

REAL-WORLD METEOROLOGY

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



Who: Paul Gross

What: Forensic meteorologist and broadcast meteorologist

When: CCM since 1998

Where: Detroit, Michigan

Why: To effectively serve as a meteorological advisor or consultant to business, industry, and the public

How: Paul's expertise in weather event reconstruction (researching over 1,000 weather-related cases in his 22-year career) combined with his 25-year Emmy award-winning broadcast meteorology career, has helped him develop superior trial and deposition presentation skills. He works on behalf of plaintiff, defense, criminal, and civil clients without bias, and frequently is even hired by attorneys who worked "against" him on a previous case. Paul applied for his CCM only after he felt he had acquired enough experience in forensic meteorology to satisfy the "experience" goals of the program.

In His Own Words: "I consider earning my CCM one of the highest honors of my career, and this certification is often highlighted by my clients at trials. In fact, my clients note a clear difference between my work as a CCM and the non-CCM meteorologists they periodically face, and I have identified serious errors in non-CCM research on many occasions during my career. I once spent an entire deposition educating the opposing attorney about errors his non-CCM meteorologist made in his research. In a more recent case, a non-CCM meteorologist led his client to believe that he had actual weather observations from a location in which there was no weather reporting station. The attorney "bragged" about this "data" to the jury in his opening statement, and even claimed that I knew nothing about this weather reporting station. Following my trial testimony and a conversation with his non-CCM meteorologist, this attorney later apologized to the jury for misleading them earlier in the trial.

"There is no question that the CCM program is well worth the time and effort. It needs to remain a challenging process because if it was easy, anybody could qualify, and society would be cheated of this way to identify excellence in our field."

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

