E35 The National Clearinghouse for Science, Technology & the Law: An Online Forensic Resource

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After attending this presentation, attendees will become familiar with the free resources available from NCSTL.org, the website for the National Clearinghouse for Science, Technology and the Law at Stetson University College of Law.

Funded by grants from the Department of Justice and part of Stetson University College of Law, the National Clearinghouse for Science, Technology and the Law this presentation will impact the forensic community by providing information about the National Clearinghouse for Science, Technology and the Law, it with the world's only online resource containing information about the nexus of science, technology, and law that is completely open to the public and available at no cost.

Attendees will understand how to use NCSTL.org to learn what's new, find a conference or seminar, prepare for trial, attend an online lecture, connect with professional organizations, find out about expert witnesses, research a topic, and locate online resources related to scientific evidence and expert witnesses.

The relationship between law, science, and technology is both an essential alliance and a reluctant embrace. One reason for this tension is the lack of a free flow of information between the legal and scientific communities. Worldwide developments in science and technology are occurring at a rapid rate. Legal challenges are being made to emerging fields like biometrics. Even scientific evidence that has been relied upon for years, such as fingerprints, is facing challenges. The forensic science community is overwhelmed by the amount of information required to meet these challenges.

In response to these challenges, the National Clearinghouse for Science, Technology and the Law at NCSTL.org provides one centralized source that allows a forensic researcher to navigate all relevant case law, journals, reports, and resources necessary to conduct effective investigations and litigation. NCSTL.org's award-winning database is a free resource offering one-stop-shopping for references to resources intersecting science, technology, crime scene investigation, and the law. Forensic researchers, such as scientists, lawyers, judges, investigators, and anyone with a need for forensic-related information, can explore information in over two dozen topics that are vital to their profession, such as DNA, toxicology, and expert witness testimony. The database offers bibliographic information for over 100,000 legal and scientific resources, as well as references to popular literature, organizations, and educational opportunities. Using the NCSTL.org database, forensic researchers can easily track developments in science and technology related law from the legislature and courts, and keep up with the latest theories and trends from both legal and scientific literature.

In addition to the searchable online database, the National Clearinghouse for Science, Technology and the Law at Stetson University College of Law builds partnerships with universities, agencies, and professional associations. The National Clearinghouse for Science, Technology and the Law provides many educational opportunities, such as seminars and training workshops, such as its recent seminar in Forensic Science for Capital Litigators. Educational opportunities are often first presented live, with video archives made available on NCSTL.org. NCSTL.org also offers some special collections of resources, such as its "Cold Case Toolkit," its collection of resources related to the National Academy of Sciences Report, *Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States: A Path Forward*, and a subset of its database focusing solely on multimedia resources, such as forensic-related podcasts and interactive lessons.

Database, Website, Information

 ** Presenting Author*