

**National Forensic College Research Seminar**  
Spring 2021  
Profs. Barry Scheck and Elizabeth Vasquez

The National Forensic Science College Research Seminar will cover cutting-edge, emerging, and potentially transformational forensic science issues that are percolating in the criminal justice system. The College is a joint program offered the first week in June for the last eight years by Cardozo, the Federal Defender Service, and the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NADCL). This seminar will focus on criminalistics and data science by looking at one traditional “forensic science” method (latent print impressions) and two emerging biometric methods (facial recognition and genetic genealogy testing), as well as exploring defensive uses of data science. Throughout the course, we will touch on the twin themes of racial justice and resource allocation, grappling with the rise of the “New Jim Code” in depth. We will address the constitutional (4<sup>th</sup> Amendment privacy caselaw and *Brady*), statutory (legislative bans or regulations and regulatory/administrative oversight commissions), and evidentiary (Frye/Daubert challenges) implications of each of these forensic science issues. Inevitably, we will cover issues concerning digital evidence, artificial intelligence, the forensic application of statistics, access to algorithms and source codes, and other forms of forensic DNA testing. The students will participate in lively in-class discussion and engage with guest speakers. Research papers approved by the faculty or approved research projects (subject to confidentiality restrictions and in support of ongoing work of faculty or practitioner participants in the National Forensic Science College) will be required. The size of the seminar is limited and faculty will approve candidates. Knowledge of criminal procedure is a prerequisite for the course and a background in intellectual property, data science, and statistics would be very helpful.

If interested, please complete the application on the following page, and send it—along with your resume—to Prof. Barry Scheck ([bscheck@innocenceproject.org](mailto:bscheck@innocenceproject.org)) and Prof. Elizabeth Daniel Vasquez ([evasquez@bds.org](mailto:evasquez@bds.org)) by **Monday, January 11, 2021** with the subject line “NFSC Seminar Application”

**NATIONAL FORENSIC COLLEGE RESEARCH SEMINAR  
SPRING 2021**

**NAME:**

**YEAR (2L/3L/LLM):**

**PHONE:**

**EMAIL:**

**PLEASE ATTACH THE FOLLOWING:**

- (1) A 1-paragraph statement explaining (a) why you are interested in taking the course, and (b) what about your background or course of study with respect to criminal law, data science, genetics, intellectual property, or statistics would make you a strong candidate for the course?**
- (2) Your current resume.**
- (3) Your unofficial law school transcript.**

***PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION BY NO LATER THAN 5 PM ON MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2021 by email to Prof. Barry Scheck ([bscheck@innocenceproject.org](mailto:bscheck@innocenceproject.org)) and Prof. Elizabeth Vasquez ([evasquez@bds.org](mailto:evasquez@bds.org)).***