

The Greater Lansing **BUSINESS MONTHLY** **20** CELEBRATING 1987-2007  
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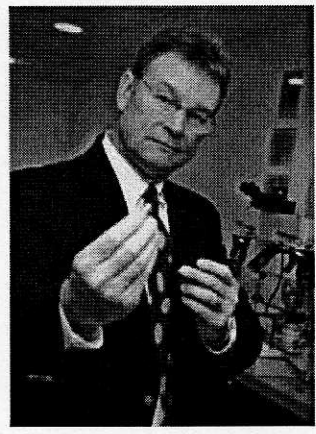
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Roger Bolhouse, Speckin lab director, examines a bullet fragment. Photo by Terri Shaver.

Author : [Jack Schaberg](#)

### Speckin Builds National Reputation

Looking for an internationally known and acclaimed forensic lab? Think you need to go to the East Coast or West Coast to find one? How about Michigan? How about the Lansing area? How about Okemos?

How about Speckin Forensic Labs?

In 1984, Len Speckin was a chief document examiner for the Michigan State Police (MSP). He realized that regulations preventing officers from working noncriminal cases during company time had resulted in a growing demand for forensic work in the civilian world—medical malpractice cases, alteration of documents, and forgery detection to name a few. For a number of years, Speckin took on these jobs after hours while still with the state police.

In the late '80s, he left the MSP and turned Speckin Forensic Labs into a full-time business. His son, Eric, was the first person Len brought in (Eric is now president and owner of the company). The elder Speckin then recruited several people from the state police to work as everything from document and fingerprint examiners to ballistics testing experts.

Until about 1998, document examining and crime scene reconstruction were the bulk of their business. It was about then, coincidental to the debut of TV show CSI or not, that business began to boom. A little over a year later, Roger Bolhouse, laboratory director, forensic analyst and consultant, came onboard. "I was a laboratory director for the state police," he said. "I retired from the Grand Rapids lab branch and came here." He began as a trace evidence examiner, but, as with most of his colleagues, he took on added responsibilities. Included in them was consulting work for Hollywood.

"They'll call us, or they'll e-mail us questions," Bolhouse said, "and then we'll answer the questions. Then frequently, they'll follow up with an e-mail with some actual dialogue. They'll ask us to make sure that it makes

