



48th Annual SWAFS Conference

Grand Junction Convention Center

Grand Junction, Colorado



Monday, October 26th, 2026

Morning sessions

Drug Chem: Advanced Isolation and Purification of Difficult Samples (Tim McKibben)

Difficult samples present many challenges to forensic chemists by interfering with effective sample preparation and efficient component recovery, as well as interfering with the identification of components found in unusual sample matrices or mixtures. The use of traditional base extractions or methanol "dilute and shoot" methods often don't work well - causing additional analysis problems including artifacts, fouling instruments, and producing poor data. This presentation will introduce advanced and often simple techniques that work well to isolate components from difficult sample matrices or mixtures.

Unfortunately, many of these sample preparation/isolation/purification techniques are not initially taught to forensic chemists in standardized training nor allowed as an option for casework - limiting what the analyst can do when a difficult sample or mixture is submitted for analysis. A wide variety of techniques and topics will be presented to assist chemists in preparing challenging samples for analysis.

Crime Scene: Advanced Photography (Meghan DeHaan)

Crime scene photographs sometimes need to tell a story. Instead of showing a series of images, an advanced in-camera, double exposure photograph allows CSIs to combine evidence, normally documented in the dark, with the surrounding area also visible in one photograph. This may include documenting blood evidence and/or trajectory evidence with the evidence markers, stickers, and/or other surrounding items also in view. This presentation will include a hands-on component, allowing attendees to practice these techniques in real time.

Firearms: Testimony-Daubert Challenges (Julie Knapp and Amy Weber)

Courtroom drama! How to be prepared!

This is an interactive class with a focus for the firearm and toolmark examiner, but general topics will be covered. During the class, we will be taking you through a series of court scenarios to include Daubert challenges. Be prepared with answers for the Daubert prongs, validation study error rates, the NAS report, PCAST report, your qualifications, and more! All levels of experience are welcome!

Be prepared to give and take constructive criticism.

General: Success Starts Here: Building Blocks for Effective On-the-Job Forensic Training Programs (Maegan Huerta)

New forensic hires across the country all meet similar minimum education requirements, but just having a degree in science, even with an emphasis in forensics, isn't enough to hit the ground running in a forensic laboratory. In addition to on-site discipline specific technical training, this job also requires the trainee to learn the nuances of the forensic industry and what separates us from other scientific fields. Even though we know this training is necessary and is already a component of most labs, not all training programs are created equally. While each lab has its own unique challenges, some commonalities include underdeveloped training plans, trainer availability, and limited trainer experience.

This presentation will explore the general structure of an on-the-job forensic training program from content and organization to material delivery and program evaluation. Beyond those basic building blocks, we'll discuss a few other components that, when incorporated, create a more holistic approach to employee training such as individual learning styles, generational differences, and fitness/wellness.

After participating in this session, the attendees will have a bigger tool set to help them evaluate the efficacy of their own training programs and consider areas for improvement that will lead to greater success of both their trainees and their laboratory.

Afternoon sessions

Drug Chem: Stop Testing/Population selection (Kery Hogan and David Huang)

The Scientific Working Group for the Analysis of Seized Drugs (SWGDRUG) is an organization that works to improve the quality of the forensic examination of seized drugs and responds to the needs of the forensic community by supporting the development of internationally accepted minimum standards, identifying best practices within the international community, and providing resources to help laboratories meet these standards. Much of these standards has been focused on recommendations and guidance for the identification of seized drugs. This focus led to a general gap in guidance surrounding results that are less than full identifications. This presentation will give an overview of newly drafted SWGDRUG recommendations for laboratories on the issue of stop testing procedures and indicative results. Various criteria that a laboratory could use to establish viable stop testing procedures will also be discussed. In addition, this presentation will discuss how SWGDRUG recommendations and other work products are created and revised and provide updates on new or in-process revisions, Supplemental Documents, and other resources to include a background on statistical sampling and available tools to aid in that process.

Crime Scene: Crime Scene Case Presentations (Heather Sczech and Trent Rundquist)

A Barrel, a Body, Two HAZMAT Teams, and Three CSIs: A Multiple Agency Collaborative Effort

On July 1, 2020, the CBI crime scene unit was requested to assist the Montrose Police Department (MPD) with a death investigation. A young man called 911 stating he had killed his father and intended to kill himself. This call resulted in a SWAT response. The residence was eventually breached. A young man with a self-inflicted gunshot wound was located at the top of the stairs on the second floor of the residence. A sealed barrel was located in the master bathroom which was also on the upper floor of the residence. Montrose Fire Department was dispatched to assess the situation with the barrel. When the lid was removed, liquid and a deceased individual was located in the barrel. The barrel was resealed.

The presentation will be about the case with a large emphasis on the collaborative effort between multiple agencies. The success for this case was only possible because of the teamwork and great working relationships between CBI and GJPD and GJPD and GJFD.

The Grand Junction Police Department received a call for service regarding an assault. When initial officers arrived, the victim was covered in blood, as well as the rest of the crime scene. Officers located a weapon with what appeared to be blood. The presentation will cover the initial observations of crime scene investigators and how a thorough documentation and interpretation of evidence showed what really happened.

Firearms: Reloading and Downloading for the Firearm Examiner (Justing Bechaver and Logan Bodily)

This course provides a forensic-focused overview of reloaded ammunition. Topics covered include common equipment and components, foundational understanding of the reloading process, and characteristic toolmarks created during the reloading process. Participants will learn practical cues for spotting reloads in both unfired and fired ammunition. We will discuss casework applications including distance determination and shooting reconstruction.

