RON SMITH & ASSOCIATES, INC.



Expert Witness Testimony Techniques for Laboratory Analysts

Course Description

This advanced course is designed exclusively for experienced forensic professionals who provide expert witness testimony and seek to elevate their courtroom performance from basic survival to strategic success. The program focuses on the unique challenges forensic experts face when presenting technical opinions under intense legal scrutiny.

Participants will develop advanced skills for delivering clear, authoritative, and defensible forensic testimony in complex and adversarial legal environments. Emphasis is placed on managing aggressive cross-examination, protecting forensic opinions from mischaracterization, and maintaining credibility when confronted with methodological, procedural, or bias-based challenges.

This course is ideal for forensic professionals who want to strengthen their expert witness presence, safeguard their forensic conclusions, and deliver confident, compelling testimony that supports successful legal outcomes.



John Black

CSCSA

Course Logistics

When:

November 9, 2026 - November 10, 2026

Where:

Nampa Police Department

820 2nd St S

2nd Floor - Brisbin Room

Nampa, ID 83646

Parking lot or spaces on the perimeter of the Police Department. Class will be held on the 2nd floor in the Brisbin Room.

Hours:

16

Tuition:

$400.00

Target Audience

This course is designed for experienced forensic professionals who provide expert witness testimony in legal proceedings and seek to advance their courtroom effectiveness beyond foundational training.

The target audience includes, but is not limited to:

- Forensic scientists and analysts
- Crime laboratory professionals
- Forensic pathologists and medical examiners
- Digital and multimedia forensic experts
- Forensic toxicologists and chemists
- Firearms, toolmark, and trace evidence examiners
- Questioned document examiners
- Forensic consultants and independent forensic experts

This program is most appropriate for professionals with prior courtroom or deposition experience who wish to strengthen their ability to present complex forensic opinions, withstand aggressive cross-examination, and maintain credibility in high-stakes litigation.

Local Contact

Nampa Police Department
Jennifer Dwyre, Hiring/Training Support Specialist
208-249-9713
dwyrej@cityofnampa.us

Prerequisites

This course is intended for experienced forensic professionals. Participants should meet the following prerequisites:

- Formal education or training in a forensic discipline
- Current or prior professional practice as a forensic practitioner or forensic consultant
- Prior experience providing expert witness testimony in depositions, hearings, or trials
- Familiarity with forensic reporting, case documentation, and courtroom procedures

Completion of a foundational expert-witness or courtroom-testimony course is strongly recommended. **This course is not intended for entry-level forensic professionals or those without prior courtroom exposure.**

Should be Able to Perform

- Deliver clear, confident, and authoritative forensic testimony.
- Effectively manage complex cross-examination while protecting the integrity of forensic opinions.
- Maintain professional composure and credibility.
- Control the scope of testimony and avoid common pitfalls.
- Apply ethical principles and professional standards while testifying as a forensic expert.
- Strengthen expert witness presence to support effective and successful legal outcomes.

Course Schedule

DAY 1	
9:00 AM – 9:30 AM	Introduction / Objectives / Expectations
9:30 AM – 11:00 AM	What is the role of an expert witness in a trial?
11:00 AM – 11:20 AM	Break
11:20 AM – 12:30 PM	Rights and obligations of an expert witness while testifying.
12:30 PM – 1:30 PM	Lunch
1:30 PM – 3:00 PM	The Defense Bar. What are they and what do they know?
3:00 PM – 3:40 PM	PSAC Standards: Potential Cross-Examination Topics
3:40 PM – 4:00 PM	Break
4:00 PM – 4:45 PM	Proficiency Testing: Potential Cross-Examination Topics
4:45 PM – 5:15 PM	ISO/IEC 17025/17020: Potential Cross-Examination Topics
5:15 PM – 5:45 PM	Quality Management Systems: Potential Cross-Examination Topics
5:45 PM – 6:00 PM	Day 1 Close Out / Introduction to Day 2

DAY 2	
9:00 AM – 9:15 AM	Day 1 Review
9:15 AM – 9:45 AM	Error Rates and what they really mean.
9:45 AM – 10:15 AM	Sampling Decisions made in casework and the potential problems that could arise.
10:15 AM – 11:00 AM	Contamination of evidence and its potential effect on results.
11:00 AM – 11:20 AM	Break
11:20 AM – 12:00 PM	Rules of Evidence
12:00 PM – 12:30 PM	Direct Examination
12:30 PM – 1:00 PM	Lunch
1:30 PM – 1:45 PM	What is it that juries really want and expect from you as a forensic expert witness?
1:45 PM – 2:15 PM	What is it that turns a jury off and causes them to lose trust in you?
2:15 PM – 2:30 PM	Pre-trial Preparations
2:30 PM – 3:40 PM	Cross Examination. It's a good thing!
3:40 PM – 4:00 PM	Break
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Student submitted cross-examination questions review.
5:00 PM – 5:30 PM	Course wrap-up and final comments.
5:30 PM – 6:00 PM	Student Survey / Final and Final Exam

Training Certification and Recertification Credits

Expert Witness Testimony Techniques for Laboratory Analysts may qualify for specific continuing education training credits. Use's summary below as a quick reference for organization and discipline specific applicability. The approving organization has final authority and their website should be referenced before submitting any request for training credits.

International Association for Identification (I.A.I.) Latent Print Certification Board Approved for 16 Certification Credits

International Association for Identification (I.A.I.) Tenprint Certification Board Approved for 16 Certification Credits

International Association for Identification (I.A.I.) Crime Scene Certification Board Approved for 16 Certification Credits

International Association for Identification (I.A.I.) Bloodstain Certification Board Approved for 16 Certification Credits

International Association for Identification (I.A.I.) Forensic Art Certification Board Approved for 16 Certification Credits

International Association for Identification (I.A.I.) Forensic Video Certification Board Approved for 16 Certification Credits

International Association for Identification (I.A.I.) Latent Print Certification Board Approved for 16 Re-Certification Credits

International Association for Identification (I.A.I.) Tenprint Certification Board Approved for 16 Re-Certification Credits

International Association for Identification (I.A.I.) Footwear and Tire Track Certification Board Approved for 15 Re-Certification Credits

International Association for Identification (I.A.I.) Crime Scene Certification Board Approved for 16 Re-Certification Credits

International Association for Identification (I.A.I.) Forensic Art Certification Board Approved for 16 Re-Certification Credits

International Association for Identification (I.A.I.) Latent Print Certification Board Approved for 16 Courtroom Testimony Credits

International Association for Identification (I.A.I.) Tenprint Certification Board Approved for 16 Courtroom Testimony Credits

Helpful Lodging Information

Although we cannot endorse any particular hotel property, we have confirmed that the following lodging options are within a reasonable commuting distance to the training site.

Best Western Plus Peppertree - Nampa

Nampa Civic Center Inn

205 3rd St S

Nampa ID 83651

(208) 495-5291

Holiday Inn Nampa

16245 N Merchant Way

Nampa ID 83687

(208) 468-0944