not mean that CI professionals need not be concerned about trade secret law. On the contrary, the EEA has drawn attention to the necessity of insuring that CI activities are within the parameters of trade secret law.

An understanding of trade secret law and the EEA indicates that CI professionals who have been and will continue to conduct their business in an ethical manner and consistent with established trade secret law need not be concerned about the EEA debate.

Companies that have curtailed their CI efforts out of a misplaced fear of the EEA have awarded a competitive advantage to companies whose CI activities continue unimpeded.

### *Background*

The Society of Competitive Intelligence Professionals (SCIP) is the global professional society for practitioners of business or competitive intelligence (CI). Established in 1986, SCIP today has more than 5,000 members and continues to grow substantially year after year.

Seeking information on a competitor is an important component of healthy competition; CI is the term which has developed to describe this profession. Many corporations and executives perform this function without any formal ties to the CI profession, while others employ CI professionals or outside CI firms and practitioners. Many large corporations have established entire CI departments. Competitive intelligence is a recognized,

accepted, and legal way for businesses to gain a competitive advantage in the marketplace. This in turn accelerates the benefits to society of competition in the marketplace.

SCIP encourages its members to abide by its code of ethics; one clause in the code instructs its members to "accurately disclose all relevant information, including one's identity and organization, prior to all interviews."

The Economic Espionage Act of October 1996 (EEA) was enacted by the U.S. Congress in response to attempts by foreign entities to steal American trade secrets. It was not enacted in order to regulate the CI industry nor was it enacted in response to any problems arising out of the activities of CI professionals. Its passage however has led to various and sometimes conflicting opinions regarding the EEA and has created confusion regarding its implications for the practice of CI.

The EEA is a federal criminal law and was passed in order to enable federal authorities to investigate and prosecute acts of economic espionage.

Federal authorities charged with the responsibility of protecting national security and the national economy were confronted with the reality that laws dealing with the theft of trade secrets were state law, and needed a federal law to give them the authority to investigate and prosecute the increasing number of cases of economic espionage conducted by foreign entities. The EEA was passed to do just that.

Congress decided however that the scope of the EEA would include the theft of a trade secret by anyone, for anyone. In other words, the EEA is not limited to theft of a trade secret for a foreign entity, but encompasses theft of a trade secret by and for a domestic competitor.

Herein lies the confusion. While the EEA makes trade secret law a federal criminal matter — this for the first time in U.S. history — the activities it criminalizes had always been prohibited under state law and/or inconsistent with SCIP's code of ethics. In other words, the rules are fundamentally the same but the consequences of violating them are different. An activity that had always been a violation of state trade secret law can now result in not only state civil liability but federal criminal liability as well.

## *Implications*

There are several reasons why the EEA should not have any impact on the practice of competitive intelligence.

First, the act of seeking and collecting information on a competitor is itself legal. Note the following from the Restatement of Torts (1939):

The privilege to compete with others includes a privilege to adopt their business methods, ideas,

or processes of manufacture. Were it otherwise, the first person in the field with a new process or idea would have a monopoly which would tend to prevent competition (Section 757, Comment a).

One limitation on this rule cited by the Restatement is: "It is the employment of improper means to procure the trade secret, rather than the mere copying or use, which is the basis of liability in this section."

Information collection performed by CI professionals centers around the sophisticated use of published material, databases, and on-the-record interviews, techniques which themselves are legal and proper means of acquiring information.

Second, properly trained CI professionals who have conducted themselves in an ethical manner were not engaged in legally risky business prior to the EEA. The appropriate legal principles have been instilled into the CI profession over the years of its existence and subsequently adopted as practice by properly trained industry members. The increased penalties for trade secret theft under the EEA will not be applicable to those whose practice has been consistent with the already existing legal standards.

Third, most situations commonly referred to as "gray zone" areas are not trade secret violations at all. Though they raise ethical questions, "gray zone" situations such as finding a lost document in the street, overhearing competitors talk on a plane, having a drink with a competitor knowing you are better at holding your liquor, removing your name tag at a trade show, or even falsely identifying yourself as a student, are situations which alone will not trigger trade secret liability. Properly trained CI professionals should be able to identify and avoid the predicaments that would place them in actual legal risk.

Fourth, the EEA will not be applied to general commercial disputes, but to clear criminal acts of theft. The reason for the EEA's passage was to thwart attempts at stealing American trade secrets which would have an impact on the competitiveness and health of the American economy. That the U.S. Attorney General promised Congress that no charges will be filed under the EEA for the first five years after the law's enactment without the approval of the Attorney General or two of her top deputies indicates that federal authorities have no intention of becoming entangled in the numerous trade secret disputes that do take place in the routine course of business (see Congressional Record, October 2, 1994, S12214).

To summarize, the EEA incorporates into the federal criminal code activities that were already illegal under state law. It does not add new burdens or restrictions to the American workforce.

## *A Note on Extraterritoriality*

About twenty percent of SCIP's membership is outside the USA, making the question of how the EEA affects overseas activity pertinent.

The EEA does have an extraterritoriality clause. In principle, a statute must state that it applies overseas for it to so apply. The extraterritoriality provisions of the EEA apply the statute to a U.S. citizen even abroad, and to a non-U.S. citizen (1) while on U.S. soil or (2) abroad, if the act committed abroad violates the EEA and "an act in furtherance of the offense was committed in the United States."

What this means in practice is that whatever types of activities the EEA prohibits overseas are the same as what is prohibited on U.S. soil, which, as explained, had always been prohibited by state law and/or inconsistent with SCIP's code of ethics.

## *EEA Compliance Plans*

An additional reason for concern regarding the implications of the EEA on competitive intelligence has been the many calls for "EEA compliance plans" based on the Federal Sentencing Guidelines. The Sentencing Guidelines do not instruct, dictate, require, prescribe, or obligate a company to have a compliance plan. The Sentencing Guidelines, the manual by which federal judges must sentence a defendant, allows the judge to deduct "points" from the sentence, i.e., lessen the sentence, if a *corporate* defendant, not an *individual* defendant, took measures to "detect and prevent" the criminal activity from occurring. A proper compliance can lower the sentence of a corporation convicted of a crime; it has no relevance to the sentencing of an individual convicted of a crime.

The list of seven "must haves" from the Sentencing Guidelines, referred to in EEA compliance plan articles and presentations are not obligatory (i.e., "The organization must have established compliance standards and procedures . . . the organization must have taken steps to communicate effectively its standards and procedures to all employees and other agents..."). The document is talking to the judge, not the corporate defendant. The corporate defendant "must have" taken these steps in order for the judge to find that a reasonable plan to "detect and prevent" crime was in place, not that the company "must have" done these things as an independent legal obligation.

The Sentencing Guidelines do not actually use the phrase "compliance plan." This is the term which has developed to refer to the measures to "detect and prevent" violations of law. A company that does not have a compliance plan is not "in violation" of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, and if not convicted of a particular crime, the

lack of a compliance plan for that aspect of law will be of no consequence. Conversely, a company convicted of a federal crime will not be penalized for not having a compliance plan but will lose its chance of receiving a lowered sentence. Though not a legal requirement under the Guidelines, in practice having a compliance plan is the responsible and indeed the expected way for a company to conduct its affairs.

There are no "EEA regulations" to *comply with*. One is to learn what not to do and not do it. Generally speaking, compliance plans are geared to aspects of law that are industry specific and encompass regulations. Banks will have a compliance plan for Treasury Department regulations, pharmaceutical companies for FDA regulations, securities dealers for SEC regulations, and telecommunications companies for FCC regulations. As the activities the EEA criminalizes are substantially the same activities in which CI professionals should never have been engaged, an EEA "compliance plan" should not be substantially different from the existing professional guidelines a CI firm or professional would be expected to have or abide by.

## *Answers to Frequently Asked Questions*

1. Even if the EEA was not intended to deal with competitive intelligence or general commercial disputes, hasn't it had an impact nonetheless?

**Answer:** The impact the EEA has had on the CI community has been based on anxiety and confusion. Some companies have mistakenly taken the position that the EEA has placed them in legal jeopardy because of the activities of their CI professionals.

Ironically, companies who curtail the legal and ethical activities of their CI professionals have placed themselves at a competitive disadvantage to companies whose CI activities continue unimpeded.

2. Don't we have to wait to see how the EEA is applied in the courts before determining what it prohibits?

**Answer:** How courts ultimately interpret statutes is a fundamental part of legal analysis. This does not mean however that one cannot understand the basic prohibitions of a statute. In fact, a statute can be declared unconstitutional by the courts if it does not provide adequate notice as to what it prohibits.

The intention and purpose behind the EEA was clearly explained by Congress prior to its enactment. This did not include an intention to alter the fundamentals of corporate conduct, but to deter and punish the criminal act of trade secret theft.

3. Can't the EEA be applied to situations it was not intended to cover?

**Answer:** It is not unusual for some laws to ultimately be applied to unforeseen situations. A law once passed may take on a life of its own. The concern that the EEA will be applied to routine commercial disputes was discussed and dismissed by Congress prior to the EEA's passage, with the Attorney General's letter giving further assurances to this effect (see page 4). Companies who remain concerned are well-advised to study the background of the law.

4. The definition of a trade secret under the EEA is broader than existing trade secret law. What implications does this have on competitive intelligence?

**Answer:** The wording of the EEA's definition enumerates more types of information considered a trade secret than previous legal definitions. This is because a criminal statute should be written in explicit language so as to give notice as to what it criminalizes, otherwise it risks being declared unconstitutional. This does not mean that prior legal definitions excluded types of information enumerated in the EEA's definition.

In practice, existing legal definitions and case law interpretations cover all sorts of financial, business, and scientific information.

Whether the information stolen is included in the EEA's definition of a trade secret is moot with respect to professionals whose conduct precludes them from engaging in theft.

5. What effect if any does the EEA have on the legal risks one may decide to take in seeking information on a competitor?

**Answer:** The EEA compounds the legal consequences for one engaged in theft of a trade secret by adding federal criminal penalties to an act which already triggers state civil penalties. This added risk however is of no consequence to one who seeks information on a competitor in a legal manner.

6. What implication does the EEA have on a company's efforts to protect information?

**Answer:** The EEA focuses primarily on the activities it prohibits. The EEA's definition of a trade secret however, like state trade secret law preceding it, requires the trade secret holder to take reasonable measures to keep that information secret. In practice, the holder of a trade secret must have taken those reasonable measures in order for one who misappropriates that information to be held liable under the EEA or state trade secret law.

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January 21, 1999

### VIA OVERNIGHT COURIER

SCIP Board of Directors  
Society of Competitive Intelligence Professionals  
1700 Diagonal Road  
Suite 520  
Alexandra, Virginia 22314

**Re: *Competitive Intelligence and the Economic Espionage Act***

Dear Board Members:

As you know, I teach trade secrets law at John Marshall Law School and I am an active practitioner and retained expert in trade secret cases around the country. See <http://www.execpc.com/~mhalign/resume1.html>.

At Richard Horowitz's request, I have reviewed his (8/17/98) draft entitled "Proposed Policy Analysis: Competitive Intelligence and the Economic Espionage Act."

This is a well written draft and I endorse it. I strongly agree with the basic underlying premise -- The EEA does not materially affect competitive intelligence activities and companies should not curtail competitive intelligence activities based on a "misplaced fear" of the EEA. In fact, just the opposite is true. Companies should increase competitive intelligence activities to meet the challenge of an increasingly global competitive environment.

My summary of "Reported Criminal Arrests Under the Economic Espionage Act of 1996" is the most up-to-date information available on EEA prosecutions and convictions. It is available on the Internet at <http://www.execpc.com/~mhalign/indict.html>. As you can see, these EEA prosecutions involve trade secret theft and bear no reasonable relationship whatsoever

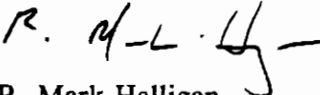
SCIP Board of Directors

February 11, 1999  
Page 2

to legitimate competitive intelligence activities.

If I can be of further assistance to the SCIP Board of Directors, please contact me at 1-312-526-1559.

Very truly yours,

  
R. Mark Halligan

RMH/js

cc: Richard Horowitz, Esq.

Letter4.380



Peter J. Toren  
525 University Ave.  
Palo Alto, CA 94301

SCIP Board of Directors  
Society of Competitive Intelligence Professionals  
1700 Diagonal Road  
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**Re: Economic Espionage Act of 1996**

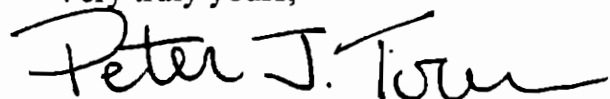
Dear Board Members:

I was formerly a trial attorney with the Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section of the United States Department of Justice where I was involved in drafting the Economic Espionage Act of 1996 ("EEA"), and was the lead prosecutor on one of the first cases brought under the EEA. In addition, I am a co-author of an article entitled "Understanding the Economic Espionage Act of 1996," 5 Tex. Int. Prop. L.J. 177 (Winter 1997). Currently, I am a Special Counsel in the San Francisco and Palo Alto offices of Heller Ehrman White and McAuliffe.

At Richard Horowitz's request, I have reviewed SCIP's "Proposed Policy Analysis: Competitive Intelligence and the Economic Espionage Act" and offer the following comments.

The EEA was intended to address both the general need for a federal criminal deterrent against trade secret theft and the apparent threat of industrial espionage sponsored by foreign countries. The EEA was not intended to impose new restrictions on American businesses. I agree with the Policy Analysis that the EEA was not developed in order to regulate the competitive intelligence community, nor was it developed in response to any problems that might have existed in the competitive intelligence community. Competitive intelligence practitioners who abide by SCIP's Code of Ethics should not be in violation of the EEA. If I can be of further assistance to the SCIP Board of Directors, please call me at (650) 324-7156 or e-mail me at [bmtsdad@AOL.com](mailto:bmtsdad@AOL.com).

Very truly yours,



Peter J. Toren

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March 2, 1999

**BY FEDERAL EXPRESS**

SCIP Board of Directors  
Society of Competitive Intelligence Professionals  
1700 Diagonal Road  
Suite 520  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Re: Economic Espionage Act of 1996

Dear Board Members:

I am a former Chief of the Criminal Division of the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York and co-author of the chapter entitled "Corporate Sentencing Under the Federal Guidelines," in Obermaier and Morvillo, White Collar Crime: Business and Regulatory Offenses.

At Richard Horowitz's request, I have reviewed his (1/27/99) draft entitled "Proposed Policy Analysis: Competitive Intelligence and The Economic Espionage Act," particularly the section dealing with the sentencing guidelines and compliance plans.

Mr. Horowitz has written an interesting and informative submission, pointing out the relationship between compliance plans and the Federal Sentencing Guidelines as they relate to corporations. His analysis is incisive and important.

MORVILLO, ABRAMOWITZ, GRAND, IASON & SILBERBERG, P. C.

SCIP Board of Directors

- 2 -

March 2, 1999

I agree with his analysis that the Federal Sentencing Guidelines do not create a legal obligation for a corporation to create a compliance plan.

If I can be of further assistance to the SCIP Board of Directors, please feel free to contact me at the above number.

Very truly yours,

*Elkan Abramowitz* / MB

Elkan Abramowitz

EA/cs

cc: Richard Horowitz, Esq.

# The Economic Espionage Act: The Rules Have Not Changed

Richard Horowitz, Esq.

*Legal and Investigative Services*

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The author argues that the Economic Espionage Act of 1996 was never intended to limit aggressive but legitimate competitive intelligence collection activities, nor even activities that fall into the "gray zone," and that CI professionals who are properly trained and abide by SCIP's Code of Ethics should not run afoul of trade secret law or the EEA. The clearly criminal activities the EEA targets have always been prohibited under state law and unacceptable under SCIP's Code of Ethics. Moreover, trade secret case law has interpreted "misrepresentation" as applying to situations which induce a breach of confidentiality. Using "pretexts" to elicit information may be unethical, but isn't illegal under most circumstances. © 1998 John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

The effect of the Economic Espionage Act (EEA) on competitive intelligence has become a matter of concern among many CI practitioners and firms since its enactment in October 1996. I took an active interest in this issue because of a comment made at SCIP's February 1997 EEA Symposium. During a break after the panel of lawyers, I heard one attendee ask his colleague if they now could be subject to an FBI arrest by attending a trade show without a company name on their name tag because the EEA prohibits misrepresentation.

I spoke the following day and stated that the EEA was not intended to regulate the CI community nor was it

developed in response to any problems arising from the CI community; that the EEA does not change the rules of game—only the consequences of violating them, and that my concern was not that the Department of Justice would misuse this law but that companies and their attorneys might attempt to use the EEA to intimidate their competitors who are attempting to collect competitive intelligence on them.

