



**2019 PA INSURANCE FRAUD PREVENTION AUTHORITY**

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Respectfully,



Thomas A. Donahue III  
Executive Director



## To the Honorable Governor Tom Wolf and Members of the PA General Assembly

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Insurance Fraud Prevention Authority (IFPA), a legislatively crafted public-private partnership, I am pleased to present the IFPA's annual report for the calendar year 2019.

Since 1995, the IFPA has been charged with determining the scope of Pennsylvania's insurance fraud problem and directing resources to prevent and prosecute fraud crimes statewide. It receives funding from insurers and disperses it in the form of grants to state and local law enforcement agencies. The IFPA's approach, and that of our grantees, is to investigate and aggressively prosecute all insurance fraud crimes and educate the public about the many types and consequences of insurance fraud. In 2019, 910 insurers paid a total of \$15,403,247 into the Pennsylvania's Insurance Fraud Prevention Trust Fund, and \$14,608,993 in grants was given to support the work of 25 prosecutors, 56 investigators, and 15 support staff in attacking insurance fraud across Pennsylvania. The IFPA also invested \$900,000 to continue the momentum of its statewide public education program.

In 2019, 74 percent of all insurance fraud arrests were auto related. In fact, the number one insurance fraud crime in Pennsylvania is what I call "crash and buy." In this instance, an uninsured driver is involved in an accident. Immediately following the accident, the driver calls an insurance company to purchase insurance coverage and then reports a claim, stating that the accident occurred after the coverage went into effect. In early 2019, the IFPA debuted a new television commercial, entitled "Crash and Buy." The commercial earned several awards, including the Excellence Award from the Communicators Awards, Gold from the Hermes Creative Awards, and a Telly Award.

Most of the auto insurance frauds appear to have been opportunistic crimes, committed to avoid monetary loss or obtain unwarranted financial gain, involving unwise decisions made by people who had no prior criminal history, and with defendants 18 to 34 years of age comprising nearly half of all offenders. Reaching and deterring younger auto insurance users from engaging in fraud continues to be the IFPA's public outreach priority.

Last year, the IFPA and its grantees again made gains in enforcement and prosecution. In 2019, a total of 4,115 complaints of suspected insurance fraud (fraud referrals) were received by IFPA grantees, an increase in overall fraud referrals of three percent over 2018. Grantees made 427 arrests that ranged from individuals who committed one time thefts to those who were involved in long-running fraud schemes worth millions of dollars. The IFPA grantees prosecuted 416 defendants, yielding \$11,001,933 in restitution to insurance fraud victims and \$62,909 in civil penalties to the Trust Fund. A total of \$583,335 in court costs and fines was also ordered to be paid by defendants to the courts.

The Commonwealth's insurance fraud problem impacted all lines of insurance:

- 56% auto insurance • 9% workers' compensation
- 13% homeowners • 8% healthcare • 6% commercial property/liability
- 3% life insurance • 5% other

The IFPA saw a significant increase in healthcare fraud arrests in 2019: an increase of 264 percent from 14 arrests in 2018 to 51 arrests in 2019. The Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General (OAG) was responsible for the majority of those arrests (42).

The participation of the OAG in the Philadelphia-based FBI Healthcare Fraud Task Force led to increased involvement in larger and more complex healthcare cases. The Insurance Fraud Section, supported by the IFPA, has committed a full-time agent to the Task Force since the end of 2017. In 2019, the OAG agent was responsible for a significant number of investigations that resulted in arrests.

The OAG completed an investigation into Liberation Way, a drug treatment center operating in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. This investigation revealed that Liberation Way, and its founding members and associates, generated millions of dollars in profits by exploiting individuals with drug and alcohol dependencies as tools to defraud insurance companies. Liberation Way and various employees and individuals affiliated with the center and the scheme illegally secured and paid the premiums for their patients' insurance policies so they could then bill insurance companies for treatments that were sub-standard, not provided, or not medically necessary. From this single, complex investigation, 20 individuals and businesses were criminally charged.

The opioid epidemic that has gripped the country, and significantly impacted Pennsylvania, has also increased the number of healthcare fraud investigations. The OAG has seen insurance fraud investigations continue to be associated with drug diversion.

The IFPA continues its steadfast commitment to reducing insurance fraud in all parts of Pennsylvania. I appreciate this opportunity to share our accomplishments and challenges with you. I thank you, your administration and all members of the General Assembly for your past and future support of the IFPA in combating Pennsylvania's insurance fraud problem.

## 2019 PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

Using the “Know The Risks, Know The Penalties” platform, the IFPA launched a new series of consumer-facing creative assets in 2019, focusing on reducing auto insurance fraud through a strategic, statewide marketing and advertising campaign, “Crash and Buy.”

This new campaign, which highlights the role of insurance fraud investigators, was developed in collaboration with IFPA’s marketing agency, PPO&S. It launched with a newly produced television spot that aired statewide in February 2019, during primetime programming such as “Law & Order,” “Cops,” “The Rookie,” “Blue Bloods” and “NCIS.”

The television spot depicts one of the most common auto insurance fraud scenarios that is a felony: wrecking an uninsured vehicle and then getting a policy to make a claim after the fact. The role of professional investigators showcased in the spot focuses on the key message of, “It’s not a matter of IF we catch you, but WHEN.”

**Watch the television spot here:** [youtube.com/watch?v=PNGlu9pLbTk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PNGlu9pLbTk)

### “CRASH AND BUY”

Throughout the year, the IFPA expanded the “Crash and Buy” campaign, developing broadcast radio and digital advertising assets to reach multiple audiences. While Philadelphia remained the priority geographic market for consumer education during 2019, both earned media and paid advertising were deployed across the Commonwealth at various times.



### HIGHLIGHTING FRAUD FIGHTING

After the IFPA’s annual Insurance Fraud Conference in April at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center in Hershey, Pennsylvania, the IFPA Facebook page featured posts that highlighted the 2019 Fraud Fighter Award recipients and their exemplary work. This spotlight on the award recipients garnered hundreds of well-deserved views and “likes” for these recognized industry leaders and improved the visibility of the good work done in the industry.

## SEEN AND HEARD

In addition to the premiere of the “Crash and Buy” television spot in February 2019, paid placements of its complimentary radio spot aired in both Pittsburgh and Philadelphia during the fall months while, at the same time, a digital campaign ran statewide for 12 weeks.

For the IFPA’s sponsorship of regional broadcasts of the Philadelphia Phillies games, a combination of radio spots from IFPA campaigns aired each weekend during the spring, summer and fall.

