

GEORGIA



Training and Expert Witnesses

Bruce Willis

In the field of forensic science, many feel they can clearly define who may or may not be an expert witness. In Daubert and further defined in Mitchell, we clearly realize the trial judge is the gatekeeper. In their consideration, a witness must demonstrate practical knowledge, possess academic under-writings, be familiar with current practices, have experience in the specific topic of concern, and a myriad of other considerations to determine if a witness is to be considered an expert in a civil or criminal trial. This Process is carried out through direct and cross testimony as well some questions often asked by the trial judges. We are of course talking about trials and not daily field activities.

An expert in the field may exist and has only testified on a very limited number of occasions. This person has the credentials, practical experience, and academic backing in the discipline to be recognized as an expert. However, he or she has only worked a limited number of years in the field yet is placed on an oversight or policy establishing working group. An expert may be an individual who has dedicated their life to latent print work, testified in state in federal court hundreds of times as an expert, trains all incoming AFIS operators, administers IAI certification tests and has worked hundreds if not thousands of violent crimes. And our expert may be a true criminalist who has worked thousands of cases in the field and lab, has testified in hundreds of cases as an expert, established an accredited lab in his department, and is finalizing a Doctorate. How are the two-latter different from the first? Respect within our law enforcement, and judicial communities carries an enormous amount of weight in determining who is or who is not viewed on a frequent basis as a field expert. These communities know whether or not a six year work history, testimony in one court case, and friendship to a state crime lab director is sufficient experience to be considered an expert. Subjection to constant peer review clearly outweighs a yearly professional organizational meeting.

Butch Windham from Dougherty County Sheriff's Office and John Laneau of Warner Robins Police Department clearly do not have to be told or reminded that they are an expert in fingerprinting or criminalistics. They have traveled the path, educated themselves, testified in court, and earned the respect of peers throughout the state and country. This coupled with courts in their jurisdictions clearly recognizes these individuals as experts. A limited number of courses in college, at the university at a training facility, or a limited work-life experience does not match the level of expertise we expect as peers in the forensic world. (Continued page 5)

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Bruce Willis

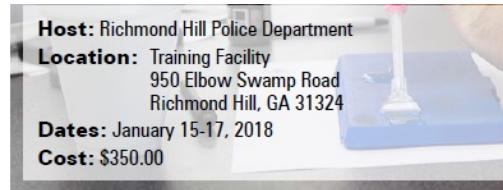
Retired
(706) 677-2248

Regional Representative, Rodney Bryant

Georgia Bureau of Investigations
rodney.bryant@gbgi.ga.gov

Training Opportunities...

Host: Richmond Hill Police Department
Location: Training Facility
950 Elbow Swamp Road
Richmond Hill, GA 31324
Dates: January 15-17, 2018
Cost: \$350.00



See reverse side for course details

Sirchie Forensic Training at Your Department

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Email: training@sirchie.com
www.sirchie.com

GENERAL LATENT PRINT & EVIDENCE PROCESSING CLASS
With the cooperation of the Richmond Hill Police Department (GA), Sirchie is offering its comprehensive "hands-on" General Processing Class at the Training Facility, 950 Elbow Swamp Road, Richmond Hill, GA 31324. This 3-day course covers state-of-the-art methods of identifying, recording, processing and preserving various types of evidence found at the scene of the crime. The program is geared for "Hands-on" use of equipment, materials and supplies necessary for a thorough and comprehensive evidence collection mission.

ENROLLMENT
Minimum enrollment will be 18 students with a maximum enrollment of 25 students.
The cost per student is \$350.00. All materials, supplies and equipment will be supplied by Sirchie. Students will be responsible for their own transportation and related per diem expenses.

