



## Jurisprudence Section – 2006

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### **E3 Forensic Laboratories and Clinical Laboratories, ASCLD/LAB and CLIA, Apples and Oranges?**

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The goal of this presentation is to provide a background in current processes and trends by several accrediting and certifying programs.

Over the last several years, there have been suggestions for more independent oversight and review of forensic science laboratories. Forensic laboratory results have been analogized to clinical laboratory results, suggesting the need for Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment-like standards. Recently, the Justice for All Act of 2004 calls for an independent auditor's review when a forensic laboratory utilizing federal grant monies has a technical problem.

The presentation compares the forensic science laboratory and the clinical laboratory on several levels, i.e., staff and operational responsibility, training standards, quality assurance, etc. The presentation continues with a comparison of processes and trends of the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board's (ASCLD/LAB) Program, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments, and other professional organization's programs. The presentation concludes with recommendations on improving forensic science laboratories from both a medical technologist and a public policy analyst viewpoint.

**Public Policy Analysis, Forensic Laboratory Accreditation, Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments**