



**Justice Speakers Institute**  
SPEAKING, TEACHING & TRAINING - WORLDWIDE

## **QUOTES related to the SCIENCE BENCH BOOK FOR JUDGES from Founders of the Justice Speakers Institute, LLC who designed and coordinated the project**

### **Judge Peggy Hora (Ret.)**

President of JSI

“Almost everything I thought I knew about forensic science turned out to be questionable. Take, for instance, bite marks. Looks good on ‘Forensic Files.’ But, it turns out, bite mark evidence arose from law enforcement, not the scientific community. And there is no scientific basis to believe that everyone’s dentition is unique like fingerprints. In fact, bite marks have been so thoroughly debunked that the Texas Forensic Science Commission recently recommended a moratorium on their admission into evidence.”



“Before I started work on the *Science Bench Book for Judges*, I assumed most forensic scientific evidence was well settled law. I was wrong. Hair analysis that looks so convincing on television turns out to have led to erroneous testimony in at least 257 cases. The FBI says in a 2015 report that agents’ testimony in criminal cases ‘contained erroneous statements’ 90% of the time, admitting to ‘widespread, systematic error[s]’ in agent’s court testimony about hair analysis. They’re currently reviewing similar cases to determine wrongful convictions.”

“After working on the *Science Bench Book for Judges*, I still feel very confident in the accuracy of DNA testing but have many questions about almost all other kinds of forensic evidence, including handwriting, tire marks, and blood pattern evidence.”

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

**CALL JSI (248) 962-3761**

**DOWNLOAD THE SCIENCE BENCH BOOK AT:**

**[www.JusticeSpeakersInstitute.com/Benchbook](http://www.JusticeSpeakersInstitute.com/Benchbook)**

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**Judge Brian MacKenzie (Ret.)**

Chief Financial Officer of JSI

“The vast majority of judges turned away from a scientific education, at least by the time they were in college and certainly by the time they were in law school. Law school teaches a different manner of seeking the truth than the scientific method. After all, what scientist would accept a scientific proposition that, while approximately 90% of people arrested will be convicted of a crime, each of these people starts with the presumption that they are innocent of the charges?”



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“The rationale for the *Science Bench Book for Judges* starts with the recognition that judges are specialists in the law and generalists in everything else. As part of that legal specialization judges are the evidentiary gatekeepers for any scientific evidence that is admitted in a trial. The bench book provides judges with the tools to make better evidentiary decisions about the admissibility of scientific evidence and also ensure that the trier of fact is not confused by poor or junk science.”

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“Not every judge has either the time or the interest to attend national training on scientific evidence. How can we better assist the judiciary in dealing with this flood of scientific evidence? Our answer was to develop the *Science Bench Book for Judges*. Bench books and the trainings connected to them are an excellent means for helping judges keep current with the needs of their job.”

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