

Leonard J. Romero
FIREARMS & BALLISTICS EXPERT

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Curriculum Vitae

SUMMARY

An independent firearms examiner and ballistics expert, formerly a forensic firearms examiner for 23 years and criminalist for 26 years working for ASCLD accredited laboratories in the Los Angeles Police Department and Bexar County Criminal Investigations Crime Laboratory

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Arts Degree in Microbiology, California State University, Los Angeles, CA, 1990

PROFESSIONAL FORENSIC EXPERIENCE

Independent Firearms Examiner and Ballistics Expert, Pasadena, CA, November 2011 to Present

Provide services to plaintiff and defense attorneys in civil and criminal matters involving the analysis of ballistic evidence and forensic firearms analysis. Consult with both investigators and attorneys regarding officer involved shootings providing analysis, review, and testimony as necessary. A member of the Los Angeles County Superior Court Expert Witness Panel in the area of ballistics appointed to work on indigent criminal defendant cases.

Criminalist, Oxnard Police Department, Oxnard, CA, December 2004 to June 2011

In charge of the Forensic Firearms Unit of the Investigations Bureau. Responsible for the creation and development of the Forensic Firearms Program. My responsibilities were to identify fired bullets and cartridge cases back to specific firearms, render firearms safe, conduct bullet path analysis, and perform distance determination on evidence. Responded to shooting crime scenes to coordinate the collection, preservation and analysis of physical evidence. Purchased necessary equipment to conduct all the aforementioned analysis.

Forensic Scientist, Bexar County Criminal Investigation Laboratory, San Antonio, TX, May 2004 to November 2004

Analysis of Firearms Evidence to determine whether the bullets and cartridge cases were fired from a particular firearm. Determined the mechanical functionality of recovered firearms and facilitated the entry of cartridge case images into the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) database for comparison with similar evidence from other agencies.

Criminalist, Scientific Investigation Division, Los Angeles Police Department, July 1991 to May 2003

Forensic Serology Unit July 1991 to July 1994 and November 2002 to May 2003. Analyzed sexual assault evidence for the presence of sperm and/or semen, ABO and Polymorphic Isozyme Typing as well as evaluating evidence for DNA Analysis.

Firearms Analysis Unit July 1994 to November 2002. Performed examinations and comparisons of microscopic markings on fired bullets and cartridge cases, serial number restorations, renders firearms safe, conducted scientific field investigations of shooting scenes and provided expert testimony in court.

Assistant Instructor, Robert Presley Institute of Criminal Investigation, September 1995 to September 1996

Instructed new and seasoned detectives in the collection and preservation of physical evidence.

Student Professional Worker, Scientific Investigation Division, Los Angeles Police Department, May 1988 to July 1991

Assigned to the Forensic Toxicology Unit. Analyzed blood and urine samples for the presence of controlled substances using Radio Immunoassay Techniques.

FORENSIC ACTIVITIES & ASSOCIATIONS

- Experience as a firearms examiner includes: bullet and cartridge case comparisons, rendering firearms safe, testing the functionality and operability of firearms, performing distance determination on various evidence items, conducting bullet path analysis at crime scenes, serial number restorations, photo documenting shooting

crime scenes, Nibin entries, tracing firearms recovered through ATF's E-Trace system, conducting type and caliber determinations on unknown bullets and determining if a weapon is an assault weapon as defined by 12276 of the California Penal Code and shooting crime scene reconstruction.

- Qualified as an expert in California Superior Court in the Areas of Forensic Serology, Forensic Firearms Analysis and Crime Scene Investigation.
- Qualified as an expert in the State of Texas in the area of Forensic Firearms Analysis.
- Guest Lecturer at the LACBA ICDA seminar, September 2016
- Instructor at Oxnard Police Department Citizen Academy on October 19, 24, 26 and 28, 2005
- Ten Year service pin from the City of Los Angeles
- Member of the Association of Firearm and Tool Mark Examiners
- Lifetime Member of the NRA
- Microbiology Lab Experience
Worked in Microbiology Prep Room, preparing bacteriological media, setting up Microbiology lab classes for instructor, autoclaving lab specimens and equipment at Cal State University Los Angeles for four quarters.
* California Department of Public Health letter approving me for participation as a Public Health Microbiologist Trainee.

