

Junk Science in Controlled Drug Analyses?

You received a chemist's report of findings for controlled drugs in your client's case. You noticed that the findings are of a *summary nature*. The alleged drug identification, attendant weights of analysis, and drug strength or purity were provided for your consideration. Is this really a fair situation in which to prepare a defense for your client?

In our experience, it is not a fair situation. It is one that suggests the practice of Junk Science (not following rules or principles of a science) in the analyses of controlled drugs. When laboratory reports and instrument data have been acquired for review, we have found many situations of unsound practices carried out by chemists. With our input and special approach, attorneys have been able to consider the details of technical laboratory reports. By highlighting the chemists' questionable analysis practices to the courts, attorneys have been able to overturn the negative effects of 'junk' analysis and reach favorable outcomes in their cases.

Our research to date has not found an independent entity that holds chemists accountable for the analysis of controlled drugs. Unfortunately, the only entities that exist are in the internal forensic science community. More details will appear on this subject in a later issue.

Consider Our Weighing Service ...

Our weighing service is designed for the reweighing of confiscated controlled drugs and the assessment of the findings in case considerations.

The weighing service is based on a tort-based approach established in our cases and allows a service independent of DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration) certification for the handling of controlled drugs. The service is provided on our portable certified scales with weighing ranges from under five (5) grams to over five (5) kilograms (kilos) or five (5) thousand (5,000) grams.

Case considerations for which our weighing assessments can be applied:

- Reweighing weights of controlled drugs;
- Reconstruction of a chemist analysis procedure;
- Review of chemist and agent chain of custody;
- Minimum or federal sentencing guidelines.