



NATIONAL DISTRICT ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 7, 2021

NDAA Partners with Vera Causa Group to Promote Leadership and Racial Equity Inside and Outside the Prosecutor's Office

Washington, DC and St. Louis, MO – Like so many Americans, prosecutors across the country are troubled by events in our criminal justice system that have inspired the community's cries for racial equity and reform. In response, the National District Attorneys Association (NDAA) and Vera Causa Group, LLC (VCG) today announced a partnership that supports the efforts of prosecutors in their ongoing quest to make our criminal justice system fair, just and racially equitable.

"As leaders in our criminal justice system, prosecutors are eager to spearhead the effort for meaningful change," said Nelson Bunn, NDAA Executive Director. "This partnership with Vera Causa Group is an important step in our work to provide top-tier resources and training to prosecutors as they take a leadership role and address the actual and perceived inequities in the criminal justice system."

"Prosecutors hear the call for change and seek real-life solutions to promote racial equity beyond the actions they are already taking to ensure a just society for everyone," said Jennifer M. Joyce, VCG Principal and former City of St. Louis elected prosecutor. "Prosecutors are at the center of the judicial ecosystem, so they are in a unique position to see the challenges and opportunities in our current system," said Joyce. She, along with her colleague Susan C. Ryan a human resources, communications and diversity expert, own Vera Causa Group. VCG provides high-impact strategies to promote leadership and racial equity inside and outside the prosecutor's office.

Recently, the NDAA released action steps that can be taken to improve trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve, enhance transparency and accountability by law enforcement, improve data collection and strengthen training and guidelines for use of force.

After being forced to cancel in-person scheduled trainings in 2020 due to the pandemic, VCG and NDAA hosted virtual trainings specifically related to racial equity and anti-bias programs in the criminal justice system. The course "The Antiracist Prosecutor," was the most attended online course for NDAA in 2020.

Ryan and Joyce of VCG have been serving for years as valued faculty for NDAA at many annual executive and administrative courses, helping prosecutors improve organizational performance, training leaders to foster cultures of conviction integrity and assisting elected prosecutors with managing high-profile cases like officer-involved shootings and homicide cases that attract national attention.

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This 2021 partnership is a natural extension of the two organizations' desire to support prosecutors and law enforcement throughout the country. The following NDAA/VCG courses are currently scheduled for 2021:

Thursday, May 20

11:30am – 1:30pm Eastern Time

The AntiRacist Prosecutor: An Obligation to Act

Thursday, June 10

11:30am – 1:30pm Eastern Time

The AntiRacist Prosecutor II: The Sequel – Strategies for Action

Wednesday, September 8

11:30am – 1:30pm Eastern Time

The AntiRacist Prosecutor III: Having the Hard Conversations Internally and Externally

Thursday and Friday, September 9 and 10

11:30am – 1:30pm Eastern Time

Public Information Officer (PIO) and Elected Prosecutor Media Training

Wednesday, November 10

11:30am – 1:30pm Eastern Time

Understanding, Interrupting and Minimizing Conscious and Unconscious Bias

Founded in 1950, the National District Attorneys Association (NDAA) is a national, non-partisan membership association that provides training, technical assistance and services in support of the prosecution profession across the country. As the oldest and largest association of prosecutors in the country with over 5,000 members, its mission is to be the voice of America's prosecutors and to support their efforts to protect the rights and safety of the people by providing its members with the knowledge, skills, and support they need to ensure justice is attained. NDAA serves as a nationwide, interdisciplinary resource center for research, training, knowledge building and accountability as it works to promote a fair and equitable administration of justice. www.ndaa.org

Vera Causa Group, LLC is committed to helping clients in and outside the criminal justice system reach their maximum potential by building capacity in the areas of leadership, organizational excellence and communication. The firm was founded by Jennifer M. Joyce, a former elected prosecutor and Susan C. Ryan, a leadership, diversity and communications professional with almost two decades of criminal justice experience. www.veracausagroup.com

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