

MESSAGE

from the Executive Director

SCOTT BURNS



News from NDAA: Funding, Work on Capitol Hill, Audits, Training

THE GOOD NEWS is that the \$1.6 million in grant monies for the National Advocacy Center was finally released (thanks to Richard Hanes, NDAA's executive office administrator, who wrote several technical policies and procedures that were required by the Department of Justice before the money could be accessed). We will soon resume funding our prosecutors to fly to Columbia, South Carolina, to receive the best training in the world. That said, we must now get back to work and try to obtain permanent NAC funding at appropriate levels. In addition, we are waiting to hear how we fared in the FY10 budget for John R. Justice Student Loan Forgiveness monies—Senator Durbin of Illinois has been a champion for John R. Justice. Joe Hynes and Anne Swern of Brooklyn were instrumental in securing a resolution from the ABA supporting this important opportunity to recruit and retain great prosecutors.

Jason Baker, our government affairs director, is in high gear preparing for our Capital Conference to be held February 8-10, 2010. We will have important meetings and send prosecutors to the Hill to meet personally with their respective delegations regarding NAC, John R. Justice, the National Academy of Sciences Report and other issues that are important to NDAA.

The bad news is that we continue to work through a myriad of challenges regarding the Inspector General's Audit. While we have cleaned things up for the years 2003-2006, we anticipate that we may have to pay back monies to the federal government for non-compliance with grant regulations and failure to reconcile our fringe and overhead rates during the year 2007. I can tell you is that a number of people at NDAA are working hard to make certain that accounting and grant procedures are in place so that we do not face these problems in the future. We have an excellent NDAA Audit Committee (Jerry Blair, Don Santarelli, Joe Koenig, Virginia Sloan, Mike Moore and Jim Backstrom) that will be meeting soon, and our treasurer, Frank

Weathersbee, is outstanding. We are also working on our 2009 audit and financial statements and should have those available soon.

NDAA President-Elect Jim Reams of New Hampshire testified before the House Judiciary on the topic of "Racial Bias in the Criminal Justice System" and did an excellent job. Patricia Lykos of Texas (DA in Harris County/Houston) testified before the Senate Judiciary and was outstanding as well. Thanks are in order to Joe Hynes and other board members who attended the ABA meetings in Washington, D.C. in November—we are making great progress.

We have responded (with help from Josh Marquis and other members) to dozens of media inquiries (*USA Today*, *Newsweek*, and newspaper, TV, and radio interviews) regarding the issues of juvenile life without parole, re-entry, drug courts, death penalty and a number of stories dealing with specific state-focused issues. We are attempting to make sure our voice is heard.

The NAPC meetings were held in Little Rock, Arkansas, on December 7-10. The NDAA Executive Committee will meet in Florida in January; the spring board meeting will take place in Charleston, South Carolina, on April 8-10; the NDAA Summer Conference (under Barbara LaWall's strong leadership) will be held in Napa, California, on July 10-14 and we are getting an early start (at Jim Ream's urging) on the 2011 Summer Conference in Quebec, Canada.

I won't list all of the trainings that our great NDAA folks are conducting across the country and at the NAC, but have to mention that Candace Mosley's Domestic Violence Conference in San Antonio, TX (well over 500 attendees) was outstanding as usual. Our Southwest Border Conference in San Diego attracted over 100 attendees for the first week of December.

Our CRM for Members (new and improved Web site and member resources) is about ready for primetime and

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necessary. A recent participant, Keith Burt, a deputy district attorney in San Diego says, “this (computer digital evidence) is the way of the future in crime. Anybody that sticks a gun in somebody’s face and forcibly takes money is a fool. Many criminals, even gang members, are recognizing this and are all going to more sophisticated ways to acquire money.”

The objective of the NCFI is to not only meet a critical demand, but assist in positioning law enforcement one step ahead of the criminal.

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we hope to do a demonstration at the meeting in Charleston in the spring. I am confident that NDAA members are going to be very pleased with the tremendous improvements to our Web site and our overall IT structure and systems.

I could go on and on, but suffice to say that we remain in “high gear” with a focus on:

- maintaining and increasing our grant funding and being fiscally responsible,
- being at the table—wherever the table is—on every public policy issue relating to the criminal justice system, and
- providing top-notch technical assistance and training to our prosecutors across the country.

On a personal note, and as represented when I was honored to be selected as your executive director, during my

The 2010 schedule of prosecutor training is as follows:

- March 22–26 (application deadline December 11)
- May 3–7 (application deadline January 22)
- July 26–30 (application deadline April 16)
- August 23–27 (application deadline May 14)

For more information on the NCFI and how to attend training, go to their Web site at www.ncfi.ussc.gov, or contact Barry Page at barry.page@alabamada.gov.

years at the White House I also served in the capacity of sports minister of the United States. (We are one of only a few countries that do not have a minister of sports but are represented by a White House appointee). A year ago the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) selected me to head the International Independent Observer Program—to make certain that athletes compete drug-free—at the Winter Olympics in Vancouver, Canada, from February 10–28, 2010. I will, of course, be available by e-mail and cell phone and will continue to work on all issues related to NDAA, but I will not be in Alexandria or Columbia. As always, if you have questions about any issues regarding your NDAA, please don’t hesitate to call me (703.919.9286) or e-mail me (sburns@ndaa.org) at anytime.

Message from the President

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These are only some of the issues NDAA, as the voice of America’s prosecutors, is working on. Many people work tirelessly every day to be that voice for each of you—not only your executive director but also our two legislative personnel, Jason Baker and Ryan Welch. Ryan is our independent contractor who is doing great work for not much pay. We need to find the money to keep him working.

We are holding our Capital Conference in Washington February 8–10, 2010. If we can receive a letter supporting the NAC from each state by then and combine that with a strong showing of attendance, that will really make a bold statement. At the Capital Conference, we will of course be focusing on many of the other important issues in addition to the NAC funding. Specifically, we will also use our time

on the Hill and at our reception to stress the importance of proper funding for the JRJ Act and student loan forgiveness, as well as for necessary updates on the NAS or other issues as appropriate.

Where do we go from here? We have made great strides in the past year or so. We have a new executive director who is well-respected, energetic, hard working and doing a great job. The John R. Justice Act is now law and we are about to get funding in some amount. We are again able to pay the expenses for students attending NAC courses, at least for nearly the next year. We are committed to going forward. Going forward by securing permanent funding for the NAC. Going forward by obtaining appropriate funding for student loan forgiveness. With the help and commitment of all of you we can accomplish these goals and many more.