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Former Miami-Dade Sergeant Turned Attorney Teaches International Police Officers and Detectives the Critical Strategies of Crime Scene Investigations

Attorney Mark Seiden also Teaches Bloodstain Pattern Analysis to the Air Force and Navy

“Many court cases are won and lost at crime scenes.” – Attorney Mark Seiden

MIAMI (January 15, 2011) – One student is a crime scene investigator from Norway. Another student is a police officer from Great Britain and yet another is a detective from Italy. All of them recently attended a Bloodstain Pattern Analysis Class, part of which is taught by Mark Seiden, a former detective sergeant with the Miami-Dade Police Department. At one time the department’s police officer of the year, Seiden has spent the past 27 years making a name for himself as a criminal defense attorney.

“Mark is rare in that he has spent many years in both law enforcement and in the courtroom,” said Officer Phil Filippo, a training coordinator with the Miami-Dade Police Department. “He is invaluable to the students from both ends of the spectrum. He knows what’s needed in the courtroom, and he certainly has extensive crime scene experience.”

Seiden spent 11 years with the Miami-Dade Police Department. During the nearly three-decades in courtrooms representing clients, Seiden’s cases have involved murders, sexual battery, firearms, vehicular homicide and manslaughter. “It’s all helped tremendously,” said Seiden.

His training includes Basic and Advanced Bloodstain Pattern Analysis, as well as Math and Physics for Bloodstain Pattern Analysis, Medico-Legal Investigation of Death, Criminal Investigation, Advanced Arson Investigation, and the Art of Interrogation and Interview.

“Many people don’t know that Mark doesn’t take a dime from the department for teaching these classes,” said San Filippo. “It’s purely pro bono, his way of giving back to law enforcement.”

Seiden’s recent 44-hour class in Basic Bloodstain Pattern Analysis had 28 students, some of them members of the United States Air Force and Navy. Officer San Filippo said the fee charged for the class, and other department classes, helps fund other programs within the police department.

Seiden teaches other classes at the department throughout the year, including Advanced Bloodstain Pattern Analysis.

Added Seiden, "I really enjoy being involved with so many great law enforcement agencies from all over the world. We seem to all have a common bond."

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Miami-based attorney Mark Seiden is the founder of the Law Office of Mark Seiden, P.A. (www.markseidenlaw.com). Mr. Seiden has been a criminal defense attorney for 27 years. He was formerly in partnership with prominent criminal defense lawyer Roy Black. Mr. Seiden's practice areas are Criminal Defense, both trials and appeals. He has been recognized by his peers in Super Lawyers, Best Lawyers in America, The Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers, and The South Florida Legal Guide. Mr. Seiden is "AV" rated by Martindale-Hubbell, the highest rating given to practicing attorneys.

Representative cases include: State v. William Kennedy Smith, State v. Officer William Lozano, State v. Eller Media, and State v. Officer Luis Alvarez. For the past 15 years, Mr. Seiden has been representing members of the Miami-Dade Hispanic Police Officers Association who become involved in police shootings.

While a member of the Metro-Dade Police Department from 1970 – 1981, Mr. Seiden served as a patrol officer, (Police Officer of the Year 1971) supervising sergeant, firearms and tactics instructor, and also held the position of detective sergeant. He was honorably retired with the rank of sergeant in 1981. Mr. Seiden's training includes: Basic and Advanced Bloodstain Pattern Analysis, as well as Math and Physics for Bloodstain Pattern Analysis, Medico-Legal Investigation of Death, Criminal Investigation, Terrorism and Counter Terrorism, Advanced Arson Investigation, Police Weapons and Officer Survival, and the Art of Interrogation and Interview.

He has also successfully completed a course in shooting reconstruction and teaches how to investigate the use of deadly force by police officers to the detectives who investigate those shootings.

Mr. Seiden also teaches a block of instruction within the Miami-Dade Police Department's Homicide Investigation Class. He also teaches a block of instruction within the department's Bloodstain Pattern Analysis Class.

Mr. Seiden received his law degree from the University of Miami School of Law in 1982. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Miami in 1970, with a double major (psychology and Sociology).

Mr. Seiden is often called-upon by the local and national media for his commentary regarding high profile cases.

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