Also, in 2019, the IFPA trialed an inaugural partnership with the Pennsylvania Association of Broadcasters. This fueled a statewide airing of a new IFPA television spot in October.

In November, the IFPA added more powerful messaging to help prevent “Crash and Buy” acts with a new video called, “Handcuffed in Harleysville.” Within a few weeks of adding it to the YouTube channel, “See How They Lie,” the video received hundreds of views.



## POWER IN NUMBERS

In 2019, the IFPA’s homepage and public awareness campaign landing page, [www.helpstopfraud.org](http://www.helpstopfraud.org), registered 49,548 new visitors and the YouTube channel garnered 3,180 views.

The new “Crash and Buy” TV spot was recognized nationwide with multiple Communicator, Hermes Creative and Telly Awards. The IFPA also created and shared a non-Pennsylvania specific version of this spot with the Coalition Against Insurance Fraud for its members’ use, helping to educate consumers nationwide about the risks and penalties of committing insurance fraud.

## PENN STATE NITTANY LIONS

In 2019, the IFPA continued its relationship with Penn State Sports Properties to air 30 second radio commercials during Penn State Football games. Due to the success of the team, the IFPA was able to air additional radio commercials during this year’s Cotton Bowl. The IFPA also aired 30 second radio commercials during the weekly Inside Penn State Athletics program and ran digital ads on [www.GoPSUsports.com](http://www.GoPSUsports.com).

# “DON’T BE A WEASEL”

The IFPA rebranded the “Don’t Be a But” (DBAB) campaign to “Don’t Be a Weasel” over two years ago in order to capitalize on the use of the main character and mascot, Weasy the Weasel. The **“Only Weasels Commit Insurance Fraud”** tagline has been instrumental in this campaign finally hitting its stride. The campaign includes live action videos, animated cartoon clips, and comics to attract a younger generation that may not view insurance fraud as a serious crime.

One of the strengths of the “Don’t Be a Weasel Campaign” and of the Weasy character is that they appeal to both the target demographic of 18- to 35-year-olds and to younger kids as well. This campaign plants the seed early that insurance fraud is a serious crime, with serious consequences, and sparks conversations between kids and parents about insurance fraud.

In April 2019, the IFPA developed a new website, which has increased visitor traffic over the prior website. Live-action videos created in 2019 will be released on the site throughout 2020. They depict all kinds of different insurance fraud schemes. These and prior videos can be found on YouTube.

In 2019, there were 57,460 views of the Weasy videos, with 387,540 total YouTube views since the campaign’s inception in December 2014. Also in 2019, there were 55,642 impressions through the campaign Twitter page, a total reach of 131,844 Facebook users, and 2,671 Instagram video views.

A continued partnership with the Reading Phillies Minor League baseball team included the sponsorship of foul balls throughout the game. Whenever a batter hit a foul ball, a video displayed on the scoreboard, along with the PA announcer stating, “This foul ball brought to you by the PA Insurance Fraud Prevention Authority.” The partnership with the Fighting Phils reached approximately 600,000 fans throughout the season.

Weasy was also seen on the streets of Philadelphia through a continued partnership with Carvertise. Three vehicles wrapped in “Only Weasels Commit Insurance Fraud” and “Weasy” decals were driven throughout the city and the surrounding counties. In 2019, the campaign yielded more than 13 million impressions.

As the Weasy campaign grows, so will awareness of the seriousness of insurance fraud and its consequences. Ultimately, the goal is to decrease the amount of insurance fraud in Pennsylvania by educating younger generations to be more conscious of the true repercussions of fraud and to shift their behavior.



# ELEVEN CASE FILES

What compels unwise, hasty decision-making? Why do ordinary citizens become overnight criminals or, over time, become architects of complex fraud schemes? For those of us combating insurance fraud, these questions offer a constant source of debate, conversation, and water cooler talk. The answers are as different as the crimes perpetrated. It's the age-old question: "Why do good people do bad things?"

No matter the reason, our job is to protect the consumers of the Commonwealth. The IFPA remains steadfast in its efforts to reduce this behavior through prevention, detection, and prosecution. In the following stories, we hope to articulate the diverse range of insurance fraud being committed in our communities.

## FAKE INJURY

SCRANTON, PA

On January 30, 2019, a Scranton, Pennsylvania, woman was granted admittance to the Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition program and ordered to serve four months of probation and to pay \$1,523.50 in court costs. On September 18, 2018, detectives of the **Northeast Pennsylvania Insurance Fraud Task Force** filed a criminal complaint, charging the defendant with insurance fraud and attempted theft by deception. According to the complaint, the defendant claimed injury to her right foot from a six-pack of soda that fell from a display case at Gerrity's Supermarket and, subsequently, initiated a claim against the supermarket's insurer, **Brethren Mutual Insurance Company**. The defendant further claimed that she was unable to perform her duties as a nurse for six days after her purported injury. According to the complaint, video surveillance footage of the incident showed the defendant's sister taking two bottles of soda from the display, and as the defendant came closer, soda cans fell to the floor and rolled to a stop but did not reach the defendant. The defendant was reportedly then seen walking to the area of the spill and rubbing her right foot in a puddle of soda. Brethren Mutual denied the claim.



# SLIP AND FALL

PHILADELPHIA, PA

On March 4, 2019, from a non-negotiated guilty plea to insurance fraud, Matthew Chisom of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was sentenced to serve 23 months of confinement and was ordered to pay \$1,787.25 in court costs. On October 23, 2018, detectives of the **Delaware County District Attorney's Office** filed a criminal complaint, charging Chisom with insurance fraud and criminal use of a communication facility. According to the complaint, Chisom had filed a claim with

**Fresh Grocer Holdings, Inc.**, a self-insured corporation, after he claimed that he had sustained injuries to his head and back when he slipped and fell in liquid on the floor. Detectives obtained video surveillance footage, which showed no liquid on the floor prior to Chisom entering the area. On the video, Chisom is seen grabbing the top of a chair, placing it on the ground, and then lying down on his side, rolling over to his back, and immediately calling 911. It was alleged that Chisom had not been injured as he had claimed.





