

Glossary for the Law and Science Academy Workshop of November 16, 2001  
Bioterrorism and the Courts

<b>Aerobe</b>	An organism that consumes oxygen (“breathes oxygen”)
<b>Aerosol</b>	A suspension of droplets in air so fine that it settles extremely slowly
<b>Anaerobe</b>	An organism that does not use oxygen for respiration
<b>Antibodies</b>	Proteins formed by the body in response to stop foreign materials
<b>Antigen</b>	A substance that provokes the formation of antibodies in the body
<b>Archaeobacteria</b>	A special class of bacteria that grow in extreme conditions
<b>Autotroph</b>	An organism that can grow using inorganic (lacking carbon) materials
<b>Bacteriophage</b>	A virus that is a parasite to bacteria and which can prey on them
<b>Basophile</b>	A microbe capable of growing at very high pressures
<b>Biosphere</b>	The covering of the Earth supportive of life forms
<b>Chloroplast</b>	An organelle in microbes that conducts photosynthesis
<b>Continuous culture</b>	A bacterial culture measured to grow microbes in a linear fashion
<b>DNA</b>	Deoxyribonucleic acid, the molecule that carries heredity of life forms
<b>Enzyme</b>	A protein that catalyzes biochemical reactions within changing itself
<b>Eukaryote</b>	Organisms with cells that have a nucleus
<b>Halophile</b>	A microbe that can live in salt water
<b>Heterotroph</b>	An organism that requires carbon in its nutrition
<b>Ion</b>	An atom or molecule carrying an electric charge
<b>Medium</b>	An environment suitable for growing microbes
<b>Metazoa</b>	Multi-cellular organisms
<b>Mitochondrion</b>	The cell’s power pack, like a battery that turns chemicals into energy

<b>Motility</b>	An microbe's ability to move in its environment
<b>Mutation</b>	A chemical change in DNA, may be harmless, harmful or helpful
<b>Mycelium</b>	The thread-like emanations of a fungus
<b>Organelles</b>	Little organs within a microbe
<b>Pathogenic</b>	Capable of causing disease
<b>PCR</b>	Polymerase Chain Reaction – lab process for copying DNA segments
<b>Photosynthesis</b>	The basic growth process of green plants
<b>Plasmid</b>	Segment of microbial DNA, often confers antibiotic resistance
<b>Prion</b>	A rogue protein involved in spongy brain self destruction
<b>Prokaryote</b>	Creatures lacking a cell nucleus, such as bacteria
<b>Protoplasm</b>	The soup of living cells that performs as a complex chemical factory
<b>Psychrophile</b>	A microbe capable of growing under very cold conditions
<b>RNA</b>	Ribonucleic acid, a molecule translates genes into protein production
<b>Serum</b>	The colorless fluid component of blood
<b>Spore</b>	A form of microbe with a hard coat, dormant to preserve itself
<b>Substrates</b>	The underlying chemicals of microbial growth and reproduction
<b>Teratogen</b>	A microbe or substance that causes human birth defects
<b>Thermophile</b>	A microbe capable of growing under very hot conditions
<b>Toxin</b>	A protein that causes illness or death, usually produced by a microbe
<b>Transposon</b>	A piece of DNA capable of changing its place in a nucleus or cell
<b>Vaccine</b>	An antigen from a pathogenic microbe that causes the immune system to respond to invasion from that microbe
<b>Vitamin</b>	A chemical needed for an organism's basic nutrition and health