General: Leading from Every Level (Timothy Scanlan)

This course is designed to empower crime laboratory professionals at all levels to lead with integrity, build trust, and foster a culture of accountability. Through a combination of lectures and interactive discussions, participants will explore the role of personality in communication, team dynamics, and leadership effectiveness.

Key topics include communication across generations and cultures, conflict management, and the development of a blame-free environment. Attendees will gain insight into their own communication styles and those of others through an introduction to DiSC as a practical tool, along with brief discussions of other personality assessments, to help navigate and improve workplace relationships.

The course also delves into foundational leadership principles such as modeling the way, inspiring shared vision, enabling others to act, and explores strategies to increase motivation, engagement, and team cohesion. By the end of the session, participants will be better equipped to lead from any position, influence organizational culture, and contribute to a high-functioning, collaborative laboratory environment.

Tuesday, October 27th, 2026

Vendor Expo (all day)

Morning sessions

Firearms: Subclass characteristics – Who's Afraid of the Subclass Monster? (Jennifer Gelston)

This class will discuss manufacturing methods most likely to leave subclass marks, how the interaction of ammunition components with firearms may or may not negate subclass influence, and how to work with subclass if it is present and/or cannot be ruled out. Learn how to document and report out these types of cases. Don't be afraid, learn how to fight the subclass monster!

Firearms: Basic Firearms Examination and Documentation (Kristen Schaefer)

A basic skills course designed for beginner examiners. This course provides sample worksheets, notes, and phrasing for notes. The class will focus heavily on the use of photography to capture observations as the examiner completes their initial analysis of firearms. Special focus will be given to firearms with alterations, malfunctions, PMF, Frankenguns/conversion devices. How to document the features and parts to best note observations of operations during testing, and how to report on these types of firearms.

Afternoon sessions

Firearms: Conversion Workshop (Kristen Schaefer)

This workshop covers the history of automatic weapons, conversion devices and the function of the devices when incorporated with semiautomatic firearms. Case examples will be provided for discussion and safety practices for testing these types of devices and weapons. Brief reviews of documentation and the use of photography or video when appropriate to capture function of firearm with devices installed. Additional topic areas include the emerging technologies of firearms designs, 3D printed firearms, and case examples from the bench demonstrating the wide range of firearms and parts being printed with alterations.

Wednesday, October 28th, 2026

Morning sessions

Crime Scene/General: Zodiac/Black Dahlia Case Presentation (Mitzi Roberts, Rick Jackson and Alex Baber)

Our presentation examines suspect identification analysis in two of America's most enduring unsolved cases: the Black Dahlia murder and the Zodiac killings. Drawing on investigative research, the session will walk through the methodology used to evaluate persons of interest, the evidentiary threads connecting suspects to each case, and the challenges of applying suspect-identification techniques to decades-old cold cases. Attendees will gain insight into cold case investigative strategy, new methods, and the ongoing effort to bring resolution to these type of cases.

Firearms: Complex Firearms Cases (Kathy Geil)

Discussion of several complex firearms cases, documentation concerns and investigative challenges, experimental design and execution, case considerations, resolutions, and implementation of new technology. This workshop will also include group discussion of evidence recognition, documentation, and proper collection at crime scenes involving firearms. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own case examples and documentation for the group to discuss.

Firearms: PhotoGunMetry (Kristen Schaefer and Aaron Brudenell)

Air gun technology ranges from non-lethal projectile launchers to large bore rifled weapons capable of big game hunting. PhotoGunMetry is the use of digital images containing firearms or replicas to link together physical evidence from crime scenes, video/photo analysis, and timelines to provide scientific facts or investigative leads. This workshop will highlight a set of forensic cases and data sets that approach investigative methods from a different angle; specifically informed and systematic imagery analysis. This approach can assist law enforcement with proactive policing and enforcement activity or contribute to the reconstruction of an incident with accurate assessments of weapons displayed in relevant photos or videos. The focus will be on inter-agency collaboration, crime analysis, and effective resource management.

The training session will be broken into two parts. Part 1 will be lecture and hands on classroom application of air gun technology, image analysis of suspected firearms, documentation for case use, and reporting practices. Part 2 will be a range portion of the course will take place in the firing range where a collection of air guns will be test fired, velocity measurements recorded, and evaluations of wounding/lethality considered. Hands on practical demonstrations for the safe handling and unloading and loading of air-soft and BB guns will be explored. Additionally, the conversions of these devices to working firearms will be discussed and/or demonstrated.

Afternoon sessions

Drug Chem: The Forensic Expert Witness: Strategies for Effective Testimony (Timothy Scanlan)

Forensic experts are often highly trained in analysis, but effective courtroom testimony requires an additional set of skills. Experts must be able to clearly communicate complex scientific findings, understand the legal framework governing their testimony, respond effectively under cross-examination, and maintain credibility while remaining within the appropriate boundaries of their expertise.

This session combines instruction with an interactive panel discussion focused on the practical realities of expert testimony. The first portion will examine strategies for preparing and presenting forensic testimony, including expert qualification, applicable admissibility standards, effective communication of scientific findings, preparation for direct and cross-examination, and common pitfalls that can undermine an expert's testimony or credibility.

The second portion will transition to an interactive panel discussion in which participants can share challenging courtroom experiences and testimony scenarios. These examples will be examined using the principles introduced during the instructional portion, allowing participants to apply those concepts, explore different approaches, and identify strategies for navigating similar situations in the future.

Drawing from real-world courtroom experience, the session is designed to move beyond theory and provide forensic practitioners with practical strategies for delivering testimony that is clear, accurate, credible, and defensible.

