



**Premier Claims Investigations, Inc.**  
**Richard L. Benson - Professional Qualifications**

**Summary:** 36 Years experience and training in the fire service: Firefighter, Arson Investigator, Latent Fingerprint Technician, Senior Arson Investigator, Senior Insurance Fire Investigator. **Court qualified fire and arson investigation expert.** CFEI - NAFI (Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator - National Association of Fire Investigators) CVFI – NAFI (Certified Vehicle Fire Investigator)

**Certificates Held :** Fire Training Course - Houston Fire Department (640 hours) (1970), Arson and Criminal Investigation - Houston Arson Bureau (440 hours) (1976), Fire and Arson Investigation-National Fire Academy (80 hours)(1980), Basic, Intermediate & Advanced Fire Fighter Certification - Texas Commission on Fire Protection (1972, 1976, 1980), Basic Arson Investigator Certification – Texas Commission on Fire Protection (1976 & 1980-1995), Basic & Advanced Peace Officer Certification - Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Education (1981, 1986), Fingerprint Classification - Federal Bureau of Investigation (40 hours) (1992), Advanced Latent Fingerprint Course - Federal Bureau of Investigation (40 hours) (1992), Advanced Palm Print Symposium - Mississippi Crime Laboratory (20 hours) (1992), Gang Crimes Symposium (8 hours) (1992), Arson Investigator Certification - Texas Commission on Fire Protection (1976, 1980-1995), ASP Baton (8 hours) (1993), Fire Dynamics: Scientific Insights For Investigators (16 hours) (1996), Hazwoper Training (40 hours) (1996), IAAI Arson Investigation Seminar (16 hours) (1996), Fire Investigator Procedures (6 (hours) (1997), Hands-On Electrical Fire Investigation (24 hours) (2000), Fire Pattern Recognition (24 Hrs.) (2001), Fire Origin & Cause – Advanced (24 Hrs.) (2003), Hands-On Vehicle Fire/Arson Investigation (22 Hrs) (2005), Fuel Gas Fires and Explosions (16 Hrs.) (2005), 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Arson/Insurance Fraud Symposium (8 Hrs.) (2005), Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator - National Association of Fire Investigators (1998), Member - International Association of Arson Investigators (1995), Texas Fire and Arson Investigators Seminar (20 Hrs) (2007), Fire Pattern Recognition (21 Hrs.) (2008), NAFI Vehicle Fire, Arson & Explosion Investigation Science & Technology Seminar (32 Hrs.) (9/21/2009 – 09/24/2009), NAFI Certified Vehicle Fire Investigator Certification (09/24/2009)

**December 1995-Present: Senior Investigator for Premier Claims Investigations, Inc.** Duties include fire origin and cause determination, case follow-up and case consultation for insurers, attorneys serving primarily the insurance industry

**April 1995-December 1995: Bail Bondsmen for Jack Meyers Bail Bond Company.** Duties include writing traffic bonds as well as Misdemeanor and Felony Bonds

**December 1993-April 1995: Senior Arson Investigator - Houston Fire Department Arson Bureau.** Responsible for the supervision of the Data Entry Division, Latent Fingerprint Lab, Fire Department Photography Lab. Also served as Arson Bureau Training Officer and as Liaison Officer for the Juvenile Arson Investigation Division.

**January 1990 - December 1993: Latent Fingerprint Technician - Houston Fire Department Arson Bureau:** Responsible for processing all evidence submitted to the Arson Bureau Lab by all agencies. Responded to multiple fire alarms and all fire fires involving fatalities. Collected evidence, took photographs and video footage to preserve fire scenes for possible criminal prosecution. Assisted other law enforcement agencies such as the Houston Police Department Bomb Squad, Homicide Division, and

the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms in processing fire scene evidence.

**January 1980 - January 1990: Arson Investigator - Houston Fire Department Arson Bureau:** Responsible for origin and cause investigation of fires in Houston, Texas. Conducted complete investigations including evidence collection, photography, scene diagrams, and witness interviews. Prepared reports for possible criminal prosecution. Testified in many criminal proceedings involving arson related fires and participated in numerous homicide investigations. Civil testimony also.

**January 1977 - November 1979: Military Service - United States Navy:** Assigned to the Weapons Division of the U.S.S. Ainsworth as a Gunners Mate Technician.

