

Nicholas G. Himonidis, JD, CFE, CCFS, CCFI, CRC

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DIGITAL FORENSIC & CRYPTOCURRENCY EXPERT

With more than 30 years of professional experience in private investigations, computer forensics and law, Mr. Himonidis has participated in, conducted, and supervised thousands of investigations, computer forensic engagements, e-discovery projects, and cryptocurrency and blockchain forensic matters. He has managed the investigative and e-discovery phases of complex, high-net-worth matrimonial cases; the investigation of financial fraud, including civil RICO claims, insurance fraud, fraudulent claims against the U.S. government, and embezzlement; and numerous forms of cybercrime and “traditional” crime through digital forensics. Mr. Himonidis has written and lectured extensively on e-discovery, digital evidence, cryptocurrency and blockchain forensics, financial investigation, and legal and ethical issues related to expert witnesses. A member of the New York State Bar Association Task Force on Emerging Digital Finance and Currency, he is court-qualified as an expert witness in computer forensics and the authentication of digital evidence and has acted as a court-appointed computer forensic and cryptocurrency expert. He is a licensed attorney, a licensed private investigator, a Certified Fraud Examiner, a Certified Computer Forensic Specialist, a Certified Cryptocurrency Forensic Investigator, and holds the Chainalysis Reactor Certification (CRC) credential. Mr. Himonidis has also litigated cases in both state and federal courts.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

The NGH Group, Inc., Melville, N.Y.

2017 - present

Provider of high-tech investigations, digital forensics, e-discovery, cryptocurrency and blockchain forensics, and other litigation support, including expert witness services (consulting and testifying)

President / CEO

- Supervises all forensic and investigative work
- Provides legal oversight for all firm operations throughout the U.S. and abroad

T&M Protection Resources, LLC, New York, N.Y.

2010 - 2017

Global security company specializing in security, cyber security, intelligence and investigations

Vice President & Head of Private Investigations

- Served as Executive-in-Charge of the Private Investigations Division and a member of Senior Management Staff

- Developed and supervised operations of Technical Services Unit (TSU)
- Provided computer forensic, e-discovery and other technical investigative support to legal and corporate clients and other internal divisions
- Provided legal, technical and operational oversight for all investigative operations and ensured operational best practices and compliance with applicable laws and regulations

NGH Associates, Ltd., Jericho, N.Y.

1999 - 2010

Provider of investigation, litigation support and computer forensic services to the legal, insurance and corporate sectors

President & Founder

- Managed business operations
- Supervised computer forensic operations, including investigations of complex financial fraud, asset misappropriation, computer crimes, etc.

Fenton Investigation & Security, Inc., Garden City, N.Y.

1998 - 1999

Provider of investigation, litigation support and computer forensic services to the legal, insurance and corporate sectors

Vice President & General Counsel

- Created usage protocol and safeguards for public and private information sources
- Implemented transition to “electronic” based information retrieval, document storage and general computerization of operations, including billing and case management
- Supervised and provided investigative training and legal oversight to staff
- Ensured ongoing compliance with state and federal laws affecting operations
- Instituted first protocol for collection and examination of computer evidence

Squadron, Ellenoff, Plesent & Sheinfeld, LLP, New York, N.Y.

1997 - 1998

Legal practice focused on investigation and litigation of bankruptcy-related matters, including international financial fraud and analysis of complex financial transactions

Attorney

Gebhardt & Smith, Baltimore, Md.

1995 - 1997

Legal practice focused on investigation and litigation of financial fraud in state and federal court

Attorney

Office of the District Attorney, Queens County

1994

Bureau of Arson & Economic Crimes Investigation, Kew Gardens, N.Y.

Investigative bureau within DA’s office focused on investigation and prosecution of financial crimes

Intern

- Designed and implemented bureau’s first computerized database for tracking local credit card fraud complaints and identifying patterns for further investigation
- Assisted in legal research and preparation of cases for trial

Genesis Investigations, Baldwin, N.Y.

1990 - 1993

Provider of investigation and litigation support services to insurance carriers, private law firms and municipalities, including the City of New York

Special Investigator

- Performed investigations of alleged insurance fraud, arson, construction and industrial accident cases, including fatal accidents and multimillion-dollar property casualty losses
- Conducted extensive field surveillance in fraud and other investigations
- Conducted fraud investigations on behalf of Special Counsel for the New York City Housing Authority

EDUCATION

St. John's University School of Law, Jamaica, N.Y.

1995

Juris Doctor, *Magna Cum Laude*

- Top 2% of graduating class
- Articles and Notes Editor, *American Bankruptcy Institute Law Review*
- Assistant Director of Trials, Criminal Law Institute
- American Jurisprudence Awards for Academic Excellence

St. John's University, Jamaica, N.Y.

