

[Eric Lander Is Not the Ideal Choice for Presidential Science Adviser](#)

The late Ruth Bader Ginsberg told us, “Women belong in all places where decisions are being made.” Yet high-level decision-makers in the U.S. federal government have continued to be overwhelmingly white and male, especially when it comes to science leadership positions. From a historic lack of federal leadership on environmental justice to health disparities born of systemic racism and economic inequality, science policy reflects and amplifies inequities within science. The Biden administration has a huge opportunity to change the face of scientific decision-making, particularly amidst a global pandemic, calls for racial justice from research institutions across the country, and the looming impacts of climate change.

[This Scientist Helped Free the Innocent Using DNA. Now Biden Wants Him in the Cabinet.](#)

To be sure, Lander, who is better known for his work helping to sequence the human genome, will have plenty of other issues on his plate as Biden’s science adviser—including two enormous ones: the pandemic and climate change.

[WDSU Investigates: NOPD switches crime lab leadership](#)

The New Orleans Police Department announced Friday it had promoted Lt. Bruce Haney to captain and placed him in charge of its crime lab. He replaces the man who oversaw the lab when WDSU Investigates reported on safety and procedural concerns there.

[Corrections system and Seattle police failed rape victim and delayed bringing her rapist to justice, lawsuit says](#)

The suit also alleges the Seattle Police Department (SPD) failed to pursue investigative leads — including DNA evidence — that could have resulted in Lay’s arrest years before he was charged with rape in 2018 and extradited from Illinois. Instead, the lead detective originally assigned the case deactivated the investigation within weeks of the initial report without even interviewing the victim, according to the suit.

[State Medical Examiner resigns, leaves unfinished work, holes in investigations](#)

State Medical Examiner Dr. Mark Levaughn has been on administrative leave since November. On Thursday, he resigned, leaving a lot for investigators, prosecutors, and coroners to deal with in his wake.

[Blood sample from dead suspect helps solve 1988 homicide, cops claim](#)

Three days before the body of Gayle Barrus was discovered in Calhoun County, Mich., in October 1988, 24-year-old Roger Plato, an assault suspect in a different case, was killed.

[iPhone taken in 'crime spree' and more Capitol rioters arrested in the Apple Crime Blotter](#)

In the second half of January, several other people were arrested and charged, also because their iPhones gave them away. One man was arrested after posting a screenshot to Facebook of his iPhone showing the U.S. Senate's WiFi network.

[Western Visayas police crime lab chief relieved](#)

The chief of the regional police crime laboratory in Western Visayas has been relieved from his post a day after he confirmed to reporters that seven of the nine leaders of an indigenous people’s group killed in a police operation in Capiz tested negative for gunpowder residue.

[Judge to decide if ruse to get DNA of suspect in 1976 campground killings was constitutional](#)

The last brother, Raymand, didn't have garbage collection in Lakewood and in late winter was not leaving home often, so Marinette County sheriff's Detective Todd Baldwin developed a plan to ask him to complete a bogus survey about law enforcement service in northern Oconto County and seal it in an envelope with his own saliva.

[FBI says Washington pipe bombs were planted night before the Capitol siege](#)

Based on analysis of videos recorded by surveillance cameras in the area, investigators said whoever planted the bombs did so between 7:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. on Jan. 5. The bombs were discovered the next day, as Congress was preparing to certify the Electoral College votes for president.

[The 1969 Raid That Killed Black Panther Leader Fred Hampton](#)

When Haas and his legal partner Flint Taylor at the People's Law Office first took on Hampton and Clark's case, it quickly became clear that the state's attorney's version of the story was bunk. Ballistics experts found that all but one of the bullets fired in the apartment came from police weapons in contradiction to a false report from the Chicago Police's own crime lab.

[Man charged with murder in 1998 disappearance of Denver woman](#)

DPD's crime lab in 2012 confirmed that the remains found in New Mexico belonged to Baker. DPD then completed forensic testing and a further round of witness interviews in 2013 that included sufficient evidence to arrest Perez, according to the DA.

[Austin City Council to vote Thursday on creating forensics lab independent from APD](#)

The proposal includes moving \$11,908,897 from the police department's budget to into a new Forensic Science Department — to be overseen by Austin City Manager Spencer Cronk.

[American Academy of Forensic Sciences Holds Virtual 73rd Annual Scientific Meeting Feb. 15-19, 2021](#)

The 73rd Annual Scientific Meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) will take place Feb. 15-19, 2021, virtually hosted by VFairs Virtual Events Software. The event platform will be accessible through the meeting landing page. Themed "One Academy Pursuing Justice Through Truth in Evidence," AAFS President Jeri Roper Miller, PhD, will lead the scientific community of nearly 4,000 national and international forensic professionals in the discussion of the most current research and updates in their fields and exchange ideas through collaboration, networking, and cross-pollination of knowledge across the forensic community.

[4th World Conference and Exhibition on Forensic Science](#)

Scientific Federation welcomes you to attend the 4th World Conference and Exhibition on Forensic Science which is going to be held in Osaka, Japan during November 04-06, 2021. We cordially invite all the participants who are interested in sharing their knowledge and research in the area of forensic science.

[CA Measure Focuses on Accuracy of Expert Witness Testimony and Forensics in State Courts](#)

State Senator Scott Weiner has outlined the basis for courtroom-focused Senate Bill 243, which is designed to provide more accurate forensic and expert witness testimony in the courtroom and provide new criminal justice reform.

[California lawmaker introduces bill to change expert testimony, forensic evidence legal standards](#)

Inaccurate expert testimony and faulty forensic science can lead to wrongful convictions. According to a report from UC Berkeley School of Law and the University of Pennsylvania Law School, erroneous convictions cost California taxpayers over \$282 million between 1989 and 2012. Approximately 200 people in California wrongfully served jail sentences for serious crimes since 1989.