**March 1976 - January 1977: Arson Investigator - Houston Fire Department Arson Bureau:** Responsible for origin and cause investigation of fires in Houston, Texas. Conducted complete investigations including evidence collection, photography, scene diagrams, and witness interviews. Prepared reports for possible criminal prosecution. Testified in many criminal proceedings involving arson related fires and participated in numerous homicide investigations. Civil testimony also.

**November 1973 - March 1976: Engineer - Houston Fire Department:** Responsible for driving and maintaining apparatus. Assisted in the supervision of numerous fire incidents. Directed fire scene operations in the absence of company Captain, which included fire cause opinions.

**March 1970 -November 1973: Pipe and Ladderman - Houston Fire Department:** Basic responsibilities included fighting fire, overhauling fire scenes, and maintaining fire fighting equipment and apparatus.

Education: **January 1970 - Graduate of John H. Reagan High School - Houston, Texas.** Numerous courses & over 140 Semester Hrs. at San Jacinto Jr. College, Houston Community College, North Harris County College, and University of Houston

### **Testimonial Listing**

#### **Criminal Testimony:**

**The State Of Texas vs. Samuel Salinas Padilla**  
In The 248th District Court Of Harris County, Texas  
Cause # 317572  
Arson Case # 801 191  
Approximate Date Of Trial: 11-05-80

**The State Of Texas vs. Johnny Lee Savell**  
In The 228th District Court Of Harris County, Texas  
Cause # 332687  
Arson Case # 801631  
Approximate Date Of Trial: 09-25-81

**The State Of Texas vs. Jerry Wayne Watts**  
In The 179th District Court Of Harris County, Texas  
Cause # 424790  
Arson Case # 841590  
Approximate Date Of Trial: 03 -04-85

**United States Of America v. Jeet Singh**

In The United States District Court 9B

Case Number: H-99-644

U.S. Attorney: Richard K. Harris

PCI File: 9607161

Date Of Testimony: 12-13-00

**State of Texas v. Sadie Proffitt**

In the 239<sup>th</sup> District Court of Brazoria County, Texas

Cause No. 41, 045

District Attorney: Jeri Yenne

Date of Testimony: June 03, 2002

**Civil Depositions & Trial Testimony**

**Civil Action No. H-89-2025; Allen Center v. Azcon, Inc., Indiana Lumberman's Insurance Company, and Williams Service Group, Inc. / Azcon, Inc. v. Law Engineering, Inc., ABMI Security Services of Texas, Inc. d/b/a ABM Security, Century Development Corporation, and Fischbach and Moore, Inc. / Cigna of Texas v. Azcon, Inc.;** In the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Houston Division

Deposition Given: 06-07-91 @ Law Offices of Liddell, Sapp, Zivley, Hill, and LaBoon, 3400 Texas Commerce Tower, Houston, Texas - Given to Rob L. Wiley

**No. 97-45966 ; Multani Corporation, Individually, and d/b/a/ Bombay Cuisine vs. Century Surety Company;** In the 6 1st. Judicial District Court of Harris County, Texas

Deposition Given: 08-10-98 & 08-19-98 @ Office Of Wayne Adams(Houston) - Given to Allen D. Russell, of Wauson & Associates, P.C.

**No: 98-37638; Humble ISD Vs, Square D Company in the 55th Judicial District Court of Harris County, Texas**

Deposition Given: 07-14-99 @ Brad Irelan's Office(Houston) - Given to Stephen Edmondson, of McFall, Sherwood, Sheehy

**Cause No.: 98-45590; Weingartens Realty Investors & Walgreen Company vs. Mid-West Electric Co. of Houston & AFC Cable Systems, Inc.** 215th Judicial District Court

Deposition Given: 11-22-99 @ Law Office Of Samuel E. Dunn - Given to William Cozort, of Manning, Gosda & Arredondo, LLP. & Laren Mattiuzzi, of Samuel E. Dunn

**Cause No: H-99-2057; Winston Wilmot v. General Electric Company,** In the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Houston Division

Deposition Given: 04-10-00 @ Law Office Of Manning, Gosda & Arredondo, L.L.P - Given to Robert Arredondo

**Cause No. 99-08531 : DV Partners, LTD. And Highland Park Drug Stores, Inc. d/b/a Northwest Hills Pharmacy & Florist v Sign Builders Of America, Inc.,** In the District Court, 98th Judicial District, Travis County, Texas

Deposition Given: 09-27-00 @ Esquire Deposition Services, 3401 Louisiana, Houston, Texas, Suite 300 Given To John Curney, of Curney, Garcia, Wise & Farmer, P.C.

