



Joshua A. Wright

Expert Witness – Forensic Ballistics

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BS, Criminology
Florida State University

Joshua A. Wright is an expert witness in the area of Forensic Ballistics and Firearm & Tool Mark Identification. His expertise includes muzzle to target distance determination, gunshot residues (GSR), firearm examination to determine operability and safety, comparison of fired ammunition components to known evidence, and crime scene/shooting reconstruction to include number of shots and firearms fired, shooter location, cartridge case ejection pattern, trajectory, and ricochet. Mr. Wright has a particularly developed eye as it pertains to the comparison microscope and uses a certified comparison microscope for all comparisons. He is proficiency tested yearly in the area of bullet and cartridge case comparisons. Prior to owning and operating Wright Forensic Consulting, he was employed by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) as a Forensic Expert in the Firearms section of the laboratory. Since earning a degree in Criminology, he has been employed in his field and has obtained a wide array of exposure in many areas of evidence examination including evidence collection and tracking, crime scene investigation, photography, latent, tool mark impressions and ballistics.

Professional history

- 2013–Present *Forensic Expert – Ballistics, Owner of Wright Forensic Consulting, Tallahassee, FL*
- Mr. Wright founded Wright Forensic Consulting in 2013 to provide defense and prosecuting counsel consultation and expert testimony in the areas of Ballistics, DNA, and Toxicology.*
- 2006–2013 *Crime Laboratory Analyst – Firearms Identification Section, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Tallahassee, FL*
- Analyzed evidence firearms for functionality and safety, muzzle-to-target distance determination, serial number restoration, and compared test fires to questioned bullets and cartridge cases recovered from crime scenes and submitted as evidence to FDLE. Testified 22 times relating to the evidence analyzed.*
- 2005–2013 *Crime Scene Assistant – Crime Scene Section, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Tallahassee, FL*

Documented, collected, measured, and preserved physical evidence at crime scenes. Utilized latent prints background to develop and lift fingerprints, leveraged firearms background to give critical investigative leads regarding firearms and ammunition components, used photography background when photographing evidence at shooting scenes, suicide scenes, homicide scenes, and autopsies. Additional training through participation in the Forensic Response Team—a task force that worked with surrounding law enforcement agencies and other first responders responsible for hazardous and emergency situations.

2005–2006 *Forensic Technologist – Latent Fingerprint Section, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Tallahassee, FL*

Learned to develop fingerprints on evidence using multiple techniques including fingerprint powder, magnetic powder, chemical reagents, and cyanoacrylate (superglue). Allocated evidence to analysts in the section.

2005–2006 *Forensic Technologist – Photography, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Tallahassee, FL*

Photographed latent prints developed on evidence, enhanced clarity of images using More Hits computer software, and prepared examination area for latent processing.

2004–2005 *Crime Laboratory Technician – Evidence Section, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Tallahassee, FL*

Received evidence from surrounding law enforcement agencies, logged evidence and case information in computer tracking system, sorted and stored evidence in the secure vault, and allocated evidence to pertinent sections of the laboratory.

Expert testimony

Testified as an expert 73 times. Recent testimony and depositions provided below.

Independent Casework

- State of FL vs Edema Abrakata, Gadsden County (2020), attempted murder. Testified as an expert in general firearms operation and Glock selector switch. **Deposition**
- State of NC vs Brenda McCutcheon, Buncombe County (2020), 1st degree murder. Testified as forensic ballistic expert, GSR expert. Trial testimony.
- State of Florida vs Jeremy Blais, Volusia County (2020), Attempted 2nd degree murder. Testified as forensic ballistic expert, accidental discharge, inter-limb interaction. **Deposition.**
- State of Florida vs Yusuf Akkoc, Lee County (2019) felony, first degree. Testified as forensic ballistic expert/ trajectory. **Deposition.**

