

MESSAGE

from the Interim Executive Director

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NDAA Is Its Members

THE NATIONAL DISTRICT ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION is its members. From Bonnie Dumanis in San Diego to David Barber in Birmingham; from John Sarcone in Des Moines to Mark Sorsaia in Winfield, West Virginia; from Joe Hynes in Brooklyn to Luis Valentin in Freehold, New Jersey—our members come from every state and from every corner of the country and beyond. We have members whose focus is a dedication to excellent education for America's prosecutors. We have members whose focus is their commitment to achieving loan incentives or forgiveness for prosecutors. We have members whose focus is on the need to insure their offices against civil liability. Our membership is as diverse as the reasons that prompt prosecutors to join our organization.

The past year has been a particularly challenging one for NDAA, but it has been an incredible opportunity for our members to express their support of our mission:

*To Be the Voice of America's Prosecutors and To Support Their Efforts To
Protect the Rights and Safety of the People*

All of the members mentioned above and many, many others—too numerous to name here—have pitched in to help NDAA achieve its mission. We have more than 6,000 members out of over 30,000 prosecutors across the country. Many of our members have volunteered to teach for NDAA, frequently at their own cost. Many members came to the Capital Conference in January to explain our important issues to Congress. Many chief prosecutors have offered their own staff to help us with specific tasks. For instance, Frank Weathersbee of Annapolis, Maryland, has allowed Kristin Riggin to help us with media issues. Barbara LaWall of Tucson, Arizona, has assisted with expertise on the preparation of grant applications for necessary funding at the National Advocacy Center. The nation's prosecutor coordinators have been there at every turn to lend support and advice. NAPC's Wally Kirby has served on NDAA's transition team. The lobbying trio of William Bilton, Randy Hillman and Geline Williams has shown us how it's done (Persistence, Presence and Patience) and has been a huge help. NDAA is its members.

Over the coming year it will be critical for NDAA to continue to increase our membership and the services we provide our members. We are determined to continue our focus on the

needs of our members and what they need from their national organization. Some of the current NDAA services for members and prosecutors are:

- Education and Training
- Research
- *The Prosecutor* magazine
- Member Discounts
- News Clips
- Technical Assistance
- Prosecutors' Yahoo Group
- Leadership on issues like Student Loan Incentives and the Ernest F. Hollings National Advocacy Center
- Distance Education DVDs and other educational resources
- Indemnity insurance against civil claims
- Assistance with media issues
- Publications
- Newsletters for specialty areas like child abuse
- Web site
- National Center for Prosecution Ethics
- Amicus Briefs
- National Prosecution Standards

NDAA's services to members and non-member prosecutors have grown over the years; it is an opportune time to reflect on whether there are any unmet member needs that we need to address. We hope to survey our members this year on this question and to focus our energies on taking care of our members. NDAA is its members.

NDAA was founded in 1950 as a membership organization for prosecutors. The past 58 years have seen many changes in the law, in the criminal justice system, and in the way prosecutors do business. Just as the prosecutorial world around us has changed and will continue to change, so too must NDAA change to meet the daily challenges of America's prosecutors. NDAA is staffed by dedicated and committed people who are determined to fulfill our mission of supporting America's prosecutors. NDAA is its members. We invite our members to let us know what helps you and what else we need to do to help you through these changing times.