

Crime Laboratory Essentials Webinar

Speaker Biographies

Professor Carol Henderson is the director of the award-winning National Clearinghouse for Science, Technology and the Law (NCSTL) at Stetson University College of Law. Professor Henderson has planned and managed NCSTL'S development since 2002. NCSTL provides the only comprehensive searchable database of science, technology, and law in the world (www.ncstl.org). Recognized as an international authority on forensic science and law Professor Henderson has presented more than 280 lectures and workshops to thousands of forensic scientists, attorneys, judges, law enforcement professionals and military personnel worldwide on the topics of scientific evidence, courtroom testimony, and professional responsibility.

Ann Talbot has been a practicing Forensic Scientist and Administrator for over 35 years. She is currently the Laboratory Director of the Metro Nashville Police Department Crime Laboratory. The MNPd Crime Laboratory is a new Laboratory, recently opened and accredited in 2015. Ann began her career as a serologist with the Albuquerque Police Department Crime Laboratory where she also worked doing RFLP/ DNA, trace analysis, blood alcohol toxicology, controlled substance and crime scene investigation. Ann transitioned to Crime Laboratory Management in 1991 as Crime Laboratory Director (Albuquerque) and later the System Director for the New Mexico State Police Forensic Laboratories. During these tenures, Ann helped laboratories through ASCLD/LAB Legacy accreditation and transitions to the ASCLD/LAB-*International* program. She has been an active member of AAFS, ASCLD and ASCLD/LAB, an ASCLD/LAB International Assessor, and has served as a Board Member for both ASCLD and ASCLD/LAB. Ann was the founding co-chair of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Forensic Committee.

Christine Funk started her career in the Minnesota Office of the Public Defender in 1994. In 1995, she was assigned her first forensic DNA case. Not a scientist by training, she struggled to understand the complexities of forensic evidence. Over the years, Christine's forensic caseload expanded to include arson, broken babies, drug chemistry, as well as the study of false confessions and eyewitness identification in the context of complex litigation.

In 2013, Christine moved to Washington, DC to become General Counsel for the Department of Forensic Sciences. This provided additional insights as to how forensic science fits within the criminal justice system.

Currently, Christine consults with members of the criminal justice stakeholders, as well as those writing about forensic science – from investigative pieces to movie scripts to a television pilot. Christine serves on the Legal Resource Committee for the Organization of Scientific Area Committees. She is also on the AAFS Standards Board. Previously, Ms. Funk has served on the Board of the Minnesota Innocence Project, the Forensic Laboratory Advisory Board for the state of Minnesota, and the White House Sub-Committee to the Sub-Committee on Forensic Science in Education, Ethics, and Terminology.

The webinar is part of an eight-part series that educates lawyers about using forensic science in death penalty cases, from evaluating the crime scene to defending or prosecuting death penalty cases in court.

This remarkable series was created by Stetson's Professor Carol Henderson, an international authority on forensic science in partnership with the Law Enforcement Innovation Center at the University of Tennessee. This webinar series is made possible by a grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Department of Justice.

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