

DNA AND THE LAW: REINING IN THE REVOLUTION

A NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Exploring the Capabilities and Limitations of DNA Testing

NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 1, 2001



DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY
PITTSBURGH, PA



THE CYRIL H. WECHT INSTITUTE
OF FORENSIC SCIENCE & LAW

CO-SPONSORED BY:

*National Institute of Justice
Allegheny County Coroner's Office
Allegheny County District Attorney's Office
Allegheny County Public Defender's Office
Pittsburgh Institute of Legal Medicine*

The Cyril H. Wecht Institute of Forensic Science and Law and the Duquesne University School of Law are pleased to present "DNA and the Law: Reining in the Revolution."

In recent years, cultural and scientific advances have served to stimulate a greater public awareness of the reach and use of DNA evidence in civil and criminal proceedings. DNA has been used to identify the bones of Czar Nicholas and his family, the remains of the "Unknown Soldier" and the victims of numerous disasters, including the tragic events of September 11. It has helped to convict criminal defendants in cases where other physical evidence was non-existent, as well as exonerate others who had been wrongfully convicted, imprisoned and sentenced to death.

Through this program, The Wecht Institute hopes to raise or deepen awareness of the procedural, substantive and public policy issues pertaining to the myriad uses of DNA evidence in pre-trial and post-conviction settings. This conference brings together eminent national scholars, state and federal jurists and legislators, criminal and civil attorneys, members of the region's various county offices of the District Attorney, Public Defender and Coroner, forensic scientists and members of the law enforcement community.

Simply stated, the purpose of the conference is to explore such critical areas as the collection, preservation, testing and use of DNA evidence as a truth-seeking vehicle. Objectives include: examining the current role of DNA testing as a forensic scientific investigative methodology for law enforcement agencies; addressing the restrictions and limitations currently imposed upon DNA testing by policy considerations and a range of legal, technological and economic factors; presenting a "gold standard" or model approach to DNA testing; and reviewing the need for the medical, legal and law enforcement communities to better understand their related roles in the evolution of our understanding of the reach of DNA evidence.

We think you'll find this program informative and engaging.

Nicholas P. Cafardi
Dean and Professor of Law

— THE CREATION OF — THE CYRIL H. WECHT INSTITUTE OF FORENSIC SCIENCE AND LAW

MNot long ago, academics from across the university gathered in Duquesne's Board Room to discuss the promise, if not the future, of a program of study that would focus on forensic science applications. We discovered that the potential for a far-reaching multidisciplinary approach for such a program seemed endless. At the direction of former president and current chancellor, Dr. John E. Murray Jr., the building process began in earnest. A few weeks ago, at his inaugural address, Duquesne's 13th President, Dr. Charles J. Dougherty, added his encouragement by calling upon the university's faculty to "teach and learn from each other so that Duquesne becomes synonymous with interdisciplinary creativity."

In this spirit, The Cyril H. Wecht Institute of Forensic Science and Law has been created. It will serve as a core component of a broad range of academic degree and certificate programs in forensic science at Duquesne. Virtually the entire academic community at the university—Nursing, Pharmacy, Health Sciences, Business and the undergraduate and graduate schools of Arts and Sciences—will contribute to the development of a multidisciplinary approach to the study of forensic science. In the months and years ahead, as this field of academic and professional endeavor grows, Duquesne will build and sustain one of the nation's leading forensic science programs of its kind. We invite you to join us!

To learn more about our 11-month certificate program or to find out about other degree programs that are available or otherwise under development, please visit our Web site at www.law.duq.edu.

John T. Rago
Associate Dean and Assistant Professor of Law
Director, Wecht Institute

www.law.duq.edu



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PAPPERT LECTURE HALL, THE BAYER LEARNING CENTER

friday
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30

saturday
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1

8:00 a.m. Registration

8:30 a.m. Welcome

Dr. Charles J. Dougherty
President, Duquesne University

8:45 a.m. Introductory Remarks

Dr. Cyril H. Wecht
Dean Nicholas P. Cafardi

9:00 a.m. The Forensic Science of DNA Typing:
A Case-Oriented Approach to
DNA Analysis

Dr. Norah Rudin

9:45 a.m. Educating and Training the
Forensic DNA Analyst

Keith E. Inman

10:30 a.m. Break

10:45 a.m. Recognition, Collection and Handling
of DNA Evidence: From Crime Scene
to Courtroom

Dr. Henry C. Lee

11:30 a.m. Question and Answer Session

All Morning Speakers

12:00 p.m. Lunch

1:30 p.m. Scientific Developments and Future
Expectations in Mitochondrial
DNA Analysis

Dr. Terry Melton

2:15 p.m. The Role of the Forensic Pathologist
in DNA Use: From Autopsy
to Courtroom

Dr. Michael M. Baden

3:00 p.m. Break

3:15 p.m. The Innocence Project:
Limitations and Successes

Professor Barry C. Scheck

4:00 p.m. Panel Discussion

Moderator: Linda B. Kenney, Esquire
Honorable Mike Fisher
Dr. Frederick W. Fochtman
Dr. Matthias I. Okoye
Dr. James G. Zimmerly

5:00 p.m. Adjournment

8:00 a.m. Registration

8:30 a.m. Utilization of DNA Evidence in the
Identification of Disaster Victims

Dr. Victor W. Weedn

9:00 a.m. Automated Computer Analysis of
Forensic DNA Data

Dr. Mark W. Perlin

9:45 a.m. Balancing Law Enforcement
and Privacy Interests in DNA
Data Banks

Mark A. Rothstein, Esquire

10:30 a.m. Break

10:45 a.m. Personal Reflections of a Wrongly
Accused Former Prisoner: Procedural
Challenges and Legal Complexities

Kirk Bloodsworth

11:30 a.m. The Journalist's Role: A Report from the
Innocence Institute of Western Pennsylvania

Bill Moushey

12:00 p.m. Lunch

1:30 p.m. Keynote Address
Report from the Capital: The
Status of Federal DNA Legislation

Honorable Arlen Specter

2:15 p.m. DNA Warrants and the
Statute of Limitations

Professor James E. Starrs

3:00 p.m. Break

3:15 p.m. Federal DNA Legislation:
What's Needed?

Keenan R. Keller, Esquire

4:00 p.m. Panel Discussion

Moderator: Dr. Cyril H. Wecht
M. Susan Ruffner, Esquire
Stephen A. Zappala, Esquire

5:00 p.m. Adjournment

This program has been approved by the Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education Board for twelve (12) hours of substantive law, practice and procedure CLE credit and zero (0) hours of ethics, professionalism or substance abuse CLE credit.