

TRACK: Legal A
SESSION #: LA#10
DATE: Tuesday April 20, 2010
TIME: 4:15-5:30pm
SESSION TITLE: "Ten Key Elements of a GREAT Expert Witness: Tips for the Digital Forensics Expert (and the People Who Hire Them)"
SPEAKER: Monique Ferraro, MS, JD, CISSP – Principal
ORGANIZATION: Technology Forensics, LLC

ABSTRACT: "Ten Key Elements of a GREAT Expert Witness: Tips for the Digital Forensics Expert (and the People Who Hire Them)"

This presentation is directed to digital forensics practitioners and to legal professionals and executives who hire testifying experts. The ten key elements for being a great expert witness will be discussed. They are:

- 1) Have the education and training to do the job;
- 2) Stay within your area of 'expertise';
- 3) Avoid apparent and actual bias;
- 4) Use practices that conform to industry standards;
- 5) Have your work peer reviewed;
- 6) Write a good report;
- 7) Prepare your client;
- 8) Prepare for testimony;
- 9) Project the appropriate demeanor and anticipate your audience;
- 10) Seek out and learn from feedback.

Each of the elements will be discussed in detail. Examples, 'do's' and 'don'ts' will be presented. Participants will be provided with sample documents, such as resumes, lists of qualifications and relevant journals, standard lab practices and procedures, reports and feedback forms.

SPEAKER BIO: Monique Mattei Ferraro is an attorney licensed to practice in Connecticut. She is one of the very few attorneys in the state who is a Certified Information Systems Security Professional. She has designed college curricula in Digital Forensics and has taught courses in Digital Forensics at John Jay College and Quinnipiac University.

Ferraro worked for the State of Connecticut Department of Public Safety for eighteen years. She was a founding member of Connecticut's Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and the Computer Crimes and Electronic Evidence Lab and worked in the lab for six years. Ferraro's work with the Department of Public Safety includes five years working as an analyst with the Intelligence Unit where she supervised the state's VICAP program and helped to design and implement a statewide criminal intelligence network. Ferraro spent eight years as an analyst in the Crimes Analysis Unit where she administered the state's family violence, sex crimes, gang and bias crimes databases.

She holds a Bachelor's Degree from Western Connecticut State University in Justice and Law Administration, a Master's Degree from Northeastern University in Criminal Justice and a Law Degree from the University of Connecticut School of Law. Ferraro has attended hundreds of hours of training in identification and recovery of data from electronic devices. Ferraro is an experienced witness and has appeared in court as a lawyer and as a witness. She has testified as an expert in digital evidence.

Ferraro has published a number of scholarly articles and book chapters on digital forensics. She and Eoghan Casey co-wrote *Investigating Child Exploitation and Pornography: The Internet, Law and Forensic Science* (Elsevier, 2004).