

# My Life as A Forensic Sociologist



# My Life as A Forensic Sociologist:

*The Memoirs of Dr Erickson*

By

Rosemary J. Erickson

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My Life as A Forensic Sociologist: The Memoirs of Dr Erickson

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**Rosemary J. Erickson, Ph.D.**  
Forensic Sociologist

Life, as we find it, is too hard for us; it brings us too many pains, disappointments and impossible tasks. In order to bear it we cannot dispense with palliative measures . . . There are perhaps three such measures: powerful deflections, which cause us to make light of our misery; substitutive satisfactions, which diminish it; and intoxicating substances, which make us insensible to it. Sigmund Freud from his book *Civilization and Its Discontents*. 1930

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## PREFACE

In a speech to a Rotary Club in July of 2018, in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, I first told them that I had a dream the night before. In that dream, they were all chasing me around the room. I was in high heels, they were running behind me, telling me all of the things they wanted to know about security. In the dream, I had to take my high heels off because they were all running so fast. It is such a relief to see them all just seated quietly now, in reality, and ready to hear about security and staying safe. Originally, I was going to call this book “Never Wear High Heels to a Crime Scene”.

I changed the title, but much of my experience includes that concept. Maybe you should never wear high heels anywhere else, for that matter. In my work, you may have to run, if you are where a crime has occurred, or might occur. I would add that this can also matter when you need to run to catch a plane at a different gate of arrival, or hail a cab, or being first in line at a movie, or even at a boutique sale or opening of a store. So, that applies to women. For men, the high heels, part may not apply, but the need to run still does.

This book is titled “Call Dr. Erickson” for three reasons:

- The first reason is that this is what one lawyer says to another when referring me for a case. They will say: “Call Dr. Erickson because she is the expert in premises liability security cases and why perpetrators do what they do”.
- The second reason comes from the admonition at trial from the Judge: “Call Dr. Erickson to the stand”, followed by the court reporter saying: “Raise your right hand. Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you, God?”
- The third reason is that my dissertation advisor for my Ph.D. said you will get dinner reservations at a restaurant more quickly if you tell them to: “Call Dr. Erickson”.

# CHAPTER 1

## WHAT YOU DO MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Your education makes a difference. That education and experiences related to it are important, as well as the historical context in which that occurs. As an example of that intertwining is when I attended Augustana College from 1960 to 1964 for my B. A. in Psychology. One-night, early morning, at 2AM in my sophomore year.

I am asleep on my top bunk bed, and my college roommate is asleep on the bottom bunk bed in Room 372. We hear yelling in the hall of male voices and doors banging. I jump out of bed and cross the room to the vanity table and turn on the light to the mirror. I grab my hair brush and begin brushing my hair because I don't know what is about to happen, and isn't that what everyone would do? Probably not! Girls are screaming. The door to our room bursts open, and the guys holler: "It's a panty raid". Several football players, one well known by me, burst into the room. They started pulling open the dresser drawers to look for panties--the trophies they had to find as "The Conquering Vikings"! They succeeded. Nothing else happened, and we went immediately back to sleep, as young people can do so easily. That was in the historical context of the 1960s. I don't think that would happen now. Let me know if it does at any college anywhere in 2025.

What I have done in my life is best described in my vita shown below and then discussed throughout this book about my life behind the crime scenes. My company Athena Research Corporation was named after the Greek Goddess of Wisdom, with the motto: When Wisdom Fails; War Prevails. What most young people say to me, especially young women are: "I want to do what you do". After I would testify at trials, the jurors or even court reporters, journalists, and others would come up to me and ask: "How can I do what you do? It sounds so interesting." Well, it is very interesting, and it is worth every bit of education, experience, and research you need to do to arrive at that point. Being a forensic sociologist, testifying on violent crimes in criminal cases, is about as interesting as it gets. It also answers the question of "What can you do with a degree in sociology?" My answer is: "That you can do a lot and go a long way." I

did, and I want to share the journey with you of later obtaining my Ph.D. in Sociology and Justice from the American University in WDC, and the experience of a becoming a forensic sociologist and expert witness in criminal cases and premises liability cases around the country and world.

From an academic standpoint, I differentiate among the areas of criminology, criminal justice and forensic sociology. Criminology concentrates on the study of crime. Criminal justice focuses on the functioning of the criminal justice system, including the courts, prisons, and the police. Forensic sociology focuses on where the crime occurred, and why someone would select that particular victim or place. Four of my serial killer civil cases, and their selection of targets are discussed in my book: *Serial Killers & the Aftermath*. I mention this as an example of “lessons learned”. One lesson learned is to: “Never write about a serial killer who is still alive”, which will be discussed later in a section on: “My stalkers.”

