The Forensic Institute…

We provide a comprehensive source of advice, experts and expertise on scientific, technical, and medical matters.

Simply advise The Forensic Institute of the key elements of your case. We will assess the expert requirements and report back promptly as to whether advice should be obtained, what the advice would encompass, and the expected cost.

This initial assessment and cost estimate is free.

The initial assessment and cost estimate can also be used to support a case to the Legal Services Commission or Scottish Legal Aid Board. for funding authority.

Spring Seminar Series Booking Form

Please clearly indicate your choices and post or fax a copy of this form to The Forensic Institute prior to attending.

Any one seminar - £50
Any two seminars - £80
Complete programme - £100
All prices exclude VAT.

The Omagh Bombing Trial ❑
Firearms and Gunshot Residue ❑
Presenting Scientific Evidence ❑

I can't attend these seminars, but please add me to the mailing list for future seminars ❑

Name:_____

Address:_____

_____

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Phone:_____

Fax:_____

Email:_____

Signature:_____

Although TFI endeavours to assure otherwise, this programme may be subject to change at short notice. Alternative arrangements will be made in consultation with booked attendees as far as practicable.

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The Forensic Institute Seminar Series Spring 2008

The Forensic Institute is committed to improving the awareness of scientific issues and the use of science in the law.

These seminars are part of our wider education programme enabling lawyers to become better acquainted with the issues and challenges associated with science and medicine used in courts of law.

Better Science Better Justice

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The Omagh Bombing Trial - Lessons Learned

21 April 2008, 5:30-7pm

In the recent case against Sean Hoey (*R v Hoey* [2007] NICC 49), a team from TFI provided the defence with expert evidence on scientific issues including "Low Copy Number" (LCN) DNA testing.

Weir J found that the defence conducted **"a commendably far-reaching and thorough examination of the police and forensic laboratory records"...& "uncovered very many unsatisfactory matters".** Overall, His Honour concluded that the entire method of LCN DNA profiling had not been sufficiently scientifically validated for it to be used for evidentiary purposes in legal proceedings. This is an issue for the thousands of defendants who have been convicted on the basis of LCN DNA over the past decade, and those with cases pending.

This seminar will discuss LCN DNA profiling within the context of the Hoey case, and will include a frank appraisal of how seemingly overwhelming scientific evidence led by the prosecution can be crucial to a successful defence case when properly and thoroughly assessed pre-trial.

Is that a 5 year prison sentence in your pocket, or...

19 May 2008, 5:30-7pm

The classification of firearms and ammunition under complex UK legislation often creates difficult situations for lawyers. Clearly the first question is whether the item forming the basis of a firearms related charge is in fact a 'firearm' and if so what type. Having established this the crucial question is then 'what are the defences?'.

Prosecution experts and police examiners habitually apply the most draconian classifications to certain types of weapon, but there are often alternative hypotheses. Different approaches can make the difference between a mandatory minimum five year sentence and an acquittal.

Expert David Dyson *RFD, LL.B (Hons), LL.M, PGDipLP, Barrister (non practising), Registered with the Council for the Registration of Forensic Practitioners*, will discuss what constitutes a firearm and other important challenges to prosecutions involving alleged firearms in the UK.

We note those subscribers who have already paid for this seminar, and thank you for your ongoing patience, as court obligations prevented it from going ahead in December 2007. If you are able to attend the seminar this year, please indicate this on the booking form overleaf, but do not send any payment for this seminar.

Not Just for Boffins - Presenting Science in Court

16 June 2008, 5:30-7pm

Presenting complex scientific evidence to an audience of lay fact finders, be they judge or jury, is an area fraught with difficulty for both the prosecution and defence. Jury research has shed some light on how scientific evidence, viewed through the filter of 12 ordinary citizens, can be subject to unrealistic expectations, surprising (and not so surprising) misinterpretations, and remarkable extrapolations.

This seminar explores the shortcomings and pitfalls that surround the presentation of many disciplines of scientific evidence in criminal cases today. With a particular emphasis on how to improve your case presentation of scientific evidence in jury trials, this seminar will highlight and discuss ways in which scientific evidence can be comprehensively *and* comprehensibly presented.

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