Leili McMurrough, JD



The Young and the Restless: Bridging the Gap Between Deathcare Leaders of Today and Tomorrow



Worsham College of Mortuary Science; McMurrough Funeral Chapel

Leili McMurrough is a licensed Illinois funeral director and is also a licensed attorney in Illinois. Leili went to college at Lehigh University and graduated with honors in Philosophy and Political Science. She continued her education, receiving her Juris Doctorate at Syracuse University. She graduated from Simmons Institute of Funeral Service in Syracuse and later became the school's Law instructor.

She passed the Illinois Bar Exam in 2009 and is currently in the Program Director at Worsham College of Mortuary Science in Wheeling, Illinois.

She is a parishioner of St. Joseph Catholic Church and lives with her family in Libertyville. She has a passion for funeral service and is frequently featured in funeral directing publications and regularly lectures throughout the country.

Darren Crouch



Embracing the Future of Cremation: Insights from an Owner and Supplier



Passages International, Inc.

Darren Crouch is President and co-founder of Passages International, Inc., an innovative company specializing in the design and manufacture of environmentally friendly funeral products. Founded in 1999, Passages has focused on creating ecofriendly urns, caskets and memorial items for those families opting for less traditional funerals. Darren is also the co-founder of aGreenerFuneral.org, a website designed to educate consumers about options for greening their funeral and connecting these consumers with Partner Providers of aGreenerFuneral.

Over the past several years, Darren has been published in The Director Magazine, The American Funeral Director Magazine, Funeral Business Advisor, The Cremationist, and the ICCFA Magazine. He has also been quoted in the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal and the Washington Post. In addition, he has spoken at several national and international conventions including the Asia Funeral Expo, the National Funeral Directors Convention, the ICCFA Convention, and the CANA Symposium. Darren has been recognized as a thought leader in the funeral industry and Passages International was a finalist for Fast Company's World Changing Ideas in the category of Enduring Impact. Darren holds a BSc. (Hons) degree from Manchester Metropolitan University in Manchester, England, is a Vistage member, and is the current President of the Green Burial Council.

Chris Miller, CFSP



Embracing the Future of Cremation: Insights from an Owner and Supplier



Thomas Miller Mortuary and Crematory

Chris Miller is a second-generation funeral director and owner of Thomas Miller Mortuary in Corona, California. He began his career in funeral service as a teenager, when he assisted on his first removal at the age of fourteen. After graduating from California Polytechnic University in 1989 with a bachelor's degree in Hotel Restaurant Management, Chris returned home in 1991 to pursue a career in the family business. He graduated from Cypress College's Mortuary Science Program in 1992 after receiving the highest honor from the program, the Melvin Hilgenfeld Award. In November of 1993, he received his California Embalmer License and in September of 1997, his California Funeral Directors License.

After the death of his father in 2006, Chris and his wife purchased the mortuary from his mother. In 2007, he purchased a second location in Riverside, California and has operated his on-site crematory at his main location in Corona, California since 2009. Chris and his late wife, Rhonda, have two children, Reagan and Colin.

Chris has been involved with numerous organizations in his community throughout the years, such as The Foundation for Community and Family Health (Corona, CA); Circle City Rotary Club; The Unforgettables Foundation, an organization that helps families with the loss of their child; Corona Chamber of Commerce, and American Cancer Society Relay for Life. Chris is Board President of International Order of the Golden Rule (OGR), and a member of the California Funeral Directors Association, ICCFA, and National Funeral Directors Association.

Tim Collison, CFSP, BIE



Cosmetic Techniques for Opaque and Semi-Opaque Applications



Dodge

Tim Collison is a licensed funeral director and embalmer in the State of Michigan. He received his Bachelor of Science from Wayne State University, Department of Mortuary Science and gained his funeral service experience in the Grand Rapids and Detroit areas.

He represented Dodge in Michigan from 1986 until 2006. Tim is the Chief Executive Officer of the Dodge Company and is a member in the company's Research and Development Program. He has been a regular presenter at The Dodge Institute Seminars and is a contributing editor to the Dodge Magazine on the topics of Mortuary Cosmetology and Restorative Arts.

Tim has been involved as a demonstrator in many of the continuing education programs produced by The Dodge Institute. Tim has been a presenter and lecturer to groups of funeral service professionals in the U.S. and abroad for over 30 years.

Matthew Van Drimmelen



Compassionate Connections: Enhancing Interpersonal Skills in the Funeral Profession



Full Circle Aftercare

In 2013, Matt founded Full-Circle Aftercare after he had a friend who worked in the funeral industry explain to him how desperately families need handson help to close the estate after death. Through Full Circle Aftercare (FCA), 35,000 families have been served to date, 1,600 deaths are reported to FCA each month asking for help, 38 states plus Canada have funeral home and hospice FCA clients, and seven strategic partnerships have been formed with other funeral home suppliers.

Matt has spoken on a variety of relevant topics such as aftercare, interpersonal communication with staff and customers, understanding estate processes, and various hospice presentations. He has presented at the Virginia Funeral Directors Association, the Casket and Funeral Supply Association of America, the International Cemetery, Cremation & Funeral Association, and Selected Independent Funeral Homes.

Vincent Roberge



Succession Planning and Your Business



Johnson Consulting Group

As Senior Business Consultant for Johnson Consulting Group, the largest broker of funeral home and cemetery businesses in North America, Vince serves as a trusted advisor to business owners on matters of client-family experience, the workplace, marketplace strategy, and financial performance. He also facilitates a Johnson Consulting Group's biannual Leadership and Management Program - an intensive development program for funeral home and cemetery managers. With a background in location management and operational leadership roles with SCI, Vince understands first-hand how rewarding and challenging work as a funeral director can be.

Vince graduated with a degree in Economics with High Distinction from the University of Michigan - Dearborn. He also earned a degree in Funeral Service from Commonwealth Institute, holds a license in Mortuary Science in the State of Michigan, and is a licensed CX Coach with the DiJulius Group.

Justin Zabor, CFSP



The 'F' Words of Funeral Service; Best Practices in Customer Service for the Modern Funeral Professional



The Zabor Funeral Home, Inc. and Justin Zabor Enterprises, LLC

Justin Zabor is, "The Director of Death who Speaks the Language of Life" for you and your business. He is a third-generation Funeral Director and Professional Speaker who works with associations, organizations, and corporations to help them create customer experiences to die for!

Justin holds a bachelor's degree from Ohio University in Athens where he majored in Organizational Communication and minored in Business Management. Justin has been granted the professional designation of Certified Funeral Service Practitioner (CFSP) by the Academy of Professional Funeral Service Practice. There are over 35,000 licensed funeral directors in the US and only 1,400, or 4%, of them have achieved this distinct honor.

Justin is co-owner of the Zabor Funeral Home in Cleveland, Ohio in addition to operating his professional speaking and acting business, Justin Zabor Enterprises LLC. He is a Past President of The Ohio Chapter of the National Speakers Association. He was elected only the second youngest president in the 40-year history of NSA Ohio. Justin is also a professional actor and voice-over artist for film, television, radio, and print media. He appeared with Kevin Costner in the 2014 Hollywood film "Draft Day" about the Cleveland Browns. Although he is an actor, Justin's favorite "role" is husband to his wife Beth and dad to his son Owen and daughter Ava.