PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

The Advocacy Institute Is Pleased to Present

**Biological Evidence
From Submission to Court**

**October 25, 2021
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

WEBINAR

Program Summary

This program will detail the process involved from the submission of biological evidence to the New Jersey State Police Office of Forensic Sciences to courtroom testimony on that evidence. The presenters will discuss serology and DNA laboratory reports, with an emphasis on reported results and conclusions and the necessity of further action, if needed, by prosecutors and/or submitting agencies. The program will include an overview of the procedures used to enter and search eligible DNA profiles in the CODIS database. Attendees will learn about CODIS eligibility and the significance of the CODIS Investigative Hit Notification Letter, in addition to the differences between offender and reference samples. The program will also include a discussion of the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) utilized by the Office of Forensic Sciences to access reports and prepare for court.

Eligibility

This program is open to Division of Criminal Justice deputy attorneys general, assistant prosecutors, and investigators and law enforcement officers from their respective offices. Registrants will receive the course materials prior to the program date.

Faculty

Stacey Allen is a supervisor and the QA/QC coordinator in the Forensic Serology Unit at the Central Laboratory of the New Jersey State Police Office of Forensic Science   She supervises forensic scientists, approves evidence submission reviews and casework reports, and coordinates the training of new forensic scientists in forensic serology and all QA/QC aspects of Forensic Serology. Ms. Allen also lectures police agencies on proper serology/DNA evidence collection and submission. She began her career as the office's training coordinator, then moved to the DNA laboratory as a casework analyst and then as a CODIS database analyst. Ms. Allen holds a BA in biology from Kenyon College and a Master of Science in biology from John Carroll University.

David Gardner is the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) Manager for the New Jersey State Police Office of Forensic Sciences. He oversees the daily operation of the LIMS network, which supports laboratory workflow operations such as case intake, custody transfers, and completion of lab reports. He also provides laboratory administrators with daily and monthly reports that track casework analytics. He previously worked in the office's Quality Assurance Unit, creating proficiency tests, updating controlled documents, and helping to meet accreditation requirements. Mr. Gardner received a bachelor's degree in biology from Rutgers University and a master's degree in Forensic Science from John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

Melissa Johns is a Forensic Scientist 3 in the New Jersey State Police Office of Forensic Sciences DNA Laboratory. She supervises a group of Forensic Scientists and is the designated case management supervisor. Ms. Johns and her group review and approve cases to submit for DNA analysis, coordinate the flow of casework through the DNA lab, evaluate cold cases and assist agencies with navigating the DNA analysis process. She previously served as a Forensic Scientist 1 and then a Forensic Scientist 2, handling casework DNA analysis. Ms. Johns holds a Master of Science in Forensic Science from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Harpreet Singh is the State CODIS Administrator for the New Jersey State Police Office of Forensic Sciences DNA Laboratory. He oversees New Jersey's CODIS program and informs law enforcement agencies of investigative leads generated by CODIS. Mr. Singh is a certified DNA analyst who has testified as an expert witness on DNA analysis in New Jersey courts. Prior to joining the NJSP Office of Forensic Sciences, Mr. Singh was a forensic DNA analyst at the New York City Office of Chief Medical Examiner, where he participated in the identification of victims of the World Trade Center and AA Flight 587 disasters and conducted DNA casework analysis. He has also served as an adjunct lecturer at Pace University and The College of New Jersey. Mr. Singh holds a B.S. in Biology from American University and an M.S. in Forensic Science from John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

C. Ken Williams, Esq. is the Laboratory Director for the New Jersey State Police Office of Forensic Sciences DNA Laboratory. He is responsible for the daily operation and supervision of the entire DNA laboratory, which includes the Nuclear DNA Casework, CODIS and Database Units. Mr. Williams is the Vice President of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences and a member of its Executive Committee. He is also a member of the New Jersey Association of Forensic Scientists. Mr. Williams received a B.S. in Chemistry from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, an M.S. in Forensic Science from the University of New Haven, and a J.D. from the Rutgers University School of Law – Camden.

Agenda

- 10:00 – 10:10 am   Opening Remarks and Introductions
- 10:10 – 11:00 am   NJSP Forensic Biology: What Is My Lab Report Telling Me?
- 11:00 – 11:10 am   Break
- 11:10 – 11:20 am   LIMS Prelog – Accessing Completed Lab Reports
- 11:20 – 11:45 am   The CODIS Hit
- 11:45– 11:55 am   Crossing the Courtroom Finish Line
- 11:55 – 12:00 pm   Q & A

CLE Credit

NJ CLE Credit: This program has been approved by the Board on Continuing Legal Education of the Supreme Court of New Jersey for 2.0 hours of Alternative Verifiable Learning Format (AVF) total CLE credit. Of these, 0.0 qualify as hours of credit for ethics/professionalism.

Registration

Those who are eligible to apply should use the Zoom Webinar registration link in the Program Announcement email. Students who are registered will receive a confirmation email with a link to access the program.

Students must download Zoom before the webinar in order for the AGAI to record polling responses that are required for attendance verification and CLE credit.

The AGAI will be unable to verify attendance or grant CLE credit to students who have not downloaded Zoom before the webinar.