Unidentified Human Remains in a Medical Examiner / Coroner Context

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The TRUTH waits for those who SEARCH …

Medicolegal Death Investigations

Clark County

8,060 Sq. miles
Population ≈ 2 Mil (75% of State)

Office of the Coroner/Medical Examiner
Forensic Artist

John "02-4970" Doe

Postmortem Identification v. Autopsy Photographs

Artist Dalene Nielsen

Histology

Radiology

Digital radiographs
- Full body
- Dental
Forensic Odontology

Mideo System

- Forensic Biology
- Drug Chemistry
- Questioned Documents
- Trace Evidence
- Crime Scene
- Investigation
- Latent Prints

Coroner/Medical Examiners, Law Enforcement, Crime Labs, Forensic Nursing, Biomedical Industry, Educational Institutions

Forensic Toxicology
Forensic Entomology

Forensic Anthropology

“What we do in life, echoes in eternity.”
The Gladiator
Postmortem Examination

Price
$2500.00

Specimen Collection, Preparation & Submission

Price
$100.00

DNA Archiving
Whatman FTA Card

Price
$2.50
UNT Center for Human Identification (UNTCHI)

Price $0.00

Identification of UHR

$ PRICELESS !!!

Identification Protocols

1. Visual
2. Fingerprints
3. Radiographs
4. Dental
5. DNA (nuclear DNA & mtDNA)
Clark County Coroner/Medical Examiner

Investigative Follow-Up

Clark County Coroner/Medical Examiner

Forensic Tracking

UNT Center for Human Identification (UNTCHI)

CCOCME submissions:

7 UHR cases in the past 18 months
⇒ 1 UHR case profile entered into CODIS
  CCOCME #05-1603
⇒ 4 UHR cases in progress
  CCOCME #80-01221, #89-01179, #95-00050, & #08-00675
⇒ 2 UHR CASES IDENTIFIED
  CCOCME #01-02621 & #06-04662
CCOCME Case #06-04662

Ruby Estelle Dorman, a 78 year old Caucasian female, was a resident of Laughlin, Nevada and shared an apartment with an elderly friend.

On 4/20/03 Ruby's daughter had stopped by and briefly visited. For reasons unknown, Ruby left with her daughter. The roommate witnessed the two drive away in the daughter's vehicle and Ruby never returned.

The roommate filed a missing person's report on 4/23/03 and the daughter was suspected in Ruby's disappearance. LE interviewed the daughter and obtained a buccal swab.

On the afternoon of 6/9/06, a hiker was walking in a desert wash near Laughlin and saw what he thought was a rock with holes but discovered it was a skull and delivered it to the sub-station.

- skull examination, dental and anthropology consultations
- numerous searches resulted in the discovery of further remains on 9/13/06 and 9/16/08.
- further examinations, dental and anthropology consults.
- remains submitted to local DNA which were subsequently sent to UNT w/ daughter's sample.
- 4/14/08 – ID'd and LE investigation in progress.

NCIC reports the number of High-Risk Missing Persons in 2008
25,830
182 JOHN & JANE DOES
Dating back to 1967

http://www.co.clark.nv.us/coroner/unid.htm

31 Identified
as of 06/24/08

151 Doe Cases Currently Active

http://www.namus.gov/index.htm

MISSING PERSONS’ WEBSITE

Next of Kin Search:
• Standardization
  interagency reporting
  of hospice deaths
• Web-based (Internet)
  reporting

http://www.co.clark.nv.us/coroner/namesearch.asp