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11 SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO

12 PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF
13 CALIFORNIA

14 Plaintiff,

15 vs.

16 GREGORY MONTGOMERY

17 Defendant

Case No.: 00F05623

Department No. 62

18 EXPERT DECLARATION IN SUPPORT
19 OF DEFENDANT'S MOTION FOR
20 HEARING

21
22 DECLARATION

23 I, Laurence D. Mueller, being duly sworn, depose and say:

24 1. I am an expert retained by the defense attorney for the defendant in the above
25 entitled action.

26 2. I am a Professor in the Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology at the
27 University of California, Irvine. I have a B.S. degree in Chemistry and an A.M. in
28 Biology from Stanford University, a Ph. D. from the University of California, at Davis in
Ecology, and I have done postdoctoral research in population genetics in the Department
of Biological Sciences at Stanford University. I have published nearly 70 scholarly

1 papers in a variety of topics including theoretical and experimental population genetics
2 and the use of DNA typing in forensic science. Since 1989 I have also consulted in over
3 100 criminal cases that have involved forensic DNA typing.
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5 3. There are three groups of experts who have different views on the statistical
6 interpretation of DNA in a “cold hit” or database search case.

7 4. The first group believes that database searches should be used to identify
8 potential suspects but not to calculate frequency estimates. When successful, suspects
9 identified by these searches would then be tested for another group of independent
10 genetic markers that would be compared to the evidence. When these additional genetic
11 loci confirm the match, they alone would be used to compute frequencies for this
12 evidence. Under this methodology the genetic markers used in the original database
13 search would never be part of any statistical calculation.
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16 5. This group is comprised of eminent scholars in the field of genetics and
17 statistics. They include Newton Morton, and members of the first National Research
18 Council on DNA typing, like Mary-Claire King, Richard Lempert, Eric Lander, Ruth
19 Macklin, Thomass Marr, Victor McKusick, and Philip Reilly.
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22 6. The second group believes that a database search provides greater certainty of
23 the true identity of a DNA evidence sample. The logic here is that in addition to the
24 match found between the evidence DNA and a member of a database there also will be
25 many people excluded, thus narrowing down the field of possible contributors. The
26 clearest illustration of this is when all possible suspects can be typed and compared to
27 evidence DNA. Suppose that one match is found and all others are excluded. This means
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1 the match must have identified the true culprit, since all possible suspects were typed.
2 Evidence like this is viewed as much stronger evidence than just finding a match between
3 one person and the evidence. With only a single match and no exclusions the possibility
4 still exists that one of the untested people may also match the evidence, no matter how
5 rare the frequency of the genetic profile.
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8 7. The second group is comprised of eminent scholars in the field of genetics and
9 statistics such as Peter Donnelly and David Balding. Donnelly and Balding are both well
10 respected and widely published scholars in genetics and statistical applications to
11 genetics.
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13 8. The third group is believes that a database match is less probative than a single
14 DNA match since the chance of finding a match to a particular evidence DNA profile
15 increases as it is compared to more people. Thus, finding that a single person chosen at
16 random is left handed is somewhat unusual but finding at least one left handed person in
17 a sample of 1000 is not at all surprising. Those sharing this belief suggest that any
18 frequency that accompanies a match found from a database of N people must have the
19 individual profile frequency multiplied by N , making it a more common number.
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22 9. This third group is comprised of eminent scholars in the field of genetics and
23 statistics including the members of second NRC committee on DNA typing such as
24 James Crow, Arno Motulsky, Thomas Nagylaki, Mashatoshi Nei, David Siegmund, and
25 Stephen Stigler. It is worthwhile noting that the second and third group not only disagree
26 on the exact quantitative methods for assessing a database match but also the qualitative
27 effect, e.g. is the match more or less probative. The uncertainty in this regard is even
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1 evident in the second NRC report (pg. 40) “If the database searched includes a large
2 portion of the population, the analysis must take that into account. In the extreme case, a
3 search of the whole population should, of course, provide a definitive answer.” Here, the
4 second NRC committee is implicitly admitting that, at some point, a database search will
5 become more probative than their recommendation suggests.
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8 10.I agree with the first group. This approach can both take advantage of a genetic
9 database as an investigative tool and yield probative evidence that can be evaluated by
10 the same statistical techniques used in standard cases. There exist today a sufficient
11 number of genetic markers to allow the creation of a useful database and the production
12 of probative forensic evidence. The differences that exist between groups two and three
13 revolve around fairly sophisticated statistical issues that are not likely to be easily
14 explained to lay people. For instance, the conclusions of the third group rely on the
15 database representing a sample of the potential suspect population. To the extent that
16 many members of a convicted felon database might have been in jail at the time a
17 particular crime was committed erodes a crucial premise of this technique. Trying to
18 verbally or quantitatively discount for this would be problematic at best.
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