



David E. Bridges
Associate

33 S. Sixth Street
Suite 4400
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402

Phone: 612.371.1330 **Fax** 612.877.3072
dbridges@meagher.com

MAIN BIOGRAPHY

David Bridges is an associate in our Catastrophic Loss practice group, focusing on complex civil litigation, including fires, explosions, structural failures, fire protection system failures, product failures and other catastrophic losses and construction-related incidents across the United States. His assignments include forensic investigations of first-property and other catastrophic losses, including fires/explosions involving industrial, commercial and residential facilities.

Prior to joining Meagher & Geer as an associate, David was a Technical Specialist, Fire Scientist with our Catastrophic Loss practice group. David received his JD degree from North Carolina Central University School of Law, operating on the southeastern coastal states as a Technical Specialist on behalf of various Meagher & Geer clients. In his undergraduate studies he focused on science, with emphasis on fire protection engineering. He has worked on numerous property loss assignments across the United States, in accordance with his status as an International Association of Arson Investigation Certified Fire Investigator (IAAI-CFI). David is also a North Carolina Certified Fire Investigator (CFI).

Before joining the Catastrophic Loss group at Meagher & Geer, David had extensive experience as a fire/arson agent /K-9 handler throughout the southeastern United States. He was also employed by the North Carolina Department of Justice (NCDOJ) within the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation (NCSBI). Further, in addition to the investigation of structure fire/explosions, David has also participated in wildfire “origin and cause” workshops provided by the United States Department of Homeland Security/Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) and North Carolina Division of Forest Resources (Kinston, NC).

David has conducted examinations of over 1,000 fires as an investigator. He has been an instructor for more than 36 live training fires. In addition, he has served as an investigator in eight (8) bombing/explosion incidents.

PRACTICE AREAS

Catastrophic Loss
Products Liability

EDUCATION

University of Cincinnati, M.S., 2006
University of Maryland, B.S., 2004
North Carolina Central University
School of Law, J.D., 2014

BAR ADMISSIONS

Minnesota, 2015
Texas, 2014
North Dakota, 2016

COURT ADMISSIONS

United States District Court, District of
Minnesota, 2015
United States District Court, Northern
District of Texas, 2015
United States District Court, Western
District of Texas, 2015
United States District Court, Southern
District of Texas, 2016

David also serves as an Adjunct Instructor for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) and National Fire Academy (NFA). The courses focus on origin and cause investigation, interview and interrogation, and expert witness-courtroom testimony techniques.

Outside the office, David enjoys spending time with his family and listening to bluegrass music.

AWARDS

- Life Membership Award, North Carolina Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators (NC-IAAI), October 2015

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- American Society for Testing and Materials International (ASTM), 2014-Present
- Claims and Litigation Management Alliance (CLM), 2015-Present
 - Property Committee, 2015-Present
 - Product Liability Committee, 2015-Present
 - Insurance Fraud Committee, 2015-Present
 - Subrogation Committee, 2015-Present
 - Environmental and Toxic Tort Committee, 2015-Present
 - Publication/Magazine Committee, 2015-Present
 - Co-Chair, 2016-Present
 - Conference Committee, 2015-Present
- Georgia Fire Investigators Association (GFIA), 2016-Present
- Fire Investigators of Florida (FL-IAAI), 2016-Present
- Illinois Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators (IL-IAAI), 2016-Present
- International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI), 2010-Present
 - Training & Education (T&E) Committee, 2012-Present
 - International Training Conference (ITC) Committee
 - Co-Chair, 2016
 - Chair, 2017
 - Expert Witness Courtroom Testimony (EWCT) Sub-Committee
 - Insurance Training and Membership Advisory Sub-Committee
- Minnesota Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators (MN-IAAI), 2013-Present

- Training & Education (T&E) Committee, 2016-Present
- National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), 2014-Present
- New Jersey Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators (NJ-IAAI), 2016-Present
- North Carolina Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators (NC-IAAI)
 - Training & Education (T&E) Committee, 2008-Present
 - Board of Directors-Law Enforcement Representative, 2010-2015
 - Expert Witness-Courtroom Testimony Sub-Committee, 2013-Present
 - Accelerant Detection K-9 Sub-Committee, 2013-Present
 - Life Member, 2015
- Propane Gas Defense Association, 2015-Present
- Society of Fire Protection Engineers (SFPE), 2014-Present
- Texas Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators (TX-IAAI), 2013-Present



