

MESSAGE

from the Executive Director

SCOTT BURNS



A Core NDAA Mission: Prosecutors Training Prosecutors

THERE ARE MANY GREAT TRAINING PROGRAMS across America, but when it comes to training prosecutors NDAA has always believed that we should find the best and brightest among our members and let them teach. In order to pay for this training (costs for faculty and prosecutors who attend as students), it is essential that we receive grant funding. In the past few years and in the face of an OIG Audit, we haven't done so well. (Federal granting agencies must have confidence that we are properly structured with policies and procedures, follow technical grant requirements and are good stewards with taxpayer dollars.) In the past year, and with the hard work of the new financial and grant team at NDAA, we are well on our way in establishing that we have implemented (and are implementing) the professional changes required to receive grants and deliver first rate training to prosecutors.

The Great News is that we were awarded several substantial grants this year, and will soon be providing this excellent and badly needed training across the country. The new grants we received are:

- **\$499,000** Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC), national training for prosecutors.
- **\$1,864,696** national training and technical assistance for child abuse prosecutors.
- **\$200,000** Elder Abuse and Neglect, training and technical assistance for prosecutors.
- **\$1,890,000** Missing and Exploited Children, training and technical assistance for child abuse prosecutors and other professionals.
- **\$1,175,000** National Advocacy Center (NAC) in Columbia, South Carolina, training on a number of important issues facing prosecutors.
- **\$299,762** Project Safe Neighborhoods, training and technical assistance for gang and gun issues facing prosecutors.
- **\$1,000,000** Pharmaceutical and Prescription Drug, training and technical assistance for prosecutors.
- **\$599,996** Mortgage Fraud, training and technical assistance for prosecutors and other professionals.
- **\$322,000** national training for prosecutors who deal with capital cases.

These new awards are in addition to a number of ongoing grants that allow NDAA to provide training on a number of other issues (anti-gang training, domestic violence, the National Traffic Law Center, child abuse, human trafficking, DNA, southwest border, protection of the elderly). These current grants provide millions to train prosecutors.

As many of you are aware, success and increased resources will require expansion. If you have visited our Alexandria, Virginia, office, you know that we are literally stacked on top of one another—we have lawyers in cubicles, lawyers sharing offices and the hallways stacked with our materials, files and equipment. The Executive Committee and the Board have charged me with presenting options to solve this “good” problem in a fiscally appropriate way. I hope to start providing options for expansion within the next few months. We anticipate hiring new attorneys and new staff personnel and making room for more of our great interns.

Finally, the long awaited “CRM for Members” database is in final stages of “testing and practice” and goes live the first week of November right on the heels of our Great Plains accounting system being implemented (and working great). If you haven't visited our new NDAA Web site, please do. I think you will be impressed. Additionally, you'll be glad to know that we have entered the world of social marketing and are now on Facebook gathering “friends” and “likes” every day. I hope to see many of you at the Board Meeting in Arizona this November and, in the meantime, call or e-mail me if you have any questions or if there is anything I can do for you.

—Scott Burns