



CBD-IAI 2025 Winter Seminar Agenda

January 24, 2025

Time	Title and Abstract	Speaker
8am - 9am	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>What's in a Name? Consistency in Friction Ridge Examiners' Naming Conventions and Perceptions of Minutia Frequency</u></p> <p>FREs often rely on a 'mental database' based on experience to determine what minutia are more rare or common, and weigh them in their decisions accordingly. How accurate are these mental databases? Are the minutiae more or less common in palms or fingers? How can examiners even talk to each other about combined minutiae types if they call them different things? This presentation describes ongoing research into these questions.</p>	Dr. Heidi Eldridge
9am - 9:45am	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Taking Your Allergy Medicine: Understanding and Protecting Against Cognitive Bias in Forensic Decision-Making</u></p> <p>Cognitive bias is an innate psychological phenomenon that can lead people (including skilled professionals) to interpret the very same information in conflicting ways. Dr Kukucka will also explain practical ways to protect forensic experts against the undesirable effects of cognitive bias without creating additional burden on service providers.</p>	Dr. Jeff Kukucka
9:45 - 10am	Break	
10am - 11am	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Latest Technologies all Agencies Should Know about: How they are impacting crime scenes and cold cases alike</u></p> <p>Discussions of M-VAC, ANDE/RAPID DNA, CLEAR-ID AI and their impacts on current and cold cases.</p>	Jonathan Pelletier Forensic Consultant Liberty University
11am - 12pm	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Mythbusters! The Value of Negative Testimony in Forensics</u></p> <p>During this session, the importance of articulating the significance of negative results will be discussed and how it can have an impact on the trial process.</p>	Andrew Reitnauer
12 - 12:30pm	Lunch Break	
12:30pm - 1:45pm	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>The Use of Forensics to Support U.S. Military and Other National Security Agencies Stateside and Overseas</u></p> <p>Forensic examiners considering employment with a government agency or a government contractor may have questions about what it is like to be involved in these important military, intelligence, and homeland security missions. Our speakers bring a wealth of experience in overseas deployments and stateside missions in support of the military and intelligence agencies.</p>	Ken Philips and Andra Johnson
1:45pm - 2pm	Break	
2pm-3pm	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>A View From Above: A Look into the Crime Scene Unit's Drone Program at the Baltimore Police Department</u></p> <p>This presentation will focus on how the drone program in the Crime Scene Unit at the Baltimore Police Department was implemented. The program structure and its compliance with FAA regulations will be discussed, as well as the current and future applications to casework.</p>	Megan Descalzi and Erika Harden
3pm - 4pm	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Anatomy of a Wrongful Conviction</u></p> <p>Description: More than three decades of post-conviction DNA exonerations have made it clear that our system convicts innocent people far more often than most people realized. This session will look in detail at two innocence cases and will dissect where those investigations and prosecutions went wrong, what participants in the criminal-legal system can learn from those mistakes, and how the Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project has fought for exoneration.</p>	Innocence Project Attorneys