



## Facial Identification Scientific Working Group (FISWG)

December 30, 2010

Mr. Phil Sanfilippo,  
President  
International Association for Identification  
2535 Pilot Knob Road, Suite 117  
Mendota Heights, MN 55120-1120

### **Re: IAI Certifications and Facial Comparisons**

Dear Sir:

I am writing to you to discuss an issue that has come to the attention of the Facial Identification Scientific Working Group (FISWG) which potentially relates to IAI Certification programs.

As you are aware, FISWG was created to address the classification and individualization of human beings through photographic comparison of visible, physical attributes, such as face, ear, skin texture, and hair. Its purpose is to develop consensus standards, guidelines, and best practices for the discipline of photographic comparisons of human features, as well as provide recommendations for research and development activities necessary to advance the state of science in this field.

Our mission involves promoting the appropriate knowledge, training and experience to ensure that individuals who conduct facial comparison examinations follow best practices. One mechanism through which individuals demonstrate their qualifications in court is to cite certification within a given discipline. FISWG is unaware of any certification in this discipline, and plans to support the development of such in the future.

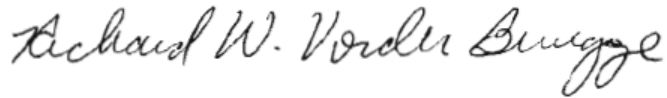
It is an unfortunate fact that some individuals who testify as experts may occasionally cite a given certification as proof of their expertise in a different, but associated, discipline. The IAI Forensic Art and Forensic Photography certifications relate to disciplines that are associated with, but differ from, the discipline of Facial Comparison. FISWG is concerned that the potential exists for the courts to incorrectly interpret a certification in one of these disciplines to confer certification in the discipline

of Facial Comparison. To offer oneself as certified in the discipline of Facial Comparison based upon any current IAI certification would be a misrepresentation.

FISWG respectfully requests that the IAI publish a formal notification to your membership – and on your website – that the IAI does not currently offer any certifications in the discipline of Facial Comparison.

For more information about FISWG, such as its policies, bylaws, and membership, please visit [www.fiswg.org](http://www.fiswg.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard W. Vorder Bruegge". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Richard W. Vorder Bruegge  
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