I was interviewed for a series of books called *Cool Careers for Girls in Cybersecurity and National Security* by Linda Thornburg, 2004. My interview found on pages 83-93 of that book included what it takes to do this job.

I said that you will like this career if you:

- Are curious
- Like to tell people what to do
- Like to make sense of things
- Love to travel
- Enjoy writing
- Like to help people
- Can speak to many different types of people

My early research in the 1960s led me to the specialty of crime. I worked at a California Think Tank. That was at the Western Behavioral Sciences Institute (WBSI) in San Diego, CA. We were funded by the Department of Justice at that time to determine what would prevent robbery in convenience stores. I had robbers, murderers, rapists, and other con-men on my staff. I believed in going to the heart and core of the matter. At that time, you were funded *to think* about new and different things. The findings from that study led to the development of what you still see today in convenience stores and service stations. It included my designing height strip markers. I developed those because when you are being robbed, you think the perpetrator is much taller than he really is. Again, historical context, because at that time the perps were all male. The

height strip markers still make the difference in helping the police identify a perpetrator. Those findings also included cash control, visibility, lighting, escape routes, signage, and employee training in staying safe.

The measures were then instituted by the National Association of Convenience Stores (NACS) and led to a reduction in homicide and rape, and a reduction of 65% of robberies in convenience stores nationwide. The studies were carried out in 7-Elevens nationwide. Clark Matthews was the director and helped spearhead this consequential research. I worked as a security consultant for over 30 years for the 7-Elevens (The Southland Corporation). At that point, my security included providing security for Clark's travels, and our travels together on their Corporate Jets. I pay tribute to him now for being a leader in the field of crime prevention and also for becoming a life-long friend.

Research is a critical part of forensic sociology, including what research you have carried out in the area in which you are testifying. The Daubert test of whether you qualify as an expert to testify in court is what is used. It examines what methodology you bring to educate the jury in the topic at hand of something that they may not otherwise know about or understand. Now, it seems to have less to do with your own original research or even duplication of other research or experiments, compared to when the standard was instituted in 1993. The judge at trial in the courtroom is the ultimate gatekeeper of whether you do or do not qualify as an expert.

A brief explanation of the Daubert standard. It provides a rule of evidence regarding the admissibility of expert witness' testimony in Federal Court. It came about from the U. S. Supreme Court case: *Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals*, 509. U.S. 579 (1993). Daubert is a guideline for expert admissibility for federal cases, but many states also adopted the Daubert. An Expert's Testimony or expert's report can be challenged and excluded if it does not meet the Daubert standard. The Federal Rules of Evidence 702 states that a witness who is qualified as an expert by knowledge, skill, experience training, or education may testify in the form of an opinion or otherwise if a) the expert's scientific, technical, or other specialized knowledge will help the trier of fact to understand the evidence or to determine a fact in issue; b) the testimony is based on sufficient facts or data; c) the testimony is the product of reliable principles and methods; and d) the expert has reliably applied the principals and methods to the facts of the case. Federal court cases and more than half of the states use Daubert. [End Daubert Definition]. I was never disqualified from testifying in a case.

What I learned in my research, consulting, and litigation is that the selection of targets is very important in understanding a crime, and that selection process by them is the same for younger and older criminals. It crosses race, ethnicity and geography and is amazingly consistent over time. There are new types of crimes in our cyber-age, and additional technology, but most rapes, robberies, homicides, and other crimes of violence are still carried out by the common street criminal—a thug with a gun. The lesson to be learned is to not get so caught up with, or so dependent upon those other factors, that you forget about the common criminal who is still hard at work out there, in determining where, when and how to commit their crime of choice.

My vita below shows what I have done to become an expert witness. I testified as an expert witness on either defense or plaintiff, depending upon which case I chose to take, after looking at the facts. In order to be a neutral expert, you need to do both sides on different cases. Civil cases are called *premises liability cases*. An example is when a woman is raped in a hotel by an unknown attacker, who breaks into her room and rapes her. She would sue the hotel. In such a case, the defense expert would be representing the hotel, and the plaintiff expert would be blaming/suing the hotel for its lack of security.

I only testified as an expert witness in violent crimes. I did not testify for slip and falls, accidents, fraud, theft or burglary. I testified about the intentional violent acts by individuals. By the FBI definition, violent crimes are murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. My cases were in one of those categories, and always involved serious injury or death, resulting from the violent crime. When I testify for the defense, it is about why the alleged perpetrator is believed to be not guilty for reasons of the facts. When I testify for the plaintiff, it is for reasons to believe that that person is guilty for the reasons of the facts of the case. In personal liability cases, it is the determination of whether the place it occurred is or is not responsible, based on the facts of the case.

