

William F. Leo
Forensic Identification Consultant
www.FingerprintIdentification.net

Credentials

Master of Science Degree – Criminology

Indiana State University

Emphasis in the areas of criminal law and physical evidence

Bachelor of Science Degree – Criminal Justice with a specialization in Forensic Identification

The Union Institute's College of Undergraduate Studies

Associate of Arts Degree – Administration of Justice

Los Angeles Valley College

Community College Teaching Credential in Police Science

State of California, 1980, Valid for Life

Certified Latent Fingerprint Examiner

International Association for Identification

Professional Experience

Forensic Identification Specialist II

January 1990 to Present

Los Angeles Sheriff's Department - Scientific Services Bureau

Lead latent print examiner, crime scene investigator, section training coordinator and lead instructor in the latent print examiner training program. Appears as an expert witness in the areas of fingerprint identification and crime scene investigation procedures.

Adjunct Instructor – Administration of Justice

1986 to Present

Rio Hondo Community College and Regional Police Academy

Courses taught: Crime Scene Investigation, Fingerprint Classification, Advanced Latent Prints, Friction Ridge Comparison, Advanced police video/photography, and Expert Witness Testimony.

Adjunct Instructor – Administration of Justice

January 2008 to Present

Chaffey College

Courses taught: Introduction to Administration of Justice, Criminal Investigation

Adjunct Instructor – Administration of Justice

January 2001 to January 2008

Long Beach City College

Taught the course: Fingerprint Identification and Classification for fourteen semesters

Latent Print Expert

September 1976 to January 1990

Los Angeles Police Department – Scientific Investigation Division

Crime scene investigator and latent print examiner, latent print section training officer, member disaster identification team, latent print instructor at the Los Angeles Police Academy from 1980 to 1990.

Professional Accomplishments

- Authored the textbook “Fingerprint Identification”, 2004, LawTech Publishing, ISBN 1889315133, the text has been adopted by various colleges throughout the United States and Canada, and is on the recommended reading list for board certification by the International Association for Identification.
- Lectured to over 15,000 law enforcement officers and students on latent print identification, the history and scientific foundation of fingerprint identification, crime scene investigation, and expert witness testimony.
- Conducted over 10,000 crime scene investigations, to include in excess of 1,000 major crime scenes involving homicides or officer-involved-shootings.
- Conducted many thousands of latent print examinations involving hundreds of thousands of individual latent prints.
- Qualified as an expert witness in State and Federal Courts in the areas of fingerprint identification and crime scene investigation in excess of 500 times.
- In 1991, conducted a scientific investigation into the possible falsification of fingerprint evidence by an evidence technician which resulted in an indictment.
- Presented a paper at the International Symposium on Latent Prints at the FBI Academy in 1993.
- As an expert witness, I defended the science of fingerprint identification during the first Daubert challenge of fingerprint evidence in a Federal civil rights trial, 1999, Central District Court of California.
- As an expert witness, I rebutted the testimony of Law Prof. James Starrs as to the reliability of fingerprint identification evidence in Orange County Superior Court, 2002.
- As an expert witness, I rebutted the testimony of Prof. Simon Cole as to the reliability and scientific foundation of fingerprint evidence, Los Angeles Superior Court, 2003.
- Published a number of technical papers on fingerprint identification which have appeared in the “Journal of Forensic Identification”, “The California Identification Digest”, and “The Print”.
- Recipient of the Charles Wolford Award presented by the Southern California Association of Fingerprint Officers for significant contributions to the Association and Profession.
- Featured in the Court Television Documentary “Lady in Concrete” North Mission Road Series.

Specialized Training

Forensic Identification

Confirmation Bias in Forensic Identification, 8 hours, 2009
Advanced ACE/V Applications, 40 hours, 2008
Cogent, NEC, & IAFIS workstation training, 40 hours, 2008
Shoe and Tire Impression workshop, 24 hours, 2002
Analysis of Problem Latent Prints, 24 hours, 2000
International Symposium on Latent Prints, FBI Academy, Quantico Va., 40 hours, 1993
Advanced Palm Print Identification Course, 24 hours, 1992
FBI Forensic Photography Course, 40 hours, 1990
Cal-ID Fingerprint Computer Course, 24 hours, 1985
FBI Deceased and Disaster Identification Course, 34 hours, 1980,
Evidence Technician School, Cal. State University at Long Beach, 120 hours, 1978
FBI Advanced Latent Fingerprint School, 40 hours, 1977
L.A.P.D. Latent Print Examiner Apprenticeship, 14 months, 1976-1977

