



# NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON FORENSIC SCIENCE IN CRIMINAL CASES NEW DEVELOPMENTS, GOOD EVIDENCE?

In one, intensive day, join an **international** and **interdisciplinary** faculty of experts.

Explore important, new scientific findings and learn about their **practical implications** and their evidentiary use in criminal cases, including:

- Advances in Forensic DNA Testing – genealogy, familial searching and the shifting science of identity
- What forensic sciences have achieved foundational validity?
- How to demonstrate accuracy and objectivity in relation to a forensic science
- Cannabis, Alcohol and Drug Testing – What’s new?

## Keynote Speaker

**Dr. Frederick Bieber**, Faculty of Medicine, Harvard University, Medical Geneticist, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Boston, Mass.

Register today at:

[osgoodepd.ca/forensic-crim](http://osgoodepd.ca/forensic-crim)

## Program Chairs

The Hon. Justice David Rose  
Ontario Court of Justice

Anthony Tessarolo  
Director, Centre of Forensic  
Sciences, Ministry of the Solicitor  
General, Ontario

## Special Guest Speaker

Rockne Harmon  
former Senior Deputy District  
Attorney, Alameda County,  
California, DNA Forensic  
Cold Case Consultant

## Date and Time

December 6, 2019  
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. EST  
In Person or Webcast

## Location

Osgoode Professional  
Development  
1 Dundas St. West, 26th Floor  
Toronto, ON

# National Symposium on Forensic Science in Criminal Cases New Developments, Good Evidence?

Research findings and developments in forensic science often overturn long held assumptions. Courts, in their gatekeeping role must move cautiously in determining the admissibility and probative value of “new science” evidence. Up to date knowledge of the questions and issues being raised relating to these developments is essential for all those involved in the criminal justice system.

This *OsgoodePD* forum is designed to be an open, interactive and thought-provoking gathering of participants across a broad spectrum of the criminal justice system to debate and discuss the practical application and implications of new scientific developments in several key areas.

## Topics Include

- Genetic genealogy
- Biogeographic ancestry testing
- Collecting and presenting forensic evidence in court; Getting it right
- How to demonstrate accuracy and objectivity in relation to a forensic science
- Drug recognition evaluation program *and more*

## Who Should Attend?

- Forensic Scientists
- Law Enforcement Investigators
- Forensic Lab Trainers and Supervisors
- Lawyers
- Forensic Science Academics
- Judges

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## Agenda

8:15 a.m.

Registration

9:00 a.m.

Welcome and Introduction from the Chairs

9:05 a.m.

Advances in Forensic DNA Testing – Genealogy, Familial Searching and the Shifting Science of Identity

### Speakers

#### The Hon. Justice Enzo Rondinelli

Ontario Court of Justice (*Moderator*)

#### Rockne Harmon

former Senior Deputy District Attorney, Alameda County, California, DNA Forensic Cold Case Consultant

#### Jonathan Millman

Assistant Section Head, Biology Section, Centre of Forensic Sciences, Ministry of the Solicitor General, Ontario

#### Mark Halfyard

Rusonik, O'Connor, Robbins, Ross, Gorham & Angelini, LLP

Family tree forensics and other new advances in forensic DNA testing are changing the way police investigate crimes. What are the scientific, legal and societal implications of the rapidly expanding application of forensic science?

- Biogeographic ancestry testing
- Familial DNA searching
- Genetic Genealogy
- What's permitted in Canada and what isn't?
- How do we strike a balance between the capabilities of science and the rights of individuals?

10:30 a.m.

Refreshment Break

10:45 a.m.

### Ethics and Forensic Science

#### Speakers

##### Stephen Goudge, Q.C.

Counsel, Paliare Roland Rosenberg Rothstein LLP, Former Justice of the Court of Appeal for Ontario (*Moderator*)

##### Anthony Tessarolo

Director, Centre of Forensic Sciences, Ministry of the Solicitor General, Ontario

##### Mary Humphrey

General Counsel, Ministry of the Attorney General, Ontario

##### Danielle Robitaille

Henein Hutchison LLP

- What are the ethical obligations imposed on justice system participants when collecting and presenting forensic evidence in a court proceeding?
- What happens when forensic scientists get it wrong?
- Who is responsible for ensuring they get it right?
- Best practices for the laboratory and the courtroom

12:15 p.m.

