

# KATHLEEN BRIGHT-BIRNBAUM

CERTIFIED LATENT PRINT EXAMINER / CONSULTANT / INSTRUCTOR

## EMPLOYMENT SUMMARY

**Desert Forensics**, Tucson, Arizona  
**Owner** – January 2010 - Present

Provide independent forensic fingerprint consulting services to attorneys. Consulting services include, but are not limited to, review and analysis of fingerprint evidence and review of expert witness testimony and reports. Teach advanced and expert level fingerprint comparison techniques to forensic fingerprint personnel in the US and internationally.

**Pima County Sheriff's Department**, Tucson, Arizona  
**Latent Print Examiner** - December 1993 – July 2008 (Full-time); July 2008 – January 2014 (Part-time)

Develop, preserve, analyze, compare & evaluate latent fingerprint evidence with known fingerprints to establish positive identification of persons. Use Arizona Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AZAFIS) to search and compare latent prints and inked fingerprints to the computer database. Manage Pima County's Arizona Automated Fingerprint Identification System computer system and administer AZAFIS policies & procedures to latent print and ten print personnel. Use physical, chemical, forensic light source and digital imaging enhancement techniques to develop and preserve latent print evidence. Write reports on forensic techniques performed and comparison conclusions. Discuss conclusions with officers and attorneys and testify as an expert witness in Arizona Superior and US Federal court. Take, classify, file and search inked fingerprints of suspects and victims. Instruct law enforcement officers on the development and preservation of latent print evidence. Provide forensic art services such as composite drawings of suspects.

**Complete Consultants Worldwide**, Bridgeport, West Virginia  
**Biometric Examination Consultant** - January 2007 – March 2011

Analyze and identify latent fingerprints remotely as part of a research and demonstration project for US Army and Department of Homeland Security. Develop "Wounded Warrior" remote biometric training program for ten print, latent, and facial/iris biometrics. Provide advanced latent fingerprint identification training to the South African Police Service.

**Pima County Sheriff's Department**, Tucson, Arizona  
**Identification Technician** - December 1977 - December 1993

Develop and preserve latent fingerprint evidence at crime scenes and in evidence laboratory. Document crime scenes and evidence using a variety of photographic techniques. Collect, preserve and transport physical evidence from crime scenes while maintaining chain of custody. Take, classify, file and search inked fingerprints of suspects and victims. Write reports regarding forensic procedures performed. Discuss forensic procedures performed with officers and attorneys and testify in Superior and Federal court. Instruct law enforcement officers on a variety of forensic subjects. Provide forensic art services such as composite drawings of suspects and crime scene diagrams.

## PUBLICATIONS

Fingerprints (Chapter 11) – *Forensic Science Reform: Protecting the Innocent* - Elsevier Inc, 2017

The Erroneous Fingerprint Identification of Lana Canen – *The Champion*, December 2013

Friction Ridge Examinations – *Servamus Safety & Security Magazine*, October 2008

The Composite Interview - *Journal of Forensic Identification*, May/June 2000

Observing and Describing the Human Face - *Journal of Forensic Identification*, September/October 1997

## CERTIFICATIONS & AWARDS

International Association for Identification Certified Latent Print Examiner: January 1996 – Present

International Association for Identification Distinguished Member: Awarded August 2019



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## PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS & TEACHING

Advanced Ridgeology Science Workshop; Salt Lake City Police Department, Salt Lake City, Utah – April 2019

Fingerprints; Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association / 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Forensics Seminar, Austin, Texas – October 2018

Fingerprints; Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association / Innocence Project of Texas, Austin, Texas – August 2018

Advanced Ridgeology Science Workshop; Travis County Sheriff's Department, Austin, Texas – June 2018

Advanced Ridgeology Science Workshop; Idaho State Police, Meridian, Idaho – September 2017

Advanced Ridgeology Science Workshop; Thomas County Sheriff's Office, Thomasville, Georgia - July 2017

The Erroneous Identification of Lana Canen; Texas Division of the International Association for Identification Educational Conference, Ft. Worth, Texas – June 2017

AFIS – Is It Really a Match; Texas Division of the International Association for Identification Educational Conference, Ft. Worth, Texas – June 2017

Advanced Ridgeology Science Workshop; Missouri State Highway Patrol Crime Lab, Jefferson City, Missouri – April 2017

Advanced Ridgeology Science Workshop; Indiana State Police, Indianapolis, Indiana – November 2016

Advanced Ridgeology Science Workshop; San Francisco Police Department, San Francisco, California – October 2016