Crime Scene: Collecting Digital Evidence (Jordan Huslig and Zachary Hill)

Encountering a digital device on a crime scene has become almost a certainty with every crime scene. Knowing how to properly collect and preserve digital evidence for future forensic analysis has proven to play a vital part in the investigative process. This class will cover how to properly collect and preserve devices found on scene, including mobile technology, personal computers, and more. This class will provide crucial information for those who have little experience to those who are veterans in handling digital evidence on scene. Critical updates will be provided on topics such as Apple inactivity timers, network isolation, volatile data destruction, infotainment/vehicle forensics, and much more. The class will culminate with a look into the forensic reports generated by analysts at the conclusion of an investigation to show how proper collection and preservation impacts the investigation.

Firearms: Forensic Firearms Suppressor Workshop (Glenn Davis)

This workshop will cover basic suppressor (silencer) concepts, factory designs and mounting methods, as well as improvised suppressors observed in casework. Forensic examination of suppressors will be covered to include documentation of design, common mounting systems, the use of sound meters, x-rays, and lead and nitrite detection chemistry to determine the use of improvised suppressors on firearms.

Firearms: PhotoGunMetry (Kristen Schaefer and Aaron Brudenell)

See listing under morning sessions

General: Failing Forward (Scott Oulton)

A leader's honest reflection on mistakes and how they framed him.

In this candid and deeply personal talk, a seasoned retired DEA leader takes the stage not to celebrate accolades or triumphs, but to illuminate the often-unseen path of missteps, misjudgments, and hard-earned lessons that shaped his extraordinary career. From operational oversights in high-stakes missions to leadership failures that impacted team morale, he unflinchingly explores the critical errors that taught him more than success ever could. Through raw storytelling and practical insights, he reflects on the consequences of ego, the dangers of burnout, and the importance of humility and accountability in leadership. With the hope of guiding the next generation, he shares how each failure became a steppingstone to growth—and urges the audience to learn from his journey so they can lead with wisdom, resilience, and integrity from the start.

Thursday, October 29th, 2026

Morning sessions

Drug Chem: Explosive Drug Cases- Improvised Explosives: An Awareness Level Overview and Case Study (Pam Thorman, Dr. Jarrad Wagner and Sean Crocker)

Improvised explosives are commonly encountered in the field, but they are not often encountered in the forensic laboratory setting. This presentation will describe the actions of the bomb squad and forensic scientist in resolving the unexpected presence of a primary improvised explosive in the forensic laboratory. The role and capabilities of the bomb squad will be described. An awareness level overview of improvised explosives will be provided to provide some indicators and warnings of improvised explosives.

Crime Scene: Forensic Investigation Research Station (Dr. Christiane Baigent)

Abstract pending

Firearms: Limited Universe (Mike Haag)

This half day workshop will begin with instruction on the limited universe concept as it applies to shooting incident reconstruction, followed group analysis of actual firearm related physical evidence mock cases based on real world scenarios.

The overarching message is that the competent forensic scientist evaluates the physical evidence most effectively by understanding as much as possible about a case, as opposed to as little as possible.

Limited Universe: A conceptual approach to casework and reconstruction that uses logical reasoning to limit the number of possibilities that should be addressed, as opposed to considering unrealistic or obtuse possibilities.

Firearms: Black Powder Firearms (Brian Smelser and Aaron Brudenell)

This is a course that covers the history, safe handling, loading, unloading, and discharge of a black powder firearm. The history of Black Powder firearms will be discussed with modern variants. Attendees will practically load, unload, and discharge black powder rifles and revolvers at the range so that they can see the products of discharge. The safe handling will include how to render these types of firearms safe at crime scenes or at the laboratory. There will be casework examples presented as well.

General: From Crisis to Calm: Mental Health in Forensic Science (Kristen Burke, Dr. Sabra Jones and Dee DeLeon)

This half-day workshop addresses the critical yet often overlooked stress and its impact on mental health in forensic science workplaces. This session will explore the unique stressors faced by forensic professionals, including vicarious trauma, high-pressure testing environments, court testimony pressure, and workload challenges. Through four focused segments, participants will examine workplace mental health challenges specific to forensic settings, learn to identify signs of burnout and compassion fatigue, and develop practical strategies for both management and bench staff to create healthier work environments. The workshop will address the challenges faced by toxicologists and other forensic scientists who deal with sensitive cases, strict methodological requirements, and the pressure of legal proceedings. Participants will gain practical tools for implementing mental health support systems within forensic laboratories and offices, with special attention to strategies that can be implemented regardless of laboratory size or resource constraints. The session will culminate in a panel discussion that encourages open dialogue about creating supportive workplace cultures that prioritize mental wellness alongside scientific excellence.

Afternoon sessions

Firearms: Shooting Reconstruction (Mike Haag)

This half day live fire and demonstration workshop will explore many ways that the damage to a projectile tells a story about where it has been, what type material it has struck, and what incident angles it encountered at impact.

Demonstrations will focus on common calibers and impact materials such as: sheet metal, concrete, drywall, glass, tissue simulant, wood, and others. Projectiles will be collected and participants will have the ability to personally examine and evaluate the workshop concepts and learning points.

