2025-2026 TPSA REGIONAL SCENARIO

CAUSE NO. F25-0803-1245

STATE OF TEXAS	**§**	**IN THE 268th**
	§	
VS	**§**	**DISTRICT COURT**
	§	
SAL WARNER	**§**	**FORT BEND COUNTY, TEXAS**

Task: Prepare for your event (Qualifying an Expert Witness) using the attached documents. You must qualify Dr. Jeannie Gray as a witness for the prosecution. You may reference full case documents for this case in the Opening Statements or Closing Arguments event files.

Dr. Jeannie M. Gray Ph.D., D-ABFA

Office: Forensic Sciences Building, Houston, TX
Phone: (281) 555-0194
Email: jgray.forensics@fsconsult.org

Forensic Anthropologist
Consultant – Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office Houston, Texas

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Forensic Anthropology
University of Tennessee – Knoxville (Body Farm)
Dissertation: "Taphonomic Processes in Warm, Humid, Aquatic Environments"
Completed: 2010
M.A., Biological Anthropology
Texas State University – San Marcos (2006)
B.S., Anthropology (Honors)
Texas A&M University (2004)

CERTIFICATIONS & PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS

Diplomate, American Board of Forensic Anthropology (D-ABFA) - Board Certified: 2015 – Present
Certified Crime Scene Analyst
International Association for Identification (IAI) Since 2013
OSHA 40-Hour HAZWOPER Certification Valid through 2026
FEMA ICS 100, 200, 700, 800 Certified

CURRENT POSITIONS

Forensic Anthropology Consultant
Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office – Criminal Investigations Division
2016 – Present

- Provides forensic anthropological analysis for unidentified human remains
- Responds to outdoor crime scenes involving skeletonized or decomposed remains
- Works with Medical Examiner's Office on trauma analysis and human identification
- Assists in large-scale searches, mapping, and recovery operations

Adjunct Professor of Forensic Anthropology
University of Houston – Department of Sociology & Anthropology
2014 – Present

- Teaches: Forensic Anthropology, Osteology, Human Variation
- Supervises graduate students conducting forensic research
- Develops field-based practicums in decomposition and recovery techniques

PREVIOUS POSITIONS

Forensic Anthropologist
Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences, Houston, TX
2010 – 2016

- Conducted anthropological exams for unidentified remains
- Participated in over 350 forensic anthropology cases
- Provided expert testimony in local and federal courts

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Human skeletal identification
- Outdoor scene recovery of human remains
- Taphonomy in aquatic and swamp environments
- Postmortem interval estimation (PMI)
- Perimortem trauma analysis
- Mapping & documenting scattered remains
- Differentiating human vs. non-human bone
- Decomposition processes in Texas climate
- Mass disaster recovery operations
- Forensic archaeology
- Coordination with ME, law enforcement, and CSI units

CASE EXPERIENCE

Total forensic anthropology cases:

460+ (2010–2025)

Outdoor recovery scenes:

190+, including:

- Bodies recovered from lakes, rivers, marshes
- Scattered remains due to water flow or environmental exposure
- Long-term decompositional scenes in Texas heat

COURT TESTIMONY:

Testified 37 times in district and federal courts as an expert in forensic anthropology.

PUBLICATIONS (Selected)

Gray, J. (2023). *"Aquatic Taphonomy: Decomposition Patterns in Freshwater Bodies in the Gulf Region."* Journal of Forensic Sciences.

Gray, J. & Hollister, M. (2020). *"Recovery of Fragmented Remains in Submerged Environments."* Forensic Anthropology Review.

