



Jurisprudence Section - 2015

F32 Ethics in the Study of Forensic Science: Can Ethics Be Taught?

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After attending this presentation, attendees will consider how the formal study of ethics might be evaluated to determine the impact on ethical responses of forensic science professionals.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by delineating how increased attention will be given to the ethics being taught to future professionals in forensic sciences. Suggestions will be garnered to improve the teaching of ethics. An additional result is that consideration will be given by academics and professional societies to strengthening the ethical standards and improving adherence to those standards.

This session will present an updated survey of ethics hours offered by forensic science programs that are accredited by the Forensic Science Education Programs Accreditation Commission (FEPAC). The session will also review the learning objectives, the textbook, and other class materials for a three-hour semester credit class. The class, "Forensic Science Ethics," taught at Purdue University was created as the capstone class for the forensic science minor. The impetus to create the class arose from the expense and disruption caused by problems at the Indiana State Department of Toxicology. The fact that other laboratories were facing challenges at that time added weight to the decision. As the current requirements for ethics instruction were reviewed with colleagues, some skepticism was voiced as to whether ethics can be taught. This presentation's counter argument, silence equals complicity, will be discussed.

The question of how the class impact might be properly evaluated will also be discussed.

Ethics, Teaching, Forensic