Erroneous Fingerprint Identification: The Lana Canen Case; Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association – October 2015

Erroneous Fingerprint Identification: The Lana Canen Case; Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, Arizona – April 2015

Erroneous Fingerprint Identification: The Lana Canen Case; Western All Star Conference & Confabulation, Boise, Idaho – September 2014

Advanced Ridgeology Science Workshop; San Francisco Police Department, San Francisco, California – August 2014

Erroneous Fingerprint Identification: The Lana Canen Case; 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Arizona Public Defender Conference, Tempe, Arizona – June 2014

Advanced Ridgeology Science Workshop; San Francisco Police Department, San Francisco, California – March 2014

The Erroneous Identification of Lana Canen; 2<sup>nd</sup> National Forensic Services Conference, Pretoria, South Africa – February 2014

AFIS – Is It Really a Match; 2<sup>nd</sup> National Forensic Services Conference, Pretoria, South Africa – February 2014

Ridgeology Science Workshop: Train the Trainer; South African Police Service, Johannesburg, South Africa – February 2014

The Erroneous Identification of Lana Canen; International Association for Identification Educational Conference, Providence, Rhode Island – August 2013

AFIS – Is It Really a Match; International Association for Identification Educational Conference, Providence, Rhode Island – August 2013

Advanced Ridgeology Science Workshop; Indiana State Police, Indianapolis, Indiana – May 2013

Advanced Ridgeology Science Workshop; Broward County Sheriff's Department, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida – March 2013

Forensic Training Seminar; Indiana Public Defender Training Council, Indianapolis, Indiana – December 2012

Advanced & Expert Ridgeology Science Workshops; South African Police Service, Johannesburg, South Africa – October 2012

Crime Scene Management Conference; South African Police Service, Polokwane, South Africa – July 2011

Advanced Ridgeology Science Workshop; South African Police Service, Johannesburg, South Africa – March 2011

Advanced Ridgeology Comparison Techniques; Tucson, Arizona – July 2010

Advanced Ridgeology Science Workshop; South African Police Service, Pretoria, South Africa – July 2008



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## CRIMINAL DEFENSE CONSULTING

De La Torre Law Office – Phoenix, Arizona – March 2023  
Consultation & Evidence Review

Federal Public Defenders Office for the Southern District of Texas, Houston, Texas – February 2023  
Evidence Review

Federal Defenders of Montana, Billings, Montana – August 2022  
Evidence Review

Federal Public Defenders, Nashville, Tennessee – July 2022  
Evidence Review

Bannock County Public Defender, Pocatello, Idaho – April 2022  
Evidence Review

Freud Law, Waco, Texas – April 2022  
Review Proof of Prior Evidence

Innocence Project of Texas, Fort Worth, Texas – November 2021  
Evidence Review

Law Firm of Edward Bustamante, Albuquerque, New Mexico – October 2021  
Evidence Review

Martinez & Ruby, LLP – Baraboo, Wisconsin – June 2021  
Evidence Review

Bannock County Public Defender – Pocatella, Idaho – June 2021  
Evidence Review

Law Office of James B Anders III – San Antonio, Texas – June 2021  
Evidence Review

Liberty Law – Edmonton, Alberta – March 2021  
Evidence Review

Savage Oykhman Law – Calgary, Alberta – April 2021  
Evidence Review

Liberty Law – Edmonton, Alberta – February 2021  
Evidence Review

Liberty Law – Edmonton, Alberta – December 2020  
Evidence Review

Law Offices of Joseph Conrad Smith – Southfield, Michigan – Sept 2020 – Present  
Civil / Wrongful Conviction

Weber Legal – Jefferson, Indiana – June 2020  
Evidence Review

Reed Smith, LLP – Chicago, Illinois – April 2020  
Civil / Post-conviction review

San Diego County Office of the Public Defender – San Diego, California – March 2020  
Post-Conviction Evidence Review

Federal Defenders of Eastern Washington & Idaho – Spokane, Washington – January 2020  
Evidence Review



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## CRIMINAL DEFENSE CONSULTING - Continued

