

## Applications of Mass Spectrometry in the U. S. Justice System

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CLC number: O657. 63    Document code: A    Article IC: 1004-2997(2006)Suppl. -50-01

Mass spectrometry is a powerful technique that is used in a wide range of professions for both routine and research purposes. It also has an important role in the U. S. criminal justice system. The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is a component of the United States Department of Justice. It is headed by an Administrator who is appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. The mission of DEA is to enforce the Controlled Substances Act of 1970. DEA's responsibilities includes preventing, deterring, and investigating the illegal growing, manufacture, or distribution of con-

trolled substances in, or destined for, the United States. The DEA's forensic laboratories analyze evidence to support the investigation and prosecution of drug-related crimes and the development of intelligence related to drug trafficking. We also perform research pertaining to the analysis of controlled substances. In this presentation, I will discuss the applications of mass spectrometry in the DEA laboratories for analyzing the presence of controlled substances, adulterants, and precursors/impurities in seized drug evidence.