**Forensics, Statistics, and Law**

**The 25th Anniversary of *Daubert* and the Path Forward for Forensic Science in the Courts**

*Experts From Forensics, Statistics and Law Will Convene at UVA Law Conference*

**Monday, March 26, 2018**

Was that bullet really fired by that gun? Was that print probably made by that finger? How do we interpret forensic evidence, in a world that is not like CSI shows, and where data can be lacking? How do we explain these types of evidence to lawyers and jurors in criminal cases?

Experts in the fields of forensics, statistics and the law will convene for a conference March 26 at University of Virginia School of Law’s Caplin Pavilion starting at 8:30 a.m.

Judge Jed Rakoff of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York will deliver the keynote at noon.

The conference marks the U.S. Supreme Court's 1993 decision in *Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals Inc.,* which reshaped how judges evaluate scientific and expert evidence. That ruling coincided with a surge in scientific research relevant to criminal cases, including the development of modern DNA testing that both exonerated hundreds of individuals and provided more accurate evidence of guilt.

“At the same time, leading scientific commissions have pointed out real shortcomings in the use of forensic evidence in the courtroom,” said professor [Brandon Garrett](https://content.law.virginia.edu/faculty/profile/blg2n/1165630), who will participate in the conference. “The CSAFE collaboration, extending across four universities, including UVA, has been working with generous support from the National Institute of Standards and Technology to research these questions.”

This conference brings together leading judges, lawyers, statisticians and crime lab directors, bridging the crime lab and the courtroom. Sue Ballou, the president-elect of the American Academy of Forensic Science, and Peter Neufeld, the founder and co-director of the Innocence Project, will introduce the conference. At lunch, Judge Jed Rakoff will speak about the role of judges as gatekeepers.

Panels will discuss how we can develop better forensic evidence, how we can analyze it more accurately in the crime lab, and how we can present it more effectively in criminal cases. Several contributions will be published in a special symposium issue of the Virginia Journal of Criminal Law.

*Sponsored by the Virginia Journal of Criminal Law and the Center for Statistics and Applications in Forensic Evidence (CSAFE)*

Events are free and open to the public. Attendees may contact Garrett at bgarrett@virginia.edu

Or (434) 924-4153 for more information.

**Schedule**

March 26, 2018

8:30-9:15 a.m.

Continental Breakfast

9:15-9:30 a.m.

Introduction/Welcome

* **Brandon Garrett**, White Burkett Miller Professor of Law, Public Affairs Justice Thurgood Marshall Distinguished Professor of Law, University of Virginia School of Law
* **Karen Kafadar**, Commonwealth Professor and Chair, Department of Statistics, University of Virginia

9:30-10:30 a.m.

Introductory Remarks: The Importance of Statistics and Forensics

Statistics and Forensics

* **Susan M. Ballou**, Program Manager, National Institute of Standards and Technology, American Academy of Forensic Science Fellow

Statistics and the Courts

* **Peter Neufeld**, Co-Director, The Innocence Project, Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law

10:45 a.m-Noon

Statistics, Research, and Forensics

* **Alicia Carriquiry**, Distinguished Professor, Department of Statistics, Iowa State University
* **Hari Iyer**, Statistical Design, Analysis, and Modeling Group, National Institute of Standards and Technology, U.S. Department of Commerce
* **Karen Kafadar**, Commonwealth Professor and Chair, Department of Statistics, University of Virginia
* *Moderator*: **M. Chris Fabricant**, Director of Strategic Litigation, The Innocence Project

Noon-1:15 p.m.

**Lunch**

**Keynote Address: Judging Forensics**

* **Jed S. Rakoff**, Senior Judge, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York

1:30-2:45 p.m.

Statistics in the Crime Lab

* **Linda C. Jackson**, Director, Virginia Department of Forensic Science
* **Sharon Kelley**, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Neurobehavioral Sciences, University of Virginia
* **Peter Stout**, President and CEO, Houston Forensic Science Center
* **Henry Swofford**, Chief, Latent Print Branch, Defense Forensic Science Center
* *Moderator*: [**Brandon Garrett**](https://content.law.virginia.edu/faculty/profile/blg2n/1165630), White Burkett Miller Professor of Law, Public Affairs Justice Thurgood Marshall Distinguished Professor of Law, University of Virginia School of Law

3-4:30 p.m.

Bringing Statistics into the Courtroom

* **David L. Faigman**, Chancellor and Dean, John F. Digardi Distinguished Professor of Law, University of California Hastings College of Law
* **David H. Kaye**, Distinguished Professor of Law, Weiss Family Scholar, Penn State Law
* **A.J. Kramer**, Federal Public Defender’s Office, District of Columbia
* [**Barbara A. Spellman**](https://content.law.virginia.edu/faculty/profile/bas6g/1211027), Professor of Law, Professor of Psychology, University of Virginia School of Law
* *Moderator*: **William C. Thompson**, Professor of Criminology, Law, and Society; Psychology and Social Behavior; and Law, University of California, Irvine School of Social Ecology