Robert O. Dawson Conference on Criminal Appeals – May 10-12, 2023 – Austin, Texas

#### **CHAPTER 64 MOTIONS**

**Legal & Ethical Considerations** 

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### **OVERVIEW**

- CCP art 64.03 Requirements; Testing
  - Evidence Exists and Testing is Possible (First & Second Prongs)
  - Identity as an Issue (Third Prong)
  - "Would not have been convicted" (Fourth Prong)
  - Unreasonable Delay (Fifth Prong)
- Legislative History
  - Social and Political Landscape
  - Purpose
- Wrongful Convictions
- Application / Practical Considerations
- Conclusion

# CCP 64.03 REQUIREMENTS; TESTING

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## **EVIDENCE EXISTS**

If no longer in possession of the State, a written explanation is required

Convicting court may reach decision without affidavits or evidentiary hearing

Mere assertions or general claims insufficient - FACTS

Is it the *type* of evidence that will yield DNA results?

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# BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL

• In possession of State...

Blood, semen, hair, saliva, skin tissue/cells, fingernail scrapings, bone, bodily fluids, or other identifiable biological evidence that may be suitable for forensic DNA testing

- Enumerated items = per se biological material
- Must prove it exists in "other" items



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