

Curriculum Vitae

George Rodriguez, MS, EnCE, GCFE, GCFA

Name: George Rodriguez
Address: DA Forensics, Inc.
8528 Davis Blvd. Suite 134
PMB 324
North Richland Hills, TX 76182
Telephone: 817-391-1502
Email: GRodriguez@da-forensics.com

Professional Experience

June 2019 to Present: President of DA Forensics, Inc.

As President and founder of DA Forensics, Inc. located in North Richland Hills, Texas, Mr. Rodriguez not only conducts complex digital forensic investigations, he also has managerial oversight of all forensic investigations taking place within the United States and is responsible for the day-to-day operational management of the firm. Additionally, he is licensed as a Private Investigator in the state of Texas with the Department of Public Safety. He regularly consults with clients to manage all facets of computer forensic investigations (such as theft of intellectual property, cryptocurrency, employee misconduct, data breaches, etc.) and electronic discovery projects.

Mr. Rodriguez has been qualified as an expert witness in the field of computer forensics and provides expert testimony in both Federal and state courts. Furthermore, he prepares expert reports, affidavits, declarations and statements of fact pertaining to the investigations he has conducted.

In addition to his managerial/supervisory duties, Mr. Rodriguez also travels to client sites to manage and perform forensic collections on desktop and laptop computers (PC, Macintosh, and Linux platforms); USB flash drives; cellular and Smartphones; file and e-mail servers (Exchange, Novell, Linux).

June 2017 to March 2019: Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR), Case Agent, Digital Forensics and Cyber Senior Special Agent

During his tenure as an OPR case agent and founding member of the OPR Dallas Satellite office, Mr. Rodriguez conducted forensic examinations and cyber related analysis for the OPR Special Agent in Charge (SAC) Central area, and to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Inspector General (OIG) Dallas office. Mr. Rodriguez also conducted investigations in the capacity which included criminal and administrative allegations of misconduct against employees, ICE detainees, contractors, and civilians who impersonate ICE officers. In conducting these types of investigations, Mr. Rodriguez consulted with DHS Office of Civil Rights Civil Liberties, Office of Principal Legal Advisor (OPLA) as well as the U.S. Attorney's Office (USAO) and state prosecutors. Further, Mr. Rodriguez has been entrusted on multiple occasions to serve in the capacity of Acting Resident Agent in Charge (A/RAC), supervising up to nine employees, for the OPR Houston office.

Routinely, senior managers of HSI have consulted with Mr. Rodriguez to determine the proper course of action for alleged allegations to ensure that agency policies and procedures were applied appropriately during the investigative process.

Upon conclusion of the investigation, Mr. Rodriguez ensured that comprehensive digital forensics or investigative reports were legally sufficient by consulting with attorneys, so that administrative actions could be executed with proper justification.

May 2013 to June 2017: ICE Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR), Digital Forensics and Cyber Senior Special Agent

As a Digital Forensics and Cyber Agent for the OPR Headquarters office in Fairfax, Virginia, Mr. Rodriguez was involved in more than eighty criminal and administrative investigations that related to allegations of misconduct involving employees of ICE. Mr. Rodriguez's specific contribution to these investigations focused on digital forensic support to OPR offices nationwide, in order to recover evidence for use in OPR and DHS OIG investigations. Mr. Rodriguez independently analyzed digital forensic evidence and wrote reports that provided OPR and OIG agents with the necessary evidence that either proved or disproved allegations of misconduct by government employees or contractors.

To highlight Mr. Rodriguez's contributions in this role, two cases which pertained to bribery and embezzlement have been exemplified herein. The bribery case involved an HSI Special Agent who allegedly received payment for assisting an alien in obtaining parole documents in violation 18 USC 1346, 18 USC 1505, 18 USC 1343 and he eventually plead guilty to 18 USC 371. Mr. Rodriguez independently analyzed fourteen pieces of digital evidence and obtained data that contributed to his being found guilty of conspiracy. In the embezzlement case, a supervisor developed a complicated method of stealing government funds by purchasing personal items with a contractor's own funds and having the contractor reimbursed with government funds that he authorized for nonexistent non-tangible work. Mr. Rodriguez was able to provided forensic evidence, from his examination, such as emails and invoices which were used to prove his guilt.

