

History of Forensic Science

- 1st case using science to solve a crime
 - 3rd century China - Yi Yu Ji
wife accused of murdering husband & burning the body to get rid of evidence. She said he died in accidental fire. Investigators used pigs (that they burned) to prove that he was dead before the fire started.

- 1910 Locard's Exchange Principle
when 2 objects or people come into contact w/ one another, there is an exchange of materials between them.

- 1923 Frye vs. United States
 - in order to be admitted as evidence in court, the questioned procedure, technique, or principles must be "generally accepted" by meaningful segment of the scientific community

- The Federal Rules of Evidence - Rule 702
a witness "qualifies as an expert" may offer expert testimony if:
 - (1) testimony based on facts or data
 - (2) " " is the product of reliable principles & methods
 - (3) the witness has applied the principles & methods reliably to the facts of the case

- 1993 → Daubert vs. Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
the Supreme Court asserted that both of the above rulings is not an absolute requirement to submit evidence (in federal trials). The trial judge has the task of ensuring that an expert witness is reliable & their testimony is relevant to the case