I could not have decided to become a forensic sociologist or an expert witness, while in college in the 1960s because the concept of suing people or places for such acts did not yet exist. Not until the 1990s did such cases arise. The first such cases in premises tort litigation, was not one that I worked on, but coincidentally occurred in South Dakota.

In historical context, I coined the title of *forensic sociologist* for myself, and on my own, in the early 1990s before those types of cases began. My final vita from 2019, is shown below, which is the year that I retired.



**ATHENA RESEARCH CORPORATION**  
**Rosemary J. Erickson, Ph.D. President**  
**Forensic Sociologist**  
**Security Consultant and Expert Witness**

**As seen on:**

The Dr. Phil Show  
ABC 20/20  
NBC *Dateline*  
*Court TV*  
CNN  
CNBC.  
MSNBC

**As seen in:**

*Chicago Tribune*  
*Christian Science Monitor*  
*Los Angeles Times*  
*Newsweek*  
*New York Times*  
*Wall Street Journal*  
*Washington Post*  
*USA Today*

## **Publications**

### **Books**

- Erickson, R. J., Crow, W. J., Zurcher, L. A., & Connett, A. V. Paroled But Not Free. 1973. New York: Behavioral Publications. Available from [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com)
- Erickson, R. J. Armed Robbers and their Crimes. Athena Research Corporation: Seattle, WA, 1996. Available from [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com)
- Erickson, R. J. and Simon, R. The Use of Social Science Data in Supreme Court Decisions. University of Illinois Press: Champaign, IL, 1998. Available from [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com)
- Erickson, R. J. *Prairie Patriarch: A Farmer's Daughter Who Becomes an Expert Witness on Violent Crime*. 2017. Athena Research Corporation. Available from [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com)
- Erickson, R. J. *Serial Killers and the Aftermath*. Athena Research Corporation. 2018

## **As a Subject in a Book**

Louv, Richard. *America II*, New York Viking Penguin Books. 1983  
Margeneli, Lisa. *Oil on the Brain*. NY: NY: Doubleday, 2006  
Thornburg, Linda. *Cool Careers for Girls in Cybersecurity and National Safety*. Manassas, VA: Impact Publications, 2004.

## **Vita Summary**

### **Background**

Rosemary J. Erickson, Ph.D., is a forensic sociologist and a nationally known expert on crime prevention and security. She is president of Athena Research Corporation. Dr. Erickson received her Ph.D. in Sociology and Justice from American University in Washington, D.C. As a sociologist, she has studied the problem of crime for over twenty-five years, beginning with a study funded by the National Institute of Justice, to determine what would reduce robbery and violence in convenience stores. That work led to the measures seen today in retail establishments worldwide, which include cash control, visibility, lighting, and employee training. The most lasting part of that were the height strip markers, which are seen around the world, in service stations, convenience stores, and even bridal shops. They tell you how tall the robbers is because when you are being faced with an armed robber with a gun, he appears much larger. He would typically be described as six feet tall and would turn out to be 5 feet 9 inches. She brings her skills in sociological profiling to her research, training, and expert witnessing.

### **Research and Teaching**

Dr. Erickson conducts research on homicide, rape, assault, and robbery, and she interviews robbers about what they look for when they consider robbing a location. She designed the intervention measures for a five-year security research project with UCLA, to reduce robbery and violence in business settings. This included testing the measures in hotels, motels, gas stations, fast food locations, convenience stores, grocery stores, liquor stores, restaurants, and bars. Dr. Erickson also taught as an adjunct professor in the Sociology Department at San Diego State University and at American University in Washington, D.C.



## **Consulting and Training**

Based on her research, Dr. Erickson has developed programs and training for security and workplace violence in convenience stores, gas stations, banks, hospitals, fast food establishments, hotels, taxi cabs, and other locations. Her consulting includes corporations, non-profit groups, and government agencies at local, state, and federal levels. She also consults and trains regarding public nuisance abatement issues.

## **Expert Witnessing**

Dr. Erickson serves as an expert witness in civil premises liability cases and testifies on the subject of security in convenience stores, gas stations, grocery stores, fast food locations, guard companies, apartments, hotels, motels, condominiums, taxi cabs, parking lots, banks, strip malls, nursing homes, bars, clubs, casinos, and apartments. She has testified on workplace violence and security before city, state and federal legislators, including testimony before the U.S. House Committee on Crime against Small Business and before the U. S. Department of Labor. She serves as a liaison between business and government and has consulted with federal and state OSHA agencies and the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) in planning model programs to protect workers. She has also testified before WorkSafe British Columbia in Victoria, BC, Canada.

## **Publicity and Publications**

Dr. Erickson has received widespread media coverage, in print, broadcast, and on the internet. She has written numerous reports and articles on security and violence in the workplace. Her books *Armed Robbers and Their Crimes* is used by security managers nationwide in planning programs for security. Her research is also reported in her book: *Teenage Robbers*. Her more recent books are discussed later, written after 2019.