Law Enforcement Tactics

FBI Terrorism workshop, 8 hours, 2005
L.A.S.D. Improvised Device and Booby Trap Awareness Course, 16 hours, 2004
FBI Firearms Instructor Course, 40 hours, 1980
L.A.P.D. Homicide Investigator's School, 40 hours, 1986
C.S.T.I. Officer Survival Course, 40 hours, 1977
832 P.C. Arrest and Firearms training, 60 hours, 1976
U.S.A.F. Law Enforcement and Security Specialist Courses, 1975

Teaching and Leadership

L.A.S.D. Deputy Leadership Institute, 24 hours, 2002
L.A.S.D. P.O.S.T. Instructor Update Course, 24 hours, 2000
FBI Instructor Development Course, 40 hours, 1979
UCLA Techniques of Teaching, 40 hours, 1979

Military Experience

California Air National Guard – Military Police Staff Sergeant	1974-1979
Active United States Army – Reconnaissance Scout	1971-1973

Selected Articles and Publications

Fingerprint Identification, Textbook, ISBN 1889315133

LawTech Publishing, San Clemente, CA., 2004

“Subjective” - The Misused Word

Journal of Forensic Identification, January/February 2008

Will DNA Replace Fingerprints in the 21st Century?

The Print, September 2005

What are the Effects of the Daubert Decision on Fingerprint Identification?

The Print, July 2005

IAFIS Fingerprint Search Solves 45 Year-Old Double Police Officer Murder

Journal of Forensic Identification, July/August 2003

Fingerprint Identification; Objective Science or Subjective Opinion?

The Print, January 2001

Distortion versus Dissimilarity in Friction Skin Identification

Journal of Forensic Identification, March 1998

Identification Standards - The Quest for Excellence

California Identification Digest, December 1996

Friction Skin Identification - A Scientific Approach

The Print, March 1994

Basis of Fingerprint Identification

California Identification Digest, June 1991

Selected Presentations

Investigating and Responding to an Allegation of Fingerprint Fabrication

California State Division, International Association for Identification, May 2008, Ontario, CA

The Sky is not Falling, Attacks on Fingerprint Identification in and out of the Courtroom

California State Division, International Association for Identification, May 2006, Ontario, CA

Is it Really Science?, Debate on Fingerprint Evidence, William Leo vs. Law Professor David Faigman

Los Angeles County Bar Association, Criminal Section Evening Seminar, February 2006

The Expert Fingerprint Witness in the World of Ridgeology

California State Division, International Association for Identification, April 2002, Monterey, CA

Defense Expert, Was He Lying or Incompetent?

California State Division, International Association for Identification, May 2000, Laughlin, NV.

Selected Presentations, Continued,

Presentation of Fingerprint Evidence

Guest Lecturer, Los Angeles County District Attorney's Trial College, 1995 - 2002

Expert Witness Testimony for Fingerprint Examiners

Lecture Series, Southern California Association of Fingerprint Officers, 1997 - 1998

Identification Protocol

International Association for Identification, Whittier, CA. 1998

Dissimilarities and Distortion in Friction Skin Identification

International Symposium on Latent Prints, FBI Academy 1993

Falsification of Fingerprint Evidence, A Case History

S.C.A.F.O. and C.S.D.I.A.I., seminars, 1992

Developing Latent Prints on Dead Bodies

Southern California Laser Study Group 1992

Identification of Skeletal Remains through Fingerprints, A Case History

International Association for Identification, Sacramento, CA 1988

Professional Affiliations

Member of the Editorial Review Board

Friction Ridge Source book

National Institute of Justice Project

Southern California Association of Fingerprint Officers

1996 President

Distinguished Member Status

Recipient of the Charles Wolford Award

Current Association Historian

International Association for Identification, California State Division

Served on Training & Credential Committee, Board of Directors, 1998 3rd Vice President

International Association for Identification Board Certified Latent Print Examiner