

## MICHAEL S. RAMAGE, J.D., CERTIFIED GENEALOGIST®

720 Argyle Road  
Wynnewood, PA 19096

Cell: 484-437-8827  
mramage@forensicgenealogist.pro

### PROFILE

Professional genealogist specializing in forensic genealogy including missing and unknown heir research, consulting and expert testimony. Frequent speaker and published writer. Active board member. Court-qualified expert witness in the field of forensic genealogy since 2003.

### CREDENTIALS

- Certified Genealogist (2002-2005 as CGRS, 2005-2007, 2007-2012, 2012-2017, 2017-2022)
- Pennsylvania Bar (1975 – present), Pennsylvania Attorney I.D. # 22396

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

#### **Pennsylvania Bar Association**

**8 August 2019**

"Forensic Genealogy for Death & Dirt Lawyers" for the Real Property, Probate & Trust Law Section

#### **Boston University Metropolitan College, Boston, MA**

**2011 – 2017**

Center for Professional Education.

**Instructor** in the course, OGEN200 Online Genealogical Research, Professional Genealogy module. Instruction includes course preparation, supervising facilitators, teaching, and grading.

#### **Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA**

**2016, 2018 & 2019**

**Instructor, Fundamentals of Forensic Genealogy for the 21st Century**

#### **Council for the Advancement of Forensic Genealogy, San Antonio, TX**

##### **Instructor, Forensic Genealogy Institute**

**2012 – 2016**

Helped develop the curricula for all annual and semi-annual institutes. Prepared course materials and taught multiple seminar-style courses geared for professional genealogists including contracts, business organizations, marketing, adoption, expert witnesses, evidence, genealogy standards, missing and unknown heirs law and procedure, and professional genealogist practicums.

#### **National Genealogical Society Family History Conference**

**2015 – 2017**

Prepared course materials and presented the following live talks: Forensic Genealogy Meets the Genealogical Proof Standards (2015), Adoption Research and Real-Life Case Study (2015, Board for Certification of Genealogists Certification Seminar (2015-2017), Copyright Law for Genealogists (2016).

**Association of Professional Genealogists Webinar:** "Careers in Genealogy: Forensic Genealogy" (19 May 2014);

**Board for Certification of Genealogists Webinar:** "Reliability: The Keystone of Genealogical Reasoning, With Judicial Comparisons" (15 December 2015); **Board for Certification of Genealogists 2015 Lecture Series, Salt Lake City, UT:** "Forensic Genealogy Meets the Genealogical Proof Standard;" and many other genealogical presentations at local genealogical societies.

**Additional experience:** Past certifying genealogist for The Colonial Society of Pennsylvania, and the Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution.

### EDUCATION

- **Stetson University College of Law**, Juris Doctorate, 1975.
- **Susquehanna University**, Bachelor of Science, Business Administration, 1972.

## PUBLICATIONS

- Michael S. Ramage, “Forensic Specialization” and “Ethical Considerations” chapters in *Professional Genealogy: Preparation, Practice & Standards*, Elizabeth Shown Mills, editor (Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2018).
- “Standards and Forensic Genealogy,” *OnBoard* 22 (September 2016): 1.
- Forensic Genealogy column author for *FORUM* online magazine, Federation of Genealogical Societies (2016).
- “What Lawyers Need to Know about the Heir-Hunting Industry,” *The Pennsylvania Lawyer* (May/June 2013): 43.
- “Missing and Unknown Estate Heir Law Practice and Procedure,” *Pennsylvania Bar Association Quarterly*, Volume LXXVI, No. 3 (July 2005): 125.
- 2013-2014: Member of the Standards Manual Revision Committee that resulted in the publication of Board for Certification of Genealogists®, *Genealogy Standards* (Nashville, TN: Ancestry, 2014).
- “Use of Form G-639 to Obtain USCIS Alien Files,” *Forensic Genealogy News* 3 (CAFG: August 2013): 8.
- “A Practical Approach to Genealogy Standards,” *Forensic Genealogy News* 4 (CAFG: March/April 2014): 5.
- “The Importance of Dispassionate Data Collection,” *OnBoard* 19 (BCG: January 2013): 5.
- “Heir-Hunting Firm’s Attorney Receives Public Reprimand,” *Forensic Genealogy News* 2 (CAFG: December 2012): 4.
- “The Challenges and Rewards of Reviewing International Heir Finders’ Proofs Of Heirship,” *Forensic Genealogy News* 2 (February 2012), 2.

## BOARD MEMBER

- **Board for Certification of Genealogists**, Member-at-Large, Vice President, Treasurer (2010 – 2016; General Counsel, October 2016 - present).
- **Council for the Advancement of Forensic Genealogists**, Vice President, Counsel (2012-2014).
- **Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania**, Board of Directors, Counsel (2002 – 2006).

## COURT APPEARANCES – QUALIFIED AS EXPERT WITNESS

- *Estate of Earl Wallace, Deceased*, O.C. No. 1327 DE of 1994, 2004 Phila. Ct. Com. Pl. LEXIS 134 (Phila. CCP, O.C. Div. 2004) (December 2003 expert testimony before Hon. John W. Herron); decision available at The Philadelphia Courts, First Judicial District of Philadelphia (<http://www.courts.phila.gov/pdf/opinions/orphans/199701327DE.pdf> : last accessed 3 August 2012).
- *Estate of Beatrice B. Peters, Deceased*, O.C. No. 3314 DE of 1984, 2004 Phila. Ct. Com. Pl. LEXIS 135 (Phila. CCP, O.C. Div. 2004) (May 2004 expert testimony before Hon. John W. Herron); decision available at The Philadelphia Courts, First Judicial District of Philadelphia (<http://www.courts.phila.gov/pdf/opinions/orphans/198403314de.pdf> : last accessed 3 August 2012).
- *James B. Nutter & Company vs. George Bailey et al*, Phila. Co. (Penna.) No. 120503141 (Phila. CCP, Civil. Div. 2012) (15 July 2013 expert testimony before Hon. Idee Fox); quiet title action re intestate heirs of deceased realty owner.
- *Estate of Borisse Paulin, Deceased*, No. 2012-4474/A (Surrogate’s Court, NY, NY) (10 September 2015 and 11 May 2016 kinship hearings).
- *Estate of Richard Bjork, Deceased*, No. 2016-3227 (Surrogate’s Court, Kings Co., NY) (22 March 2017).