

BLANKENSHIP INVESTIGATIONS, INC.

Etta Hearne Blankenship

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EDUCATION/PROFESSIONAL LICENSE:

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

1988-present Notary Public

1984-1988 University of North Carolina at Pembroke, Pembroke, North Carolina
Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice.

WORK EXPERIENCE:

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 the 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, chronologies 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 of 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.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS/ORGANIZATIONS:

2003-2005; 2013 North Carolina Association of Private Investigators
1990 to 2003: National Defense Investigator’s Association
1998-2003: North Carolina Public Defender Investigator’s Association
1988 to present: Notary Public for the State of North Carolina

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

September 2019: Recipient of the Osborn Lifetime Achievement Award presented by NC Center for Death Penalty Litigation.
July 2017: 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.
August 2011: Attended David Vine’s class on “Internet for Investigators”, Raleigh, 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