

**The “C.S.I. Effect”: Legal and ethical issues concerning the impact of televised forensic science on the criminal justice system.**

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**Abstract:** The increasing use of DNA analysis and other scientific forensic techniques in the criminal justice system has fueled a significant, both public and academic, debate. In the most recent years, many of those discussions focus on the so called “CSI Effect”. The term, in its narrow meaning, represents the supposed influence that television shows, such as C.S.I.: Crime Scene Investigation, have on jurors’ and judges’ decision making process. According to media reports, the millions of television viewers, who watch television series which base crime solving on biometric and other scientific methods of proof, tend to have unrealistic expectations about the true potential of forensics. The present study attempts to fully describe the above phenomenon and define all of its legal and sociological aspects, offering a multi-sided view of the matter. Moreover, the study scopes a number of current academic surveys on the subject whether individuals, such as judges, prosecutors, lawyers, jurors and others, who generally participate in the criminal justice system, are influenced by the mass media portrayal of forensic science and argues on whether an overbelief in the probative value of high-tech scientific evidence truly exists. Finally, the study focuses on the broader matter of the effect of technology and its rapid progress in the way justice is served and the continuing battle between science and the law in search of the material truth.