



TEXAS FORENSIC
SCIENCE COMMISSION

Justice Through Science

*1700 North Congress Ave., Suite 445
Austin, Texas 78701*

June 30, 2020

Via email to m.schmucker@appellatecourtlaw.com

Ms. Margaret Schmucker
Law Office of Margaret Schmucker
1841 S. Lakeline Blvd. #101-15
Cedar Park, TX 78613

Re: Texas Forensic Science Commission ("TFSC") Complaint No. 20.24: Schmucker, Margaret (Tom Green County Prosecutors; Bloodstain Pattern Analysis)

Dear Ms. Schmucker:

This letter is to inform you that the referenced complaint was dismissed by commissioners at TFSC's meeting on June 12, 2020 for lack of jurisdiction. The TFSC has no authority to determine what the State introduces as evidence in a trial or which witnesses it chooses to sponsor. Staff reviewed the testimony of crime scene technician Deanna Garcia. Ms. Garcia was forthcoming with respect to her limited qualifications in bloodstain pattern analysis and made reasonable observations for a responding crime scene technician.

The TFSC did have concerns regarding the way in which the DNA analysis issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) was used in the report issued by crime scene reconstructionist Christine Ramirez. The TFSC will be issuing guidance to crime scene reconstruction experts to ensure they understand and appropriately limit their incorporation of DNA analysis in scene reconstruction, especially DNA mixture analysis. The guidance will be published on the TFSC's website when it is finalized.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathryn Adams".

Kathryn Adams
Commission Coordinator

/mka