FORENSIC TRAINING

- Toured Bar-Sto Precision Machine: To familiarize myself with the process of gun barrel manufacturing. Twenty-Nine Palms, CA, June 2010
- Association of Firearm and Tool Mark Examiners (AFTE) 2010 Conference in Henderson, NV, May 2010
- Toured Ventura County Crime Lab, Ventura County, CA, August 2008
- Association of Firearm and Tool Mark Examiners (AFTE) 2008 Conference including "Gunshot Residue Analysis: Interesting Scenarios and Problems Encountered Workshop," Honolulu, HI, May 2008
- Toured Independent Studio Services (ISS) in Tujunga, CA. to familiarize myself with the different methods and techniques used to make movie weapons appear as realistic in function and form as possible, as well as the manufacture of those props, May 2008
- Association of Firearm and Tool Mark Examiners (AFTE) 2007 Conference in San Francisco, CA, May 2007
- Tour of Santa Ana Police Crime Lab, Santa Ana, CA, December 2005
- Shooting, Hunting and Outdoor Trade show (Shot Show) for the purposes of obtaining reference material on new trends and products in firearms and ammunition development, 2004 and 2005
- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) Training, Largo, FL, November 2004
- Tour of Austin Police Department Crime Lab, Austin, TX, October 2004
- Texas Association of Firearms and Tool Mark Examiners Conference, Austin, TX, October 2004
- Pathology of Wounds Course, California Criminalistics Institute, California Department of Justice, December 1999
- Blood Spatter Analysis Workshop, Noslow Forensic Consultations, November 1999
- Tour of Bexar County Criminal Investigation Laboratory, San Antonio, TX, February 1998
- Tour of Orange County Crime Lab, Orange County, CA, March 1998
- Serial Number Restoration Course, ATF National Lab Center, March 1998
- Beretta Armorer's School, April 1998
- Colt Armorer's School, August 1997
- Crime Scene Reconstruction, California Criminalistics Institute, California Department of Justice, October 1997
- Los Angeles Police Department Instructor Development Course, August 4-13, 1997
- Shooting Crime Scene Reconstruction and Processing Course, FBI Academy, Quantico, VA, September 1996
- Glock Armorer's School, August 1995
- Ruger Armorer's School

- Crime Scene Investigation II Course, California Criminalistics Institute, California Department of Justice, July 1995
- Firearms Safety in the Laboratory Environment Course, California Criminalistics Institute, California Department of Justice, May 1995
- Crime Scene Investigation I Course, California Criminalistics Institute, California Department of Justice, October 1993
- Forensic Microscopy Course, McCrone Research Institute, March 1993
- Bullet Path Analysis Course, Los Angeles Police Department, Scientific Investigation Division Training, June 1992
- Microscopy of Rape Evidence Course, California Criminalistics Institute, California Department of Justice, September 1993
- Blood Borne and Airborne Pathogen Course, City of Los Angeles Los Angeles, CA, June 1995
- Tour of Arcadia Machine and Tool (AMT) Firearms Manufacturing Company, to research and study the methods and manufacturing techniques of firearms produced by this manufacturing company, Irwindale, CA, April 1995
- Tour of Pacific Tube company to research and study the methods and manufacturing techniques of barrels produced by this manufacturing company, December 1994
- Tour of Pioneer Broach Manufacturing Company to research and study the methods and manufacturing techniques of broaches produced by this manufacturing company, October 1994
- Calico Light Weapons Manufacturing Company, to research and study the methods and manufacturing techniques of firearms produced by this manufacturing company, Bakersfield CA. September 1994
- Antique Firearms Collection Tour, Los Angeles County Museum of National History, September 1994
- Toured Surefire Ammunition Manufacturing Company, to research and study the methods and manufacturing techniques of ammunition and ammunition components produced by this manufacturing company, Pacoima, CA, August 1994
- Toured Los Angeles County Sheriff's Firearms Lab, Los Angeles, CA, August 1994
- Toured Accu-Tec Firearms Manufacturing Company to research and study the methods and manufacturing techniques of firearms produced by this manufacturing company, October 1994
- Forensic Chemist Seminar, DEA Laboratory, McLean, VA, September 1993
- Forensic Serology Course, California Criminalistics Institute, California Department of Justice, October 1992
- Scientific Investigation Division Training, Los Angeles Police Department
 - Fingerprint Enhancement, May 1992
 - Crime Scene Photography, May 1992
 - Detection of Latent Prints, May 1992
 - Firearms Safety, May 1992
 - Detection, Collection and Booking of Physiological Fluids, April 1992
 - Radio Procedures, April 1992
 - Courtroom Testimony, March 1992
 - Evidence Procedures, May 1992
- Forensic Application and Molecular Biology Course, Biology Course 471 California State University, Fullerton, CA, September 1990 to June 1991

