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Phil Sanfilippo at
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Courses are presented
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Courtroom Testimony for Forensic Science Professional

Instructor: Shelly Haight

October 26-28, 2026

\$549

Hours: 8 am - 5 pm

Location:

Charleston County Sheriff's Office
3691 Leads Ave | North Charleston, SC 29405

Lodging:

Holiday Inn Express & Suites Charleston Airport-Conv Center
3025 W Montague Ave | North Charleston, SC 29418

For more lodging information, see the course page on www.tritechtraining.com.

This course has been approved for 24 hours of certification/re-certification training credits in both the IAI Latent Print & Crime Scene Certification Boards and 32 hours of re-certification training credits for the IAI Footwear Certification Board.



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ABOUT TRITECH

A leader in the forensics market, Tri-Tech Forensics provides evidence collection and crime scene investigation products and training to crime labs and crime scene investigators throughout the world. With over 30 years of experience, we are the nation's most proficient developer and manufacturer of forensic kits. We are committed to providing our customers with state-of-the-art forensics products and services at affordable prices. It is our goal, through our research and development program, to continue to develop superior products and training to aid in all aspects of crime scene investigation and crime lab analysis. We know how important our products and training are to the forensics community, from investigation to prosecution. Our mission is the same as our customers – *Identify. Protect. Preserve.*

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Courtroom Testimony for the Forensic Science Professional

This Courtroom Testimony for the Forensic Science Professional's course is designed to instruct proper testimony techniques to forensic science professionals, such as those employed in the fields of crime scene investigations, fingerprint analysis, and laboratory analysis.

Practitioners in these disciplines are frequently called upon to testify in court regarding the techniques, observations, and conclusions undertaken in their work. Often, they are requested to express opinions in their courtroom testimony, which is only possible when they are accepted by the court as expert witnesses. The goal of this course is to provide the students with the knowledge and practical experience necessary to successfully testify in a court of law as a forensic expert witness.

The first step in being accepted as a forensic expert witness is to survive the "voir dire."

Students will learn how to prepare themselves and the concerned attorney(s) for this important initial step. The course will continue by covering techniques the witness can employ to more effectively explain scientific evidence to the judge and jury.

Concepts covered in the course will be reinforced by practical exercises in which the students will participate.

Upon completion of this course of training, the student will:

- Describe the Federal and local rules of evidence

- Discuss the proper role of an expert witness within the judicial system
- Discuss the Daubert trilogy
- Discuss Daubert and Frye and explain how they differ
- Describe a minimum of two significant court cases related to forensic science
- Discuss the impact of the PCAST report
- Create an effective and professional Curriculum Vitae
- Describe the difference between criminal and civil cases
- Describe professional attire and demeanor
- Discuss different learning techniques (VARK) and know how to adjust and teach each to capture the juror's attention and ensure they understand the scientific concepts
- Discuss the deposition process, pretrial conference and in limine motions
- Demonstrate court ready testimony including professional attire, demeanor, answering qualifying voir dire questions and utilizing visual aids while teaching the jury
- Discuss at least two relevant forensic science biases, hot topics and current events

COURSE INSTRUCTOR

SHELLY HAIGHT



Shelly Haight is a Confidential Paralegal with a degree in Forensic Evidence specializing in the defense of Law Enforcement throughout Section 1983 Civil Rights Violation lawsuits. Shelly has been in the legal field for over 20 years. The past 13 years have been dedicated to forensic based cases.

As well as working in the legal field, Shelly is a Part Time Professor at CSU Long Beach, teaching the Crime Scene Investigations course. Shelly holds Bachelor of Science degrees in Business Management and Human Resources along with Associate of Art degrees in Forensic Evidence and Liberal Arts as well as a Certificate in Paralegal Studies.

Shelly is an active member of the California Division of the International Association for Identification along with several legal associations.