## ALWAYS SCHEMING LEVITTOWN, PA

On March 7, 2019, David Schilling was sentenced to three years of probation and was ordered to pay restitution of \$13,152.38 and court costs of \$1,968.25. In April 2019, Shamsideem A. Darden of Levittown, Pennsylvania, pleaded guilty to two counts each of insurance fraud and theft by deception, was sentenced to five years of probation, and was ordered to pay \$19,554.32 in restitution and court costs of \$708.25. James C. Wedul of Bristol, Pennsylvania, pleaded guilty to insurance fraud, theft by deception, and receiving stolen property. He was sentenced to serve three years of probation and was ordered to pay \$3,690.13 in restitution and court costs of \$985.25. On June 20, 2019, Robert W. Smith of Bristol, Pennsylvania, pleaded guilty to insurance fraud, was sentenced to 23 months of confinement and three years of probation, and was ordered to pay \$22,521.08 in restitution and court costs of \$982.19. In June 2018, detectives of the **Bucks County District Attorney's Office** filed criminal complaints, charging the defendants with insurance fraud and related charges for their participation in a scheme in which fraudulent claims with **State Auto Mutual Insurance Company** were filed, using several different vehicles, fraudulent IDs, altered invoices, and forged signatures. According to the complaint, the fraudulent scheme evolved as the result of a gasoline delivery mishap at a Shell gas station when a regular gas storage tank was filled with diesel fuel, causing numerous vehicles to be legitimately damaged.

# SETTING FIRE

## DOYLESTOWN, PA

On June 3, 2019, Claire A. Risoldi of Doylestown, Pennsylvania, was found guilty of two counts of insurance fraud and one count each of conspiracy, dealing in proceeds of unlawful activity, theft by deception, and attempted theft by deception. She was sentenced to serve 23 months of confinement and eight years of probation and was ordered to pay a \$10,000 fine, \$10,428,428.13 in restitution, and court costs of \$1,164. On January 22, 2015, **Office of Attorney General** special agents arrested several members of the Risoldi family.

Claire Risoldi was charged with one count each of corrupt organizations, attempted theft by deception, receiving stolen property, conspiracy to commit theft by deception, intimidation of witnesses or victims, obstructing the administration of law, tampering with records, criminal use of a communication facility, false reports to law enforcement, and insurance fraud. She was also charged with two counts each of dealing in proceeds of unlawful activities and theft by deception, and with three counts of forgery.

According to a grand jury presentment, the Risoldis defrauded insurance companies in excess of \$20 million. Reportedly, there had been three separate fires that had occurred at the Risoldis' mansion during a five-year period, and the investigation of each fire revealed large quantities of flammable materials found stockpiled around the fires' points of origin.

Evidence had established that the Risoldis had filed multiple questionable insurance claims over the past 20–30 years, and in one case in August 2014, it had been discovered that Claire Risoldi was still in possession of jewelry she had claimed was stolen in 1993. In addition, the investigation revealed that, with the assistance of another individual, Risoldi had attempted to obtain \$2 million for damaged window treatments at the mansion. It had been further alleged that she had used intimidation, threats, and bribery against potential witnesses in the case. Allegedly, \$7 million in assets was seized to include approximately \$3 million in seized bank accounts, \$1.2 million in jewelry, six Ferraris, two Rolls-Royces, one Cobra, and four other vehicles worth a reported total of \$2.8 million. Less than a month prior to an October 2013 fire, Risoldi had increased the value of jewelry covered under an insurance policy from \$100,000 to nearly \$11 million.

**AIG Insurance** paid the Risoldis more than \$20 million in claims for the three fires. Claire Risoldi allegedly sought an additional \$20 million for the October 2013 fire, to include \$10 million in jewelry that she had falsely accused volunteer firefighters who had extinguished the fire of stealing.



