



# NATIONAL DISTRICT ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: April 10, 2017

## National District Attorneys Association Applauds Expiration of National Commission on Forensic Science

ARLINGTON, Virginia – The National District Attorneys Association (NDAA) supports the announcement this morning by United States Attorney General Jeff Sessions that he will not renew the charter for the National Commission on Forensic Science, allowing the Commission to officially expire. NDAA also appreciates the creation of a Subcommittee on Forensics as part of the Attorney General’s Task Force on Crime Reduction and Public Safety.

The Commission lacked adequate representation from the state and local practitioner community, was dominated by the defense community, and failed to produce work products of significance for the forensic science community. Very few of the recommendations from the Commission were adopted and signed by the previous Attorney General during its existence. Those that were signed, such as universal accreditation, had already begun to develop organically within the forensic science community as accepted best practices, thus replicating ongoing work and wasting taxpayer dollars.

Now more than ever, an Office of Forensic Science (OFS) under the Department of Justice (DOJ), and in consultation with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), should be created. DOJ has a vested interest in maintaining the overall integrity of the criminal justice system while NIST has a role in the innovation of forensic science.

“An Office of Forensic Science will ensure forensic science progresses in the courtroom to not only aid in the prosecution of the guilty, but exonerate the innocent,” said NDAA President Michael Ramos.

We can no longer afford to sit back and wait for the advancement and support of forensic science. An OFS needs to happen now to guarantee its effective future in the criminal justice system. NDAA agrees with the Attorney General that the majority of forensic science in the field is conducted by state and local crime labs, and then used by state and local prosecutors in the courtroom. That reality must be a central focus as we advance forensic science in the field.

*The National District Attorneys Association (NDAA), [www.ndaa.org](http://www.ndaa.org), is the oldest and largest prosecutor organization in the country, representing 2,500 elected and appointed District Attorneys across the United States, as well as 40,000 Assistant District Attorneys.*

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