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**What Is
Pretexting,
and Is It
Legal?**

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INVESTIGATOR
OF THE YEAR 2020**

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**Forensic
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Legislative Update

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BY **WES BEARDEN, NCISS INVESTIGATIONS LEGISLATIVE CHAIR**

Are we done yet?

Are we done with the year yet? Hopefully, by the time you read this, we will be past the national election, closer to a vaccine and beginning to get back to normal. A number of issues are pending in Washington as of the date of this writing. Washington and the country is consumed with a national election and the nomination and confirmation of a new United States Supreme Court Justice. Thus, all issues have been shelved until the foregoing is resolved.

However, we are still monitoring another potential relief bill that would allow money to reach the pockets of our community. Additional Paycheck Protection Program funds are being discussed with individual relief payments to those that qualify. NCISS intends to follow this legislation and will have updates to its members if and when passed.

Additionally, we are monitoring the potential for a monumental 2021 Privacy Legislation bill.

Depending on the political momentum of the election, we will see varying approaches to such legislation. This legislation will likely have an impact on your business and your client's business. Please continue to participate in NCISS for future legislative updates.

NCISS is also currently observing a concerted effort to amend the well-reasoned DPPA. Many of us rely on the DPPA to access public information in the performance of our profession. Whether locating individuals for process, finding a child who has been abducted or identifying assets in a fraud investigation, access to this information is critical. However, privacy advocates in certain states are questioning such access even though Congress thoroughly litigated the issues years ago. We are responding to such points as they are raised. If you have an issue in your state, please let us know.

It is for that reason that NCISS is planning to host another town hall in early 2021. During this virtual meeting, we will allow *any* investigator, member or not, throughout the United States to join in and ask questions. We hope this will be a productive meeting, getting all individuals to understand the upcoming legislative agenda and the inner workings of NCISS. Stay tuned for updates on this virtual presentation.

Finally, we hope that we will be in Washington, DC in Spring of 2021 for our annual Hit-the-Hill meeting. If you have never attended, I encourage you to do so. It is a joy to walk the halls of Congress with your colleagues and make a difference for your profession. Again, please stay tuned for dates and details. Please realize with the pandemic all plans are a bit tentative. We hope that all will be able to attend and that our conference will be a go. I look forward to seeing each of you there!

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