

## Only American to Work in the Soviet Organized Crime Control Department

### Author of “Investigating the Russian Mafia” tells your audience:

- How he came to work inside the Soviet police
- How he saved foreign companies from the Russian mafia
- About the threats to American businesses in Russia
- About the fascinating rules of the Russian underworld
- How the Russian criminal elite operate
- About the unique scams of the Russian mafia
- Why democracy and Russia don't mix
- And much more...

#### • Extortion

The client had ignored the earlier overtures of the gangsters and now he was in deep. The mafia boss had already threatened him, and my team was flying into action. The wife and children were raced to the airport before sunrise and the businessman put under armed guard. We stormed his office to collect as much computer equipment and documents as possible before the gangsters found out.

#### • Counterfeiting

Gorbushka was a code name of sorts. The market that was always packed with buyers dealt in a wide variety of pirated music and video items. Movies that had yet to be released in Hollywood were already available for sale. Police



officers in uniform shopped there, rummaging through the countless tables of goods occupying acres of Moscow real estate. Counterfeit laundry detergent, brand-name clothing, liquor, and even airplane parts had become part of the booming underground in Russia.

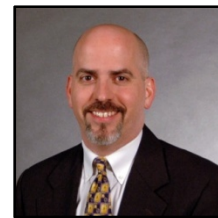
#### • Billions in Fraud

Straight out of Los Angeles a small group ventured around the United States inviting elderly people to take advantage of free diagnoses from rolling medical labs. Over the course of several years, the group filed **\$1 Billion** in fraudulent medical insurance claims. They were finally caught after collecting \$80 million. The money was never recovered and the prison sentences were small. According to law enforcement, investigators, and insurance companies, these activities are widespread across the country.

#### • Organized Shoplifting

We don't often think about shoplifting as a large-scale operation. Russian groups out of Brighton Beach, Brooklyn, would load up vans full of shoplifters and ship them out to the large suburban malls. There, the thieves would

descend on retail stores, scooping up whatever they could. Freight containers full of stolen merchandise would find their way back to Moscow where an entire department store was supplied courtesy of New York department stores.



Joe Serio was the only American to work in the Organized Crime Control Department of the Soviet police. He later served as director of the Moscow office of a major global investigation firm overseeing investigations across the former Soviet Union.

Serio first traveled to the Soviet Union in 1986 and studied at the prestigious Alexander Pushkin Russian Language Institute in Moscow in 1987. Having lived in Moscow prior to the collapse of the Soviet Union, Serio brings an important perspective on the dynamics of Russian crime and the environment in which it operates.

He has been interviewed by the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Wall Street Journal, the Chicago Tribune, the Dallas Morning News, CNN, NBC News, Fox News, WGN Radio (Chicago), The European (UK), Legal Realm (China), Sekai Nippo (Japan), Sol de Mexico and others.