Firearms: Black Powder Firearms (Brian Smelser and Aaron Brudenell)

See listing under morning sessions

Friday, October 30th, 2026

Firearms: Less Lethal (Rick Wyant)

Less lethal tools are designed to bridge the gap between batons and firearms. Students will be introduced to the large array of weapon types classified as less lethal, including impact (foam rounds and bean bags), chemical (tear gas and pepper spray), electrical (TASER and stun guns), distraction (flashbangs and blast balls), and others. Intended to de-escalate or neutralize a confrontation, they are often not critically evaluated or tested prior to deployment. Their use can cause serious injuries as their capabilities and limitations are routinely misunderstood. This course reviews incidents with undesirable outcomes and related injury analysis, with hands-on exposure of fired components to emphasize the importance of empirical testing. This is a live fire course with attendees deploying a variety of less lethal platforms. Students will learn techniques to examine collected evidence to opine effects of these devices related to post-event analysis and shooting incident reconstruction.

Firearms: Shooting Reconstruction and Trace Evidence Considerations (Kathy Geil, Kristen Schaefer and Glenn Davis)

Abstract pending

The views, opinions and conclusions expressed by presenters are solely those of the presenters and do not reflect the views, policies nor positions of the Southwestern Association of Forensic Scientists (SWAFS), its Officers, Board of Directors, members or conference organizers. SWAFS provides these presentations as part of its educational program and does not endorse, advocate for nor take a position on the subject matter, methods, products, services or opinions presented.

Speaker Biographies

Tim McKibben

Mr. McKibben's 39 years of experience includes work as a forensic chemist, a synthetic organic chemist, an inventor, crime scene investigator, and government contract manufacturer/trainer/case consultant. Mr. McKibben has authored and co-authored drug-related articles in multiple scientific journals, served as a President of CLIC, peer-reviewed scientific publications, testified overseas on multiple occasions, and served as a United States representative for work hosted by the United Nations' UNODC in London and Vienna.

Meghan DeHaan



Meghan DeHaan is a Civilian Investigator with the Grand Junction Police Department, where she has served for 13 years, including 12 years as a Forensic Investigator. Meghan finds great passion in her crime scene work and has had the privilege of processing hundreds of crime scenes and search warrants for her department. Meghan loves hands-on learning and finding new ways to do the job she loves.

Julie Knapp

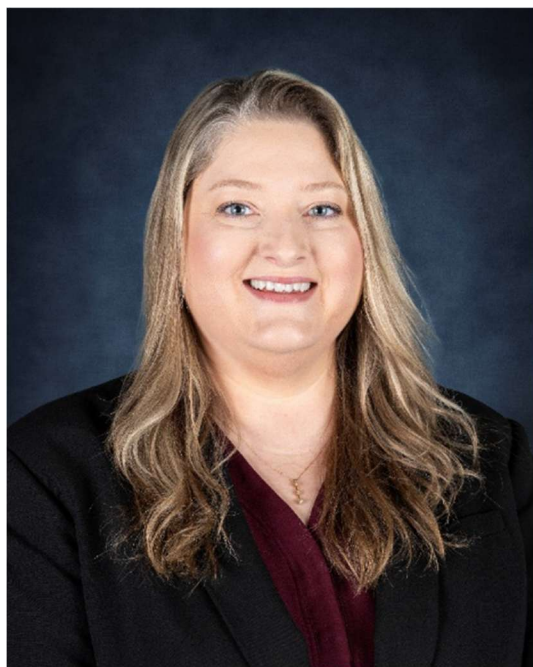
Julie Knapp is a senior forensic scientist and technical leader for the Colorado Bureau of Investigation. She has earned a B.S. in Chemistry with an emphasis in Criminalistics/Forensic Science From the Metropolitan State University of Denver. Her career spans over 23 years, working for a city, county, and state laboratory system. She has testified over 100 times including for several Daubert style hearings. She has worked with many agencies across the United States on defending the science and regularly holds trainings to aid scientists prepare for testimony.

Amy Weber

Amy Weber is a forensic scientist at the Nebraska State Patrol Crime Lab, specializing in firearm/toolmark and footwear/tire impression analysis. She holds a B.S. in Geological Sciences (geophysics/geo-engineering) from Northern Illinois University and a M.A.T. degree in Earth Sciences (earth sciences, physics, chemistry) from the University of South Carolina. Amy began her law enforcement career in 2001 as a police officer with the Richland County Sheriff's Office (RCSO) in Columbia, SC, where she was the first female in the state of South Carolina to receive the J.P. Strom Award for the best academic and performance record in the Criminal Justice Academy. In 2004, Amy was promoted into the RCSO laboratory as a crime scene responder. Later that same year, she began her specialized training as a firearm/toolmark examiner and successfully completed the 2005-2006 BATFE National Firearm Examiner Academy. Amy has worked in several laboratories over the course of her 22-year forensic career, and has testified as an expert witness in South Carolina, Kansas, Nebraska, as well as in the federal court system. She is a member of the Association of Firearm and Tool Mark Examiners (AFTE), serving as Secretary-Elect on the AFTE Board of Directors, Chair of the AFTE Standardization/Training Committee, AFTE Forum Moderator, and is a former member of the AFTE Board of Admissions. In 2023, Amy was awarded the Walter J. Howe Member of the Year award for outstanding contributions to the Association of Firearm and Tool Mark Examiners (AFTE). Amy is a qualified technical assessor in the forensic firearm/toolmark and footwear/tire disciplines with the ANAB ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board, and conducts on-site inspections of forensic laboratories throughout the country.



Maegan Huerta



Maegan Huerta is the System Trainer for the Toxicology Program at the Texas Department of Public Safety Crime Laboratory. She began her career with Texas DPS in 2011 as a Forensic Scientist, specializing in Seized Drug Identification and Toxicology (Alcohol/Volatiles) Analysis. In her current role, she is responsible for revising and developing training manual guidelines and materials, managing training activities and schedules, evaluating trainee progress and training program effectiveness, and developing standards for achieving successful training. Maegan holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Forensic Chemistry from Ohio University, she is a Technical Assessor for the American National Standards Institute National Accreditation Board (ANAB), and she is an active member of the Southwestern Association of Forensic Scientists

(SWAFS) where currently serves as President.

