

Ethical, Legal, Forensics, and Societal Issues Specialty Section

ANNUAL REPORT: 2025–2026

May 1, 2025 to April 30, 2026

I. Officers:

<u>2025–2026</u>	<u>2026–2027</u>
President: Michael Dourson Vice President: Christopher Borgert Past President, Councilor: Lyle Burgoon Secretary-Treasurer: Jaleh Abedini Councilor: Nancy Beck Graduate Student Representative: Leonardo Costalonga Rodrigues	President: Christopher Borgert Vice President: Anne Loccisano Vice President-Elect: Laura Plunkett Secretary-Treasurer: David Hines Past President, Councilor: Michael Dourson Councilor: Shikha Sharma Councilor: Judith Zelikoff

Committees:

No appointed committees

II. 2026 Membership total: 67

III. Key Outcomes and Accomplishments in 2025–2026:

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

- In-person meeting/mixer
- Sponsored session(s) at the Annual Meeting
- Endorsed session(s) at the Annual Meeting
- Attempted Congressional lunch with multiple scientific organizations that was prevented by government shutdown.

IV. Collaborative Partnerships with Other SOT Organizations:

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

- Regulatory and Safety Evaluation
- Risk Assessment

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.

- Emails through SOT Headquarters
- Specialty Section website

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
- Include inclusive descriptions of Awards
- 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.

- Networking luncheon/reception
- Congressional lunch as described above.

VIII. Awards Given:

Trainee	0
Early Career	0
Mid Career	0
Late Career	0

IX. Key Outcomes and Improvements:

- A. The Specialty Section was more active in promoting interactions with other scientific societies outside of annual SOT meetings.
- B. We also provided several well-attended sessions at the annual SOT meeting.

X. Strategic Plan:

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

- Effectively communicate scientific advances
- Foster connectivity across scientific disciplines

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.

- More interactions with the press, or workshops with press and toxicologists.

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 to attract younger members who are looking for way SOT can directly assist the public and our public servants.

- 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.)?

SOT needs to provide a list of its scientists that are willing to speak with reporters and public interest groups.