



Jurisprudence Section – 2010

E44 Rights of Expert Witnesses From an Attorney's Perspective

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After attending this presentation, attendees will have learned about the differences in language, philosophy, and pragmatic approaches to presenting scientific evidence; the rights and obligations of the experts who present it; and, their relationships with the attorneys who engage them and the clients on whose behalf they work.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by providing an awareness of how members of the forensic community interact with colleagues, what to expect, and how to work together under the umbrella of the criminal and civil justice systems in the United States.

This presentation will seek to raise the awareness of experts to their rights and obligations as forensic scientists in the judicial system. The material will be presented from the perspective of the practicing lawyer who has to find, engage, pay, educate and be educated, and work comfortably with expert witnesses. The participants also will discuss what happens when attorney-expert or expert-client relationships sour; what traps are there for the unwary during depositions and trials; how to avoid or counter those traps; and how to advocate for a client without breaching a scientist's ethical boundaries.

Expert Witnesses, Rights and Obligations, Testimony