- Liberty Law – Edmonton, Alberta – January 2020  
Evidence Review
- Law Office of Jack Lansdale – Tucson, Arizona – October 2019  
Evidence Review
- Stoney Forensics, Inc – Chantilly, Virginia – August 2019  
Evidence Consultation
- Law Offices of Cornelia W. Honchar - Tucson, Arizona – August 2019  
Evidence Review
- Wisconsin State Public Defender's Office, Spooner, Wisconsin – May 2019  
Evidence Review
- Freud Law, Waco, Texas – February 2019  
Evidence Review
- Federal Public Defender – District of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona – January 2019  
Evidence Review
- Michelle Kraus, Attorney at Law, Ft. Wayne, Indiana – December 2018  
Evidence Review
- Dallas County Public Defender's Office, Dallas, Texas – December 2018  
Evidence Review
- Indiana State Public Defender, Indianapolis, Indiana – October 2018  
Transcript Review
- Padway & Padway, Ltd, Milwaukee, Wisconsin – October 2018  
Evidence Review
- Martinez & Ruby, LLP – Baraboo, Wisconsin – September 2018  
Evidence Review
- Mastantuono & Coffee SC – Milwaukee, Wisconsin – August 2018  
Evidence Review
- Padway & Padway, Ltd, Milwaukee, Wisconsin – August 2018  
Evidence Review
- Salt Lake Legal Defender Association, Salt Lake City, Utah – July 2018  
Evidence & report review
- Engelsman Magabane Inc, Kimberly, Northern Cape, South Africa – April 2018  
Post-Conviction Evidence Consultation
- Federal Defenders of Montana, Billings, Montana – April 2018  
Evidence Review
- Minick Law PC, Fort Worth, Texas – March 2018  
Evidence Review
- Kurie Queck Law Office, Sherwood Park, Alberta – February 2018  
Evidence and report review
- Cummings Law Firm / Innocence Project of Texas, Round Rock, Texas – January 2018  
Post-Conviction evidence review



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## CRIMINAL DEFENSE CONSULTING – Continued

Salt Lake Legal Defender Association, Salt Lake City, Utah – November 2017  
Evidence Review

Beresh Cunningham Law Firm, Edmonton, Alberta – September 2017  
Evidence consultation

Freud Law, Waco, Texas – September 2017  
Post-Conviction evidence review

Schiro & Zarzynski Law Firm, Milwaukee, Wisconsin – August 2017  
Evidence Review

Innocence Project of Texas, Fort Worth, Texas – July 2017  
Post-conviction evidence review

Wisconsin State Public Defender's Office, Madison, Wisconsin – February 2017  
Evidence and report review

Hennessey Law Firm & Marion County Public Defender's Office, Indianapolis, Indiana – January 2017  
Evidence and report review

Office of the Federal Public Defender, Phoenix, Arizona – August 2016 – August 2017  
Evidence review

Salt Lake Legal Defender Association, Salt Lake City, Utah – August 2016  
Evidence review

Salt Lake Legal Defender Association, Salt Lake City, Utah – August 2016  
Evidence review

Office of the Federal Public Defender, Nashville, Tennessee – March 2016 – December 2016  
Post-conviction evidence review

Beresh Cunningham Law Firm, Edmonton, Alberta – February 2016 - March 2016  
Evidence review and court consultation

Kohler Hart Powell SC – Milwaukee, Wisconsin – January 2016  
Evidence review prior to trial

Bonneville County Public Defender, Idaho Falls, Idaho – January 2016  
Evidence and report review

Law Office of William J Donarski, Green Bay, Wisconsin – January 2016  
Evidence and report review

Salt Lake Legal Defender Association, Salt Lake City, Utah – January 2016  
Evidence review

Pima County Public Defender, Tucson, Arizona – December 2015  
Evidence processing

Silver Law Office, Milwaukee, Wisconsin – November 2015  
Evidence and report review

Pima County Public Defender, Tucson, Arizona – November 2015  
Evidence review prior to trial

Cuyahoga County Public Defender, Cleveland, Ohio – November 2015  
Evidence review prior to trial



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## CRIMINAL DEFENSE CONSULTING - Continued

