



# RON SMITH & ASSOCIATES, INC.



## COMPARISON OF PLANTAR FRICTION RIDGE IMPRESSIONS

### Course Description

Due to their infrequent submission into forensic laboratories, friction ridge impressions recovered at the scene of a crime that originate from the foot/sole (plantar) can challenge even the most tenured comparison analyst. Additionally, it is very likely that if you have never received formal training specific to analyzing and comparing plantar impressions, you have probably misinterpreted a plantar impression as coming from a palm or a finger! Even if the interpretation, analysis and comparison is not problematic, what are the subsequent legal aspects? This 16-hour course is designed to provide the participant with the biological fundamentals, legal admissibility scenarios, source recognition, recording techniques and a vigorous practical comparison experience with plantar friction ridge impressions.

Numerous practical exercises, supplemented by lectures and discussion are among the techniques used to provide the attendee with a tangible comparison experience with plantar impressions. The attendee will leave the course with valued experience and an increased knowledge of associated philosophies and methodologies.

### Target Audience

Due to their infrequent submission into forensic laboratories, friction ridge impressions recovered at the scene of a crime that originate from the foot/sole (plantar) can challenge even the most tenured comparison analyst. Additionally, it is very likely that if you have never received formal training specific to analyzing and comparing plantar impressions, you have probably misinterpreted a plantar impression as coming from a palm or a finger! Even if the interpretation, analysis and comparison is not problematic, what are the subsequent legal aspects? This 16-hour course is designed to provide the participant with the biological fundamentals, legal admissibility scenarios, source recognition, recording techniques and a vigorous practical comparison experience with plantar friction ridge impressions.

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### Must Bring to Class

There will be numerous 1:1 comparison exercises conducted throughout this course; therefore, fingerprint magnifiers are required. Ridge counters are encouraged but optional and each student must bring a notebook. A portable lamp/light should be considered.

Dress is business casual as the course will be conducted in a professional environment and facility.

Training Site Parking Instructions: Please pick up temporary parking permits (25 max available) from front security desk the first day of training. Be advised this location is on the campus of CSULA and parking permits need to be displayed at all times. Park towards the back end of the parking lot. Carpooling is strongly encouraged as daily permits are limited and free parking can not be guaranteed.



**Class Instructor:**  
Jon Stimac, CLPE



### Course Logistics

**When:**

December 9-10, 2024

**Class Times:**

08:00 AM - 05:00 PM

**Where:**

Hertzberg-Davis Forensic Science Center  
1800 Paseo Rancho Castilla  
Los Angeles, CA 90032

**Tuition:**

\$350.00

***This course approved for  
I.A.I. Certification & Re-certification***

### Local Contact

Nicole Osborn

Forensic Print Specialist IV

Los Angeles Police Department

(213) 473-8246

N2934@lapd.online

# Daily Schedule

	Day 1	Day 2
Hour 1	Registration / Course Overview / Introductions	Plantar Recording Techniques
Hour 2	Jon's Commentary & Philosophy	Plantar Comparison
Hour 3	Plantar Lecture	
Hour 4	Legal Aspects	Contemporary Issues & Video
Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
Hour 5	Terminology & Tracing Exercise	Plantar Comparison
Hour 6	Plantar Association	
Hour 7	Plantar Comparison	Plantar <i>Bingo!</i> & Plantar <i>Jeopardy!</i>
Hour 8		Closing Comments & Questions

## Should be Able to Perform

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be (better) able to:

- Understand and utilize Level I Detail of plantar impressions
- Understand and utilize Level II Detail of plantar impressions
- Understand and utilize Level III Detail of plantar impressions
- Understand the differences (and similarities) of ridge flow characteristics between plantar, palmar and fingerprint impressions
- Understand and utilize the ACE-V identification process of plantar impressions
- Understand and demonstrate key aspects of the analysis process (recognition/distinguish of plantar impression, substrate, matrix, etc.)
- Conduct basic, intermediate and advanced comparisons of plantar friction ridge impressions
- Document conclusions of an analyzed latent plantar impression
- Understand basic problems and practices in comparing plantar impressions
- Understand the past legal admissibility and the present legal components of plantar impressions.

## Pre-Requisites

Attendees without prior comparison experience or presently at basic-level of comparison experience should satisfy that level of training prior to participating in this course. Students will be expected to participate in the daily performance of intermediate-level comparisons, including, but not limited to, offering opinions, answering questions directed at the student, and giving a position on an issue. Students are in a training environment and as such will be encouraged to explore new concepts, procedures and ideas.

## Recommended Reading

*Cummin & Midlo, Fingerprints, Palms and Soles, Chapter 6-Soles, Dover Publications, 1943, pp 120-140.*

*Moenssens, A., Fingerprints and the Law, Chilton Book Company, 1969, pp 60-62, 136-143, 207.*

*Wiley Encyclopedia of Forensic Science, Friction Ridge Skin: Morphogenesis and Overview, Wiley & Sons, LTD. 2009.*

## Helpful Lodging Information

*Although we cannot endorse any particular hotel property, we have confirmed that the following lodging is within a reasonable commuting distance to the training site.*

Doubletree by Hilton Los Angeles Downtown

120 S. Los Angeles St.

Los Angeles, CA 90012

213-629-1200

Please click [here](#) for Reservations