Since then I have come across numerous situations where CI professionals have been under pressure from their companies to curtail their activities, others who have had to endure the anxiety that their jobs may be

eliminated for fear of legal liability, and still others who are hesitant to proceed with their work, either because they are unsure of what the EEA means or what action others may take against them because of the EEA.

The peculiar irony of this situation is that CI practitioners who are properly trained and abide by SCIP's Code of Ethics should not run afoul of trade secret law or the EEA. This is because the appropriate legal standards have been instilled in the CI profession in the decade that SCIP has been in existence. Again, from personal experience I know many CI professionals who "are doing everything right" from a legal perspective but cannot explain why this is so in legal terms.

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APPROPRIATE LEGAL STANDARDS HAVE BEEN  
INSTILLED IN THE CI PROFESSION IN THE  
DECADE THAT SCIP HAS BEEN IN EXISTENCE.

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The key to understanding why the EEA is fundamentally irrelevant to CI that is conducted consistently with SCIP's Code of Ethics is to recognize that trade secret law is not new. For decades, one who misappropriated a competitor's trade secrets was subject to civil liability under state law and, in some states, criminal liability. Trade secret cases from the 19th century are still quoted in court today.

Being charged with the responsibility of protecting national security and the national economy, and, confronted with the reality that laws dealing with the theft of trade secrets were state law, federal authorities needed a federal statute to give them the authority to investigate and prosecute the increasing number of cases of economic espionage conducted by foreign entities.

The EEA was enacted to enable federal authorities to do just that.

Congress decided, however, that the scope of the EEA would include the theft of a trade secret by anyone, for anyone. In other words, the EEA is not limited to theft of a trade secret for a foreign entity, but encompasses theft of a trade secret by and for a domestic competitor.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup>Peter Toren, the Justice Department official most closely associated with the EEA, co-authored an article which contained the following: "Originally, the bill applied only to thefts of trade secrets that were intended to benefit a 'foreign government, foreign instrumentality, or foreign agent.' Concerns that such a law might violate a number of international trade treaties to which the United States is a signatory caused the bill to be rewritten at the last minute to include both foreign and domestic theft of trade secrets." ("EEA Violations Could Trigger Criminal Sanctions," by Hoken S. Seki and Peter J. Toren, *The National Law Journal*, August 25, 1997).

Herein lies the confusion. While the EEA makes trade secret law a federal criminal matter—this for the first time in U.S. history—the activities it criminalizes were prohibited under state law and/or unacceptable under SCIP's Code of Ethics. In other words, the rules are fundamentally the same, but the consequences of violating them are different. An activity that had always been a violation of state trade secret law can now result in not only state civil liability but federal criminal liability as well.

Adding to the confusion regarding the EEA has been a series of articles and presentations that has created the impression that the EEA fundamentally alters how CI professionals must conduct their affairs: "New Spy Law Could Cramp Economy,"<sup>4</sup> "New Spy Act To Boost White-Collar Defense Biz,"<sup>5</sup> "Go Directly To Jail: New Federal Law Protects Trade Secrets,"<sup>6</sup> "U.S. Economic Espionage Act: Tough EEA Enforcement Reveals Need for Strict Compliance,"<sup>7</sup> "The Economic Espionage Act: A Wake-Up Call,"<sup>8</sup> "The Economic Espionage Act: Turning Fear Into Compliance,"<sup>9</sup> "Economic Espionage Act: A Whole New Ball Game."<sup>10</sup> Among the more notable assertions:

*"Your industry is crawling with criminals. And you may be one of them. So might your company . . . Cases involving a customer list used to be a concern only of private lawyers; now they can be investigated by the FBI and prosecuted by the Department of Justice. All of this came about with the enactment of the [EEA] . . . the fact of its passage will surely lead to greater interest in federal jurisdiction over civil trade secret disputes."*<sup>8</sup>

*"The risks of a federal offense are high and the consequences costly and severe."*<sup>9</sup>

*"The [EEA] makes theft of trade secrets a federal crime with stiff penalties of up to \$10 million and 15 years in prison for violations. Under current standards of business practice, a sales representative, vendor, consultant, market researcher, or curious employee could subject an organization to an FBI raid and investigation leading to federal prosecution."*<sup>10</sup>

The first wave of pro-EEA material argued that there exists "a new list of activities" prohibited by the EEA that CI professionals must avoid. Unable to articulate what these activities are, the pro-EEA proponents now speak of a changed "risk management equation," that risks CI practitioners might have taken in the past have become untenable with the passage of the EEA.

An understanding of trade secret law and our legal system is necessary to recognize whether these assertions have merit.

That the legal consequences facing one who steals a trade secret are far more severe under the EEA does not mean that these consequences prior to its passage were not serious. It is inconceivable that responsible corporate counsel or outside attorneys would not dissuade their companies or clients from engaging in legally risky behavior if the potential sanctions were "only" state civil as opposed to federal criminal. Moreover, after much research including conversations with numerous CI industry veterans, pre-EEA litigation involving CI professionals who misappropriated trade secrets is apparently non-existent. As a criminal statute, EEA cases require a higher burden of proof than state trade secret cases, which in part explains why EEA charges filed to date have implicated clear-cut criminal activity.<sup>b</sup> That "gray zone" activity that has in fact taken place among CI professionals did not generate state trade secret litigation indicates that the risks of the EEA being implicated in these situations is low indeed.

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EEA CHARGES HAVE ONLY IMPLICATED CLEAR-CUT CRIMINAL ACTIVITY. THE RISKS OF THE EEA BEING IMPLICATED IN "GRAY ZONE" SITUATIONS IS LOW INDEED.

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Another reason why the risk of the EEA being associated with routine commercial disputes is low can be found in the article co-authored by Mr. Toren,<sup>11</sup> where he wrote that the act of a U.S. citizen anywhere could violate the EEA: "This conceivably means that if a U.S. citizen residing abroad steals a Russian trade secret on behalf of the Chinese government, that act violates the EEA . . . Congress, however, likely did not intend to reach

<sup>b</sup>Often in civil trade secret litigation, the issue essential to the case such as (1) Is the information in question a trade secret?, (2) Were reasonable measures used to keep the information secret?, (3) Were the means of acquiring the information improper?, are questions to be answered by the jury. In a criminal case, the prosecutor would want to be certain that the basic elements of the crime can be established as easily as possible rather than rely on jury deliberations. This supports the contention that EEA cases will be based on clear-cut criminal activity such as bribery and clearly recognizable trade secrets such as chemical formulas or blueprints. The five EEA cases to date support this. For a summary of these cases, see "In the Spotlight: Four Cases Under the EEA," *The Corporate Counselor*, November, 1997, and *U.S. v. Kai-Lo, U.S. v. Ho, FBI Charges Taiwanese Tried To Steal Taxol Trade Secrets from BMS*, *Intellectual Property Litigation Reporter*, June 18, 1998.

situations in which the United States does not have a legitimate national interest."

What comes to my mind is a case I learned in law school: Driver is sober, passenger drunk. Driver parks and exits the car, which begins to roll down the hill. Though drunk, passenger moves into the driver's seat, turns the steering wheel to avoid hitting a tree and applies the brakes. Police arrest passenger for being "in control of a motor vehicle" while in a state of intoxication.

Though surely beyond intention of the legislature, a strict reading of the statute would apply it to the facts of this case. Is it, however, a correct application of the law?

To insure that the EEA will not be applied to situations inconsistent with Congressional intent for the law, Attorney General Janet Reno promised Congress that no charges will be brought under the EEA for the first five years without the authorization of the Attorney General or two of her top deputies.<sup>12</sup>

In other words, to maintain that the EEA will be applied to commercial "gray zone" cases, one must believe, in light of General Reno's letter, that the *very top* Justice Department decision-makers would, first, take an interest in the case and, second, file a criminal charge where they could not be confident of a victory in civil court, in situations not intended to be covered by Congress.

### "Gray Zone" Activities

The most significant reason, however, why the EEA should not be of concern to CI professionals who abide by the industry's standards of ethics is that many situations which have come to be known as "gray zone" activities are not really trade secret violations at all. Finding a lost document in the street, overhearing competitors talk on a plane, having a drink with a competitor knowing you are better at holding your liquor, removing your name tag at a trade show, or even falsely identifying yourself as a student, are situations that alone will not trigger trade secret liability. As I wrote in the beginning of this article, the appropriate legal principles have been instilled into the CI profession over the years and the many "gray zone" sessions sponsored by SCIP attest to this: attendees can generally (1) recognize what activities are clearly illegal, and (2) understand when to rely on their ethical instincts with respect to "gray zone" issues.

A short analysis of trade secret law as it applies to competitive intelligence is in order. Note, that the following is intended to explain the fundamentals of trade secret law and not to answer legal questions that may arise.

A paragraph from the Restatement of Torts (1939)<sup>c</sup> which surprisingly I have not found cited in any published material on CI, points to the legal validity of competitive intelligence:

*The privilege to compete with others includes a privilege to adopt their business methods, ideas, or processes of manufacture. Were it otherwise, the first person in the field with a new process or idea would have a monopoly which would tend to prevent competition.*<sup>13</sup>

One limitation on this rule cited by the Restatement is:<sup>d</sup>

*when the thing copied is a trade secret . . . The significant difference of fact between trade secrets and the processes or devices which are not secret is that knowledge of the latter is available to the copier without the use of improper means to procure it, while knowledge of the former is ordinarily available to him only by the use of such means. It is the employment of improper means to procure the trade secret, rather than the mere copying or use, which is the basis of liability in this section.*

Consider the following general points with respect to the applicability of trade secret law to competitive intelligence.

1. Trade secret law protects the holder of a trade secret from someone who "misappropriates" that trade secret—i.e., obtains that trade secret through "improper means."
2. Trade secret law does not protect the trade secret information itself. In other words, a trade secret is not a patent. It is legal to "figure out" another's trade secret if all the collection methods used to acquire the information were themselves legal.
3. Trade secret law considers misrepresentation an improper mean.
4. Case law has interpreted misrepresentation to apply to situations where:

- a. One has induced another to violate his duty of confidentiality to his employer.
- b. One has violated a confidential relationship with another.
- c. One has acquired a trade secret from another knowing that the other had misappropriated the trade secret or that he had violated his duty to keep the information secret.

### Misrepresentation and Pretexts

How then are these principles applied to the numerous "gray zone" situations that may confront a CI professional? Has one broken the law by identifying himself to a competitor as a student?

Focusing on pretext situations, the first reason that most "gray zone" activities are not trade secret violations is because rarely does a question produce a trade secret. That a competitor would not have spoken to you had he known your real identity does not mean that what he told you was a trade secret.

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THAT COMPETITORS WOULD NOT HAVE SPOKEN  
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CONFIDENTIAL DOES NOT ALONE MAKE IT A  
TRADE SECRET.

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That a company considers certain information confidential does not alone make that information a trade secret. Most importantly, violating trade secret law requires that the *misrepresentation induce a breach of confidentiality*. A question that elicits an answer is not an inducement. Consider that a trade secret holder is under a duty to keep that information confidential; therefore whatever information he stated which did not encompass a violation of that duty would not be trade secret information. The competitor may very well have answered the question had the questioner truly been a student; that the questioner misrepresented himself does not mean it was the misrepresentation that induced the answer. Rather, the question itself, irrespective of the identity of the questioner, elicited an answer.

Trade secret law does not regulate the level of honesty one displays in interpersonal or even in business relations. That is the contribution of ethics. This issue of course is most provided CI professionals abide by SCIP's Code of Ethics, which expects CI professionals to accurately disclose their identity prior to all interviews. What about disclosing your identity but not your motives? One is not under a legal duty to disclose his motive or purpose.

<sup>c</sup>A Restatement is itself not law. *Black's Law Dictionary* defines the Restatement as follows: "A series of volumes authored by the American Law Institute that tell what the law in a general area is, how it is changing, and what direction the authors (who are leading legal scholars in each field covered) think this change should take. . . . The various Restatements have been a formidable force in shaping the disciplines of the law covered; they are frequently cited by courts and either followed or distinguished; they represent the fruit of the labor of the best legal minds in the diverse fields of law covered" (p. 1313, Sixth Edition, 1990).

<sup>d</sup>The two other limitations cited are (1) when the information is patented, and (2) "copying in a manner which creates in the market avoidable confusion of commercial source. The privilege to copy is not a privilege to palm off one's goods as those of another."

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THERE IS NO LEGAL DUTY TO DISCLOSE MOTIVE  
OR PURPOSE TO A COMPETITOR WHEN  
ELICITING INFORMATION.

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To be precise, what a trade secret means is that the law will protect that information from someone who uses improper means to acquire it. Consequently, acquiring the trade secret through legal methods does not result in a trade secret violation. Furthermore, the trade secret holder will forfeit trade secret protection if the measures taken to keep the information secret were not reasonable.

One case in point: *A* decides to sell its tangible assets but not its intellectual property. *A* sells a computer to *B* but neglects to erase its customer list from the computer's memory. After the sale, *B* visits *A*'s premises to see the computer and hires *A*'s former employee to demonstrate its use, who then prints *A*'s customer list for *B*. Did *B* misappropriate *A*'s trade secret? According to a federal court in New York, *B* did not:

*"A customer list developed by a business through substantial effort and kept in confidence may be treated as a trade secret and protected at the owner's instance against disclosure to a competitor, provided the information it contains is not readily available . . . However, the owner is entitled to such protection only as long as he maintains the list in secrecy; upon disclosure, even if inadvertent or accidental, the information ceases to be a trade secret and will no longer be protected . . . Hence even though [defendant] may have obtained the lists by improper means paying—a former employee of [plaintiff] to extract the information from the computer—any such impropriety does not create liability for use of a trade secret, since by failing to protect the lists from ready access by [defendant] independently of [the former employee's] assistance, [plaintiff] had forfeited the protections of trade secret law."*<sup>14</sup>

In the opposite extreme, there are situations where one can violate trade secret law even though the information is not technically a trade secret. This occurs when one has learned the information in the context of a confidential relationship which he then violated.

Consider the following case: *A* approaches *B* expressing his interest to sell *B*'s product. *A* falsely claims a sales force of thirteen and *B* shows *A* details about his business and product. *A* later informs *B* he would not sell *B*'s product and uses the knowledge he acquired from *B* to produce and market a similar product. *B* sues *A*, who argues that the information provided by *B* was not trade secret information. The court held:

*"It is doubtful whether [A] ever in good faith intended to sell [B's] product . . . the essence of [A's] action is not infringement but breach of faith. It matters not that [A] could have gained their knowledge from a study of the expired patents and plaintiff's publicly marketed product. Instead they gained it from [B] via their confidential relationship, and in so doing incurred a duty not to use it to [B's] detriment. This duty they have breached."*<sup>15</sup>

Consider the following two pre-EEA trade secret cases:

1. On February 2, 1996, a Japanese business executive obtained confidential information from a computer chip manufacturer by posing as a Toshiba representative, knowing that the target company had a confidential relationship with Toshiba. The man was subsequently arrested by the FBI, pled guilty to a felony charge, sentenced to time served, and was deported.<sup>16</sup>
2. In September 1996, a private investigator approached a target company posing as a graduate student and claimed to need the company's confidential information for his research. The company provided the information after the "student" agreed to signing a non-disclosure agreement, which he violated by providing his client with the information.<sup>17</sup>

It is hard to imagine that properly trained CI professionals would not understand that the activity in these cases clearly violates trade secret law. When CI professionals recognize or have a visceral feeling that a certain type of pretext activity is illegal, it is of the sort described in the above-two examples, a misrepresentation that induces a breach of confidence. Competitive intelligence "gray zone" hypotheticals do not entail the type of improper behavior anticipated by trade secret law.

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COMPETITIVE INTELLIGENCE "GRAY ZONE"  
HYPOTHETICALS DO NOT ENTAIL THE TYPE OF  
IMPROPER BEHAVIOR ANTICIPATED BY TRADE  
SECRET LAW

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Several specific issues need be addressed with respect to the EEA and CI.

- A. *The argument has been made that the EEA's much broader definition of a trade secret presents new dangers to those seeking competitive intelligence.*

True, the EEA's definition is broader than previous legal definitions. That is because a criminal statute should be written in explicit language to give notice as to what it criminalizes, otherwise it risks being declared unconsti-



tutional. In practice, however, the decision as to what constitutes a trade secret is not based solely on the wording of a statute but on how courts have interpreted those words. I do not know anyone who would steal a trade secret on the calculation that pre-EEA case law and statutes in the jurisdiction in which he would be tried do not cover the subject-matter of the theft.

