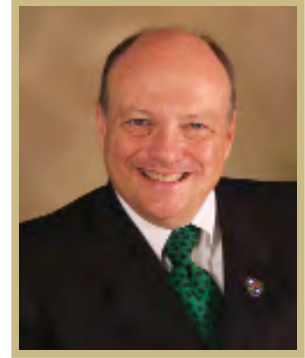


# MESSAGE

*from the President*

JOSEPH I. CASSILLY  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND



## The Importance of Funding the John R. Justice Act and Funding Training for Prosecutors

*“Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any other one thing.”—Abraham Lincoln*

*“The thing always happens that you really believe in; and the belief in a thing makes it happen.”—Frank Lloyd Wright*

**THE ELECTION IS PAST** and the “ins” are in our nation’s capital. The NDAA Board of Directors met in Santa Fe at the end of November and decided to do three things with respect to the new administration and congress.

First, NDAA voted to support the confirmation of Eric Holder, Jr. to be the next attorney general. Many of the Board know Mr. Holder from prior service in the Justice Department, but unlike other U. S. attorneys, Mr. Holder’s experience in the District of Columbia was with street crimes and the kinds of issues that confront state and local prosecutors. To this purpose, support letters were sent to Senators Leahy, Specter and Cardin on the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Second, we decided that we must develop a very aggressive approach to the decision makers in Washington with respect to funding the John R. Justice Act and training for prosecutors. Although there are many issues of importance to prosecutors we believe that we must prioritize and put all of our efforts toward these two appropriations. In the last issue of *The Prosecutor*, I asked each of you to make an effort to reach out to your congressmen to introduce NDAA to them. Now I am asking you to fax them letters pointing out the critical importance of these bills to you, their constituents.

The John R. Justice Act, when funded, will provide student loan relief to prosecutors. If you are dealing with student loan payments or someone in your office is, *write*. Don’t sit there thinking how nice it will be when someone else does the work to get this funded. You need to write a letter, explain that you are a prosecutor, the amount of your student loan, the salary you receive and your desire to remain a prosecutor. If you are the supervisor of someone with a student loan explain how the office is affected when trained prosecutors leave for better pay, taking their training and experience with them. Explain that your community is made up of voters and that

your service to them has a reflection on Congress and the administration. Because the John R. Justice Act is to be administered by the U.S. attorney general, send a letter to him asking him to make its implementation a priority.

Training for prosecutors at the NAC and through other grants NDAA receives must also be funded. Explain to Congress and to the attorney general the importance of these programs, the lack of alternatives, and the impact the loss of this opportunity will have on your office. Itemize the courses you have taken from NDAA and describe the positive effects you have seen professionally and personally because of these courses.

The members of Congress from your state must know that this specialized training directly affects their citizens, their voters and their victims and witnesses of crime. No one else’s letter can have the impact that yours will. Remember to fax your letter; the fax numbers are on the congressional Web sites. Again, also send letters to the U.S. attorney general asking him to request appropriations for these programs in the DOJ budget.

Third, we decided, given the importance of our issues in Washington, that we needed professional help. To this end we have retained a lobbying firm. We are not using any dues to pay for the lobbyist. Instead we have started a legislative advocacy fund and are asking for donations. I know two paragraphs ago I talked about underpaid, overworked prosecutors struggling with the burdens of student loans, but if thousands of prosecutors nationwide would send in \$5 or \$10 to NDAA for the NDAA Legislative Advocacy Fund we could mount a coordinated attack on these issues. Please consider helping us out.

It was a year ago when things at NDAA looked bleak for the future of our organization. So much has changed in 12 months. And almost all of the remarkable success and transformation that has occurred is due to the efforts of the employees of NDAA—people who put in very long hours, pitched in and did any job that needed doing and just simply refused to consider any other outcome for NDAA but a dynamic, improving organization.

*(Continued on page 8)*

# NDAAs

## *Names in the News*

**NASSAU COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY Kathleen Rice's** fight against drunk drivers was featured on the January 4, 2009, episode of CBS's *60 Minutes*. The national television news magazine profiled several DWI cases in which Rice obtained harsh penalties and long prison sentences for drunk drivers.

Former Queen Anne's County State's Attorney and NDAA board member **Frank Kratovil** was elected to congress from Maryland's first congressional district.

Assistant District Attorney **Edward McCann**, Chief of the Homicide Unit, Philadelphia District Attorney's Office, was recently successful in convincing a grand jury to recommend criminal charges in a very difficult case. On July 31, 2008, a grand jury released the findings of its investigation into the death of a

14-year-old disabled girl who died of neglect while under the protective services of DHS and a private contract agency. The grand jury issued a presentment recommending criminal charges against the parents of the girl and against employees of DHS and the private agency. The recommendations included the charge of murder against the mother and endangering the welfare of children against the father. Two DHS social workers were charged with endangering the welfare of children and recklessly endangering another person. Employees of the private agency were charged with involuntary manslaughter, endangering the welfare of children, forgery, and other related offenses. McCann is also handling the prosecutions that resulted from the charges.

### Message from the President

*(Continued from page 5)*

So where do we go from here? As president, I have some goals that I am hoping to accomplish during the remainder of my term. First on the list is to see NDAA become more accommodating and responsive to members. Toward this end your association is installing new computer software that will give us a new database to track and contact members. It will have a Web portal to allow members to update changes to their mail or e-mail addresses and other information. Members will be able to tell the association what areas of prosecution and what NDAA committees they are interested in. It will allow NDAA to communicate more effectively with

members, directing messages and training offerings to prosecutors in certain areas of the country or with certain interests. It will allow you to pay dues or tuition or purchase items online. We should see results from this effort in a few months.

We, the members of NDAA, must become involved in fashioning NDAA to meet our expectations. I encourage our membership to attend board meetings in their area, attend the summer conference and participate on committees. Our next board meeting is in Baltimore March 19-21. You are all invited to come by and attend meetings. The NDAA committees are listed with the respective chairs. Any active or associate member can ask a chairman about becoming a member of a committee.

### NDAAs COMMITTEES

#### *Crime Control & Drug Enforcement*

Peter Carlisle, Honolulu, Hawaii; Julia Bates, Toledo, Ohio

#### *Ethics & Services*

Lohra Miller, Salt Lake City, Utah; Deborah Amarini, Dayton, Ohio

#### *Legislation*

John Sarcone, Des Moines, Iowa; Mike Wright, Warrenton, Missouri

#### *Juvenile Justice & Family Law*

Betsy Scheibel, Northhampton, Massachusetts; Gary Walker, Marquette, Michigan

#### *Corrections & Reentry*

Pat Jessamy, Baltimore, Maryland; Mike Thomas, Saginaw, Michigan; Kamala Harris, San Francisco, California

#### *Membership*

Stan Levco, Evansville, Indiana; Luis Valentin, Freehold, New Jersey

#### *Science & Technology*

Gary Lacey, Lincoln, Nebraska; Mike Moore, Huron, South Dakota; Michaela Mathews, National Association of Justice Information Systems, Nashville, Tennessee

#### *Metro*

Dan Conley, Boston, Massachusetts; Katherine Fernandez Rundle, Miami, Florida

#### *Media & Communications*

Ray Larson, Lexington, Kentucky; Josh Marquis, Astoria, Oregon

#### *National*

David Landefeld, Lancaster, Ohio