

[California Bill Seeks to Reform Expert Witness Testimony](#)

Senator Scott Wiener's (D-San Francisco) Senate Bill 243, also known as The End Wrongful Convictions Act, would expand the definition of false evidence to include expert forensic opinions that are outdated and have been proven invalid within the expert's own scientific community. Bite mark evidence is perhaps the most famed example of an outdated method, previously used in many cases but concluded to be scientifically invalid by the 2016 PCAST report.

[Opinion: The Forensic Sciences Have a Diversity, Inclusion Problem](#)

The AAFS is one of the key forensic organizations in the world that promotes science and its application to medico-legal issues; however, it has struggled with diversity, equity and inclusion. In fact, a 2011 AAFS survey found that at least 84% of members thought that the AAFS should not do more to promote minority applicants or their participation in AAFS activities (Tallman & Bird 2020). However, a diversity of perspectives, experiences, identities, and viewpoints is vital to the sciences that can, for instance, determine manner and/or cause of death of decedents, positively identify human remains, and identify perpetrators of violent crimes.

[AAFS Statement in Response to Diversity Opinion Article](#)

The American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) Board of Directors (BOD) appreciates the opportunity to comment on Dr. Tallman's opinion piece, dated November 6, 2020. Dr. Tallman, who chaired two diversity committees, complained of a lack of commitment to diversity and inclusion by the leadership of the Academy. A survey was referenced, but one that represented approximately 3.2% of the entire Academy membership and may possibly have included non-members and only one forensic discipline. While we respect and encourage ever-increasing attention to diversity and inclusiveness issues at the Academy, we believe that Dr. Tallman's concerns are misplaced.

[Crime lab delays cause safety concerns in Natchez](#)

One Mississippi mayor says underfunding and delays at the State Crime Lab have put residents at risk of becoming victims of crime.

[Inside IRS Forensic Crime Lab](#)

NBC News' Tom Costello gets an exclusive look inside the IRS Forensic Crime Lab, where investigators are focused on finding and arresting tax cheats.

[Austin's DNA Crime Lab now independent from police department](#)

Austin's DNA Crime Lab is now independent from the Austin Police Department. On Thursday, the Austin City Council voted unanimously to transfer nearly \$12 million from APD's budget to an independent forensic science department.

[RPD seeking DOJ grant to aid in gun crime investigation](#)

The National Integrated Ballistic Information Network is a law enforcement tool that captures the physical characteristics of ballistic evidence in an image, then stores that image in a database so that investigators can connect gun crimes through the gun that was used.

[State police face 'nightmare' backlog in labs as hemp farming expands in SC](#)

Because hemp and marijuana are both forms of cannabis, it's almost impossible to tell them apart on the street. But SLED says the need for testing has turned into a 'nightmare.'

['This Was Just Too Bizarre For Words': Mom Found Killed With Head Wrapped In Duct Tape](#)

A decade passed with no resolution, until a single phone call changed everything. A person working in the police crime lab who had access to evidence in Norma's case called detectives and informed them they'd found a match to the DNA recovered at the murder scene:

[St. Landry Crime Stoppers: Help needed in solving homicide of Erica Hunt](#)

The LSU FACES Lab excavated the remains and worked with the State Police Crime Lab to analyze and identify the victim. Through the teamwork of the DNA Doe Project, LSU FACES lab, and the State Police Crime Lab, the remains were determined to be Erica Nicole Hunt.

[Crime lab results awaited in Grady mother/daughter deaths](#)

The deaths of the woman and her juvenile daughter are believed to be a murder/suicide, Capt. Daniel Singletary, Grady County Sheriff's Office chief investigator said.

[NC law sparked by Defenders investigation leading to new police training for investigating spiked drinks](#)

"Now, law enforcement knows it's worth their energy, their effort to actually secure that evidence, send it to the state crime lab where we can analyze it because if it is true there was a drug in that drink, now we can get a conviction for the person who did it," Stein said.

[Mountain View detective solves decades-old murder](#)

The breakthrough arrived in September when Fisher, recently transferred to the MVPD's Crimes Against Persons Unit, revisited the case using DNA technology unavailable at the time of the murder. He submitted blood collected from the scene to the Santa Clara County Crime Laboratory for analysis, and the lab matched it to Snowgrass.

[State Supreme Court declines to hear Brantner appeal in Berit Beck murder case](#)

The crime went unsolved for almost 25 years, until investigators announced a break in the case back in 2014 after new DNA evidence was found at the State Crime Lab.

[Rape kit tracking system bill passes first test in ND Senate](#)

In a 5-0 vote this week, the Senate Human Services Committee recommended that senators pass Senate Bill 2281. The proposed legislation would allow the state crime lab to develop and manage an electronic tracking system to follow sexual assault evidence collection kits sent to law enforcement agencies across the state.