Gray, J. (2017). *"Human vs Non-Human Bone: Field Guide for First Responders."* Texas Forensic Institute Press.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS)
- American Board of Forensic Anthropology (ABFA)
- Southwestern Association of Forensic Anthropologists (SWABA)
- Texas Association of Medicolegal Investigators (TAMI)

TRAININGS & WORKSHOPS (Selected)

- Advanced Aquatic Recovery Workshop – Florida Institute of Forensic Science (2022)
- Crime Scene Mapping & GIS for Forensics – AAFS (2021)
- Trauma Analysis in Osteology – UT Knoxville (2018)
- FEMA Mass Fatality Response Course (2016)
- Chemical & Biological Scene Safety – IAI (2015)

Attachment D – Preliminary Anthropological Assessment

Prepared By: Dr. Jeannie Gray, Ph.D., Forensic Anthropology Consultant

Affiliation: University of Houston – Department of Anthropology

Date of Examination: August 6–8, 2025

Agency Case No.: FB-25-0803-40AL

Submitted To: Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office – Criminal Investigations Division

Examiner of Record: Investigator Daniel R. Vega (#1735)

I. Background

At the request of Investigator Daniel Vega, Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office, skeletal and decompositional remains recovered from 40 Acre Lake, Brazos Bend State Park, were examined at the Fort Bend County Medical Examiner's facility between August 6–8, 2025. The purpose of this preliminary assessment was to confirm biological identity factors (sex, estimated age, stature, and ancestry where possible) and evaluate taphonomic (postmortem) indicators for each of the five recovered individuals.

II. Methods

All remains were examined macroscopically and under magnification as needed. Measurements were collected following standards established by Buikstra & Ubelaker (1994) and Bass (2005). Comparative skeletal charts were used to record observable traits of sex, age, and ancestry. Soft tissue was noted where present but not dissected, pending full medical examiner examination. Observations below are preliminary and subject to revision upon completion of DNA, isotopic, and histological analysis.

III. Case Summaries

Remains #1 – Unidentified Female

Biological Profile: Female, 25–35 years, ~165 cm (5'5"), European-descended.

Taphonomic Notes: Evidence of blunt trauma to occipital region; moderate aquatic decomposition; minimal insect activity.

Remains #2

Biological Profile: Female, 30–40 years, ~162 cm (5'4"), African-descended.

Taphonomic Notes: Partial skeleton recovered; cortical erosion consistent with long-term aquatic submersion; slight staining from iron-rich sediment.

Remains #3

Biological Profile: Female, 18–25 years, ~160 cm (5'3"), Possibly Hispanic / Latina.

Taphonomic Notes: Partial torso with preserved connective tissue; advanced decomposition; clothing consistent with outdoor recreation wear.

Remains #4

Biological Profile: Female, 35–50 years, ~168 cm (5'6"), European-descended.

Taphonomic Notes: Nearly complete skeleton; partial articulation; advanced aquatic degradation; root staining and algae deposits.

Remains #5

Biological Profile: Female, 40–55 years, ~158 cm (5'2"), African-descended.

Taphonomic Notes: Partial remains exhibiting adipocere formation; minimal disarticulation; waterlogged soft tissue; moderate biofilm overgrowth.

IV. Interpretation

All recovered individuals are biologically female, consistent with osteological markers including pelvic morphology (wide subpubic angle, ventral arc, and sciatic notch), cranial gracility, and long bone robusticity. Varying decomposition and deposition levels strongly suggest multiple introduction events into the lake over time rather than simultaneous deposition. At least three distinct postmortem intervals are apparent based on degree of bone staining, cortical degradation, and adipocere formation. Remains #1 and #3 show evidence consistent with perimortem trauma, possibly blunt-force injury, but further analysis by the medical examiner is required for confirmation.

V. Recommendations

1. Submit all skeletal elements for comparative DNA profiling to determine potential relation among victims.
2. Conduct isotopic analysis for dietary and geographical origin profiling.
3. Compare all recovered individuals against regional missing-person databases within the last five years.
4. Perform 3D skeletal scanning and reconstruction for long-term record preservation and potential courtroom presentation.
5. Preserve adipocere-affected tissues under refrigeration for histological testing prior to further degradation.

VI. Summary

This preliminary anthropological assessment confirms the presence of five adult female individuals recovered from 40 Acre Lake, each representing a distinct deposition event. Biological profiles are complete to the extent possible from available remains. Further laboratory analyses (DNA, isotopic, and trauma-focused) are required for final identification and interpretation.

Signed:

Jeannie Gray, Ph.D.

Forensic Anthropology Consultant

University of Houston – Department of Anthropology

Date Signed: August 8, 2025 – 1710 hrs