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- State of Florida vs Felipe Gomez, Hillsborough County (2019) Motion for post-conviction relief, questioning testimony of an officer. Qualified as a forensic ballistic expert. Hearing.
 - State of North Carolina vs James Bradley Owen, Henderson County (2019) assault on officer. Qualified as forensic ballistic expert. Daubert hearing.
 - State of North Carolina vs Paul Killian, Henderson County (2019) attempted murder. Qualified as forensic ballistic expert. Trial.
 - State of North Carolina vs Terry Barnes, Onslow County (2019) 1ST degree murder. Qualified as forensic ballistic expert. Trial.
 - State of Florida vs Justin Martinez, Leon County (2018) attempted murder. Qualified as forensic ballistic expert. Hearing.
 - State of North Carolina vs Robert Bridges, Cleveland County (2018) 1st degree murder. Qualified as forensic ballistic expert. Trial.
 - State of North Carolina vs Larry McCann, Alleghany County (2018) 1st degree murder. Qualified as forensic ballistic expert. Trial.
 - State of Florida vs Raynard Ford, Leon County (2018) 1st degree murder. Qualified as forensic ballistic expert. Trial for prosecution.
 - State of Florida vs DeShawn Bather, Polk County (2018) attempted murder. Qualified as forensic ballistic expert. **Telephonic deposition.**
 - State of Florida vs Tristian Bruni, Escambia County (2018) 1st degree murder. Qualified as a forensic ballistic expert. **Telephonic deposition.**
 - State of Florida vs Nico Gallon, Polk County (2018) Attempted 1st degree murder. Qualified as a forensic ballistic expert/GSR. **Deposition.**
 - State of Georgia vs Brandon Vinnanong, Mitchell County (2018) Murder Qualified as a forensic ballistic expert/comparison. Hearing for retrial.
 - State of Florida vs De'Orrick Knots, Leon County (2017) attempted murder. Qualified as a forensic ballistics expert/trajjectory. Trial.
 - State of North Carolina vs. Aaron Byers, Cleveland County (2017) 1st degree murder. Qualified as a forensic ballistics expert. Trial.
 - State of Florida vs. William Bradley 9th Judicial Circuit (2017) Armed Robbery. Qualified as a forensic ballistics expert. **Telephonic deposition.**
 - State of Florida vs. Jimmy Bonner 1st Judicial Circuit (2017) attempted murder. Qualified as a forensic ballistics expert. Trial.
 - State of Florida vs Jimmy Bonner 1st Judicial Circuit (2017) attempted murder. Qualified as a forensic ballistics expert. **Telephonic deposition.**
 - State of Florida vs Hiram Morales 15th Judicial Circuit (2017) 1st degree murder. Qualified as a forensic ballistics expert. Testified in court.

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- State of Florida vs Hiram Morales 15th Judicial Circuit (2017) 1st degree murder. Qualified as a forensic ballistics expert. Testified in stand your ground hearing.
 - State of Florida vs Cara Ryan 6th Judicial Circuit (2017) 1st degree murder. Qualified as Forensic ballistics expert. Trial testimony. Found not guilty.
 - State of Florida vs Cara Ryan 6th Judicial Circuit (2016) 1ST degree murder. Qualified as Forensic ballistics expert. **Telephonic deposition.**
 - State of Florida vs Cedric Plummer 2nd Judicial Circuit (2016) Robbery with deadly weapon. Qualified as a Forensic ballistics expert. Hearing.
 - State of Florida vs Curtis Wilson 5th Judicial Circuit (2016) Murder. Qualified as Forensic ballistics expert. **Telephonic deposition.**
 - State of Florida vs Anastasia Moran 2nd Judicial Circuit (2016) Attempted murder. Qualified in Ballistics, Firearms to include air guns, Crime Scene, GSR.
 - State of Florida vs Hiram Morales 15th Judicial Circuit (2016) Murder. Subject matter expert (F/A ID/Ballistics/Shooting Reconstruction). **Deposition in NC.**
 - State of Florida vs David Taub, 17th Judicial Circuit (2016). 1st degree murder. Firearms/Ballistics expert. **Telephonic deposition.**
 - State of Florida vs Corey Richardson, 6th Judicial Circuit (2015). 2nd degree murder. Subject matter expert (Ballistics/Shooting Reconstruction/Ricochet). Qualified as Ballistics expert.
 - State of Florida vs Alexander Richardson, 6th Judicial Circuit (2015). 2nd degree murder. Subject matter expert (firearms). Qualified as a firearms/ballistics expert.
 - State of Florida vs Alexander Richardson, 6th Judicial Circuit (2015). 2nd degree murder. Subject matter expert (firearms). **Telephonic deposition.**
 - State of Florida vs Corey Richardson, 6th Judicial Circuit (2015). Attempted murder. Shooting reconstruction (Ricochet) Analysis of firearm and fired/unfired ammunition components. **In person deposition.**
 - State of Florida vs. Reginald Jerome Smith, 1st Judicial Circuit (2015). Murder. Microscopic comparison. Qualified as firearms expert.
 - State of Florida vs. Craig LeBlanc, 9th Judicial Circuit (2015). Attempted murder. Qualified as gunshot residue (GSR) expert.
 - State of Florida vs. Emmaneul C. Wallace, 9th Judicial Circuit (2015). Weapons offense. Qualified as firearms expert.
 - State of Florida vs Delvin Purifoy, 1st Judicial Circuit (2014). Murder. Microscopic comparison. **Telephonic deposition.**
 - State of Florida vs. Delvin Purifoy, 1st Judicial Circuit (2014). Murder. Microscopic comparison. Qualified as expert in firearms, crime scene, and ballistics/trajjectory.

