
Monthly News and Commentary from ICJE

1 message

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INSTITUTE FOR

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

EDUCATION



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A State of Denial

I read with interest the AL.com article highlighting the state of Alabama for homes turned to museums preserving the history of those who fought for the confederacy or aligned themselves with the wealthy elites who had slaves prior to or during the Civil War. These buildings, and their contents, contain symbols and documents that the writer observed to be celebrating only one side of history.

As I read the story, it took me back to a long afternoon I spent talking with a farmer in Perry County. I was covering a lead involving a background investigation, and I located him out in the field of a farm he owned. He provided the necessary information, and as I am inclined to do when meeting folks for the first time, I was interested in his history. We ended up talking for hours about his history, and he asked about mine. By the end of our conversation, we had created a bond, although we were from vastly different backgrounds.

He didn't hold my sins against me, nor did I ever think of his. We connected because we got to know one another as individuals. Our similarities and our differences. Our family histories, and

our common interests.

Unfortunately, I didn't take the time to follow up with him over the years, but I am thankful for his friendship and perspective on life for that moment in time. I am a better person as a result of our meeting one another.

As you pause to remember the blessings you have in your life, give thanks to those whose lives have enhanced your life.

Our history is full of evil acts, but don't let them obscure your vision of individuals around you who may bless your life in ways you cannot imagine.

Happy Thanksgiving from all of us at ICJE!

May God bless you.

Jim Rechel,
ICJE Newsletter Editor
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Please feel free to email comments or suggestions. Thanks, Jim



Cities With the Most Murders so Far This Year

Birmingham has made a list no one wants to be on. That's the list that the Wall Street Journal

compiled that revealed that Birmingham has the 2nd highest murder rate in the first 6 months of 2022. Unfortunately, many cities throughout the state are battling the same issue.

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Food for Thought

“My research continues to amaze and baffle me. As human beings, we are geniuses.

What we didn't get from the home, we find ways of getting elsewhere.

It's evident, then, when one looks at the stats we don't have a teenage pregnancy problem and we don't have a street gang problem.

I will even suggest that we don't have a drug and alcohol problem, nor do we have a crime problem rather, these are only the symptoms that we are experiencing, and the real problem is broken homes that result in broken lives.”

— **Drexel Deal, The Fight of My Life is Wrapped Up in My Father**

Amendment 3 Passes

The statewide amendment 3 that requires that governor to notify the victim's family and the attorney general before commuting or granting a reprieve in a death sentence passed by a vote of approximately 80% to 20%. (Map below shows Yes voting counties in teal.)

The passing of the amendment is a positive measure but stemming the tide of ever-increasing murders requires *families of potential offenders* to be involved in the lives of those potential offenders at the moment they enter this world. Guiding, educating, instructing and loving them in a family with God as a foundation in their lives is the most effective "Notification Process". We will see fewer actual offenders and no need for Amendment 3 provisions.



Vote share	Size of lead
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Amendment 3: For Cases Like the Citronelle Murders



**'Something needs to be done':
Birmingham murder victim's**

family calls for city to act

Updated from AL.com

The headline above I cut from a 2021 AL.com report highlights the frustration and discord soaring crime and homicide rates inflict on a community. Below are a few ideas to stem the tide.



How to Cut Crime in the Murder Capital of America

In the first week of May there were six homicides in Jackson, Mississippi. How many more will there be before the end of the month? Last year Jackson had the highest homicide rate of any city in America, with 155 homicides.

Jackson, MS and Birmingham share similar challenges. Doug Carswell, CEO of the Mississippi Center for Public Policy outlines 5 steps he thinks are needed to be immediately addressed to combat crime.

They are:

- **More police:** Despite the often-heroic efforts of individual law enforcement officers, there are simply not enough of them.
- **Prosecute:** No matter how effective the police are at chasing suspects through the streets, there are serious failings when it comes to pursuing them through the courts. Who in Jackson has not heard stories of suspects being allowed to walk free?
- **Detention:** The failure to have enough detention capacity is outrageous.
- **Clear the courts:** The bureaucratic backlog in the courts is perhaps the single biggest impediment to effective justice. Clear the backlog of cases. If those that administer the court system can't cope, bring in administrators that can.
- **Work with the state:** Every city likes to manage its own affairs. I get that. But the state capital ought to be able to team up with state-wide officials, police forces and prosecutors to tackle a problem that impacts us all.

