



# Investigative Due Diligence

Effective due diligence requires discovering what lies beneath the surface so as to identify both risks and opportunities.

Forward Risk cuts through obfuscation and puffery to uncover what has been buried. We provide our clients with a nuanced understanding of relevant companies and individuals, so that business decisions are informed by actionable intelligence. While many investigative firms claim to offer

comprehensive due diligence services, they often rely on “check-the-box” formulas and outdated methods. Forward Risk rejects this approach and applies investigative rigor, critical thinking, and hard-won analytical skills to each engagement.

## How We Help

### ▶ **Open-source research and human intelligence gathering**

Forward Risk conducts meticulous research leveraging data sources in the public domain, including traditional and social media, civil and criminal litigation records, financial distress indicators, assets, regulatory sanctions, and data from the dark web. Where appropriate, Forward Risk supplements the public record with independent source interviews with knowledgeable parties, such as a company’s former employees, customers, and vendors.

### ▶ **Taking nothing at face value**

Our investigators scrutinize a target’s claims about their professional history, track record, and credentials. We highlight risks related to corporate strategy, performance, reputation, culture, operational infrastructure, human capital, and internal controls. We uncover potential deal breakers such as fraud, corruption, conflicts of interest, undisclosed relationships, and other adverse information.

### ▶ **Looking at the whole person**

We build a nuanced portrait of an individual, their character, management and communication style, and performance as a business leader. We scrutinize personal and professional affiliations and associations, uncovering any indicators of misconduct, impropriety, or reputational risk.

### ▶ **Tailoring our approach for each client**

Forward Risk maintains an open channel of communication with our clients to align our offerings with their needs. Our services can be applied to numerous scenarios, including due diligence for investors, shareholder activism, litigation support, pre-transaction / M&A situations, IPOs, vetting executive hires, defensive (self) due diligence, Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) and anti-money laundering (AML) investigations, other background checks, and more.

## Our Experience

### ▶ **A Secret Name Revealed during Due Diligence**

Forward Risk's investigation of an individual accused of fraud additionally revealed a second name – and a previous identity – for the subject. By searching with the previous name, Forward Risk found that the subject had faced fraud allegations, and furthermore had taken a plea deal with federal authorities related to a corruption scandal. These crucial facts had been unknown to the client prior to Forward Risk's investigation.

### ▶ **Due Diligence Unearths Undisclosed Ties between a Company and its Auditors**

Forward Risk, in the course of investigating a US- and Middle East-based biopharmaceutical company, identified previously undisclosed links to the company's auditors that had not yet been publicly discussed in news media or by other investment analysts. The finding demonstrated to the client the need for a new, truly independent audit of the company.

## The Forward Risk Difference

The Forward Risk team is a close-knit group of star performers dedicated to excelling in the investigative profession. We have diverse backgrounds but a shared commitment to providing industry-leading services, reinforced through the firm's extensive investments in knowledge sharing, training, and professional development. Our success comes from the intelligence, creativity, experience, sophistication, and tenacity of our investigators.

We listen to our clients. We don't try to shoehorn a complex investigation into a pre-defined package that can be mass-produced. Through understanding each client's concerns and goals, we tailor our research and our reporting to what is most actionable.

We devote time, resources, and care to our work. Where other firms may pressure investigators to prioritize speed over quality, we are absolutely committed to thoroughness, depth, accuracy, and proper analysis. This is how we build strong and long-lasting relationships with our clients.

## Who We Are

Forward Risk is a corporate investigations, intelligence, and risk advisory firm that provides tailored investigation and litigation support, investor due diligence, and strategic intelligence services. Our unique approach combines well-honed industry savvy with bespoke reporting to deliver value-driven information tailored to meet complex client needs. Staffed by a diverse team of professionals including former attorneys, investigative journalists, intelligence community alumni, and other government affairs experts, we help clients navigate transaction and dispute lifecycles by providing investigation and litigation support, investor due diligence, and strategic intelligence services. We marry comprehensive rigor to the curation of narrative context, which ensures that our clients receive actionable intelligence in the unique context of their specific engagement and objectives. Learn more about the unique strides Forward Risk takes in the investigative space at [www.forwardrisk.com](http://www.forwardrisk.com).

### **CONTACT**

**Brendan Foo, Partner and Co-Founder** | [brendan@forwardrisk.com](mailto:brendan@forwardrisk.com)

**Luke DiMaggio, Partner and Co-Founder** | [luke@forwardrisk.com](mailto:luke@forwardrisk.com)