## **Vita**

**Rosemary J. Erickson, Ph.D.**  
**President, Athena Research Corporation**  
**Forensic Sociologist**  
**Security Consultant and Expert Witness**

I headed and owned my own research, consulting, and Management Company for nearly forty years. Over those years, I headquartered in San Diego, CA, Jackson Hole, WY, Washington, D.C., Seattle, WA, Coral Gables, FL, and Sioux Falls, SD. As a sociologist, I have used these living situations, from coast to coast, as well as travel throughout the country and the world, to better understand human nature, the social interactions of individuals, and ultimately the criminal mind.

### **Education**

Ph.D., Sociology: Justice, American University, WDC 1994  
M.A., Sociology, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA 1971  
B.A., Psychology, Augustana College, Sioux Falls, SD 1964  
Advanced Research Training, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 1968

### **Professional Positions**

President, Athena Research Corporation, San Diego, CA/Sioux Falls, SD, 1979-present. Vice President & Associate, Western Behavioral Sciences Institute, La Jolla, CA, 1966-1979.  
Research Assistant, Community Welfare Council, San Diego, CA, 1965-1966.  
State Mental Health Representative, State Health Department, Pierre, SD, 1964-1965.  
KSOO-TV & Radio (Now KSFY), Copy-writer and Scheduler. Sioux Falls, SD 1960-1964.

### **Professional Experience**

#### **Teaching**

Lecturer and Part-Time Faculty, Department of Sociology. San Diego State University, San Diego, CA, 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 for Sociology 101 and Social Problems 150.

Adjunct Professor, School of Public Affairs, Department of Government, Washington Semester Program and Social Policy American University, WDC, 1992-1993.

Thesis Advisor for Masters in Forensic Science, National University, San Diego, CA, 1998-99.

### **Consulting/Government**

Consulted with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) on their Intramural Convenience Store Security Ordinance Compliance Project. 2009-2014.

Consulted with Indiana OSHA on legislation for convenience store security 2011.

Consulted with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health on workplace violence. 1990-2021

Chaired Special Emphasis Panel for reviewing research grants for “Workplace Violence Prevention Research”. CDC/NIOSH. 2008.

Consulted as an outside reviewer for “Community-Based Workplace Violence Intervention for Businesses at High Risk of Robbery” for awarding research grants. CDC/NIOSH. 2007. Consulted with South Dakota State Child Protection Services for a “Safety Plan for Field Workers.” 11/8/06.

Consulted with CDC/NIOSH for the review of proposals for Workplace Violence Prevention Research. May 26, 2006.

Consulted with NIOSH for their national meeting on Partnering in Workplace Violence Prevention: Translating Research to Practice. “When Crime Rises, We Pay the Price.” (Baltimore, MD, November 16, 2004).

Consulted with NIOSH for their national meeting on Workplace Violence Research and Prevention. “Workplace Violence in the Retail Trade Industry” (Washington DC, August 13, 2003).

Consulted with Centers for Disease Control on an advisory panel for awarding workplace violence research grants, August 21-22, 2002.

Consulted with Mira Mesa Teen Center (non-profit) San Diego, CA on robbery and violence prevention and security. 1999.

Consulted with and served as outside reviewer with Federal OSHA on developing guidelines for security for late-night retail. 1996-1998.

Consulted with and trained Seattle and King County Housing Authorities in preventing workplace violence and security. 1996.

Consulted with and trained California-OSHA regarding guidelines for their model program for workplace violence and security. 1995.

Consulted with and trained Region 10 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Seattle, WA, on violence prevention and government building security. 1995.

### **Consulting with Corporations and Associations**

I consulted on security, workplace violence and public nuisance abatement issues for convenience stores, oil companies, fast food establishments, hospitals, drug stores, hotels, banks, clubs, strip malls, taxi cabs, and others on robbery and rape prevention and other issues, including program development and/or research and training for the following, including the 7-Eleven's (Southland Corporation for over 30 years of security consulting:

7-Elevens	National Food Service Security Council
American Hotel and Motel Association	Northern Texas Tollway Authority
Security	Northwest Arkansas Community College
American Petroleum Institute	Northern Automotive
Amoco Oil	People's Drug
Arco Oil	Petroleum Industry Safety Council
AT&T	Presbyterian Hospital
British Petroleum	RaceTrac Petroleum
Burger King	Sunshine Food Stores
Circle-K	United Dairy Farmers
Chevron	Varian and Associates
Clark Oi	Virginia State Bankers Association
Dari-Mart	Washington State Bankers Association
Family Dollar Stores	Wa-Wa Food Stores
Huguley Hospital	Wells Fargo Bank
Grocer	What-A-Burger
Manufacturers of America	
International Association of Chiefs of Police	
Lawson's	
Marriott Hotel	
MONY Group	
National Association of Convenience Stores	

## **Training**

I taught classes on crime and security for youth day camp girls 12-14 years of age. EiriBe. Sioux Falls, South Dakota. 2016.

I conducted and participated in training seminars and workshops on robbery, rape, violence prevention, workplace violence, public nuisance abatement, and alcohol and beverage control for security managers, clerks, store managers, corporate managers, lawyers, police, robbery investigators and risk managers for national associations, trade associations, corporations and government.

I produced or consulted on producing videos on robbery, rape and violence prevention, public nuisance abatement, crisis management, product tampering, and alcohol and beverage control.

I conducted the NACS Robbery Deterrence and Techniques of Alcohol Management training programs on CD-ROM for the National Association of Convenience Stores, updated from my previous NACS Robbery and Violence Training Program on CD-Rom and manuals.

## **Research**

I planned and coordinated research activities, including literature reviews, questionnaire construction, sampling, training of interviewers, coders and teachers; guiding analysis; write-ups; and disseminated projects first as Vice-President for Research at Western Behavioral Sciences Institute, during the 1960's and 1970's and then as President of my own company, Athena Research Corporation, during the 1980's, 1990's, and 2000's as follows:

### **With WBSI**

The Evaluation of the War on Poverty (3 years) Office of Economic Opportunity

The Offender Looks at His Own Needs (1 year) Social and Rehabilitation Services

Utilizing Ex-Offender Resources in Rehabilitation (2 years) Social and Rehabilitation Services

The Role-Trade Model of Project Follow Through (8 years) U.S. Office of Education

Stepfathers and the Mental Health of Their Children (3 years) National Institute of Mental Health

Unseen Community: Marginal Urban Populations (3 years) National Institute of Mental Health

Development of Standardized Prescriptive Assessment Systems for Title I CETA clients and Follow-on Monitoring (1 1/2 years) State Department of Vocational Education and San Diego Regional Employment Training

Identifying the Very Poor and the Causes of Poverty (2 years) National Institute of Mental Health

Robbery Deterrence: An Applied Behavioral Science Demonstration (1 Year) National Institute of Justice, Department of Justice

Study of San Diego Influentials (1 year) WBSI

### **With Athena Research Corporation**

Meta-analysis of proposed security measures, including bullet-resistant barriers, guards, two-clerks, and cameras (Current)

Meta-analysis of increasing multiple homicide victims; serial rape victims; and crime committing age-cohort (Current)

Survey of juvenile armed robbers in prisons (2003) 7-Eleven and Athena Research Corporation (2003)

UCLA/CFOI (BLS) Data Analysis and Research (1997-2004) UCLA

Work-Site Intervention to Reduce Work-Related Assault Injury (in convenience stores, fast foods, grocery stores, bars, liquor stores, restaurants, hotels and motels) with UCLA and Cal-OSHA (1996-2001)

NIOSH Work-Site Intervention to Reduce Work-Related Assault Injury, Pilot Project with UCLA & Cal-OSHA (1996) Cal-OSHA

Nationwide study of convenience store homicide (1996-present) NACS

Nationwide study of convenience store homicide and rape (1990-1991) NACS

Surveys of armed robbers in prisons (1985 and 1995 and 2001) 7-Eleven

### **Expert Witnessing**

#### **Selected Litigation**

I have served as an expert witness in litigation in a death penalty *criminal* case for murder in *State of Florida vs. Smiley*.

I have served as a consulting expert or testifying expert for *civil* premises liability suits, for plaintiff or defense, including convenience stores, gas stations, grocery stores, fast food, security guard companies, oil companies, apartments, laundromats, hotels, motels, condominiums, parking lots, banks, strip malls, nursing homes, bars, clubs, taxi cabs,

casinos, truck stops, and cargo thefts, and jewelry store, including the following:

7-Eleven (The Southland Corporation)  
Allied Barton Security  
Allsup's Convenience Stores  
Arco  
Ashland  
Bank of America  
Bank of the West  
BankPlus  
Benihana Restaurant  
Blockbuster Video Corporation  
Brewer Oil  
Burger King  
Chase Bank  
Church's Fried Chicken  
Circle-K  
Clark Oil  
Club Mayan  
Coastal Communications  
Exxon-Mobil Oil  
E-Z Mart  
Flash Foods  
Furr's Supermarkets  
Gamestop Chevron  
Giant Oil  
Hampton Inn  
Handi-Mart  
H.E.B. Grocery  
Harrah's Casino  
Hilton Hotel  
Summerlin Hospital  
Sun Oil  
Tenneco  
Texaco  
Time-Saver Convenience Stores  
Toronto Dominion Bank-Canada  
Turn of the Century Bar  
University of Phoenix

Holiday Inn  
Holiday Inn Express  
Huguley Hospital  
Kentucky Fried Chicken  
Jack-in-the-Box  
Kaiser Hospital  
McDonald's  
Magness Oil  
Mallory Hotel  
MAPCO  
Marriott Hotels  
Maurice Jewelry  
Metzger Dairy  
Michigan Bell  
Motel 6  
Mobil Oil  
Mr. Lucky's Nightclub  
National Convenience Stores  
Nordstroms  
OSHA  
Outback Restaurants  
Palms Casino  
RaceTrac  
Red Door Lounge  
Safeway Supermarkets  
Shell Oil  
Sinclair Oil  
Storage USA

Vons Supermarkets  
 Wachovia Bank  
 Wackenhut Guard Service  
 Walgreens  
 Wal-Mart  
 Westfield Malls  
 What-A-Burger  
 Winn-Dixie

I have been qualified as an expert witness and testified in state or federal courts, have given depositions, or have had civil cases, including the following states and Canada.

Alabama	Nevada
Arizona	New Jersey
California	New Mexico
Connecticut	North Carolina
Florida	Ohio
Georgia	Oregon
Illinois	Pennsylvania
Kentucky	South Carolina
Louisiana	South Dakota
Maryland	Tennessee
Massachusetts	Texas
Michigan	Washington
Minnesota	Washington, D. C.
Missouri	West Virginia
Montana	

### **Legislation**

I have testified on legislative issues related to security at the local, state, federal and international levels of government.

### **Local**

Akron, OH	San Diego, CA
Huntington Beach, CA	Santa Rosa, CA
Memphis, TN	Tucson, AZ
New Jersey townships	



**State**

California	New Jersey
Florida	New Mexico
Maryland	Ohio
Minnesota	Tennessee
Mississippi	

**Federal**

U.S. Congressional Committee on Small Business U.S. Department of Labor. It is available online.

In 2007 and 2008, provided research and information for developing convenience store security ordinances in Houston, Dallas, and Irving, TX, Raleigh, N.C., Mesa, AZ, and Vancouver, BC.

Completed working with NIOSH, in 2019, on a study to measure the effectiveness of existing city ordinances for convenience store security.

**International**

WorkSafe/BC. Victoria, BC, Canada regarding legislation for late-night retailers. 2011 and in 2013 in Vancouver, B.C.

**Memberships**

American Public Health Association (1991-2002)

American Sociological Association (1990-2020)

American Society of Criminology (1992-2020)

Criminology Round Table Group/Forensic Sociology Expert Witness (2004-2019)

District of Columbia Sociological Society (1993-2002)

Forensic Social Sciences Association (2012-2020)

Homicide Research Working Group (1992-2020)

International Association of Professional Security Consultants (2002-2019)

Pacific Sociological Association (1996-2003)

Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society (1992-2019)

Round Table Group Forensic Sociology Expert Witnesses (2008-2020)

## **Boards & Awards**

Augustana Alumni Award from Augustana College, Sioux Falls, SD, 2014. [www.augie.edu](http://www.augie.edu).

Notable Crawford High School Alumni, San Diego CA. Crawford High School Foundation 2010.

Women of Excellence Nominee for Women in Business, Sioux Falls, SD, 2004.

Seattle/King County Crime Stoppers, 1993-1995.

State of Washington Economic Crime Task Force & Tampering Subcommittee, 1993/1998.

Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society Recipient, American University. 1992.

## **Outside Peer Reviewer/Contributor for Research**

Consulted on National Association of Convenience Stores New Safety Initiative. 2015.

Reviewed for *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*. “Exploration of two city convenience store ordinance programs: Compliance to ordinance requirements”. Harlan

E. Amandus, et. al. Division of Safety Research, NIOSN, CDC. 2014.

National Association of Convenience Stores (NACS) On-Line *Security Brochure*. 2012.

NIOSH study for Oxnard CA *Robbery and Violence Prevention in Small Retail Businesses*. 2009.

Contributor to San Leandro, CA Police Department Training Brochures “Stop the Violence Before it Starts” and “Steps to Prevent Robbery & Violence”. 2009.

Contributor to *Experts’ Consensus of OSHA’s Guidelines for Workplace Violence Prevention Program Effectiveness: A Delphi Study*. Javier Berezdivin/Union Institute & University, Cincinnati, OH, 2008.

Chaired Special Emphasis Panel for reviewing research grants for “Workplace Violence Prevention Research”. CDC/NIOSH. 2008.