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LECC Connections

The ATF and associated entities and personnel made two presentations at the LECC Conference highlighting a new resource to address crimes committed with firearms, named the **National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN)**. It is an automated forensic technology network used by participating law enforcement agencies in the US to

link multiple events involving the same firearm. Details follow in the descriptions and links included below.

What is NIBIN?

The NIBIN Program automates ballistics evaluations and provides actionable investigative leads in a timely manner. NIBIN is the only interstate automated ballistic imaging network in operation in the United States and is available to most major population centers in the United States.

Prior to the NIBIN Program, firearms examiners performed this process manually which was extremely labor intensive. To use NIBIN, firearms examiners or technicians enter cartridge casing evidence into the Integrated Ballistic Identification System.

These images are correlated against the database. Law enforcement can search against evidence from their jurisdiction, neighboring ones, and others across the country. This program is one investigative tool accessed by law enforcement that allows each of us to share information and cooperation easily making all of us more effective in closing cases.

While the results are used for investigative lead purposes, a traditional firearm examination is utilized for the final confirmation of a common weapon being used as different shootings.

The NIBIN Process (Excerpts from NIBIN Toolkit for Prosecutors)

Here is how the NIBIN process typically works. For simplicity's sake, the description below discusses a test-fired cartridge case from a firearm recovered by law enforcement, but the process applies equally to test-fired bullets, and to bullets and cartridge cases recovered by law enforcement. Also, be aware that the process may vary slightly depending upon where it is conducted, and the agencies involved in the various steps.

Important Steps of the NIBIN Process (Not Full List of Steps)

- When law enforcement recovers a firearm, they test fire it, and an acquisition technician at a NIBIN site puts the test-fired cartridge case into an imaging machine called "IBIS ® BRASSTRAX". BRASSTRAX takes a high-definition, 3D, digital "picture" of the cartridge case. This is known as "the cartridge case acquisition." (If the object is a bullet, not a cartridge case, it is entered into a machine called "IBIS ® BULLETRAX" that performs a similar function.)
- BRASSTRAX automatically uploads the cartridge case acquisition onto NIBIN, triggering an automatic search on NIBIN's database of millions of cartridge case acquisitions.

- NIBIN's infrastructure (primarily its correlation engine) automatically uses algorithms to determine what (if any) cartridge case acquisitions already in the database have markings that are similar to those on the newly entered cartridge case. NIBIN generates a ranked list of those similar cartridge case acquisitions.
- Next, a correlation review technician uses a machine called "IBIS © MATCHPOINT" to review the results in that ranked list. MATCHPOINT enables the technician to look through the listed comparable acquisitions on-screen, side-by-side with the test-fired cartridge case acquisition. Using MATCHPOINT, the technician visually determines whether the acquisitions have markings that are similar enough to indicate they were fired by the same firearm.
- If the investigation leads to charges, and sometimes before charging (depending on the charges and other evidence), a firearm examiner will collect the actual cartridge cases from the test fire or the crime scenes and will examine them under a conventional comparison microscope. If the examiner confirms that they match after applying his or her expertise and reliable methods of examination, this is sometimes referred to as a "hit."
- If requested by the prosecutor, the examiner then will write a formal expert opinion as to whether the cartridge cases at issue were fired by the same firearm. This is the expert opinion that the prosecutor will use in court. It is based on the firearm examiner's expertise and application of reliable methods; it is not based on anything BRASSTRAX (or BULLETTRAX in the case of bullets), NIBIN, its Correlation Engine, or MATCHPOINT told the firearm examiner. To continue the Google analogy, Google did not answer the query. It just pointed to possible sources, one of which standing on its own answers the query.