- Twin Falls County Public Defender's Office, Twin Falls, Idaho – September 2015  
Evidence and report review prior to trial
- Office of Military Commissions / Office of the Chief Defense Council, Arlington, Virginia – July 2015 – April 2017  
Evidence and report review
- Wendy Paul, Attorney at Law, Racine, Wisconsin – April 2015  
Evidence and report review prior to trial
- Hennessey Law Firm, Indianapolis, Indiana – March 2015  
Evidence and report review prior to trial
- Wisconsin State Public Defender's Office, Madison, Wisconsin – January 2015  
Evidence and report review prior to trial
- DeConcini, McDonald, Yetwin & Lacy, P.C. , Tucson, Arizona – November 2014  
Evidence processing for investigation
- Twin Falls County Public Defender's Office, Twin Falls, Idaho – November 2014  
Evidence and report review prior to trial
- Federal Defenders of Eastern Washington and Idaho, Yakima, Washington – October 2014  
Evidence and report review prior to hearing
- Salt Lake Legal Defender Association, Salt Lake City, Utah – August 2014  
Evidence and report review prior to trial
- Office of the Federal Public Defender, Nashville, Tennessee – May 2014  
Post-conviction evidence review
- Guadalupe Ruiz Law Firm, San Antonio, Texas – April 2014  
Evidence and report review prior to trial
- Ross G Thomas Law Firm, Indianapolis, Indiana – March 2014  
Evidence and report review for Post-Conviction Relief application
- Beresh Cunningham Law Firm, Edmonton, Alberta – March 2014  
Evidence and report review prior to trial
- Hennessey Law Firm, Indianapolis, Indiana – January 2014  
Evidence and report review prior to trial
- Cuyahoga County Public Defender, Cleveland, Ohio – August 2012  
Evidence and report review for investigation
- Hennessey Law Firm, Indianapolis, Indiana – May 2012  
Evidence and report review prior to trial
- Flaherty Law Firm, Kerhonkson, New York – April 2012  
Evidence and report review prior to trial
- Wieneke Law Office, Danville, Indiana – June 2011 – August 2012  
Evidence and trial transcript review for Post-Conviction Relief application  
Testify at Post-Conviction motion hearing in Elkhart County Circuit Court



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## TECHNICAL TRAINING

104<sup>th</sup> International Association for Identification Educational Conference; Reno, Nevada – August 2019

Texas Division of the International Association for Identification 17<sup>th</sup> Educational Conference, Ft. Worth, Texas – June 2017

Advanced Digital Processing of Evidentiary Photography; Scottsdale, Arizona – December 2016

100<sup>th</sup> International Association for Identification Educational Conference; Sacramento, California – August 2015

Analysis of Distortion in Latent Prints; Decatur, Georgia – March 2015

12<sup>th</sup> Annual Arizona Public Defender Association Statewide Conference, Tempe, Arizona – June 2014

2<sup>nd</sup> National Forensic Services Conference; Pretoria, South Africa – February 2014

98<sup>th</sup> International Association for Identification Educational Conference; Providence, Rhode Island – August 2013

FBI Advanced Testimony Workshop; Tucson, Arizona – January 2011

94<sup>th</sup> International Association for Identification Educational Conference; Tampa, Florida – August 2009

Scientific Analysis: The Facts Behind ACE-V and Daubert; Mesa, Arizona – June 2008

92<sup>nd</sup> International Association for Identification Educational Conference; San Diego, California – July 2007

Analysis of Distortion in Latent Prints; Mesa, Arizona – April 2007

Ridgeology, Daubert, and Testimony; Tucson, Arizona - November 2003

86<sup>th</sup> International Association for Identification Educational Conference; Las Vegas, Nevada - August 2002

Analysis of Problem Latents; Santa Barbara, California - March 2002

Advanced Forensic Fingerprint Identification & Testimony Course; Phoenix, Arizona - October 2001

Forensic Ridgeology; Indianapolis, Indiana - November 2000

83<sup>rd</sup> International Association for Identification Educational Conference; Little Rock, Arkansas - July 1998

Advanced Ridgeology Comparison Techniques; Mesa, Arizona - April 1997

FBI Latent Fingerprint Photography School; FBI Academy, Quantico, Virginia - September 1996

Advanced Latent Print Training; Tucson, Arizona - September 1995

Advanced Palm Print Identification School; Denver, Colorado - October 1994

AFIS Operator Training - North American MORPHO Systems, Inc.; Tucson Police Dept., Tucson, Arizona - August 1994

79<sup>th</sup> International Association for Identification Educational Conference; Phoenix, Arizona – July 1994

Basic Crime & Accident Scene Documentation; Pima County Sheriff's Dept., Tucson, Arizona - November 1993

FBI Fingerprint Classification School; ALETA Academy, Tucson, Arizona - April 1982

FBI Advanced Latent Fingerprint Techniques; Tucson Police Dept., Tucson, Arizona - May 1978



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## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

International Association for Identification: 1984 - 1987, 1994 – Present  
Awarded Life Active Member status - 2019

Member of the Editorial Review Board for the *Journal of Forensic Identification*: 2001 – Present

## EDUCATION

University of Arizona – Bachelor of Science - December 1977  
Major: Public Administration Minor: Law Enforcement / Criminal Justice

Tucson Police Academy, Reserve Class II - January 1977



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