CERTIFICATIONS

- Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Peace Officer License, May 2014
- International Association of Arson Investigators Certified Instructor (IAAI-CI), August 2013
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security Wildland Fire Investigation Case Development, January 2013
- International Association of Arson Investigators Certified Fire Investigator (IAAI-CFI), October 2010, October 2015
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security Wildland Fire Origin and Cause Determination, November 2010
- Fire Investigation Training Services, Inc. Accelerant Detection K-9 Training, December 2008
- North Carolina Criminal Justice Education & Training Standards Commission Criminal Justice Instructor, April 2009
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security Incident Response to Terrorist Bombings, March 2008
- Basic Clandestine Laboratory Safety, 29 CFR 1910.120 and 8 CCR 5192, November 2007
- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Post-Blast Investigation, March 2007

- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Incident Management System Training, August 2006
- North Carolina Criminal Justice Education & Training Standards Commission Law Enforcement Certification, October 2006
- National Fire Academy (NFA) Fire/Arson Investigation, May 2005
- North Carolina State Fire & Rescue Commission Certified Fire Investigator (CFI), April 2008
- Maryland Fire & Rescue Institute, Firefighter I & II, 2002
- Maryland Fire & Rescue Institute, Fire Officer I, II, 2002
- Maryland Fire & Rescue Institute, Fire Inspector I, II & III, 2002



SPECIAL TRAINING

Instructor:

- Crime scene investigation
- Evidence recognition, preservation and collection
- Fire behavior and combustion
- Fire analysis and investigation

SPECIAL RESEARCH PROJECTS

- **“A Fire Dynamics Analysis of Compartment Fire Scenarios Involving Electrical Concepts”**, In Conjunction with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives’ (ATF) Special Agent Academy, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC), Brunswick, Georgia, May, 2015
- **“Fire Pattern Persistence in the Presence of Positive Pressure Ventilation (PPV)”**, In Conjunction with the UL Firefighter Safety Research Institute’s Study of the Effectiveness of Fire Service PPV, Northbrook, Illinois, January 2015

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- **Adjunct Instructor**, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives' (ATF) Advanced Origin & Cause/Courtroom Testimony Course, State and Local Government Training Program, ATF's National Center for Explosives Training and Research (NCETR), Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, December 12-16, 2016
- **Legal Considerations**, National Fire Academy (NFA), Fire Investigation: Essentials Course (R0206), Emmitsburg, Maryland, December 13, 2016
- **Adjunct Instructor**, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives' (ATF) Arson for Prosecutors Course, ATF's National Center for Explosives Training and Research (NCETR), Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, November 21, 2016
- **Expert Witness – Courtroom Testimony Course**, International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI), Fire Investigators of Florida (FL-IAAI), 2016 Annual Training Conference, Daytona Beach, Florida, October 11, 2016, ATF's National Center for Explosives Training and Research (NCETR), Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, November 8-10, 2016
- **Critical Emerging Fire Claim Management Issues**, Claims & Litigation Management Alliance (CLM), 2016 Annual Southwest Property Conference, Dallas, Texas, November 3, 2016
- **Negative Corpus**, Fire Investigators of Florida (FL-IAAI), 2016 Annual Training Conference, Daytona Beach, Florida, October 12, 2016
- **Origins of a Kitchen Fire: A Global Analysis**, Fire Investigators of Florida (FL-IAAI), 2016 Annual Training Conference, Daytona Beach, Florida, October 11, 2016
- **Search & Seizure and Expert Witness & Courtroom Testimony**, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC)/National Wildland Coordinating Group/North Carolina Forest Service (NCFS), Wildland Fire Investigation: Case Development, Cary, North Carolina, September 15, 2016
- **Evidence Identification, Collection, and Preservation, Spoliation of Evidence, Recognizing Dangerous Situations, and Communicating with the Public**, North Carolina Forest Service (NCFS)/North Carolina Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators (NC-IAAI), Advanced Law Enforcement School, Burlington, North Carolina, August 16, 2016
- **Adjunct Instructor**, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives' (ATF) Advanced Origin & Cause/Courtroom Testimony Course, Certified Fire Investigator (ATF-CFI) Candidate Program, ATF's National Center for Explosives