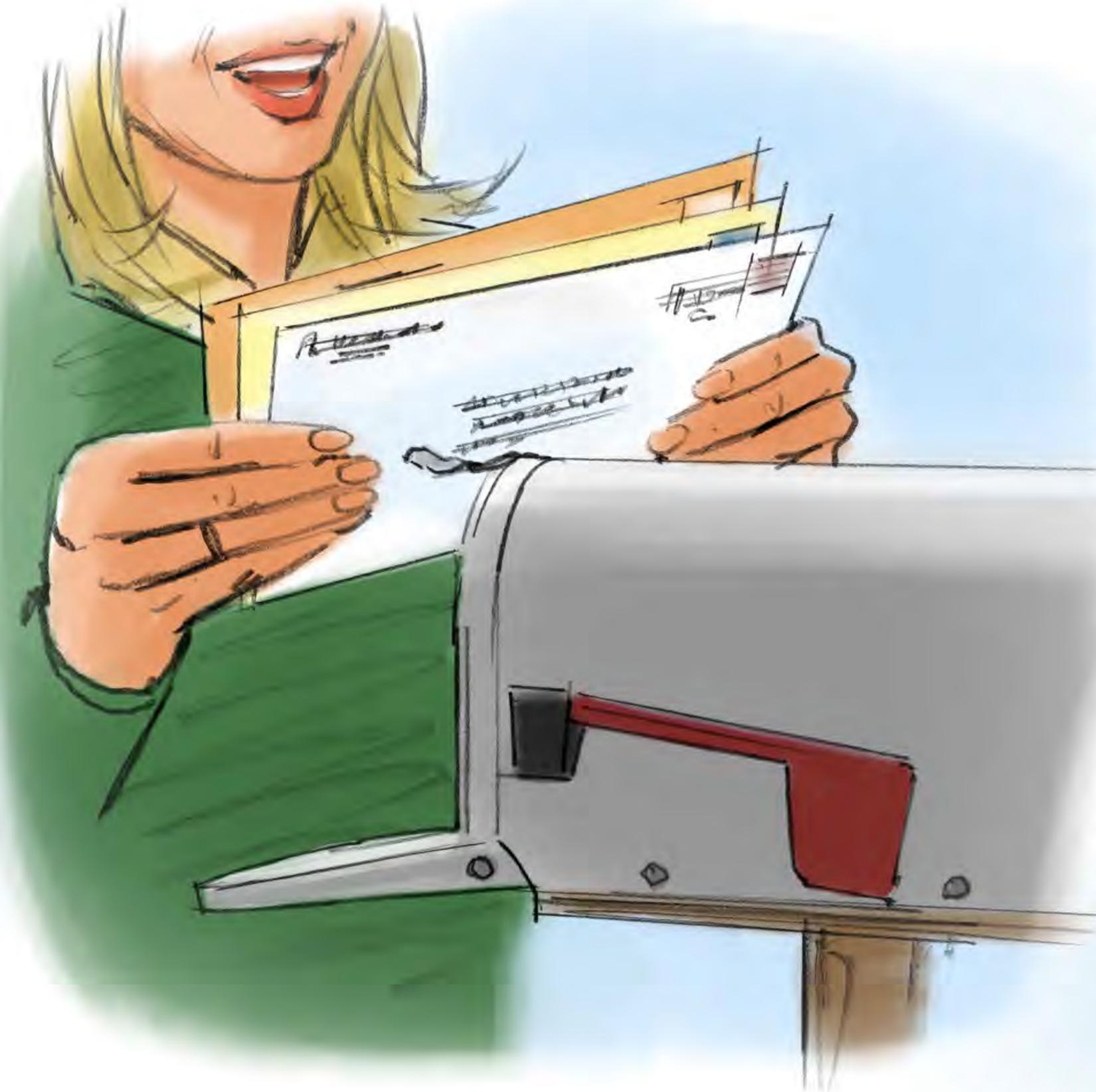
# THE PERFECT SWITCH

QUAKERTOWN, PA

On June 20, 2019, Matthew S. Ewashko of Quakertown, Pennsylvania, pleaded guilty to insurance fraud, attempted theft by deception, and numerous other related charges. He was sentenced to serve 23 months, 29 days of confinement, and five years of probation and was ordered to perform 200 hours of community service and to pay court costs of \$999.97. On October 29, 2018, detectives of the **Bucks County District Attorney's Office** filed a criminal complaint, charging Ewashko with insurance fraud, attempted theft by deception, unsworn falsification, and other related charges.

According to the complaint, Ewashko claimed that he had been the driver of a vehicle, with his girlfriend and two children as passengers, that had struck a Toyota minivan from behind, which had resulted in the death of a third-row passenger in the minivan. A restaurant's video footage showed the crash on camera, and according to the complaint, the footage revealed that Ewashko's girlfriend, not Ewashko, had been operating the vehicle when the crash occurred. **Erie** and **State Farm Insurance Companies** are both mentioned in the complaint.





## ONLY PART-TIME MORRISVILLE, PA

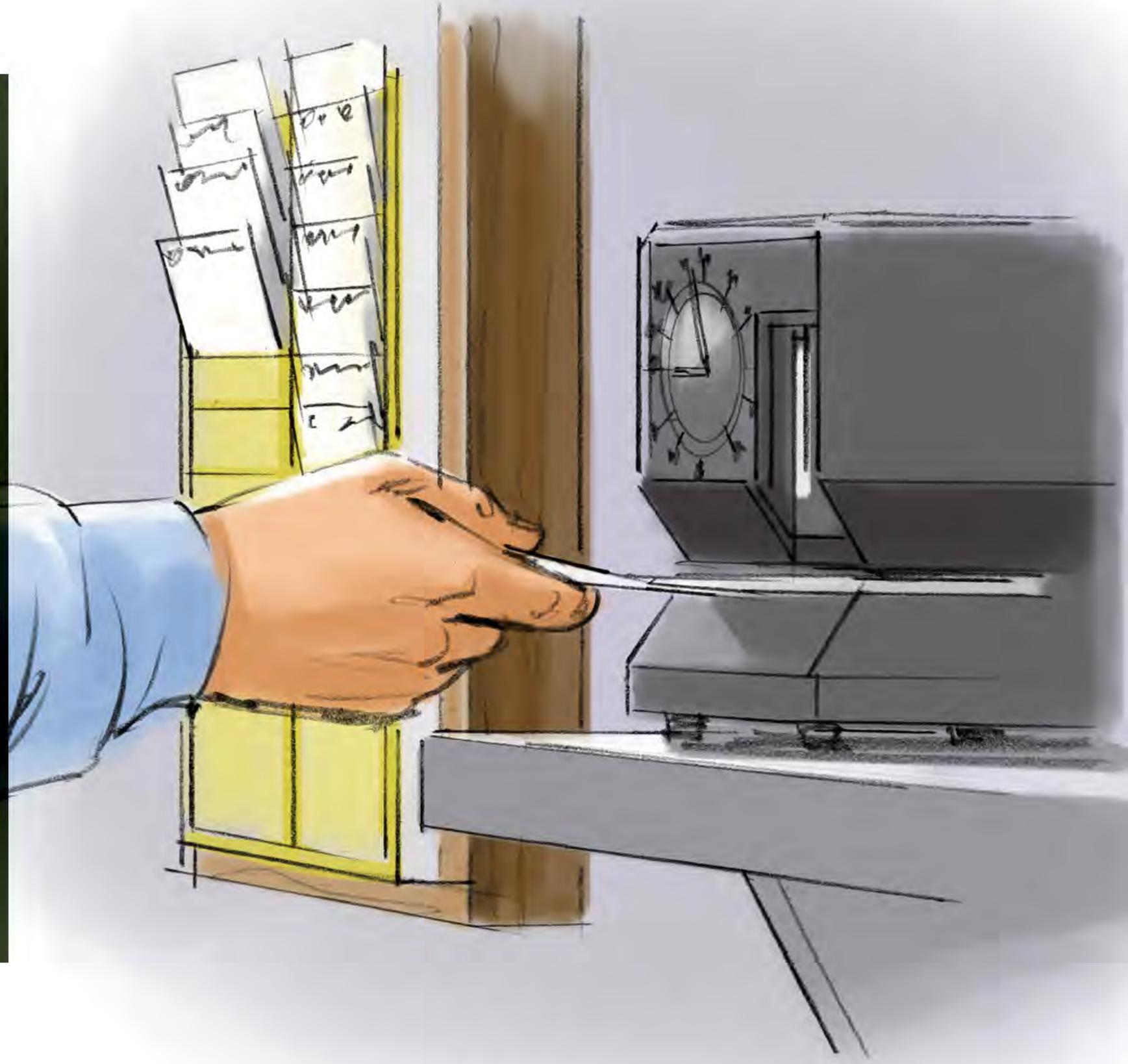
On August 27, 2019, Ruth R. Rookstool of Morrisville, Pennsylvania, was convicted of insurance fraud, theft by unlawful taking, theft by deception, receiving stolen property, and conspiracy. On October 7, 2019, Brian M. Eckart of Langhorne, Pennsylvania, pleaded guilty to theft by unlawful taking, insurance fraud, conspiracy, and forgery. He was sentenced to serve 23 months in an intermediate punishment program and was ordered to perform 100 hours of community service and to pay \$30,785.44 in restitution and \$1,672.57 in court costs.