Kerry Hogan

Kerry is a Forensic Scientist with the Idaho State Police Forensic Services laboratory. She has been with ISPFS for 18 years and started her career in the biology/DNA unit. She transferred into the drug chemistry unit in 2011 and has never looked back. Outside of benchwork, Kerry was a general crime scene responder for 12 years with most responses being to assist in homicide or death investigations. She also maintains certification as a clan lab responder. Kerry was voted onto the Core Committee of SWGDRUG after the 2023 meeting and has been on the stop-testing sub-committee for three years.

David Huang

David Huang has been a Forensic Chemist with the United States Postal Inspection Service since February of 2022. Prior to that he was a Forensic Analyst with the Houston Forensic Science Center from 2013 to 2021. He has a Bachelor's of Science in Chemistry from the University of Texas at Austin, and is a member of the Southwestern Association of Forensic Scientists (SWAFS), the Clandestine Laboratory Investigating Chemists (CLIC), and the Scientific Working Group for the Analysis of Seized Drugs (SWGDRUG).



Heather Szech

Heather began her forensics career in 2008 at the Hamilton County Coroner's Crime Laboratory in Cincinnati, Ohio as a drug chemist. In 2013 she came to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation as a drug chemist before becoming involved in crime scene investigations. She was authorized for independent casework in crime scene investigations in 2017. She is a certified CSI through the IAI, certified in Drug Analysis through ABC, a FAA part 107 Unmanned Aircraft Pilot, and a Cellebrite Certified Operator.

Trent Rundquist

Trent Rundquist began his career with the Grand Junction Police Department in 2007 as a Criminalist in the disciplines of Latent Prints and Crime Scene Investigation. Rundquist was stationed at the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Grand Junction Laboratory for 11 years as part of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), where he processed evidence for agencies throughout the Western Slope. During his tenure at CBI, he also served as technical leader in both the latent print and footwear and tire sections.

In 2018, Rundquist was promoted to the Crime Laboratory Supervisor position at the Grand Junction Police Department. In 2022, he then promoted to the Civilian Manager position, where he currently oversees Property, Forensic Science, Quartermaster, Unmanned Aerial Systems (drones), and Crime Scene Investigation. He is certified as a Latent Print Examiner and Crime Scene Investigator through the International Association for Identification (IAI), as well as a certified Part 107 drone pilot through the FAA. Rundquist has also been an adjunct professor at Colorado Mesa University and spent 6 years as a member of the Latent Print Certification Board for the IAI.

Justin Bechaver

Biography pending

Logan Bodily

Biography pending

Timothy P. Scanlan, Ph.D.



Dr. Timothy Scanlan is the president of Forensic Analysis, Consulting, and Training, LLC (FACT). FACT has a proven record of training forensic science professionals and assisting forensic science organizations in improving their operations and management systems. Dr. Scanlan has over twenty-six years of law enforcement experience and retired as Deputy Chief, commanding the Technical Services Bureau for a major law enforcement agency. In that role, he supervised a multidisciplinary accredited crime laboratory, digital forensics unit, crime scene division, as well as other support elements, including the 911 division, records division, and community relations.

Dr. Scanlan is a court-qualified expert in firearm and tool mark examination, bloodstain pattern analysis, crime scene reconstruction, and crime scene processing and analysis. He has made more than 150 court appearances as an expert, including testimony in state, federal, and international courts. He has also developed and presented expert witness and courtroom testimony training for forensic scientists, investigators, and attorneys.

Additionally, Dr. Scanlan specializes in teaching leadership principles and management techniques to the criminal justice community nationwide and internationally. He is a former board member of the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors and has taught Leadership Communication for the ASCLD Leadership Academy since its inception in 2014.

Dr. Scanlan earned a Master of Science in Forensic Science from Florida International University, where his graduate research focused on the corrosive effect of blood on projectiles. He earned his Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration from Walden University with a specialization in Homeland Security Policy and Coordination. His dissertation was entitled Influences of CSI Effect, Daubert Ruling, and NAS Report on Forensic Science Practices.

Jennifer Gelston

Biography pending

Kristen Schaefer B.S MFS

I have a Bachelor's degree in Anthropology, minor in Biology and a Masters in Forensic Science. I am a graduate of the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms National Examiner Academy. I have over 20 years of experience in Forensic Science casework and court testimony in multiple disciplines to include, Crime Scene Analysis, Latent Print Development and Analysis, and Firearm and Tool Mark Examinations. I have five years' experience as an adjunct professor for Central Washington University in the Anthropology Department teaching college level coursework in Forensic Science and Senior Capstone Projects.



I have been employed by local, state and federal law enforcement agencies and have testified as an expert witness in criminal cases at municipal, superior and US-Federal courts. I am a graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation Law Enforcement Executive Development Association (FBI-LEEDA) management seminar series and I am a FBI-LEEDA Trilogy Award recipient.

As a forensic consultant I have been the project manager for startups of new laboratory facilities and program implementation and design. Programs include the Yakima Valley Local Crime Laboratory, evidence based lead generation program to assist law enforcement in the timely analysis of evidence for intelligence purposes.

