Courtroom Testimony for Fingerprint Examiners

Instructor: Erin West, MS, CLPE, CCSA
April 20 - 22, 2020 | 8 am - 5 pm
Tuition: $492

Location:
Irvine Police Department
One Civic Center Plaza | Irvine, CA 92606

Lodging Information:
Hyatt House Irvine / John Wayne Airport
2320 Main Street | Irvine, CA 92614
949-936-4280

Room Rate: $181 plus tax if applicable (parking is $18 self-parking / $22 Valet)
Booking Info: Call the hotel directly or use the booking link on the course page on our website, www.tritechtraining.com, to get the special rate.

This course has been approved for the following certification/recertification training credits: IAI Crime Scene Certification Board - 16 and IAI Latent Print Certification, Tenprint Fingerprint Certification, and Forensic Video Certification Board - 24. Please visit the IAI Certifications page at tritechtraining.com for more information.
Fingerprint examiners are frequently called upon to testify in court regarding their techniques, observations, and conclusions. In order to be accepted as an expert witness, the fingerprint examiner must display a current and in-depth knowledge of the science. Although fingerprint testimony was accepted with few judicial challenges for over one hundred years, challenges to fingerprint science as a method of human identification are becoming more common. These challenges are usually brought forth in what are called Frye or Daubert hearings. The use of these hearings was the result of several judicial decisions in the late 20th Century.

The goal of this course is to provide the students with the knowledge, confidence and practical experience necessary to survive qualifying questioning (voir dire), direct, and cross-examination. Students will learn how to take control of their testimony by preparing themselves and the concerned attorney(s) for the voir dire as well as direct examination.

The course will cover techniques the witness can employ to effectively explain fingerprint science and its application to the judge and jury.

In order to maximize the students’ opportunity to succeed, this course includes a review of the Frye decision and the Daubert trilogy, as well as several challenges to the admission of fingerprint evidence in court cases, including US v Mitchell (1999).

Due to the extensive amount of hands-on training in this course, enrollment is restricted to 16 participants.

**COURSE INSTRUCTOR**

**ERIN WEST, MS, CLPE, CCSA**

Erin West began her career in Forensics in 2006 as a Crime Scene Investigator for the Brevard County Sheriff’s Office in Florida. In 2010, she became a Battlefield Forensics Instructor for the United States Army Intelligence Center of Excellence, where she was responsible for training military personnel how to use a variety of forensic disciplines to investigate crimes overseas. In 2012, she became a Supervisor and then a Deputy Program Manager for a Department of Justice forensic laboratory housed at American Systems, where she was responsible for training and supervising staff working in different forensic disciplines and at different levels of management.

She has spent the last few years working as a full time Latent Print Examiner for the Osceola County Sheriff’s Office in Florida, where she is responsible for training new examiners to full competency.

Erin earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Central Florida in 2006 and a Master of Science degree in Forensic DNA and Serology with a graduate certificate in Forensic Toxicology from the University of Florida in 2012.

Erin is a member of the International Association for Identification (IAI) and the Florida Division of the IAI and has been a presenter at the annual FDIAI Conference. She is an IAI Certified Crime Scene Analyst and an IAI Certified Latent Print Examiner.