

ARIZONA FORENSIC SCIENCE ACADEMY

**Presentation for National
Commission on Forensic Science
April 11, 2017**

Ron Reinstein

Chair, AZ Forensic Science Advisory Committee

Program Description

- Arizona Attorney General
- Arizona Forensic Science Advisory Committee
 - Education Subcommittee
 - ***Arizona Forensic Science Academy Board***
 - ***Jody Wolf, Chair***
 - Assistant Administrator***
 - Phoenix Crime Lab***



AZ FSA Composition

- AZ Supreme Court
- AZ Court of Appeals
- AZ Attorney General's Office
- AZ Public Defenders Association
- Arizona Prosecuting Attorney's Association
- Phoenix Police Department Crime Lab
- AZ Department of Public Safety Crime Lab
- AZ Criminal Justice Commission
- Maricopa County Attorney's Office
- Maricopa County Medical Examiner
- Office of the Legal Advocate



Program Goals

- Increase criminal justice practitioners' understanding of
 - Forensic principles
 - Scientific methodologies
 - Evidentiary concerns
- Target Audience
 - Attorneys (Judges, prosecutors, & defense attorneys)
 - Forensic Scientists
 - Law Enforcement



What is AFSA?

An innovative course that brings prosecutors and defense attorneys together to learn about the scientific issues which are presented in criminal cases from the experts who actually do the science



How is this different?

- Prosecutors and defense attorneys combined
- Science presented by experts from accredited/recognized labs
- Forum encouraging open discussion and questioning from all sides



Training Programs Offered

- Basic Forensic Science Academy
- Advanced Forensic Science Academy
- 3-D (Domestic Violence, Drugs, & DUI) Forensic Science Academy
- Forensic Science Lecture Series
- Judges Training
- Specialized training and hands-on experiences
- Inns of Court



Basic Academy

- Multi-week
- Lectures
- Tour of crime lab and ME facilities
- Hands-on Exercises
- Continuing Education Credit
- Introduction to
 - Crime Scene Investigation
 - Toxicology
 - Controlled Substances
 - Forensic Biology/DNA
 - Firearms
 - Latent Prints
 - Digital Evidence
 - Death Investigation



Advanced Academy

- Multi-week
- Lectures
- Case Debriefs
- Guest Lecturers
- Continuing Education Credits
- In-depth review and analysis of forensic science disciplines
 - DNA
 - Latent Prints
 - Firearms
- Ethics Component



3-D Academy

Domestic Violence, Drugs, DUI

- Multi-week
- Lectures
- In-depth review and analysis of forensic science disciplines
 - Domestic Violence Medical Examinations
 - Drugs (Controlled Substances Analysis
 - Toxicology
 - Drugs and Alcohol Analysis



Forensic Science Lecture Series

- Stand-alone 4 hour lectures
- Continuing Education for Forensic Scientists
- Recognized Experts as Lecturers
 - National & Local
- Topics are identified to meet CE needs of
 - Forensic Scientists
 - Attorneys
 - Law Enforcement
- Examples
 - DNA Mixture Interpretation
 - Analysis of Emerging Drugs
 - Ethics
 - Cognitive Bias



Judges Training

- AZ Supreme Court
 - Chief Justice Scott Bales
- Partnership with AZ Judicial College
- Two-day dedicated conference
- Agenda Overview
 - Basics
 - Daubert Issues
 - Forensic Biology/DNA
 - Death Investigation
 - Controlled Substances
 - Firearms
 - Toxicology
 - Digital Evidence
 - Latent Prints



Training Delivered

- 6 Basic Academies
- 5 Advanced Academies
- 1 3-D Academy
- 21 Forensic Science Series Lectures
- 1 Judicial Conference
- 1200 total attendees



What's Next?

- Spring 2017 Advanced Academy
- 3 Spring 2017 Forensic Science Lectures
- 2 Webinars
- Judges Training



ARIZONA FORENSIC SCIENCE ACADEMY



Questions?

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