



For Immediate Release

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“Eyewitness Testimony: Perception and Memory on Trial”
Science Matters Program Explores the Accuracy of Eyewitness Testimony
Presented by the California Science Center

Los Angeles- The California Science Center's Science Matters speakers program will investigate methods in our legal system with “Eyewitness Testimony: Perception and Memory on Trial” on Saturday, April 18, 2009, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Eyewitness testimony is at the foundation of our judicial system, but its accuracy has recently been called into question by scientists and lawmakers alike. The discussion, which is free to the public, will question whether the practice of eyewitness testimony is scientifically sound or inherently flawed. Program panelists will explain the science of perception and memory that lies at the core of eyewitness testimony - how we form memories, and how our perceptions influence how we remember. Science Matters will also discuss the consequences of the use of eyewitness testimony. Audience members are encouraged to visit the exhibits “Target America: Opening Eyes to the Damage Drugs Cause” and “CSI: The Experience” to get a look at the elements of forensic science.

Conan Nolan, *NBC4 reporter*, will serve as moderator for the panel discussion, in the Loker Conference room at the California Science Center.

Panelists include: **Steven Clark, Ph.D.** Professor of Psychology, University of California, Riverside; **Jeff Sherman, Ph.D.** Professor of Psychology, University of California, Davis; **John Van de Kamp, Esq.**; Chair of the California Commission on the Fair Administration of Justice; and **Julie L. Hamilton**, Division Counsel, Drug Enforcement Administration, Los Angeles.

Program attendees will have a chance to hear the debates on this issue and to ask questions of the panelists at the end of the program. All those interested in attending may RSVP at 213-744-2420.

About the California Science Center

The California Science Center’s mission is as follows: “We aspire to stimulate curiosity and inspire science learning in everyone by creating fun, memorable experiences, because we value science as an indispensable tool for understanding our world, accessibility and inclusiveness, and enriching people’s lives.”

General Info: Admission is free; to reserve a seat please RSVP at 213-744-2420.

The California Science Center and IMAX Theater are located in historic Exposition Park just west of the Harbor (110) Freeway at 700 Exposition Park Drive, Los Angeles. Open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., except on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. General admission is free. For recorded information, including IMAX show times, call 323.SCIENCE (323.724-3623). IMAX ticket prices range from \$4.75 to \$8.00. For advance ticket purchases, group rates, or to make reservations for any visiting group of 15 or more (*required*), call 213.744-2019. Parking is available in the guest lot at Figueroa and 39th Street at \$8 per car, \$10 for buses or oversized vehicles. Both the Science Center and IMAX Theater are wheelchair accessible. For further information, please visit our website at www.californiasciencecenter.org.

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