

## Laws of Science

DNA seems to come up a lot in court these days as defense attorneys argue for new testing of old evidence.

But science intersects with the law in a lot of other ways, and Texas Tech University School of Law Professor Victoria Sutton has outlined many of them in a new casebook called "Law and Science, Cases and Materials." The book and a companion supplement, "A

*The UH law center is hiring new faculty members and developing new projects to reach its goal.*

Toxic Tort Case — *Manchester v. Chromex*," will be published this spring by Carolina Press.

Sutton, who teaches a class in law and science, says there's been an increase in the use of scientific evidence in court.

For example, the U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to hear a case, *Kyllo v. United States*, involving thermal heat detection, she says. Danny Lee Kyllo of Oregon, who was convicted of one count of manufacturing marijuana, claims the warrantless use of a thermal imaging device outside his home to detect high-intensity lights used to grow marijuana indoors was a violation of his Fourth Amendment rights.

The high court heard arguments in the case on Feb.

20.

Far from scaring away law students with its technical subjects, there's been a lot of interest in how science affects the legal field, Sutton says. The book also could be useful to students in other fields, she adds.

"The book focuses on issues of interest to both scientists and lawyers," she says. "I'm trying to bring the material together for law students and graduate science students."

Sutton has law and science in her background. She has a J.D. from American University's Washington College of Law, a doctorate in environmental sciences from the University of Texas at Richardson, a master's degree in public administration from Old Dominion

University, and bachelor's degrees in zoology and animal science from North Carolina State University.

Among other jobs, she has served as assistant director of the White House's Office of Science and Technology Policy and as special assistant

for policy, planning and evaluation for the federal Environmental Protection Agency.

The book looks at historical cases with scientific aspects and examines topics such as regulation of the scientific and medical communities; science, law and religion; disclosure of medical information; DNA; and toxicological and epidemiological evidence.



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