



Forensic
Identification
Services

Kenneth R. Moses

Summary of Qualifications:

Kenneth Moses has over fifty years of experience in forensic evidence. He established the Crime Scene Investigations Unit of the San Francisco Police Crime Laboratory in 1983 and was instrumental in the installation of automated fingerprint systems in San Francisco and at the California Department of Justice. His experience includes examination of a wide variety of physical evidence in criminal and civil cases. Over the years, he has worked with attorneys, with local, state, and federal agencies, and with private companies in a number of complex investigations. Mr. Moses holds an interim top-secret security clearance for work with the Office of Military Commissions in crimes involving members of the armed forces. He has been active in national efforts to establish professional standards in forensic science. Mr. Moses currently serves in as Laboratory Director of Forensic Identification Services in San Francisco.

Education:

- Bachelors Degree in Criminology; University of California, Berkeley, 1967
- Chemistry major, University of San Francisco, 1963-65
- Administrative Advanced Latent Fingerprint School; F.B.I., 1972
- Physical Evidence Certification Program; Long Beach State University 1971
- Bloodstain Evidence Institute, Elmira College, N.Y., 1981
- Continuing Education, Bloodstain Evidence, IAI, Milwaukee, 1999, 2009, 2010
- Bloodstain Pattern Training Conference, 2017
- Lessons Learned---Errors in Bloodstain Interpretation (4 hours)
- Fluid Dynamics (4 hours)
- Bayesian Networks in Forensic Science, Dept. of Biostatistics, U. of Washington 2011

Professional Experience:

- Founder, Forensic Identification Services, 1997
- Qualified panel expert in Crime Scene Analysis—Los Angeles Superior Court
- San Francisco Police Inspector (ret.)
- Supervisor, Crime Scene Investigations, Crime Laboratory, 1980-1997
- Firearms and tool mark examiner, 1972-1982

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- Latent print examiner and crime scene investigator, Crime Laboratory, San Francisco Police Department, 1971-1998
- Investigation of 17,000 crime scenes including approximately 600 homicide scenes
- Court testimony as an expert witness in crime scene investigations, physical evidence, scene reconstruction, blood spatter analysis, shoe and tire impressions, firearms, gunshot residue and fingerprint identification in 750 cases in State and Federal court.
- Systems Manager, Automated Fingerprint Identification System (A.F.I.S.), 1983-1997
- Police Officer, San Francisco Police Department, 1970
- High school chemistry and biology teacher, 1967-1969
- Investigator, Alameda County Coroner's Office, 1966-67

Additional Professional Activities

- Selected in 2022 by The American Academy of Forensic Science to sit on the Academy Standards Boards for Crime Scene Investigation, Bloodstain Pattern Analysis and Friction Ridge Analysis.
- Interim top-secret security clearance for work with the Office of Military Commissions
- Instructor in Biometrics, U.C.L.A., 2002-2007
- Instructor in Criminal Identification, Central Intelligence Agency, 2005
- Consultation to The Innocence Project, Northwestern University SOL
- Technical Working Group, Mass Fatalities Incidents, Human Identification, National Institute of Justice, 2001
- Project Director, Infant Identification Program, 2001
- Design and implementation of Digital Image Enhancement System for latent prints, 1989
- National Scientific Working Group for Friction Ridge Analysis, Standards, and Training (SWGFAST), 1998
- Instructor, Bloodstain Evidence 40 hour Basic Courses (3), 1986-87, San Francisco Police Academy
- Research and Implementation of Field Applications in Gunshot Residue Applications, 1972-1980, San Francisco Police Crime Laboratory
- Associate Editor, California Identification Digest, 1997-2001
- Lecturer in forensic evidence before the following organizations
 - California Appellate Project

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- National Assoc of Criminal Defense Lawyers
 - DePaul University School of Law
 - USF School of Law
 - Golden Gate U School of Law
 - Hastings School of Law
 - The Innocence Project
 - Massachusetts Bar MCLE
 - California State Bar Continuing Education
 - California Attorneys for Criminal Justice
 - California Public Defenders Association
 - Defense Investigators Training Academy
 - San Francisco Public Defenders Office
 - Alameda Public Defenders Office
 - California Attorneys for Criminal Justice
 - International Association for Identification
 - California State Division IAI
 - National Law Enforcement Seminar
 - American Association of Medical Examiners
 - University of San Francisco Law School
 - Northern California Law Enforcement Training Center, Santa Rosa
 - U.S. Postal Inspection Service, San Bruno
 - National Association of Bunco Investigators
 - Attorney General's Advisory Committee on Criminal Identification
-
- Assistance and advisory to government agencies in implementation of automated fingerprint and image enhancement systems. Some of those agencies include:
 - Federal Bureau of Investigation, C.J.I.S. advisory committee on latent fingerprints
 - U.S. Postal Inspection Service
 - California Department of Justice, CAL-ID
 - Massachusetts State Police
 - Connecticut State Police
 - Michigan State Police
 - Illinois State Police
 - Los Angeles Police Department
 - Los Angeles Sheriff's Department

