Recent high profile cases, such as that of Sally Clark, and the ever-greater use of DNA profiling throw into sharp relief the fundamental differences between two ways of approaching decision-making under uncertainty: Statistics and the Law. Individual statisticians, as academics, expert witnesses and statistical educators, have initiated a fruitful debate with legal experts and practitioners, and the Royal Statistical Society has recently set up a working party whose remit is to consider all matters relating to the interface of statistics, forensic science and the law.

In dedicating the first special issue of *Significance* to statistics and the law, the Society hopes to bring this important topic to the attention of a wider audience and to contribute to the ongoing debate.

### Articles Include:

**Statistics on trial:** Phil Dawid explains how the advent of DNA profiling is bringing statistical thinking into the legal limelight

**What probability should a jury address?** Tony Gardner-Medwin argues for a new approach to decision-making for juries

**Reflections on the cot death cases:** Ray Hill looks at the statistical questions that must be answered when a parent is accused of murdering a child

**Misleading statistics within criminal trials:** Richard Nobles and David Schiff disagree with the view that only qualified statistical expert witnesses should present statistical evidence in court

**A question of identity:** David Balding looks back on the DNA profiling dispute and the part played by statisticians

**Sampling issues in the administration of justice:** Colin Aitken explains why statisticians have become involved in estimating quantities of illicit drugs in US drug trials

**Drug contamination of banknotes:** It is difficult to use banknotes as evidence in drug trials, because most notes are contaminated by detectable amounts of cocaine. What is needed, says Patrick Laycock, is a scientifically valid random sample
Order form  Fax back to: +44 (0) 1865 471264

Order the Law and Statistics Special Issue.
Significance, Volume 2 Issue 1, ISSN 1740-9705
☐ UK / Rest of World £7
☐ Europe €11
☐ The Americas $12

Subscribe to Significance
ISSN 1740-9705, Volume 2 (2005) 4 issues per year – includes online access

PERSONAL RATE*
☐ UK / Rest of World £25
☐ Europe €38
☐ The Americas $41
Rates apply to subscriptions at a private address paid by personal cheque or credit card.

Special reduced rates for students are available: visit www.blackwellpublishing.com/sign

*Customers in the EU should add 5% VAT to these prices or provide a VAT registration number or evidence of entitlement to exemption. Customers in Canada should add 7% GST or provide evidence of entitlement to exemption.

☐ Please charge my/our American Express/ MasterCard/Visa (delete as applicable)
Card No.: ____________________________
Expiry Date: ____________________________
Amount: ____________________________
Name on Card: ____________________________
Signature: ____________________________
(Credit card orders are not valid without a signature)

Last Name: ____________________________
First Name: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________

Town/City: ____________________________
County/State: ____________________________
Post/Zip Code: ____________________________
Country: ____________________________
Telephone: ____________________________
Fax: ____________________________
Email*: ____________________________
*If you are subscribing to Significance, we need your email address to help us set up your electronic access rights

YOUR DATA
We would like to contact you from time to time with details of Blackwell publications and services in your subject area. This may involve the transfer of your data to our offices outside the EC but we will not pass any information to companies outside the Blackwell group. Please tick the boxes if you would like to hear from us by mail ☐ and/or by email ☐.

Please return this form with payment to:
Verity Warne
Blackwell Publishing Journals
9600 Garsington Road
Oxford OX4 2DQ, UK
Fax: +44 (0) 1865 471264

Registered Office: Blackwell Publishing,
9600 Garsington Road, Oxford OX4 2DQ
Registered Number: 0180277 UK; VAT No. GB 348 942223

Members of the Royal Statistical Society receive Significance as part of their membership.

www.rss.org.uk