

[A Judge Asks: Is Forensic Science Really Science?](#)

According to Senior U.S. District Judge Jed Rakoff, at the Southern District of New York, “Forensic science continues to be routinely admitted by the courts, both state and federal, even though considerable doubts have now been raised as to whether forensic science really is science at all, and whether it is reliable and valid.”

[A long handshake can spread your DNA to objects you didn't touch](#)

In handshaking experiments, people who never picked up a knife became the major source of DNA on the handle about 7 percent of the time, forensic scientist Cynthia Cale reported February 21 at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. That DNA was transferred to the knife when the person's handshaking partner grasped the handle.

[My Afterlife on the Body Farm](#)

So today, tucked behind the organ donor card in my wallet, I carry another card that indicates I've been accepted to a world-renowned criminal justice program — although by the time I'm ready to attend, I won't need student orientation.

[Quirky 'To Dust' tells story of a cantor and science teacher](#)

A grieving Hasidic cantor and an undistinguished science professor explore the world of death and decay in “To Dust.”

[Genes might explain why dogs can't sniff out some people under stress](#)

Trained police dogs couldn't recognize stressed-out people with a particular version of a gene that's involved in stress management, geneticist Francesco Sessa reported February 22 at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences.

[See inside Lancashire's new ground-breaking forensic science centre](#)

Based at Lancashire Police HQ in Hutton, the Lancashire Forensic Science Academy is a partnership between police, Police and Crime Commissioner Clive Grunshaw and the University of Central Lancashire. Believed to be the first of its kind in the UK, the Academy will allow students studying on UCLan's forensics courses to work alongside forensic experts.

[Establishing the Facts in the Unsolved Murder of Rebekah Gould](#)

Podcast fanatics may be familiar with Catherine Townsend's recently released series called “Hell and Gone.” The podcast covers the murder of Rebekah Gould, a 22-year-old college student, near Melbourne, Arkansas in September 2004. To this day, the case remains unsolved and no suspects have been charged.

[FBI Scientist's Statements Linked Defendants to Crimes, Even When His Lab Results Didn't](#)

Nevertheless, prosecutors said in court filings that if Vorder Bruegge took the stand, he would testify that “the photograph is of sufficient resolution to definitively state that the robber is John Henry Stroman.” The judge said the testimony would be admitted if the case went to trial. A week later, Stroman accepted a plea deal.

[STRmix Test Results Ruled Admissible in Illinois Murder Case](#)

In denying a motion by attorneys for the defendant, Brendt Christensen, to delay the trial until October, U.S. District Court Judge James Shadid ruled that it would be unfairly prejudicial to the prosecution not to let an FBI expert witness, Jerrilyn Conway, testify about the science behind STRmix™ and the DNA testing. (U.S. v. Brendt A. Christensen, 2:17-cr-20037)

[Monarch Construction To Build Hamilton County Crime Lab](#)

"Let me tell you how excited we are to actually have windows and natural light that we can do forensic science with; some space to actually put the equipment and have updated equipment so that we're finally going to be an efficient, state-of-the-art crime lab for this entire region," Sammarco says.

[Cops, others being trained on bloodstain pattern analysis](#)

A release yesterday from the police force said that the training includes over 20 representatives from across the criminal justice system in Guyana. The training began on Monday and concludes on March 1, 2019.

[Amid state backlog, new Licking County crime lab aims to expedite drug-evidence testing](#)

"Last year, we reviewed 1,200 cases in the prosecutor's office — indicted 900," Hayes said. "And we did the same thing in 2017 and I would say 80 percent of those cases are drug-related. Even the thefts, the assaults, things of that nature, some of the violent crime are definitely related to the drug issue."

[Special Report: State Crime Lab backlog for DNA piles into thousands](#)

"For drug chemistry testing, return time is around six weeks, average," explained Lt. Chris Watkins of the Peoria County Sheriff's office, in relation to how long it takes them to get test results back. "For DNA, it could be six months to a year."

[Crime Lab Testing of Food Products from Sandtown Middle School](#)

On Friday, February 22, 2019, the GBI Crime Lab completed testing on the remaining food products submitted by the Fulton County Schools Police Department. The results revealed that no additional controlled substances were detected in any other food products. In summary, a total of 46 items were tested. As reported in the earlier release, one item that had the appearance of cereal revealed the presence of THC.

['Underresourced for years': Lawmakers push to speed up rape kit processing](#)

Because the Seattle Police Department started an initiative in 2015 to clear its entire rape kit backlog consisting of more than 1,200 kits, TR's kit was finally tested and yielded a DNA match that led to the charging of 48-year-old Jonnie Lay, who was expected to head to trial in February.

[Orlando police seek money for Rapid DNA system to solve crimes, but some fear 'guilty by machine'](#)

The Orlando Police Department is seeking state funding to buy a new DNA-testing technology that would allow officers to test and compare evidence in less than two hours, without shipping it to a state lab.

[Case Against Suspended Albany Cop Delayed Due To Dna Found On Knife](#)

Utica police called it justifiable homicide because a knife was pulled on Kitto. That knife is what is holding up the case.

[Woman claiming she was raped by U of M athlete says rape kit hasn't been processed](#)

A woman said she's waited months and will likely have to wait several more for her rape kit to be processed.

[Pencils to pixels: Software created by former SB Co. deputy helps police create suspect sketches](#)

"We will put it together with our SketchCop Software and as we're doing the process, we'll continue to ask more questions and more details so we can get a composite sketch that is as close as possible to the suspect," Burkett explained.

[Police: Woman stabbed boyfriend, staged his body to conceal crime](#)

"There was lots of evidence of a clean-up, evidence that David's body was staged to give the appearance he died in bed when actually he had not," Thuring said.

[RISPCA using DNA to investigate sexual assault of dog](#)

"We secured a search warrant to enter the home in Woonsocket and also obtained a search warrant to obtain DNA evidence of the alleged suspect," he said.

[Eustis man who brings computer in for repairs busted after technician finds child porn, police say](#)

Police arranged to have the repair business call Blackburn and tell him the computer would be ready to pick up at 11 a.m. Tuesday, the report said, and when he showed up he was arrested.

[Two 1970s South Lake Tahoe homicides solved by DNA breakthrough, El Dorado County DA says](#)

The task force hired DNA phenotyping company Parabon Nanolabs to build a "family tree" off of DNA recovered from blood stains on Rainey's shirt and DNA collected from Andersen's body during autopsy.

[YNW Melly said his friends were killed in a drive-by. But that's not what bullets reveal, cops say.](#)

YNW Melly and his friend, Cortlen Malik Henry, tried to disguise the killings of Anthony D'Andre Williams and Christopher Thomas Jr. as a drive-by shooting, and to portray themselves as survivors of street violence in an effort to mislead police, according to newly available court documents.