*B. Perhaps the most blatant misrepresentation of law can be found in the article "How Safe Are Your Secrets" published in the September 8, 1997 edition of Fortune magazine*

Citing several hypotheticals, one them overhearing two competitors talk loudly on an airplane, *Fortune* stated "Such shenanigans are now illegal or probably illegal, since the EEA defines theft as the knowing misappropriation of a secret without its owner's consent . . . Are we saying you're obligated, now, to protect your competitors from their own stupidity? Yes."

There is absolutely no legal basis for the proposition that one must protect a competitor from his own stupidity. If however, the EEA prohibits the taking of a trade secret without the owner's consent, does one then break the law by picking up a confidential document left by a competitor in the street?

The answer is clearly of course not. Though the ethical standard would recommend to return it, a document left on the street has lost its trade secret protection. You did not receive the owner's consent to pick it up, but then again you did not need his consent to begin with.

*C. Calls for "EEA compliance plans" based on the Federal Sentencing Guidelines are misleading.*

The Sentencing Guidelines do not instruct, dictate, require, prescribe, or obligate a company to have a compliance plan. The Sentencing Guidelines, the manual by which federal judges must sentence a defendant, allows the judge to deduct "points" from the sentence, i.e., lessen the sentence, if a *corporate defendant*, not an *individual defendant*, took measures to "detect and prevent" the criminal activity from occurring.<sup>6</sup> A proper compliance

<sup>6</sup>The list of seven "must haves" from the Sentencing Guidelines, referred to in EEA compliance plan articles and presentations are not obligatory (i.e., "The organization must have established compliance standards and procedures . . . the organization must have taken steps to communicate effectively its standards and procedures to all employees and other agents . . ."). The document is talking to the judge, not the corporate defendant. The corporate defendant "must have" taken these steps for the judge to find that a reasonable plan to "detect and prevent" crime was in place, not that the company "must have" done these things as an independent legal obligation.

can lower the sentence of a *corporation* convicted of a crime; it has no relevance to the sentencing of an *individual* convicted of a crime.<sup>6</sup>

The Sentencing Guidelines do not actually use the "phrase compliance plan." This is the term which has developed to refer to the measures to "detect and prevent" violations of law. A company that does not have a compliance plan is not "in violation" of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, and if not convicted of a particular crime, the lack of a compliance plan for that aspect of law will be of no consequence. Conversely, a company convicted of a federal crime will not be penalized for not having a compliance plan but will lose its chance of receiving a lowered sentence. Though not a legal requirement under the Guidelines, in practice having a compliance plan is the responsible and indeed the expected way for a company to conduct its affairs.

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DOES THE EEA PROHIBIT PICKING UP A  
CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENT LEFT BY A  
COMPETITOR IN THE STREET? OF COURSE NOT.

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Generally speaking, compliance plans are geared to aspects of law that are industry specific and encompass regulations. Banks will have a compliance plan for Treasury Department regulations, pharmaceutical companies for FDA regulations, securities dealers for SEC regulations, and telecommunications companies for FCC regulations. There are no "EEA regulations" to *comply with*. One is to learn what not to do and not do it. As the activities the EEA criminalizes are substantially the same activities which CI professionals should never have been engaged in, an EEA "compliance plan" should not be substantially different from the existing professional guidelines a CI firm would be expected to have.

Finally, a compliance plan is not a document entitled "compliance plan" printed on company letterhead. CI practitioners will never learn how to "navigate the gray zone" by studying corporate compliance plans. The best "compliance plan" for CI professionals is to understand basic trade secret law.

*D. The article "A Brief Compliance Manual," published in Competitive Intelligence Review [Vol. 9(1)] contains one glaring error regarding misrepresentation.*

<sup>6</sup>See the annual reports of the United States Sentencing Commission for a perspective on corporate and individual sentencing. The statistical data contained in the reports show, for example, that there were over 40,000 criminal sentences in federal courts in 1994, of which under 400 involved corporate defendants.

The article's "Fraud" section presents an MBA student who also works, who approaches his employer's competitor for an interview and introduces himself only as a student. Citing the section 529 of the Restatement of Torts, the article concludes that "Stating the truth in so far as it is misleading because a qualifying matter has been omitted, is a fraud."<sup>18</sup>

The article quotes other legal sources supporting the proposition that "If one speaks, 'he must disclose enough to prevent his words from being misleading' "<sup>19</sup> and "It is now quite clear that a half truth is as bad as a lie."<sup>20</sup>

It is incorrect to apply these legal sources to the MBA student hypothetical. A half-truth can be "as bad as a lie" when one is under a legal duty to tell the truth, such as the seller's obligation to the buyer in the context of a business transaction. True, section 529 of the Restatement explains that "A statement containing a half-truth may be as misleading as a statement wholly false," but continues "Whether or not a partial disclosure of the facts is a fraudulent misrepresentation depends upon whether the person making the statement knows or believes that the undisclosed facts might affect the recipient's conduct in the *transaction in hand*" (*emphasis added*). The Restatement offers examples such as a prospectus that accurately states assets but omits "any reference to its floating debt," "a statement by a vendor that his title has been upheld by a particular court is a false misrepresentation if he fails to disclose his knowledge that an appeal from the decision is pending," and "one who offers land or a chattel for sale on inspection by so doing impliedly asserts that he knows of nothing that makes the appearance of the article deceptive."

Prosser and Keeton similarly relate the "half-truth" rule to business transactions: "Merely by entering into some *transactions* at all, the defendant may reasonably be taken to present that some things are true," and cites as examples "turning back the odometer of an automobile offered for sale" or "stacking aluminum sheets to conceal corroded ones in the middle" (*emphasis added*).

True again, that Prosser and Keeton state: ". . . if the defendant does speak, he must disclose enough to prevent his words from being misleading," but cites as examples "the rental of a property which does not mention that it is illegal," or "the income of an amusement center which does not disclose that there has been a police raid which is likely to affect it."

The text from which "It is now quite clear that a half truth is as bad as a lie"<sup>20</sup> qualifies it with the following illustration: "Thus, in 1932 a British court sent Lord Kyl-

sant to prison because his steamship line had issued a prospectus that truthfully stated its average net income for the past ten years and its dividends for the past 17 years, but had deliberately concealed the fact that its earnings during the first three years of the ten years had been greatly augmented by World War I as compared with the seven lean years that followed."

To strengthen my analysis, I performed the following search: <res! /3 torts /5 529 and trade secret> of all federal and state cases on the Lexis system, which showed that there are no trade secret cases citing this section of the Restatement.

In short, the article presents the law of fraudulent misrepresentation without clarifying that it applies to situations where one has a legal duty to tell the truth, such as the seller in a business transaction.

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THE LAW OF FRAUDULENT MISREPRESENTATION  
APPLIES TO SITUATIONS WHERE ONE HAS A  
LEGAL DUTY TO TELL THE TRUTH, AS THE  
SELLER IN A BUSINESS TRANSACTION.

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*E. The purpose of Peter Kalitka's article "Are Competitor Intelligence 'Professionals' Trying To Have It Both Ways?" (CIR 9(3): 25-29) is apparently to warn the CI community to beware of people who argue that the EEA is necessary to combat efforts of those stealing American trade secrets and who are at the same time teaching CI professionals how to exploit weaknesses in their competitors.*

This thesis can be dismissed by simply noting that because information collection techniques are aggressive does not necessarily make them illegal.

Mr. Kalitka also makes reference to the three-hour workshop I delivered on the topic of CI and the EEA at SCIP's 1998 Annual Conference by writing of "discussion forums designed to understand 'why the EEA of 1996 was never intended to apply to CI professionals'? Really? Doesn't the law apply equally to everyone under the jurisdiction of that law or are CI professionals to be given 'gray area' immunity?"

The exact reference in the convention brochure stated that I would "show why the EEA was never intended to apply to the *CI profession*." As I would expect one who understands the statement in its original to mean that identification as a CI professional allows for an exemption from a federal law to not be the sort to contemplate the practical significance of the EEA. I therefore conclude that Mr. Kalitka has for whatever reason significantly mischaracterized my presentation.

Perhaps most disturbing is Mr. Kalitka's critique that some CI professionals "skirted ethics" because they knew that "ethical rules were not policed or enforceable," this particularly in light of the fact that Mr. Kalitka actually criticized SCIP's Code of Ethics as being "so broad and so general, that in several cases it encourages a variety of interpretations."<sup>21</sup>

What comes to my mind is the following: *A* loans *B* his weapon. Does *B*'s ethical obligation to return *A*'s weapon to him apply even if *A* "subsequently went out of his mind?"—answered in the negative in *Republic* by Plato.<sup>22</sup> Jump to the twentieth century, where in "*The Other America: Poverty in the United States*," Michael Harrington relates the following story: An employer knows that employee's drinking problem is so severe that one more bout with alcohol could kill him. Concerned that employee will purchase liquor, come pay day the employer decides nonetheless to pay the employee his earned wages, who spends it on alcohol and dies the following day from intoxication.

I cite these examples to demonstrate that questions which have been analyzed since human intellect first took an interest in ethics have relevance for contemporary situations, making the notion of policing ethics after discouraging other interpretations a dangerous one indeed.

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THAT INFORMATION COLLECTION TECHNIQUES  
ARE AGGRESSIVE DOES NOT NECESSARILY MAKE  
THEM ILLEGAL.

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### Misapprehensions

I believe it is only a matter of time for the CI community to recognize that the initial public reaction to the EEA was based on misapprehensions rather than a reasoned understanding of trade secret law. Assertions such as the one made by "a large-firm California IP litigator, who spoke on the condition of anonymity" that he "suspect(s) that the [EEA] was pushed by out-of-work FBI people now that the Cold War has slowed down"<sup>23</sup> or that "industry has pushed hard for [the EEA] because it perceives a decline in employee loyalty"<sup>24</sup> will be looked back at as amusing.

As to how ideas take on a life of their own and become rumors, myths, or fears, see *Extraordinary Popular Delusions and the Madness of Crowds* by Charles Mackay (originally published in London in 1841), *The Natural History of Stupidity* by Paul Tabori (a serious piece of scholarship despite its name), and *The True Believer* by Eric Hoffer.

Perhaps, the most important lesson to be learned from this matter is that the ethical standard is more restrictive than the legal standard. Properly trained CI professionals who recognize what this standard means and have incorporated it into their business practice need not be distracted or concerned by the EEA debate.

Finally, I encourage those who disagree with any part of my analysis to critique or challenge it in writing.

### Endnotes

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9. Fine, N. *SCIP EEA Symposia Proceedings*, February 24–35, 1997, section 3, p. 18.
10. Economic Espionage Act of 1996: Implications and Protective Measures to be Addressed at CSI NetSec '97, *PR Newswire*, February 25, 1997.
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12. See Congressional Records of October 2, 1996, S12214.
13. Section 757, comment a.
14. *Defiance Button Mach. Co. v. C&C Metal Products*, 759 F.2d 1053, 1063–1064 (2d Cir. 1985).

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# Industry spying still flourishes

Criminalizing trade secret theft hasn't led to mass prosecutions.

BY VICTORIA SLIND-FLOR  
NATIONAL LAW JOURNAL STAFF REPORTER

WHEN THE federal Economic Espionage Act was signed into law in 1996, the Society of Competitive Intelligence Professionals got very nervous.

The new law criminalized the misappropriation of trade secrets, and members of the Alexandria, Va.-based organization conduct research and analysis on competitors to help their various companies plan strategy. Even before the act, they were hypersensitive about suggestions that their work is espionage or industrial spying.

So the organization brought in Richard J. Horowitz, a New York solo practitioner with a background in surveillance and security services. He prepared an analysis of the new law, concluding that its impact on legitimate competitive intelligence-gathering would be negligible.

Nearly four years later, it appears that Mr. Horowitz' predictions were on target. Criminal charges have been filed in only 21 still-pending cases to date. Surprisingly, only one of those arose in Silicon Valley. And instead of focusing on computer chips and software, many cases have involved lower-tech industrial products, including adhesives and pet food.

## Nothing much changed

Many more investigations have been conducted without charges being filed, says Marc J. Zwillinger, a trial attorney at the Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section of the U.S. Department of Justice. And so far, "none of the cases have involved competitive-intelligence professionals."

The bottom line according to Mr. Horowitz: "[I]f you weren't doing anything illegal beforehand, you aren't doing anything illegal now." Companies should not be quick to brag that they modified their intelligence-gathering rules in the light of the act, he says: "If you had to overhaul...then you weren't doing things legally."

Peter Toren, a partner at New York's Brown & Wood L.L.P., was working in the Justice Department when the act became law. He says one reason there have been so few cases is

that until late 2001, the Justice Department had to sign off on any prosecution. And many U.S. attorneys' offices "have a six or seven-figure loss requirement before they will even look at a white-collar case," he says. "Another factor is whether the victim has available a civil remedy."

James Pooley tried in vain to persuade one U.S. attorney to prosecute a trade secret case. "The guy had taken confidential information and was threatening to use it unless my client

would negotiate a deal in his favor, and as he was saying this, he placed a gun on the table," Mr. Pooley said.

Mr. Pooley, a partner at Gray Cary Ware & Freidenrich L.L.P., of San Francisco and Palo Alto, Calif., said that even after he told the prosecutor about the gun, "his response was, 'Have you tried civil remedies?'"

"We're still working our way



Bodyguard: Richard Horowitz was hired to help industry avoid illegal actions.

through prosecutors' getting used to the criminalization of something that historically has not been criminalized," he said.

Criminal defense counsel Thomas J. Nolan, of Palo Alto's Nolan & Armstrong, suggests, however, that victims of trade secret theft are better served by the civil system.

To date, all prosecutions have fallen under Sec. 1832, on

commercial espionage. At first, most attention focused on Sec. 1831, which dealt with "agents of foreign power." "It was passed very quickly in an election year," said Mr. Pooley.

What started as an effort to address foreign states' involvement in espionage, he said, "morphed into a very broad statute addressing domestic theft as well." ■

THE NATIONAL LAW JOURNAL, May 29, 2000

Trade Secret Protection & Enforcement of  
Intellectual Property Rights  
28 November 2000

## Business Intelligence: What drives the need?

William E. DeGenaro  
DeGenaro & Assoc., Inc.



### Corporate Learning

"The real race is to learn and the competition  
will be won by those who create the  
most valuable configurations of knowledge  
in the shortest time."

Charles Hampden-Turner  
*Charting the Corporate Mind*

"Superior military power in the future  
depends on our ability to acquire and  
process information faster than our  
adversaries."

Admiral David E. Jeremiah  
*Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff*

... we must maintain decision  
superiority at all echelons and at  
all nodes

VADM J.O. Tuttle, USN (Ret)

"We must get inside an  
opponent's decision cycle."

At each of the war fighting echelons — strategic,  
operational and tactical — US forces must have  
enough information superiority to achieve  
dominant battle space awareness — knowing  
what opponents plan to do in a timely enough  
fashion to counteract and defeat them.

Barbara A. Ducksworth  
Vice Director for Operations  
Defense Intelligence Agency



"Next to knowing all about your own business, the best thing to know about is the other fellow's business."

John D. Rockefeller




God Forgives Sinners,  
but Stupid is Forever

Billy Sunday

"As business begins to compete on a more global scale, corporations, like national governments, are going to need intelligence systems. Those who use the product of intelligence will be better prepared to decide and to act."

Bob Galvin  
Chairman, Motorola, Inc.

### Characteristics of International Programs

 <p>Japan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All major companies have organized BI programs</li> <li>Excellent collection with company-wide usage</li> <li>Government support in collection and industry dissemination</li> <li>Intelligence analysis, particularly forecasting, is weak</li> </ul>
 <p>Sweden</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Most major corporations have organized programs</li> <li>Professionally trained and managed departments</li> <li>Government and banking industry provide global support</li> <li>Senior management not BI educated, programs less effective</li> </ul>
 <p>United States</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Less than 5% corporations have fully developed BI systems</li> <li>Collection and analysis capabilities well-developed (SCIP)</li> <li>Government policy provides security, but not intelligence</li> <li>Not taught as management discipline in universities</li> </ul>

### American Management's Challenge

"Japan was defeated in World War II partly due to the superior intelligence and strategy developed by the American side. Why can't America develop the same kind of intelligence and strategy to cope with Japan? Why can't we be victorious? Most Japanese don't understand why American businessmen cannot win this war."

Japanese Ministry of International Trade & Industry (MITI)  
1988 Press Conference

???

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The mind is an inference machine. It will fill in the blanks.

