

# MESSAGE

*from the President*

JAMES P. FOX  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
REDWOOD CITY, CALIFORNIA



## Our Future is Brighter

**AS I WIND DOWN AT THE END OF MY TERM** as president of the National District Attorneys Association I look back on a year of challenges and accomplishments. Although we continue to pursue funding from the federal government for training America's prosecutors both through grants for APRI programs, as well as dedicated funding for the National Advocacy Center, we have made great progress in stabilizing the financial situation for NDAA. In July we will relocate our headquarters from our long-term location at 99 Canal Center Plaza to a significantly smaller, less expensive space at 44 Canal Center Plaza within the same building complex.

We were able to negotiate a favorable lease of the new space and terminate the prior lease, which would have continued to be a financial drain for another four years. The lease for our new space is for a four-year term, during which time we will actively look at other options.

There will undoubtedly be some disruption of our operations at the Alexandria headquarters during our move, so please be patient. Staff is busily preparing for the logistics of the move and much of the move will be accomplished by our dedicated employees.

At our spring Board Meeting in Savannah, Georgia, a spontaneous strategic planning session was facilitated by Richard Wintory. We spent hours discussing the future of our association and surveyed board members to prioritize concerns about the structure of the association, concerns about services as well as issues which we face both now and in the future. Tom Robertson from the National Association of Prosecutor Coordinators served as recorder and compiled the survey results. A number of board members volunteered to serve and their services will be called upon in the very near future.

NDAA had been requested to provide technical assistance to the New Orleans, Louisiana, District Attorney's Office after the chaos created by Hurricane Katrina. A team of five experience prosecutors volunteered their time to go to New Orleans and participate in a weeklong investigation of the problems facing the Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office. We are grateful to Bob McCulloch, prosecuting attorney of St.

Louis County, Missouri.; Kamala Harris, district attorney of San Francisco, California, Paul Howard, district attorney of Atlanta, Georgia; Bill Gibbons, district attorney general of the 30th Judicial District, Memphis, Tennessee; and Peter Gilchrist, III, district attorney 26th Judicial District, Charlotte, North Carolina, for generously offering their time and their experience to assist in this important project. David LaBahn, director of NDAA's Research and Development Division, the American Prosecutor Research Institute, compiled the findings and recommendations. We hope the final report will provide assistance to Keva Landrum-Johnson, district attorney, Orleans Parish. If any American prosecutor desires technical assistance, NDAA is ideally positioned to offer years of valuable experience through our members.

I was honored to deliver the annual John Price Lecture at the Career Prosecutor Course in Charleston, South Carolina, on June 1, 2008. Mr. Price was the longest serving district attorney of Sacramento, California, and served as president of NDAA 1969-70. He was instrumental in creating the National College of District Attorneys. In my address, I informed the students that prosecutors were once viewed as wearing white hats, symbolizing good. We have been under constant attack by the media, the defense bar, innocence projects and others critical of our criminal justice system. I fear that many no longer view prosecutors as representing good, but rather just another player in a flawed system. We cannot allow public confidence in America's prosecutors to erode. We must reclaim the white hat by exemplifying everything that is good about prosecution. We must all do the right thing for the right reason at all times. The public should expect nothing less.

I would like to thank all of the members of NDAA for allowing me to serve as your president this past year. While there have been significant challenges, I appreciate the support I have received from everyone. I would especially like to thank Mary Galvin, the interim executive director who has provided remarkable leadership during difficult times. The future of our association is much brighter as a result of Mary's incredible efforts performing three jobs at once.