**MOCK DIRECT/CROSS EXAMINATION OF DNA EXPERT**

***Participants:***

Judge Sid Harle, 226th Judicial District Court

Dr. Bruce Budowle, University of North Texas Health Science Center (DNA Expert)

Mr. Lance Long, Assistant District Attorney for Harris County

Mr. Jerald Graber, Defense Attorney for Defendant Michael Blake

***Factual Scenario:***

Mary Adams, a 28-year old law firm associate from Houston, Texas, was found stabbed to death in her home in the Galleria section of Houston on April 14, 2012. Six months before her death, Ms. Adams inherited a large sum of money from her grandfather. Friends and colleagues described her lifestyle as “work hard, party hard.” She hosted large gatherings regularly and kept tens of thousands of dollars in cash in her handbag and in various locations around her home. She lived with two roommates, Ryan Tanner and Michael Blake, who were also classmates of hers in law school.

On the evening of Friday, April 13, 2012, the three roommates hosted a party including massive consumption of alcohol, MDMA, cocaine and other controlled substances. Neighbors describe hundreds of guests coming in and out of the house throughout the evening. Neighbors also testified they heard a loud fight break out at around 3am, but provided conflicting accounts as to how many voices were involved. All witnesses agree that the voices were both male and female. Police have not identified anyone who witnessed the stabbing, and have been unable to locate the murder weapon.

The State’s theory of the case is that the roommates stabbed Ms. Adams to death after discovering she had been engaged in affairs with both of them. Friends of Ms. Adams testified that both men bragged openly about taking advantage of her inheritance by using the money for extravagant parties and other expenditures.

The roommates deny stabbing Ms. Adams. They acknowledge they got into a fight when they discovered the affair, but both claim to have stormed out of the house shortly after. There are no witnesses to support their account. Both told police investigators that at least six people they did not recognize were passed out from heavy drug and alcohol consumption in different rooms of the house during and after the fight.

Police officers found a large bloody carpet stain next to the body. The carpet stain was sent to the University of North Texas Health Science Center for DNA analysis. As the laboratory report shows, it contains a mixture of DNA.

The mock direct/cross examination is designed to reveal the strengths and weaknesses of the forensic analysis conducted by Dr. Budowle’s laboratory. For purposes of this exercise, Dr. Budowle has already been qualified as an expert outside the presence of the jury.