

## **Speaker Bio: Michael J. Kuzel, M.S., P.E.**

Mr. Michael J. Kuzel is a Managing Engineer in Exponent's Vehicle Engineering practice. Mr. Kuzel specializes in the reconstruction of accidents and analysis of human performance and behavior as a role in accident causation. He has investigated accidents in a wide array of scenarios including vehicular crashes, industrial/occupational issues, and slip-trip-fall incidents. In this regard, Mr. Kuzel is retained by clients to address issues related to environmental design, component/product defects, and human performance/behavior as a role in accident causation. Mr. Kuzel is often retained in litigation matters, and has been qualified as an expert witness in the areas of Human Factors, Accident Reconstruction, and Product Design Analysis. Mr. Kuzel has testified in local, state and federal courts.

Mr. Kuzel has an M.S.E. in Industrial Engineering (Human Factors emphasis) from Arizona State University (2000) and a B.S.E. in Bioengineering (Biomechanics emphasis) from Arizona State University (1993). He is a Registered Professional Mechanical Engineer in the State of Arizona (#45695) and an Associate Human Factors Professional (#1136) by the Board of Certification in Professional Ergonomics. He is a member of the Society of Automotive Engineers, American Society of Safety Engineers, Human Factors and Ergonomics Society, and the ASTM International F13 Pedestrian/Walkway Safety and Footwear Committee.

Mr. Kuzel has published his research in the Society of Automotive Engineers and Human Factors and Ergonomics Society proceedings. Mr. Kuzel has been an invited speaker at multiple legal, insurance industry, police agency and accident reconstruction industry conferences, providing education on the application of Human Factors principles in the area of accident investigation.

## **CERI Brown Bag Lunch Presentation Topic**

### **Human Factors in Accident Reconstruction**

The presentation proposes to introduce the attendee to the scientific application of Human Factors methods in accident investigation, specifically with regard to civil litigation cases. This will be accomplished by providing examples from several cases that Mr. Kuzel has investigated during the last 5 years. These examples will include issues related to the perception and reaction of visible and audible signals, driver decision-making, analysis of witness statements, and product and environmental design. Mr. Kuzel will provide sufficient background information and photographs for each case such that the examples are intended to induce group interaction about the specific behavioral and cognitive principles involved in each case.

Mr. Kuzel will initially provide a brief background of his qualifications as well as information about the organization by which he currently is employed (Exponent, Inc.).