



NEWSLETTER

San Diego Forensic Consultants Association

JANUARY 2005

MEETING AT A GLANCE

MEETING DATE:

Wednesday, January 12, 2005

LOCATION:

Holiday Inn – Mission Valley / Stadium

3805 Murphy Canyon Road, San Diego
(just off I-15 @ Aero Dr. exit) Phone: 858.277.1199



PROGRAM:

THE CALIFORNIA INNOCENCE PROJECT

featuring

Professor Justin Brooks

Institute Professor, California Western School of Law
Executive Director, Institute for Criminal Defense Advocacy
Director, LL.M. in Trial Advocacy
Project Director, California Innocence Project



See Program Notes and Bio on page 2.

SCHEDULE:

5:30 pm ... NETWORKING

6:15 pm ... DINNER, followed by the EVENING PROGRAM, usually beginning no later than 7:00 pm ...

COST:

(DINNER & PROGRAM)

- Pre-registered, prior to noon on Monday, 1/10 ... **\$25.00**
- Walk-in / late reservation, made after noon on Monday, 1/10 ... **\$30.00**

■ ■ ■ Pre-registration deadline: **MONDAY, JANUARY 10th** ■ ■ ■

Cancellations must be received at least 24 hours in advance or you will be billed for the reservation. No-shows will also be billed.

RESERVATIONS:

Voice mail 619.685.8043 Email sdfca@cox.net

Voice Mail 619.685.8043 ■ Administrative Office 619.593.9988
sdfca@cox.net ■ <http://www.sdfca.org>
P.O. Box 191340 ■ San Diego, CA 92159-1340



**CALIFORNIA
INNOCENCE
PROJECT**

*Freeing the
Innocent!*

One of the most exciting and significant accomplishments for California Western

School of Law over the past several years is the success of the California Innocence Project. Since the project's inception, California Western professors and students have spent countless hours reinvestigating cases and filing briefs on behalf of long-forgotten inmates who maintain their innocence.

The California Innocence Project uncovered new evidence - including false eyewitness identifications and unreliable trial testimony in several cases - that led to the release of four California inmates in the past two years. The men served a combined 56 years in prison for crimes they did not commit.

The California Innocence Project is currently working on more than 50 active cases in hopes of freeing the innocent.

[ABOUT THE CALIFORNIA INNOCENCE PROJECT](#)

The California Innocence Project, as part of the national network of Innocence Projects, is a non-profit clinical program based at California Western School of Law in which law professors and students work to free wrongly convicted prisoners in California. Founded in 1999, the California Innocence Project reviews more than 1,000 claims of innocence from California inmates each year and has earned the release of four wrongfully convicted clients.

Students who participate in the year-long clinic work on cases where there is evidence of actual innocence and assist in investigation and litigation by tracking down and re-interviewing witnesses, examining new evidence, filing motions, securing expert witnesses, and providing support to attorneys during evidentiary hearings and trials. The California Innocence Project operates out of the Institute for Criminal Defense Advocacy at California Western School of Law in San Diego.

The California Innocence Project provides pro bono legal assistance to inmates in cases where DNA testing of evidence or discovery of new

evidence can yield conclusive proof of innocence.

[ABOUT OUR SPEAKER](#)

Justin Brooks received a B.B.A. from Temple University, his J.D. from American University, and an LL.M. from Georgetown University Law Center. After law school, he practiced as a criminal defense attorney in Washington, D.C. and has continued to practice throughout his teaching career. Professor Brooks has taught at Georgetown Law Center and was the assistant director of Georgetown's Street Law Corrections Clinic. He then spent six years teaching at Thomas Cooley Law School, where he taught Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Corrections Law, Law and Literature, and ran a death penalty clinical program in which students worked with him on death penalty cases. Professor Brooks has been a visiting professor at Interamerican University of Puerto Rico Law School and a visiting scholar at the University of Sheffield in England. He has published extensively on the death penalty, corrections and sentencing law, and other criminal law issues.

From the President's Desk

As one year closes and a new one begins, the Board, Officers, and I wish you a great 2005.

Old news first - the various amendments to the FCA Bylaws all passed. We will begin to implement them over the next couple of months.