Individuals interested in attending must register online with Sirchie in accordance

UPCOMING TRAINING

INSTRUCTOR: BRUCE WILLIS
RETIRED FROM GEORGIA DEPT. OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Four 24 Hr. Classes

Hosted By:
Banks County Sheriff's Office

WHERE
Banks County Adult Learning Center
127 Hudson Valley Drive Homer, Ga. 30547

REGISTER ONLINE AT:

www.Aboutfacts.org

SCHEDULED COURSES:

CASE FILE MANAGEMENT
November 28-30, 2017

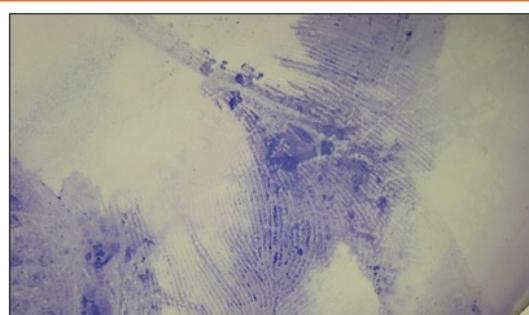
MEDICO-LEGAL DEATH INVESTIGATION
December 12-14, 2017

BLOODSTAIN DOCUMENTATION
January 16-18, 2018

BALLISTICS DOCUMENTATION
February 20-22, 2018

Contact:
Bruce Willis
Aboutfacts.willis@gmail.com

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PROCESSING LATENT PRINTS ON BLOODY AND SPECIAL SURFACES

Instructors: W. Morgan Hays, CLPE
and Lawrence Stringham
February 26 - 28, 2018

Tuition: \$489

Course Location:
Lawrenceville Police Department
300 Jackson Street, Lawrenceville, GA 30046

Lodging Information:
Hampton Inn, 1135 Lakes Parkway
Lawrenceville, GA 30043 | (770) 338-9600

Room Rate: \$99 plus tax per night. Single/Double | Booking Info: Mention the Lawrenceville Police Department course when registering by telephone.

JOIN the Georgia Division of the International Association for Identification (GAIAI)

The Georgia Division of the International Association for Identification (GAIAI) is a professional, non-profit law enforcement organization dedicated to promoting training and research in the application of scientific methods for the purpose of crime detection. As an organization, we seek to develop uniform and state-wide professional standards in such areas as:



Bloodstain Pattern Interpretation

Crime Scene Investigation

Electronic Imaging

Fingerprint Identification

Firearms Identification

Footwear / Tire Track Identification

Forensic Photography

Forensic Art

Innovative / General Techniques

Laboratory Analysis

Polygraph Examination

Questioned Document Analysis

Tool marks Identification

Voice & Acoustic Analysis

The Georgia Division of the IAI welcomes **Investigators, Detectives, and Civilian Crime Scene Investigators** that are involved in the crime scene processing, evidence collection, and forensic analysis. The GAIAI offers two one-day training sessions during the year and an Annual Fall Conference.

Member Benefits:

- Continuing education in multiple forensic disciplines and crime scene processing
- Networking with other Crime Scene and Forensic professionals

Membership Cost: \$30.00 Annually

Membership Application: <http://gaiai.org/membership-application/>

For Questions about membership or more information about our organization contact:

Katrina Willis Banks County Sheriff's Office
kwillis@bankscountysoga.org or 706-677-2248

www.gaiai.org

Fred Wells Dougherty County Sheriff's Office
fwells@dougherty.ga.us or 229-430-6653

David Jury Columbus Police Department
djury@columbusga.org

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An on-line course doesn't carry the weight of an in-person participation in multiple crime-scenes. Those in the academic world continue to miss this point. If I possess a doctorate in physics does this make me more of an expert in ballistic case discussions? If so, what variables must I consider? You mean the individuals were fighting? One was stabbed and one was falling? That changes everything, right? These dynamics are often overlooked or not considered in theoretical experimentation. So does this make the academic a lesser expert? Only the court can make this decision.

So we are still at square one. Person(s) in the law enforcement field constantly practice their disciplines and face criticism from the mis-informed public and courts. Academics do not face this scrutiny. The constant construction of academic and experience-less committees to oversee forensic practices certainly doesn't remedy our inherent problems either. So in consideration of all court decisions, Committee oversight groups, internal policies, SOP, and peer review it creates a very stressful environment for all members of the forensic community.

To hold yourself out to be an expert there are several hurdles in the professional environment you must pass; preliminary secondary education, on the job training, mentorship for advanced technology such as IAFIS or AFIS systems, continuing education in advanced and refresher topics, testimony in court on multiple cases, and multiple exposures to these forensic disciplines or scenes over a period of time are a must. Regardless of ego, we must feel comfortable with what we are doing. If this is accomplished, the respect of yourself and that of peers will be realized. If this occurs then you will realize that you are comfortable being an expert in forensic science.

