



PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

The Advocacy Institute Is Pleased to Present

Biological Evidence (DNA) for Prosecutors

December 5, 2023

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**Middlesex County Fire Academy
1001 Fire Academy Drive
Sayreville, NJ 08872**

Program Summary

This program on biological evidence (DNA) is specifically designed by the New Jersey State Police Office of Forensic Sciences for prosecutors and detectives. The program will cover the submission of biological evidence, CODIS eligibility, the implementation of Rapid DNA technology, the impact of case law, and trial preparation for cases involving biological evidence. Attendees will gain a better understanding of the capabilities of the NJSP OFS DNA Laboratory and Central Regional Laboratory Forensic Serology Unit, the reporting of DNA results, and the upload of CODIS eligible DNA profiles. They will also learn about the trial assistance offered by laboratory personnel.

Eligibility

This program is open to County Prosecutors and Assistant Prosecutors, Deputy Attorneys General in the Department of Law and Public Safety's Division of Criminal Justice and law enforcement officers in their offices.

Faculty

Christine Bless is a Forensic Scientist 2 with the New Jersey State Police Office of Forensic Sciences. She has over 18 years of experience with the OFS, including 10 years of experience in forensic DNA analysis. Ms. Bless currently serves as the DNA Laboratory Case Manager. She provides guidance to agencies for submission of biological evidence, approves cases for submission, coordinates the flow of casework through the DNA Laboratory, and assists attorneys in obtaining the laboratory related information needed for court preparation. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences from Cook College of Rutgers University and a Master of Science in Forensic Science from John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

Harpreet Singh is the State CODIS Administrator for the New Jersey State Police Office of Forensic Sciences DNA Laboratory. He has over 20 years of experience in forensic DNA analysis. Mr. Singh oversees New Jersey's CODIS program, informs law enforcement agencies of investigative leads generated by CODIS and is the LRDD Administrator for the NJSP Rapid DNA program. He 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 Administrative Manager for the New Jersey State Police Office of Forensic Sciences. He has 23 years of experience with the OFS, including four years in his prior position as the OFS DNA Laboratory Director. Mr. Williams oversees the daily operation of the Quality Assurance/Quality Control, Anthropology, Budget and Procurement and Laboratory Information Management Units and assists with legal matters related to OFS functions. Mr. Williams is the President of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences and a member of its Executive Committee. He 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.

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 3.4 hours of total CLE credit. Of these, 0.0 qualify as hours of credit for ethics/professionalism.

Agenda

- 10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Relevant Case Law
- 10:45 a.m. – 11:40 a.m. DNA Evidence
- 11:40 a.m. – 11:50 a.m. Break
- 11:50 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. CODIS
- 12:15 p.m. – 12:30 p.m. Rapid DNA
- 12:30 p.m. – 12:50 p.m. Discovery & Court Preparation
- 12:50 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Q & A