On November 25, 2019, Rookstool was sentenced to 15–36 months in a state correctional institution and two consecutive periods of 60 months of probation. She was ordered to pay restitution of \$101,634.55. According to the complaints, the defendants were both former members of the Morrisville Ambulance Squad. Eckart and Rookstool submitted fraudulent applications for health and dental insurance for Rookstool by claiming that she was a full-time employee of the squad; however, she was not a full-time employee and was ineligible to receive health and dental coverage. The complaint reflects that fraudulent applications were submitted to **Independence Blue Cross, Guardian Life,** and **UnitedHealthcare.**

# FALSE CLAIMS

## ALBRIGHTSVILLE, PA

On August 1, 2019, from a negotiated guilty plea to workers' compensation insurance fraud, Joshua Correll of Albrightsville, Pennsylvania, was sentenced to serve five years of probation and was ordered to serve 100 hours of community service and to pay a \$1,500 civil penalty to the Insurance Fraud Prevention Trust Fund, as well as court costs of \$3,937.25. On December 9, 2015, **Office of Attorney General** special agents filed a criminal complaint, charging Correll with two counts of workers' compensation insurance fraud and one count of theft by deception. According to the complaint, on September 27, 2010, Correll had suffered an injury while working at Blakeslee Home Improvement and submitted a workers' compensation claim with **Selective Insurance Company**. In support of his claim, Correll had submitted an LIBC-760 form, stating that he had not worked while receiving biweekly benefits from Selective; however, the investigation revealed that Correll had, in fact, worked full time for Allstate Asset Management Company and had earned \$5,370 in wages while also receiving total disability benefits from Selective.





## ALLEGED BURGLARY

NORTHAMPTON, PA

On April 12, 2019, Felix M. Brito of Northampton, Pennsylvania, pleaded guilty to insurance fraud, was sentenced to serve 18 months of probation, and was ordered to perform 20 hours of community service and to pay \$3,271.87 in restitution and a \$500 fine. On April 26, 2018, detectives of the **Lehigh County District Attorney's Office** filed a criminal complaint, charging Brito with insurance fraud, theft by deception, and receiving stolen property. According to the complaint, on February 6, 2018, Brito reported to police that his 2015 Honda Accord had been broken into and that a gun had been stolen. Brito allegedly showed the responding police officer that other items in the vehicle at the time

of the alleged burglary – including jewelry, a gym bag containing \$120 sneakers, and headphones – were not taken. On February 7, 2018, Brito filed a claim with **Erie Insurance** and reported that a gun, a gym bag, headphones, a gold wedding band, a necklace, and \$402 were stolen – a combined value of \$4,306. Erie issued payment in the amount of \$3,271.87 for the replacement cost of the items Brito had reported stolen. Based on the statements Brito had made to police and then later to Erie when filing a theft claim, Brito had provided false information to Erie by claiming additional items had been stolen from his vehicle to receive a larger settlement.

# THE SETUP

## PHILADELPHIA, PA

On January 30, 2019, from a negotiated guilty plea to insurance fraud, Jennifer Rodriguez of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was sentenced to serve two years of probation and was ordered to pay a \$1,000 fine and \$447.25 in court costs. On March 12, 13, and 14, 2018, after receiving a staged accident referral from the **Philadelphia Police Department**, detectives of the **Philadelphia District Attorney's Insurance Fraud Unit** arrested Rodriguez, Anthony Sisco – also of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania – and Kamiah Allen of Felton, Delaware.

Each defendant was charged with conspiracy to commit insurance fraud and theft by deception. According to the criminal complaints, on July 5, 2017, Allen and Rodriguez were reportedly involved in an accident, at which time the Philadelphia police responded. The accident report stated that Rodriguez had had one passenger, Anthony Sisco, while the other vehicle had had none other than its driver. It also stated that no injuries were reported by anyone involved. Approximately one hour later, both vehicles were allegedly recorded on surveillance video from a camera overlooking a business parking lot.

On the video, three males are seen “setting up” the two vehicles from the previous accident, and Allen’s vehicle is seen ramming into Rodriguez’s vehicle multiple times – reportedly causing enough damage to each vehicle to “total” both. Later that same day, Allen and Rodriguez contacted their insurers, **Omni** and **USAA Insurance Companies**, and reported that an accident had occurred when Allen ran a stop sign and rammed into Rodriguez’s vehicle. Both Allen and Rodriguez claimed to have had several passengers in their vehicles and that all sustained injuries from the purported accident. Sisco, Allen’s boyfriend, also gave a recorded statement to USAA confirming that he was a passenger and that he was injured. According to the complaints, appraisals of both vehicles by Omni and USAA deemed both a total loss.

It was further reported that the number of passengers both claimed were involved could not have been present at the time of the accident, due to the number of airbags that were not deployed. Ultimately, the investigation revealed that the defendants conspired to file fraudulent accident and injury claims and that the second accident recorded on surveillance had been staged. Court records reflect that Sisco and Allen have not yet been sentenced.