**Cause No. 99-05-03084-CV: Hanover Insurance Company v. TCP Security Company LLC d/b/a**

**The Woodlands Security Co.**, In the 284th Judicial District Court Of Montgomery County, Texas  
Deposition Given: 10-18-00 @ Law Offices Of Ogden, Gibson, White & Broocks, L.L.P., 2100 Pennzoil  
South Tower, 711 Louisiana, Houston, Texas 77002

Taken by Joseph R. Larsen, Of Ogden, Gibson, White & Broocks, L.L.P.

**Cause No. H-01-0047: Clifton Hall Vs. GE Plastic Pacific Ltd. Et al** - In The United States District  
Court, Southern District Of Texas, Houston Division - Deposition Given: 5/2001

**Cause No. H-01-0047: Clifton Hall Vs. GE Plastic Pacific Ltd. Et al** - United States District Court -  
Southern District Of Texas, Houston Division - Deposition Given: 9/2001

**Cause No. 191,337-C: Arvella Hood vs. American National Property and Casualty Company** – In  
The United States District Court – 169<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, Bell County, Texas: Trial Testimony Given  
October 20, 2003

**Cause No. 2005-38834: Transcontinental Insurance, et al vs. Correct Electric, et al and Ron  
Tharling d/b/a Tharling Appliance, Air Conditioning & Heating** – In the United States District Court  
- 270<sup>th</sup> Judicial District: Deposition given June 01, 2006 @ the Law Offices of Phillips & Akers , 3400  
Phoenix Tower, 3200 Southwest Freeway, Houston, Texas 77027. Taken by Charles Gonzales.

**Cause No. 2004-41519; Ruth M. Propps vs. A.J. Warren Service Incorporated and A.J Warren  
Service Company;** In the 334<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court of Harris County, Texas; Deposition given  
August 15, 2006 @ The Law Offices of Theodore C. Flick, 9525 Katy Freeway, Ste. 305, Houston, Texas  
77024. Taken by Harold Sosebee, of David Black & Associates.

**Cause No. 2005-63920; Safeco Insurance Company as Subrogee of Jerry M. and Mary Ann Price v.  
Broan-Nutone, L.L.C.** - In the 189<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court of Harris County, Texas; Deposition given  
August 30, 2006 to Deborah Bullion, of Gascoyne & Bullion, P.C. @ the Law Offices of Cozen &  
O'Connor One Houston Center, Suite 2900, 1221 McKinney, Houston, Texas

**Cause No. 06-001146-CV-361; Wings, Inc. vs. DKCR, LLC;** In the 361<sup>st</sup> Judicial District Court of  
Brazos County, Texas; Deposition given January 29, 2007 to Wade B. Reese, of Tucker, Taunton, Snyder  
& Slade, P.C., for the Defendants, @ the Law Offices of Kelly, Smith & Murrah, P.C. (Loren Smith  
representing the Plaintiffs)

**Cause No. 18257; Dewayne Rogers Logging, Inc. vs. PropPac Industries Ltd., East Texas  
Machinery Rental, Inc., and Deere & Company, dba John Deere Company;** In the District Court of  
Trinity County, Texas, 41 1<sup>th</sup> Judicial District; Deposition given to Glen J. Fahl, of Fahl & Takeuchi, P.C.  
for the Plaintiff, on May 25, 2007, at the Carrigan Law Firm, L.L.P., Three Riverway, Suite 1140,  
Houston, Texas 77056; Diane Manson for the Defendant, Pro Pac

**Cause No. 2008-11975; Rex Hawkins vs. Butcher Swimming Pool Supply & Service, Inc.;** In the  
District Court of Harris County, Texas. 152<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District; Deposition given to Jeremy B. Foltz,  
Law Offices of Evan Kramer for the Plaintiff, on November 11, 2009, at Verite` Forensic Engineering,  
10070 FM 1484, Conroe, Texas 77303; Paul Grinke, of McCathern/Mooty LLP for the Defendant Rex  
Hawkins

*The above list is not all inclusive. A listing from the Houston Arson Bureau records regarding testimony is not kept.  
Mr. Benson has testified on other criminal and civil cases and the file identities are no22t known.*