

Saturday, January 24, 2026

2 – 4 p.m.

What Litigators Need to Know

2.0 MCLE Credit Hours

Supreme Court Commission on CLE Course #: 260148

Room Location: 102-104

What Litigators Need to Know about the ‘Science’ Behind Police-Use-of Force Expertise: Force Science under Daubert

In almost every civil and criminal case involving police use of force, experts are retained, and social science data are introduced. Police-use-of-force litigation increasingly turns on expert testimony drawn from the Force Science Institute (FSI), whose “Force Science Analyst” certifications are marketed as resting on peer-reviewed research. An empirical review (*Police Quarterly* 2025) systematically evaluates the 24 studies FSI itself identifies as its scientific core. Using bibliometrics and three established quality-assessment tools, the review finds that the corpus largely fails to satisfy the Daubert reliability factor-test ability, peer review, known error rate, and general acceptance -and is rarely cited in mainstream science.

Geoffrey Alpert

Ian Adams

Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice

Seth Stoughton

Professor of Law, Faculty Director of the Excellence in Policing & Public Safety Program

University of South Carolina

Agenda

2 – 2:30 p.m.	Gate Keeping Doctrine Refresher
2:30 – 3 p.m.	What the Data Shows
3 – 3:30 p.m.	Common Methodological deficits
3:30 – 4 p.m.	Translating Findings into Litigation Practice

Course Planner/Moderator: