

Curriculum Vitae

LAWRENCE S. PLACK

ADDRESSES

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Fire Origin & Cause Investigator with over 30 years of national experience and more than 2,800 fire investigations across the United States. Extensive background in structural, vehicle, commercial, industrial, and large-loss fire scenes. Experienced expert witness in criminal arson, insurance fraud, civil litigation, and federal proceedings. Recognized for leadership in investigator training and industry development.

CERTIFICATIONS & TRAINING

- Certified Fire Investigator (CFI) – International Association of Arson Investigators (expired)
- Firefighter I, II, III – NFPA 1001
- Fire Inspector I & II – State Fire Marshal
- Hazardous Materials Technician
- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
- Expert Witness Certification (designation previously held)
- Founder & Organizer, Minnesota Fire/Arson Investigators Conference (1988–1994)

EXPERT WITNESS TESTIMONY

Criminal & Civil Court Testimony:

- Steele County, Minnesota – Murder, Arson, Insurance Fraud (multiple convictions)
- Hennepin County, Minnesota – Arson and Insurance Fraud Cases
- Pine County, Minnesota – Arson and Insurance Fraud Case
- Sawyer County, Wisconsin – Arson and Insurance Fraud Trial
- Cass County, Minnesota – Arson and Insurance Fraud Case
- St. Louis County, Minnesota – Fire Case Trial

Federal & Out-of-State:

- U.S. District Court – Minneapolis, Minnesota
- Jefferson County Court – Birmingham, Alabama
- Civil Trial – Wrongful Death, Fire Origin Cases
- Omaha, Nebraska – Butternut Building Fire (\$56M loss)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

L.S. Plack and Associates, Inc. — Investigator

07/1989 – 02/2011, Plymouth, MN

- Conducted national fire/explosion investigations
- Determined origin, cause, circumstances, and responsible parties
- Worked with local, state, federal investigators, SIUs, and legal counsel
- Prepared detailed investigative reports
- Provided expert witness deposition and trial testimony
- Managed office staff and developed client marketing programs

Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi — Investigator

03/1985 – 07/1989, Minneapolis, MN

- Supported seven regional offices with investigative work
- Conducted subrogation, fraud, white-collar crime investigations
- Managed large and small loss claims through trial/settlement
- Served as in-house fire/building code expert
- Investigated collapses, construction accidents, equipment failures
- Managed central evidence warehouse

City of Plymouth — Fire Prevention Division

Fire Inspector | 05/1981 – 03/1985

- Developed fire investigation and life-safety inspection programs
- Oversaw commercial, industrial, residential, and public building inspections
- Conducted construction plan review and public fire education programs

City of Plymouth — Fire Division

District Fire Chief; Training Coordinator; Captain; Lieutenant; Firefighter

05/1979 – 04/1996 & 05/2002 – 10/2007

- Managed firefighting/rescue operations in a city of 57,000
- Responded to hazardous materials incidents
- Conducted fire origin and cause investigations
- Developed department training programs