*Unknown*

◆ **Spencer's Law of Data**

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- Anyone can make a decision given enough facts
- A good manager can make a decision without enough facts
- A perfect manager can operate in perfect ignorance

"No amount of sophistication is going to allay the fact that all your knowledge is about the past and all your decisions are about the future"

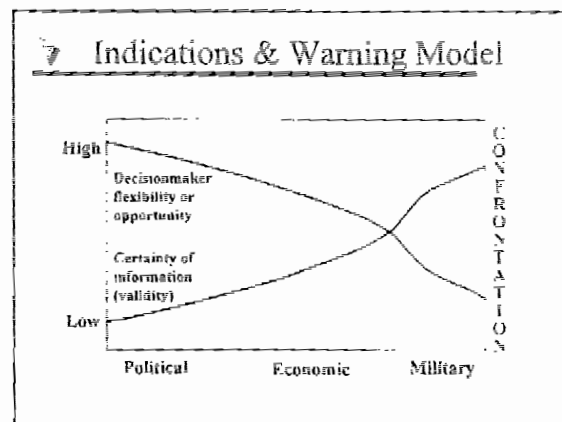
Ian E. Wilson, Chairman  
General Electric

**Uncertainty**

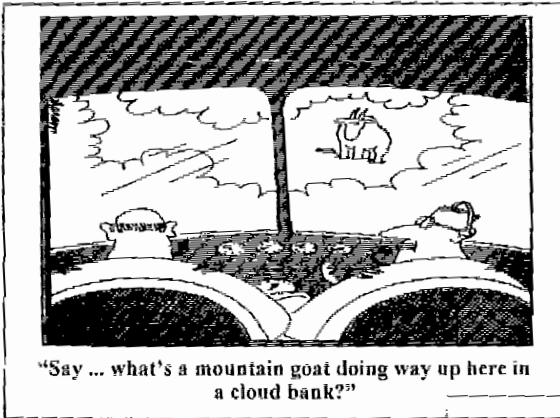
**the plague of all decision makers**



"I say fifty, maybe a hundred horses . . .  
What you say, Red Eagle?"







### Disasters are Potentially Foreseeable

- They were not created overnight
- During the incubation stage events accumulated which were at odds with norms

///

In no case had a lack of data been a major factor in the failure to anticipate the crisis.

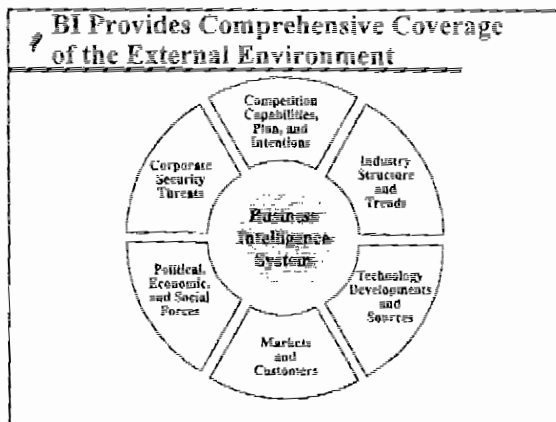
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"The hallmark of a great organization is how quickly bad news travels upward."

*Jay Forrester*

### Boards of Directors and Senior Management:

A duty to know?

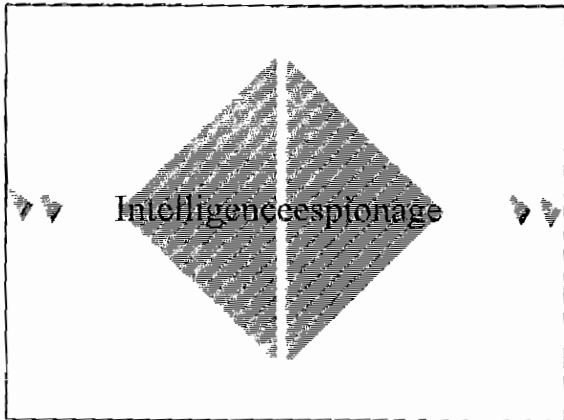


### Primary Business Intelligence Functions

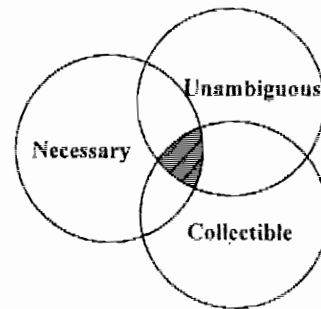
- Validate strategic assumptions
- Avoid surprise
- Map environment
- Predict future competition
- Consult on counterintelligence issues
- Educate consumers and practitioners

### BR&A Products and Services

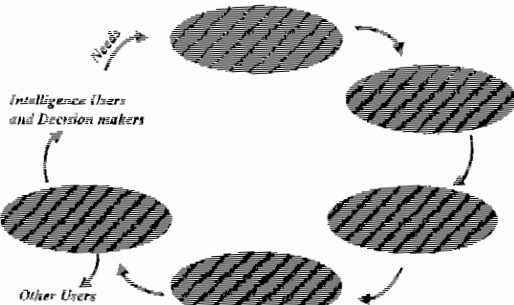
- Principal Corporate Competitor Monitoring and Analysis
- Regional and Industry Newsletters
- Threat Analysis
- Personality Profiles
- Key Customer Analysis
- Counterintelligence Consulting
- Business Unit BI System Support
- Benchmarking
- Acquisition Target Analysis
- Country Risk Analysis



### Useful Intelligence is . . .

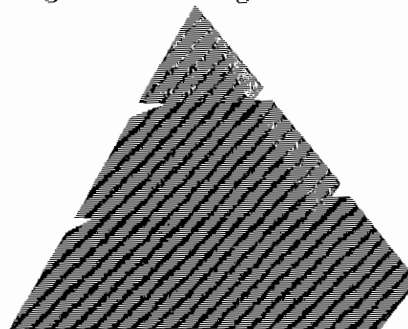


### Intelligence Systems Operations

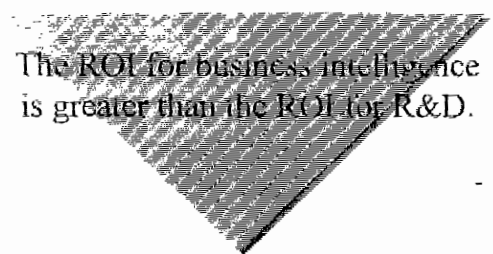


The Intelligence Cycle - Five basic steps. Each operation is necessary and adds value.

### Building the Knowledge Base



???



The ROI for business intelligence is greater than the ROI for R&D.

Good Intelligence is an Investment . . . Not a Cost

- "Our Business Intelligence program is worth \$50M a year."
- "A single intelligence report led to an acquisition that contributes \$10M/year to our European Operations."
- "An intelligence assessment of our competitors' manufacturing facilities caused us to scrap our plans . . . and adopt a leading-edge production process."
- "Our competitors have beat us to the marketplace with similar products too often, and it has cost us millions."

**Demonstrating the Need for Intelligence: A Case Study**

Previous Decisions Gone Wrong

- Category pricing strategy
  - › \$400 million lost revenue potential
- European acquisition
  - › \$200 - \$300 million lost revenue potential
- Participation in government subsidies program
  - › \$200 - \$300 million lost revenue potential

*Management Action: Develop an intelligence program*


**Demonstrating the Need for Intelligence: A Case Study**

Future Decisions

- Pursue certain categories?
  - › \$100 - \$500 million revenue potential
- Better understand Latin American business opportunities
  - › \$200 - \$300 million revenue potential
- Leverage government program gains beyond contract terms
  - › \$ immeasurable revenue potential

Intelligence Supports . . .

*Strategy . . .*



Environmental Mapping	Validate Strategic Assumptions	Monitor Competitive Response
-----------------------	--------------------------------	------------------------------

*Strategy is Frustrated  
for Lack of Intelligence*

☞ The lesson to be gained from this is that successful generals make plans to fit circumstances, but do not try to create circumstance to fit plans.”

Patton

### Competitive Decision Making

“... requires the focal actor to consider the contingent decisions of competitive actors.”

Zajac & Bazerman  
Northwestern University

### Other Intelligence Consumers

- Investors
- Special interest groups
- Activists
- Suppliers
- Head hunters
- Financial analysts
- Distributors
- Researchers
- Consultants
- Foreign governments
- Trade groups
- Lobbyists
- Regulators
- Customers

☞☞☞

“Counterintelligence ... is the key to the struggle between states and armies for a favorable disparity of knowledge.”

Angela Casavola

### Threat

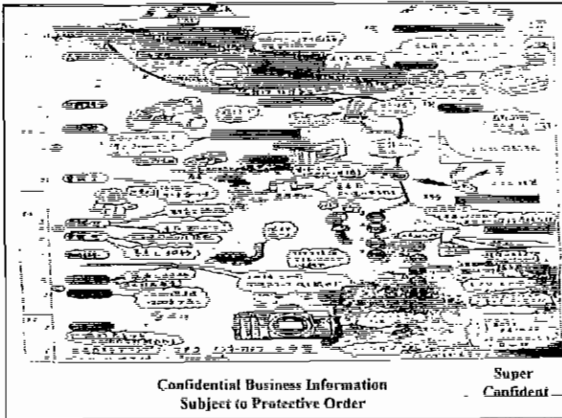
	Domestic	Foreign
Legal		
Illegal		

### Kempei Tai

“...Industrial espionage achieved a new pinnacle of respectability in Japan with the opening of the Institute for Industrial Protection, a school avowedly established to train spies and counterspies for Japanese corporations.

...This kind of intelligence work is regarded as patriotic and just as vital as military intelligence gleaned in time of war.”

Richard Deacon



**Ecole de Guerre Economique  
(EGE)**

School of Economic Warfare

DeGenaro & Assoc., Inc.

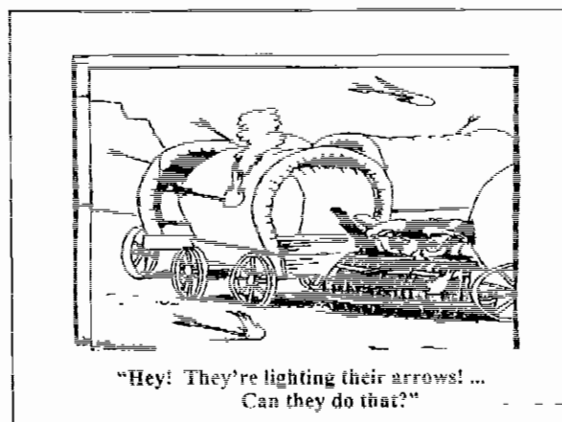
**Ethics and Laws Supportive of  
Intelligence**

“The French business intelligence system faces few pressures from lawmakers or from constituents: the wide popular consensus is that in matters of intelligence, morals and ethics do not apply. French companies do not maintain codes of ethics, perceiving them as an irrelevant Anglo-Saxon concept”

Jean-Marie Bonthous

**Known Intelligence  
Attacks on 3M**

<p>Abrasive SBC</p> <p>Consumer Group</p> <p>Reflective Products</p> <p>International</p> <p>3M West Coast</p> <p>Orthopedic Prods.</p> <p>COSD</p> <p>Tape Mfg.</p>	<p>Sol gel and seeded gel technology in 1990 Manufacturing technology in 1991</p> <p>New scouring pads manufacturing details</p> <p>General business intelligence on market share, growth rates, operations in St. Paul and plants in 1991. Executive recruiting rooms.</p> <p>Briefcase of Joe Manager stolen at Inter-Continental Hotel in Paris</p> <p>Head hunters inquiries</p> <p>3M plans for scratch cast</p> <p>Inquiries on Post-it<sup>®</sup> notes. Market size and growth rates, number of employees and square footage.</p> <p>3M's organizational structure, capacities and volumes</p>
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**World Class Business Intelligence**

- Targeted and Proactive
  - Focused on key intelligence topics
    - Avoids interference with currently effective mechanisms
    - Avoids information overload
  - Externally oriented
  - Concerned with the future
    - “Leading the target”

### World Class Business Intelligence

- Driven by the needs of strategic decision makers
  - "Key Intelligence Topics"
- In the experience of TFG, these needs tend to fall into three categories:
  - Early Warning
  - Strategic Decisions or Issues
  - Key Players (competitors, others)

### World Class Business Intelligence

- Begins with a *clear analytical framework* beginning with the needs of decision makers
  - Systematically *collects* necessary intelligence
    - First, from published sources and other *publicly available information*
    - Second, from a well-developed network of knowledgeable *human sources*
  - Seeks to generate *alternative hypotheses* to explain the observed phenomena
    - To avoid "groupthink" and "mirror imaging"
  - Fully *examines the implications* of the intelligence for the company and its decision makers
    - Thus generating follow-up questions for the intelligence unit

DeGenaro & Associates, Inc.  
1133 4th Street  
Suite 200  
Sarasota, FL 34236

*Theft of Trade Secrets*

Joseph C. Metcalfe  
Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section  
Criminal Division  
United States Department of Justice  
(202) 514-1026

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*Topics Covered*

- I. EEA Statutory Review
- II. EEA Case History and Approvals
- III. Advice to Industry

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*I. EEA Statutory Review*

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### *Need for Legislative Reform*

- Recognition that information is often a corporation's most valuable asset
- Threat of foreign misappropriation
- Theft of proprietary information increasingly common
  - \$151 million loss in 2000 from 186 companies surveyed, according to the 2001 Computer Crime and Security Survey
- Other criminal statutes not always helpful
  - Mail and Wire Fraud (18 U.S.C. §§ 1341, 1343) limited to cases involving mail or wire transmissions, requires scheme to defraud
  - Interstate Transportation of Stolen Property Act (18 U.S.C. § 2314) limited to theft of tangible property (*United States v. Brown*, 925 F.2d 1301 (10th Cir. 1991))

Toren footnote,

### *Scope of the EEA*

- Codified at 18 U.S.C. §§ 1831-1839
  - Effective October 11, 1996
  - Federally criminalizes the theft of trade secrets
- § 1831: theft of trade secret to benefit a foreign government, instrumentality or agent
  - No prosecutions since EEA became law
- § 1832: general theft of trade secrets
  - By outsider or insider, foreign/domestic company or individual
  - Charging an EEA violation requires approval by Attorney General (28 C.F.R. § 0.64-5)
  - Approval requirement expires October 11, 2001

### *Statutory Scheme*

- § 1831: Foreign economic espionage
- § 1832: Theft of trade secrets
- § 1834: Forfeiture provision
- § 1835: Confidentiality provision
- § 1836: Civil enforcement
- § 1837: Conduct outside the United States
- § 1839: Definitions



### *Elements of an 1832 Violation*

- 1. Defendant stole, or without authorization of owner, obtained, destroyed, received or conveyed information
- 2. Defendant knew or believed information was a trade secret
- 3. Information was in fact a trade secret.
- 4. Defendant intended to convert the trade secret to the economic benefit of someone other than owner
- 5. Defendant knew or intended that the owner of the trade secret would be injured
- 6. Trade secret was related to a "product" that was produced for or placed in interstate or foreign commerce

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### *Comparison of §§ 1831 and 1832*

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1. Defendant misappropriated information</li><li>• 2. Defendant knew information was a trade secret</li><li>• 3. Information was a trade secret</li><li>• 4. Defendant knew/intended that the offense would benefit a foreign government, foreign instrumentality or foreign agent</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1. Defendant misappropriated information</li><li>• 2. Defendant knew information was a trade secret</li><li>• 3. Information was a trade secret</li><li>• 4. Defendant intended to convert the trade secret to the economic benefit of someone other than owner</li><li>• 5. Defendant knew/intended that owner would be injured</li><li>• 6. Product in interstate or foreign commerce</li></ul> |
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### *Definition of Trade Secret: § 1839(3)*

- § 1839(3): "The term 'trade secret' means all forms and types of financial, business, scientific, technical, economic, or engineering information, including patterns, plans, compilations, program devices, formulas, designs, prototypes, methods, techniques, processes, procedures, programs, or codes, whether tangible or intangible, and whether or how stored, compiled, or memorialized physically, electronically, graphically, photographically, or in writing if ...

