



PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

The Advocacy Institute Is Pleased to Present

DNA Statistics: Likelihood Ratios and STRmix™

March 15, 2022
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

WEBINAR

Program Summary

This presentation will detail the New Jersey State Police Office of Forensic Sciences DNA Laboratory's upcoming adoption of probabilistic genotyping techniques using the STRmix™ software program, as well as the reporting of likelihood ratios for statistics. The presenters will describe the statistical methods currently in use by the laboratory, the impending changes with the implementation of STRmix™, and the expected timeframe for implementation. The presenters will also explain likelihood ratios, including their use and reporting for DNA analysis. The program will conclude with common courtroom-related likelihood ratio fallacies and tips for how to avoid them when preparing for court as a witness or advocate.

Eligibility

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

Faculty

Jennifer Thayer is a Forensic Scientist and the DNA Technical Leader at the New Jersey State Police DNA Laboratory, where she supervises, evaluates, and reviews the casework of DNA scientists and oversees validations. As the DNA Technical Leader, she is responsible for all technical operations of the DNA laboratory. She previously served at the Connecticut Forensic Science Laboratory, where she examined evidence for biological materials, conducted DNA analysis, and was the CODIS Convicted Sex Offender DNA Database coordinator. Ms. Thayer

holds a B.S. degree in Biochemistry and Sociology from Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pennsylvania and an M.S. in Forensic Science from the University of New Haven in West Haven, Connecticut.

Dolores Coniglio-Rivera is a Forensic Scientist at the New Jersey State Police DNA Laboratory, where she supervises, evaluates, and reviews the casework of DNA scientists. As the Alternate Technical Leader, she also assists the Technical Leader with developing and implementing laboratory policies and procedures. Ms. Coniglio-Rivera previously worked at the New York City Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, where she examined crime scene evidence, conducted DNA analysis, and assisted in the World Trade Center Victim Identification Project. She holds a B.S. in Biology from Fairleigh Dickinson University and an M.S. in Human Cytogenetics from Hofstra University.

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 1.0 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.