## LOST WAGES PITTSBURGH, PA

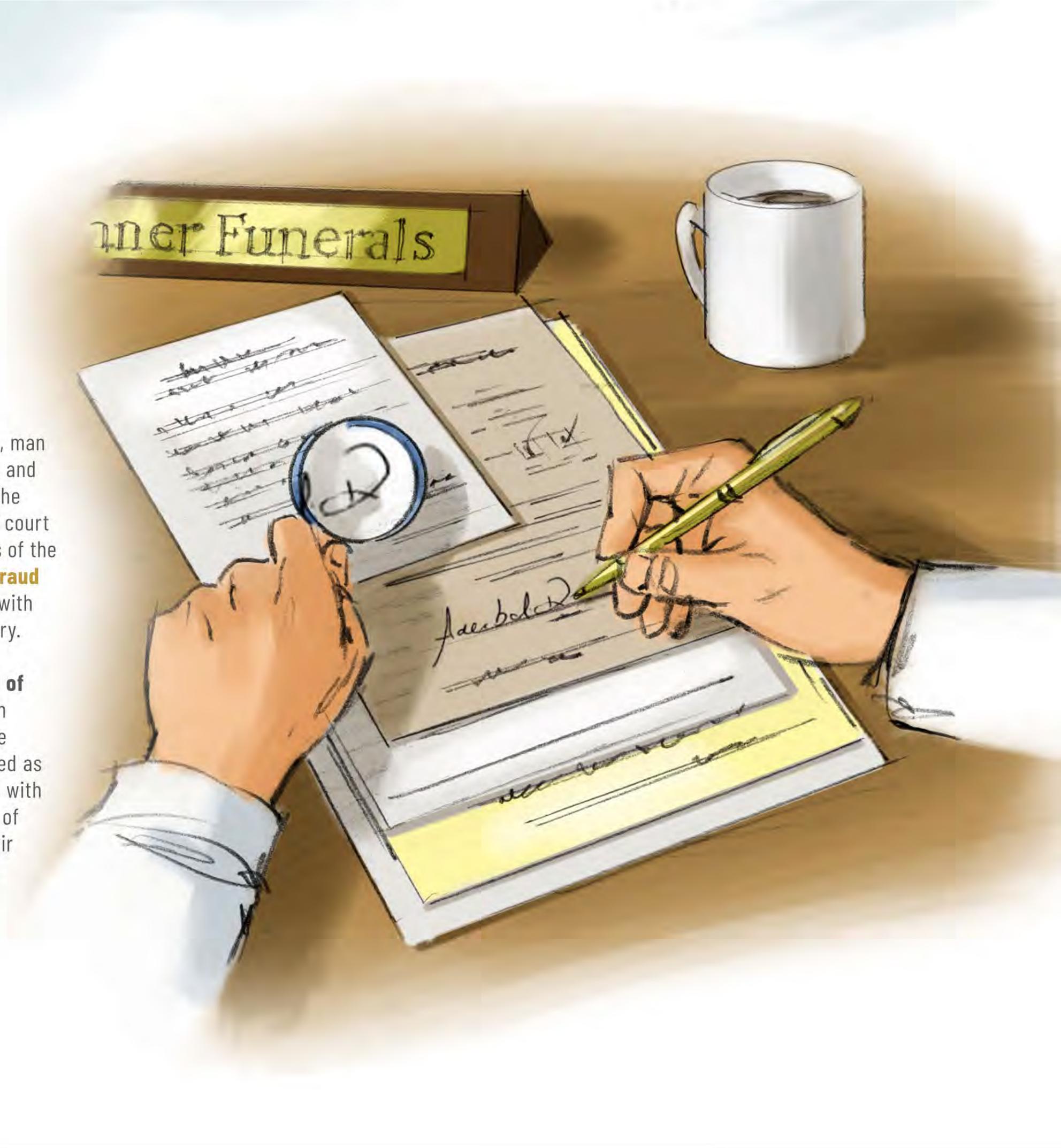
On August 16, 2019, a Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, woman was granted ARD, with two years of probation, and was ordered to perform 300 hours of community service and to pay \$4,000 in restitution and court costs of \$3,126.75. On February 21, 2019, **Office of Attorney General** special agents arrested the defendant and charged her with insurance fraud, theft by deception, forgery, and tampering with records or identification. According to the criminal complaint, on February 25, 2018, the defendant's vehicle was parked at the side of the road when it was side-swiped by a semitruck. The defendant was admitted to a hospital in Erie, where she was treated for a concussion and a neck injury, which resulted from the crash. After she was released from the hospital, she filed an accident claim with **Progressive Insurance**. According to the complaint, the defendant claimed that the injuries she had incurred from the accident had caused her to miss work. In support of her claim for lost wages, the defendant provided the insurer with a copy of a purported pay stub from an alleged employer in Pittsburgh, indicating that she had earned \$6,500 during the month of January 2018. She allegedly informed Progressive that she would not be able to return to work until May 2018. According to the complaint, Progressive issued a check to the defendant in the amount of \$4,000 for wages she claimed she had lost between February 25, 2018 and April 24, 2018; however, the complaint states that investigators determined that the defendant had never worked for the alleged employer and that the earning statement she provided to Progressive was fraudulent.

# FORGERY

PHILADELPHIA, PA

On June 19, 2019, a Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, man was granted ARD, with 12 months of probation, and was ordered to pay a \$1,000 civil penalty to the **Insurance Fraud Prevention Trust Fund** and court costs of \$432. On February 11, 2019, detectives of the **Philadelphia District Attorney's Insurance Fraud Unit** arrested the defendant and charged him with insurance fraud, theft by deception, and forgery.

According to the criminal complaint, a **Mutual of Omaha Life Insurance Company** insured man passed away, leaving two Mutual of Omaha life insurance policies, with his adult children listed as beneficiaries. The defendant, who is affiliated with the funeral home, allegedly signed the names of these beneficiaries on documents without their permission and took the insurance proceeds.



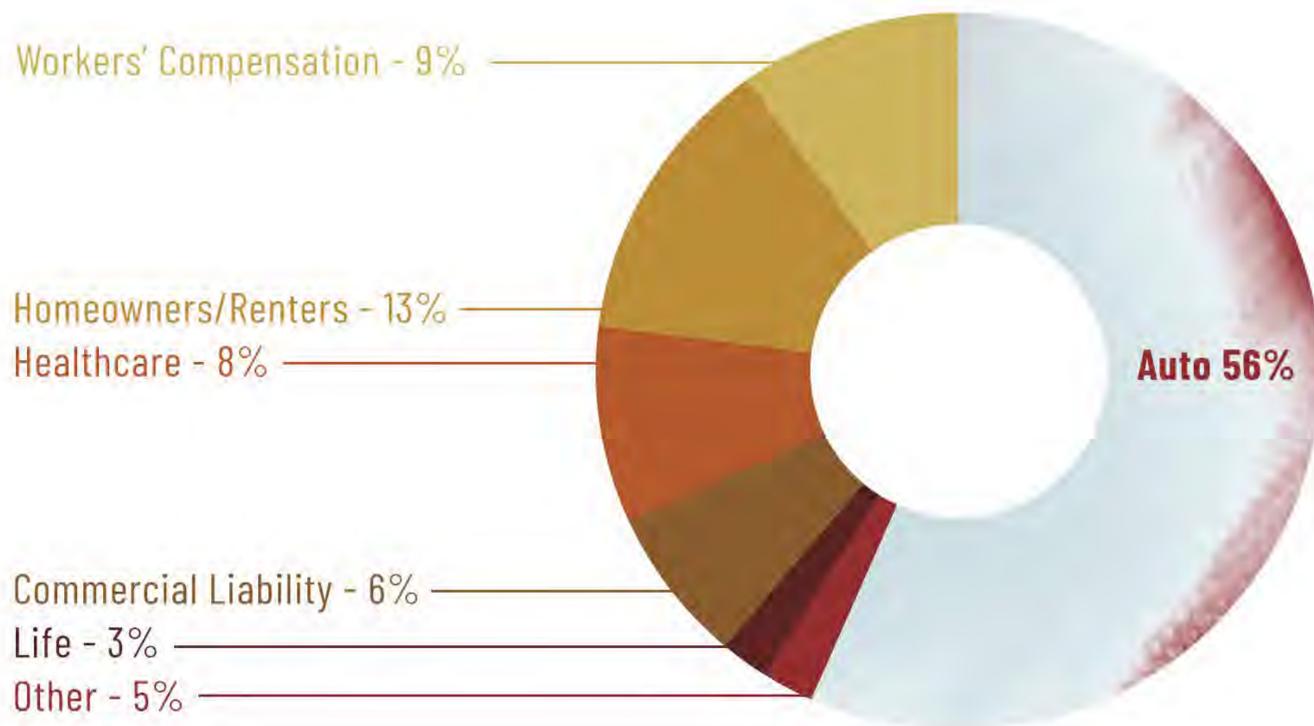
# 2019 STATISTICS

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
FRAUD REFERRALS	3,266	2,880	3,719	3,978	4,115
ARRESTS	436	490	426	467	427
CONVICTIONS	201	216	192	200	165
COURT-ORDERED RESTITUTION*	\$1,529	\$2,622	\$1,933	\$5,614	\$11,002

