

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

Bureau of Justice Assistance

Capital Litigation Initiative:  
Crime Scene to Courtroom Forensics Training

**Webinar #5: “Forensic Science Essentials: Challenges in Fire  
Analysis and Document Examination”**

- I. Introduction
  - A. Welcome – Professor Carol Henderson
  - B. Speaker introductions
  - C. How to participate in the Chat Feature
  
- II. Forensic Essentials Overview
  - A. Basics of Scientific Fire Analysis
    - Types of investigations involving fire analysis
    - Types of evidence and outcomes that can be obtained
    - Evidence and outcomes that cannot be determined
  - B. Basics of Forensic Document Examination
    - Types of investigations involving document examination
    - Types of evidence and outcomes that can be obtained
    - Evidence and outcomes that cannot be determined
  
- III. Training Requirements
  - A. Fire Analysis Training
    - Historical overview of fire analysis training
    - Current training/educational requirements
    - Standards, certifying and/or accrediting bodies
    - Technological advancements and impact on training
  - B. Document Examination
    - Historical overview of document examination training
    - Current training/educational requirements
    - Standards, certifying and/or accrediting bodies
    - Technological advancements and impact on training
  
- IV. Research Gap
  - A. Fire Analysis Research
    - Research outcomes that have impacted fire analysis investigations
    - Research needs
    - Barriers to conducting research

- B. Document Examination Research
  - Research outcomes that have impacted document examination investigations
  - Research needs
  - Barriers to conducting research
  
- V. Expert Witness Credentials
  - A. Scientific Fire Analysis expert credentials
  - B. Forensic Document Examination expert credentials
  
- VI. Validation of Methodologies
  - A. Fire Analysis
  - B. Document examination
  
- VII. Legal Considerations
  - A. Presentation of evidence
    - Tips for presenting fire analysis evidence
    - Tips for presenting document examination evidence
  - B. Cross and direct examination strategies

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