Greetings Georgia IAI,

First, I would like to thank all of the volunteers that operated the Georgia State Division IAI booth at the IAI International Educational Conference. The conference was a success for our division. We had a good turn out from Georgia IAI members and even gained a few new members.

I would like to thank everyone for giving me this chance to serve as this year's President of the Georgia State Division of the IAI. I look forward to a productive year.

Planning for the spring and summer meetings is ongoing, as well as the fall educational conference. Please remember to reach out to your neighboring agencies and encourage them to attend these meetings. These one-day meetings are a great way to introduce and encourage someone to join our organization. Dates and details for these meetings are listed on the website with contacts.

I can't wait to see everyone again.

Sincerely,
Jason Canupp



GEORGIA STATE DIVISION
 INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION
 FOR IDENTIFICATION



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Please complete and return to:
 Georgia State Division, IAI
 P. O. Box 1949, Carrollton, GA 30112
 ANNUAL FEE: \$30

I hereby make application for membership in the Georgia State Division, International Association for Identification in accordance with its Bylaws and Constitution and agree to be bound by them.

I am applying for: Active Membership Associate Membership
(defined on reverse)

STATE DETAILS OF "YES" Answer to Question 1 below:

PLEASE COMPLETE BOTH ADDRESSES. Check one or both boxes.	
Name in Full: _____	Date of Birth: _____
Employed by: _____	How long? _____
In what capacity? _____	How long? _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Business Address: _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Home Address: _____	
Business Phone #: _____	Ext: _____ Fax #: _____
Home Phone #: _____	E-mail Address: _____

PERSONAL HISTORY
Degree and/or Honors and other Qualifications for Membership

1. Have you ever been convicted of a crime?
 NO
 YES (if yes, give full details on other side.)
2. I understand that application fees paid to the Association by any new applicant between January 1st and August 31st shall be applied to the membership dues for that calendar year only; fees paid by an applicant on or after September 1st shall be applied to the following calendar year.

3. All applications MUST be accompanied by payment of fees, which will be refunded if the application is rejected. *Incomplete applications will be returned.*

4. Also, I understand that my Membership Certificate is the property of the Division and must be returned to the Secretary upon my resignation or suspension.

Because this information will be used for compiling our Membership Directory, PLEASE be precise and complete ALL items.

Lapel Pin is optional. The cost is \$5.00

5. PLEASE NUMBER UP TO THREE AREAS OF YOUR EXPERTISE
Indicate your primary discipline as Number 1, then other areas as 2 and 3.

Bloodstain Pattern Analysis	Fingerprint Identification	Laboratory Analysis
Crime Scene Investigation	Forensic Art	Polygraph
Innovative/Gen. Techniques	Footwear/Tire Tracks	Questioned Documents
Firearms & Toolmarks	Forensic Photography/ Electronic Imaging	Voice Print & Acoustics

6. Recommended by:	Member's Name _____	Member's # _____
	Member's Address _____	
Approved: _____	Recommender's Signature (Required) _____	Date _____
	Signature of Membership Committee Chairperson and Date _____	

MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATIONS

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

Active members of the Georgia State Division shall consist of Heads of Bureaus of Identification or Investigation (including persons under their supervision who are engaged in the science of identification), heads of Police Departments, Chiefs of Detectives and Sheriffs, provided however, that the foregoing persons are bona fide employees of, and who receive salaries from National, State, County, or Municipal Governments, or some subdivision.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

All persons interested wholly or partially engaged in any of the various phases of the science of identification and who are not qualified for Active Membership are eligible to become Associate Members. They shall, in all respects, be subject to the same rights and privileges as Active Members, except that they shall not be entitled to the office of Vice President or President.

I certify that the information herein contained is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. Any omission or falsification of information will be a basis for rejection or denial of continued membership.

Applicant's Signature and Date: _____

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<http://gaiai.org/membership-application/>

Do you need to renew your membership?

<http://gaiai.org/membership-renewal/>