Mr. Rodriguez was often sought after as a Subject Matter Expert (SME) in digital forensics, and as such, he routinely provided technical guidance, expertise and oversight to lesser-experienced agents in the office, as well as OPR management and he had the opportunity to serve as the Acting Section Chief of the OPR Cyber Crimes Section on a regular basis. During these assignments, he managed the forensic requests workflow in the Joint Integrity Case Management System (JICMS), coordinated and assigned forensic requests, as well as approved digital forensic reports.

Mr. Rodriguez was ready and available to travel on short notice in order to provide forensic support and guidance to the DHS OIG and OPR field offices during criminal search warrants and investigations conducted by those offices. He also saved the government travel funds by mastering the technique of remotely acquiring computer evidence across the world by imaging computers across the government network and sharing this technique with his coworkers. This process saved his department approximately \$100,000 throughout the four years he served in this position.

As a SME, Mr. Rodriguez's advice was sought after by other OPR, DHS OIG and FBI Special Agents on the availability and reliability of digital evidence and he regularly provided recommendations and guidance for improving operational efficiency. Many of his recommendations have been based on his extensive experience conducting digital forensics and the acquisition and thorough analysis of all available digital evidence to include, but not limited to, mobile phones, computers, servers, network traffic and cloud-based storage.

Mr. Rodriguez collaborated with all DHS component's Network Operations Centers (NOC) and Security Operations Centers (SOC) in obtaining network related evidence, which augmented and corroborated his own independently acquired information and research.

During a particular DHS OIG investigation that Mr. Rodriguez supported, he developed a unique solution to access the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) network (which consisted of over one hundred thousand endpoints) for forensic imaging, in conjunction with the CBP Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) and CBP network security operations. The data recovered was obtained from several virtual servers used to maintain a major DHS investigative database housed in a CBP server farm.

Mr. Rodriguez routinely used network administrative tools, to include BigFix and System Center Configuration Manager (SCCM), to identify resources on the ICE network, which were targeted for imaging and analysis in ongoing investigations. In addition, he employed the use of Blue Coat proxy logs to investigate potential incidents and developed solutions needed to support employee misconduct type investigations.

Based on Mr. Rodriguez's technical expertise in digital forensics, he created and maintained various databases for use in filtering ICE network data as it relates to OPR investigations and maintained the databases in a manner that contributed to the overall success of the Cyber Crimes Center. Specifically, he identified and developed a method of obtaining instant messages from ICE employees surreptitiously through ICE Blackberry servers. Messages recovered from ICE servers provided forensic evidence that identified agents stationed domestically and abroad to be involved in the

solicitation of prostitution; abusing their position of leadership by promoting a culture of inappropriate sexual relationships with subordinate and other deviant behaviors that violated the employees code of conduct. As a direct result of this method implemented by Mr. Rodriguez, he was able to provide thorough forensic evidence to the OIG that proved a senior executive service (SES) member created a culture of inappropriate sexual relationships with subordinates. Mr. Rodriguez personally briefed the executive management team in OPR on the results of findings. The SES thereafter resigned from government service instead of subjecting himself to the administrative disciplinary process.

December 2009 to May 2013: Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), National Program Manager and Special Agent

As a National Program Manager for OPR Headquarters in Washington, D.C., Mr. Rodriguez wrote and edited policy documents that enabled HSI to meet its mission. He was instrumental in drafting new policy documents, updating existing documents, and coordinating the review and approval of documents with high level members within HSI and/or ICE. He accomplished these tasks by developing and maintaining relationships with HSI management, anticipated and assessed their needs, and provided complex information to them. He also resolved complex or non-routine problems and addressed their questions, and/or complaints.

Mr. Rodriguez represented HSI in a DHS working group consisting of members from ICE Policy, DHS Policy, OPLA, ICE senior management and legal representatives from other DHS components in creating federal regulations addressing the prevention of sexual assaults and threats of individuals in DHS custody. The working group was formed in response to the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA). The creation of these regulations involved a demanding, accelerated schedule, and Mr. Rodriguez was conscientious in diplomatically representing and advocating for HSI's interests, which ultimately achieved the desired outcome of establishing federal regulations for DHS that conform to PREA. Throughout this process, Mr. Rodriguez encountered many challenges from an administration that was focused more on privacy rights than on enforcement of current rules and laws. He conducted research by tasking HSI's Operation Division with inquiries that were provided to each SAC office. Mr. Rodriguez personally analyzed and presented to the working group the results which evidentially set the agency's policy on how prisoners are handled in DHS with respect to PREA.