1992

Bachelor of Science, *Cum Laude*

State University of New York, Farmingdale, N.Y.

2004 - 2005

Coursework in Computer Forensics

BAR ADMISSIONS

- **New York.** Admitted 1997 (Active), State and Federal Courts
- **Maryland.** Admitted 1996 (Inactive), State and Federal Courts
- **District of Columbia.** Admitted 1996 (Inactive)
- **Commonwealth of Virginia.** Admitted 1997 (Inactive)

PROFESSIONAL LICENSES & CERTIFICATIONS

- Certified Computer Forensic Specialist (CCFS)
- Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE)
- Certified Cryptocurrency Forensic Investigator (CCFI)
- Chainalysis Reactor Certification (CRC)
- Licensed Private Investigator – New York State
- Licensed Attorney – New York State

LECTURES & PUBLICATIONS

Accredited CLE/CPE Lectures

- “Cryptocurrency Considerations in Estate Planning,” Estate Planning Council of Suffolk County, Inc., October 19, 2022
- “Digital Evidence in Family Law Cases: What You Need to Know Before It ‘Bytes’ You in the 41 73 73,” 2022 American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (AAML)/Business Valuation Resources (BVR) Divorce Conference, September 18, 2022
- “Authentication of ESI in Matrimonial & Custody Cases,” Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, May 2022
- “How to Find & Track Cryptocurrency for Litigation,” National Conference of CPA Practitioners (NCCPAP), Accounting & Tax Symposium 2021, November 2021
- “Electronically Stored Information and Digital Evidence Considerations in Matrimonial Cases,” Northern Kentucky Bar Association, October 2021
- “Cryptocurrency & Blockchain Forensics: How to Find & Track Cryptocurrency for Litigation,” Erie County Bar Association, September 2021
- “Digital Espionage in Matrimonial Cases: Lawful Collection of ESI Outside Formal Discovery vs. Unlawful Interception,” Nassau County Bar Association, September 2021
- “New Trends in Digital Evidence,” American Bar Association Family Law Section, June 2021
- “Cryptocurrency Basics & Investigating Cryptocurrency Transactions Through Data Forensics & Blockchain Analysis,” National Conference of CPA Practitioners (NCCPAP), Long Island Tax Professionals Symposium, November 2020
- “Cryptocurrency: How to Find it and Track it in Divorce Litigation,” The CPA Academy, September 2020
- “Digital Evidence Training Seminar,” New York Center for Family Representation, July 2020
- “Digital Evidence: Latest Topics and Trends Affecting Matrimonial Practice,” MatLaw Courtroom Evidence Seminar, May 2020
- “Cryptocurrency & Blockchain: Effects on Matrimonial Litigation,” New York State Bar Association, CLE Webinar, May 2020
- “Cryptocurrency and Divorce Litigation Panel,” American Bar Association, Family Law Section Conference, April 2020
- “Bitcoin, Blockchain & Cryptocurrencies: Understanding These Technologies and Their Impact on Financial Investigations and Forensic Accounting,” National Conference of CPA Practitioners (NCCPAP), Long Island Tax Professionals Symposium, November 2019
- “Digital Assets Continued: Crypto Forensics,” New York State Society of CPAs (NYSSCPA), Digital Assets Conference, October 2019
- “Techniques & Tools to Track Cryptocurrency Transactions,” International Association & Internal Auditors, Next Wave Technology Conference, October 2019
- “Cryptocurrency in Financial Investigations,” Long Island Tax Professionals Symposium, October 2019

