

ACEDS Midwest Series – Session 3 Forensic Panel – Real or Fake?



Brett Burney, Burney Consultants (Moderator)

Brett Burney founded Burney Consultants to provide independent and expert consulting services to corporate executives and legal professionals.

For legal professionals, Brett navigates firms of all sizes through e-discovery challenges and provides objective recommendations for litigation support tools and workflows.

For corporations, Brett lowers costs associated with litigation by assessing their information governance readiness and providing recommendations on how they can proactively manage voluminous data stores.

Brett is also a highly sought-after trainer and presenter for lawyers who seek to integrate Macs and iPads into their practice.

Brett is an esteemed [author](#) and [speaker](#) on legal technology topics. He has been a featured speaker at numerous legal technology conferences and served as Chair of the 2015 ABA TECHSHOW. Brett [speaks](#) regularly for local and state bar associations nationwide, and is routinely quoted in industry [interviews](#) for TechnoLawyer, Legaltech News, ABA Journal, and more.

Prior to Burney Consultants, Brett Burney supported lawyers at the law firm of Thompson Hine LLP where he worked with litigation teams in building electronic document databases, counseling on e-discovery issues, and managing the technical responsibilities of presenting evidence at trial.



Robert B. Fried EVP of Forensic and Chief Investigative Officer, Page One, Inc.

A highly experienced expert and a leading voice in our industry after spending decades collecting data and conducting forensic examinations of electronic evidence. Robert is the Executive Vice President of Forensics and Chief Investigative Officer of Page One, Inc. He has held senior leadership positions in digital forensic practices at global professional services firms. At the National White Collar Crime Center (NW3C), Robert worked as a Computer Crime Specialist, creating and teaching computer forensic and investigative training courses for federal, state, and

local law enforcement agencies.

He attained a BS and MS in Forensic Science, and certificates in Law Enforcement Science, Computer Forensic Investigation, and Information Protection and Security from the University of

New Haven. Robert holds and actively maintains the following industry certifications: ACE, CFCE, EnCE, GCFA, and C4 CBP. He is a licensed PI in Michigan, New York, and South Carolina. Robert serves on the Board of Advisors for the Masters in Investigations program at the University of New Haven, the Global Advisory Board for EC-Council's CHFI certification, a Fellow at The Henry C. Lee Institute of Forensic Science at the University of New Haven, and the Vice President of the Society of Professional Investigators (SPI).

Robert is an Adjunct Assistant Professor at Hofstra University, where he teaches digital forensics, frequently speaks at industry events, is a featured guest on podcasts, and several professional publications have featured his work. He is the author of PI Magazine's Cybersluething Department, where he shares insightful content on topics relating to digital forensics, eDiscovery, data privacy, and cybersecurity. PI Magazine named Robert a Top Professional Investigator of 2024.

Robert is the author of 7 books, including:

- Forensic Data Collections 2.0: The Ultimate Collection of Trusted Digital Forensics Content (Release Date: March 3, 2026)
- Forensic Data Collections 2.0: A Selection of Trusted Digital Forensics Content: Third Edition (2025)
- Forensic Data Collections 2.0: A Selection of Trusted Digital Forensics Content: Second Edition (2024)
- Forensic Data Collections 2.0: A Selection of Trusted Digital Forensics Content (2023)
- Forensic Data Collections 2.0: The Guide for Defensible & Efficient Processes (2022)



Sarah Thompson, Chief Product Officer, BlueStar Case Solutions, Inc.

Sarah Thompson is a nationally recognized leader driving AI transformation in the legal industry. As Chief Product Officer at BlueStar Case Solutions, Inc., she leads the strategic integration of artificial intelligence into complex litigation, digital investigations, and modern eDiscovery workflows. With more than 20 years of experience in legal technology, Sarah focuses on translating rapidly advancing AI capabilities into defensible, practical applications for legal professionals.

She oversees the development of BlueStar's AI-powered **Next-Gen Solutions**, designed to enhance insight and efficiency in data-intensive matters, and is the founder of **Siemly**, an AI-driven platform that brings visibility and early risk detection to Microsoft 365 environments. Her work centers on ensuring that AI strengthens—not undermines—evidentiary integrity and professional responsibility.

Sarah regularly trains attorneys, law enforcement, and eDiscovery professionals on generative AI, deepfakes, and digital evidence risk. A finalist for Relativity's 2024 Innovation in AI Award, her thought leadership has been featured in national media, including CNBC, where she has addressed the impact of AI-generated media on the justice system.