

REAL-WORLD METEOROLOGY

A series of profiles celebrating a half-century of Certified Consulting Meteorologists



Who: Jay S. Rosenthal

What: Forensic and Consulting Meteorologist

When: CCM since 2001

Where: Los Angeles, California

Why: Realized the importance of demonstrating AMS and peer recognition to provide credible weather advice to judges, juries, and lawyers. It signifies reliability and thoroughness when explaining weather's impacts in a courtroom setting.

How: Jay Rosenthal became a CCM as he was getting ready to retire from a long civil-service career as a meteorologist with the Department of the Navy. As head of the multidisciplinary Geophysics Branch at Point Mugu, California, Jay gained a wide range of experience that spanned R&D, test and evaluation, and daily weather-sensitive operations that included support at sea and three airfields. He applied his interest in weather prediction and the use of satellite and radar technology in stand-up briefings and technique development to solve real-world operational problems in the fleet. During his career, he also served a term as chair of the AMS's Board for Government Operational Meteorologists and participated in the AMS's dedicated course in forensic meteorology in 2005. He has served as an expert witness in numerous law cases involving a wide variety of subjects.

In His Own Words: "I've found it to be both fun and a privilege to be called upon to explain to everyday people the manner and degree to which the weather impacts our lives. I find it especially relevant in a courtroom setting where descriptions of both large- and small-scale meteorological factors and their interaction with topography are so important in helping separate fact from fiction to help resolve disputes. From the time I was a young kid obsessed about the weather from the roof of my New York apartment building, I never dreamed how fulfilling and varied a career in meteorology could be."

For more information on the Certified Consulting Meteorologist (CCM) Program, please visit the AMS Web site at www.ametsoc.org/amscert/index.html.

