

## **Lecture to focus on DNA and forensic science**

1/15/04

The Criminal Justice Program at Alfred University is sponsoring a lecture entitled "DNA & Forensic Science: Mastery or Magic?" Albert E. Scherr, professor of law at Franklin Pierce Law Center in Concord, NH, and nationally recognized authority on forensic DNA evidence, will speak at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 4, at the Knight Club in the Powell Campus Center on the AU campus. The lecture is open to the public, free of charge. Scherr has served as the lead attorney in numerous pretrial hearings in homicide, robbery, and sexual assault cases to determine the admissibility of forensic DNA evidence. In 1992 he was trial and appellate counsel in a homicide case (State v. Vendebogart) that resulted in the new Hampshire Supreme Court becoming one of the few state Supreme Courts to find forensic DNA evidence inadmissible (pending further technological developments). In addition to his work involving forensic DNA evidence, Scherr has extensive experience as a trial and appellate lawyer for more than 20 years. He has handled over 40 homicide cases and has substantial trial experience as a criminal defense lawyer in a wide variety of cases. As a law professor, Scherr teaches courses in criminal procedure; evidence; expert witnesses and scientific evidence; genetics and the law and trial advocacy. He also directs the Trial Advocacy Program and the Intellectual Property Litigation Program at Franklin Pierce Law Center. He has lectured to judges and lawyers on evidence issues such as the US Supreme Court's Daubert decision, persuasive expert testimony, the admissibility of scientific evidence; evidence issues in sexual assault cases; hearsay and experts. Scherr has also co-designed and taught a national model, NIH-funded Summer Faculty Institute at Dartmouth that educates undergraduate faculty from around the country in the ethical, legal and social issues of the Human Genome Project. He has lectured to judges, attorneys, educators and others regionally and nationally on a variety of genetics and law issues.