As the principle reviewer and editor for HSI policy handbooks, which included: Computer Forensics, Cyber Investigations, Child Exploitations, National Security Investigations and Technical Surveillance for HSI Special Agents, Mr. Rodriguez gathered and analyzed information from other SMEs and determined the accuracy of the information by vetting it through the OPLA (attorneys) and other SMEs. After a thorough review, Mr. Rodriguez proposed and implemented solutions in order to establish HSI policy.

Mr. Rodriguez routinely received requests from senior level managers from HSI or OPR to explain new policies, procedures and organizational structure so that they could either implement them or assess their compliance. Prior to offering his findings and opinions, he researched all policies, consulted attorneys and explained the impact of these changes to them, ensuring that the changes were either implemented or addressed.

January 2005 to January 2010: President of Computer Forensics Worldwide, Inc.

As the Founder and President of Computer Forensics Worldwide, Inc. located in Miami, Florida, Mr. Rodriguez provided computer forensics services to both lawyers and business clients. At the conclusion of the forensic analysis, he provided them with detailed expert reports for use in the administrative legal processes. These services have included the analysis of computers that were suspected of being compromised, forensic imaging of a foreign company's network and many other jobs related to capturing, analyzing and reporting of digital evidence. Mr. Rodriguez also traveled to foreign countries to support clients by performing forensic collections on computers, laptops, mobile phones and networks.

December 2003 to December 2009: HSI Special Agent and Computer Forensic Agent

Mr. Rodriguez was assigned to the Computer Forensics and Cyber Group in the Special Agent-in-Charge (SAIC) office, located in Miami, Florida. In this position he routinely received, imaged, and examined data-processing material for subsequent use as evidence, wrote expert reports on the findings and presented the evidence to case agents, prosecutors and courts. In addition, he investigated crimes related to the Internet and computers as well as numerous child pornography violations, many of which have resulted in criminal convictions. Additionally, as the lead case agent he drafted, participated in and supervised the execution of federal search warrants on businesses and residential dwellings.

As the computer forensics team leader and agent responsible for maintaining the forensic evidence room in the SAIC Miami Office, Mr. Rodriguez implemented procedures for properly gathering and analyzing evidence as well as

established and managed the forensic local area network in the office. This network storage system contained all forensic images collected for examination.

After the events of 911, Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) was merged with ICE. Mr. Rodriguez was responsible for training all former INS agents (about 120 agents) within his field office in the Treasury Enforcement Communication System (TECS) law enforcement database and customs related regulations and procedures. In order to accomplish this task, Mr. Rodriguez planned and developed the training, scheduled all of the former INS agents for the training and led a team of three other agents in conducting this training initiative. At the conclusion of three months, all employees within the office were trained.

As a result of Mr. Rodriguez's leadership abilities, he frequently served as acting group supervisor in which he personally inspired, motivated and guided subordinates in the office. At least one of these temporary periods of supervision lasted approximately 3-months. These temporary supervision periods included supervising Technical Enforcement Agents who installed and managed electronic surveillance devices and managed the wire room and Computer Forensics Agents as they conducted forensic examinations as well as cyber-crime investigations.

April 1999 to December 2003: United States Customs Service (USCS) and ICE, Special Agent

During this period Mr. Rodriguez conducted various investigations of violations involving customs laws of the United States. (Note: On March 2003, as part of the Homeland Security Act the all USCS agents were transferred to ICE. ICE Special Agents are now the investigative arm of DHS, HSI.)

June 1982 to August 1992: United States Navy, Chief Petty Officer

During my ten years with the Navy, I served on board two ships, the USS Jack Williams and the USS Manitowoc. I also completed a three-and-a-half-year tour as Navy Recruiter in Los Angeles, California.

On the USS Jack Williams I was promoted to Chief Petty Officer and served as the ship's Electrical Division Officer. While recruiting for the Navy, I managing various recruiting offices and when I was assigned to the USS Manitowoc, I qualified as an Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist (ESWS). Throughout my Navy career I managed personnel and resources and instituted new and innovated ideas that improved the overall efficiency of the organizations assigned.