I am available to provide, evidence analysis, peer review of casework, courtroom testimony, research, teaching, and administrative review of policies and procedures. I consult for the National Institute of Justice, criminal prosecutors, criminal defense, and have assisted in overseas criminal investigations. I am a regular member of the Association of Firearm and Toolmark Examiners (AFTE), the Member of the Year Committee and an AFTE Journal Editor Committee Member, and the American Academy of Forensic Science ASB Firearms and Toolmarks Consensus Body member.

Mitzi Roberts

Biography pending

Rick Jackson

Rick Jackson is a retired LAPD homicide detective who spent the last 28 years of his 34-year career working only murders cases. The last twelve years of his homicide work was as the senior member of the LAPD's first Cold Case Homicide Unit.

Following his retirement from LAPD in 2013, Rick began working as a cold case investigator with the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office, where he continues doing so today.

During his career, Rick began working with authors, including the iconic Joseph Wambaugh and James Ellroy ("LA Confidential"). However, Rick is best known for his long association with No. 1 New York Times bestselling author Michael Connelly. For over twenty years he has worked with Michael on his books, podcasts and documentaries, several coming from Rick's murder investigations. Rick also worked as a technical consultant for the first two seasons of "Bosch," the long-running Amazon series based Michael's novels.

In March of 2026, Rick published his first book, "Black Tunnel White Magic," which follows his six-year investigation of a murder case he could not let go. The case centers on the brutal murder of a UCLA student, a practitioner of the occult philosophy known as Wicca, who was killed inside of the "Charles Manson Tunnel" on the evening of the Summer Solstice, an occult holy day.

As the publisher of that book put on the book cover flap: "Rick Jackson – a decorated LAPD detective and a key inspiration for Michael Connelly's bestselling Harry Bosch series."

Alex Baber

Alex Baber is a Cold Case Consultant specializing in independent investigative analysis of unsolved homicides. Alex's work focuses on re-examining historical evidence through modern forensic and investigative techniques, with recent emphasis on the Black Dahlia and Zodiac cases. Alex will present the detailed process along with current findings on suspect identification in both investigations.

Kathy Geil



Sandstone Forensics, LLC

Kathy Geil has been a Forensic Scientist since 2002. She earned a BS degree in Genetics from the University of California, Davis, and a MS degree in Botany from the University of Washington. She has worked for local, county, and state forensic laboratories on the West Coast of the US. She is currently a partner at Sandstone Forensics LLC, a forensic science private consultant firm, and contracting with LeadsOnline. Her expertise includes microanalysis, crime scene response, bloodstain pattern analysis, trajectory analysis, crime scene reconstruction, Rapid DNA, digital forensic

extraction, as well as firearm and toolmark examination.

Aaron Brudenell

Aaron Brudenell is a Forensic Scientist and Consultant with initial backgrounds in Chemistry and Toxicology culminating in a focus on Firearm Forensics and Shooting Incident Reconstruction. He has further helped to pioneer the analysis of still and video imagery containing real and fake firearms and/or components to aid in the investigations of individuals and incidents. In his 30-year career, he has worked in accredited crime labs in Idaho, Washington, and Arizona and participated as an assessor for ASCLD-LAB, ANAB, and A2LA. Aaron is a graduate of and instructor for the ATF's National Firearm Examiner Academy and a distinguished member of the Association of Firearm and Toolmark Examiners. Biography pending



Jordan Huslig

Jordan Huslig has been with the Grand Junction Police Department in Colorado Since 2009. He started as the Crime Lab Audio/Video Technician and was promoted to full-time Digital Forensic Analyst in 2018. He holds two certifications from the International Association of Computer Investigative Specialists (IACIS): Certified Forensic Computer Examiner (CFCE) and IACIS Certified Mobile Device Examiner (ICMDE). He also maintains a Global Information Assurance Certification (GAIC) in Advanced Smartphone Forensics (GASF) in associated with the Sans Technology Institute. In 2017 he was awarded the Seized Computer Evidence Recovery Specialist (SCERS) certification with the Department of Homeland security.

He has been a member of the GJPD Forensic Investigator's team since 2015, where he instructs on proper digital evidence handling procedures. He became a Certified Faro 3D Scanner Instructor in 2017 and has since certified all forensic investigators and traffic investigators at the Grand Junction Police Department. He specializes in advanced crime scene reconstruction and diagramming, three-dimensional trajectory analysis, photogrammetry and digital multimedia analysis. When he's not busy at work, you'll either find him at the golf course with his wife of 17 years, working on his hobby farm, or coaching youth sports with one of his five children.

Zachary Hill

Zachary Hill has been a Digital Forensic Analyst for the Grand Junction Police Department since 2021. As a Digital Forensic Analyst, his primary focus has been on the collection, preservation, and examination of devices containing digital data. Hill is also part of the Forensic Investigation team, where he has led and helped process crime scenes. Hill provides training to newly hired officers and investigators on data encryption and the importance of collection and preservation.

Glenn Davis

Biography pending

Scott Oulton



Scott Oulton is a recently retired Senior Executive Service leader of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), where he served more than 35 years in federal service before retiring on January 11, 2026. Throughout his distinguished career, he provided scientific and strategic leadership at the highest levels of government, most recently serving as Assistant Administrator “Chief of Forensics” of the DEA’s Forensic Sciences Division.

As Assistant Administrator, Mr. Oulton served as the principal advisor to the DEA Administrator on all scientific and technical matters, overseeing a nationwide forensic laboratory system of nearly 600 professionals across nine regional and six subregional laboratories and multiple specialized units. Over the course of his career, he led transformative initiatives that reduced evidence

backlogs by 86%, increased laboratory efficiency, expanded forensic training capacity, and implemented nationally recognized scientific standards.