The new Directors-at-Large are Paul Golubovs and Guy Winton, III. Jack Debes was re-elected to the position of Vice-President, and Daniel Vomhof, III, was re-elected to the position of Secretary. Congratulations to all.

We are working on the monthly program schedule for 2005. We need your input! Some members have expressed the desire for more outside speakers with application to forensic consulting, and some want fewer from the outside and more from the members about their experiences. We will strive for balance. We will also be putting on more seminars specifically for forensic consultants. While some members



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expressed the desire to have the seminars in the evening, this limits the presentations to about 2 to 2½ hours. Spreading a seminar over two evenings will raise the cost due to increased room rental fees, especially if we continue to use the Holiday Inn for these seminars. For something like the Expert Depositions seminar, many thought that 4 hours was insufficient time to adequately cover everything.

Again, your input would be helpful.

We are also working on a possible arrangement with the *San Diego Daily Transcript* for reaching more attorneys. More will be coming from Margy with the Directory listing information.

The January speaker is the lead attorney for the Innocence Project. I am certain you will find his presentation interesting and informative. It may inspire more of our members to get involved with the criminal defense system. Our involvement with the evaluation of evidence on behalf of the criminal defendant maintains

balance in the legal system. Just because one is arrested and incarcerated does not mean that they are guilty of all charges, or even any of the charges. Over the years, I have been involved with several cases where the person was not guilty of the charges, based upon the physical evidence. Even when convicted, the jury understood the evidence from both perspectives – prosecution and defense – and based their verdict on other issues (including extreme dislike for the defendant's attorney).

The pay isn't much (usually \$150/hour for public defenders and pro per work), communication is frustrating at times, but in the end I find it is worth it. If you are interested in more information, please contact me or Bryan Burnett.

Again, I hope you had an enjoyable Christmas, and have a great 2005.

Dr. Dan

YOUR FCA ADVERTISING DOLLAR WORKING FOR YOU!

EXCITING NEWS ... The FCA recently signed an agreement with the *San Diego Daily Transcript* whereby they will provide:

- **Complete production** of the 14th edition FCA Directory, including the layout, design, and printing.
- **Distribution** of the Directory to **ALL** *Daily Transcript* readers, reaching more than **50,000** readers each day and the mailing list of Law Firms for San Diego County, Riverside, San Bernardino and Clark County, Nevada, and 6,500 for Orange County.
- **Additional copies** of the FCA Directory to use as a promotional piece year-round.
- **Online posting** of the FCA Directory for one year on the *San Diego Source* website, where it is accessible to over 1 million unique visitors a year.
- Online posting of a **full-size banner ad** on the award-winning *San Diego Source* website for one year. Placed at the top of the page, this web banner will rotate run-of-site on the *Source* and link directly to the FCA.
- **Option to purchase** additional ad space at a special rate. FCA members may purchase additional advertising space outside the FCA Directory, in the regular run of *The Daily Transcript* during the duration of 2005, if desired, at a 35% discounted rate off the *Transcript's* 2005 standard open rate card.
- **FCA Quarterly News Notes** in the *Daily Transcript*.

Watch your mailbox
for the Directory
application package!

**DEADLINE FOR
SUBMISSION IS
01/15/05 !**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
26	27	28	29	30	31	New Years Day 1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

NOON
Monday, January 10th

DEADLINE to make your reservation(s) for the
January general membership meeting to 619.685.8043

Wednesday, January 12th

FCA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Holiday Inn—Mission Valley/Stadium

3805 Murphy Canyon Road (858.277.1199)

– 5:30 pm

NETWORKING

– 6:15 pm

DINNER, followed by the evening program,
usually beginning no later than **7:00 pm** ...

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featuring **Professor Justin Brooks**

Saturday, January 15th

**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT YOUR FCA DIRECTORY
APPLICATION MATERIALS**

Upcoming FCA General Meetings

**Wednesday,
February 9th**

PROGRAM TO BE ANNOUNCED

**Wednesday,
March 9th**

PROGRAM TO BE ANNOUNCED

**Wednesday,
April 13th**

PROGRAM TO BE ANNOUNCED

**Wednesday,
May 11th**

PROGRAM TO BE ANNOUNCED

