

BLANKENSHIP INVESTIGATIONS, INC.

Etta Hearne Blankenship

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PROFESSIONAL LICENSE:

February 2003-present N.C. Private Protective Services- Private Investigator License
1988-present Notary Public

WORK EXPERIENCE:

April 2023-present **Investigator Resource Committee, Institute of Government,
UNC-Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC.**

January 2019-present- **Contract Investigator, US Law Shield**

November 2017-present **Capital Defender Advisory Committee, Office of the Capital Defender,
Durham, NC**

January 2010-present **Consultant with the Trial Resource Unit, Office of the Capital Defender,
Durham, NC** Consult with capital trial attorneys on any number of issues
including investigations, mitigation, trials, plea negotiations, sentencing, and
experts. Conduct plea missions with capital clients.

March 2003-present **Blankenship Investigations, Inc, President, Private Investigator
Pittsboro, NC**

August 2002-February 2003 **Office of the Capital Defender, Capital Case Coordinator
Durham, NC**
Principle Duties: responsible for assisting the Capital Defender in the
appointment of attorneys in all first-degree murder cases in the state.
Assisted in establishing the trial attorney rosters for each district and
the mechanism required to make statewide appointments. Assist in
the authorization of funds for all expert witness requests. Consult trial
attorneys on various issues including investigations, mitigation, trials,
plea negotiations, sentencing, and experts. Created and established
the Capital Defender portion within the N.C. Indigent Defense
Services database. Responsible for the input of capital case
descriptions and specific case information into the database.
Established and administered the Capital Defender Listserv.

March 1999-August 2002 **Office of the Capital Defender, Investigator-Durham, NC**
Principle Duties: responsible for every aspect of criminal defense
investigations including fact and mitigation investigation, on
capital murder cases throughout the state. Duties include.
computer accessing of information, computer generation of
demonstrative aids, preparation of reports, client chronology and
statistical data and crime scene photography.

February 1988 – February 1999: **Office of the Public Defender**, Investigator
Judicial District 15B, Chatham & Orange Counties, NC,
Principle Duties: responsible for every aspect of the criminal defense investigations of felonies and misdemeanors, focusing primarily on capital murders, murders, rapes, sexual offenses, and assaults. Duties include computer accessing information, computer generation of demonstrative aids, preparation of reports, chronologies and statistical data and crime scene photography.

June 1987 - August 1987: **Office of the Public Defender**, Legal Assistant
Judicial District 15B, Chatham & Orange Counties, NC
Principle Duties: responsible for daily maintenance of the office focusing on opening & closing files, general word processing activities, maintaining, and ordering supplies, and various other administrative functions.

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

December 2025- Presentation at the Bridging the Gap Conference, Raleigh, NC. “How to Integrate Fact Investigations with Mitigation- *Investigating the “Why” Factor*”

November 2023: Presentation at the Bridging the Gap Conference, Carolina Beach, NC. “Developing a Theme” and Mitigation and Difficult Families”

September 2019: Recipient of the Osborn Lifetime Achievement Award presented by NC Center for Death Penalty Litigation.

July 2017: Authored Paper-“Arkansas 8 in 10....The Execution of Jack Jones”

September 2015: Faculty at the “Bring Your Own Case” Capital Defense Training, Wilmington, NC

October 2013: Presented “Defense Investigations in Capital Cases”, Central Carolina Community College, Sanford, NC

February 2012: Presented “Effective Mitigation” at the New Felony Attorneys Conference at the Institute of Government in Chapel Hill, NC.

February 2011: Presented “Effective Mitigation” at the New Felony Attorneys Conference at the Institute of Government in Chapel Hill, NC.

March 2008: Attended the Federal Public Defender’s national training for Defense Initiated Victim Outreach (DIVO)

February 17, 1999: Presentation at the North Carolina Public Defender Investigators’ Conference “The use of computers in defense investigations”, Chapel Hill, NC

March 9, 1995: Presentation at the North Carolina Public Defender Investigators’ Conference “Use of computers in murder investigations” at the Institute of Government, Chapel Hill, NC

1990 to 2003: North Carolina Public Defender Investigator’s Association, Secretary/Treasurer