



Quick Notes is an ICAC communication that will give you quick, timely links to recent news items impacting arson prevention, investigations, litigation and training. We trust that Quick Notes will be an easy way for you to remain current in news concerning arson control.

Events

Upcoming Webinar—May 15, 2014 at 3:00pm Eastern

One Dimensional vs. Two Dimensional Experts: Knowing the Difference Can Help You Avoid Costly Pitfalls in Selecting and Instructing Experts

Presented by Terry Dawn Hewitt and Rick Hammond.

Expert witnesses are the lynchpin of fire and explosion cases. If an expert is insufficiently qualified or performs poorly in the heat of litigation, even a most promising case can sour quickly. In many fire cases, the insurance claims handler or SIU supervisor are under severe time pressures to hire one or more experts for a given case, often without the help of the attorney who will ultimately handle the case. Without having experienced first-hand the ways that expert testimony can go wrong in depositions or trials, they are at a disadvantage in selecting and instructing experts.

This webinar will help you to distinguish between a one-dimensional expert who appears to have all of the requisites of an expert with sufficient expertise in his or her field; and a two-dimensional expert who not only has the requisite expertise, but has developed a crucial second dimension – the skills necessary to testify effectively. This webinar will provide:

- Examples of cross-examination techniques that can defeat even very knowledgeable one-dimensional experts at depositions or trial;
- Strategies that two-dimensional experts use to deflect such techniques; and
- A checklist for selecting and instructing two-dimensional experts.

Fire Investigations

Man Charged After Fleeing Fire

A fire truck was stolen and evidence of a meth lab found in an apartment.

www.emissourian.com

Florida Police Officer Arrested on Charges of Insurance Fraud

Florida law enforcement officials arrested a police officer and another man for allegedly conspiring to defraud an insurer by destroying a pleasure boat.

www.claimsjournal.com

FEMA Coffee Break Training - Fire Investigation Series:

Fire/Arson and Explosion Investigation Curriculum: The Importance of NFPA 1033

www.usfa.fema.gov.com

Arson Trials

Defense attorney seeks 62 separate trials and proper grooming

In court motions, defense counsel sees "...a separate trial on each alleged offense" in order to preserve the Constitutional right to due process of law" for his client. The attorney also asks that his client be permitted to appear at her trial "properly groomed..." "all in order to permit her to present herself to the jury in her best posture."

www.delmarvanow.com

Accused pet store arsonist now faces fraud charges

Authorities say she made a claim with her insurance company following the January blaze at the Prince and Princess Pet Boutique.

www.reviewjournal.com

Case Law

TOWN & COUNTRY BANK, INC., v. STATE AUTO PROPERTY AND CASUALTY INSURANCE CO.,

In this case, the court concludes that Plaintiff (a loss payee/bank) has failed to establish that Defendant (insurance company) had a **duty to preserve** the video arcade games that were alleged to be involved in the fire and owned by the insured at the time of the fire.

<http://scholar.google.com>

News/Interest

Two PSU rugby players charged with arson

Two Penn State University rugby players will face trial for allegedly setting their team's equipment shed on fire.

www.wjactv.com

Investigation indicates 'discontent' among team

www.pennlive.com

PSU suspends rugby club amid arson investigation

www.pennlive.com

Associate Member Profile

Jack Ward Fire Consultants, LLC - With over two hundred combined years of fire investigation, fire analysis, special investigation and courtroom testimony experience, Jack Ward Fire Consultants, LLC has the resources to offer you and your clients a quality, professional investigation. From the fire origin and cause determination, to the detailed actions of our special investigators, to providing expert testimony, our consultants utilize state of the art technology, expert techniques, and our proven systematic approach to investigations.

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