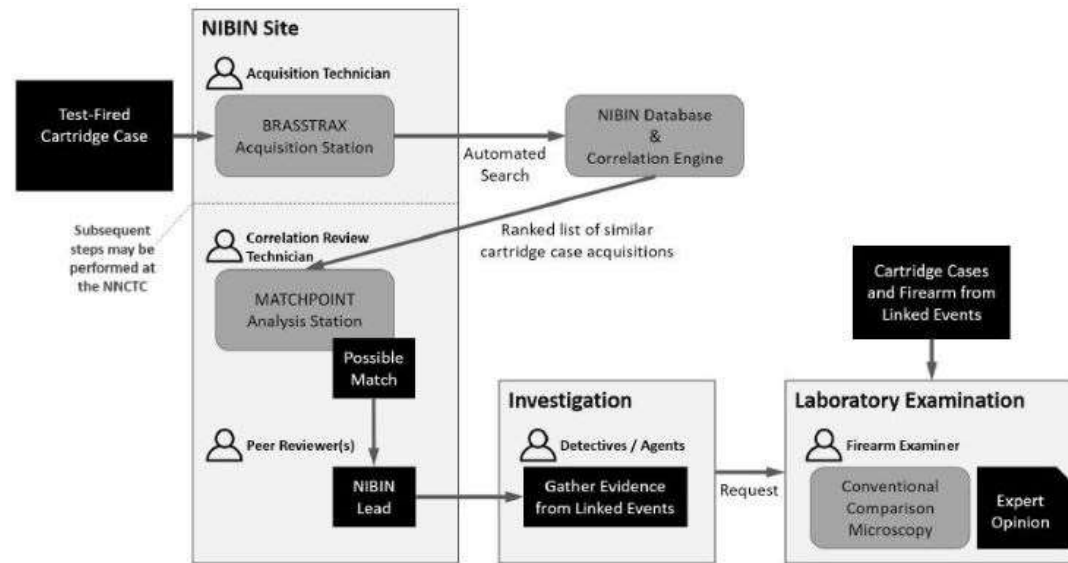


FIGURE 1 – THE NIBIN PROCESS (EXAMPLE FOR CARTRIDGE CASE FROM RECOVERED FIREARM)

NIBIN Toolkit Booklet

Training Information from ICJE Website

Visit the ICJE Website

September 26-30, 2022 - FBI LEEDA Media and Public Relations - Decatur, Alabama
More Information and Registration

October 27, 2022 - 2022 Alabama Attorney General's Law Enforcement Summit - Montgomery, Alabama
More Information and Registration

October 31 - November 4 - Southeastern Leadership Executive Development Seminar - Opelika, Alabama

More Information and Registration

November 14-18, 2022 - FBI LEEDA Command Leadership Institute - Fultondale, Alabama

More Information and Registration

January 9-13, 2023 - FBI LEEDA Supervisor Leadership Institute - Columbiana, Alabama

More Information and Registration

February 27-March 3, 2023 - FBI LEEDA Executive Leadership Institute - Fultondale, Alabama

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March 13-17, 2023 - FBI LEEDA Command Leadership Institute - Columbiana, Alabama

More Information and Registration

May 15-19, 2023 - FBI LEEDA Executive Leadership Institute - Columbiana, Alabama

More Information and Registration

Other Training Opportunities:

AUM Continuing Education and Community Engagement

FEMA Emergency Management Institute

APOST Law Enforcement Training Academy - Tuscaloosa

Jefferson County Sheriff's Department Training Center

Northeast Alabama Law Enforcement Academy

Ozark Police Department Training Division

University of North Alabama Public Safety Institute

[Link to Visit the ICJE Website for Registration and More Dates](#)

Additional Resources

Reference Materials for Law Enforcement on Firearms Information and NIBIN

NIBIN <https://crimegunintelcenters.org/atf>

IACP See reports related to Resolution FC.07.t2018

AFTE <https://afte.org/afte-certification/certification-program-development>

<https://afte.org/resources/swggun-ark>

DOJ <https://www.justice.gov/olp/uniform-language-testimony-and-reports>

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