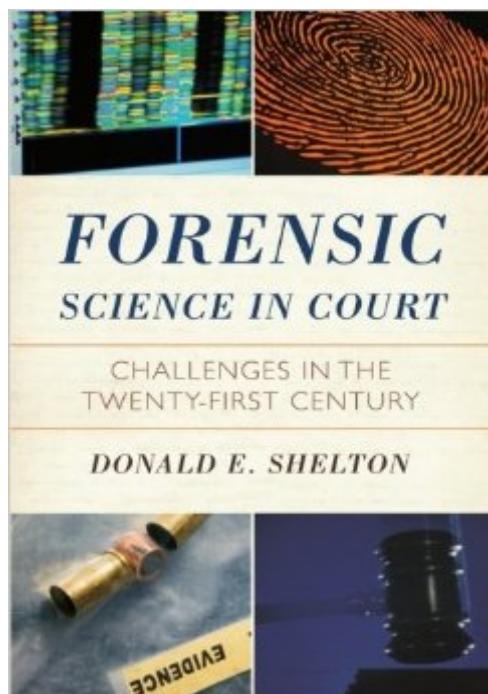


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Forensic Science In Court: Challenges In The Twenty First Century (Issues In Crime And Justice)



Synopsis

Forensic Science in Court explores the legal implications of forensic scienceâ "an increasingly important and complex part of the justice system. Judge Donald Shelton provides an accessible overview of the legal aissues, from the history of evidence in court, to "gatekeeper" judges determining what evidence can be allowed, to the "CSI effect" in juries. The book describes and evaluates various kinds of evidence, including DNA, fingerprints, handwriting, hair, bite marks, tool marks, firearms and bullets, fire and arson investigation, and bloodstain evidence. Assessing the strengths and limitations of each kind of evidence, the author also discusses how they can contribute to identifying the "who," "how," and "whether" questions that arise in criminal prosecutions. Author Donald Shelton draws on the depth of his experiences as courtroom prosecutor, professor, and judge, to provide a well-rounded look at these increasingly critical issues. Case studies throughout help bring the issues to life and show how forensic science has been used, both successfully and not, in real-world situations.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As a forensic engineer, I rarely become involved with criminal cases unless they have to do with arson or sabotage to machinery or structures. Nevertheless, this book is extremely fun and factual with its treatment of criminal forensics. Not to say it lacks material I will not use, because it definitely does have valid, specific, and valuable takeaway information for any forensic professional regardless of his or her field of expertise; the book's dissertation on the Dauber Trilogy is a fine

example. Chapter 8, "Jurors and Forensic Science Evidence" is yet another excellent example, and why I chose the title of this review as the "CSI Effect". Briefly, expert testimony at a jury trial tends to follow George Gerbner's hypothesis of over 30 years ago; the "cultivation theory" to be more specific. Mr. Gerbner theorized television programs tended to cultivated the public's perception of societal reality, especially as it relates to the "CSI effect". This book is not only enjoyable (for anyone) to read, it is an important reference and not just for a forensic professional. I highly endorse it.

Best read to make sure Guilty Client's don't claim "incompetent Counsel" on Appeal. This is the best text I have seen for under \$200.

Great addition to my other Criminal Justice books on crime scene and forensic information. Also used for class on criminal analysis.

Good overview on some landmark cases in forensic science.

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