

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Acknowledgements</i> .....	iii
<i>Table of Cases</i> .....	xi
<i>Introduction</i> .....	xxi
<b>Chapter 1 An Introduction to Forensic Sciences</b> .....	1
A Brief History .....	1
What is a Crime Scene? .....	4
Chain of Custody .....	5
Who are the Forensic Specialists? .....	5
<b>Chapter 2 Fingerprints</b> .....	9
What are Fingerprints? .....	9
Types of patterns .....	11
Taking of Fingerprints .....	13
Automated Fingerprint Identification Systems (AFIS) .....	15
Criminal records .....	16
Poroscopy .....	19
Modern AFIS .....	19
Ridge characteristics .....	21
Latent fingerprints defined .....	23
Children's Fingerprints .....	24
The Canadian <i>Identification of Criminals Act</i> .....	26
Notes on the <i>Identification of Criminals Act</i> .....	28
<b>Chapter 3 Latent Fingerprints</b> .....	31
The Composition of Latent Fingerprints .....	31
Invisible or Not? .....	34
Powders and Brushes .....	34
Applying the powder .....	35
The Joys of Chemistry .....	37

## Crime Scene Investigation

	Crazy Glue™ . . . . .	37
	Vacuum Metal Deposition (VMD). . . . .	38
	Lifting the Latent Print . . . . .	41
	The Best Evidence Rule. . . . .	43
	Forensic Light Sources . . . . .	44
	The next step . . . . .	46
<b>Chapter 4</b>	<b>Physical Evidence. . . . .</b>	<b>49</b>
	Footwear Impressions in Soft Earth. . . . .	50
	Footwear Impressions on Hard Surfaces . . . . .	53
	Dust impressions . . . . .	55
	Footwear Impressions in Snow . . . . .	58
	Tire Impressions . . . . .	58
	Tool Marks. . . . .	59
	Bite Marks . . . . .	60
	Computer Crime Scenes . . . . .	60
	The Internet in brief. . . . .	61
	Main threats . . . . .	62
	Personal communication devices . . . . .	62
<b>Chapter 5</b>	<b>Bullets and Firearms . . . . .</b>	<b>65</b>
	Comparison . . . . .	70
	Cartridge Cases . . . . .	71
	Shotgun Shells . . . . .	72
	Database Systems . . . . .	72
	IBIS — Integrated Ballistics Identification System . . . . .	73
	Cartridge Case and Bullet Imaging . . . . .	76
	Who Fired the Gun?. . . . .	76
	Close-up Trajectory Determination . . . . .	77
<b>Chapter 6</b>	<b>Crime Scenes . . . . .</b>	<b>79</b>
	Approaching Crime Scenes with a Proper Attitude . . . . .	80
	Management of a Crime Scene . . . . .	81
	Collecting the Evidence. . . . .	85
	Principles of Evidence Recovery and Collection. . . . .	88
	Rules for packing physical evidence . . . . .	88
	The Cleaners . . . . .	89
	Photography. . . . .	92
	Photographs of the Scene. . . . .	93

## Table of Contents

	Aerial photography . . . . .	95
	Mug shots . . . . .	96
<b>Chapter 7</b>	<b>DNA . . . . .</b>	<b>97</b>
	Crime Fighting Tool — The Pitchfork Case . . . . .	99
	How Does It Work? . . . . .	100
	CODIS . . . . .	101
	National DNA Data Bank of Canada . . . . .	101
	Making a Match. . . . .	102
	Crime Scene Sample Collection . . . . .	103
	Y-STR Testing . . . . .	104
	Mini-STR. . . . .	105
	Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA). . . . .	105
	CODIS Access . . . . .	107
<b>Chapter 8</b>	<b>Sudden Death and Not So Sudden Death . . . . .</b>	<b>109</b>
	Law Enforcement Pronouncing Death . . . . .	109
	The Death Scene . . . . .	111
	Who may be needed at the death scene . . . . .	112
	Video surveillance . . . . .	113
	Forensic investigation of the death scene. . . . .	114
	Coroners vs. Forensic Pathologists . . . . .	118
	Fingerprinting the Deceased . . . . .	119
	The Forensic Autopsy . . . . .	120
	Rigor mortis . . . . .	121
	Livor mortis (post mortem lividity) . . . . .	122
	Decomposition . . . . .	122
	Completing the autopsy . . . . .	123
	Bite marks . . . . .	123
	Bullet wounds . . . . .	124
	Additional evidence . . . . .	124
<b>Chapter 9</b>	<b>The Forensic Crime Laboratories. . . . .</b>	<b>127</b>
	Federal Forensic Laboratories . . . . .	127
	Provincial Forensic Laboratories . . . . .	128
	Private Forensic Laboratories . . . . .	128
	Laboratory Accreditations . . . . .	129
	Services Offered . . . . .	129
	Biology . . . . .	130

