

Curriculum Vitae

George Rodriguez, MS, EnCE, GCFE, GCFA, GASF

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Summary

George Rodriguez is a highly experienced professional in digital forensics and investigations, serving as the President and Founder of DA Forensics, Inc. in Fort Worth, Texas. With over three decades of expertise, he has led the firm to prominence through his hands-on leadership and commitment to precision and confidentiality. Mr. Rodriguez is a licensed Private Investigator with the Texas Department of Public Safety and holds advanced certifications in digital forensics, including GIAC Certified Forensic Examiner and EnCase Certified Examiner. His career features significant accomplishments in high-profile cases involving intellectual property theft, cryptocurrency fraud, ransomware attacks, and child exploitation. He has provided expert testimony in Federal and state courts, prepared comprehensive forensic reports, and consulted on various cyber-related issues.

Prior to founding DA Forensics, Mr. Rodriguez held key roles with Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and the United States Customs Service (USCS), conducting a vast number of criminal and administrative investigations. He played a crucial role in uncovering evidence and securing convictions in cases of bribery, embezzlement, and child pornography. As a National Program Manager, he developed policy documents and comprehensive handbooks for HSI employees. Additionally, Mr. Rodriguez is deeply involved in the professional community as the Regional Director of the Texas Association of Licensed Investigators (TALI), contributing to the advancement of investigative practices and the regulatory framework of the industry. His extensive training, certifications, and practical experience make him a trusted and reliable expert in digital forensics and investigations.

Professional Experience

June 2019 to Present: President of DA Forensics

In his role as President, Mr. Rodriguez has been pivotal in propelling DA Forensics to the forefront of the forensic investigations industry. His hands-on leadership approach guarantees the flawless execution of operations, with a staunch commitment to precision and confidentiality. Under his stewardship, DA Forensics has successfully navigated a wide array of intricate cases, securing widespread recognition and trust from an extensive client base. Moreover, Mr. Rodriguez excels in cultivating strong client relationships, delivering expert testimony, and providing strategic consultations, solidifying the firm's esteemed position within the sector.

In addition to his responsibilities at DA Forensics, Mr. Rodriguez serves as the Regional Director of the TALI. This role underscores his dedication to advancing the investigative profession and his commitment to upholding the highest standards of practice within the community. Through this position, he contributes significantly to the professional

development and regulatory framework of the industry, reflecting his deep-rooted involvement and leadership in the broader investigative community.

Accomplishments:

- Founded DA Forensics in Fort Worth, Texas, and serves as President.
- Licensed Private Investigator with the Department of Public Safety (DPS).
- Provides managerial oversight of all forensic investigations in the United States.
- Responsible for the day-to-day operational management of the firm.
- Developed a proven method for quickly and efficiently investigating electronic data while ensuring confidentiality.
- Provided expert testimony in Federal and state courts.
- Prepared expert reports, affidavits, declarations, and statements of fact related to investigations.
- Consulted with clients on various aspects of computer forensic investigations, including theft of intellectual property, cryptocurrency, employee misconduct, data breaches, and electronic discovery projects.
- Managed and performed forensic collections on various platforms, including:
 - Desktop and laptop computers (PC, Macintosh, and Linux)
 - USB flash drives
 - Cellular and smartphones
 - File and email servers (Exchange, Novell, Linux)
- Handled high-profile cases, including:
 - Intellectual property: Preservation of PST files and analysis of deleted emails.
 - Cryptocurrency: Investigation of an insurance claim related to a lightning strike damaging a computer's hard drive; investigation of a victim of fraud related to the theft of over one million dollars through a Pig Butchering Scam.
 - Ransomware attack: Analysis of networks involved, isolation of malware, and assistance in restoring the system to pre-infection status.
 - Digital forensics media analysis: Provided relevant information for clients in various cases such as doctor malpractice claims, allegations against high-ranking politicians, inappropriate pastor conduct, employee misconduct, theft of proprietary data, and allegations of inappropriate sexual conduct against high-net-worth sports figures.
 - Blockchain analysis: Conducted a comprehensive blockchain analysis of a former spouse involved in crypto mining and trading, resulting in the identification of hidden assets worth 1.6 million in digital currency.
 - Fraud investigation: Analyzed business and personal bank statements to uncover fraudulent activities by a spouse who had misused 44% of business-related expenses for personal purposes and received business-related income into a personal checking account.
 - Child pornography cases: Conducted investigations and provided forensic analysis leading to the conviction of offenders, as well as exoneration, minimal convictions, or lower sentencing in defense cases.

