

Webinar Series  
Funded by the U.S. Department of Justice

Bureau of Justice Assistance

Capital Litigation Initiative:  
Crime Scene to Courtroom Forensics Training

**Webinar #18: Emerging Issues in the Evolution of the Texas Forensic  
Science Commission and National Reform**

- I. Webinar Introduction
- II. Genesis of Texas Forensic Science Commission (TFSC)
  - a. Houston Police Crime Lab findings
  - b. Coverdell requirement
  - c. Commission members
  - d. Staffing and funding
  - e. Statutory Authority
    - i. Investigate complaint from public
    - ii. Accredit crime laboratories
    - iii. Manage self-disclosures
    - iv. License individual analysts
- III. Public Complaint Investigation
  - a. Chaney Case
    - i. Bitemark evidence
    - ii. Pretty/Freeman study
    - iii. TFSC Findings
    - iv. Ex Parte Chaney
- IV. Laboratory Self-Disclosures
- V. Laboratory Accreditation
  - a. Strengths
  - b. Limitations
  - c. Legal scope
  - d. Specifiers: OSAC
  - e. Case study: DNA Mixture Interpretation

- VI. Forensic Analyst Licensing
  - a. TFSC Licensing Criteria
  - b. Code of Professional Responsibility
    - i. Scientific reports and studies
    - ii. Legal findings
  - c. Other TFSC Responsibilities
    - i. Facilitate discipline-wide reviews
    - ii. Manage urgent issues
      - 1. Example: Legalization of hemp
    - iii. Training and education assistance

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