

# Scientific Evidence & Expert Testimony

September 14 - 17, 2026  
Reno, NV

Tuition: \$1,599  
Conf. fee: \$399



THE NATIONAL  
JUDICIAL COLLEGE

**The emergence of DNA analysis in the 1990s led to serious questioning of the validity of many of the traditional forensic disciplines.**

More recently, forensic feature-comparison methods such as hair analysis, bullet comparison, fingerprints, bite mark comparisons, tire and shoe tread analysis, and the like, have been called into question. Additionally, case reviews have found that expert witnesses overstated the probative value of their evidence, going far beyond what the relevant science could justify. Are there additional science-based steps that could help ensure the validity of forensic evidence used in the U.S. legal system?

This course uses a mix of judges, legal experts, doctors, and forensic scientists as faculty. In addition, small discussion groups help participants process and analyze the materials.

**"  
Enlightening course. The faculty really made complex issues easy to understand."**

— Recent participant

## More info:

[judges.org/courses/scientific-evidence-expert-testimony-js-622/](https://judges.org/courses/scientific-evidence-expert-testimony-js-622/)

### Learning Objectives:

- Distinguish the differences and similarities between the Frye "general acceptance" test and the Daubert "scientific reliability" standard.
- Define the process by which scientific discovery is made.
- Describe some of the factors considered in evaluating the relevancy and reliability of proffered scientific evidence.
- Examine and compare data to determine a scientific outcome.
- Identify the key concepts of how computer forensic evidence is recovered and examined.
- Understand what a DNA profile is and identify the most recent developments and best practices in DNA testing.
- Recognize the function and proper qualifications of a forensic pathologist.
- Understand and be familiar with the techniques commonly employed in testing for drugs.
- Explain the basic scientific and statistical concepts of "scientific evidence" and "statistical significance."
- Knowledgeably discuss the scientific methods available to researchers studying complex human behavior.

Established in 1963, the NJC is a nonprofit organization and the only educational institution in the U.S. that teaches judges of all types from across the 50 states, Indian Country and abroad.

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