

FRANK R. VANECEK

Police Practices Expert

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Accomplished Criminal Justice Professional with over 35 years of law enforcement experience at the City, County, State, Tribal and Federal level with **Subject Matter Expertise** across a broad spectrum of law enforcement functions and disciplines. Outstanding Report Writing and Communications skills, including testimony provided in state courts in California, Colorado, New Mexico, New York (Supreme Court), Tribal Court (Jicarilla Apache), Federal District Court, Federal Grand Jury and Depositions.

Police Practices Expert with advanced knowledge of law enforcement "best practices", policies, standards and procedures gained from extensive field work (boots on the ground) as well as supervisory and management roles involving the development and enforcement of policies and procedures, and obtaining agency accreditation Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA).

Professional Experience

- Extensive field experience in investigations and forensics including more than 20 years of major crimes investigations to include homicides, mass murders, and equivocal deaths (100+); Officer Involved Shootings, Official Misconduct, Internal Investigations, Crime Scene Investigations, Major Narcotics, and Gang Organization Investigations (including the first RICO prosecution of a gang in the District of Colorado).
- Extensive Supervision, Management and Leadership experience spanning 20+ years as a Patrol Watch Commander, Investigations Sergeant/Acting Lieutenant, Senior Agent and Agent-in-Charge, managing sworn and civilian personnel ranging from 5 to 65 employees.
- Proven leadership, knowledge and experience in Critical Incident Management, having managed and investigated a large number of Officer Involved Shooting/Use of Force events in the 18th Judicial District of Colorado. Participated in two fatal school shooting investigations (Columbine High School and Platte Canyon High School) and three mass-murder investigations. Created and led a multi-agency Critical Incident Team in the 6th Judicial District of Colorado for approximately 8 years, managing numerous incidents through the command of personnel from multiple state, local and federal agencies in a cooperative and collaborative fashion. (FEMA certified in the National Incident Management System/Incident Command System (NIMS/ICS) to the Command Staff level). Served on FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force – Colorado Western Slope (National Security Clearance).
- Accomplished law enforcement trainer having served as the Principal Firearms Instructor for the Colorado Department of Public Safety/Colorado Bureau of Investigation (8 years), training provided to local, state and federal agencies in Officer Involved Shooting Investigations, Interview and Interrogation, Crime Scene Investigation and Critical Incident Management. Board Member, Southwest Regional Peace Officer's Standards of Training (POST) Training Committee. Advisory Board Member and Instructor at Southwest Law Enforcement Training Academy (Colorado), current member of the IACP International Managers of Police Academy and College Training (IMPACT), and Adjunct Professor of Criminal Justice at Cuesta College (San Luis Obispo, CA) teaching Principles of Investigation, Investigative Report Writing, Introduction to Criminal Justice and Legal Aspects of Evidence.

Expert Cases

- Klein, Thorpe and Jenkins (Chicago) - 2022 (*Expert-Police Practices, False Conviction/Confinement (murder)*)
- Rock, Fusco and Connelly (Chicago) – 2022 (*Expert-Police Practices, False Conviction/Confinement (murder)*)
- Sotos Law Group (Chicago) – 2022 (*Expert-Police Practices, False Conviction/Confinement (murder)*)
- Russell Law Firm (Los Angeles) – 2022 (*Expert – Police Practices, Motion to Review Capital Conviction*)
- Sotos Law Group (Chicago) – 2023 (*Expert-Police Practices, False Conviction/Confinement (murder)*)
- Office of the Public Defender (Nassau, Bahamas) – 2023 (*Consultant – Police Practices, Fingerprint Identification (Rape)*)
- Newby Lewis Kaminski & Jones (La Porte IN – 2023 (*Expert-Police Practices, False Conviction /Confinement (att. murder)*)
- Orange County Public Defender (CA) -2024 (*Expert-Police Practices, Murder investigation*)
- Christie Law Group (WA) – 2024 (*Expert-Police Practices, False Detention, Failure to Train and Supervise (Murder investigation)*)

Professional Synopsis

FULL SPECTRUM INVESTIGATIONS AND CONSULTING ***Managing Director/Investigator/Consultant***

2019-present

Expert Witness- Police practices. Consulted, prepared Rule 26 reports and testified in depositions in cases involving claims of Wrongful Conviction, Wrongful Detention, Unlawful Pretrial Detention, Due Process (Fabrication of Evidence), Brady Violations, Malicious Prosecution, Conspiracy, Failure to Intervene, Monell Policy Claims, Deprivation of the Right to a Fair Trial, Coercive Interrogation, and numerous state law claims. Conducted investigations including police internal affairs, equivocal death, workplace investigations, police and fire background investigations.

CUESTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE ***Adjunct Professor – Criminal Justice Program***

2015-present

Teach Investigative Report Writing and Criminal Investigations classes as part of the associate degree program for Criminal Justice. Served as interim Chair for the Criminal Justice programs section.

LAW ENFORCEMENT EXPERIENCE

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY CALIFORNIA SHERIFF'S OFFICE ***Program Manager II – Detectives/Coroners Unit/Crime Lab***

2013-2018 (Retired)

Responsible for creating programs and developing solutions to assist in the identification of individuals including suspects and deceased persons. Assisted at homicide crime scenes. Also served as a Latent Fingerprint Examiner, handling, processing and examining evidence and testifying as required.

COLORADO BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1994-2013 (Retired)

Denver Headquarters ***Agent-in Charge – Organized Crime - Gaming/Instacheck/Identification*** **2009-2013**

Responsible for supervising and conducting investigations into criminal conduct which impacted the legal gaming industry in Colorado, with a focus on investigating Organized Crime and illegal gambling operations. Provided information and testimony to the Colorado Limited Stakes Gaming Commission as it

pertained to investigations of criminal involvement in the legal gaming industry in Colorado. Responded to requests from the public, law enforcement, the legislature, the gaming industry and the Governor's Office regarding gambling laws and Unit practices and procedures.

- Received Director's Citation and achieved "Exceptional" Performance Rating (2010/2011/2012).
- Received Medal of Honor (2012) from a local civic organization (Shriner's) for working closely with approximately 40 Colorado law enforcement agencies on a technology improvement/public safety program focusing on identifying arrested individuals and improving efforts to register, track and apprehend sex offenders through acquiring new technologies.
- Served as a Subject Matter Expert to the advisory Board for the federal Bureau of Justice Assistance/Justice Assistance Grant Programs.
- Served as the Security Detail Leader for Florida Governor Rick Scott while he attended the National Governor's Association conference in Colorado Springs.
- Reviewed and made recommendations on proposed legislation, testified before several committees of the Colorado State Legislature.
- Served as the Counterterrorism Goal Leader for the Governor's Office of Homeland Security.
- Conducted an extensive staff inspection of the CBI state forensic laboratory facilities and made 34 wide-ranging recommendations including the need for specific policy and procedure updates, all of which were implemented.

Durango Office Major Crimes
Senior Resident Agent

1999-2009

Established the first presence of CBI in the four-corners region of the state, serving as the Lead Agent for the Durango Office covering the southwest region of Colorado, providing agency and regional leadership, and investigative expertise and assistance. Provided regional training in Crime Scene Investigation, Officer Involved Shootings, Interview and Interrogation, and Identity Theft to local, state and federal law enforcement officers. Conducted and supervised a wide range of investigations including homicide, public corruption, official misconduct, financial crimes and officer-involved shootings.

- Served on the Advisory Board for Pueblo Community College's Southwest Regional Law Enforcement Academy.
- Established Critical Incident Team in the 6th Judicial District of Colorado and served as elected-Coordinator for 8 years. Also handled Use of Force investigations in the 22nd Judicial District.
- Served on Southwest Regional Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) Training Committee, working closely with other area law enforcement agencies to define training needs and obtain grants to fund these efforts. The committee was considered one of the most active and successful in the state.
- Served on the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force for approximately four years (Secret Clearance).
- Received the Colonel's Award of Excellence from the Colorado State Patrol (CSP) for managing the investigation of the shooting of CSP Trooper Chris Cutrone, and diligent efforts to successfully prosecute the shooter in state and federal court, and facilitate additional charges being brought against him in Texas.

- Served as the Security Detail Leader for Washington Governor Christine Gregoire while she attended the Democratic National Convention in Denver, Colorado.

**Denver Office Major Crimes/Organized Crime
Agent/Criminal Investigator I/II**

1994-1999

Served as Criminal Investigator I and II with assignments including CBI Gaming Unit, CBI/DOC Fugitive Task Force, Metro Gang Task Force, and CBI Major Crimes. Involved in numerous major investigations including homicides and other violent crimes, the Columbine High School investigation and the Vail Fires (Terrorism Investigation with the FBI). Investigated Securities Fraud cases and served as an Undercover agent in the CBI Organized Crime/Gaming Unit.