- State of Florida vs. Kyle Williams, 13th Judicial Circuit (2014). Murder. Qualified as firearms expert.
- State of Florida vs Carlos Perez, 6th Judicial Circuit (2014). Murder. Subject matter expert. **Telephonic deposition.**
- State of Florida vs. Carlos Perez, 6th Judicial Circuit (2014). Murder. Subject matter expertise. Qualified as gunshot residue (GSR) expert.

FDLE Casework

- State of Florida vs. Jeffrey Rosario, 2nd Judicial Circuit (2016). Attempted Murder. Microscopic comparisons. Qualified as a firearm and Tool Mark expert.
- State of Florida vs. Errol Meekins, 2nd Judicial Circuit (2015). Murder. Ballistics expert for Defense. Qualified as a Ballistics expert.
- State of Florida vs. Alfred E. Hawkins, 2nd Judicial Circuit (2015). First degree murder. Microscopic comparison. Qualified as firearms expert.
- State of Florida vs. Joshua D. Franklin, 2nd Judicial Circuit (2015). Murder. Microscopic comparison. Qualified as firearms expert.
- State of Florida vs. Valerie F. Blanc, 2nd Judicial Circuit (2014). Murder. Microscopic comparison. Qualified as firearms expert.
- State of Florida vs. Jacob A. Thomas, 2nd Judicial Circuit (2014). Murder. Microscopic comparison and barrel & overall measurements. Qualified as firearms expert.
- State of Florida vs. Ernest L. Grandison, 3rd Judicial Circuit (2014). Murder, robbery. Microscopic comparison. Qualified as firearms expert.
- State of Florida vs. Raynard J. Ford, 2nd Judicial Circuit (2013). Murder. Bullet examination to provide list of firearms with similar class characteristics. Qualified as firearms expert.
- State of Florida vs. Chairty Furr, 2nd Judicial Circuit (2013). Murder. Microscopic comparison, serial number restoration, and distance determination. Qualified as firearms expert.
- State of Florida vs. Dennis D. Bonner, 1st Judicial Circuit (2013). Assault with a firearm. Microscopic comparison. Qualified as firearms expert.
- State of Florida vs. Michael L. Crump, 1st Judicial Circuit (2012). Attempted murder. Qualified as firearms expert.
- State of Florida vs. Shon Thomas, Julius Hearn, 2nd Judicial Circuit (2012). Attempted murder. Qualified as firearms expert.
- State of Florida vs. Tanner J. Collins, 14th Judicial Circuit (2012). First degree murder, robbery, burglary. Qualified as firearms expert.
- State of Florida vs. John Kalisz, 5th Judicial Circuit (2012). Penalty phase, contributed to jury recommendation for death. Qualified as firearm expert.

- State of Florida vs. John Kalisz, 5th Judicial Circuit (2012). Double first degree murder. Qualified as firearms expert.
- State of Florida vs. John Kalisz, 5th Judicial Circuit (2011). Double first degree murder. **Deposition.**
- State of Florida vs. Kevin Eberhardt, 2nd Judicial Circuit (2012). Attempted second degree murder. Qualified as firearms expert.
- State of Florida vs. Jose C. Cruz, 13th Judicial Circuit (2011). First degree murder. Qualified as firearms expert.
- State of Florida vs. Khalif Wilson, 2nd Judicial Circuit (2011). Assault with firearm. Qualified as firearms expert.
- State of Florida vs. James Madison, 2nd Judicial Circuit (2011). Armed robbery with a firearm. Qualified as firearms expert.
- State of Florida vs. William Yawn, 2nd Judicial Circuit (2010). First degree murder. Qualified as firearms expert.
- State of Florida vs. Johnnie A. Floyd, 2nd Judicial Circuit (2009). Armed robbery and shooting. Qualified as firearms expert.

