



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.

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.

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.



Class Instructor:
John Black, CSCSA



Course Logistics

When: November 9-10, 2026

Class Times:

08:00 AM - 05:00 PM

Tuition: \$400.00

Hours: 16

Where:

Nampa Police Department

820 2nd St S

2nd Floor - Brisbin Room

Nampa, ID 83646

Local Contact

Kendra Merrell

Training Specialist

Nampa Police Department

(208)936-0812

merrellk@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.

Daily Schedule

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

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

Helpful Lodging Information

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

Best Western Plus Peppertree
 Nampa Civic Center Inn
 205 3rd St S
 Nampa, ID 83651
 (208) 495-5291
 Please click here for reservations

Holiday Inn Nampa
 16245 N Merchant Way
 Nampa, ID 83687
 (208) 468-0944
 Please click here for reservations

Comments on Training Site:

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

Online Class Registration

Visit us at: www.RonSmithandAssociates.com and register today!