- Served as a member of the Columbine High School Shooting Investigative Task Force for approximately 7 weeks, seeking to develop information to assist in the early detection, prevention and response to mass-casualty incidents. This would become the defining moment in a paradigm change for new tactics for responding to Active Shooter incidents.
- Appointed and served approximately eight years as the Senior Firearms Instructor for CBI; developing policies, procedures and training plans for the Department.
- Served as a Supervisory Investigator and FBI Special Federal Officer in successfully investigating and prosecuting the first street gang in Colorado for violations of the federal Racketeering Influenced Corrupt Organization (RICO) Act, while serving on the Metro Gang Task Force. Received training as an Expert in Gangs and Gang Homicides. Also received significant training and experience in high-risk operations.
- Served as Co-Lead Investigator on behalf of the 18th Judicial District Critical Incident Team in the investigation of the triple murder/suicide by cop by Simon Gonzalez in Castle Rock, Colorado.

VENTURA COUNTY CALIFORNIA DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

1989-1994

Criminal Investigator III (Sergeant) and Acting Senior Investigator (Lieutenant)

As a Criminal Investigator III, responsible for directly supervising 5 investigators and two support personnel in the Narcotics/Asset Forfeiture Unit, as well as 6 to 8 additional task force members. Conducted and supervised investigations ranging from street level enforcement to undercover operations, Major Violators, and money laundering investigations. Also served as a Criminal Investigator III (Sgt.) and acting Lieutenant in the Special Investigations Unit, responsible for conducting and supervising Internal Affairs investigations, high-profile investigations and special projects as assigned by the District Attorney. Responded to Officer Involved Fatal Shooting and Mass Casualty incident.

- Worked a multi-state Fraud Against the Government case with the Ventura office of the FBI.
- Served on two Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Task Forces in Los Angeles investigating cocaine smuggling and money-laundering operations resulting in the seizure of over two tons of cocaine and several million dollars of cash and other assets over an approximately 2 ½ year period.
- Supervised local drug task force (Gold Coast NTF) that provided narcotics investigations resources for street to mid-level operations primarily in Ventura County, California.

PORT HUENEME CALIFORNIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

1980-1989

Detective/Patrol Officer/K-9 Handler/Reserve Coordinator

Served as Patrol Officer, K-9 Handler, and Detective/Crime Scene Investigator assigned to Major Crimes including homicide and equivocal death investigations. Also served as a Field Training Officer, Reserve Officer Program Coordinator and Patrol Watch Commander.

- Graduated from Reserve Police Academy, received "Outstanding Cadet" award.
- Graduated from Regular Police Academy, received "Outstanding Academic Achievement Award".
- Received the "Officer of the Year" award on two occasions and received several commendations from civic groups and members of the community.
- Obtained California POST Advanced Certificate.

VENTURA COUNTY CALIFORNIA SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Sheriff's Cadet – Bureau of Identification

1980-1981

Assisted Crime Scene Senior Deputies in response to major crimes including death investigations, attended autopsies, assisted Crime Lab personnel and booking/evidence sections.

Education

- Master in Business Administration, 2014
Western Governor's University, Salt Lake City, UT
- Certificate of Completion, 2012 (4.0 GPA)
Northwestern University, School of Police Staff and Command, Evanston, Ill
- Bachelor of Arts, Management, Criminal Justice Minor, 1985
University of Redlands, Redlands, CA
- Associate of Arts, Criminal Justice, 1980
Ventura College, Ventura, CA

California and Colorado certified Peace Officer (POST) 1980- Retirement

Received more than 125 training certificates for attending formal training including:

- Ventura County Police and Sheriff's Basic Academy (586 hrs)
- Criminal Investigations Course (40 hrs) CA POST
- Crime Scene Investigation (40 hrs) CA DOJ
- Investigation of Homicide and Violent Crimes (40 hrs) CA DOJ
- Street Gang Investigations (16 hours) Oxnard POA
- Investigation and Trial Preparation (80 hrs) CCCJTC
- Law Enforcement Investigations Training (20 hrs) CA DA Inv. Association
- Crime Scene Collection/Approach (40 hours) (CBI)
- Gang Homicide Investigation (28 hours) NGCRC-Chicago
- Primary Gang Specialist NGCRC
- Advanced Practical Homicide Investigation (Geberth) (40 hrs)
- Officer Involved Fatal Investigations (28 hrs) ILETC
- "Shots Fired" Office Involved Shootings (16 hours) CDAIA
- Advanced Interviewing Techniques and Training (16 hrs) USEPA
- Officer/Citizen Contact Including Use of Force (Randy Means) WCPOA

Professional Affiliations (current and former)

International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)	Colorado Homicide Investigator's Association
Police Executive Research Forum (PERF)	American Society of Law Enforcement Trainers
IACP International Managers of Police Academies and College Training (IMPACT)	Ventura County Deputy Sheriff's Association (VCDA)
International Association for Identification (IAI)	California District Attorney Investigator's Assn
	California Association of Licensed Investigators (CALI)