

MISSISSIPPI



FIRE INVESTIGATORS ASSOCIATION

2024 FALL SEMINAR

November 6th - 8th 2024

*Trial Preparation Qualifying as an
Expert Witness*

*Electrical Aspects of Fire
Investigations*

Back to the Basics

Presented by
Van Presson IAAI-CFI

Rebecca Mansell, ESQ., PHD

Dr. Ray Franco, PhD., PE

M.F.I.A.

711 Camp Dantzler RD
Hattiesburg, MS 39401



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2024 MFIA FALL SEMINAR November 6, 7 & 8 2024

Wednesday November 6
8:00-8:30am Registration
8:30- class begins

Thursday November 7
8:15am class begins

Friday November 8
8:15am class begins

About our speakers

Van Presson IAAI-CFI/Fire Science Principal, has been in the fire service since 1980. In the Arson unit in Jackson in 1992. Law enforcement, State Certified in 1993. IAAI-CFI since 1997. Retired as Chief Investigator of the Jackson Fire Department in 2004. He has been doing private investigations since 1996 (part time) while on the fire department and full time in the private industry since January of 2004.

Currently Van is the Fire Science Principal for the South District of EFI Global, supervising the investigators in MS, AL, TN and KY. IAAI Proctor for the Expert Witness Testimony Course.

Rebecca Mansell, ESQ., PHD, brings over twenty-five years of diverse trial litigation experience, particularly in complex arson litigation involving personal injuries, deaths, property damage, insurance fraud, catastrophic personal injury cases, and cybercrime litigation. Prior to private practice, Rebecca was an Assistant District Attorney for the State of Mississippi for 17 years. Rebecca served ten years in the Forensic division at the University of Mississippi Medical Center and is highly qualified in up-to-date forensic science techniques involving fatalities during a fire and other issues regarding forensics at a fire scene or during a fire investigation. Rebecca is a frequent lecturer and teacher for the International Association of Arson Investigators and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives at the Huntsville, Alabama location, teaching candidates seeking their Certified Fire Investigations credentials trial techniques,

qualifying as an expert witness and trial courtroom preparation.

Dr. Ray Franco, PhD., PE received his Doctorate, Master's and Bachelor's degrees from Mississippi State University in the field of Electrical Engineering. He is a licensed professional engineer in the following states: Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Georgia, and Florida. For the past 20 years, he has practiced in the field of Forensic Electrical Engineer – analyzing and testifying on the characteristics of electrical systems and products. He has worked on behalf of insurance companies, manufacturers, utilities, and attorneys. He has been accepted as an expert witness and testified in Federal, State and Criminal Courts. Prior to his forensic work, he was a research electrical engineer for 28 years with the U.S. Army Engineering Research and Development Center.

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