

W. Ken Katsaris
Law Enforcement and Corrections Trainer
Litigation Consultant/Expert Witness
Post Office Box 12008
Tallahassee, FL 32317
(850) 224-2929

Ken Katsaris' jail and detention facility experience began when he was assigned to booking/screening assignments followed by duties as a detention officer, and subsequently as a transportation officer, all for the St. Petersburg Florida City Jail. Subsequent to service as a police officer for the City of St. Petersburg and Tallahassee Florida Police Departments, and a decade as the academic department chairman at Tallahassee Community College directing statewide training and education programs for law enforcement and corrections officers and commanders, Ken was elected county-wide to the position of Sheriff of Leon County (Tallahassee) Florida. As an elected Constitutional Sheriff his duties encompassed supervision of the county detention facility and all of its programs and officers, as well as county-wide law enforcement responsibilities for a 700 square mile jurisdiction.

Following Ken's service as Sheriff and chief law enforcement officer of Leon County, he was appointed to the position of Assistant to the Secretary (Commissioner) of the Florida Department of Corrections (DOC), the fourth largest state prison system in the nation. At the time the Florida DOC had over 150,000 individuals under supervision. In addition to responsibilities throughout the prison system, comprised of over eighty facilities, including a large death row population, Ken was responsible for maintaining liaison with all sixty-seven county detention facilities. Specifically, he reviewed all prisoner injury and death cases statewide, and monitored training and the accreditation process for the Secretary of the DOC.

Ken's involvement statewide in corrections had already been established when he was appointed to the position of Commissioner of the Florida Corrections Standards and Training Council by the Governor of Florida, and subsequently reconfirmed to a second term by the succeeding Governor of Florida. In this position, Ken assisted in the formulation of the statewide mandated corrections officer training curriculum, as well as the standards for selection and retention of jail and prison officers for the Florida DOC and all of the counties.

Ken Katsaris has consistently and currently maintained his active certification as an officer since entering corrections and law enforcement. This requires that he meet all of the required officer standards every four years.

Ken also maintains instructor credentials for instructing tactical and high risk subjects as well as a wide variety of contemporary skill subjects for officers attending the regional law enforcement academy. The academy serves state, county and city agencies from throughout Florida. Additionally, Ken serves as senior instructor and tactical advisor for the AELE seminar on Lethal and Less Lethal Force, as well as senior instructor for the AELE seminar addressing Jail and Prisoner Legal Liability. Ken has been a trainer and presenter for the Calibre Press Street Survival Seminar, and as a presenter for national seminars for the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)

As a national consultant, in addition to nationwide training on jail, prison and law enforcement issues, Ken has been retained and provided analysis and opinion to agencies from all fifty states. In many cases this consultation and analysis dealt specifically with jail and prison practices, policies and procedures for jails and detention centers housing only a few prisoners to over 20,000 prisoners. When the consultancy turned into the necessity for expert witness testimony, Ken has done so in all of the 50 states and has testified over 500 times in both state and federal courts, in all 50 states.

Ken Katsaris has completed the Associate in Arts (AA) Degree in Police Administration at St. Petersburg (FL) Junior College, the Bachelor of Science (BS) Degree, and Master of Science (MS) Degree at Florida State University, and has completed all course work toward a Doctorate in Public Administration (DPA) from Nova Southeastern University involving classroom attendance of courses over a four year period of full-time study.