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*Definition of Trade Secret (cont.):*

*§ 1839(3)*

- § 1839(3) (continued):
  - (A) the owner thereof has taken reasonable measures to keep such information secret; and
  - (B) the information derives independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to, and not being readily ascertainable through proper means by, the public."
- Broader than the Uniform Trade Secrets Act
  - UTSA enacted in most states, provides victims of trade secret theft with a private cause of action
  - Definition in UTSA: "Information, including a formula, pattern, compilation, program, device, method, technique, or process..."
  - Courts have applied the UTSA to many types of information, similar to the BEA definition

*Don't like  
default passwords*

*Definition of Trade Secret (cont.):  
Secrecy/ "Reasonable Measures"*

- Think in terms of physical world and cyberspace
  - Building security
  - Network security, including password protection and encryption
- Confidentiality agreements often critical
- Disclosure to third-parties should be under controlled circumstances (e.g., non-disclosure agreements)
- Measures taken by owner should be commensurate with the value of the trade secret
- Security measures need to be absolute, but reasonable under the circumstances
- Trade secret can include elements in the public domain



*Definition of Trade Secret (cont.):  
"Independent Economic Value"*

- Value must derive from the information not being known to the public
  - Possible examples include source code, manufacturing plans, unique processes, design specifications
- Customer list example:
  - Not a trade secret if
    - customers widely known in particular industry
    - list merely the result of general marketing efforts
    - the information is easily ascertainable
    - list includes nothing more than contact information
  - Potentially a trade secret if
    - difficult or impossible to discover customer information through public sources
    - list created through substantial expenditure of time and money
    - information goes beyond names and phone numbers

*Definition of Trade Secret (cont.):*

*Limitations*

- Fundamental concept:
  - "Section 1832(a) was not designed to punish competition, even when such competition relies on the know-how of former employees of a direct competitor. It was, however, designed to prevent those employees ... from taking advantage of confidential information gained, discovered, copied, or taken while employed elsewhere." United States v. Martin, 228 F.3d 1, 11 (1st Cir. 2000).
  - EEA does not criminalize use of general skills or parallel development of a similar product
- Although broadly defined, "trade secrets" does not include all information a business might consider proprietary

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*Review of Elements -  
Misappropriation*

- Central concept: activity without consent of owner that diminishes value of the information = misappropriation
- Acts prohibited include traditional instances of theft (i.e., item or object removed from the owner's possession)
- EEA extends definition of "misappropriation"
  - Includes copying, distributing, photographing, downloading, sending, and receiving
  - Such actions in the context of trade secrets may reduce or destroy the value of the property

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*Review of Elements - Knowledge  
That Information Was Trade Secret*

- Gov't must prove that the defendant knew or had a firm belief that the information "misappropriated" was a trade secret
- Related to measures owner took to keep information secret and why the information was valuable because not generally known to the public (§ 1839(3))
- Statements of defendant often critical

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*Review of Elements - Information  
Was A Trade Secret*

- When charging theft, duplication, transmission, receipt or possession, the "misappropriated" information must in fact be a trade secret
- However, if charge is attempt or conspiracy, government need not prove existence of actual trade secret (United States v. Hsu, 155 F.3d 189 (3rd Cir. 1998))

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*Review of Elements (§ 1832) - Intent  
To Benefit Economically*

- Gov't must prove defendant intended to convert the trade secret to the economic benefit of someone other than owner
- Benefit can flow to any third party, not just the defendant
- Must be economic benefit
- Acting solely out of malice/vengeance/spite not enough

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*Review of Elements (§ 1832) - Intent  
To Injure Owner*

- Gov't must prove defendant knew or intended that actions would cause some disadvantage to the rightful owner
- Often this element satisfied circumstantially with evidence of intent that someone other than owner benefits economically
- Sometimes intent to benefit does not support inference of intent to injure (e.g., defendant wishes to compete in foreign market that will have no effect on owner's business)

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*Review of Elements (§ 1832) -  
Related to Product In Commerce*

- Gov't must prove trade secret was related to a "product" that was produced for or placed in interstate or foreign commerce
- Distinction between a pure service and a product not always clear
  - Doctor's unique method of treating patients, if not related to the development of a medical product, likely not protected by the EEA
  - Many "services" are in fact sold much like products and would likely be consider a product under the EEA (e.g., cellular telephone services, credit card services)

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*Affirmative Defenses*

- Parallel development
- Reverse engineering
- Advice of counsel in bona fide dispute about ownership of intellectual property

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*Sentencing Considerations*

- § 1831 maximum penalties:
  - 15 years and/or \$500,000 fine for individuals
  - \$10,000,000 fine for corporations
- § 1832 maximum penalties:
  - 10 years and/or \$250,000 fine for individuals
  - \$5,000,000 fine for corporations
- Actual sentences have ranged from probation to 77 months imprisonment
- Covered under USSG 2B1.1 (Theft)

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*Sentencing Considerations (cont.) -*

*2B1.1*

- Base level of 4
- +2 for more than minimal planning
- +2 if defendant knew or intended offense to benefit foreign government, instrumentality or agent
- Increase offense level based on amount of "loss"
  - Loss greater than \$10,000 = +5
  - Loss greater than \$800,000 = +13

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*Sentencing Considerations (cont.) -*

*Loss Calculations*

- Loss need not be determined with precision
- § 1832 loss calculations:
  - Loss = "fair market value of the property taken, damaged, or destroyed"
    - The amount the trade secret was sold for, or
    - "Reasonable Royalty" or "Forced licensing" - amount buyer would have paid if had he legitimately licensed the stolen technology
  - Gain to defendant measured by amount defendant would have had to invest to develop independently, usually measured by victim's historical R&D costs
- If market value difficult to ascertain or inadequate to measure harm, court may measure loss another way (e.g., reasonable replacement cost to victim)

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*Additional EEA Provisions*

- Criminal forfeiture (§ 1834)
  - Court shall order the forfeiture of any proceeds or property derived from violations of the EEA
  - May order the forfeiture of any property used to commit or facilitate the commission of the crime (proportional to the crime)
- Confidentiality (§ 1835)
  - Court shall take such actions to preserve the confidentiality of trade secrets
  - Government has right to bring interlocutory appeal authorizing disclosure of trade secret
  - Failure to cooperate with EEA prosecution often related to fears of disclosure

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### *Additional EEA Provisions (cont.)*

- Civil Proceedings (§ 1836)
  - Government (not private party) can file a civil action for an injunction to preserve status quo during criminal investigation
- Extraterritoriality (§ 1837)
  - Applies to conduct occurring outside U.S. if
    - the offender is a citizen or permanent resident alien of the U.S.; or
    - an act in furtherance of the offense was committed in the U.S.

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### *II. EEA Case History and Approvals*

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### *27 EEA Cases To Date*

- How we learn of EEA violations:
  - Competitor reports it
  - Victim company suspects insider
  - Insider reports outside contact
  - Victim complains of competing product
- Wide variety of circumstances forming basis of EEA charge:
  - Insider + buyer cooperating
  - Buyer only seeking seller of trade secret
  - Direct theft
  - Seller shops secret around to potential competitors

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*Factors Influencing Government  
Decision To Prosecute*

- Is the gov't being dragged into civil case?
  - Are civil remedies adequate?
- What type of information was misappropriated?
  - Scientific and research information easier to value
- Satisfies product requirement?
- How valuable is the proprietary information?
  - USAO's monetary guidelines for fraud/theft cases
  - Victim-generated estimates closely scrutinized

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*Factors Influencing Government  
Decision To Prosecute (cont.)*

- Is the information clearly a trade secret?
  - Did the owner take "reasonable measures"?
  - Does the information have "independent economic value"?
- Is the information in the public domain?
  - Sub-contractors or licensees? Scientific articles? Patents filed?
- Is there evidence of theft and consciousness of guilt?
  - Won't rely solely on emergence of a similar product
- Is the victim cooperative?
  - Promptly reported? Would prosecution jeopardize the confidentiality of the trade secret?

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*III. Advice to Industry*

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*Don't be a victim or a target*

- Protect your trade secrets, whether stored on paper or electronically
- Have systems in place to prevent your company from being victimized
  - Physical and cyber security measures (encryption, strong passwords), background checks, limited access to key secrets
  - Confidentiality and non-disclosure agreements
  - Use physical security, background checks, limited access to key trade secrets
- Educate employees about the EEA
- Watch the information offered by or received from new employees hired from competitors

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*If you think you are a victim*

- Find out information in a manner that keeps your options open
  - Internal investigation
  - Investigative firm
- Don't resort to self-help
- Determine whether to handle the matter internally, bring a civil suit, or refer to the FBI

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*Refer the case to the FBI?*

- Pros:
  - Powerful message to would-be corporate predators
  - Effective, inexpensive discovery
  - Restitution available
  - Liability can be established
- Cons:
  - Gov't will not take border-line cases
  - May delay or impede civil case
  - Requires cooperation of victim
  - Cede control to government
  - Some risk of exposing trade secrets

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*Where to get more information*

- Computer Crime Website:
  - [www.cybercrime.gov](http://www.cybercrime.gov)
  - Table of EEA cases, press releases
- "Federal Prosecution of Violations of Intellectual Property Rights: Copyrights, Trademarks, and Trade Secrets"
- Call CCIPS

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## Federal Prosecution of Thefts of Trade Secrets Under the Economic Espionage Act of 1996

By Peter J. Toren\*

### [a] Introduction

In recent years the scope of economic espionage in the United States has greatly increased,<sup>1</sup> especially with the end of the Cold War, which has redefined the context for espionage as a nation's security becomes more closely linked to economic prosperity.<sup>2</sup> However, until recently, federal prosecutors were limited in their ability to prosecute even the most egregious theft of trade secrets because there was no federal law that was designed to cover such activities.<sup>3</sup> In response to this shortcoming in federal criminal law, and in recognition of the increasingly vital role

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\*The author is a partner and co-head of the Intellectual Property Group of Brown & Wood LLP where he specializes in IP litigation. He is also an adjunct professor of law at Hofstra University where he teaches a course in Cyberlaw. Before entering private practice, Mr. Toren was a Trial Attorney with the Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section of the Criminal Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, where he helped draft the Economic Espionage Act, prosecuted violations of copyright, trademark and trade secret laws, and co-authored *Federal Prosecution of Violations of Intellectual Property Rights (Copyrights, Trademarks and Trade Secrets)*.

<sup>1</sup> A survey released in 1996 by the American Society for Industrial Security (ASIS) showed a 323% increase in incidents involving the theft of trade secrets from 1992 to 1995 and an estimated annual loss to U.S. companies of \$25 billion. *Business Week*, July 14, 1997 at 76

<sup>2</sup> FBI Director Louis Freeh testified that as a legacy of the Cold War, at least 23 foreign countries have targeted acquiring trade secrets from U.S. companies. Senator Herbert Kohl of Wisconsin has asserted:

Even as the cold war ended, our former enemies and our current allies began retooling their intelligence agencies. They have turned their vast spying apparatus on us, on our businesses, on the very ideas and information that keep this country safe . . . Foreign governments look at America and see a one-stop shopping mall [for business information], and what they cannot buy legitimately, they will shoplift.

"The Industrial Espionage Act and the Economic Security Act," Federal Document Clearing House, Congressional Hearings Summaries, February 28, 1996.

<sup>3</sup> In particular, prosecutors attempted to use the Depression-era Interstate Transportation of Stolen Property Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 2314, and the Wire Fraud and Mail Fraud statutes, 18 U.S.C.A. §§ 1343 and 1341, respectively. For an excellent discussion of the limitations of Federal laws prior to the passage of the Economic Espionage Act in dealing with the thefts of trade secrets, see James Pooley, Mark Lemley, and Peter Toren, "Understanding the Economic Espionage Act of 1996," 5 *Tex Intell. Prop. L.J.* 177 (Winter 1997).

intellectual property, in general, and trade secrets, in particular, play in the U.S. economy, Congress enacted the Economic Espionage Act of 1996 ("EEA").<sup>4</sup> The EEA, for the first time, makes the theft of trade secrets a federal crime.<sup>5</sup> Further, while the EEA is clearly intended to mainly apply to criminal conduct committed within the United States, it includes a very broad and far-reaching extraterritorial provision that may impact foreign companies that do business in the U.S. and U.S. companies that do business abroad.<sup>6</sup>

Given the broad reach of the EEA and given that a conviction for a violation of the EEA could subject an individual to imprisonment for up to ten or fifteen years and a corporation to a fine of up to \$10 million<sup>7</sup> and could result in the forfeiture of part or all of the property used to facilitate the theft,<sup>8</sup> it is imperative that corporate officers and all employees have a general understanding of the scope and coverage of the EEA. Conversely, in order to better protect trade secrets from theft, it is also important for victims of trade secret thefts to understand when it is appropriate to refer an alleged theft of trade secrets to the federal government for investigation and criminal prosecution.

This section analyzes the scope of the EEA, and provides a summary of some of the EEA prosecutions that the government has brought to date. It also discusses the substantive and procedural aspects of making a criminal referral and the advantages and disadvantages of criminal prosecution. Finally, the discussion focuses on steps a corporation can take to avoid becoming a defendant in an EEA prosecution and how to minimize corporate liability through the implementation of a corporate compliance plan.

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<sup>4</sup> Economic Espionage Act of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104-294, Title I, § 101(a), 110 Stat. 3488 (codified at 18 U.S.C.A. §§ 1831-1839).

<sup>5</sup> Prior to the passage of the EEA, there was only a single, very limited federal statute that directly prohibited the unauthorized disclosure of government information, including trade secrets, by a government employee. 18 U.S.C.A. § 1905. Its impact is further limited because it provides for only misdemeanor criminal sanctions.

<sup>6</sup> 18 U.S.C.A. § 1837.

<sup>7</sup> 18 U.S.C.A. §§ 1831, 1832.

<sup>8</sup> 18 U.S.C.A. § 1834.

**[b] Overview of the EEA**

**[i] Prohibited Conduct**

The EEA contains two separate provisions that criminalize the theft or misappropriation of trade secrets. The first provision, codified at 18 U.S.C.A. § 1831, covers thefts of trade secrets that are intended to benefit a foreign government, instrumentality or agent.<sup>9</sup> Thus, this section covers true “economic espionage.” In contrast, 18 U.S.C.A. § 1832 makes criminal the more common commercial theft of trade secrets, regardless of who benefits.

In order to prove a violation of § 1832, the government must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that:

- (1) The defendant stole, or, without authorization of the owner, obtained, destroyed or conveyed information;
- (2) The defendant knew this information was proprietary;
- (3) The information was in fact a trade secret;
- (4) The defendant intended to convert the trade secret to the economic benefit of anyone other than the owner;
- (5) The defendant knew or intended that the owner of the trade secret would be injured; and
- (6) The trade secret was related to or was included in a product that was produced or placed in interstate or foreign commerce.

Section 1832 also explicitly criminalizes attempts and conspiracies to engage in espionage and steal trade secrets.<sup>10</sup> According to a recent Third Circuit decision, the “government can satisfy its burden under § 1832(a)(4) [attempts] by proving beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant sought to acquire information which he or she believed to be a trade secret, regardless of whether the information actually qualified as such.”<sup>11</sup> This is important because it allows the government not to have to

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<sup>9</sup> Because prosecutions under this section probably will be extremely rare (in fact, to date, the government has not charged a single violation of this section), this article will not discuss this section in any further detail. For a complete description of the element of this section, *see Federal Prosecution of Violations of Intellectual Property Rights, Copyrights, Trademarks and Trade Secrets*, United States Department of Justice, May 1997.

<sup>10</sup> 18 U.S.C.A. §§ 1831(a)(4), (a)(5) and 1832(a)(4), (a)(5).

<sup>11</sup> *United States v. Hsu*, 155 F.3d 189 (3d Cir. 1998).

use actual trade secret information in sting operations. This ruling should encourage victims of trade secret thefts to report the matter to the government for prosecution because it lessens the chances that a referral will inevitably result in further disclosure of the trade secret.

The EEA also makes criminal the knowing receipt, purchase, or possession of a stolen trade secret.<sup>12</sup>

### **[ii] Misappropriation**

The type of acts that are prohibited under § 1832 are broadly defined and include traditional instances of theft, i.e., where the object of the crime is physically removed from the owner's possession.<sup>13</sup> The section, however, also includes methods of misappropriation where the original property never leaves the custody or control of the owner, but the value of the trade secret to the owner may be effectively destroyed by the unauthorized duplication or disclosure to a third party. It has also been suggested that because this section is not, by its terms, limited to secrets acquired by "improper means," an individual can still theoretically violate the EEA even if the trade secret was acquired by proper means.<sup>14</sup>

The government must also prove that the defendant acted "without authorization" from the owner. This refers to whether, for example, the defendant had the consent of the owner of the trade secret to "copy . . . communicate, or convey a trade secret." Thus, for example, where an employee has authorization from his employer to copy a trade secret during the regular course of his employment, he can still violate the EEA if he "communicates or

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<sup>12</sup> 18 U.S.C.A. §§ 1831(a)(3), 1832(a)(3).

<sup>13</sup> Section 1832(a) punishes any individual who:

- (1) steals or without authorization appropriates, takes, carries away, or conceals, or by fraud, artifice or by deception obtains a trade secret;
- (2) without authorization copies, duplicates, sketches, draws, photographs, downloads, uploads, alters, destroys, photocopies, replicates, transmits, delivers, sends, mails, communicates, or conveys a trade secret;
- (3) receives, buys or possesses a trade secret, knowing the same to have been stolen or appropriated, obtained, or converted without authorization . . .

<sup>14</sup> See "Understanding the Economic Espionage Act of 1996" at 195.

conveys” the trade secret to a competitor without his employer’s permission.

