

DUE DILIGENCE ON INDIVIDUALS: WHERE LAW LIBRARIANS SHINE

As the news has unfolded around the controversy surrounding Representative-elect George Santos' background, I hope that a major takeaway from all of this is how important it is to conduct thorough due diligence in advance on individuals, potential business partner clients, and political candidates. A [New York Times investigation](#) brought to light the fact that Santos, a newly elected New York Congressional representative, lied about both his educational background and his work experience. He currently faces both federal and local investigations. Another by-product of this scandal may result in new [legislation](#) to prevent candidates from lying to voters about their employment, education, and military history.



Law librarians have special skills to cast a wide net by searching a variety of sources, including public records databases (searching more than one is best), legal research databases such as LexisNexis or Westlaw, social media websites, the open web, and news to unearth and highlight ANY potential red flags on an individual.

Potential red flags might include:

- A criminal background
- Excessive litigation
- Bankruptcies
- Education discrepancies

As we have seen in the news, skipping the important task of conducting due diligence and running extensive background checks on individuals can have negative repercussions. Law librarians can help play an important role to minimize this risk.

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