STATE BAR OF WISCONSIN
PINNACLE

FORENSIC JUSTICE INSTITUTE 2026

Virtual Event: January 23, 2026

8 CLE Credits

Produced in partnership with the Center for Integrity in Forensic Sciences

STATE BAR OF WISCONSIN
P.O. Box 7158, Madison, WI 53707-7158

FORENSIC JUSTICE INSTITUTE 2026

CREDIT HOURS: 8 CLE credits

LIVE WEBCAST: Friday, January 23, 2026

WEBCAST REPLAYS: Friday, January 30, 2026
Thursday, February 19, 2026
Monday, March 23, 2026
Wednesday, April 22, 2026
Tuesday, May 26, 2026
Thursday, June 18, 2026
Wednesday, September 23, 2026
Tuesday, October, 13, 2026
Thursday, November 26, 2026

FORENSIC JUSTICE INSTITUTE 2026

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The science behind justice

In criminal cases, the search for truth depends on forensic science that is both accurate and responsibly applied. When scientific methods are overstated, misunderstood, or pushed past what the data can support, the consequences can be serious—shaping decisions, deepening inequities, and, in the worst cases, contributing to wrongful convictions.

The **Forensic Justice Institute** brings together leading forensic scientists and criminal law practitioners to help you examine scientific claims, identify where interpretation exceeds evidence, and apply forensic principles with clarity. Strengthen your ability to assess the evidence in your next case with confidence, fairness, and a steadfast commitment to truth..

Register now!

How You'll Benefit

- Strengthen the fairness, accuracy, and integrity of the cases you present or defend
- Recognize weak or overstated scientific claims or methods before they influence case strategy or trial outcomes
- Improve your ability to explain complex or technical evidence to judges and juries in clear, persuasive terms
- Identify when additional testing, consultation, or independent review could change the evidentiary picture
- Apply science-based strategies when preparing or cross-examining forensic experts
- Reduce the risk of relying on incomplete or faulty forensic conclusions

FACULTY

Program Chair & Presenter

Katherine H. Judson, Center for Integrity in Forensic Sciences, Madison

Presenters

Stephen L. Hanko, Skogen Engineering Group, Inc., Fitchburg
Erin Nagy, Skogen State Public Defenders Office, Madison
Jeffrey J. Peterson, Skogen Engineering Group, Inc., Fitchburg
Emily J. Prokesch, Columbia Law School, New York, NY
Janis C. Puracal, Forensic Justice Project, Portland, OR
Claudia Solís-Lemus, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison
Lindsey C. Thomas, TrueNorth Forensic Pathology, Madison

CREDITS

The Forensic Justice Institute will be submitted to the Wisconsin Board of Bar Examiners for **8 CLE credits.*** It does not qualify for Ethics and Professional Responsibility credit. The Institute will also be submitted for **Wisconsin Judicial Education credits.**

*If you will be reporting Institute attendance to another entity for credit, note that the credits listed are based on a 50-minute credit hour.

BOOK BONUS!

SAVE 15% on ***The Wisconsin Rules of Evidence: A Courtroom Handbook.****
This must-have courtroom companion puts the rules of evidence at your command during trial. Use **discount code IN0237** when you order online or by calling (800) 728-7788.

PRINT BOOK: AK0069
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SCHEDULE

8:25 AM **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
Katherine H. Judson

8:30 AM **Watching the Watchers: Understanding the State of Digital Surveillance**
- What is digital surveillance? Key methods/technologies as of January 2026
- Security vs privacy: the pros and cons of digital surveillance
- The law right now, opportunities for litigation

Erin Nagy

9:30 AM **Accident Reconstruction**
- When is accident reconstruction needed?
- What are the different types of cases and how does that affect the reconstruction process?
- What are important things to consider when preserving the evidence?