**[iii] Knowledge**

The government must also prove that the misappropriation was done knowingly. It must show that the defendant knew or had a firm belief that the misappropriated information did not belong to him.<sup>15</sup> A person who takes a trade secret because of ignorance, mistake or accident does not violate the EEA.

**[iv] Trade Secret Defined**

The term “trade secret” is defined in the EEA as follows:

(3) the term “trade secret” means all forms and types of financial, business, scientific, technical, economic or engineering information, including patterns, plans, compilations, program devices, formulas, designs, prototypes, methods, techniques, processes, procedures, programs, or codes, whether tangible or intangible, and whether or how stored, compiled, or memorialized physically, electronically, graphically, photographically, or in writing if:

(A) the owner thereof has taken reasonable measures to keep such information secret; and

(B) the information derives independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to, and not being readily ascertainable through proper means by the public . . . .<sup>16</sup>

Thus, the definition of a trade secret under the EEA is extremely broad and encompasses information in any form “whether tangible or intangible, and whether or how stored, compiled or memorialized physically, electronically, graphically, photographically, or in writing.” The references to intangible information and the “whether or how” language mean that not only information stored in electronic form but also information “stored” only in an individual’s memory, can be the subject of prosecution for theft of trade secrets. It is noted, however, that although the EEA does theoretically cover thefts committed by memorization, because of the difficulty in establishing the defendant’s criminal

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<sup>15</sup> 142 Cong. Rec. S12202, 12213 (daily ed. Oct. 2, 1996).

<sup>16</sup> 18 U.S.C.A. § 1839(3).

intent in such a case, it is extremely unlikely that the government would prosecute a case in which there is no tangible evidence of theft.

One issue, however, that is not addressed by the EEA is the specificity with which the trade secret must be identified. Under civil trade secrets law in many states, plaintiffs may file a complaint and even proceed to trial without ever having specifically identified the trade secret they claim was stolen. By contrast, the legislative history suggests that “particularity” in describing trade secrets will be important under the EEA.<sup>17</sup> In *United States v. Hsu*,<sup>18</sup> the trial court denied the government’s motion for entry of a protective order preventing defendants from reviewing the documents allegedly containing trade secrets that were the subject of the government sting operation. The court chose instead to adopt a protective order providing for limited disclosure of the secrets to defendants’ attorneys, outside experts and prospective witnesses. The court reasoned that the failure to permit the defendants’ from having access to such documents would violate their Due Process and jury rights under the Fifth and Sixth Amendments on the ground that “the Government must prove under the plain language of the statute that a ‘trade secret’ existed within the meaning of the Act” and the government’s proposed protective order would relieve the government of this burden.

However, on appeal, the Third Circuit held that the trial court’s ruling was based on the erroneous understanding that the indictment charged the defendants with a completed theft when only attempt and conspiracy were charged. Because attempt and conspiracy do not require proof of the existence of a trade secret, the defendants “have no arguable right to view the unredacted portion of the . . . documents in order.”<sup>19</sup> The court emphasized that to require otherwise would have the “bizarre effect of forcing the government to disclose trade secrets to the very persons suspected of trying to steal them, thus gutting enforcement efforts under the EEA. We believe Congress could not have intended such a result, inasmuch as it was striving to prevent economic

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<sup>17</sup> 142 Cong. Rec. S12213 (daily ed. Oct. 2, 1996).

<sup>18</sup> *United States v. Hsu*, 40 F. Supp. 2d 623, 50 U.S.P.Q.2d 1659 (E.D. Pa. 1999).

<sup>19</sup> *United States v. Hsu*, 155 F.3d 189 (3d Cir. 1998); *see also* *United States v. Martin*, 228 F.3d 1 (1<sup>st</sup> Cir. 2000) (relying on *Hsu* the court held that attempt and conspiracy to steal trade secrets do not require proof of the existence of a trade secret, but rather, proof only of one’s attempt or conspiracy with intent to steal a trade secret.



espionage and to maintain confidentiality of trade secrets.”<sup>20</sup> As noted above, this is an important ruling because it permits the government not to have to use the actual trade secrets in an undercover or sting operation.

#### **[v] Economic Benefit**

The EEA also requires that the government prove that the act of misappropriating the trade secret was intended by the defendant to economically benefit a person other than the rightful owner of the trade secret (which can be the defendant or some other person or entity). In other words, the EEA does not cover a situation in which a person acts for reasons other than the expectation of economic gain, such as for revenge or spite.<sup>21</sup> This requirement is surprising since it is obvious that the extent of the injury to a trade secret owner does not depend on the motivation of the person who misappropriated the trade secret.

#### **[vi] Intent to Injure the Owner of the Trade Secret**

The government must also prove a third *mens rea* element: that the defendant intended to “injure” the owner of a trade secret. According to the legislative history, this provision “does not require the government to prove malice or evil intent, but merely that the actor knew or was aware to a practical certainty that his conduct would cause some disadvantage to the rightful owner.”<sup>22</sup> It is unclear why Congress included this element in the EEA, since, although it is theoretically possible, it is extremely unlikely that a person could misappropriate a trade secret to benefit another without regard to the consequences for the trade secret owner. It is axiomatic that when a defendant misappropriates a trade secret, the owner of the trade secret is injured because he no longer has exclusive control over the trade secret. In *United States v. Martin*,<sup>23</sup> the 1<sup>st</sup> Circuit held that the government proved this element by establishing that the defendant intended to use the trade secrets to create a “more successful competitor with greater capability to injure the [victim].”

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<sup>20</sup> *Id.* at 13

<sup>21</sup> *See, e.g.,* *United States v. LaMacchia*, 871 F. Supp. 535, 541-42 (D. Mass. 1994) (holding that the criminal copyright statute did not apply to an electronic bulletin board owner who posted infringing computer software without receiving any financial benefit).

<sup>22</sup> H.R. Rep. No. 788, 104th Cong., 2d Sess. 1996.

<sup>23</sup> 228 F.3d 1 (1<sup>st</sup> Cir. 2000).

### [vii] Interstate or Foreign Commerce

To constitute theft of trade secrets, the stolen secret must relate to, or be included in, a product that “is produced for or placed in interstate or foreign commerce.” This requirement raises two important questions concerning the scope of the EEA’s coverage: (1) whether the EEA is intended to exclude trade secrets relating to services as opposed to products; and (2) whether it applies to products that are intended to enter, but are not yet in, interstate or foreign commerce.

The answer to the first question is important to service companies such as advertising agencies, brokerages, financial service firms, and other companies that sell their expertise and rely on proprietary information, but do not sell products. Such information can be just as valuable as information relating to a new product. Given the importance of service industries to the American economy, it is unlikely that Congress intended to intentionally exclude from EEA coverage trade secret information relating to services. However, the matter has not been litigated and it is possible that a court when faced with this issue would reach the opposite conclusion.

The answer to the second question, to wit, whether the EEA applies to secrets relating to products that are not yet in interstate or foreign commerce is also extremely important because if the EEA does not cover such items, much of its protection would be lost. A trade secret is often most valuable during the research and development phase before the product has been released to the public and the trade secret can be discovered through legal means such as by reverse engineering. It is extremely unlikely that Congress would have intentionally excluded from coverage very valuable trade secrets that are related to products under development.<sup>24</sup> However, as is the case with the question of services described above, this issue has not been litigated and it is possible that a court when faced with this issue would find that the EEA does not cover the trade secrets relating to products in their development or research phase.

Further, this requirement also raises the question of whether the EEA protects “negative know-how,” that is, information, often gained only after substantial expense, about

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<sup>24</sup> *The Prosecution Manual* takes this view, stating that “in cases in which the trade secret is related to a product still being produced but will ultimately be sold in interstate commerce, prosecutors should establish this fact, and argue it sufficiently meets this element.” *Prosecution Manual* at 80.

what doesn't work. Such information has been accorded protection as a trade secret under civil law.<sup>25</sup> Since negative know-how concerns only a product that relates to, or is included in, a product that "is produced for or placed in interstate or foreign commerce" to the very limited extent of how not to make that product, it is unlikely that the EEA protects this valuable information.

### [c] Protection of Secrets

In enacting the EEA, Congress recognized that victims of trade secret thefts are often faced with a dilemma when deciding whether to report the matter to law enforcement authorities.<sup>26</sup> As the Department of Justice publication *Federal Prosecution of Violations of Intellectual Property Rights (Copyrights, Trademarks and Trade Secrets)* ("*Prosecution Manual*") notes, "victims do not want the thief to go unpunished but suspect if they report the matter, the trade secret will be publicly aired during criminal prosecution."<sup>27</sup> Section 1835 of the EEA attempts to answer this legitimate concern by providing that a court will establish safeguards to protect the trade secrets:

In any prosecution or other proceeding under this chapter, the court shall enter such orders and take such other action as may be necessary and appropriate to preserve the confidentiality of trade secrets, consistent with the requirements of the Federal Rules of Criminal and Civil Procedure, the Federal Rules of Evidence, and all other applicable laws. An interlocutory appeal by the United

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<sup>25</sup> See, e.g., *Metallurgical Indus. Inc. v. Fourtek*, 790 F.2d 1195, 1198 (5th Cir. 1986) ("Knowing what not to do often leads automatically to knowing what to do."); *Nilssen v. Motorola, Inc.*, 963 F. Supp. 664 (N.D. Ill. 1997) ("Indeed, Motorola might face liability for misappropriation under [the Illinois Trade Secrets Act] even if it used Nilssen's trade secrets 'only to demonstrate what pitfalls to avoid'."). *But see*, *SI Handling v. Heisley*, 753 F.2d 1244 (3d Cir. 1985), rejecting the argument that such information was protectable, at least under the facts as presented.

<sup>26</sup> The House Judiciary Committee's section-by-section analysis with respect to § 1837 states that:

[t]he intent of this section is to preserve the confidential nature of the information and, hence, its value. Without such a provision, owners may be reluctant to cooperate in prosecutions for fear of further exposing their trade secrets to public view, thus further devaluing or even destroying their worth.

H.R. Rep. No. 104-788, at 13 (1996), reprinted in 1996 U.S.C.C.A.N. 4021, 4032.

<sup>27</sup> *Prosecution Manual* at 83.

States shall lie from a decision or order of a district court authorizing or directing the disclosure of any trade secret.

The victim also can take a number of steps in an attempt to limit the scope of the disclosure of the trade secret. First, if the victim is assisting the government in a “sting” operation, the victim should provide the government with the type of trade secret information for use during the operation that will not cause harm if it is disclosed to the defendant.<sup>28</sup> This can be accomplished by providing the government with a patent application containing a trade secret<sup>29</sup> or with a trade secret that inevitably would be publicly disclosed anyway. In many respects, the former option is preferable because the information contained in the patent application will be accorded full protection after the patent issues, regardless of whether it is disclosed during litigation. In the alternative, the victim should encourage the government to charge the defendant with attempt or conspiracy, because as the court found in *United States v. Hsu*, that if a defendant is charged with attempt or conspiracy and not with a completed act, the defendant has no constitutional or statutory right to view the “unredacted portion of the . . . documents . . . .”

Second, the victim must also educate the federal prosecutor on the value and importance of the trade secrets involved and the great harm that the victim will suffer from any further disclosure. Third, after the defendant has been indicted, a trade secret owner should carefully monitor any proposed protective orders and seek to provide input into the scope and form of such orders. Finally, the victim should also encourage the prosecutor to take an interlocutory appeal from an order authorizing or directing the disclosure of any trade secret, as is permitted by § 1835.<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>28</sup> So-called “sting operations” are of most value in a matter in which the trade secrets have not yet been appropriated by the defendant or revealed to unauthorized competitors. In other words, the government sets up an operation with the intended victim’s cooperation before the defendant has had the opportunity to misappropriate the trade secret. Sting operations have long been used by the government to combat illegal drugs with a great deal of success. *See, e.g., United States v. Everett*, 700 F.2d 900, 908 (3d Cir. 1983).

<sup>29</sup> Prior to December of 1999, patent applications remained secret until the PTO granted the application. Now, applications are published 18 months from filing date unless the applicant states that he or she does not have an intent to file outside the U.S. Under these circumstances the application remains secret.

<sup>30</sup> As described above, the permissible scope of a protective order has already been litigated in *United States v. Hsu*, and the United States has appealed the trial court’s decision not to adopt the government’s suggested protective order that permitted the court to redact trade secrets *in camera*, and

#### [d] Statutory Penalties

Reflecting the seriousness with which Congress viewed thefts of trade secrets, the EEA provides for strong penalties. Specifically, individual defendants convicted of violating § 1832 can be sentenced to up to ten years in prison<sup>31</sup> and can be fined up to \$250,000.<sup>32</sup> Corporations or other organizations that violate § 1832 can be fined up to five million dollars. Further, courts have respected Congress' intent and have sentenced individuals convicted under the EEA to stiff sentences:

- Patrick Worthing was sentenced to fifteen months in prison for stealing trade secrets from Pittsburgh Plate Glass ("PPG"). His brother Daniel, a PPG supervisor to whom Patrick had promised \$100 for assisting him, was sentenced to five years' probation with a special condition of six months' home detention.<sup>33</sup>

- Steven Davis was sentenced to twenty-seven months and ordered to pay \$1.2 million in restitution to Gillette after pleading guilty to five counts of stealing trade secrets relating to the next generation of Gillette shavers.<sup>34</sup>

- Mayra Justine Trujillo-Cohen, who admitted to offering for sale a proprietary computer program owned by Deloitte & Touche, was sentenced to forty-eight months' imprisonment and ordered to pay \$337,000 in restitution.

- The circulation manager for the Gwinnett Daily Post, Carroll Lee Campbell, Jr., was sentenced to three months' imprisonment and four months' home confinement for offering to sell confidential circulation information to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

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instead adopted the order suggested by the defendants that permits the dissemination of such materials to defendants' attorneys, outside experts and prospective witnesses.

<sup>31</sup> 18 U.S.C.A. § 1832(a).

<sup>32</sup> Because the EEA does not specify the fine amounts for individuals, the amounts are determined under § 3571.

<sup>33</sup> "15 Months for Selling Secrets," Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (June 6, 1997). *See also* "Corporate Spies Feel a Sting," Business Week, July 14, 1997; "Industrial Espionage," Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (April 19, 1997).

<sup>34</sup> The Boston Globe (April 30, 1998) at E16.

**[e] Remedies**

**[i] Civil Proceedings**

In addition to penal and monetary penalties, § 1836(a) authorizes the government to file a civil action seeking injunctive relief.<sup>35</sup> In a small number of cases, the availability of this remedy could be important because the section would permit the government to use its injunctive power during the initial stages of a prosecution to maintain the status quo or prevent public disclosure of a victim's secret. Or in some circumstances where the defendant's conduct does not rise to the level of a criminal violation, civil injunctive relief may prove to be an appropriate substitute for criminal punishment. However, as has been pointed out, § 1836 adds little to the EEA.<sup>36</sup> Further, from a practical standpoint, because most Assistant United States Attorneys are unfamiliar (and uncomfortable) with civil law, they will not actively seek to use this section. Given these limitations, it is not unsurprising that there are no reported instances of the government seeking injunctive relief under § 1836.

**[ii] Criminal Forfeiture**

Section 1834 provides that the court in sentencing "shall order" the forfeiture of "any property constituting, or derived from, any proceeds the person obtained, directly or indirectly," from the theft of the trade secret.<sup>37</sup> The court may also order the forfeiture of "any of the person's [or organization's] property used . . . to commit or facilitate the commission [of the offense]."<sup>38</sup> With regard to the latter provision, the court may in its discretion take into consideration "the nature, scope, and proportionality of the use of the property in the offense."<sup>39</sup> The property in question is forfeited to the United States, rather than to the victim of the crime.<sup>40</sup> The legislative history of the EEA, however, suggests that

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<sup>35</sup> This section provides:

(a) The Attorney General may, in a civil action, obtain appropriate injunctive relief against any violation of this section.

<sup>36</sup> "Understanding the Economic Espionage Act of 1996" at 203.

<sup>37</sup> 18 U.S.C.A. § 1834(a)(1).

<sup>38</sup> 18 U.S.C.A. § 1834(a)(2).

