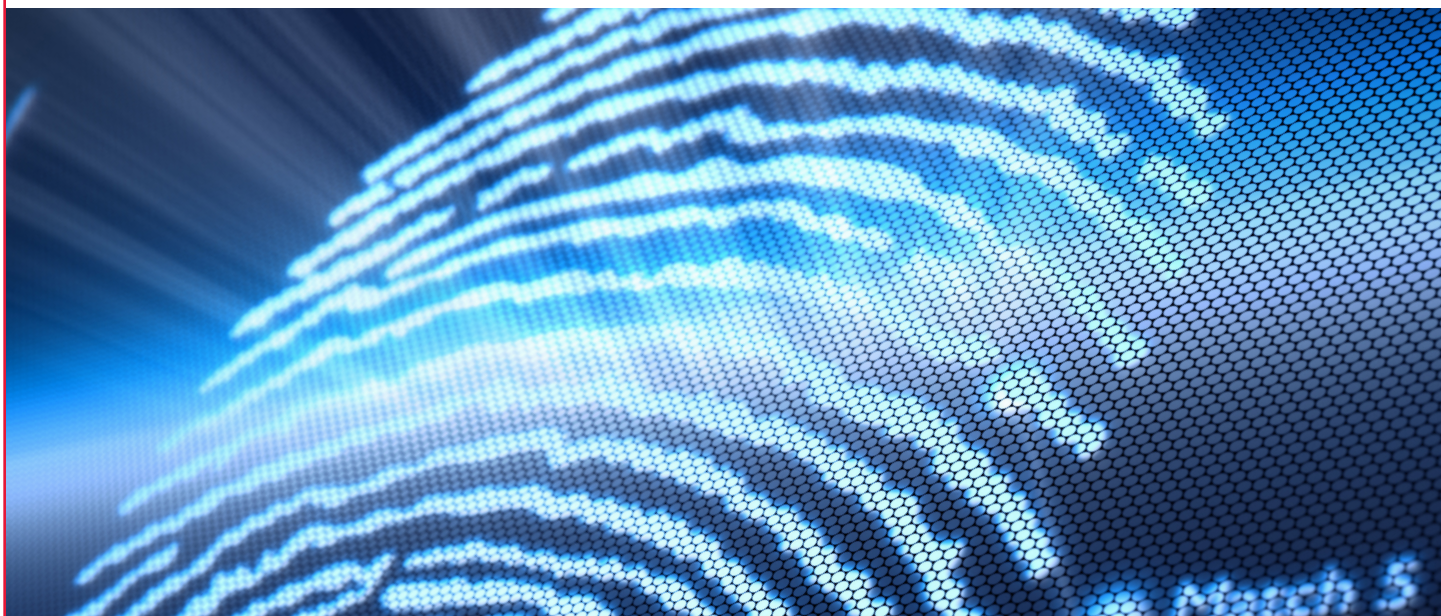# UNIVERSITY of **HOUSTON** | **LAW CENTER**

## *The Future of Crime Labs and Forensic Science*



*A Symposium Co-Sponsored by*

*Houston Law Review, the Criminal Justice Institute, and the Justice Ruby Kless Sondock Jurist-In-Residence Lectureship Series*

**Thursday, September 19, 2019**

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| **4:30 p.m.** | **Introduction/Welcome:** **Associate Dean Greg Vetter, University of Houston Law Center** **Keynote Address:** **Hon. Jed S. Rakoff, U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of New York** **Justice Ruby Kless Sondock Jurist-In-Residence Lecture** *Why Judges Admit Bad Forensic Science – And What Can Be Done About It* Bad forensic science evidence is present in more than 40% of cases involving innocent people being wrongly convicted.  Yet, despite repeated warnings from the scientific community as to the doubtful quality of much of this evidence, such as hair comparisons, bite-mark comparisons, arson analyses, and the like, the great majority of courts continue to admit such evidence routinely.  This lecture discusses the weakness of such evidence, the reasons for its continued admission in the face of such weakness, and what might be done to cure this problem. |

**Friday, September 20, 2019**

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| **8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.** | **Registration and Breakfast** |
| **8:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.** | **Welcome**<br><br>Prof. Sandra Guerra Thompson, University of Houston Law Center |
| **8:45 a.m.– 9:30 a.m.** | ***Roadblocks: Cultural and Structural Impediments to Forensic Science Reform***<br><br>Jessica Gabel Cino, Georgia State University College of Law<br><br>Commentator: Sarah Chu, Innocence Project |
| **9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.** | ***State Habeas Reform since the NAS Report: Changed Science Writs***<br><br>Valena Beety, Arizona State University, Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law<br><br>Commentators: Bob Wicoff, Harris County Public Defender's Office<br>Gerald Doyle, Harris County District Attorney's Office |
| **10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.** | **Break** |
| **10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.** | ***How Can a Forensic Result be a "Decision"?***<br><br>Simon A. Cole, UCI School of Social Ecology<br><br>Commentator: Dr. Amy Castillo, COO of the Houston Forensic Science Center |
| **11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.** | ***Solving Daubert's Dilemma in Forensic Science through Blind Testing***<br><br>Nicole Casarez, University of St. Thomas<br>Sandra Guerra Thompson, University of Houston Law Center<br><br>Commentator: Prof. Edward Cheng, Vanderbilt Law School |
| **12:00 p.m.** | **Lunch served** |
| **12:30 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.** | ***The Quality and the Quantity of Forensics***<br><br>Brandon L. Garrett, Duke Law School<br><br>Commentator: Nick Hughes, Harris County Public Defender's Office |
| **1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.** | ***Roundtable Discussion***<br><br>Moderator: Prof. Sandra Guerra Thompson, University of Houston Law Center |

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