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Boston Police Department
Chicago Police Department
Idaho Department of Public Safety

Selected Writings and Papers

Smart Prints—how latent prints can provide important clues about the behavior of the person who left them, CSDIAI Training Conference, 2019
The Fingerprint Sourcebook, Chap 6, “AFIS,” National Institute of Justice, 2010
Encyclopedia of Biometrics, contributing author, “Law Enforcement Applications,” Springer, Inc 2009
Bloodstain Pattern Analysis, Homicide vs. Suicide. IAI, Phoenix, 2014
“The National Academy of Sciences Report,” PDS Annual Forensic Science Conference, Washington, D.C. 2009
“Legal Issues in Fingerprint Analysis”; Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Assoc.; Rusty Duncan Conference; 2009
“Fingerprints—A Paradigm in Transition,” Forensic Science Seminar, National Assoc. of Criminal Trial Lawyers, Las Vegas, 2008
“Professional Investigation of Crime Scenes,” Arizona Identification Council, Phoenix 2008
“Analysis of Error in Fingerprint Identifications; DePaul University School of Law; Chicago, 2006”
“The Professional Investigation of Burglary Scenes”, International Assoc for Identification, Annual Conference, 2006
“The Brandon Mayfield Case---Anatomy of Error”; International Assoc for Identification, Annual Conference, 2004
“Fingerprints in Post-Conviction Cases”, National Innocence Conference, 2004
“The Role of the Independent Expert”, CSDIAI, Concord, 2001
“Crime Scene Evidence Collection and Preservation Issues,” California Public Defenders Association, 1999
“AFIS and Community Policing,” International Association for Identification, 1999
“Productivity of Fingerprint Systems,” International Forensic Symposium, FBI, Quantico, 1987
“Automated Fingerprint Systems,” National Assoc. of Criminal Justice Planners, San Diego, 1987
“Blood Spatter Evidence,” California Medical Examiners, 1989
“The Future of the Identification Profession,” IAI, Sacramento, 1988

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“Making AFIS Systems Work,” California State Division, IAI, 1987

“Image Processing of Latent Fingerprints,” Police Technology Conference, Canberra, Australia, 1992

“Chemical Processing of Fingerprints from Documents,” National Association of Bunco Investigators, Charleston, S.C., 1994

“DNA at the Crime Scene,” DNA Symposium, University of San Francisco, 1994

“Points Revisited, Individuality in Nature,” Cal State Division, IAI, 1997

“Fingerprints in the Courtroom---Legal Aspects of Digitized Fingerprint Technologies,”

“Daubert Issues in Forensic Science,” Arizona Identification Council, 1999

“Forensic Evidence at Crime Scenes,” CAJC/CPDA Capital Case Defense Seminar, 2001

“The Role of the Independent Expert,” California State IAI, 2001

“Friction Ridge Identification,” Defense Investigators Academy, 2001

Professional Affiliations

- International Association for Identification (IAI)
- American Academy of Forensic Sciences
- International Association of Bloodstain Pattern Analysts

The Mayfield Effect

In 2004, fingerprint examiners at the Federal Bureau of Investigation erroneously identified the fingerprint of a Portland attorney, Brendan Mayfield, to a latent print lifted in the bombing of a train in Madrid Spain. Later, Mr. Moses was retained to check the work of the FBI examiners, and he too erroneously identified the print as that of Mayfield.

This was not only an error but also a significant scientific discovery. Never before in history had two prints with so many similar features (15) been found to come from two different persons. The cause of the error was not just the similarity of the features, but also the recent expansion of fingerprint computers to search huge databases across international lines. The larger the database searched, the more likely that increasing numbers of similarities and false positives will be found.

As a direct result of the Mayfield case, numerous international governmental and university studies have been initiated and are on-going to refine the standards of fingerprint identification. Mr. Moses is actively engaged in this research.

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Certifications:

- Certified Senior Crime Scene Analyst, International Assoc. for Identification 2000-2018
- Certified Latent Print Examiner, International Assoc. for Identification 1995-2023
- California Community College Teaching Credential Life

Honors and Awards:

- George Pletts Award for Lifetime Distinguished Service, California State Division, International Association for Identification, 2000.
- Life Member; IAI, 2008
- Life Member; California State Division, International Assoc for Identification; 2006
- Outstanding Service Award, 1985, San Francisco Board of Supervisors
- Silver medal of Valor, SFPD, for arrest of an armed homicide suspect, 1972.
- Dedication and Professionalism Award, 1997, Criminal Trial Lawyer's Association
- Police Officer of the Year Award, 1990, San Francisco Chamber of Commerce
- Pursuit of Excellence Award, 1991, U.S. Postal Inspection Service
- Meritorious Conduct Medal, 1993, San Francisco Police Department

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