



## **James Claude Upshaw ( Jamie ) Downs MD Bio**

James Claude Upshaw ( Jamie ) Downs MD (ABP-AP/CP/FP, F-CAP, F-ASCP, F-AAFS, F-NAME, D-ABMDI, IACME) has been a Medicolegal Consultant & practicing Forensic Pathologist/Medical Examiner for over 31 years. His medical practice includes serving as the Medical Director of the Physician Assistant Program at Charleston Southern University. Dr. Downs also serves as Associate

Medical Examiner for Gwinnett County Georgia and as a Forensic Pathologist for the Charleston County SC Coroner. His service work includes the Cold Case foundation, examining unresolved complex cases. He routinely consults in clinical and postmortem cases, including those involving traumatic force & the vulnerable. Dr. Downs was Director of the Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences, leading Alabama's statewide forensic laboratory system while also serving as the state's first Chief Medical Examiner. Downs was graduated from the University of Georgia (magna cum laude & Phi Beta Kappa). He received his Doctor of Medicine degree, Medical Residency training in Anatomic & Clinical Pathology, & Fellowship in Forensic Pathology from the Medical University of South Carolina (in his hometown of Charleston). The latter included a rotation at the Metropolitan Dade County Florida (Miami) Medical Examiner Department. Dr. Downs completed Peace Officers Standards & Training at the Southwest Alabama Police Academy, receiving distinction as class president, top academic student, & best defensive driver. Downs has been a Medical Examiner for Charleston County South Carolina/the Medical University of South Carolina, the state of Alabama, & the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. He completed an internship at the Behavioral Sciences Unit, FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia & was named as a Consultant for the FBI Behavioral Sciences Unit, for whom he authored "The Forensic Investigator's Trauma Atlas." Downs was senior editor & author for "Ethics in Forensic Science" the preeminent treatise on the subject. He has appeared in numerous national television broadcasts (multiple televised trials, Secrets of the Morgue, National Geographic, C-SPAN, The New Detectives: Case Studies in Forensic Science, Forensic Files, Street Stories, Dateline, & 48 Hours) & consulted on forensic movies, television (Rosewood), & books (including best-selling author Patricia Cornwell). Significant cases have included the Georgia tristate Crematory case (where he personally identified over 330 sets of decomposed remains) & the H.L. Hunley autopsies (the first successful combat submarine in world history). Dr. Downs was the Pathologist on South Carolina's first ever capital murder DNA trial. His professional activities have included service on numerous professional boards & committees. For over a decade, Dr. Downs taught Forensic Autopsy Pathology for the Mercer University School of Medicine & South University Savannah), the latter for whom he also taught the Clinical Pathology course. Downs also serves as a Clinical Laboratory Director. He is widely regarded for his ability to convey complex medicolegal findings & concepts, via both testimony & courtroom illustrations. Dr. Downs has worked extensively on national forensic political issues, including directly with former US Senator & US Attorney General Jeff Sessions to create & pass the Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Act. At the then Senator's request, Downs testified in support of the bill before Congress. He testified (twice) before the US National Academy of Sciences Committee on Science, Technology, & the Law's Forensic Science Committee regarding medicolegal death investigation & forensics in what became their groundbreaking

report: Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States: A Path Forward (2009) & before the National Commission on Forensic Science. Dr. Downs has lectured hundreds of times & has presented at numerous national & international meetings in the fields of Forensic Pathology & scene interpretation/reconstruction, including at the National Forensic Academy & at the FBI's National Academy. His audiences have included law enforcement, social services, attorneys (prosecution & defense), judges, university undergraduate & pre-professional students, medical personnel, & graduate medical audiences. His areas of special interest include ethics, asphyxiation, child/elder abuse/neglect, the vulnerable, & police use of force. He has testified hundreds of times, including before state & federal courts, the US Military Justice system, committees of both the US Senate & House of Representatives, & the National Commission on Forensic Sciences. He has been qualified as an expert in numerous areas, including forensic pathology & scene reconstruction.