(\*in thousands)

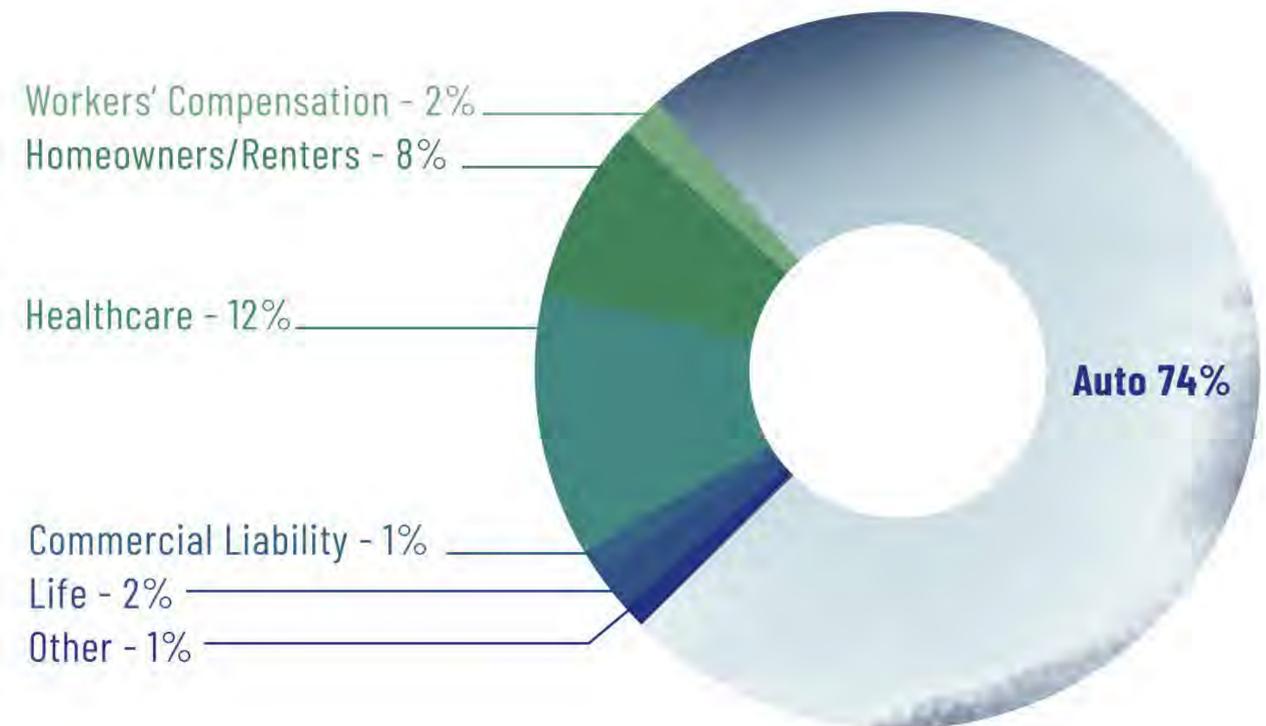
## 2019 TOTAL FRAUD REFERRALS

4,115 Total Fraud Referrals



## 2019 TOTAL FRAUD ARRESTS

427 Total Fraud Arrests



# IFPA GRANTEES

The IFPA fights fraud by supporting law enforcement personnel who aggressively investigate and prosecute insurance fraud criminals. While the anti-fraud efforts of many other states are centralized in a single agency, Pennsylvania has a decentralized program. This enables insurers and consumers as victims an increased access to law enforcement. In addition to 11 insurance fraud units, funding is also provided to an agency for arson investigation.

From the \$21.2 million Fiscal Year 2018 - 2019 funds, a total of \$14,608,993 in grants was extended to the following agencies for personnel, training, equipment, and expenses:

## **Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General Insurance Fraud Section**

- Grant amount: \$8,721,286
- Grantee since 1995
- Phone: (717) 787-0272

## **Philadelphia District Attorney's Office Insurance Fraud Unit**

- Grant amount: \$3,043,213
- Grantee since 1995
- Phone: (215) 686-8723

## **Allegheny County District Attorney's Office**

- Grant amount: \$313,214
- Grantee since 1997
- Phone: (412) 461-2328

## **Allegheny County Police Department**

- Grant amount: \$282,332
- Grantee since 1997
- Phone: (412) 473-1254

## **Bucks County District Attorney's Office**

- Grant amount: \$300,630
- Grantee since 2015
- Phone: (215) 348-6344

## **Cumberland County District Attorney's Office**

- Grant amount: \$244,964
- Grantee since 1997
- Phone: (717) 240-7764

## **Delaware County District Attorney's Office Criminal Investigation Division**

- Grant amount: \$492,527
- Grantee since 2004
- Phone: (610) 891-4700

## **Erie Bureau of Police**

- Grant amount: \$133,329
- Grantee since 2004
- Phone: (814) 870-1258

## **Lehigh County Insurance Fraud Task Force**

- Grant amount: \$427,129
- Grantee since 1996
- Phone: (610) 264-8758

## **Northeastern Pennsylvania Regional Task Force**

- Grant amount: \$339,169
- Grantee since 1996
- Phone: (570) 963-5177

## **Pennsylvania State Police Fire Marshal Division Arson Grant**

- Grant amount: \$200,000
- Grantee since 1997
- Phone: (717) 346-4597

## **York County District Attorney's Office**

- Grant amount: \$111,200
- Grantee since 2004
- Phone: (717) 771-9600

# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The IFPA operates on a fiscal-year basis that runs from July 1 through the following June 30<sup>th</sup>. The IFPA is annually audited by an outside independent audit firm.

