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CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF LICENSED INVESTIGATORS, INC.

For Release: June 21, 2006

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San Diego, CA – The California Association of Licensed Investigators, CALI released a consumer tip sheet on how to protect yourself from Identity Theft. CALI members have gathered in San Diego from June 21st to 23rd, 2006, at their 39th annual, to discuss new investigative techniques that provide consumer protection and combat various types of individual and corporate fraud.

“In California especially, we have a new genre of private licensed investigators, who specialize in computer forensics cases, intellectual property theft, and espionage cases. Identity theft is one of those Hi Tech crimes that has become a growing problem through the state and the nation, but by taking these preventive measures you can protect your personal and financial information,” said Sean Walsh, CALI President.

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF LICENSED INVESTIGATORS (CALI) CONSUMER TIPS TO PREVENT IDENTITY THEFT

- 1) Check your credit report at least once a year or more. (Credit bureaus are required to give you one free credit check each year.)
- 2) Carry only one or two credit cards with you and/or your debit card.
- 3) Monitor how clerks and waiters process and swipe your credit cards. (Small handheld devices can be used to transfer the information on your magnetic strip to a storage device for later use.)
- 4) Do not use debit cards to pay for items when shopping on the Internet. Never give out your PIN number.
- 5) Keep a list and make a photocopy of all of your credit and debit cards. List all of your credit card contact information and expiration dates.
- 6) Keep a list of all of your bank accounts, account numbers and contact information.
- 7) Do not discard credit or debit card receipts in merchant wastebaskets. (Criminals can get account information from many receipts.)
- 8) Never give out your social security number, credit card or debit numbers over the telephone, mail or Internet unless you have a long-standing business or financial relationship with the other party.
- 9) When you must discard documents containing personal or financial information always use a crosscut shredder.
- 10) If you believe your credit or debit card was lost or stolen contact the bank for financial institution immediately to report the loss.