



# NATIONAL DISTRICT ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **NDAA President Responds to Release of “21 Principles for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Prosecutor” Roadmap**

ARLINGTON, Virginia – National District Attorneys Association President, Essex District Attorney Jonathan Blodgett, issued the following statement in response to recent proposals put forth by Fair and Just Prosecution:

While some of the principles put forth by Fair and Just Prosecution are worthy and – in many cases – already accepted practice – the absence of any proposals that address crime victims directly is astonishing. The principles fail to acknowledge that crime victims are the only party in the courtroom through no fault or action of their own. It is important to remember and highlight that the only voice for victims in the court room is that of the district attorney. It is wrong that the current narrative ignores the pain and suffering so many victims have to endure. Too often, victims are marginalized by the loudest voices demanding reform.

The NDAA is committed to working with other organizations on meaningful criminal justice reform but will not keep silent when there is a failure to recognize existing reforms initiated by district attorneys and a lack of acknowledgement of the impact of their proposals on crime victims. We are obligated to the communities we are elected to serve and take an oath to uphold the laws enacted by state legislatures. So, while district attorneys are innovators when it comes to alternatives to incarceration, such as diversion programs for non-violent crime, we remain unapologetic in our pursuit of justice on behalf of victims of violent crimes and the protection of the public’s safety.

The NDAA continues to promote and strengthen the integrity of our criminal justice system through training and the development of best practices for the nation’s prosecutors. We offer training on the prosecution of such crimes as human trafficking, drunk driving, child abuse and sexual assaults to ensure fair trials for defendants and that victims’ rights are respected and valued. We remain open to innovation and change in the system but will not abdicate our responsibilities to the victims and the public.

*The National District Attorneys Association (NDAA), [www.ndaa.org](http://www.ndaa.org), is the 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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