<sup>39</sup> *Id.*

<sup>40</sup> *Id.*

victims may be able to seek restitution from the United States out of the forfeited proceeds.<sup>41</sup>

Section 1834 of the EEA provides that, with certain minor exceptions, the forfeiture of proceeds and instruments shall be governed under the laws relating to drug forfeitures. Those laws vest title to the seized property in the United States, and provides that the Attorney General shall dispose of those assets “by sale or any other commercially feasible means.”<sup>42</sup> It has been suggested that this requirement may pose a problem to the owner of the trade secret because where the seized assets include a product embodying the trade secret, the sale by the government of this product could result in the further dissemination of the trade secret which, of course, is inconsistent with the victim’s interest in keeping the information secret.<sup>43</sup>

Although such a reading of the statute is literally correct, it is extremely unlikely for it to ever be more than a theoretical issue: First, the property embodying the trade secret seized from the defendant is directly analogous to seized counterfeit goods such as computer CDs, T-shirts and watches.<sup>44</sup> In such instances, the government does not sell the counterfeit property to the highest bidder, but destroys the property, often in a manner designed to obtain maximum publicity and deterrence value, such as by publicly crushing the counterfeit items with a steamroller. Second, it is extremely unlikely and illogical that the government, having acted to preserve a trade secret, would then jeopardize this through the public sale of goods embodying the trade secret.<sup>45</sup>

#### **[f] Extraterritorial Application**

Section 1837 governs the applicability of the EEA to conduct that occurs, in whole or in part, outside the United States. The scope of the EEA under § 1837 is extremely broad and is consistent with the goal of the EEA of reaching foreign espionage, much of which occurs outside the United States. For example, under this subsection, a foreign corporation that sells a product in the United States that embodies a stolen trade secret can be

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<sup>41</sup> 142 Cong. Rec. S12213 (daily ed. Oct. 2, 1996) (statement of Sen. Nickles).

<sup>42</sup> 21 U.S.C.A. § 853.

<sup>43</sup> “Understanding the Economic Espionage Act of 1996” at 202.

<sup>44</sup> *See, e.g.*, 18 U.S.C.A. § 2319A(c).

<sup>45</sup> Some people might argue that the illogic of the situation makes it likely that the government would act in that fashion.

prosecuted in the United States if the misappropriation occurred here. This is true regardless of where the product was manufactured. Significantly, the EEA also expressly applies to wholly foreign acts of economic espionage if the defendant is either a permanent resident alien of the United States or a U.S. corporation. Because of the broad reach of the EEA, foreign companies that do business in the United States or with American companies must become particularly sensitive to the scope of the EEA to avoid running afoul of its provisions.<sup>46</sup>

Further, although the United States could exercise jurisdiction under § 1837(2) in a situation where a non-American company misappropriated a trade secret from another non-American company on the basis that an act in furtherance of the offense was committed in the United States, it is extremely unlikely that a United States Attorney's Office would agree to prosecute such a case because involvement in such an extraterritorial matter by a United States Attorney's Office would be a waste of scarce resources and could also lead to the United States' becoming involved in what is essentially an internal dispute in a foreign country.

#### **[g] Construction With Other Laws**

Section 1838 states that "[t]his chapter shall not be construed to preempt or displace any other remedies, whether civil or criminal provided by United States Federal, State . . . or to affect the otherwise lawful disclosure of information by any Government employee under section 552 of title 5" (commonly known as the Freedom of Information Act). Thus the EEA does not block any possible existing remedies and could be charged in combination, in appropriate circumstances, with other existing federal criminal laws such as criminal copyright infringement.<sup>47</sup>

#### **[h] Department of Justice Oversight**

In general, United States Attorney's Offices have almost absolute prosecutorial discretion in whether to open a criminal investigation and seek an indictment for an alleged violation of federal criminal law. Except in limited cases involving high profile crimes or national security matters, United States Attorney's Offices do not consult, and are not required to seek the

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<sup>46</sup> For a further discussion of this issue, see "EEA Violations Could Trigger Criminal Sanctions," Hoken S. Sekei and Peter J. Toren, *The National Law Journal*, August 25, 1997 at B8.

<sup>47</sup> 18 U.S.C.A. § 2319.



approval of, the Attorney General or other Department of Justice officials in Washington. However, prior to the passage of the EEA, the Attorney General assured Congress in writing that for a period of five years, the Department of Justice will require that all prosecutions brought under the EEA must first be approved by the Attorney General, the Deputy Attorney General, or the Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division.<sup>48</sup>

28 C.F.R. § 0.64.5 expressly implements this requirement and also provides that “[v]iolations of this regulation are appropriately sanctionable and will be reported by the Attorney General to the Senate and House Judiciary Committees. Responsibility for reviewing proposed charges under the EEA rests with the Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section, Criminal Division, which will consult with the Internal Security Section, Criminal Division, in cases involving charges under 18 U.S.C.A. § 1831.” Congress imposed this notice requirement to try and prevent United States Attorney’s Offices from taking sides in purely business disputes.

#### **[i] Potential Defenses**

The EEA does not contain any reference to possible defenses. The legislative history of the EEA makes clear that parallel development or reverse engineering of the trade secret under certain circumstances could be a defense. Further, the legislative history also makes clear that an employee should be permitted to take his general skill and knowledge from one job to the next. The distinction between general knowledge that can be exploited and trade secret information that cannot be legally used by other than its rightful owner is very difficult to make. However, the importance of making this distinction in today’s high-tech economy in which employees change jobs with great frequency

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<sup>48</sup> The legislative history contains no suggestion as to why Congress sought and obtained this promise from the Attorney General. It has been suggested, however, that Congress was concerned that: (1) a United States Attorney’s Office could make use of the EEA for political purposes, such as by threatening to prosecute, or agreeing not to prosecute, a corporation or powerful individual within its jurisdiction; or (2) a United State Attorney’s Office could have an effect on United States foreign policy by indicting, without the knowledge of anyone in Washington, a foreign government official. The latter reason is more persuasive since a United States Attorney’s Office could use almost any federal criminal law as part of a threatened indictment. Whereas, for example, if the United States Attorney’s office for North Dakota indicts a French government official without the knowledge of the Attorney General or the State Department, it could have an impact beyond the confines of the boundaries of North Dakota and could affect the relationship between the United States and France.

cannot be underestimated. It can mean the difference to a company between being investigated and prosecuted for theft of trade secrets under the EEA, and lawfully profiting from the general knowledge and skills brought to the company by a new employee. For this reason, parallel development, reverse engineering and general knowledge and skills will be discussed, in turn, as potential defenses to an EEA charge.

### **[j] Parallel Development**

The legislative history of the EEA adopts the well-established, civil trade secret law precept that a person who develops a trade secret, unlike the holder of a patent, does not have an absolute monopoly on the information or data that comprises the trade secret.<sup>49</sup> Thus, the EEA “does not in any way prohibit companies, manufacturers, or inventors from using their skills, knowledge and experience to solve a problem or invent a product that they know someone else is also working on.”<sup>50</sup> In that respect, it is very important for companies to maintain accurate records showing in detail the steps taken to independently develop the trade secret. Thus, if faced with an allegation of theft, a company can document how it independently developed the trade secret.

### **[k] Reverse Engineering**

Reverse engineering refers to the generally lawful practice of taking something apart to determine how it was made or manufactured.<sup>51</sup> The legislative history of the EEA suggests that the focus of whether a trade secret was lawfully reverse engineered should be on “whether the accused has committed one of the prohibited acts of this statute rather than whether he or she has ‘reverse engineered.’ If someone has lawfully gained access to a trade secret and can replicate it without violating copyright, patent,

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<sup>49</sup> 142 Cong. Rec. S12212 (Oct. 2, 1996), citing *Kewanee Oil Co. v. Bicron Corp.*, 416 U.S. 470, 490-91 (1974) (“If something is to be discovered at all very likely it will be discovered by more than one person . . . . Even were an inventor to keep his discovery completely to himself, something that neither the patent nor trade secret laws forbid, there is a high probability that it will be soon independently developed. If the invention, though still a trade secret, is put into public use, the competition is alerted to the existence of the inventor’s solution to the problem and may be encouraged to make an extra effort to independently find the solution . . .”).

<sup>50</sup> *Id.*

<sup>51</sup> *See, e.g., Kewanee*, 416 U.S. at 476 (The law does not protect the owner of a trade secret from “discovery by fair and honest means, such as independent invention, accidental disclosure, or by so-called reverse engineering.”).

or this law, then that form of 'reverse engineering' should be fine."<sup>52</sup>

It has been suggested that if this understanding of the scope of permissible reverse engineering under the EEA is adopted by the courts, it would have a chilling effect on the development of new technology.<sup>53</sup> In support of this claim, the authors cite the use of a decompiler to reverse engineer computer source code. Because the use of a decompiler almost always involves the making of a prohibited "copy" of the program, it is argued that such an act would be illegal under the EEA,<sup>54</sup> although it would not be actionable under civil law.<sup>55</sup> Although this interpretation of the EEA may be literally correct, it is extremely unlikely that a United States Attorney's Office would seek to prosecute, and that the Department of Justice would approve the criminal prosecution of, an individual who could not be held liable under civil trade secrets law. Further, such an understanding of the EEA is inconsistent with Congress's intent that the EEA is intended to be applied only "in flagrant and egregious cases of information theft."<sup>56</sup>

## [I] General Knowledge

The EEA does not apply to individuals who seek to capitalize on their lawfully developed knowledge, skill or abilities. The legislative history makes clear that "[t]he government can not prosecute an individual for taking advantage of the general knowledge and skills or experience that he or she obtains by or during his tenure with a company. Allowing such prosecutions to go forward and allowing the risk of such charges to be brought would unduly endanger legitimate and desirable economic behavior."<sup>57</sup> Thus, for example, employees who change jobs cannot be prosecuted under the EEA on the grounds that they were exposed to a trade secret while employed. This does not mean, however, that employees who leave a company to start their own companies can never be prosecuted under the EEA. Where the employees stole or without authorization appropriated a trade

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<sup>52</sup> *Id.*

<sup>53</sup> "Understanding the Economic Espionage Act of 1996" at 195.

<sup>54</sup> *Id.*

<sup>55</sup> *Id.* at 19.5-96 ("A computer programmer has the right to decompile a software program in certain circumstances under the USTA, copyright law, and the common law, without fear of civil liability.").

<sup>56</sup> 142 Cong. Rec. S12212 (Oct. 2, 1996) (Manager's statement).

<sup>57</sup> *Id.* at S12213.

secret from their employer, they may be prosecuted under § 1832, assuming, of course, that the other elements of the statute can also be satisfied. The First Circuit in *United States v. Martin*,<sup>58</sup> explained that the EEA “was not designed to punish competition, even when such competition relies on the know-how of former employees of a direct competitor. It was, however, designed to prevent those employees (and their future employers) from taking advantage of confidential information gained, discovered, copied, or taken while employed elsewhere.”

### [m] Prosecutions Under the EEA

Although it is hard to generalize what type of misconduct the Department of Justice will approve as suitable for prosecution under the EEA, based on the prosecutions brought by the government to date, it appears unlikely that the government will prosecute run-of-the-mill theft of trade secret cases. This should offer some reassurance to those who were concerned when the EEA was enacted that the government might end up taking sides in purely business disputes or that the Act was solely intended to provide work for the FBI. Following is a description of the prosecutions that have been brought under the EEA to date:<sup>59</sup>

1. *United States v. Worthing* (W.D. Pa.)—In the first prosecution brought under the EEA, Patrick Worthing was caught on tape offering to sell proprietary information he stole from Pittsburgh Plate Glass to an undercover FBI agent whom Worthing believed was working for PPG’s competitor and rival, Owens Corning. Patrick’s brother, Daniel, was also charged with assisting Patrick in exchange for \$100. Both defendants pleaded guilty. Patrick Worthing was sentenced to fifteen months in prison. Daniel Worthing received five years’ probation including six months of home detention.

2. *United States v. Hsu* (E.D. Pa.)—A grand jury indicted defendants Kai Lo Hsu and Chester Ho for conspiring to obtain and attempting to obtain trade secret information from Bristol-Myers relating to an anti-cancer drug known as Taxol.<sup>60</sup> The FBI arrested the defendants after a meeting with an undercover agent and a Bristol-Myers scientist, and after allegedly

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<sup>58</sup> 228 F.3d 1 (1<sup>st</sup> Cir. 2000).

<sup>59</sup> See, e.g., Robert Dreyfus “Spy vs. No-Spy,” *The New Republic*, December 23, 1996.

<sup>60</sup> *United States v. Hsu*, 155 F.3d 189 (3d Cir. 1998).

reviewing actual Bristol-Myers documents relating to Taxol and bearing confidential markings.

3. *United States v. Yang* (N.D. Ohio)—On April 28, 1999, a jury convicted defendants P.Y. Yang, H.C. Yang and Four Pillars, Inc. of conspiracy to steal trade secrets and attempted theft of trade secrets from the Avery Dennison Corporation. The defendants had obtained the trade secrets from a senior engineer at Avery, Victor Lee, over the course of an eight year period beginning in 1989.<sup>61</sup> Mr. Lee pleaded guilty to one count of wire fraud and cooperated with the government. The trial judge, despite evidence that the value of the purloined trade secrets was over \$10 million, sentenced both of the individual defendants to home detention. He fined the corporation the \$5 million maximum permitted by statute. The government is appealing the sentences imposed on the individual defendants.

4. *United States v. Steven Davis* (D. Mass.)—Steven Davis, who was an engineer at a company under contract to Gillette to assist in the development of the new Mach 3 shaving system pleaded guilty to sending confidential Gillette information relating to this shaving system to the Bic Corporation.<sup>62</sup> Davis was sentenced to twenty-seven months in prison and ordered to pay \$1.2 million in restitution to Gillette.<sup>63</sup>

5. *United States v. Trujillo-Cohen* (S. D. Tex.)—The defendant pleaded guilty to providing copies of certain proprietary software programs belonging to her former employer, Deloitte-Touche, to two subsequent employers. She also provided a “teaser” of one of the programs to another company in order to induce them to hire her as a consultant and to pay her a \$10,000 signing bonus. Trujillo-Cohen was sentenced to forty-eight months’ imprisonment and ordered to pay \$337,000 in restitution to Deloitte-Touche.

6. *United States v. Campbell* (N.D. Ga.)—The circulation manager for the Gwinnett Daily Post, Carroll Lee Campbell, Jr., pleaded guilty to offering to sell proprietary circulation information to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution for

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<sup>61</sup> For a description of the facts in this case, *United States v. Yang, et al.*, 74 F. Supp. 2d 724 (N.D. Ohio 1999).

<sup>62</sup> *United States v. Steven Louis Davis*, No. 97-123 (M.D. Tenn.).

<sup>63</sup> *The Boston Globe* (April 30, 1998) at E1 6.

\$150,000.<sup>64</sup> Campbell was sentenced to three months' imprisonment and four months' home confinement.

7. *United States v. Fulton (W.D. Pa.)*—Defendant John Fulton pleaded guilty to attempting to purchase proprietary information belonging to his former employer, Joy Mining Machinery Company. Fulton was arrested and charged after the FBI monitored a telephone call in which Fulton offered to pay \$1,500 to a current Joy Mining employee for proprietary diagrams relating to coal mining equipment. Fulton is awaiting sentencing.

8. *United States v. Krumrei (D. Haw.)*—Krumrei, a Michigan attorney, was charged with violating the EEA after the FBI surveilled a meeting during which the defendant allegedly disclosed three trade secrets relating to a new confidential process for applying a Formica-like coating to laminate contacting surfaces owned by an Australian company. In an interview with the FBI, Krumrei denied having stolen the information, and claimed that he obtained it from publicly available information and information previously disclosed to him by his former employer, who had been hired by the Australian company to assist with the development of the confidential process. The Australian company has assured the government that Krumrei could have obtained the information only through theft, not from publicly available sources and it has a confidentiality agreement with Krumrei's former employer. The information is allegedly valued in the millions of dollars.

9. *United States v. Hallsted & Pringle (E.D. Tex.)*—Defendants Steve Hallsted and Brian Pringle pleaded guilty to violating the EEA for offering to sell prototypes of a new Intel computer central processing unit known as the "Slot II" to one of Intel's competitors, Cyrex, for \$75,000. Intel has estimated that the company would have lost up to \$10 million dollars if a rival corporation had obtained a Slot II CPU before its introduction into the retail market. Defendants are awaiting sentencing.

10. *United States v. Huang Dao Pei (D. N.J.)*—The United States Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey indicted Huang Dao Pei, a former scientist at Roche Diagnostics, for allegedly trying to obtain information from a current Roche employee who was cooperating with the government and secretly recorded his meeting with the defendant. Huang allegedly told the Roche employee that he needed to obtain information about Roche's hepatitis C diagnostic testing kit so that his company,

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<sup>64</sup> *United States v. Campbell (N.D. Ga.)*.

LCC Enterprises, could develop a similar kit and sell it in China. No trial date has been set.

