COURSE DESCRIPTION

This 2-day (16-hour) course is intended for criminalists with prior training and qualifications in forensic DNA analysis, such as casework, missing persons, or data bank programs, who are or may be called to testify in court. The first day will have detailed presentations on the courtroom process followed by presentations on courtroom style and strategies. The second day will be dedicated to moot court exercises. Students will be asked to bring examples of their work that will be used to make direct and cross examinations relevant to their current analytical work.

Course provides students with the communication methods employed by expert witnesses for effective testimony.

The concepts covered in the Presentation of DNA Evidence in Court class included:

- Giving solid constructive criticism.
- Key elements to improve testifying skills and confidence.
- Enhancing positive skills and modifying subconscious behaviors that interfere with the goal of successful public speaking.
- Overview of court procedures.
- Elements of court testimony: appearance, demeanor, statement of qualifications, examination, cross-examination.
- Mock court testimony.