Outside Reviewer for “Community-Based Workplace Violence Intervention for Businesses at High Risk of Robbery” for awarding research grants. CDC/NIOSH. 2007

Workplace Violence Prevention Effectiveness Reviewer. Javier Berezdivin, Miami FL, 2007.

Review panel for CDC/NIOSH for awarding workplace violence research grants, May 26, 2006.

- West Virginia Law Review*. "Bad Facts, Bad Law: Feliciano v 7-Eleven, Inc. and Self-Defense as a Substantial Public Policy." Thomas Ewing. Vol. 106, No. 3. Spring, 2004.
- Advisory panel for Centers for Disease Control for awarding workplace violence research grants, August 21-22, 2002.
- Journal article review for "A Matched Case-Control Study of Convenience Store Robbery Risk Factors", by Scott Hendricks, et al. (NIOSH), *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine*, Volume 41, Number 11, 995-1104, November 1999.
- Developing the policy for *Combating Workplace Violence. Federal OSHA Guidelines for Late Night Retail*. Washington, D. C. 1996-1998.
- International Association of Chiefs of Police, Alexandria, VA. 1996, for designing a workplace violence prevention protocol.
- Understanding and Preventing Violence* Volume 1. Albert J. Reiss, Jr. and Jeffrey Roth.
- National Academy of Science, National Academy Press, Washington, D. C. 1993.
- Protocol for a Case-Control Study of the Deterrent Effect of Environmental Designs on Violent Crime in Virginia Convenience Stores*--The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. 1993-present.
- The Hallcrest Report II: Private Security Trends, 1970-2000*, William C. Cunningham et al., Butterworth-Heinemann, Stoneham MA, 1990.

## **Selected Panels, Presentations & Papers Presented**

- Augustana College Sociological Alpha Kappa Delta Honor Society Guest speaker (Sioux Falls, SD, March 2015)
- Virginia Bankers Association on Robbery (Charleston, VA. April, 2013).
- International Association of Professional Security Consultants (IAPSC). Annual Meeting, "Convenience Store Security". (Miami, FL April 16, 2012).
- Florida Justice Association "Premises Liability Seminar". (Coral Gables, FL, October 29, 2010).
- Loss Prevention Network (LPN) Convenience Store Loss Prevention Managers. "Crime Trends". (Denver Colorado, March 14, 2008).
- American Society for Industrial Security (ASIS) San Diego Local Chapter. "Future Crime Trends". (San Diego, CA, March, 13, 2008).
- Chamber of Commerce Security Seminar. "Retail Security: Past, Present, and Future." (Yarmouth/Cape Cod, MA, August 8, 2007).

- Carolina Regional Robbery Summit: Public Law Enforcement & Private Loss Prevention Initiatives. "Robbery, Its Causes, Impacts and Trends." (Charlotte, NC, January 30, 2007).
- Managing the 3:00 AM Call: What You Should Know When a Crisis Occurs. National Association of Convenience Stores annual convention in Las Vegas, NV. November 17, 2005. CD available from NACS.
- Robbery and Violence Prevention Training Workshop. National Association of Convenience Stores annual convention in Las Vegas, NV. November 18, 2005. CD-ROM available from NACS.
- NIOSH Partnering in Workplace Violence Prevention: *Translating Research to Practice*. "When Crime Rises, We Pay the Price." (Baltimore, MD, November 16, 2004).
- Daybreak Kiwanis. "Staying Safe When Traveling" (Sioux Falls, SD, 9/30/04).
- NACS Security Summit. "Crime Trends and Study Updates" (Dallas, TX, April 28, 2003).
- 2003 Western Canadian Robbery Conference, Canadian Robbery Investigators, "Robbery Motivation and Target Selection" (Calgary, Alberta, Canada, May 12, 2003).
- NIOSH Workplace Violence Research and Prevention Meeting. "Workplace Violence in the Retail Trade Industry" (Washington DC, August 13, 2003).
- The MONY Group, "Security While Traveling", (Chicago, IL, September 23, 2003).
- AECOC (International Retail Association) Annual International Conference, "What Criminals Look For", (Madrid, Spain, October 8, 2003).
- 2002 Western Robbery Conference, Colorado Robbery Investigators, "Armed Robbers and their Crimes". (Breckenridge, CO, May 29, 2002).
- Research Security Advisors, "Armed Robbers and Their Crimes: The Future." (San Ramon, CA, April 14, 2000).
- California CPTED Association, "Armed Robbers and Their Crimes: Hardening the Target." (Irvine, CA, May 2, 2000).
- Wells Fargo Bank Security Managers, "Armed Robbers and Their Crimes: Security for the Future." (Phoenix, AZ, May, 25, 2000).
- National Association of Convenience Stores State Association Executives, "Crime Update: Security Research." (NY: NY July 27, 2000).
- American Petroleum Institute Security Forum, "Crime is Down, What Does That Mean for You?" (Houston, TX, September 9, 1999).