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Professor, Los Angeles Mission College, August 2018 to Present
Administration of Justice classes

Instructor, Abram Friedman Occupational Center, Los Angeles Unified School District, January 2014 to May 2014
Forensic Science, Police Science, and Security Guard Training

Instructor, East San Gabriel Valley Regional Occupational Center

- Chemistry through Forensics Course (curriculum which I rewrote and that was accepted as an A through G Science by the State of California) at Diamond Bar High School, August 2016 to May 2019
- Environmental Science at Diamond Bar High School, August 2014 to August 2016
- Administration of Justice at the Del Norte Campus, September 2014 to August 2016
- Forensic Science and Administration of Justice at Edgewood High School, February 2013 to May 2014
- Forensic Science and SB1626 at the Public Safety Academy, October 2012 to 2014

TEACHING TRAINING

- Walnut Valley Unified School District M9ini University
 - 2.0 training session: "The Asian Student in the American Classroom," March 5, 2015
 - 3.0 training session: "Keep Calm Career Readiness is Here" and "Mindset and the Hidden Workings of Our Brain/Mind that Affect Student (and Our) Achievement and Success," February 26, 2016
 - 4.0 training session: "The Whole Child: Considerations, Strategies and Paradigmatic Action Plans" and "Busting Neuromyths: What is the Truth Behind the Brain and Learning," February 24, 2017
- University of San Diego
 - Foundations of Classroom Management, January 20-March 9, 2016
 - Foundations of Curriculum, April 28-June 16, 2016
 - Teaching English Learners and Students with Special Needs, July 13, 2016
- California Career Pathways Consortia and California Partnership Academies. Educating For Careers Annual Conference, Sacramento, CA, March 6-8, 2016
- Active Shooter In-Service Training at East San Gabriel Valley ROP, April 12, 2016

TELEVISION AND RADIO APPEARANCES

- JFK The Smoking Gun: Inside the Evidence on Reelz TV
- Mostly True Stories: Urban Legends Revealed Episode 11 on The Learning Channel
- Gangland Series "Murder by Number" episode on the History Channel
- LAPD: Life on the Beat
- Straight to You, local cable television show in Ventura County. Premier episode April 2008
- KNX Newsradio 1070 interview on In Depth Program. August 7, 2019.
- Lost Secrets on the Travel Channel Season 1 Episode 5 The Lewis and Clark Conspiracy. December 8, 2019.
- Provided Technical Assistance to Newsweek Magazine Article "Women Allegedly used Pellet Gun to Murder Cousin Police". November 21, 2022.
- Crime Stories with Nancy Grace "Did Murdaugh discard Bloody Clothing Shoes" February 7, 2023.
- Crime Stories with Nancy Grace "Can Bullet Evidence Prove Alex Murdaugh is a Killer", January 25, 2023.
- Crime Stories with Nancy Grace "I Just need to die", Nashville School Shooter tells Instagram Friend Minutes Before Shooting Begins". March 28, 2023.
- Provided Technical Assistance to Insider Magazine "Why Ghost Guns are so Popular and Controversial." October 1, 2021.
- Dr. Phil Show June 6, 2021 Season 19

June 7, 2024