

An Introduction to the APA's Panel on International Developments in Polygraphy

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In 2005, at the APA seminar in San Antonio, the first-ever APA "International" panel was organized. The purpose of the Panel was to serve as a forum for discussion of contemporary events in Polygraphy and Credibility Assessment in countries outside of the U.S. The advent of the internet, changes in social, political and legal areas, the menace of terrorism and the growing problem of trans-national crime have raised the need for an awareness of developments in the field of Polygraphy. The panel was the APA's initial step in that direction.

The International Panel presentations, hopefully, will be a continuing feature of the annual seminar. Generally the organization will be as follows: Each Panel will consist of three or four presenters, each from a different country. Panelists will make a 20-30 minute presentation, after opening remarks from the moderator. After the featured "country" presentations, the moderator will summarize and integrate the important points. That will be followed by a question and answer session, with questions posed by audience members to the panelists. This organization is intended to promote greater interest in international issues and a better understanding of how practices and policies in other countries are related to those in the U.S.

In addition to a presentation at the seminar, each panelist also agrees to prepare a more detailed paper, in a relatively consistent way, that will be submitted to the APA's Editor for publication consideration. Examples of items that are to be covered in each of the papers include: Who is credited with the initial development of polygraph testing in the country? When? Who uses polygraph testing? How many examiners are there and how are they selected and trained? What kind of instrumentation is used? What are the dominant procedures ("techniques") in use? What are the legal issues of most concern? What is the public perception of Polygraphy?

In this issue of *Polygraph* we are pleased to publish a paper from the fifth International Panel in 2010. In this paper, Mr. Manuel Novoa and Mr. Sidney Wise Arias describe Polygraphy in Colombia.

About the authors:

Manuel Novoa Bermudez served in the Colombian National Police Force for 18 years, retiring with the rank of Major. He studied at the Central University of Columbia where he graduated with a degree in Business Administration. He also holds a post graduate degree in Security Management from the Nueva Granada Military University and has done specialized study in Anti-terrorist warfare, intelligence and counterintelligence, and state security and protection. He has received a large number of awards for distinguished service and special honors from police agencies in Columbia, Chile, Peru, and Ecuador.

He has been Executive Director of the Latin American Polygraph Institute in Columbia since 2002 and is a Certified Primary Instructor for the APA and the ALP – Association of Latin-American Polygraphists. He is a member of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, a member of the APA, the AAPP, the ALP, where he served as President in 2002-2003, and a founding member of the Association of Colombian Professionals in Polygraphy. He was president of that group from 2001-2005. In 2008 he was recognized for his dedication to the polygraph community by the APA who awarded Manuel the Al and Dorothea Clinchard Award for distinguished, devoted and unselfish service.

Sidney Wise Arias is now the Director of the Latin American Polygraph Institute. Prior to that position, Sidney was a Senator for the Republic of Panama, the Director of Security for Marriott Hotels in Panama, and the Deputy Director of Security Barnett Banks in South Florida. He graduated from George

Washington University in Washington D.C., with a degree in Economics and Business Administration. He has done special studies in Security Management in banking, airlines and hotel services.

Sidney is well known to APA members for his many contributions to the field and to the APA. He has been a polygraph examiner since 1981 and is a member of the APA, the AAPP, the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, and a founding member and the

first President of the Association of Latin American Polygraphists—ALP. He is a certified Primary Instructor for the APA and the ALP and has served as editor and author of many publications on polygraph testing and security. He has received numerous awards from polygraph associations for his services. In 2008 he was given the Lifetime Merit Award from the ALP and in 2006 the APA recognized his many contributions with the award of the Al & Dorothea Clinchard Award for distinguished, devoted and unselfish service.