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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, October 28, 2008

**MASSBAY COMMUNITY COLLEGE SPONSORS
FORENSIC DNA: SCIENCE, LAW & LIBERTIES 2008 CONFERENCE**
*Nationally-known legal and science experts to debate emerging
DNA profiling laws and their impact on civil rights*

Wellesley Hills, Mass. – Experts Analyze and Debate Emerging DNA Science, Profile DNA Databases and Impacts on Civil Rights

WHAT: **FORENSIC DNA: SCIENCE, LAW & LIBERTIES 2008**, a conference sponsored by Massachusetts Bay Community College (Mass Bay), Forensic Science Program. The conference will highlight the promises and potential hazards of new DNA forensic science and its implications on American civil liberties.

WHEN: Friday, Nov. 7, 2008 from 8 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 8, 2008, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

WHERE: MassBay Community College, 50 Oakland Street (Rt.9 and 16), Wellesley Hills campus, in the Perkins Library Atrium

WHO: Leading experts in the fields of DNA forensics and law will examine the science, debate the pros and cons of using advanced forensics to develop a national profile database, and discuss the checks and balances needed to ensure that our civil liberties and rights are protected. The conference is developed for:

- Forensic Biotech Academics
- Lawyers specializing in criminology
- District Attorneys and Attorney Generals
- Biotechnology and Criminology Students
- Forensic Biotech Companies

The event is open to the public. For additional questions, information and registration visit:

http://www.regonline.com/63357_658784s

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FORENSIC DNA: SCIENCE, LAW & LIBERTIES 2008
Agenda

Friday, November 7th

8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Registration and Continental Breakfast (Library Atrium)

9:00 a.m. **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
Dr. Bruce Jackson
Chair, Department of Science
Professor Biotechnology and Forensic DNA Science

Session I

9:00 - 11:30 a.m. **Bone Symposium I: Presentation:**
Dr. Daniel Vaněk
President, Czechoslovak Society for Forensic Genetics

Dr Vaněk will present his newly developed advances in the DNA analysis of bones and other human remains, and discuss his recent work Identifying remains uncovered in mass graves located in Bosnia and Rwanda.

Session II

1:00 - 4:00 p.m. **DNA & Civil Liberties Presentation:**
Stephen B. Mercer, Esq., P.C., Baltimore, MD

Attorney Stephen Mercer will discuss post conviction DNA testing and the promise of DNA to exonerate wrongful convictions, working with forensic labs and low level samples, tactical decisions that determine what to test, where to test, the procedures that are part of that process. Mercer will also bring to light DNA comparison analysis using the newly emerging technique of familial searching of forensic DNA databases.

In July, 2007, Stephen B. Mercer was a featured guest on a CBS News Sixty Minutes report entitled "A Not so Perfect Match," an examination of the newly-emerging technique of familial searching of forensic DNA databases.

Session III:

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. **Opening Plenary Address**
Attorney Angela McConney, General Counsel of the
Massachusetts Civil Service Commission

7:00 – 9:30 p.m. **Panel Discussion: DNA Laws & Civil Liberties**
There is a belief by many civil libertarians that forensic DNA science as a tool for "national security" may simply serve as a pretext for suppressing points-of-view that are politically and/or socially unfavorable. Hence, this view purports those forensic tools such as DNA databases and familial DNA analysis, or the adoption by the United States of the British "All Arrestee" law may ostensibly serve a national security purpose but ultimately lead to a police state. In contrast, law enforcement argues that restrictions in their use if forensic DNA tools proportionally diminish their ability to protect American society from both internal and external threats.

Moderator: David Ropeik, Harvard University, Faculty Member

Panelists:

California District Attorney Rockne Harmon, Alameda, CA
Colorado District Attorney Mitch Morrissey, Denver, CO
Attorney Sam Silverman, Lexington MA

Attorney James Dilday, Boston, MA
Attorney Stephen Mercer, Baltimore, MD
Dr. Richard Tanton, former head Palm Beach Crime Lab

Saturday, Nov 8, 2008

Session IV

8:00 a.m. - 8:55 am

Registration and Continental Breakfast

9:00 a.m.

Welcome Remarks:

Dr. Bruce Jackson
Chair, Department of Science,
Professor, Biotechnology and Forensic DNA Science

9:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Bone Symposium II: Presentation by Dr. Daniel Vanek

Dr Vaněk will continue the second part of his presentation on the advances in the DNA analysis of bones and other human remains, and discuss his recent work Identifying remains uncovered in mass graves located in Bosnia and Rwanda.

Session V

1:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Crime Lab Maintenance Symposium Presentation:

Dr. Richard Tanton, former Head, Palm Beach (FL) Sheriff's
Crime Laboratory

Dr. Tanton discusses maintaining good records and sample tracking in heavily utilized forensic labs.

Session VI

4:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Plenary Closing Address: Dr. Bruce Jackson

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About MassBay Community College

Massachusetts Bay Community College (MassBay) is an open-access, accredited two-year public educational institution. The College grants associate degrees and certificates in a range of disciplines through its five divisions of academics: the Division of Health Sciences; the Division of Humanities; the Division of Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (S.T.E.M.); the Division of Social Sciences & Professional Studies; and the Division of Transportation & Energy. Offering over 60 academic programs, MassBay serves Boston and the MetroWest communities with locations in Wellesley Hills, Framingham and Ashland (Automotive Technology Center).

---www.massbay.edu---

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