

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

Bureau of Justice Assistance

Capital Litigation Initiative:
Crime Scene to Courtroom Forensics Training

Webinar #6: “OSAC Essentials: Forensic Science Resources”

About the Panelists

Mark Stolorow, Deputy Director of the Special Programs Office at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), U.S. Department of Commerce

MR. Stolorow is also the Director for OSAC Affairs (Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science). The mission of OSAC is to produce consensus documentary standards and guidelines to improve quality and consistency of work in the forensic science community. Mr. Stolorow serves as the program chairman of the International Symposium on Forensic Science Error Management convened by NIST in 2015 and 2017.

Mr. Stolorow has significant forensic laboratory and courtroom experience, having served as the training coordinator for the statewide forensic serology program and as the research program administrator for the Illinois State Police Bureau of Forensic Science, as well as serving as the Executive Director of Orchid Cellmark, a forensic DNA testing laboratory. Mr. Stolorow led teams that performed DNA analysis for high-profile cases such as the 1995 criminal investigation of O.J. Simpson, the 1996 murder case of JonBenet Ramsey, and the 1998 Unabomber case of Theodore Kaczynski. Mr. Stolorow is a Fellow of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences and the recipient of the 2014 Criminalistics Section Mary E. Cowan Outstanding Service Award. He is also a member of the Midwestern Association of Forensic Scientists and ASTM. Mr. Stolorow received the 2005 Midwestern Association of Forensic Scientists Distinguished Service Award. He served as co-chair of the National Science and Technology Council Subcommittee on Forensic Science from 2009 through 2012. Mr. Stolorow received a B.S. from the University of Michigan, an M.S. in Forensic Chemistry from the University of Pittsburgh, and an M.B.A. from Eastern Michigan University.

He is the NIST ex-officio member of the OSAC Forensic Science Standards Board.

Hon. Christopher J. Plourd, Legal Resource Committee Chair, Superior Court Judge, State of California

Christopher J. Plourd is the presiding Judge of the Imperial County Superior Court in El Centro, California. Plourd was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown to Superior Court in Imperial County California in December 2011. Prior to his judicial appointment, he was a practicing litigation attorney for over 31 years in San Diego and El Centro, California where he specialized in cases involving Forensic Scientific Evidence.

Judge Plourd belongs to numerous legal and scientific organizations and is a fellow of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. Judge Plourd also belongs to the American Association for the Advancement of Science, ASTM International E-30 committee on Forensic Science, the American Society of Forensic Odontology, the California Judges Association and the American Judges Association. Before he was appointed to the bench Judge Plourd was a member of the State Bar of California, the San Diego County Bar Association, and California Attorneys for Criminal Justice. National Organization for Criminal Defense Attorneys until his judicial appointment.

Since July 2014 Judge Plourd has served as the Legal Resource Committee (LRC) chair and a member of the Forensic Science Standards Board (FSSB) for the Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science (OSAC).

He has a B.S. from Butler University and a J.D. from Thomas Jefferson School of Law.
Introduction

Kenneth E. Melson, JD

Kenneth E. Melson was most recently the Senior Advisor on Forensic Science in the Office of Legal Policy at the US Department of Justice. Prior to that position he was the Acting Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, having been appointed by President Obama.

In 2007, Mr. Melson was appointed by Attorney General Gonzales as the Director of the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, where he was responsible for administrative oversight of the 94 U.S. Attorneys Offices and for liaison between the U.S. Attorneys and other Federal agencies and Department of Justice components.

After serving as a state prosecutor in Arlington County, Virginia, he joined the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia in 1983, becoming the First Assistant United States Attorney in 1986 where he remained until 2007.

Mr. Melson was a co-chair of the Subcommittee on Forensic Science, Committee on Science of the National Science and Technology Council within the Executive Office

of the President. He is a Past President of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) and a former Chair of the Council of Scientific Society Presidents.

He was a board member of the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD/LAB) , and now serves on the editorial board of the Journal of Forensic Sciences and on the Ethics Committee for the AAFS.

Mr. Melson has been an adjunct professor at The George Washington University for over 35 years, teaching law and forensic science courses at both the Law School and the Department of Forensic Sciences. He is published in both scientific texts and legal journals.

***Funded by the U.S. Department of Justice, Capital Litigation Initiative:
Crime Scene to Courtroom Forensics Training

This project was supported by Grant No. 2015-CP-BX-K006 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Office for Victims of Crime, and the SMART Office. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.