



Forensic Science in Legal Education

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OVERVIEW

In recent years, new expert admissibility standards in most states call for judges to assess the reliability of forensic expert evidence. However, little has been reported on the education and training law schools offer to law students regarding forensic evidence. Researchers funded by CSAFE conducted a survey to find out how many schools offer forensic science courses, and they also examine the state of forensics in legal education as a whole.

GOALS

- Review the curricula of law schools across the United States.
- Discover how many schools offer forensic science courses and what level of training they provide.
- Discuss the survey results and their implications for the legal education system at large.

THE STUDY

The 2009 National Academy of Sciences Report called for higher quality scientific education in law schools, citing the lack of scientific expertise among lawyers and judges as a longstanding gap. The American Bar Association then adopted a resolution calling for greater forensic sciences training among law students.

In late 2019 and Spring 2020, Garrett et al. searched online listings of courses for 192 law

schools included on the 2019 News and World Report ranking list. They then sent questionnaires to faculties of these schools and requested syllabi to examine the coverage of forensic science courses the schools offered.

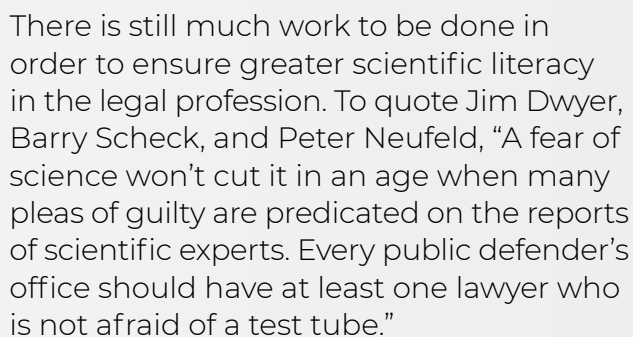
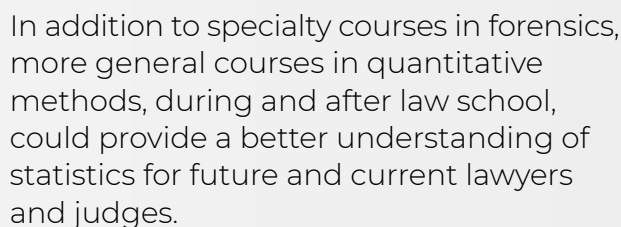
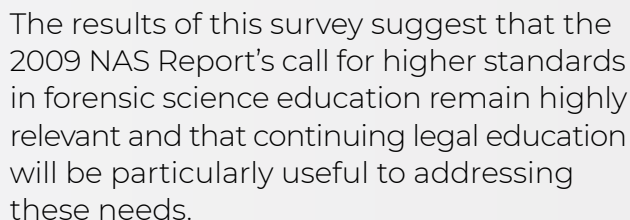
With the data in hand, Garrett et al. could examine the type of forensic science-related coverage at law schools in the United States.



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- ## FOCUS ON THE FUTURE



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