**Fiscal year July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019**

## TREASURY ACCOUNT

Assessments \$15,070,826.00

Interest Earned \$226,484.00

Fines and Penalties \$287,090.00

Miscellaneous \$0.00

Total Revenue \$15,584,400.00

Balance carried over from previous year \$5,577,006.00

**Total Funds Available** \$21,161,406.00

Grants Paid (\$12,605,860.00)

Public Relations (\$875,506.00)

Training (\$109,962.00)

Operating Expenses (\$102,133.00)

Operating Account Transferred (\$526,367.00)

**Balance in Treasury Account \$6,941,579.00**

(to be carried over for next year's operating expenses)

## OPERATING ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance \$273,633.00

Funds Received from Treasury \$526,367.00

**Total Funds Available** \$800,000.00

Interest Earned \$7.00

Miscellaneous Income \$0.00

Personnel Expenses (\$346,608.00)

Operating Expenses (\$174,635.00)

Capital Asset Expenses (\$0.00)

**Total Operating Expenses** (\$521,243.00)

**Balance in Operating Account \$278,764.00**

(to be carried over for next year's operating expenses)

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



## CHRISTOPHER SLOAN

Mr. Sloan serves as **chairman** of the IFPA Board of Directors. He has been a member since 2015, with expertise in insurance fraud investigations. He is the corporate Special Investigative Unit Coordinator for PMA Companies, working to deter, detect, and report insurance fraud. Mr. Sloan is a Certified Insurance Fraud Investigator and a board member of the Greater Pittsburgh Chapter of the International Association of Special Investigation Units (IASIU).



## CHRISTOPHER E. DEERY

Mr. Deery joined the IFPA Board of Directors in 2018 and currently serves as **secretary**. He has spent the last 15 years in various investigative roles with Independence Blue Cross and currently serves as the director of corporate and financial investigations. Prior to joining Independence, Mr. Deery spent four years on active duty in the United States Army, achieving the rank of captain. He is a graduate of Lehigh University (B.S. Accounting '01), and Drexel University (MBA '08) and is a Certified Fraud Examiner and an Accredited Healthcare Fraud Investigator.



## DIANE L. SVEC

Ms. Svec serves as **treasurer**, having joined the IFPA Board of Directors in 2018, with expertise in Pennsylvania's workers' compensation. She is an ISS Manager within the Special Investigations Department of Erie Insurance Group, overseeing Pennsylvania, Maryland and West Virginia. She has more than 32 years of insurance experience, 18 of which involve property, casualty, commercial, life, and workers' compensation investigations. She has also served as President of the Greater Pittsburgh IASIU chapter and Vice President of both the Greater Pittsburgh and West Virginia IASIU chapters.



**DANIEL BRUBAKER**

Mr. Brubaker joined the IFPA Board of Directors in 2017. He is the Inspector in Charge of the Philadelphia Division of the United States Postal Inspection Service, responsible for enforcing more than 200 federal statutes relating to the protection of employees and assets and the ensuring of public trust in the U.S. mail. Mr. Brubaker is a proud former U.S. Marine, who has been employed by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service since 1999, specializing in violent crimes, identity fraud, and narcotics investigations.



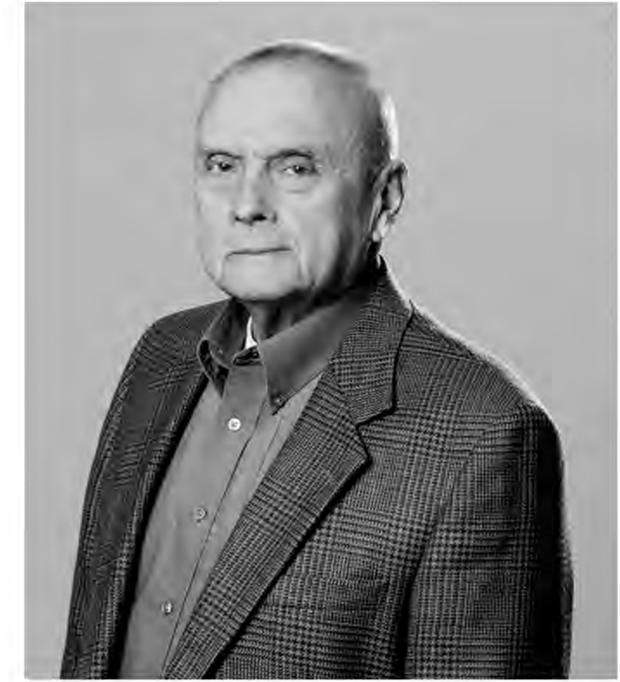
**JAMES FITZPATRICK**

Mr. Fitzpatrick has been a member of the IFPA Board of Directors since 2014, with expertise in insurance fraud investigations and prosecutions. He supervises the Pennsylvania Attorney General’s Insurance Fraud Section as the Chief Deputy Attorney General. Formerly, Mr. Fitzpatrick was the Assistant Chief of the Insurance Fraud Unit of the Philadelphia District Attorney’s Office.



**ANDREA FURY**

Ms. Fury joined the IFPA Board of Directors in 2019, with expertise in homeowner and auto claims investigations. Currently an investigator with State Farm Fire and Casualty Company, she has held positions in claims and investigations for the past 23 years. She is the President of the Delaware Valley Chapter of the IASIU and a graduate of Widener University.



**CHARLES G. WILKER**

Mr. Wilker serves as consumer representative of the IFPA Board of Directors. He has been a member of the board since 2001 and previously served as chairman. A former investigator, he retired from the Pennsylvania State Police in 2016.

**IFPA  
STAFF**

- Thomas A. Donahue III**, Executive Director
- Joan A. Dockery**, Associate Executive Director
- Christine E. Cassel**, Grants Administrator

# MISSION & RESOURCES

The IFPA was legislatively created in 1994 through Act 166, Pennsylvania's Insurance Fraud Prevention Act, to arm law enforcement with the resources and insurance consumers with the knowledge necessary to reduce insurance fraud in the Commonwealth. For more information on the IFPA's work, visit [helpstopfraud.org](http://helpstopfraud.org).

"Report Insurance Fraud!" is a listing of Pennsylvania law enforcement agencies that investigate and prosecute insurance fraud and can be found under "Reporting Insurance Fraud" at [helpstopfraud.org](http://helpstopfraud.org). To report suspected insurance fraud, anonymously or otherwise, call the National Insurance Crime Bureau's tip line at **1.800.TEL.NICB**.



6 Kacey Court, Suite 101  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055