

Ethical, Legal, Forensics, and Societal Issues Specialty Section

**ANNUAL REPORT: 2023–2024**

May 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024

**I. Officers:**

<b><u>2023–2024</u></b>	<b><u>2024–2025</u></b>
President: Michael McCabe Vice President: Lyle Burgoon Vice President-Elect: Michael Dourson Secretary-Treasurer: Katrina Jew Councilor: Laura Plunkett Councilor: Marusia Popovech Postdoctoral Representative: Emma Karey Graduate Student Representative: Amanda Charette	President: Lyle Burgoon Vice President: Michael Dourson Vice President-Elect: Christopher Borgert Secretary-Treasurer: Jaleh Abedini Past President, Councilor: Michael McCabe Councilor: Nancy Beck Councilor: Marusia Popovech Graduate Student Representative: Leonardo Costalonga Rodrigues

**II. 2024 Membership total: 78**

**III. Key Outcomes and Accomplishments in 2023–2024:**

The Ethical, Legal, Forensics, and Societal Issues Specialty Section accomplished the following activities throughout the year.

- Endorsed session(s) at the Annual Meeting
- Trainee awards conferred
- Newsletter(s)
- Webinars
- Business meeting (communicated operations/finances to members)

**IV. Collaborative Partnerships with Other SOT Organizations:**

The Ethical, Legal, Forensics, and Societal Issues Specialty Section collaborated with the following organizations within SOT.

- Sustainable Chemicals through Contemporary Toxicology

**V. Communication Methods:**

The Ethical, Legal, Forensics, and Societal Issues Specialty Section stayed in contact with its members throughout the year through the following mechanisms.

- ToXchange
- Emails through SOT Headquarters
- Specialty Section website
- Newsletter(s)

**VI. Promotion of Inclusivity**

The Ethical, Legal, Forensics, and Societal Issues Specialty Section maintained an inclusive organization through the following activities.

- Nominate a diverse slate of candidates for elections
- Solicit equitable input from all executive committee leaders
- Utilize virtual meetings for convening Specialty Section leadership
- Utilize standardized rubrics for judging awards/posters
- Prioritize diversity in selection of speakers/panelists
- Solicit member feedback for development of Specialty Section activities (such as webinar topics)

**VII. Mentoring and Career Development Activities:**

The Ethical, Legal, Forensics, and Societal Issues Specialty Section hosted the following mentoring activities throughout the year for its membership.

- None of the above

**VIII. Awards Given:**

<b>Trainee</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Early Career</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Mid Career</b>	
<b>Late Career</b>	

**IX. Key Outcomes and Improvements:**

We hosted a highly successful webinar series with SCCT. We are improving our communications to members through reinstating our newsletter.

**X. Strategic Plan:**

The Ethical, Legal, Forensics, and Societal Issues Specialty Section supported the following SOT Strategic Priorities.

- Proactively pursue impactful scientific content
- Effectively communicate scientific advances

**XI. Scientific Topics of Interest:**

The Ethical, Legal, Forensics, and Societal Issues Specialty Section is interested in seeing the following topic areas developed into sessions at future SOT Annual Meetings.

- Several folks have expressed interest to us that we need more focused training on applied ethics. ELFSI's leadership is working on identifying some folks to build something for the 2026 meeting. Perhaps this could be an ongoing topic.

**XII. Feedback to the Society:**

A. What is the one thing the Society should be doing that it currently does not do (or does not do effectively) that would be of importance/benefit to the members of the Specialty Section?

We need the Society, specifically the Program Committee, to NOT schedule luncheons at the same time as platforms, workshops, posters and other activities at the Annual Meeting. We have received several complaints from members and our executive leadership that for the 2nd

year in a row, the session that most aligned with ELFSI took place at the same time as our luncheon. Our incoming President had to skip the ELFSI luncheon in order to present/chair a poster session this year. The previous year, he had to chair a session at the same time as the ELFSI luncheon. When we brought this to David Rosse's attention this year, we were told that "The Poster Sessions are scheduled to not overlap with Symposium, Workshop, Roundtable, etc. sessions on similar topics, but not SS or SIG meetings, receptions, or luncheons. That would be a very difficult task for the Program Committee – there is so much going on during the Annual Meeting." It used to be there was no lunchtime programming at the meeting -- this wasn't a problem then. We understand it is difficult, but we would like to see some creativity to find a solution. Dr. Burgoon is happy to work with others to try to find a solution.

- B. What is the one thing the Society is currently doing that impacts the Specialty Section that should be changed (e.g., stopped, modified, etc.)?

See the answer to Question 10.