Specialized training and licenses

- Remote Pilot License, certificate #4226592, Department of Transportation - Federal Aviation Administration, Issued 17 Feb 2019
- "Bullet Deflection as a Result of Perforation, 50th Annual Training Seminar, Mike & Luke Haag, Forensic Science Consultants, LLC, 2019
- "How to Identify Other Firearms", 50th Annual Training Seminar, Don O'Kelly, Gun Learn, 2019
- "Photogunmetry", 50th Annual AFTE Training Seminar, Aaron Brunell, 2019
- "Trajectory of Vehicles: Rods, Strings, and Lasers", 49th Annual AFTE Training Seminar, Jan Johnson, Forensic Pieces, 2018
- "Understanding the Math of Bullet Path Analysis", 49th Annual AFTE Training Seminar, Matthew Noedel, Noedel Scientific, 2018
- "Recovery of Metallic Evidence", 49th Annual AFTE Training Seminar, Jan Johnson, Forensic Pieces, 2018
- "Practical Shooting Incident Reconstruction", 48th Annual AFTE Training Seminar, Instructors Tim Scanlan & Jene Rouch JPSO Louisiana, 2017
- "Shooting Analysis and Reconstruction Training", CSI Academy of Florida, Forensic Training Source, LLC, 2016

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- "Victim Centered Death Investigation Methodology", FDIAI Conference, LauraAj G. Pettler, PhD, 2015
 - "Intimate Partner Homicide and Shooting Reconstruction Workshop", FDIAI Conference, Laura G. Pettler, PhD, 2015
 - Shooting Reconstruction Course "Designing Practical Experiments", Ricochet, Lucien & Mike Haag, Forensic Science Consultants, LLC, 2015
 - Association of Firearm and Tool Mark Examiners (AFTE) Annual Conference, 2009, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019
 - Forensic Technology, BRASSTRAX-3D & MATCHPOINT+ Courses, 2013
 - Gun powder manufacturing plant tour (St. Marks Powder), 2013
 - Emergency Response Educators and Consultants, Inc., Hazardous Material Technician Level Refresher Training, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012
 - Emergency Response Educators and Consultants, Inc., Florida Department of Environmental Protection ERT/FRT Full-Scale Exercise, 2012
 - National Center for Biomedical Research and Training, Emergency Response to Domestic Biological Incidents Performance Level, 2011
 - Armorer's Courses (Colt, Glock, Remington and Sigarms) 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010
 - Emergency Management Institute, FEMA, Introduction to the Incident Command System, Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents, National Incident Management System (NIMS), National Response Framework, 2010
 - AFTE, Courtroom Testimony Training, 2009
 - BJA Improvised Explosive Device Awareness for First Responders, 2009
 - FBI, USF Center for Biological Defense & Florida Department of Health, Weapons of Mass Destruction Training Seminar, 2009
 - Florida Department of Health, First Responder Joint Training, 2009
 - Completion of a 26-month training program with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement in firearms identification including 16 months of coursework in development, history, assembly and disassembly of firearms and ammunition along with comparative microscopy and 10 months of casework under the supervision of qualified firearms examiners, 2006-2008
 - FBI Gunpowder and Gunshot Residues School, 2008
 - Laboratory Tours (West Virginia State Police, FDLE Orlando, FDLE Jacksonville, FDLE Tampa), 2007, 2008
 - National Integrated Ballistics Information Network (NIBIN) training, 2007
 - Annual Shooters Hunters & Outdoor Trade Show (S.H.O.T. show), 2007
 - BATFE Serial Number Restoration Course, 2007

- BATFE Integrated Ballistics Identification System Data Acquisition, 2007
- Numerous firearms manufacturing tours (e.g., Smith & Wesson, Ruger, Sigarms, Remington, Beretta, Savage, Colt, H&R, Marlin, Desert Eagle NEF, Charter Arms), 2007
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Hazardous Materials Incidents Response Operations, 2007

Professional associations and memberships

- Member of ASTM International, committee E30 on forensic science, 2018
- Member of the International Ammunition Association, INC. (IAA), 2017
- Member of the Association of Firearm and Tool Mark Examiners (AFTE), 2013
- Member of the International Association for Identification (IAI), 2013
- Vendor with the Justice Administrative Commission (JAC) of Florida, 2013
- Vendor on My Florida Marketplace, 2013

Honors and awards

- Assistant State Attorney Megan McGrath Teeple, Letter of Appreciation and Commendation, 2012, 14th Judicial Circuit.
- Assistant State Attorney Peter Magrino, Letter of Appreciation and Commendation, 2012, 5th Judicial Circuit.
- FDLE Crime Scene Section, Distinguished Team of the Year, 2010
- FDLE, the Forensic Science Backlog Reduction Team, Reduced Forensic Science Casework Backlog, 2008