

[Computer Forensics: What Can You Do About Deleted Data?](#)

In the world of criminal investigations, there's digital evidence-tampering that largely happens only on police-procedural TV shows – for example, changing data on a smartphone to frame a good guy. The average frontline officer and forensic examiner might not ever come across this dramatic and technically complex example of evidence tampering – but they certainly may encounter more common types. Evidence deletion is a far more likely method of evidence tampering behavior from both suspects and witnesses.

[Prof: Origins of Crime Lab in Law Enforcement, Not Science](#)

The book illuminates the failure of the forensic profession to self-regulate, and the toll that widespread problems at crime labs and with forensic disciplines themselves have taken on the integrity of the criminal legal system. Garrett also proposes a comprehensive reform agenda that includes adequate funding, independence from law enforcement, and the establishment of quality control measures at the nation's virtually unregulated network of crime labs.

[The ISHI Report News from the World of DNA Forensics](#)

This year's general session will feature some amazing talks including in depth accounts of the challenges posed when identifying casualties from the attacks on 9/11. We'll hear personal accounts from forensic scientists who worked with samples recovered from Ground Zero, the Pentagon and Flight 93. They will share lessons learned and describe advances made because of these efforts. Additional talks will cover the use of Forensic Genetic Genealogy to solve cold cases, real world applications of Rapid DNA analysis, and new forensic technologies. Visit the symposium website to see the complete list of speakers and topics.

[Embracing likelihood ratios and highlighting the principles of forensic interpretation](#)

Due to the police commissioning of expert forensic services worldwide, the police may specify the level of forensic service they need; thus, forensic scientists can be put under pressure to present scientific findings as quickly as possible and in simple and definitive terms. Frequently, this means reporting forensics results out of the context of the case, as forensic practitioners may not be given relevant case information.

[SLC Police Crime Lab Receives National Accreditation](#)

The American National Standard Institute, the organization that gave the accreditation, looked at the lab's technical qualifications, facilities and policies. Lab director Derek Mears says they spent a lot of time working on their policies so they could meet "national and international standards."

[In-Depth: Monroe County crime lab connecting guns to hundreds of shootings](#)

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives is tasked with determining how the guns get to Rochester. The agency is tight-lipped about sharing trace data outside of law enforcement but once guns are recovered from criminals here, the local work begins to determine just how often and where else they've been used.

[OPD's crime lab team has worked on 11,000+ cases this year](#)

OPD's Crime Lab has five technicians on staff right now, and two property technicians. On an average day, lab techs may use a few different methods to analyze a scene, like fingerprinting.

[Washington State Patrol's toxicology lab ran tests in office contaminated by meth, possibly jeopardizing thousands of cases](#)

But in recent years, an unseen intruder has cast a lingering cloud over the seemingly orderly operations at Washington's only forensic toxicology laboratory: methamphetamine contamination.

[Medical Examiner's Office chief toxicologist faces criminal probe with potential legal ramifications in years of cases](#)

Gary Kunsman, the chief toxicologist for the Broward Medical Examiner's Office, is under investigation for the alleged theft of a controlled substance and evidence tampering.

[Former Oxford officer Matthew Kinne to plead guilty to murder](#)

Matthew Paul Kinne, 40, who was originally charged with capital murder, is expected to accept a plea agreement Friday. As part of the deal, in exchange for the guilty plea, the state will take the death penalty off the table and recommend Kinne be sentenced to life in prison.

[Fort Worth police Crime Lab whistleblower terminated as state finished investigation](#)

The commission recently released a 126-page report on its findings, which focused on an allegation that a policy regarding maintaining evidence had not been followed correctly for at least two years. It affirmed Crutcher's allegations that the policy wasn't followed but also found that the issue didn't rise to a level of misconduct. Several recommendations were made by the commission that it said would improve the flow of work at the lab.