- “Investigating Cryptocurrency Transactions through Data Forensics & Blockchain Analysis: Advanced Techniques,” New York State Society of CPAs (NYSSCPA), Cryptocurrency Conference, October 2019
- “Cybersecurity Seminar: Investigating Cryptocurrency Transactions,” Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, Long Island Chapter, September 2019
- “Investigating Cryptocurrency Transactions through Data Forensics & Blockchain Analysis,” New York State Society of CPAs (NYSSCPA), Digital Assets Committee, April 2019
- “Cryptocurrency and How to Find It/Track It in Divorce Litigation,” National Association of Divorce Professionals Annual Conference, Ft. Lauderdale, March 2019
- “Bitcoin, Blockchain and Cryptocurrencies: What Attorneys Need to Know About These Revolutionary Technologies and How to Uncover Their Existence and Track Them in Litigation,” St. John’s University School of Law, November 2018
- “Cryptocurrency: The Law, and How to Find it & Track it in Divorce Litigation,” The Brooklyn Bar Association, March 2018; Westchester County Bar Association, May 2018, Nassau County Bar Association, September 2018
- “Advanced Digital Evidence Issues in Fraud Investigation,” The Association of Certified Fraud Examiners Long Island Chapter, January 2018
- “Forensic Testimony / Disclosure & Impeachment of Forensic Experts,” District of Columbia Department of Forensic Sciences, In-Service Training Program, Washington, D.C., December 2017
- “ESI in Non-Commercial Litigation,” Rockland County Bar Association, December 2017
- “Digital Evidence in Fraud Investigations: Technical, Legal & Ethical Issues,” The Association of Certified Fraud Examiners Long Island Chapter CPE Training Seminar, November 2017
- “Criminal Implications of Spousal Espionage / Improper Gathering of Digital Evidence,” The American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (NY Chapter), Fall CLE Conference, Rochester, N.Y., October 2017
- “Challenges & Trends in Fraud Investigation,” The Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, New York Chapter, Annual CPE Training Seminar / Conference, Pace University, June 2017
- “Evidentiary Foundations of Electronically Stored Information,” Matlaw Systems Courtroom Evidence Series, May 2017 (Seven-lecture series)
- “Legal & Ethical Issues for Attorneys working with Investigators,” Rockland County Bar Association, January 2017
- “Digital Evidence in Matrimonial Cases: Technical, Legal & Ethical Issues,” New York State Bar Association FLS CLE Program, Fall, 2016; featured (and only) speaker for 4.0 CLE Credit Course

- “Digital Defense: Protecting Client’s Digital Assets and Electronic Communications,” Nassau County Bar Association; Matrimonial Law Committee CLE Program, November 2016
- “Digital Evidence in Forensic Accounting Engagements,” New York State Society of CPAs (NYSSCPA), Forensic and Litigation Conference, June 2016
- “Digital Offense and Defense 101: What every Lawyer Needs to Know Regarding Proper Collection and Use of Digital Evidence / Social Media Content, and the Prevention of Unlawful Collection or Interception of Digital Information,” Rockland County Bar Association, May 2016
- “Digital Evidence in Matrimonial Cases: Deconstructing ESI,” The Brooklyn Bar Association, January 2015
- “What Private Investigators Can do Legally & Ethically for Attorneys,” ABA Family Law Section Conference, Stowe, Vt., October 2014
- “Digital Offense & Defense,” ABA Family Law Section Conference, Deer Valley, Utah, October 2013
- “Digital Defense 101: Protecting Your Clients’ Digital Data in Enhanced Threat Scenarios,” American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, New York Chapter, New York, N.Y., 2013
- “Digital Evidence in Matrimonial Cases,” New York State Matrimonial Bar Association, Cooperstown, N.Y., July 2013
- “Digital Offense & Defense: Obtaining Electronic Evidence Legally, Using It & Protecting Your Client,” American Bar Association Webinar, June 2013
- “Sources and Methods of Discovering Hidden Assets in Matrimonial Cases,” ABA Family Law Section Conference, Philadelphia, Pa., October 2012
- “Legal & Ethical Issues for Attorneys Working with Investigators,” Moses & Singer LLP, New York, N.Y., 2012
- “Digital Evidence in Civil and Criminal Cases,” Rural Law Center of NY, Inc., Plattsburgh, N.Y., 2012
- “Matrimonial Practice in the Digital Age: De-Constructing Electronic Evidence,” New York City Bar Center, New York, N.Y., 2010
- “Digital Evidence and Electronic Discovery: Legal, Technical, and Ethical Considerations for New York Attorneys,” Franklin County Bar Association, Malone, N.Y., 2010
- “Digital Evidence and Electronic Discovery: Legal, Technical, and Ethical Considerations for New York Attorneys,” Essex County Bar Association, Plattsburgh, N.Y., 2010
- “Digital Evidence: What Every Attorney Needs to Know,” Matlaw Courtroom Evidence Series, 2010
- “Digital Evidence: What Every Attorney Needs to Know,” National Public Defenders Conference, Las Vegas, Nev., 2010
- “Digital Evidence: What is it? Where to find it? How to use it?,” Tampa Bay Paralegal Association, Tampa Bay, Fla., 2009

- “Digital Evidence: What is it? Where to Find It? How to Use It?”, Plant City Bar Association, Tampa, Fla., 2009
- “Digital Evidence: What is it? Where to Find It? How to Use It?”, Gulf Coast Paralegal Association, Inc., Sarasota, Fla., 2009
- “Ethical Considerations for Legal Professionals Working with Investigators,” Tampa Bay Paralegal Association, Inc., Tampa Bay, Fla., 2009
- “Electronic Evidence: What is it? Where to Find It? How to Use It,” New York Family Law American Inn of Court, 2005
- “Personal Investigations: Legal and Ethical Issues for Attorneys Working with Investigators,” Theodore Roosevelt American Inn of Court, 2004
- “The Usefulness and Relevance of Private Investigation in Family Court Cases; Legal and Ethical Issues for Attorneys Working with Investigators,” Suffolk Academy of Law, 2004

