

[NAFSB 3rd Annual Conference](#)

University of New Haven, CT

Monday, October 20, 2025

8:00 am to 9:00 am	Registration & Coffee
9:00 am to 9:15 am	Opening Remarks— Kermit Channell , President, NAFSB
9:15 am to 9:45 am	Connecticut State Spotlight, Peter Valentin , Associate Professor and Chair of the Forensic Science Department at the University of New Haven's Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences
9:45 am to 10:30 am	Independent Audit Report on the Maryland OCME's Handling of Restraint-Related Death Investigations Moderator: Dan Katz , Director, Maryland Department of State Police Forensic Sciences Division Speaker: Jeff Kukucka , Associate Professor of Psychology at Towson University
10:30 am to 11:00 am	Forensic Science Oversight Boards for Forensic Pathology Moderator: Kerry Collins , Undersecretary of Forensic Science, Massachusetts Speaker: Ann Marie Mires , Co-Chair Criminal Justice and Forensic Criminology program and Adjunct Professor, Anna Maria College
11:00 am to 11:15 am	Break
11:15 am to Noon	Legal standards: Smith v. Arizona Moderator: Steve Butler , Crime Laboratory Manager, Arizona Department of Public Safety Speakers: Jon Eliason , Division Chief of Homicide, Maricopa County Attorney's Office, Arizona Kent Cattani , Judge Arizona Court of Appeals Mike Varone , Forensic Services Staff Counsel, Massachusetts State Police Crime Laboratory
Noon to 1:00 pm	Lunch sponsored by ANDE

1:00 pm to 1:30 pm	Forensic Genetic Genealogy Moderator: Jill Dooley, Director, New York State Police Crime Laboratory System Speaker: Claire Glynn, Director of Graduate Certificate in Forensic Investigative Genetic Genealogy, and Assistant Director, University of New Haven's Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences
1:30 pm to 2:00 pm	Opinion Standards in Pattern Evidence Disciplines Moderator: John Morgan, Executive Director, NAFSB Speakers: John Paul Jones, Program Manager, Forensic Science Standards Special Programs NIST Peter Valentin, Associate Professor and Chair of the Forensic Science Department at the University of New Haven's Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences
2:00 pm to 2:15 pm	Break
2:15 pm to 3:30 pm	Facilitating Transparency through Collaboration and Psychological Safety: The Role of Forensic Science Boards Moderator: Sarah Chu, Director of Policy and Reform, Perlmutter Center for Legal Justice at Cardozo Law Speakers: Amy Watroba, Executive Director, Illinois Forensic Science Commission Lynn Garcia, General Counsel, Texas Forensic Science Commission Leigh Tomlin, Associate General Counsel, Texas Forensic Science Commission Rana Dellarocco, Chief of the Forensic Science & Evidence Services Division, Baltimore, Maryland
4:00 pm to 4:30 pm	Tour of University of New Haven's Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences facilities
6:30 pm	Optional Meet and Greet Dinner starting at 6:30pm. Details to follow.

NAFSB Conference

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

8:30 am to 9:00 am	Registration and Coffee
9:00 am to 10:00 am	Pursuing the Establishment of a Commission/Board Moderator/Speaker: Janis Puracal, Executive Director and Attorney, Forensic Justice Project Speaker: Tamar Lerer, Appellate Public Defender Specializing in Forensic Science, New Jersey Office of the Public Defender Speaker: Jason Timmerman, Director, Legal and Regulatory Compliance, NJ Office of the Chief State Medical Examiner
10:00 am to 10:45 am	Aiding Small Forensic Service Providers Speaker/Moderator: Laura Combs, Associate Professor of Forensic Science at University of New Haven Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences Speaker: Constance Dinkel, Chief, Suffolk County Crime Laboratory
10:45 am to 11:00 am	Break
11:00 am to Noon	Strategic Funding for Forensic Science: Navigating Appropriations, Account Structures, and Financial Partnerships Moderator: Jennifer Naugle, Deputy Administrator, State of Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Forensic Sciences Speaker: Beth Lavach, Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations
Noon to 1:00 pm	Lunch sponsored by Forensic Management Strategies
1:00 pm to 1:45 pm	Artificial Intelligence and Forensic Science: Lessons Learned Moderator: Henry Swofford, Lead Scientist, Forensic Science Research Program NIST Speakers: Dan Katz, Director, Maryland Department of State Police Forensic Sciences Division Amy Watroba, Executive Director of the Illinois Forensic Science Commission

1:45 pm to 2:30 pm	Firearms and Toolmark Initiatives Moderator: Sarah Chu, Director of Policy and Reform, Perlmutter Center for Legal Justice at Cardozo Law Speakers: John Maciulla, Crime Laboratory Manager at the Arizona Department of Public Safety's Southern Regional Crime Laboratory Henry Swofford, Lead Scientist, Forensic Science Research Program NIST
2:30 pm to 2:45 pm	Break
2:45 pm to 3:45 pm	Launching Rapid DNA: Lessons from the Front Lines Moderator: Kermit Channell, President, NAFSB Speakers: Cheryl Carreiro, Deputy Director of Forensic Biology and DNA Technical Leader, Connecticut Division of Scientific Services Laura Sudkamp, Forensic Consultant, Forensic Management Strategies Jennifer Kochanski, Crime Laboratory Manager, Arizona Department of Public Safety Scientific Analysis Bureau
3:45 pm to 4:15 pm	NAFSB Business Meeting
4:15 pm to 4:30 pm	Closeout remarks and NAFSB 4 th Annual Conference Announcement

Conference Sponsors: ANDE and Forensic Management Strategies