- Prostitution: Investigated and provided evidence in cases involving prostitution rings.
- Compromised devices and networks: Identified and mitigated compromised devices and network breaches.
- eDiscovery matters: Managed electronic discovery projects, ensuring the proper handling and analysis of digital evidence.
- Video/audio authentication and enhancement: Provided authentication and enhancement of video and audio recordings for use in investigations and legal proceedings.
- Employee internal threat matters and theft: Investigated internal threats and theft by employees, providing crucial evidence for administrative and legal actions.
- Divorce matters: Conducted forensic investigations in divorce cases, uncovering hidden assets and providing evidence for court proceedings.
- Child custody issues: Provided forensic analysis and evidence in child custody disputes.
- Motor vehicle accidents: Analyzed digital evidence related to motor vehicle accidents to support legal claims and investigations.
- Child abuse: Investigated allegations of child abuse, providing forensic evidence to support criminal and civil cases.
- Church pastors' loss of trust issues: Investigated cases involving church pastors, providing evidence in matters related to loss of trust and misconduct.
- Probate cases: Conducted forensic investigations in probate cases, uncovering evidence related to asset distribution and disputes.
- Serves as the Region 2 Director for TALI, contributing to the professional development and regulatory framework of the industry.
- Member of the TALI, California Association of Legal Investigators (CALI) and Florida Association of Legal Investigators (FALI).

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

Mr. Rodriguez has extensive experience as an OPR case agent and was a founding member of the OPR Dallas Satellite office. During his tenure, he conducted forensic examinations and cyber-related analyses for the OPR Special Agent in Charge (SAC) Central area and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Inspector General (OIG) Dallas office. He investigated criminal and administrative allegations of misconduct against employees, ICE detainees, contractors, and civilians impersonating ICE officers.

Mr. Rodriguez has a strong track record of collaborating with key stakeholders in the investigative process. He has consulted with the DHS Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, the Office of Principal Legal Advisor (OPLA), the U.S. Attorney's Office (USAO), and state prosecutors to ensure that investigations are thorough and legally sound. He also

served as the Acting Resident Agent in Charge (A/RAC), supervising up to nine employees in the OPR Houston office.

Senior managers of HSI have frequently sought Mr. Rodriguez's expertise to determine the proper course of action in cases of alleged misconduct. Upon concluding investigations, Mr. Rodriguez ensures that comprehensive digital forensics or investigative reports are legally sufficient by consulting with attorneys, allowing for administrative actions to be executed with proper justification.

May 2013 to June 2017: ICE 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 played a critical role in a vast number of criminal and administrative investigations concerning allegations of misconduct involving ICE employees. His work involved providing digital forensic support to OPR offices nationwide, independently analyzing forensic evidence, and writing comprehensive reports that either substantiated or disproved allegations of misconduct. His expertise was instrumental in several high-profile cases and he frequently served as a Subject Matter Expert, providing technical guidance and oversight.

Significant Accomplishments:

- Provided digital forensic support to OPR offices nationwide, recovering evidence for use in OPR and DHS OIG investigations.
- Independently analyzed digital forensic evidence and wrote reports that proved or disproved allegations of misconduct.
- Instrumental in two high-profile cases of bribery and embezzlement, analyzing digital evidence and contributing to the guilty verdicts of the suspects.
- Served as a Subject Matter Expert (SME) in digital forensics, offering technical guidance, expertise, and oversight to less-experienced agents and OPR management.
- Interim Section Chief of the OPR Cyber Crimes Section, managing the forensic requests workflow in the Joint Integrity Case Management System (JICMS).
- Provided forensic support and guidance during criminal search warrants and investigations, saving government travel funds by mastering remote acquisition techniques for computer evidence.
- Collaborated with DHS component's Network Operations Centers (NOC) and Security Operations Centers (SOC) to obtain network-related evidence.
- Utilized tools such as BigFix and System Center Configuration Manager (SCCM) to identify resources on the ICE network for imaging and analysis in investigations.
- Used Blue Coat proxy logs to investigate incidents and support employee misconduct investigations.
- Created and maintained databases for filtering ICE network data related to OPR investigations, uncovering evidence of misconduct by senior executives.
- Briefed the OPR executive management team on findings from investigations, leading to the resignation of a senior executive service (SES) member.

December 2009 to May 2013: HSI, National Program Manager and Special Agent

As a National Program Manager for OPR Headquarters in Washington, D.C., Mr. Rodriguez was responsible for writing and editing policy documents to support the mission of HSI. He played a crucial role in drafting new policies, updating existing ones, and coordinating the review and approval process with high-level officials within HSI and ICE. He developed and maintained relationships with HSI management, providing complex information to meet their needs and resolving non-routine problems. Mr. Rodriguez was instrumental in creating comprehensive policy handbooks for HSI employees, covering various areas critical to their operations.

Significant Accomplishments:

- Wrote and edited policy documents to support HSI's mission.
- Drafted new policies and updated existing ones.
- Coordinated the review and approval of policies with high-level members within HSI and ICE.
- Developed and maintained relationships with HSI management, providing complex information to meet their needs.
- Resolved complex or non-routine problems and addressed questions or complaints.
- Developed comprehensive policy handbooks for HSI employees, covering areas such as:
 - Computer forensics
 - Cyber investigations
 - Child exploitation
 - National security investigations
 - Technical surveillance
- Collaborated with agency attorneys and other SMEs to provide a comprehensive resource for HSI employees.

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

Leading Computer Forensics Worldwide, Inc., in Miami, Florida, Mr. Rodriguez offered top-notch computer forensics services to a diverse clientele. He undertook forensic analyses, crafted expert reports, and was frequently on the move, supporting clients across borders.