Stephen Hanko, Jeffrey J. Peterson

10:30 AM **Break**

10:45 AM **The Role of the Coroner, Medical Examiner, and Consulting Forensic Pathologist in a Death Investigation**
- What are the laws in Wisconsin about coroners and medical examiners and what is the importance of the independence of medical examiners and coroners?
- To what degree do medical examiners and coroners rely on context (e.g., police reports of the circumstances in which a body was discovered)
- How does the role of the consulting forensic pathologist differ from that of the original coroner, medical examiner, or pathologist who did the autopsy?
- What information does the consulting forensic pathologist need?
- In a general way, what can a consulting forensic pathologist provide in reviewing the death investigation that has been completed in a case?

Dr. Lindsey C. Thomas

11:45 AM **Lunch Break**

12:45 PM **Challenging the Admissibility of Firearms Identification Evidence**
- How do we define the "relevant scientific community" that courts should hear from on the validity of firearms identification?
- What does the relevant scientific community have to say about the validity of firearms identification (from meta-analyses and case law)?
- How do we explain the lack of scientific validation to our judge at an admissibility hearing?

Janis C. Puracal

1:45 PM **Understanding Manner of Death Testimony**
- Understand the role of medical examiners and determinations of cause and manner of death
- Understand the challenges and pitfalls related to manner of death determinations
- Understand what to do in cases where manner of death determinations are controversial and possibly misleading
- Understand the limits of pathology testimony and when you should challenge pathology opinions

Katherine H. Judson

2:45 PM **Break**

3:00 PM **Introduction to Statistics for Forensic Science**
- Explain what are probabilities and how they are computed in practice
- Select the correct probability rule depending on the situation: product rule, addition rule or conditional probabilities rule
- Describe the main fallacies when interpreting probabilities

Dr. Claudia Solís-Lemus

4:00 PM **What is AI? Leveraging Technology in Criminal Cases, Discovery and Beyond**
- Introduction to key terms and concepts
- Introduction to common AI tools and a suggested approach to using them
- Application to a case study

Emily J. Prokesch

5:00 PM **Institute Concludes**

Following start time, schedule may vary slightly from above. All times are Central Time Zone.

DATES & LOCATION

Live Webcast

Friday, January 23, 2026

Webcast Replays

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TUITION

	LIVE WEBCAST	WEBCAST REPLAY
General Tuition	$299	$329
Ultimate Pass Gold Subscriber	$0	$0
Ultimate Pass Silver Subscriber	$149.50	$164.50

REGISTRATION & GENERAL INFO

Online: **forensicjusticeinstitute.org**

Phone: **(800) 728-7788**

Mail/Fax: Visit **wisbar.org/regform** for registration form

Registrations: The State Bar of Wisconsin is providing registration and virtual platform support for the **Forensic Justice Institute**. All registrations must be processed through the State Bar of Wisconsin. The Center for Integrity for Forensic Sciences (CIFS) is unable to process registrations for this event.

Course Materials: Course materials are provided to seminar attendees in PDF format and are downloadable from *my*StateBar on wisbar.org up to two days prior to and 90 days after your seminar.

Cancellations: Registration cancellations received anytime PRIOR to the Institute start time will receive a full refund of the registration fee. Refunds will not be granted AFTER the Institute start time.

Special Accommodations: If you need special accommodations, please contact us at (800) 728-7788, ext. 6142 at least three weeks prior to the program date so we can make appropriate arrangements.

About CIFS: **The Center for Integrity in Forensic Sciences (CIFS)** is the first non-profit organization in the United States to bring exclusive focus to improvement of the reliability and safety of criminal prosecutions through strengthening the forensic sciences. Its educational and service goals span legislation, all facets of the judicial system, and experiential education of tomorrow's lawyers and scientists.

Event Code: IN0237 **Priority Code:** IN3727B

ADDITIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Using Mitigation Videos to Humanize Your Client



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CREDITS: 1 CLE | **WEBCAST REPLAYS:** Jan. 2, 2026 | Jan. 12, 2026 | Jan. 22, 2026 Jan. 30, 2026



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