Mr. Oulton began his DEA career in 1990 as a forensic chemist and progressively served in key leadership positions since 1999. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry with an emphasis in Criminalistics from Northern Arizona University and has completed executive leadership programs at the University of Virginia, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of War and the University of Notre Dame.

Following his retirement from federal service, Mr. Oulton founded and now serves as President of INTR3PID Solutions LLC (www.intr3pid.com), where he provides strategic consulting in forensic science, laboratory operations, quality systems, process improvement, leadership development, and emerging drug threat response. Drawing on decades of executive leadership, scientific innovation, and operational excellence, he continues to support public safety agencies, laboratories, and organizations seeking to modernize operations, improve efficiency, and strengthen scientific integrity.

Pam Thorman

Pamela Thorman has over 25 years of experience as an analytical chemist, both as a forensic drug chemist and as an environmental radiochemist. She also has over 20 years of experience as a crime scene investigator and 16 years as a forensic serologist. She is currently a Criminalist with the Grand Junction Police Department performing seized drug analysis, crime scene analysis and serology analysis.



Dr. Jarrad Wagner

Dr. Jarrad Wagner is a Professor of Forensic Sciences at Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences (OSU CHS). He provides training to federal, state, and local personnel on illicit clandestine laboratories, recognition of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) or CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, or Explosive) and drug labs.

Sean Crocker

Commander Sean Crocker has over 29 years of law enforcement experience and over 22 years at the Grand Junction Police Department. Sean was a lateral officer to the Grand Junction Police Department from the Colorado State Patrol. Sean has worked in Patrol, Investigations, and Special Teams. Sean currently supervises the Investigations Unit, Drug Task Force, Advanced Real Time Information Center (ARTIC), Intelligence Detective and two Crime Analysts. Sean has been a Bomb Technician / Bomb Squad Commander since 2018.

Dr. Christiane Baigent

Biography pending

Mike Haag



I am a forensic scientist with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Chemistry from the University of Arizona. For over 25 years, I have regularly conducted independent investigations of physical evidence involving firearms. These investigations often involve:

- Shooting Incident Reconstruction
 - Trajectory Analysis and Determination
 - Terminal Ballistics and Wound Ballistics
 - 3D Laser Scanning of Shooting Scenes
 - Firearm and Toolmark Identification
 - Ejection Patterning
 - Gunshot Residue Examination and Distance Determination
- Chemical Testing at Suspected Bullet Impact Sites

I have served as an expert in hundreds of cases and testified in courts throughout the country on this subject matter, in both criminal and civil matters, for both the defense and the plaintiff/prosecution. From 1998 until my retirement in 2022, I also served as a forensic scientist for the Albuquerque Police Department's Scientific Evidence Division. During my tenure, I regularly performed forensic investigations, both in the field and in the laboratory and developed experience and expertise in the areas relevant to my expert opinion in this case.

In 2000, I established Forensic Science Consultants, a non-biased, non-law enforcement affiliated, independent company specializing in casework and training in shooting incident reconstruction. Shooting incident reconstruction is the use of firearm related physical evidence to determine what did, or did not occur during a shooting incident. This is the core casework service provided by Forensic Science Consultants. This line of investigation uses such physical evidence as fired bullets and fragments, trajectories, cartridge casings, impact sites, trace evidence, the firearm itself, gunshot residue, ammunition, and the event scene itself. As a private consultant, I have been involved in the investigation of numerous high-profile investigations, including the shooting of President Chen Shui-ban of Taiwan in March of 2004, the examination of physical evidence from the room where Billy the Kid was allegedly killed, the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, and the homicide trial of Aaron Hernandez.

I have received training in forensics and firearm related investigations from the following organizations: the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), California Association of Criminalists (CAC), the Association of Firearm and Tool Mark Examiners (AFTE), the German Bundeskriminalamt (BKA), the Southwestern Association of Forensic Scientists (SWAFS), the International Association of Bloodstain Pattern Analysts (IABPA), the Association for Crime Scene Reconstruction (ACSR),

and numerous smaller agencies and organizations to name a few. I am a distinguished member of AFTE, for which I have served on committees, including the training committee, and as an Assistant Editor for this organization's peer reviewed scientific journal. I am also the incoming president of this prestigious organization. After completing practical and written testing, I long ago became an AFTE Certified Examiner in all areas offered: Firearm Evidence Examination and Identification, Tool Mark Examination and Identification, and Gunshot Residue Evidence Examination and Identification. I am also a New Mexico State DPS Certified Instructor in Firearm and Tool Mark Forensics, Trajectory Analysis, Serial Number Restoration, and Shooting Scene Reconstruction. I was one of the very few investigators to test and succeed in becoming certified by the International Association for Identification (IAI) in Crime Scene Reconstruction. I have served on two separate NIST, OSAC subcommittees: Firearms and Toolmarks and Crime Scene Investigation & Reconstruction.

I co-authored a forensic text on shooting incident reconstruction, entitled SHOOTING INCIDENT RECONSTRUCTION (3rd edition), Academic Press, Copyright 2022. It is required reading for ASCR's past crime scene reconstruction certification, and currently is the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives' (BATF's) National Firearm Examiners Academy (NFEA) shooting reconstruction text. I am also the author of the chapter on Shooting Incident Reconstruction in Elsevier's Encyclopedia of Forensic Science, Academic Press 2023. My forensic articles have been published in leading forensic publications, including the Journal of Forensic Sciences, AFTE Journal, Academic Forensic Pathology Journal, and the Journal of the Association for Crime Scene Reconstruction. A complete list of my publications is listed on my CV. I also serve as a television commentator on ballistic issues and have appeared as a guest on Fox News' "On the Record", Court TV, Science Friday, the Discovery Channel, and several others.

