

## **DNA FOR THE DEFENSE**

Anjali Swienton  
National Clearinghouse for Science, Technology & Law (NCSTL)

The National Clearinghouse for Science, Technology and the Law (NCSTL) at Stetson University College of Law, at the request of and under grant from the National Institute of Justice, has developed a new DNA training tool for the defense bar on the uses of DNA in Court. Although the curriculum is geared towards the defense, prosecutors, judges, investigators and forensic scientists could also benefit from its content. The project was developed over eighteen months by a group of subject matter experts which included five defense attorneys, two DNA scientists and a judge. It includes the following topics:

The science of DNA, discovery, evaluation, assessment and response to DNA evidence, laboratory issues, understanding and evaluating test results, trial preparation, delayed prosecutions, and post-conviction cases.

Because this project was developed at the request of NIJ and used federal funds, the final interactive product, (which should be available online at [www.dna.gov](http://www.dna.gov) and on NCSTL's website by the end of the year), will be made available to the criminal justice community for free.

In addition to the DNA for Defense project, NCSTL has numerous training and education resources available for the forensic DNA community including a searchable online database of DNA-related presentations, research, law review and scientific articles, cases, courses, websites, etc. as well as compiled bibliographies on a variety of DNA and other forensic topics.