

## **Abstract**

### **Together Toward Tomorrow**

-----How to Avoid becoming a Victim of Your Cases-----

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Since the 2009 National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Report and the 2016 President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) report, many positive improvements happened in Forensic fields. However, many of the press and lawyers took advantage of the reports accusing aspects of the forensic disciplines of issues including lapses in integrity as well as claims of incompetence in the forensic fields. These accusations also target established forensic science methods/procedures and qualification/training of laboratory scientists. Many articles simply twist the scientific facts in attempts to disgrace the profession and professionals. As well, some of the articles attempt to change the science which leads to misrepresentations among the public. Furthermore, these problems might impact the judicial system as to the testimony of forensic science experts.

Will the future Forensics field be dominated by work performed by forensic technicians without interpretation or expert opinion, with forensic scientists being relegated to providing reports to attorneys and judges, rather than testifying (unless they actually performed the technical work but are not allowed to give their opinions for fear of biasing the Trier of facts). Will the future forensic scientists simply be technicians producing analytical reports for lawyers, judges and journalists to decide what the results really mean in both the criminal and civil courts, and the courts of public opinion and the news headlines ?

If that is where the profession is going, it will be mandatory to educate the media, press, judges, prosecutors and defense attorneys in the fields of forensic science because they are becoming the voices of and the gatekeepers of forensic evidence, and are so easily misled by false, twisted and misleading statements from purported scientific or legal experts or others claiming to know the truth and to speak the truth of forensic science to "THE PEOPLE".

Case examples will be present to illustrate the forensic reports and testimony was misinterpreted or deliberately misrepresented. Suggestions will be present on how to work together in handling those situations and how to avoid being a victim of your cases.

