

It opinion on what this evidence may

[Business](#), [Management](#)



It is a common procedure for expert witnesses to give evidence in court within their proficiency, and give their opinion on what this evidence may mean or suggest. Experts are sworn into oath and are therefore required to tell the truth. However, a study by Brandon L Garrett and Peter J Neufeld investigated connections between an expert testimony and the convictions, which then led to exonerations, due to post-imprisonment analysis of samples. Garrett and Neufeld found 156 cases and studied the court transcripts. They found that 60 percent of those reviewed included a testimony that was deemed invalid.

They split the different types of void testimony into six categories which included; “ non-probative evidence presented as probative (meaning tending to prove), discounting exculpatory (meaning proving innocence, defending those convicted) evidence and the inaccurate presentation of statistics” (8). Like all experiments, analysis tests have an error rate that is not zero. However, a report published in 2016, stated that expert witnesses often exaggerated claims, using terms such as “ 100 percent certain”, “ zero” or “ vanishingly small” and these statements are not scientifically valid (9). They are also subjective; what one expert may believe to be insignificant could be deemed as imperative to another, and such remarks could be confusing to the jury and others present in the court. Within laboratories, there are certain standards that must be met in order to create valid and reliable results across the board. The United Kingdom Accreditation Service certifies that a lab is adhering to these regulations at the ISO/IEC 17025 level. They test the “ continuity of evidence, management of case files and storage of exhibits. In addition, accreditation determines the competence of staff, the validity and

suitability of methods, the appropriateness of equipment and facilities, and the ongoing assurance through internal quality control.

(4)“ If a laboratory was to deviate from these strict criteria, a chain of problems will arise. Radox Testing Services drug and alcohol testing service which has used by police across England and Wales. In November 2017, the news broke that there may have been a manipulation of data within the company.

It was later revealed, by several newspapers, that this could have potentially affected over 10, 000 cases dating back to 2013. Two employees of the firm were arrested on suspicion of evidence manipulation.