[Garrett's Autopsy of a Crime Lab illuminates the flaws in forensic science](#)

Nearly 20 years ago, as a civil rights fellow at the famed law firm Cochran, Neufeld & Scheck (now NSB Civil Rights), Brandon Garrett was struck by the role that flawed forensic evidence played in many of his clients' wrongful convictions.

[Baltimore police confirm crime lab has backlog of 11,000 fingerprints, is a year away from processing evidence in 'real time'](#)

Those disclosures were made in response to questions from City Councilman Mark Conway, following a report in The Baltimore Sun in which a whistleblower in the crime lab said he believes taxpayer money is being wasted as the crime lab collects evidence that it does not test.

[Behind The Badge: Forensics technicians unravel the evidence inside the SLCPD Crime Lab](#)

Some of the most important police work in Utah's capital city happens inside a nondescript building on the west side. It's the Salt Lake City Police Department Crime Lab, where science meets law enforcement and mysteries are revealed.

[Crime lab receives \\$2.6 million grant to fight impaired driving](#)

The San Diego County Sheriff's Department Regional Crime Laboratory has been awarded a competitive grant of \$ 2.6 million to help keep our roadways safe from impaired driving. Funding comes from the California Highway Patrol Cannabis Tax Fund Grant Program for education, prevention and enforcement programs on impaired driving.

[Baltimore Crime Lab at Center of Negligence Probe](#)

Two articles by the publication have prompted the enquiry: one in which an active supervisor in the fingerprint section spoke out, saying the lab is failing to analyze thousands of pieces of evidence due to its triage approach that focuses on violent crime, and another where police confirmed that a veteran firearms examiner's work over a nine-month period has been called into question after a problem was discovered in the swabbing of evidence on firearms.

[Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation celebrates 100 years](#)

It was strictly a record-keeping agency at the time and was housed at the Ohio Penitentiary in Columbus. Inmates would perform much of the work, including organizing the fingerprint records.

[CSI: Vegas: The Crime Lab Feels the Heat in Sequel Series' Official Trailer](#)

The latest trailer for this fall's CSI: Vegas dropped Sunday, and in the upcoming sequel series (which premieres Wednesday, Oct. 6 at 10/9c on CBS), the reputation of the team's work is on the line. "Every case, every defendant that was put away with evidence from our lab has been called into question," says Sara Sidle (Jorja Fox) in the clip. Has a series of mistakes been discovered, and has the lab been party to criminal malfeasance? Those are the questions that will unravel when the new team assembles to tackle some fresh cases.

[Montana law enforcement, scientists prepare for legalized marijuana](#)

It will no doubt put more impaired drivers out on the roads. How does the Montana Highway patrol feel about it and what about the state crime lab whose scientists will likely see a bigger caseload? We found out that they're already gearing up.

[Auditor to review DC crime lab's compliance with 2011 law creating independent forensic agency](#)

The troubled D.C. crime lab is getting another probing: This time by the Office of the D.C. Auditor, which will review how the Department of Forensic Sciences responded over the past year to complaints of errors and misconduct in its forensic work.

[Detectives clear Broward's chief toxicologist of public corruption; prosecutors decide not to charge him over marijuana in his office](#)

An investigation cleared the Broward County Medical Examiner's Office chief toxicologist of suspicion that he had stolen drugs from his workplace, but the Broward State Attorney's Office closeout memo released on Wednesday reveals detectives found empty alcohol bottles and marijuana in his office.

[One test, 56 drugs. California crime labs can do more with less blood after toxicology upgrade](#)

The California Department of Justice will be able to test criminal suspects and sexual assault victims for many more drugs as a result of an improvement in toxicology technology, the Attorney General's Office announced.

[Montgomery County Police Department Crime Lab: The latest forensic laboratory in U.S. to use STRmix](#)

The Crime Lab, one of seven crime laboratories in Maryland, provides forensic services to the Montgomery County Police Department and several other user agencies through six primary units: Crime Scene Unit; Latent Print Unit; Firearms Examination Unit; Forensic Biology Unit; Forensic Chemistry Unit; and Electronic Crimes Unit.