[Gratiot County teen pleads guilty in 11-year-old sister's shooting death](#)

The Gratiot County Sheriff's Office led the investigation with help from the Michigan State Police Critical Response Team and a crime lab. Investigators also worked with a crime lab in Cincinnati, Ohio.

[Forensic Problems, Optical Solutions](#)

Now, U.K. researchers in applied optics, forensic science and the document-examination industry have joined forces to apply OCT to the high-resolution subsurface analysis of multilayered identification documents

[The Trump DOJ Snuck In One Last Effort to Push Junk Science in Court](#)

Just days before Joe Biden took office, however, Trump's DOJ issued an unsigned 26-page statement designed to undermine those findings. It was a smoke-and-mirrors attempt to use the credibility of the federal government to prop up the uncritical use of flawed forensic evidence that has contributed to hundreds of wrongful convictions. Like the Trump administration's last-minute execution spree, the statement seems calculated to advance a regressive, reactionary, and cruel system of criminal prosecution.

[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.

[Forensics: The Real CSI - How double killer brought to justice by forensic science](#)

A double killer who brutally murdered his wife and neighbour was brought to justice after extensive forensic work, a new documentary has revealed.

[There's a Secret Frozen Forensic Study Facility In the U.P.](#)

The facility is surrounded by an eight foot fence that has a layer of fabric to keep bodies from being seen that are test subjects on the property. There are cameras around the fence so no one can sneak in for a peak and there are even trail cameras on the grounds in case someone does. Plus they have to keep bears, wolves and coyotes from eating the test bodies.

[6 women who are changing chemistry as we know it](#)

Prof Raychelle Burks, or Dr Rubidium as many know her, is a forensic chemist and science communicator. She focuses her work on developing sensors for a range of compounds at American University in Washington, DC.

[Women changing the face of science in the Middle East and North Africa](#)

In her role at Khalifa University, Alsafar teaches students biochemistry, chemistry, forensic science and genetics.

[Loyola launches Master of Science in Forensic Pattern Analysis program](#)

"The new degree addresses an important need in the forensic science community and fills an education gap not currently being addressed by any university in the region," David Rivers, Ph.D., professor of biology. "Loyola's program is anticipated to be one of the first of its type in the United States, positioning the University to become a top destination for education and training in forensic pattern evidence."

[Statisticians win \\$20 million to address shoddy forensic science methods](#)

In 2015, a team of statisticians set out to help rehabilitate forensic science, a field with a reputation for flimsy methods and dubious conclusions. The Center for Statistics and Applications in Forensic Evidence (CSAFE), based at Iowa State University, has grown to include more than 60 researchers at six universities working on new ways to analyze fingerprints, shoeprints, bullet marks, and other crime scene evidence. Now, CSAFE's primary funder, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, has committed \$20 million in new funding to the effort over the next 5 years. The center's director, Iowa State statistician Alicia Carriquiry, told ScienceInsider about her vision for its second phase. The interview has been edited for clarity and brevity.

[Secret Service Names Georgia Investigator Top Forensic Examiner](#)

The National Computer Forensic Institute (NCFI) officially named Hall County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) Investigator Brett Roach a Top Forensic Examiner on Friday, Feb. 5, for his work in the year 2020. NCFI serves as the training center for the U.S. Secret Service (USSS).

[Parabon, Colorado Police Solve 2001 Kidnapping, Assault](#)

The Greeley Police Department has solved a child kidnapping and sex assault that happened the morning of Sept. 18, 2001 near 5th Avenue on 9th Street in northeast Greeley. The then 7-year-old victim and her 8-year-old brother were walking to school when a male who was waiting near an alley got out and forced the victim into his car. The suspect drove the victim to a secluded area south of the Greeley airport east of Highway 85 where he sexually assaulted her.

[Australian Police Debut Familial DNA Collection Pilot Program](#)

This week, the New South Wales (Australia) Police Force launched a DNA collection pilot program in the hopes of finding answers to the 769 long-term missing persons cases plaguing the region. According to the agency, NSW has approximately 330 unidentified bodies or human remains cases.

[UK Police Agency Seizes 48 Devices in Day of Action Targeting Sex Offenders](#)

The sex offender management teams seized 48 devices on Monday and Tuesday from a number of RSOs and carried out close forensic and manual examinations to check for anything that may indicate a relapse in their offending behaviour.

[Parabon, Oregon State Police ID Remains After 40 Years](#)

On Sept. 14, 1979, two hikers discovered the skeletal remains of an adult near the bottom of Multnomah Falls in Multnomah County, Oregon. Also recovered were items of degraded clothing, eyeglasses, and a hair mass indicating the individual may have been of African American biological origin. Examination of the remains in 1979 was completed by the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., as Oregon did not have an anthropologist on staff to perform the examination.