



## Jurisprudence Section – 2009

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### **E9 Forensics for the Defense**

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After attending this presentation, attendees will understand the diversity of cases benefiting from a deconstruction oriented approach when evaluating prosecution materials, realizing that medical opinions are often made quickly, and bad facts, superficial observations, or lack of differential diagnoses require an integrated investigation to discern the strengths for the defense bar.

This presentation will impact the forensic community by giving a better understanding of the value of integrated investigations and their ability to serve justice.

Jurists for the defense are often faced with what appears to be a steep and slippery slope when considering the evidence arrayed by the prosecution with its endless resources of money, facilities, and experts. There are times when experts for the defense may have significant impact on the outcome, both at trial and in the appellate phase. Time permitting, six cases involving blunt force, sharp force and gunshot homicides, child abuse, vehicular homicide and DUI will be presenter.

The focus is on the process of deconstructing the proffered case by assessing the strengths and weakness in the state's use of its forensic capabilities; the need to develop sound differential diagnoses and alternative explanations, and ensure the standards of care have been met. The outcomes range from dismissal to the death penalty.

#### **Forensics, Homicide, Deconstruction**