



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

2014 ICAC Webinar Series: Expert Witness



An ICAC Event | May 15, 2014 | 3:00 pm EST

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.

Register

\$40.00 ICAC Member | \$60.00 Non-Member

Fire Investigations

Downtown Garrettsville fire investigation closed, cause remains undetermined

The cause of a fire that devastated an historic portion of the small Portage County village remains undetermined as the Ohio State Fire Marshal's investigation is officially closed. The fire appears to have originated on the roof of a downtown business that was being retarred, firefighters said.

www.cleveland.com

Arson investigated in fire that destroyed most of San Pedro Elks Lodge

While he said there was nothing specifically pointing to arson as of late Tuesday when a preliminary investigation was winding up, investigators said the fact that two other incidents were reported at the lodge in recent days makes "the hair on the back of our necks stand up a little bit."

www.presselegram.com

Arson Trials

Pet store owner pleads not guilty to insurance fraud

Gloria Lee pleaded not guilty Wednesday to insurance fraud charges, Clark County records show. Lee is accused of arson in a fire at a Las Vegas pet store she owns, where 27 dogs were rescued from their cages.

www.reviewjournal.com

Case Law

AMELIA DAVIS LESTER v. ALLSTATE PROPERTY AND CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY

After a fire damaged her house in 2012, Amelia Lester filed a claim with Allstate, her insurance company. In investigating the fire, the company asked Lester and her husband to answer questions about the claim under oath. Lester responded that she and her husband would submit to examinations under oath only if Allstate first showed them its investigative files. The court does a great job of explaining the purpose of the exam under oath.

http://scholar.google.com

News/Interest

Craigslist Ad Leads to Cache of Dangerous, Illegal Fireworks in Newport Beach

A 15-year-old Newport Beach boy was detained in connection with the discovery. Among the devices found were two M-80s, four M-1000s (also known as "quarter sticks") and 20 M-5000s (also known as "half sticks").

newportbeach.patch.com

Burn before reading: Bay Ridge fire investigator pens hot new novel

Shelly Reuben's writing career began with a burning curiosity. Rueben became certified as both a fire investigator and private investigator, and eventually began her own private arson investigation business with her husband. And in 1998, she released the first of many mystery novels inspired by her work.

www.brooklyndaily.com

Associate Member Profile

Butler Pappas Weihmuller Katz Craig, LLP. - Butler Pappas Weihmuller Katz Craig, LLP is a civil litigation firm. We are unique in that our practice is devoted entirely to defense and insurance litigation. Our clients are corporations, insurance companies, and insured individuals, and our representation of them has taken us across the United States, to Europe and the Caribbean.

www.butlerpappas.com

The ICAC Quick Notes e-Newsletter is published for those who would like the latest arson news updates. If you wish to unsubscribe from our e-Newsletter mailing list, simply reply to this message with the word "unsubscribe" (and nothing else) in the subject line.

Click here to be added to the e-newsletter mailing list.

Please direct all requests or comments to webmaster@arsoncontrol.org.