April 1999 to December 2009: USCS and ICE, Special Agent

(Note: In March 2003, as part of the Homeland Security Act, all USCS agents were transferred to ICE. ICE Special Agents are now the investigative arm of DHS, HSI.)

As a member of the Computer Forensics and Cyber Group in the HSI Miami Field Office, Mr. Rodriguez was responsible for receiving, imaging, and examining data-processing material for use as evidence. He wrote expert reports and presented evidence to case agents, prosecutors, and courts. His investigations focused on Internet and computer-related crimes, including child pornography violations, and he played a key role in drafting, participating in, and supervising the execution of federal search warrants. Mr. Rodriguez's leadership as the computer forensics team leader and agent in charge of maintaining the

forensic evidence room was instrumental in implementing procedures for gathering and analyzing evidence and establishing a forensic local area network in the office.

After the merger of Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) with ICE, Mr. Rodriguez trained all former INS agents in the Treasury Enforcement Communication System (TECS) law enforcement database and customs-related regulations and procedures. His leadership abilities led to frequent appointments as acting group supervisor, where he supervised Technical Enforcement Agents and Computer Forensics Agents.

Significant Accomplishments:

- Received, imaged, and examined data-processing material for use as evidence.
- Wrote expert reports and presented evidence to case agents, prosecutors, and courts.
- Investigated Internet and computer-related crimes, including child pornography violations.
- Drafted, participated in, and supervised the execution of federal search warrants.
- Implemented procedures for gathering and analyzing evidence.
- Established and managed the forensic local area network in the office.
- Trained former INS agents in the Treasury Enforcement Communication System (TECS) law enforcement database and customs-related regulations and procedures.
- Frequently served as acting group supervisor, supervising Technical Enforcement Agents and Computer Forensics Agents.
- Conducted investigations into various violations of customs laws, including:
 - Child Pornography: Provided evidence that led to criminal convictions and the removal of offenders from society. Testified as an expert witness in court.
 - Customs-Related Trade and Fraud: Identified correspondence that acknowledged a conspiracy to defraud U.S. government customs duties and violations of intellectual property. The company settled by paying fines and penalties.
 - Immigration Crimes: Identified correspondence and forged documents related to smuggling and trafficking cases.
 - Child Exploitation Cases: Presented forensic evidence in federal court that led to the conviction of U.S. citizen Kent Frank for Child Sex Tourism charges.
 - Border-Related Crimes: Investigated drug smuggling.
 - Financial Crimes: Seized over ten million dollars of drug proceeds hidden in investment-grade insurance policies in the Isle of Man and investigated Civil Asset Forfeiture Reform Act (CAFRA) claims related to the seizure.

Expert Witness Testimony

Mr. Rodriguez has been called upon multiple times to provide expert testimony in both federal and state courts. His deep understanding of digital forensics and impeccable record has made him a reliable witness in numerous high-stakes cases. A few of the most significant cases in which he has served as an expert witness are as follows:

- May 2024, U.S. vs. Jacob Conrad De La Paz, Western District of Louisiana, Judge David C. Joseph presiding
- 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

Professional Certifications

George Rodriguez holds various active certifications, including

- GIAC Certified Forensic Examiner (GCFE),
- GIAC Certified Forensic Analyst (GCFA),
- GIAC Advanced Smartphone Forensics (GASF), and
- Guidance Software Encase Certified Examiner (EnCE).

He also has several expired certifications, showcasing his continuous commitment to learning and staying updated in his field.

Professional Training

Mr. Rodriguez has invested significant time in professional training, accumulating over 2,000 hours from leading academic institutions and forensics organizations. This includes comprehensive courses from institutions like George Mason University and renowned entities like The SANS Institute.

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

Speaking Engagements

An eloquent speaker, Mr. Rodriguez has been invited to various platforms to share his knowledge and insights. He has delivered lectures, participated in panel discussions, and provided training sessions on topics ranging from digital evidence in investigations to identifying cryptocurrency in digital evidence. Below are some of the notable speaking engagements where Mr. Rodriguez has shared his expertise and insights:

- Provided "Digital Evidence in Investigations", "Identifying Cryptocurrency in Digital Evidence", and "Viatical Fraud Schemes" training to TALI
- Featured in a BBC story on Child Sex Tourism cases and presented forensic evidence in court, leading to conviction and 40 years of incarceration for U.S. citizen Kent Frank

- Presented ICE's law enforcement capabilities and Internet safety tips to community members, including Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart and Miami-Dade Commissioners
- Lectured on the capabilities of Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC) and computer forensics to attorneys, prosecutors, and law enforcement officers at a Kristi House conference.

Professional Journals (HSI Policy Documents)

Apart from his direct involvement in forensic investigations, Mr. Rodriguez has also been an active contributor to HSI policy documents. He has been a reviewer and editor for several handbooks, ensuring that they are updated, relevant, and useful for agents on the ground.

- 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

George Rodriguez holds a Master of Science in Computer Forensics from George Mason University and a Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts from Excelsior College. His academic foundation has been pivotal in shaping his career and providing him with the necessary knowledge to excel in the field of digital forensics.