11. *United States v. Camp* (D. Me.)—On September 16, 1998, a federal grand jury in Maine returned an indictment charging Caryn Camp and Dr. Stephen R. Martin with ten counts of wire fraud, two counts of mail fraud, one count of conspiracy to steal trade secrets, one count of conspiracy to transport stolen goods, and one count of interstate transportation of stolen goods. The trade secrets related to confidential information belonging to Ms. Camp's then current employer Idexx Labs, a Maine Company that manufactures veterinary supplies. The government became involved after Camp accidentally sent to her supervisor an e-mail stating that she had mailed a large number of stolen documents to Martin. The e-mail stated that the shipment included two boxes containing seven binders' worth of trade materials and that "there's some really cool stuff coming through, you'll feel like a kid on Christmas Day!" In a follow-up message to Martin after she apparently realized her stupidity, Camp wrote "I just screwed up, I think the biggest screw-up of my life. And I can't stop shaking, I'm so scared." Camp pleaded guilty and agreed to testify at trial. At trial, the jury convicted Martin four counts of wire fraud, two counts of mail fraud and the conspiracy counts.<sup>65</sup>

**[n] The Criminal Referral Process**

**[i] Advantages/Disadvantages of Prosecution**

The EEA can provide important benefits to a trade secret owner. First, prosecution demonstrates that a company will take whatever steps are necessary to protect its proprietary and confidential information. Second, prosecution is an extremely effective deterrent. Third, because the federal government pays all costs, a corporation can greatly reduce its legal expenses by not having to hire private lawyers to litigate its claims. Fourth, federal law provides that the victim of a crime may obtain full restitution for its losses, and a corporation may be entitled to financial remuneration without having to incur legal costs.<sup>66</sup>

The advantages of criminal prosecution, however, must be weighed against potential risks. The most significant disadvantage of criminal prosecution for a victim is ceding control of the process to the federal government, which may or may not have the same interests. For example, a victim cannot force the government to

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<sup>65</sup> See *United States v. Martin*, 228 F.3d 1 (1<sup>st</sup> Cir. 2000).

<sup>66</sup> 18 U.S.C.A. § 3663.

dismiss charges against the defendant as a condition for reaching a civil settlement. Further, the existence of a criminal prosecution may cause a court to stay a parallel civil proceeding greatly slowing down the victim's recovery of damages. Finally, because a criminal defendant is generally entitled to broader discovery, the existence of a criminal prosecution may lead to the disclosure of records and confidential information that the victim would not have been required to disclose in the civil litigation.

When making the decision whether to refer a theft of trade secrets to the government for possible prosecution, it is also important to understand that for a variety of reasons most theft of trade secret cases are not suitable candidates for criminal prosecution. First, Congress did not intend for the EEA to replace civil trade secret litigation. Second, United States Attorney's Offices are very busy and handle a wide variety of cases, which often involve defendants who are accused of violent crimes that are considered far more serious than the theft of trade secrets. Scarce resources have forced many United States Attorney's Offices to set guidelines to determine whether to investigate and prosecute white-collar crime cases, including those involving intellectual property. Third, the higher standard of proof in criminal cases may mean that, while a victim might have a very strong civil case, the matter may still be unsuitable for criminal prosecution and therefore be declined by a United States Attorney.

While there is no single factor that is likely to determine whether a United States Attorney's Office will prosecute a defendant for the theft of trade secrets, the following discussion addresses some of the factors that a United States Attorney's Office will examine and weigh in evaluating a referral. It is intended therefore to aid a victim in evaluating whether to refer a matter to the government for possible prosecution, and to maximize the chances for a successful referral.

### **[ii] Factors Leading to Prosecution**

In determining whether to take a particular case, the prosecutor will take into consideration the following factors:

#### **(1) *The Adequacy of the Security Measures***

In order to establish that criminal prosecution is warranted, the victim must be able to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the United States Attorney's Office that it used "reasonable measures"



to protect the information in question.<sup>67</sup> The EEA requires that the extent of the victim's efforts to protect sensitive information be commensurate with the value of the trade secret. In the current competitive intelligence climate, the government will carefully scrutinize the adequacy of the victim's efforts to protect its trade secrets because the defendant, in turn, will closely examine these procedures at trial. In particular, in evaluating the merits of a referral for a violation of the EEA, a United States Attorney's Office will seek to answer the following questions:

- (a) Is there objective and independently verifiable evidence demonstrating that the information is a trade secret?
  - (b) Was the information of a discrete nature that can be readily distinguished from less protected information?
  - (c) Has the victim or any of its subcontractors or licensees ever intentionally or inadvertently disclosed the information?
  - (d) How was the distribution of information limited by the victim, if at all?
  - (e) Were nondisclosure agreements used to protect the information from outsiders?
  - (f) What other steps, such as password-protected electronic storage, encrypted data, physical security, were taken to protect the information?
- (2) *The Type of Information Misappropriated*

Although the EEA expressly covers all types of information within the definition of trade secrets, the government, for a variety of reasons, is more likely to prosecute a matter involving the theft of scientific or research information than a matter involving pure business information. First, scientific information is likely to be worth more than business information and thus is more likely to meet the financial thresholds established by most United States Attorney's Offices. Additionally, the economic value of business information is often difficult to quantify in a meaningful way and has a short shelf life. In other words, business information may be valueless at the time of trial, which greatly diminishes its perceived significance and the jury appeal of the case.

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<sup>67</sup> 18 U.S.C.A. § 1839.

Second, the EEA specifically requires that the alleged trade secret be “related to or included in a product that is produced for or placed in interstate or foreign commerce.” As of yet, there is no reported decision interpreting the scope of this requirement, however, it is possible that many types of business information, such as corporate expansion and development plans, may not satisfy this element of the statute.

(3) *Evidence of Misappropriation and/or Consciousness of Guilt*

In general, the EEA makes it a crime to obtain a trade secret by almost any means, including copying.<sup>68</sup> The EEA even covers situations where the lawful owner retains the original copy of the trade secret and is not deprived of its use. However, physical evidence of misappropriation is usually necessary to establish the intent elements of the statute, i.e., that:

- (a) The defendant intended to convert a trade secret to the economic benefit of someone other than the owner;
- (b) The defendant intended or knew that the offense would injure the owner of the trade secret; and,
- (c) The defendant misappropriated the information knowingly.

Without any physical evidence of theft, proving these required intent elements may be extremely difficult. Thus the government will be extremely wary of investigating and prosecuting a defendant if there is little or no physical evidence of theft.

In order to overcome this reluctance of the government to prosecute cases where there is little or no physical evidence of theft, the victim must be able to point to other evidence that can be used to establish intent, such as admissions or statements found in any correspondence, or through patterns of behavior that demonstrate a consciousness of guilt. For example, is there evidence that the defendant behaved in an inappropriate manner or evinced an intent to hide transactions? Is there information, such as computer logs, that would provide evidence of an unauthorized intrusion into a victim’s network, or prove that certain files had been accessed and copied by the unauthorized user? Without the existence of such evidence, it is unlikely that the government will

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<sup>68</sup> *Id.* §§ 1831(a)(2), 1832(a)(2).

seek to prosecute an individual who misappropriated the trade secret by hiding it in the recesses of his mind.

(4) *Cooperation of the Victim*

Although not legally required, in order for the government to get involved, the victim must be completely cooperative. Federal prosecutors have better things to do with their time than to attempt to prosecute a defendant where the victim does not fully support the prosecution. In other words, why should the government care if the victim doesn't? Moreover, unlike most other federal crimes, the information necessary to establish the elements of an EEA violation is usually in the victim's control, such as evidence of reasonable measures to keep the information secret, evidence about the nature and value of the stolen information, and access to the victim's documents and personnel. To put it simply, without the victim's full cooperation, the government will not prosecute.

(5) *Availability of Defenses*

Another important factor that the government will closely examine in deciding whether to open an investigation is whether there are potentially strong defenses available to the defendant. For example, the government will not want to become involved in a matter in which the defendant can creditably claim that he developed the trade secret independently or that the trade secret was reverse engineered. Other potential defenses also will be explored by the government, such as whether the trade secret was inadvertently disclosed in scientific journals or intentionally disclosed through, for example, the filing of a foreign patent application. The government will more closely examine the applicability of potential defenses in situations where there is little or no physical evidence of misappropriation.

(6) *Timing of the Referral*

In most instances, the government will view timely referrals with favor. As with any crime, prompt reporting increases the likelihood that relevant evidence will be located. In the theft of trade secret context, prompt reporting reduces the likely applicability of some relevant defenses, such as reverse engineering or parallel development. However, the possibility that a prompt referral will lead to criminal prosecution may be outweighed by the benefits of a thorough investigation.

The likelihood of acceptance of the case may increase dramatically if the victim thoroughly investigates the matter and is able to present a “beautifully wrapped” case file to the United States Attorney’s Office for review. Such a ready-made case often can be very appealing to overworked federal investigators and prosecutors. Further, it demonstrates to the government that the victim is serious and will cooperate fully in the investigation and prosecution. Thus, victims who want to maximize their chances for a successful criminal referral, upon discovery of the theft, should contact experienced outside legal counsel to discuss whether the matter should be investigated privately or should be immediately reported to the government.

(7) *Value of the Misappropriated Information*

The EEA does not contain a jurisdictional monetary amount. However, most United States Attorney’s Offices have established monetary thresholds in white-collar cases for investigation and prosecution. Thus, the monetary loss to the victim must be great enough to warrant criminal investigation and prosecution. This minimum threshold varies from office to office, but in some large districts, such as the Central District of California (Los Angeles) or the Southern District of New York (Manhattan) the loss to the victim must exceed \$100,000. Since there is often no legitimate market for trade secrets, establishing economic loss can be difficult.

Although it can be difficult for a victim to accurately establish the value of the trade secret and its financial loss, victims should attempt to do so as accurately as possible. Many experienced government investigators and prosecutors are highly suspicious, and rightly so, of unsubstantiated loss figures supplied by the victim. Therefore, victims should provide the government, as early as possible in the referral process, with documents or other evidence to permit the government to attempt to independently verify the extent of the loss. This is extremely important because independent estimates of significant loss usually weigh heavily in favor of investigation and prosecution.

(8) *Availability/Sufficiency of Civil Remedies*

Even if other factors strongly suggest that investigation and prosecution is warranted, a United States Attorney’s Office may decline the matter because of the availability and adequacy of civil remedies. Although this factor alone should not in and of itself be determinative of whether to prosecute because a victim of a theft of the secret almost always has a civil remedy, the completeness of

the civil remedy will be carefully examined by a United States Attorney's Office.

In determining the completeness of the victim's civil remedy, the government can be expected to ask the following questions:

- (a) Is the defendant judgment proof?
- (b) Does the victim have the financial resources to pursue a civil remedy?
- (c) Is the defendant's conduct pervasive or far reaching?
- (d) Can the defendant be located without the assistance of law enforcement?
- (e) Are state trade secret laws inadequate?

If all these questions can be answered in the negative, it is extremely unlikely that the government will investigate and prosecute.

#### **[o] Procedure**

The procedure of making a referral to the government for the theft of trade secrets is identical to that for all criminal referrals to the federal government involving white collar crime. The first step is for the victim or its attorney to contact the local United States Attorney's Office or the FBI office. If the decision is made to first contact the United States Attorney's Office, the victim should seek to discuss the matter directly with the Assistant who has been designated the Computer and Telecommunications Coordinator or "CTC" for that Office. There is at least one CTC in every United States Attorney's Office and they have received specialized training from the Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section in Washington in this area of the law among others.

Although the CTCs must follow the prosecutive guidelines of their respective office there is some flexibility and discretion in the system. It is more likely that a theft of trade secret referral made directly to an Assistant United States Attorney, who already understands the law and often has greater understanding of

recommend that it should be opened for investigation and prosecution. Further, from a human standpoint, because most CTCs are genuinely interested in this subject matter and often will end up prosecuting the case themselves, it is to the victim's

technical issues, will v

advantage to get them familiar with the matter as early in the referral process as possible.

Finally, if the victim believes that the United States Attorney's Office should not have declined the matter, the victim should consider discussing the matter with an attorney in the Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section of the Criminal Division in Washington, D.C. The Section's attorneys have considerable expertise in this area, and the Section has the resources to prosecute cases, including those that have been declined by a United States Attorney's Office.

**[p] Avoiding or Reducing Corporate Criminal Exposure**

There has been a lot of discussion since the passage of the EEA that corporations will be prosecuted under the EEA for activities that they routinely previously engaged in, such as collecting competitive intelligence. Although this is extremely unlikely to happen, corporations should examine their procedures on the handling of confidential information in order to avoid or reduce corporate criminal exposure should the unthinkable occur. Moreover, by enacting these basic procedures, corporations will reduce their civil liability exposure. In general, standards regarding contracting authority and rules for entering into nondisclosure agreements should be reviewed. Hiring and personnel practices should be investigated with the goal to avoid hiring employees who intend to use the trade secrets of their former employees. Procedures should be put into place to ensure that the intellectual property rights of others are respected.

The most important feature of any strategy for avoiding or mitigating corporate exposure under the EEA is a "compliance plan." In fact, the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which must be followed by all federal courts, provide that an "organization"<sup>69</sup> can reduce its culpability by establishing and maintaining an effective program to prevent and detect violations of the law. Moreover, a good compliance plan also can aid in convincing a United States Attorney's Office and the Justice Department that prosecution of the corporation is not warranted because the corporation itself was victimized by a "rogue" employee.

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<sup>69</sup> "Organization" as defined by the guidelines includes corporations, partnerships, associations, nonprofit organizations, pension funds, unions and unincorporated organizations.

The primary goal of a compliance plan is to actually prevent unauthorized secrets from becoming part of the company's knowledge base. Because a good compliance plan will by definition raise the level of awareness within the organization about the importance of intellectual property, it will also lead to the increased protection of a company's own intellectual property. Since the loss or disclosure of most corporate trade secrets is most often caused by accident or negligence, a compliance plan can be an extremely effective and cost efficient way to safeguard a company's own confidential information.

Other general goals of a successful compliance plan are to increase the likelihood of early discovery and avoid liability in civil litigation. Civil lawsuits for trade secret misappropriations are on the increase, especially in technology-related industries. Just as in the criminal context, the implementation of a compliance plan is not a shield against all civil lawsuits, but it does reduce their likelihood and potential liability.

The following is a description of the eight most important elements of a compliance plan as proscribed by the Federal Sentencing Guidelines.<sup>70</sup>

(1) *Standards and Procedure*—The plan must include “standards and procedures to be followed” by all the employees of the organization.<sup>71</sup> The standards should be specific enough to guide the employees in the exercise of their daily jobs. This part of the plan must also include such specific details as to the steps an employee must follow if a problem is identified, and the consequences for failing to comply.

(2) *Oversight*—The sentencing guidelines require that the plan be implemented by “high level personnel of the organization.”<sup>72</sup> Thus, ultimate responsibility for the plan must lie with a management level person who has the authority to assure that the plan is followed. Furthermore, the President, CEO and Board of Directors should be kept regularly informed about the status of the plan.

(3) *Due Care in Delegation of Authority*—The plan must not give “discretionary authority to individuals whom the organization knew or should have known through due diligence to

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<sup>70</sup> 18 U.S.C.A. § 8A1.2, comment (n.3)(k).

<sup>71</sup> *Id.* at comment (n.3)(k)(1).

<sup>72</sup> *Id.* at comment (n.3)(k)(2).

have a propensity to engage in illegal activities.”<sup>73</sup> Background checks and careful scrutiny of resumes and references are examples of necessary procedures in this area.

(4) *Communication and Training*—The compliance plan must include steps to communicate standards through training programs.<sup>74</sup> The plan should focus initially on new employees, but also must be ongoing to inform existing employees about new developments in this area.

(5) *Monitoring and Auditing*—The plan must include procedures to supervise the company’s operations to assure that violations are likely to be detected and reported within the organization.<sup>75</sup> The monitoring should be periodically audited to assess the plan’s effectiveness and to make any changes if needed.

(6) *Discipline*—The plan’s standards must be “consistently enforced through appropriate discretionary mechanisms, including, as appropriate, discipline of individuals responsible for the failure to detect an offense.”<sup>76</sup> The organization, therefore, must keep careful records that violators were subject to appropriate discipline.

(7) *Reporting*—After a violation has been detected, the organization must take “all reasonable steps to respond appropriately to the offense and to prevent further similar offenses.”<sup>77</sup>

The sentencing guidelines also stress that the compliance plan should be tailored to fit the individual characteristics of the company. An effective compliance plan, therefore, must reflect the following factors: (a) size of the organization; (b) risks associated with the company’s business; (c) past history of security problems or trade secret thefts; and (d) any applicable industry of government standards related to government security.<sup>78</sup>

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<sup>73</sup> *Id.* at comment (n.3)(k)(4).

<sup>74</sup> *Id.* at comment (n.3)(k)(5).

<sup>75</sup> *Id.* at comment (n.3)(k)(5).

<sup>76</sup> *Id.* at comment (n.3)(k)(6).

<sup>77</sup> *Id.* at comment (n.3)(k)(7).

<sup>78</sup> *Id.* at comment (n.3)(k)(7)(i-iii).