[Crime scene response vehicle bolsters accredited Long Beach police forensic department](#)

"General average turnaround time for firearms analysis is 45 to 60 days, but if we triage and we determine to put something up ahead, then we always try to be flexible enough to meet those needs," said Glen Spencer, the forensic science services division administrator.

[AG Josh Kaul's Abysmal Crime Lab Failures Exposed](#)

Wisconsin Attorney General Josh Kaul has failed on public safety, with crime lab delays worse in key areas – like guns and DNA – than those under former Republican AG Brad Schimel.

[Ex-FBI Official Charged With Padding Time Sheets by Nearly 900 Hours](#)

John Behun, who had a high-ranking post at the FBI's famed Quantico lab and later at agency headquarters, is accused of falsifying his time sheets and bilking taxpayers for nearly 900 hours of compensation for time he didn't work.

[Alleged drug dealer caught with 40 bags of fentanyl in St. Marys](#)

The TruNarc drug-testing device was used to identify one of the 40 bags as fentanyl. The bags were sent to the Pennsylvania State Police crime lab.

[OC Struggles to Process Rape Evidence Tied to Hundreds of Backlogged Kits](#)

The backlog stood at over 1,200 untested kits early last year, when DA Todd Spitzer's office hired a lab to process all of them by the end of next month.

[Forensic Lab Contamination in WA Puts Cases in Jeopardy](#)

Thousands of criminal cases in Washington state have been thrown into doubt by reports of contamination at the state's only forensic laboratory. Recent sampling at Washington's only forensic toxicology laboratory, which has a history of false positives, has found more areas contaminated with methamphetamine and cocaine, reports The Seattle Times. The latest findings come after the lab had falsely detected meth in blood samples tested for 11 cases since 2019.

['Making a Murderer' subject Steven Avery appeals latest court defeat](#)

Avery is serving a life sentence for the 2005 killing of photographer Teresa Halbach, a case that became the focus of a popular Netflix series whose creators raised questions about the convictions of Avery and his nephew, Brendan Dassey.

[Alaska failed to obtain DNA samples from 21,000 people accused of crimes, contrary to state law](#)

The Anchorage Daily News and ProPublica reported in December that some law enforcement agencies were not aware of the law or were not following it. As a result, officials neglected to collect DNA swabs that might have solved cold cases and put serial offenders behind bars.

[Major milestone for Virginia's Forensic Science Department](#)

"Each of the 15,000 hits has meant answers and justice for people impacted by a crime," he said. "The databank has led to convictions as well as exonerations, helping make our communities safer. This milestone is a testament to the innovative spirit in Virginia and our investments in science and technology."

[What's Wrong with Forensic Science? Everything, Says Paper](#)

Most experts now agree that much of the forensic evidence presented in modern courtrooms has been "junk dressed up as scientific analysis" and would greatly benefit from a series of abolitionist-framed reforms, writes Maneka Sinha, an assistant professor of law at the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, the author of the paper.

[Illinois to permanently establish Forensic Science Commission](#)

“This is why we have hearings, to guide the legislation that impacts culture,” Van Pelt said. “There are still people awaiting answers as the DNA backlog decreases, and a commission is needed to improve coordination between police and forensic scientists to help further the decrease in the backlog.”

[Innocence community shares how faulty forensic science leads to wrongful convictions](#)

A task force created this year by Governor Gretchen Whitmer continues to meet each month to come up with recommendations and best practices for how forensic science work is used, conducted and assessed in the criminal justice system.

[DNA Exonerates Ron Jacobsen After 30 Years of Wrongful Conviction](#)

The Newton County District Attorney’s Office has dropped all charges against Ron Jacobsen, who spent 30 years in prison for a crime he did not commit. Jacobsen was released from prison on Nov. 4, 2020, on \$500,000 bail, after DNA testing proved his innocence. Jacobsen had been wrongfully convicted of a 1990 kidnapping and rape in Covington, Ga.