- California Robbery Investigators. "Workplace Violence." (Las Vegas, NV, February 5, 1999).
- Petroleum Industry Security Council. "OSHA Guidelines." (Houston, TX, September 2, 1998).
- National Association of Convenience Stores Annual Convention. "Workplace Violence." (Atlanta, GA, October 10, 1998).
- American Hotel & Motel Association Security Managers. "What Robbers Look For." (San Diego, CA, October 7, 1998).
- Washington Bankers Association, "Bank Robbers." (Seattle, WA, May 15, 1998).
- American Petroleum Institute Security Forum, "Violence & Preventive Measures." (Los Angeles, CA, November 19, 1997).
- American Public Health Association Meeting. "Evaluation of Risk Factors for Workplace Violence in Liquor Stores." With Carrie Hartman and Corrine Peek-Asa. (Indianapolis, IN, November, 1997).
- National Symposium on Occupational Safety and Health, "Fatal Occupational Injuries in the Retail Industry, United States, 1992-1995." With Corrine Peek-Asa. (Morgantown, WV. October, 1997).
- National Symposium on Occupational Safety & Health. "Prevention of Workplace Violence in Liquor Stores." With Carrie Hartman and Corrine Peek-Asa (Santa Monica, CA, October, 1997).
- Virginia Bankers Association, "Bank Robbers." (Charlottesville, VA, April 17, 1997).
- American Society for Industrial Security, Portland Chapter, "Armed Robbers." (Portland, Oregon, June, 1997).
- American Petroleum Institute Security Forum "The State of the Research." (Nashville, TN, April 30, 1997).
- Stakeholders Meeting on Federal OSHA Guidelines for Late Night Retailers. Department of Labor (Washington, D. C. November, 1996).
- International Congress on Occupational Health. "What U. S. Robbers Look for When Selecting Their Targets." (Stockholm, Sweden: September 16, 1996).
- National Food Service Security Council. "Interviews with Armed Robbers." (Portland, OR, August 13, 1996).
- Fifth Annual Homicide Research Working Group. "Robbers Who Injure and Those Who Do Not." (Santa Monica, CA: June 12, 1996).
- American Law Firm Association, Premises Security Litigation. (Dallas, TX: January 26, 1996).
- American Bar Association, Annual Meeting, Tort & Insurance Practice Section: Employment Law. "Employer Liability for Workplace Violence." (Chicago, IL: August 6, 1995).

- Risk & Insurance Management Society Annual Conference, Session on The Changing Landscape of Premises Violence. "The Risk of Third Party Criminal Events." (San Francisco, CA: April 26, 1995).
- Safety and Health Consortium & Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University, Seminar on "Preventing Workplace Violence: Solutions for Atlanta." (Atlanta, GA: February 14, 1995).
- California-OSHA Conference on *Preventing Violence in the Workplace* on the topic of "Retail Trades Violence." (San Francisco, CA: November 3, 1994).
- Testified at the Hearing of the *U. S. House of Representatives Committee on Small Business* on "Crime Against Small Business." (Washington, D. C.: July 21, 1994).
- Third Annual Meeting of the Homicide Research Working Group. "Homicide and Rape in Convenience Stores." (Atlanta, GA: June 15, 1994).
- Conference on the Role of National Health Care Reform in Preventing Silent Epidemics in the Workplace*, sponsored by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. (WDC: January, 1994).
- "Commercial Crime and Opportunity Theory: The Use of Government and Industry Records." *American Society of Criminology*. (Phoenix: AZ: October, 1993).

## Selected Journal Articles

- CDC/NIOSH. *Workplace Violence Prevention Strategies and Research Needs*. "Partnering in Workplace Violence Prevention: Translating Research to Practice. September 2006, Pub No. 200-144. Available at [www.cdc.gov/niosh.gov](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh.gov).
- Peek-Asa, C., Casteel, C., Mineschian, L., Erickson, R., and Kraus, J. "Compliance to a Workplace Violence Prevention Program in Small Businesses". *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*. 2004. 26(4).
- Peek-Asa, C., Erickson R., and Kraus, J. F. "Traumatic Occupational Fatalities in the Retail Industry, United States, 1992-1996." *American Journal of Industrial Medicine*, 35:186191. 1999.
- Lins, Scot & Erickson, R. J. "Stores Learn to Inconvenience Robbers." *Security Management*. November, 1998. Available for download from [www.securitymanagement.com](http://www.securitymanagement.com).
- Erickson, R. J. & Stenseth, A. "Crimes of Convenience." *Security Management*. October, 1996. Available for download from [www.securitymanagement.com](http://www.securitymanagement.com)