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The Role of Science in Law

[Robin Cooper Feldman](#), *UC Hastings College of the Law*

Description

The allure of science has always captivated members of the legal profession. The song offers a tune of perfection and the promise of endowing law with the deference from society that lawyers crave. Both the bench and the bar come to science to rescue them from the discomfort of difficult legal decisions, frequently disappointed with the results.

While most authors frame problems at the intersection of law and science in terms of how rapidly scientific information changes and how frequently the legal system fails to keep up with science, this book argues that problems at the intersection of law and science arise not from the changing nature of science, but from the changing nature of law. In the public mind, the book uses examples from doctrines related to abortion, gene patenting, copyright, environmental regulation, antitrust law, the insanity defense, and other doctrines to explore the nature of law and to suggest approaches for making the legal system work more effectively within the domain of law.

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