

Online Investigative Tools in Restitution Analysis

# Financial Investigation

# Public Record Databases

- Westlaw
- LexisNexis Smartlinx
- CLEAR – Consolidated Lead Evaluation and Reporting



# Benefits of Public Record Databases

## Multiple Query Searches

- Real Estate Transactions
- Bankruptcy Proceedings
- Civil Suits/Judgements/Liens
- Automobiles/Boats/Aircraft
- Incorporations/Business Interests
- Newswire Searches



# Benefits of Public Record Databases

- Locating Victims/Witnesses
- Identifying Banks in Mortgage Fraud Cases
- Querying Relatives and Close Associates
  - Identifying hidden/transferred assets.
- People Mapping Functions
  - Quickly identifies relationships between people, businesses, locations, assets and other public records.

# Other Resources

- Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC<sub>3</sub>)
  - Maintained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and National White Collar Crime Center (NW<sub>3</sub>C)  
<http://www.nw3c.org/>
- OPERA – Offender Payment Enhanced Report Access
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- Creativity