



Jurisprudence Section – 2011

E34 A 21st Century Way to Educate Lawyers and Judges About the Use of Forensic Sciences Evidence in Their Courts

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After attending this presentation, attendees will learn of a new online program designed to educate them in the admissibility, use, and reasonable expectations of forensic sciences as evidence in court.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by introducing a new online program which will teach the fundamentals of forensic science and the issues involving the admissibility of such evidence.

This presentation will introduce lawyers and judges to a new on-line course that is specifically designed to teach the proper use of the forensic sciences as evidence in court. In recent years it has become obvious that there exists among lawyers and judges a substantial lack of understanding regarding not only the fundamental issues which surround the admissibility of forensic science evidence but also a lack of understanding of the scientific principles which underlie the creation of such evidence by the various forensic sciences professionals. As a result when they are confronted by evidence which has been generated by forensic science experts, many lawyers and judges are unable to effectively analyze not only how such evidence was created but also whether such evidence is proper in their particular case. Furthermore, lawyers in particular may lack sufficient knowledge of the particular scientific subject matter to effectively conduct either direct examination or cross examination. Lastly, both lawyers and judges need to be able to recognize the fundamental legitimacy of proffered forensic science evidence.

To fill this need an on-line course was designed in 2007 to offer a fundamental education to lawyers and judges in the field of the forensic sciences. As the basis for the lectures, the course utilizes a noted textbook, *Forensic Science: Introduction to Scientific and Investigative*

Techniques, 3rd Edition, James & Nordby (CRC Press:Boca Raton:2009). Lawyers and judges who participate in the course are introduced to the science and the fundamental principles of many of the various fields of the forensic sciences. In addition to the forensic sciences, course participants are also presented with a discussion concerning the admissibility issues that surround the use of evidence generated through the application and use of the forensic sciences. Attendees will be shown examples of portions of some of the lectures taken directly from the course. **Lawyers, Judges, Education**