

FEATURED PRESENTATIONS

Emerging Trends in the Investigation of Insurance Claims

(Presentation running time: 2.5 hours)

There are myriad social, economic and industry-specific changes in the past decade that have an effect on the insurance claims investigation process. In order to stay ahead of the curve in our changing environment, emerging trends must be identified, and their advantages and disadvantages must be clearly deciphered. In the face of these changes, this program addresses how to identify these trends in property and bodily injury claims, and how to use these new trends to a distinct advantage.



Combating the CSI Mystique:

The Effect of Television and Movies on Claims Investigation and Courtroom Testimony

(Presentation running time: 3.5 - 4 hours)

We have all heard about the effect of CSI and similar TV shows on juries in cases involving forensic evidence, but did you ever wonder where this show came from? And, if you are a lawyer, expert, or even a witness, have you considered the effect jurors watching decades of television and movie depictions of courtrooms may have on YOUR case? Without understanding juror expectations, you may lose your case before you ever take the stand or begin your opening statement. This program traces more than 50 years of television, movie and “pop” culture trends to illustrate the impact of media in today’s courtrooms.



Ethical Considerations in the Investigation of Insurance Claims

(Presentation running time: 3 hours)

This is a brand new edition of the nationally acclaimed ethics program first developed for the National Society of Professional Insurance Investigators. The program addresses specific issues, problems, and concerns which arise in the investigation of insurance claims. This newest program addresses specific issues arising from origin and cause investigations, courtroom testimony, coordinating investigations between insurers and public officials, and taking of EVO testimony.

Based upon actual case studies, the program is highly interactive and is taught through a series of video vignettes. Following each vignette, a discussion takes place between the presenters and the audience concerning what is, or is not, permissible in terms of claim investigation activities. The program addresses multiple issues affecting insurance investigations and is excellent training for insurance adjusters, SIU personnel, origin and cause investigators, attorneys, and state insurance department and law enforcement officials.



Ethical Considerations in the Investigation of Fire Losses

(Presentation running time: 3 hours)

Everyone needs ethics credits, and the issue of ethics is never clear cut. After hearing criticism of ethics programs being “dry” and “boring,” this program was developed and has since been presented across the United States to rave reviews. Unlike other ethics programs, this class is presented in a discussion format using video scenarios from actual fire scene investigations and courtroom testimony. You will participate in this class in addressing head-on the type of ethical issues which arise in the investigation of fire losses. Even if you have seen this program before, this presentation is composed of entirely new fire scene investigation and testimony videos, and should not be missed.



For more information on these and other presentations regarding the investigation and handling of insurance fraud investigations and related litigation, please contact us at any time.



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Biography of Presenter Matthew J. Smith

Mr. Smith is the President of Smith, Rolfes & Skavdahl Company LPA, a law firm with offices in Cincinnati and Columbus, Ohio; Detroit, Michigan; Fort Mitchell, Kentucky; and Orlando, Florida.

A 1980 graduate of the College Conservatory of Music of the University of Cincinnati with a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Radio, Television and Film, he received his Juris Doctorate Degree in 1983 from the Salmon P. Chase College of Law of Northern Kentucky University. He is admitted to practice in the states of Ohio, Florida, Michigan, the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the District of Columbia.

After working in broadcasting, marketing and public relations, Mr. Smith began his legal career with the law firm of Cameron, Marriott, Walsh & Hodges in Florida in 1985. Upon returning to Ohio in 1989, as a sole practitioner, he founded the law firm which would later become Smith, Rolfes & Skavdahl Company, L.P.A.

Mr. Smith's practice is concentrated in the field of insurance law, specializing in insurance investigations including personal injury, medical fraud, property claims and bad faith litigation. Mr. Smith is a past President of the National Society of Professional Insurance Investigators as well as its Ohio Chapter, a member of the American Bar Association, Defense Research Institute, Ohio State Bar Association, the Florida Bar, the Kentucky Bar Association and the Bar of the District of Columbia. He is also a member of the Cincinnati and Ohio Bar Associations and the Past Chair of the Joint Committee of the Cincinnati Bar Association and the Academy of Medicine.

A frequent lecturer on insurance law matters, Mr. Smith has spoken before the International Association of Arson Investigators, the Property Loss Research Bureau, the Ohio Arson School, the National Society of Professional Insurance Investigators Advance Insurance Fraud Training Seminars, the Florida Insurance Fraud Education Committee Annual Meetings and conducted training programs for major insurers including State Farm, Farmers Insurance Group, Allstate, Chubb Insurance Group, Nationwide and Auto-Owners insurance companies amongst many others.

Mr. Smith has been married for more than 25 years to his wife, Cyndi, and they have two daughters. His civic involvement includes serving on campaign committees for many of Ohio's elected judges and Justices of the Ohio Supreme Court as well as work with the Montgomery Community Church and various ministries and missions programs throughout the world.

Letters of Reference

We would be pleased to provide letters of reference upon request regarding Mr. Smith's presentations at industry seminars and conferences. His presentations are consistently ranked amongst the most popular, due to their dynamic combination of relative information and entertainment value.