



The Advocacy Institute, in Conjunction with the County Prosecutors Association of New Jersey and the New Jersey State Police Office of Forensic Sciences, Is Pleased to Announce

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

4th ANNUAL CODIS CONFERENCE

June 16, 2011

8:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.¹

NJ Forensic Science & Technology Center

1200 Negron Road

Hamilton, NJ

Program Summary

The 2011 Combined DNA Index System ("CODIS") Conference will focus on the prosecution of criminal cases involving DNA evidence, including the direct exam of a DNA expert; an overview of CODIS and the process by which matches or "hits" are generated; and special issues that arise in handling post-conviction DNA cases.

Who Should Attend?

Both experienced and new Assistant Prosecutors, Deputy Attorneys General and law enforcement officers involved in the investigation and prosecution of criminal cases involving DNA will benefit from this conference.

Who Is the Faculty?

See Attached.

How Do I Register?

You may [REGISTER HERE](#) or online at www.njadvocacyinstitute.com. Registering ensures that you will receive handout material and that there will be ample space for all attendees.

¹ While the programming begins at 8:45, registration commences at 8:15.

CLE Credit

NJ CLE Credit: This program had been approved by the Board on Continuing Legal Education of the Supreme Court of New Jersey for 3.9 hours of total CLE credit. Of these, 0.0 qualify as hours of credit for ethics/professionalism, and 3.9 qualify as hours of credit toward certification in criminal trial law.

NY CLE Credit: 4.0 substantive credits (pursuant to the approved jurisdiction policy).

PA CLE Credit: 3.5 substantive credits (\$6.00 mandatory registration fee required).

PRESENTATION SUMMARIES & FACULTY BIOGRAPHIES

DNA and CODIS - Putting it All Together

This presentation will include a brief discussion on what DNA is and how it is processed in the laboratory. The presenter, Joseph Petersack, will explain the Combined DNA Index System (“CODIS”) and how this tool is used to solve crimes and identify unidentified human remains. Also the success of the CODIS program will be discussed along with ways the laboratory can help investigators through the processing of DNA and generating profiles to be searched.

PRESENTER: Joseph R. Petersack, M.S., D-ABC, is currently the Director of the New Jersey State Police Office of Forensic Sciences DNA laboratory, located in Hamilton, N.J. He has over 31 years experience in Forensic Science and he is tasked with supervising the daily operation of three units within the DNA laboratory, the Nuclear DNA unit, the Mitochondrial DNA unit, and the CODIS unit. He is a certified DNA analyst and is the Technical leader of the Nuclear and CODIS units within the laboratory. He has testified as an expert with respect to the analysis of biological fluids and stains in New Jersey County Superior courts on over 145 occasions, 19 times as an expert in DNA analysis. He has a BA degree in Chemistry from the College of New Jersey and a Master’s of Science in Forensic Science from John Jay College of Criminal Justice. He is a Diplomat of the American Board of Criminalistics and belongs to the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, the Northeastern Association of Forensic Scientists and the New Jersey Association of Forensic Scientists.

The Success and Future of the FBI’s CODIS Program

The National DNA Index System is the largest in the world with close to 10 million profiles. The presenter, Tim Zolanz, will discuss the accomplishments of the CODIS program nationally and globally, and he will discuss how it has aided in solving crimes throughout the United States. In addition, Mr. Zolanz will discuss how the CODIS program is expanding and what the future holds.

PRESENTER: Tim Zolanz is the Missing Persons and International Program Manager for the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) Unit at the FBI Laboratory. In this position, he is responsible for the policies and procedure governing the National Missing Persons Program. Mr. Zolanz also advises foreign laboratories on the implementation of DNA database software and protocols. Previously, as a CODIS Auditor, he monitored compliance with federal law and national standards for the 190 laboratories that have access to the national DNA database. In addition he provides technical oversight for the development of the Next Generation CODIS software and evaluates new technologies for their compatibility with and suitability for the national database.

New Tools for Calculating DNA Statistics

This presentation will deal with using alternative statistical methods to determine the strength of a DNA match. Until recently the NJSP DNA Laboratory did not calculate paternity statistics and used the Combined Probability of Inclusion for statistical calculations in mixtures. The laboratory has introduced Likelihood Ratio calculations and will now calculate paternity statistics in criminal and missing person cases. In addition, Likelihood Ratios will be used in certain circumstances in mixture statistic calculations giving a clearer statistical probability of a particular individual's possible contribution. The presentation is tailored to attorneys and law enforcement personnel who must read and understand NJSP DNA laboratory reports.

PRESENTER: Edward J. LaRue is a Forensic Scientist III with the New Jersey State Police, Office of Forensic Sciences. Mr. LaRue presently serves as the Asst. Director for the New Jersey State Police DNA Laboratory where he supervises the day-to-day analysis of biological stains for DNA evidence, and is responsible for the work flow of twenty-five analysts, including the final approval of their work product. During his 32-year career, Mr. LaRue has been qualified on more than 25 occasions as an expert witness in various New Jersey and Pennsylvania local, state and federal courts. Mr. LaRue, who earned his B.A. in biology from Rutgers University, has successfully completed numerous professional development courses and programs, earned several awards, is a co-author of an article that appeared in the Journal of Forensic Sciences, and has spoken on various topics throughout the country.

Meeting Defense Challenges to DNA Evidence

Forensic DNA evidence has revolutionized the investigation and prosecution of criminal cases. With the introduction of DNA evidence now a routine event in trial practice, defense counsel have become increasingly creative in their attempts to discredit the evidence. This presentation will explore various methods in which defense attorneys try to attack DNA evidence, and offer practical suggestions on how to meet those challenges.

PRESENTER: Robert D. Laurino is the Acting First Assistant Prosecutor for Essex County. Since beginning his career in 1980 with the Essex County Prosecutor's Office, Mr. Laurino has served in various litigation and supervisory positions, including serving as Acting Prosecutor during 2010 and 2011. During the course of his career, Mr. Laurino has completed over 100 jury trials and handled thousands of cases involving sexual violence. After earning his B.A. from Villanova University, Mr. Laurino obtained an M.A. from Rutgers University, before obtaining his J.D. from Seton Hall Law School where he was Casenotes/Comments Editor, Seton Hall Law Review. Upon graduating from Seton Hall, Mr. Laurino served as a Superior Court law clerk before joining the Essex County Prosecutor's Office. Mr. Laurino has served on a number of commissions and councils dealing with sexual violence, authored various publications, and has presented nationally on various criminal law issues.