Legal Update – Fire Canine Court Case Review
Dr. John D. DeHaan - CFI, CFEI, PhD – Fire-Ex Forensics

Join forensic fire scene consultant, expert, and author, John DeHaan, as he explains how courts use the Frye Rule to determine if testimony can be given and how a Daubert motion raised before or during an arson trial may result in dismissing expert witness testimony, K9 assisted findings, or lab analysis. A review of multiple arson cases involving canines will demonstrate to arson investigators the importance of taking the correct fire scene samples, confirm how opinions or witness testimony still requires scientific substantiation, and reveal how some landmark court convictions and appeals were affirmed and upheld.

With over 40 years of experience in fire and explosion related forensic science, Dr. John D. DeHaan has been involved in many national and international efforts to improve fire investigation. He has authored seven editions of Kirk’s Fire Investigation since 1982, along with its companion text Forensic Fire Scene Reconstruction (co-authored with Dr. David Icove in 2004.) He has been active in training through lectures and live burn demonstrations across the U.S., Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Ireland, and Western Europe. Fire-Ex Forensics, Inc. is a private consulting firm that offers its services to police and fire agencies, public defenders, private attorneys and insurers in cases where fires or explosions are involved. Dr. DeHaan will have his signed texts available for sale.

Arson Suspect Interview Techniques
Glenn W. Johnson – CFI - Q Dot Global

Learn how to prepare for witness interviews as Origin and Cause Investigator Glenn Johnson offers participants tips on how to evaluate and question juvenile fire setters, adult suspects and pathological liars during fact-finding post incident questioning. Explore ways that suspects can distance themselves through body language, modify the words they use, and how investigators can use specific techniques and behavior that can contradict or confirm the suspect’s recall of events.

Former Fire Chief for Walla Walla, WA and Director of Fire and Emergency Services in Richland, WA, Glenn Johnson has over 45 years of field experience and has participated in over 3500 origin and cause fire investigations. He has taught basic fire investigation, advanced fire investigation topics and NFPA 921 Updates for Northwest fire investigators, the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI), and Montana State Fire Service Training. In 2003, he and his partner founded Q Dot Global Inc., to provide forensic origin and cause investigative services to both governmental agencies and insurance companies. Q Dot Global has investigated over 1500 fires in residential, commercial, and industrial settings.

Arson Case Challenges: Reliability of Evidence, Data & Testimony
Paul Gero – Napa County Deputy District Attorney

Arson cases are difficult to prove, even with eye witnesses, evidence and scientific analysis. Join Napa County Deputy District Attorney Paul Gero, as he reviews recent arson cases and their outcomes. Discover why preparation for court testimony is critical for arson investigators in order to avoid common pitfalls surrounding the reliability of evidence, data collection, and disputable testimony that can trigger skepticism and may negatively impact trial results.

Paul Gero is the Chief Deputy District Attorney for Napa County, and has been a prosecutor for over 15 years. He has handled many criminal cases, including the high profile Lombardi arson/murder trial. In 2012, Paul was named Prosecutor of the Year by the California District Attorneys Association. He earned a BA from Claremont McKenna College and a JD from University of San Francisco School of Law.

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