



Maine State Forensic Service Workshop

Understanding and Managing Bias in Expert Forensic Judgment

Presented by
Tess M. S. Neal, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, Iowa State University

In Person
April 8, 2024
9AM – 4PM

Location
Camp Chamberlain
23 Blue Star Ave.
Augusta, ME 04330

In this program, I will explain the basic science of how and why human judgments are susceptible to various kinds of bias, with specific emphasis on expert judgments in forensic settings. I will introduce a theoretical model clarifying when and why experts are protected against and when they are especially prone to bias, and present empirical findings from the field that support the model. The implications across these findings for bias mitigation will be discussed as will be promising new directions for bias mitigation. The program will be interactive, including experiential exercises and activities to demonstrate the topics described.

At the conclusion of the workshop, participants will be able to:

1. Name and define at least 3 common biases that affect expert decision processes and explain ways in which they may compromise the validity and reliability of forensically-related judgments.
2. Describe a theoretical model that clarifies when and why experts are protected against and when they are especially prone to bias.
3. Identify practical bias mitigation strategies, or steps to reduce bias in forensic work.
4. Describe how strategies borrowed from open science, forensic science, and judgment and decision making could be used to improve the rigor of and reduce bias in forensic judgments.
5. Identify free high-quality resources for improving forensic practice.

Tess M. S. Neal, Ph.D., is associate professor and Dean's Professor of psychology at Iowa State University. She is a scientist; a licensed clinical psychologist trained to assess, diagnose, and treat mental and behavioral disorders; and a forensic psychologist trained to bring psychology into legal contexts. She studies the nature and limits of expertise. Her basic work focuses on understanding and improving human judgment processes – especially among trained experts, and her more applied work focuses on improving forensic and legal experts' judgments in particular. Her work has been funded by multiple grants from the National Science Foundation, she has published more than four dozen scientific papers, and she is a fellow of both the Association for Psychological Science and the American Psychological Association. She is the incoming Editor-in-Chief of *Psychology, Public Policy, and Law*. In 2022, she completed a Fulbright Scholarship in Australia. Website: <https://psych-law.lab.asu.edu/>

Continuing Education *6.0 hours for psychologists (CEU category I by Board of Examiners of Psychologists of the State of Maine).*
6.0 hours for physicians (CME approval under the auspices of Riverview Psychiatric Center Continuing Education Program)
5.5 hours for attorneys has been applied for through the Maine Board of Overseers of the Bar CLE

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of the Riverview Psychiatric Center and State Forensic Service. Riverview Psychiatric Center is accredited by the Maine Medical Association Committee on Continuing Medical Education and Accreditation to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

Payment & Registration Instructions

Understanding and Managing Bias in Expert Forensic Judgment

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Tess M. S. Neal, Ph.D.

Date: Monday, April 8, 2024

Time: 9am – 4pm with a 1-hour lunch break

Cost: \$175

Location: **In person** at Camp Chamberlain, 23 Blue Star Ave., Augusta, ME 04330 – **limited to 70 attendees** (waitlist will be determined on a first come first served basis)

Payment: SFS is now only accepting payments electronically by ACH and credit card. Follow the link provided below and the instructions provided. This will serve as our registration process.

- To submit your payment, visit [PayMaine](#).
 1. **Select Department** - Select agency “State Forensic Service” and Payment method ACH (electronic check) or Credit Card.
 2. **Select Products** – Select “Continuing Education Workshop”, enter the dollar amount, and add the workshop name in the reference field. If you are an attorney, also include your bar number.
 3. **Customer Information** - Please complete all applicable fields.
 4. **Pay** - Payments are submitted on the Converge payment platform. Please make sure all required fields are filled out, including the billing information section. Print the receipt for your records after completing payment.

****IMPORTANT**** If your organization's bank account maintains a debit block, please provide the following information to your Treasurer/Controller prior to initiating the payment to avoid a rejected payment and \$20.00 returned payment fee.

ACH Company ID	ACH Company Name
911925808M	ACH Withdrawal Maine Treasurer

- All payments must be received no later than Monday, April 1, 2024 to reserve your place. Credit Card cancellations after April 1, 2024 will result in a \$4 cancellation fee. In addition, returned ACH fees will result in a \$20 cancellation fee.
- Contact Melissa Couture with questions or for assistance at melissa.couture@maine.gov or 207-624-4650.