Through Forensic Science Consultants, I teach a variety of courses related to shooting incident reconstruction. Some of the topic areas covered include: terminal ballistics, shot sequence, number of shots, trajectories, alignment of materials struck by bullets, trace evidence, ejection patterning, the limited universe, and wound ballistics. These courses couple class time and a large amount of live fire practical demonstration. As indicated on my CV, I have served as an instructor at ballistics and shooting incident reconstruction conferences and trainings throughout the country and internationally. I also serve as a recurrent (2000-2024) Trajectory Analysis and Shooting Reconstruction Instructor for the NFEA provided by the BATF.

Brian Smelser

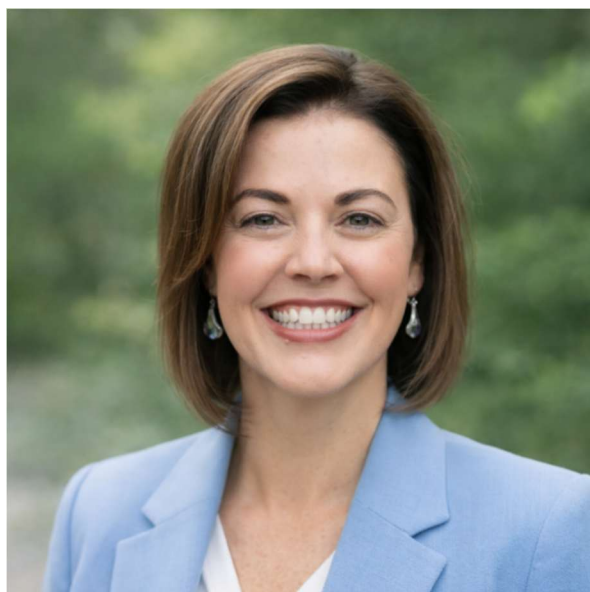
Biography pending

Kristen Burke

Kristen is a toxicology expert with 28+ years of experience across forensic, clinical, and workplace drug testing. As the NHTSA Western Region Toxicology Liaison, she supports laboratories across four states and Pacific Territories. Her career includes experience directing the CA Department of Justice Toxicology Laboratory, supervising at the Sacramento County Crime Lab, and working in private-sector toxicology. She has served on multiple advisory boards, including the Federal Drug Testing Advisory Board for SAMHSA and as Chair of California's Impaired Driving Task Force subcommittee. Kristen is an experienced instructor/consultant on testimony training, drug effects, and forensic toxicology applications. She holds a B.S. in Biology, an MBA from USC (2021), an M.S. in Ayurveda Integrative Medicine, and is pursuing a PhD in Physiology.



Dr. Sabra Jones



Sabra Jones, PhD, D-ABFT-FT is a board-certified forensic toxicologist with expertise in transportation safety, drug-impaired driving, and forensic science systems. She serves as the Regional Toxicology Liaison (RTL) for the Northeastern United States, supporting forensic toxicology laboratories, highway safety offices, law enforcement, prosecutors, and judicial partners across NHTSA Regions 1, 2, and 3.

Dr. Jones' professional experience spans federal service at the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration, postmortem forensic toxicology at the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office, and academic training as an Assistant Professor and graduate mentor in the Biomedical Forensic Sciences Program at Boston University School of Medicine. Through the RTL Program, she provides training, technical assistance, and strategic coordination focused on laboratory capacity, emerging drugs, testimony, and the interpretation of toxicological evidence in impaired driving cases.

She holds a PhD in Forensic Science from Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences, Master of Science degrees in Drug Chemistry and Forensic Toxicology from the University of Florida, and undergraduate and graduate degrees in Criminal Justice with a focus on Substance Abuse Studies from the University of Central Oklahoma. Dr. Jones has held national leadership roles in professional organizations, including serving as Past Chair of the National Safety Council's Alcohol, Drugs, and Impairment Division and in leadership roles within forensic toxicology standards development.

Dee DeLeon

Dee DeLeon is a National Board Certified Counselor and Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor who started her career working within the foster care and criminal justice systems. Her early experiences influenced her decision to open a group practice in Mt Shasta, California where her team focuses on treating complex trauma for a wide range of clients, including natural disaster survivors, first responders, medical, and frontline workers. Dee presents at local and national workshops on a variety of topics, such as teaching and promoting self-care techniques, how to create boundaries within the workplace, and how to establish a system-wide healthcare protocol for employees from the top down. Dee holds a masters degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Southern Oregon University and is licensed in multiple states. It is Dee's hope to teach clients how to establish a healthy relationship with themselves and the world around them.



Rick Wyant

R.T. Wyant, M.S. WD Forensic

Since 1995, Rick has served as a forensic scientist specializing in firearm analysis and reconstructing shooting incidents, bringing experience from both state crime laboratory work and independent analysis/consulting roles. In 2001, he started evaluating, testing, and serving as an expert witness on less lethal weapons, with his work featured in *Risk Management of Less Lethal Options* (ISBN: 978-1-4665-6303-2, CRC Press, 2014). He provides training and consultation for professional scientific organizations, attorneys, and law enforcement associations, both domestically and internationally.

Rick is a distinguished member of the Association of Firearm and Toolmark Examiners (AFTE) and teaches at the ATF National Firearm Examiner Academy (NFEA). He served on expert groups, including FBI Scientific Working Group for firearms examination (SWGgun), the NIJ Technical Working Group for less lethal weapons (TWG-LL), and the International Law Enforcement Forum (ILEF).