Expert Witness Testimony

- November 2010 U.S. vs. Lavi Rubinstein. Southern District of Florida, Judge Alan Gold presiding
 - April 2007 U.S. vs. Kent Frank. Southern District of Florida, Judge Adalberto Jordan presiding
- *Testified and cross-examined as a computer forensics expert in these two criminal cases.

Professional Certifications

Active Certifications:

- GIAC Certified Forensic Examiner – (GCFE)
- GIAC Certified Forensic Analyst (GCFA)
- Guidance Software Encase Certified Examiner (EnCE), (Certification number: 15- 0208-2395)
- WetStone Technologies, Inc. Certified Live Wire Examiner
- Private Investigator, Texas Department of Public Safety, (License number: A10518901)

Expired Certifications:

- International Association of Computer Investigative Specialists (IACIS), Certified Forensic Computer Examiner (CFCE), June 2009
- AccessData Certified Examiner (ACE), February 2009

Professional Training

Mr. Rodriguez has attended over one thousand hours of digital forensics training from the following academic institutions, digital forensic software vendors and computer forensics organizations: George Mason University, Guidance Software, AccessData, The SANS Institute, BlackBag Technologies (acquired by Cellebrite), Sumuri LLC and Belkasoft.

- George Mason University courses attended include: Essential Forensic Techniques I, Advanced Computer

Forensics, Digital Media Forensics, Forensic Cloud Computing, Fraud and Forensics in Accounting, Incident Response Forensics, Internet Protocol Routing, Intro Technology Forensics Value, Lawful Network Forensics, Legal and Ethical Issues in IT, Mac Forensics and Network Forensics;

- Guidance Software courses attended include: Computer Forensics II, EnCase Advance Computer Forensics, EnCase Advance Internet Examinations course, EnCase EnScript Programming course, EnCase Host Intrusion Methodology and Investigations and EnCase Version 7 Transition;
- The SANS Institute courses attended include: Windows Forensic Analysis, Advanced Incident Response, Threat Hunting, and Digital Forensics, Advance Network Forensics and Analysis and Advanced Smartphone Forensics;
- Sumuri LLC courses attended include: Android, Apple iOS and Blackberry Forensics, Certified Cellebrite Mobile Device Examiner Course, Certified Cellebrite UFED Physical Examiner Course and Mobile Forensics Essentials.
- Belkasoft X Mobile Training Course

Speaking Engagements

On February 19, 2021. Mr. Rodriguez provided “Digital Evidence in Investigations” training via Zoom to members of the Texas Association of Licensed Investigators (TALI).

In January 2011, Mr. Rodriguez was interviewed and filmed for a story featuring the Exploitation of Children in Child Sex Tourism cases by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC). The story focused on U.S. citizen Kent Frank who was convicted of Child Sex Tourism charges. All of the forensic evidence was both recovered and presented by Mr. Rodriguez in federal court, which was instrumental in Mr. Frank being found guilty and receiving forty (40) years of incarceration in a federal jail.

During the month of April 2007, Mr. Rodriguez presented and explained ICE’s law enforcement capabilities to include “Operation Predator”, a program developed by ICE to protect children from predators and provide Internet safety tips to members of the community at the behest of Congressman Mario Diaz Balart. Attendees included the Congressman Mario Diaz Balart, Miami Dade Commissioners, and parents of middle school students.

On April 26, 2006, Mr. Rodriguez lectured to attorneys, prosecutors and law enforcement officers during a Kristi House conference on the capabilities of both Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC) and computer forensics.

Professional Journals (HSI Policy Documents)-Reviewer and Editor

- HSI Handbook (HB 11-01), Computer Forensics Handbook, dated April 27, 2011
- HSI Handbook (HB- 11-03), Cyber Crimes Investigations Handbook, dated August 9, 2011
- HSI Handbook (HB 12-05), Child Sexual Exploitation Investigations Handbook, dated November 19, 2012
- HSI Handbook (HB 13-02), Technical Operations Handbook, dated January 22, 2013

Education

- Master of Science, Computer Forensics, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA, May 2013
- Bachelor of Science, Liberal Arts, Excelsior College, Albany, NY, July 1996
- Associate in Liberal Science, City University, Bellevue, WA, June 1988