- Training and Research (NCETR), Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, August 8-12, 2016
- **Legal Considerations for Fire/Arson Investigations**, Ohio Arson School, Inc./Ohio Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators (OH-IAAI), 62th Annual Advanced Fire Investigation Training Conference, Columbus, Ohio, August 2, 2016
 - **The Power CV & Report Writing**, Pennsylvania Association of Arson Investigators (PAAI), 2016 Annual Training Conference, State College, Pennsylvania, June 17, 2016
 - **Legal Considerations**, National Fire Academy (NFA), Interviewing-Interrogation Techniques and Courtroom Testimony Course (R0208), Emmitsburg, Maryland, June 20-23, 2016
 - **Expert Witness – Courtroom Testimony Concepts**, Washington Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators (WA-IAAI), 2016 Pacific Northwest Fire Investigators Conference, Leavenworth, Washington, May 4-5, 2016
 - **Expert Witness – Courtroom Testimony Course**, International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI), Orlando, Florida, May 1-3, 2016
 - **The Team Approach: Should Public & Private Sector Investigators Work Together?**, 67th International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI), International Training Conference, Orlando, Florida, April 25, 2016
 - **Showing Your Work: Evaluating Expert Testimony Through the Court's Varying Lenses**, 67th International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI), International Training Conference, Orlando, Florida, April 25, 2016
 - **Legal Considerations**, National Fire Academy (NFA), Interviewing-Interrogation Techniques and Courtroom Testimony Course (R0208), Emmitsburg, Maryland, April 11-14, 2016
 - **Establishing Viable & Persuasive Theories in Forensic Investigation and Litigation**, Utah Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators (UT-IAAI), 2016 Annual Training Conference, Wendover, Nevada, February 24, 2016
 - **Negative Corpus**, Utah Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators (UT-IAAI), 2016 Annual Training Conference, Wendover, Nevada, February 23, 2016
 - **Legal Considerations**, National Fire Academy (NFA), Fire / Arson Origin and Cause Investigation Course (R0206), Emmitsburg, Maryland, January, 2016
 - **Expert Witness – Courtroom Testimony Course**, International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI), Crofton, Maryland, November 17-18, 2015

- **Establishing Viable & Persuasive Theories in Forensic Investigation and Litigation**, 2015 New York State Fire/Arson Seminar, Montour Falls, New York, November 5, 2015
- **Spoilation of Evidence, Establishing Viable & Persuasive Theories in Forensic Investigation & Litigation**, Alabama Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators (AL-IAAI), 2015 Annual Training Conference, Gulf Shores, Alabama, November 2, 2015
- **Negative Corpus**, Alabama Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators (AL-IAAI), 2015 Annual Training Conference, Gulf Shores, Alabama, November 3, 2015
- **Expert Testimony, Negative Corpus, and Select Case Studies**, Northern Illinois Fire Investigation Strike Force, 2015 Annual Training Seminar, Northern Illinois University, Hoffman Estates, Illinois, October 14, 2015
- **Establishing Viable & Persuasive Theories in Forensic Investigation and Litigation**, Lehigh and Northampton Counties Fire Investigators Training Association (LANFITA), 2015 Fall Training Series, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, September 23, 2015
- **Origins of a Kitchen Fire: A Global Analysis**, Illinois Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators (IL-IAAI), 32nd Annual Fire Investigation Training Conference, Champaign, Illinois, September 15, 2015
- **Adjunct Instructor**, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives' (ATF) Advanced Origin & Cause/Courtroom Testimony Course, Certified Fire Investigator (ATF-CFI) Candidate Program, ATF's National Center for Explosives Training and Research (NCETR), Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, August 2015
- **Negative Corpus**, Georgia Fire Investigators Association's (GA-IAAI) 2015 Southeastern Annual Training Conference, Savannah, Georgia, July, 2015
- **Establishing Viable & Persuasive Theories in Forensic Investigation and Litigation**, Georgia Fire Investigators Association's (GA-IAAI) 2015 Southeastern Annual Training Conference, Savannah, Georgia, July, 2015
- **The Convergence of Science and Law**, 2015 Rochester Insurance Claim Professional's Seminar, Rochester, New York, July, 2015
- **Challenges to Expert Qualifications, Methodology, and/or Opinions**, Wisconsin Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators (WI-IAAI), Spring 2015 Seminar, Stevens Point, Wisconsin, June, 2015
- **Establishing Viable and Persuasive Theories in Forensic Investigation and Litigation**, North Carolina IAAI's Annual

