



CRAWL BEFORE YOU WALK: SPEECH AND THEATRE FOR LATENT PRINT TESTIMONY

NOVEMBER 6-7, 2019



Hosted by Durham PD
602 E. Main St. Durham, NC 27701



Most latent print examiners dread giving testimony. But they know their subject matter, so why the resistance? For many, the issue is a fear of public speaking – add to that the adversarial environment of a courtroom, and you have a recipe for a bad case of stage fright!

Come practice tips and techniques from the world of speech and theatre to improve your public speaking and confidence in front of an audience

Learn about common challenges to latent print testimony and how to meet them transparently using scientifically defensible language that avoids phrases like “100% certain”, “zero error rate”, and “exclusion of all others”

This is a highly interactive, hands-on workshop! Please come dressed comfortably, and be ready to move, be silly, and feel a little exposed. We will be pushing the boundaries of your comfort zone and having fun doing it.

Practice your new skills in a brief moot court filled with challenging questions

This course has been approved by the IAI certification board for 16 hours of certification or recertification training credit or 16 hours of courtroom testimony training for initial certification.

Learning Objectives: After completion of this course, students will...

- Be able to center themselves and control their breathing to help combat stage fright
- Have experience in thinking on their feet and commanding the attention of an audience
- Understand the difference between a dogma expert and a transparent expert, and why the latter is preferable
- Understand why old, dogmatic statements traditionally used in court are inappropriate and overstate our knowledge and conclusions
- Be equipped with tactics for addressing challenging topics in a transparent, modest, and non-defensive way
- Be aware of current literature that can be used to support the science in court

Instructor:



Heidi Eldridge has worked in the field of forensic science for over 15 years, the first 11 of which were as a bench forensic scientist in latent prints, controlled substances, and crime scene analysis and reconstruction. She is now a full-time forensic science researcher and educator with RTI International, and has her own teaching and consulting business, On the Mark Forensics. Heidi has been teaching testimony to examiners and legal professionals since 2010, but this course is the first one in which she has pulled in her background in speech and theatre to focus on principles of public speaking. Heidi is a member of the Board of Directors of the IAI, and sits on the JFI editorial board, the OSAC Friction Ridge Subcommittee, and the ASB friction ridge consensus body. She is a PhD candidate in forensic science at the University of Lausanne, and the PI of two current research and development grants in latent prints from the NIJ.

SCHEDULE

DAY ONE

Introduction to the course – 15 minutes

Tongue twisters and Warm-ups – 1 hour

Breathing and Centering Exercises – 30 minutes

Break – 15 minutes

Improvise Acting Exercises – 45 minutes

Public Speaking Tips and Tricks – 45 minutes

Lunch – 1 hour

Extemporaneous Speeches – 1.5 hours

Break – 30 minutes

Role of the expert in the courtroom – 10 minutes

History of Admissibility/Landmark Cases – 20 minutes

Standards, guidelines, and critiques – 15 minutes

Includes overview of NAS, PCAST, SWGFAST, OSAC, ASB, AAAS

Two types of Expert Witness – 5 minutes

Introduces the concept of the dogma witness versus the transparent witness

Know your Critics – 20 minutes

Presents a brief overview of the main critics and their arguments

Preparing for a hearing – 10 minutes

Overview of possible outcomes to a motion to exclude, and how to prepare

Common phrases and why they're problematic/Building your case on direct – 1 hour (begin)

Covers "based on my training and experience", uniqueness, describing ACE-V, individualization/exclusion of all others, the relevant population, 100% certainty, subjective probability, error rates and error rate studies, and high profile errors

Improv Game – 10 minutes

DAY TWO

Warm-ups – 30 minutes

Making an entrance exercise – 30 minutes

Common phrases and why they're problematic/Building your case on direct – 1.25 hr. (cont.)

Break – 15 minutes

Other common court topics – 1 hour

Addresses other topics that frequently come up in court, but are not directly part of the flow of laying the foundation, including: bias, validating ACE-V, why an expert is needed (as opposed to letting the jury look at the images and decide for themselves), variability between experts, and blind verification

Lunch – 1 hour

Improv Game – 10 minutes

Moot court exercises – 4.25 hours (with a mid-afternoon break)

Wrap-up and Certificates – 5 minutes

COST: \$300

*Payments can be made to:

On the Mark Forensics, LLC

208 Kinney Glenn Ct.

Durham, NC 27713

LOCATION: Durham Police Department Headquarters

602 E. Main St.

Durham, NC 27701

TIME: 8am– 5pm

If you need additional information about the class, or hotel accommodations please contact:

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