

**NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER (OPD)
CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION PROGRAM
Jennifer N. Sellitti, NJ Public Defender
Lauren Petty, OPD Director of Training**

**FORENSIC SCIENCE UNIT
DNA EVIDENCE IN PRACTICE: NAVIGATING CASE FILES AND
INDEPENDENT EXPERT ANALYSIS**

**1.5 NJ CLE credits; 1 PA CLE credit
via Zoom webinar**

**October 21, 2026
12:30-1:45 pm**

AGENDA

Presenters:

Jaime Rodrigues, M.S.

Forensic DNA Consultant | Co-Founder, ExpertDNA Solutions, LLC

Maria Tsocanos

Forensic DNA Consultant | Co-Founder, ExpertDNA Solutions, LLC

Topics:

- Basics of DNA Evidence
- Anatomy of a DNA Case File
- Understanding Laboratory Reports
- Types of DNA Evidence
- DNA Statistics Simplified
- Engaging Independent DNA Consultants

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Jaime Rodrigues, M.S.

Forensic DNA Consultant | Co-Founder, ExpertDNA Solutions, LLC



With over 15 years of hands-on experience in forensic biology and DNA analysis, Jaime Rodrigues has worked on more than a thousand criminal cases spanning evidence examination, DNA testing, statistical interpretation, and expert testimony. After leaving the laboratory setting, Jaime co-founded ExpertDNA Solutions, LLC, a consultancy that draws on years of forensic experience to provide case consultation, technical review, expert testimony, and courtroom training.

Jaime is an experienced expert witness and has contributed to protocol development, analyst training, and complex DNA interpretation. Jaime holds an M.S. in Forensic Molecular Biology from SUNY Albany and remains active in the forensic community through ongoing training and professional affiliations with Northeastern Association of Forensic Scientists, American Academy of Forensic Sciences and International Society for Forensic Genetics.

Maria Tsocanos

Forensic DNA Consultant | Co-Founder, ExpertDNA Solutions, LLC



Maria Tsocanos is a seasoned Forensic DNA Expert with over 15 years of experience in advanced DNA analysis. She has worked on more than 1,000 criminal cases, many of them complex, demonstrating her ability to navigate intricate forensic challenges.

While at the forensic laboratory, she managed cold case investigations, underscoring her meticulous approach and dedication to resolving difficult cases. She has served as an expert witness in numerous New York State criminal trials, earning recognition for her clarity and authority in courtroom testimony.

After her public-sector career, Maria co-founded ExpertDNA Solutions, where she consults with legal counsel on DNA-related matters through expert reviews and targeted training. Her passion for education continues to drive her efforts to improve forensic literacy among legal professionals. The firm offers expert witness services, case consultations, and customized training in forensic serology and DNA.

Maria has held multiple leadership positions with the Northeastern Association of Forensic Scientists, including treasurer, president-elect, president, and ethics chair. Her longstanding volunteer involvement reflects a deep commitment to advancing forensic science and supporting its professional community. Maria is also a member of the International Society for Forensic Genetics.