Luncheon

12:45 p.m.

**Keynote Address: "Standing at the Crossroads of Science and Law: The Technology of Justice"**



#### Dr. Frederick Bieber

Faculty of Medicine, Harvard University, Medical Geneticist, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts

1:45 p.m.

### Objectivity vs. Subjectivity in Scientific Analysis

#### Speakers

##### The Hon. Justice David Rose

Ontario Court of Justice (*Moderator*)

##### Melanie Richard

Forensic Biologist, Biology Section, Centre of Forensic Sciences, Ministry of the Solicitor General, Ontario

##### Amanda Myslik

Forensic Firearms Examiner, Physical Sciences Section, Centre of Forensic Sciences, Ministry of the Solicitor General, Ontario

##### S/Sgt. Trevor McLeod

Forensic Identification Services, Ontario Provincial Police

##### Caitlin Pakosh

Assistant Crown Attorney, Ministry of the Attorney General, Ontario

##### Jonathan Shime

Cooper, Sandler, Shime & Bergman LLP

In 2009 the *U.S. National Research Council*, and again in 2016, the *President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology* issued reports on the state of feature comparison forensic evidence:

- What has happened since then? What forensic sciences have achieved foundational validity?
- How to demonstrate accuracy and objectivity in relation to a forensic science
- After STRMix is DNA evidence a more polished gold standard?

3:15 p.m.

Refreshment Break

3:30 p.m.

### Expert Roundtable: Cannabis, Alcohol and Drug Testing

#### Speakers

##### The Hon. Justice Joseph Kenkel

Ontario Court of Justice (*Moderator*)

##### Nathan Baker

Nathan Baker Law

##### Douglas Beirness

Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction

##### Reed Holland

York Regional Police Service

##### James Palangio

Counsel, Crown Law Office – Criminal, Ministry of the Attorney General, Ontario

- Drug impaired driving
- Drug recognition evaluation program
- Standard field sobriety testing
- Blood, oral fluid and urine- what is the science of impairment?
- Too high to drive? Prove it.

5:00 p.m.

Program Concludes

*“Excellent cross-section of speakers. One of the best conferences I have attended.”*  
Law Enforcement Forensic Unit

*“A program with a great balance of science and law.”*  
Criminal Lawyer

*“A great sharing of information, very informative with lots of cases as examples.”*  
Forensic Scientist

*“Great presenters, great topics and great debates.”*  
Crown Attorney

## Chairs

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Ontario Court of Justice

**Anthony Tassarolo**  
Director, Centre of Forensic  
Sciences, Ministry of the  
Solicitor General, Ontario

## Keynote Speaker

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Faculty of Medicine, Harvard  
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## Faculty

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Nathan Baker Law

**Douglas Beirness**  
Canadian Centre on Substance Use  
and Addiction

**Stephen Goudge, Q.C.**  
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Biology Section, Centre of  
Forensic Sciences, Ministry of  
the Solicitor General, Ontario

**Amanda Myslik**  
Forensic Firearms Examiner,  
Physical Sciences Section, Centre of  
Forensic Sciences, Ministry of the  
Solicitor General, Ontario

**Caitlin Pakosh**  
Assistant Crown Attorney,  
Ministry of the Attorney General,  
Ontario

**James Palangio**  
Counsel, Crown Law Office –  
Criminal, Ministry of the  
Attorney General, Ontario

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Cooper, Sandler, Shime &  
Bergman LLP

## Registration Details

### Fee per Delegate

**\$495 plus HST**

**New call/licensee (2016 – present): 50% discount (reg rate)**

Fees include attendance, electronic program materials, lunch and break refreshments. Group discounts are available. Visit [www.osgoodepd.ca/group-discounts](http://www.osgoodepd.ca/group-discounts) for details. Please inquire about financial assistance.

### Program Changes

We will make every effort to present the program as advertised, but it may be necessary to change the date, location, speakers or content with little or no notice. In the event of program cancellation, York University's and Osgoode Hall Law School's liability is limited to reimbursement of paid fees.

### Cancellations and Substitutions

Substitution of registrants is permitted at any time. If you are unable to find a substitute, a full refund is available if a cancellation request is received in writing 14 days prior to the program date. If a cancellation request is made with less than 14 days notice, a \$75 administration fee will apply. No other refund is available.






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(5h 25m Substantive; 2h Professionalism)



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