## Crime Scene Investigation

Toxicology . . . . .	131
Chemistry . . . . .	131
Firearms and tool marks . . . . .	132
Document examiners . . . . .	132
Electronics . . . . .	133
External Forensic Consultants . . . . .	134
<b>Chapter 10 Crime Scenes and the Law . . . . .</b>	<b>135</b>
Introduction . . . . .	135
Part I: Authority to Process a Crime Scene . . . . .	137
(a) Introduction . . . . .	137
(b) Section 8 of the <i>Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms</i> . . . . .	138
(c) When Does Section 8 of the <i>Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms</i> Apply? . . . . .	138
(d) The Implications of Section 8 of the <i>Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms</i> Applying . . . . .	140
(e) Lawful Warrantless Searches . . . . .	141
(i) Common law searches . . . . .	141
(ii) Consent searches . . . . .	142
Part II: Search Warrants . . . . .	144
(a) Introduction . . . . .	144
(b) Obtaining a Search Warrant . . . . .	145
(c) Executing a Search Warrant . . . . .	146
(i) Unexpected evidence found while executing a search warrant . . . . .	146
(ii) Reporting what evidence was seized during the execution of a search warrant . . . . .	148
Part III: The Law and Collecting Evidence from a Crime Scene . . . . .	149
(a) Fully Document the Unprocessed Scene . . . . .	149
(b) The Best Evidence Rule . . . . .	151
(c) Ensuring an Unbroken Chain of Continuity . . . . .	152
(d) Proper Storage of Evidence . . . . .	154
Part IV: Improperly or Illegally Obtained Evidence . . . . .	155
(a) Introduction . . . . .	155

Table of Contents

- (b) Evidence that is Collected in a Manner which Violates the *Charter* Rights of the Accused . . . . . 155
  - (i) Section 24(2): Exclusion of evidence . . 157
  - (ii) Stay of proceedings . . . . . 158
- (c) Evidence that was Improperly Seized and Stored . . . . . 159

**Chapter 11 The Laws of Evidence . . . . . 161**

- Introduction . . . . . 161
- Part I: What is Evidence? . . . . . 163
  - (a) Evidence Must Relate to “...something which is in issue in the case” . . . . . 163
    - (i) Actus reus . . . . . 164
    - (ii) Mens rea . . . . . 164
    - (iii) Disproving defences . . . . . 165
  - (b) Evidence Must be “capable of proving or disproving...” . . . . . 167
- Part II: What Evidence is Admissible? . . . . . 168
  - (a) The General Rule of Admissibility . . . . . 168
  - (b) The General Exception: The Prejudicial Effect Outweighs the Probative Value . . . . 169
  - (c) Specific Exceptions to the Admissibility of Relevant Evidence . . . . . 170
    - (i) The rule against hearsay . . . . . 171
    - (ii) Character evidence of the accused . . 172
    - (iii) Opinion evidence . . . . . 173
    - (iv) Past consistent statements . . . . . 174
    - (v) Illegally obtained evidence —  
s. 24(2) of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* . . . 174
- Part III: The Kinds of Evidence that May Be Tendered . . . . . 174
  - (a) Direct and Circumstantial Evidence . . . . . 174
  - (b) Kinds of Evidence . . . . . 176
    - (i) Oral testimony . . . . . 176
    - (ii) Real evidence . . . . . 179
    - (iii) Demonstrative evidence or “demonstrative aids” . . . . . 180

Crime Scene Investigation

**Chapter 12 Expert Opinion Evidence** . . . . . 181

Introduction . . . . . 181

Part I: Appreciating the Unique and Powerful  
Role of Expert Witnesses. . . . . 183

(a) Understanding the Difference Between  
Expert Witnesses and Regular Witnesses . 183

(b) The Potency of Expert Witnesses . . . . . 185

Part II: From Being Retained to Testifying as  
an Expert Witness . . . . . 186

(a) Who are Expert Witnesses? . . . . . 187

(b) Pre-Trial Examinations and Report Writing 187

(c) When the Expert is Required for Trial. . . . 188

Part III: The Law on Expert Opinion Evidence. . . . 190

(a) The Test for the Admissibility of  
Expert Opinion Evidence . . . . . 190

(i) Relevancy . . . . . 190

(ii) Necessity. . . . . 191

(iii) Absence of an exclusionary rule . . . . 192

(iv) The witness must be a properly  
qualified expert. . . . . 193

(b) Evaluating Expert Opinion Evidence  
Based on Novel Science . . . . . 193

(c) Giving Expert Opinion Evidence . . . . . 194

Part IV: Preparing to Give Expert Opinion Evidence. . 195

(a) Appreciate and Embrace Your Role as  
an Educator . . . . . 195

(b) Be Mindful of the Language Used . . . . . 197

(c) Think About How to Effectively  
Convey Ideas. . . . . 198

(d) Know the Science Behind the Opinion . . . . 198

(e) Meet with the Party that is Calling You  
as an Expert Witness in Advance of Trial . . 199

(f) Be Scrupulously Fair in Your Opinion . . . . 200

(g) Prepare, Prepare, Prepare . . . . . 201

*Appendix* **Designated Offences.** . . . . . 203

*Index* . . . . . 207