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LABORATORY SYSTEM UNDER SIEGE; THE DIRTY DOZEN: COMMON CHARGES LEVIED AGAINST LABS; THE TALES OF TWO LABS UNDER THE MICROSCOPE; REFERENCES; RECOMMENDED READING; ENDNOTES; CHAPTER 5: THE REALITY OF THE U. S. FORENSIC LABORATORY SYSTEM; CRIME LAB FUNDING; HUMAN RESOURCE ISSUES; NEEDS ASSESSMENTS OF FORENSIC LABORATORIES; REFERENCES; RECOMMENDED READING; CHAPTER 6: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE U. S. MEDICO-LEGAL DEATH INVESTIGATION SYSTEM; ROLE CALL: THE CAST OF CHARACTERS IN MEDICO-LEGAL DEATH INVESTIGATION; PLAYING BY THE (REAL) RULES OF MEDICO-LEGAL DEATH INVESTIGATION; REFERENCES; RECOMMENDED READING; CHAPTER 7: THE U.S. MEDICO-LEGAL DEATH INVESTIGATION SYSTEM UNDER SIEGE; A "HUMAN" SCIENCE?; THE PROBLEM OF THE "COWBOY" EXAMINER; THE EVERYDAY CHALLENGES; REFERENCES; CHAPTER 8: THE REAL STORY OF THE U.S. MEDICO-LEGAL DEATH INVESTIGATION SYSTEM; THE HISTORY OF ME AND CORONER SYSTEMS: THE SONG REMAINS THE SAME, OR SECOND VERSE, SAME AS THE FIRST; NEW ATTENTION TO OLD ISSUES; A PATCHWORK OF JURISDICTIONS; ALL INVESTIGATORS ARE NOT CREATED EQUAL: MAKING A CASE FOR AND AGAINST THE CORONER; COMPARING MEDICAL EXAMINER AND CORONER SYSTEMS; THE VALUE OF FORENSIC PATHOLOGISTS AND THE CHALLENGES THEY FACE; INFECTIOUS DISEASE SURVEILLANCE, BIOTERRORISM, MASS DISASTERS, AND HOMELAND SECURITY ISSUES; FEDERAL SUPPORT OF MEDICO-LEGAL OFFICES AND AGENCIES; THE QUALITY OF MEDICO-LEGAL DEATH INVESTIGATION IN THE UNITED STATES; QUALITY OF SERVICE AND ACCREDITATION OF MEDICO-LEGAL OFFICES; THE INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS OF MEDICO-LEGAL OFFICES; OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH ISSUES; EDUCATION AND TRAINING; CONTINUING EDUCATION; TRAINING FOR MEDICO-LEGAL DEATH INVESTIGATORS; ASSESSING FORENSIC PATHOLOGY PROGRAMS; REVEALS VITAL DEMOGRAPHIC DATA; RESEARCH ISSUES; FUNDING OF THE U.S. MEDICO-LEGAL DEATH INVESTIGATION SYSTEM; MEDICO-LEGAL OFFICES AND FORENSIC LABORATORIES: A SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP; REFERENCES; RECOMMENDED READING; ENDNOTE; CHAPTER 9: THE COURTS: BATTLEFIELD FOR THE TRUTH AND A CHANGING PARADIGM; THE PARADIGM SHIFT; THE SHIFTY PARADIGM

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## Sommario/riassunto

Forensic science laboratories' reputations have increasingly come under fire. Incidents of tainted evidence, false reports, allegations of negligence, scientifically flawed testimony, or - worse yet - perjury in in-court testimony, have all served to cast a shadow over the forensic sciences. Instances of each are just a few of the quality-related charges made in the last few years. *Forensic Science Under Siege* is the first book to integrate and explain these problematic trends in forensic science. The issues are timely, and are approached from an investigatory, yet scholarly

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