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## **RON (SPARKY) SPARKS** **SENIOR STAFF CONSULTANT**

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Ron (Sparky) Sparks is a Senior Staff Consultant for ESi. Prior to joining ESi, Mr. Sparks amassed over 38 years of railroad and law enforcement experience, including 24 years in railroad operations, safety, claims/litigation, and executive leadership. Mr. Sparks is considered an expert in his field and speaks nationally on the important Safety and Security issues facing the Railroad industry today.

Legal and regulatory issues that govern railroads are specialties of Mr. Sparks, who served more than 24 years as a Director of Safety, Training and Legal Affairs with Arkansas & Missouri Railroad (AMRR). Mr. Sparks developed programs to reduce the risks of injury, illness, accidents, and damage to the environment and liability to the railroad company and its subsidiaries. He developed one of the first railroad camera systems installed on locomotives, which have become standard in the industry.

Mr. Sparks previously served as a Director in Compliance and Security. He administered federal compliance training in accordance with Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) regulations, as well as the United States Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) where applicable. He is a state certified instructor at two local police academies and has taught courses in grade crossing collision investigations, firearms, and defense tactics.

As an executive leader, Mr. Sparks had operational and financial responsibility along with shared ownership of multiple AMRR policies and processes, also serving as Corporate Representative on a variety of topics related to accident investigation, claim handling, and field safety. Mr. Sparks managed the litigation analysis of multiple railroad incidents, and was the company designated expert witness in State and Federal Court cases.

### **Areas of Specialization**

Train Operations  
Rail Safety, Rules, and Operations  
Compliance and Security  
Accident / Incident Investigation  
Accident / Incident Case Analysis  
Claims Investigation / Evaluation / Adjudication  
Litigation Management  
Evidence Preservation  
Discovery Management / E-Discovery / Spoliation  
Executive Leadership  
Catastrophic Incident Response and Data Collection  
Root Cause Analysis

Risk Analysis / Pre-Loss Audit  
Environmental Health and Safety  
Medical Case Management / Vocational Rehabilitation

## **Education**

Law Enforcement Management. Arkansas. 2000  
Ohio Police Academy. 1985  
PLE Narcotics Academy. 1985  
Arkansas Police Academy. 2000

## **Professional Affiliations/Honors**

American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRA)  
    ASLRRA Safety and Training Committee  
    ASLRRA Police and Security Committee  
    First Chairman of the ASLRRA Police Committee, 2005  
    ASLRRA Safety Professional of the Year (out of 550 railroads), 2017  
International Chiefs of Police / Arkansas Chiefs of Police  
International Martial Arts Hall of Fame  
    Krav Maga Law Enforcement Defense Tactics, 2012  
Private Investigator License in Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Florida

## **Positions Held**

Engineering Systems Inc., Dallas, Texas  
    Senior Staff Consultant, 2023 – Present  
Arkansas & Missouri Railroad, Springdale, AR  
    Director of Safety, Training and Legal Affairs, 1998-2022  
    Chief – Railroad Police, 1998-2022

## **Continuing Education**

BNSF Derailment Analysis and Prevention School (1998)

## **Publications/Presentations**

"Investigating Grade Crossing Collisions: The Railroad's Perspective," **R. Sparks**, Presenter, 29th Annual Railroad Liability Seminar, Chattanooga, TN, June 2024.

"Accident Investigations: Where to Begin," **R. Sparks**, Presenter, American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association Annual Convention, Kansas City, MO, March 2024.

"Tragedy At The Crossing," written and directed by **R. Sparks**, a grade crossing accident involving multiple van occupants and used for mass casualty training purposes by various organizations.

"Homeland Security Exercise," written and directed by **R. Sparks**, a training exercise involving a hostage situation on a passenger train used for training purposes by various organizations.