

TO: John Jay College Community  
FROM: Keisha Pottinger-Moore, Director of Human Resources Operations  
DATE: May 16, 2025  
RE: Passing of Professor Emeritus Lawrence Kobilinsky

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It is with sadness that I share the news that Dr. Lawrence Kobilinsky, retired Professor Emeritus in the Science Department at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, the City University of New York passed away yesterday, May 15, 2025.

Dr. Kobilinsky received his BS in Biology from City College in New York in 1969. He also received his Master's in Biology in 1971 and his PhD in 1977 from The Graduate Center of the City University of New York. Dr Kobilinsky has consulted on high profile cases such as the Casey Anthony murder trial, Michael Brown and JonBenet Ramsey.

Dr. Lawrence Kobilinsky was an internationally renowned forensic scientist and an expert in Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) analysis. His labs developed methods to conduct Restriction Fragment Length Polymorphism (RFLP) of Variable Number Tandem Repeats (VNTRs), and Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) of Short Tandem Repeats (STRs). He has been working with colleagues on high sensitivity methods to study low copy number DNA extracted from biological evidence. He was also passionate about developing a better scientific approach to crime scene investigations.

During his tenure at John Jay, Dr. Kobilinsky was promoted to the positions of Associate and full Professor. Additionally, he served in many administrative positions which included Acting Dean of Graduate Studies, Undergraduate Dean and Associate Provost, Science Advisor to the College President, Chair and Deputy Chair of the Department of Sciences. After his long association with the college, he retired in 2019.

As we mourn his passing, let us honor his remarkable life and the enduring impact he has had on countless lives.

A funeral service will be held on Sunday May 18 at 10am at Temple of Israel of New Rochelle 1000 Pinebrook Blvd, New Rochelle, NY and the burial service to follow after the funeral will be held Cedar Park Cemetery, 735 Forest Ave, Paramus, NJ. The service will be streamed live from the website: <https://www.tinr.org/> (Scroll down to "Live Stream" and click "Watch Now")

Shiva will be held at Temple Israel of Northern Westchester (NOTE THIS IS A DIFFERENT TEMPLE THAN THE SERVICE BEING HELD IN THE MORNING), located at 31 Glengary Rd., Croton-on-Hudson, NY in the Roth Family Community Room, following the burial (approximately 2:30 PM) and continuing until 8 PM on Sunday, May 18th, and again on Monday, May 19th, from 4-7 PM.

Faculty and staff members (and families) can access free services through the Employee Assistance Program: CCA@YourService. Call **1-800-833-8707** or go to [www.myccaonline.com](http://www.myccaonline.com), or download the CCA@YourService App. Code: CUNY. For mental health, access 3 *free* counseling sessions for *each* issue of concern.