BOOK REVIEW

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Review of: *Forensic Evidence: Science and the Criminal Law*

Professor Kiely’s legal discussion in these nine chapters primarily recites the facts and holdings of numerous cases utilizing forensic science, although in most instances he does not provide his own analysis of the ruling or of the expert testimony. The reader is often left simply with factual synopses of unremarkable cases. Nevertheless, the cases present the reader with an overview of the wide range of factual scenarios in which forensic science has been applied. As a primer on the uses of forensic science in criminal cases, the book is a good place to start for the student or the novice forensic scientist or attorney.

It is not just the cases that give the reader an introduction to forensic science and the criminal law; the book also contains relevant citations to sources and useful research tools. Prominent among the references is the *Journal of Forensic Sciences,* with its index accessible through the American Academy of Forensic Sciences’ Web site. The author also frequently relies on the *Proceedings of the 12th INTERPOL Forensic Science Symposium,* a compilation of reports by member laboratories on advances in forensic science, poster presentations, panel discussions and theme papers presented at INTERPOL’s 1998 triennial symposium. Readers looking for a copy of the *Proceedings* will want to know that it is published by The Forensic Sciences Foundation Press and may be obtained through the American Academy of Forensic Sciences.

Throughout the chapters and the appendix, Web sites for forensic science information on the Internet are provided to the reader. Professor Kiely also makes suggestions on search engines for the Internet and for relevant databases in automated legal research programs. This source information allows the reader to expand his or her research far beyond the horizons of the overview given in this book.

In addition to using the book as a springboard for more comprehensive research, the case synopses give factual and legal scenarios which may now or in the future coincide with the reader’s own scientific or evidentiary issues. Despite some shortcomings, *Forensic Evidence: Science and the Criminal Law* is a reference book worth consulting by persons interested in the uses of forensic science in criminal cases.

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*The reviewer is a federal prosecutor in Alexandria, Virginia. The opinions contained in this review are those of the reviewer and may or may not coincide with those of the U.S. Department of Justice.

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