Other Professional Lectures/Interviews

- “Understanding & Investigating Cryptocurrency,” Associated Licensed Detectives of New York State (ALDONYS), March 2022
- “Investigating Cryptocurrency Transactions Through Data Forensics & Blockchain Analysis,” New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants (NYSSCPA), May 2021
- “Cryptocurrency Investigation,” PI Perspectives Interview, December 2020
- “Security Best Practices for Lawyers (and Other Professionals) Working Remotely,” *Tech Talk Law* Interview, June 2020
- “Investigating Bitcoin and Cryptocurrency Transactions,” Society of Professional Investigators, May 2019
- “Digital Evidence: What Every Investigator Needs to Know,” Associated Licensed Detectives of New York State Annual Training Conference, Vernon, N.Y. 2010
- “Computer Forensics in Private Sector Investigations,” SUNY Farmingdale, 2010
- “Case of the Month: The Case of the Smoking Laptop,” Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, Long Island Chapter, 2005
- “Protecting Your Company as well as Employees’ Civil Liberties: Legal Seminar for Business Professionals,” Melville, New York, 2004
- “Proper Crime Scene Techniques When Encountering Computer Evidence,” New York State Department of Corrections, Investigators Annual In-Service Training, 2004

Publications

- “The Admissibility of Illegally Obtained Evidence in Family Law Cases and Related Ethical Issues,” *Family Advocate*, American Bar Association, May 2022
- “Digital Espionage in Matrimonial Cases: Drawing the Line Between Legitimate Self-Help and Unlawful Interception of Electronic Communications,” *Journal of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers*, Vol. 33, No. 2, 2021
- “Digital Evidence in Matrimonial Cases: Technical, Legal & Ethical Issues,” New York State Bar Association, September 2016
- “Matrimonial Practice in the Digital Age,” *FamilyLawyerMagazine.com*, February 2012
- “Dealing with Child Pornography,” *FamilyLawyerMagazine.com*, February 2012
- “Legal & Ethical Issues for Attorneys Working with Investigators,” *FamilyLawyerMagazine.com*, October 2012
- “Power Down When Gathering Computer Evidence,” *The Spotlight*, Associated Licensed Detectives of New York State, July/August 2009
- “Stop, Drop and ‘Roll’: Dealing with the Discovery of Child Pornography,” *The Spotlight*, Associated Licensed Detectives of New York State, July/August 2010

EXPERT WITNESS EXPERIENCE

Expert Testimony

- New York State Supreme Court
- New York State Family Court
- Connecticut State Superior Court
- California Superior Court, Los Angeles County (by deposition)

Expert Reports, Affidavits and Declarations

- Numerous state and federal courts

COURT APPOINTMENTS

Nicholas Himonidis and the NGH Group have been appointed by the Supreme Court of the State of New York as neutral digital forensic examiners and as neutral cryptocurrency experts. Various courts have selected and authorized Mr. Himonidis and the NGH Group to carry out court-ordered collection, preservation, and examination of electronically stored information (ESI).

CONTINUING EDUCATION/TRAINING

Chainalysis Academy: Reactor Certification Training • Cryptocurrency Crime: Investigating and Mitigating the Risks of Illegal Domestic and Cross-Border Activities • International Money Laundering – Counter Terrorism Financing • Cryptocurrency Forensic Investigations • Data Privacy & Protection in Legal Administration • Ethics of Social Media Investigation • Mobile Device and Social Media Security Best Practices • Enterprise Electronic Discovery: Various Challenges, Methodologies and Tools • The Viability of MD5 or SHA1 for Forensics • Modern Digital Law: Should Private Investigator Licenses Be Required? • Digital Forensics Curriculum at a College Level • Identifying and Avoiding the Pitfalls of Electronic Discovery • Cryptography and Forensic Investigation • Emerging Technologies: Changes and the Ripple Effect on Forensics • Standards in Digital Forensics • Forensic Examinations in a Terabyte World • Computer Forensics Building Blocks: Understanding the FAT File System Essential for Computer Forensics Investigators • Detecting the Presence of Host Protected (Hidden) Areas in Hard Drives • Anti-Forensics Implications in the Security Environment • Catching Masked Surfers: Anonymizers and Spoofed SSLs • Distributed Computing Challenges in Digital Investigations • Handheld and Mobile Forensics Evolution • The Emerging Area of E-Discovery • Electronic Discovery Practice for the NY Attorney • Handheld and Cell Phone Forensics • Cryptocurrencies in Investigations