



**Michigan State Appellate Defender Office (SADO)
& Criminal Defense Resource Center (CDRC)**

www.sado.org

DNA Analysis in Criminal Cases:
Understanding the fundamentals of DNA Testing
and Identifying Current Legal Issues

SADO Lansing, Wednesday April 13, 2016, 2pm to 4pm
200 N. Washington Sq., Suite 250, Lansing, MI 48933

Presented by: Amanda Tringl, DNA Project Attorney
Special Assistant Defender, State Appellate Defender Office

Featuring Katherine Marcuz and Andrew Lee with a brief overview on the Appellate Investigation Project and how the AIP can help with your active MAACS cases

This DNA training will consist of a lesson in the fundamentals of DNA analysis, an explanation about the current issues surrounding DNA analysis and how to identify them in your cases, and a discussion about Michigan's Post-Conviction DNA Testing statute and relevant case law.

You've seen C.S.I., but how much do you really know about DNA Testing?

DNA Hypothetical: Defendant is charged with murder. Defendant tells his attorney that he has an alibi for the time in question, and he suspects the true perpetrator may be his biological brother. The murder weapon was retrieved and submitted for DNA analysis. Upon review of a lab report, in which Y-STR DNA testing confirmed that the Defendant's profile (or "haplotype") was consistent with the DNA profile obtained from the murder weapon at all 23 loci tested, Defendant's attorney advised him to take a plea. After the Attorney explained to the Defendant that defendant's Y-STR DNA profile matched the Y-STR DNA profile from the murder weapon at all 23 loci, and that DNA testing results are the "gold standard" in the eyes of a jury and typically viewed as more probative evidence than testimony from an alibi witness, the Defendant agreed to accept the plea deal. Did the attorney offer good legal advice?

If you answered "Yes," you MUST attend this DNA training.

If you answered "No," but are unsure what Y-STR testing is and how it is different from STR DNA testing, or what "haplotype" or "loci" mean, you MUST attend this DNA training.

If you answered "No," because you understand the Y chromosome DNA profile produced in Y-STR DNA testing (aka haplotype) does not look at all areas of the chromosomes, is limited in its ability to distinguish between males, is not considered a unique DNA profile for identification purposes, and will be the same for all males sharing the same paternal line (meaning the defendant and his biological brother will have the *same* Y-STR DNA profile), then congratulations... you may have a basic understand of the fundamentals of DNA analysis. However, a basic understanding of DNA does not ensure your ability to identify and understand the current legal issues present in criminal cases involving DNA analysis. Thus, you too MUST attend this DNA training.

Register online at: <http://dnacriminalcases.eventbrite.com>

Space is extremely limited. MAACS attorneys given first priority, but all welcome.

Contact Heather Waara, CDRC Administrative Assistant, at hwaara@sado.org or 313-256-9833 with any questions.