- Training Conference, Burlington, North Carolina, May 2015
- **Negative Corpus**, DuPage County Fire/Arson Task Force, Darien, Illinois, April 2015
- **Establishing Viable and Persuasive Theories in Forensic Investigation and Litigation**, New Jersey IAAI, Annual Training Conference, Atlantic City, New Jersey, March 2015
- **Negative Corpus**, New Jersey IAAI, Annual Training Conference, Atlantic City, New Jersey, March 2015
- North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation (NCSBI), 42nd Special Agent Academy, Salemburg, North Carolina, November 2014
- **Negative Corpus**, International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI)/Illinois IAAI, 31st Annual Fire Investigation Training Conference, Champaign, Illinois, September 2014
- **Establishing Viable & Persuasive Theories in Forensic Investigation & Litigation**, International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI)/Illinois IAAI, 31st Annual Fire Investigation Training Conference, Champaign, Illinois, September 2014
- **Expert Witness & Courtroom Testimony Course**, International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI)/North Carolina IAAI, Mebane, North Carolina, September 2014
- **Collection & Preservation of Evidence, Observation & Identification, Recognizing Dangerous Situations and Communicating with the Public**, North Carolina Forest Service (NCFS)/North Carolina IAAI Advanced Law Enforcement School, Burlington, North Carolina, August 2014
- **Report Writing, Interviewing & Interrogation and Uses of the Accelerant Detection K-9 in Fire/Arson Investigation**, North Carolina Chapter IAAI, Basic Fire/Arson Investigation Course, Pinehurst, North Carolina, April 2014
- **Establishing Viable and Persuasive Theories in Forensic Investigation and Litigation**, 65th International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) International Training Conference, Las Vegas, Nevada, April 2014
- **Report Writing, Interviewing & Interrogation and Uses of the Accelerant Detection K-9 in Fire/Arson Investigation**, North Carolina Chapter IAAI, Basic Fire/Arson Investigation Course, Archdale, North Carolina, February 2014
- **The Convergence of Science and Law**, North Carolina Insurance Crime Information Exchange, State Insurance Investigators Conference, Greensboro, North Carolina, February 2014
- North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation (NCSBI), 41st Special Agent Academy, Salemburg, North Carolina, November 2013

- Louisiana IAAI, Annual Training Conference, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, November 2013
- Iowa IAAI, Fire Investigation Seminar, Ames, Iowa, September 2013
- North Carolina Insurance Crime Information Exchange, Annual Training Conference, Greensboro, North Carolina, February 2013
- North Carolina/South Carolina IAAI, Fire Investigative Approaches Seminar, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, October 2012
- North Carolina Chapter IAAI, Fire/Arson Investigator Class, Burlington, North Carolina, May 2012
- Fire/Arson Investigator Class, College of DuPage Fire Arson Task Force, Glen Ellyn, Illinois, April 2012

PUBLICATIONS

- Author, “[Kitchen Fire Claims: The Cost of Reliability](#)”, Claims & Litigation Management Alliance (CLM), Fraud Squad Article, Issue 12, Vol. 5, December 2016
- Author, “**Critical Emerging Fire Claim Management Issues**”, Claims & Litigation Management Alliance (CLM), 2016 Annual Southwest Property Conference Whitepaper, November 2016
- Contributing Editor/Subject Matter Expert, “[Understanding the Fire Investigator’s Job: A Guide for Non-Investigators](#)”, International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI)/CFITrainer.Net, Self-Paced Educational Program Module, August 2016
- Author, “[The Uses of Accelerant Detection K-9’s in Fire Investigation](#)”, Kaplan University Center for Public Service, August 2013

SIGNIFICANT CASES

- Glenbrook School of Minden -- Louisiana