



The IAI

Keeping You Informed

The Attorney General has allowed the National Commission on Forensic Science to sunset rather than renewing its charter and has provided in its place the appointment of a forensic science advisor to the Deputy Attorney General. He has created a forensic subcommittee to the Attorney General's Task Force on Crime, and has begun to implement the language that the IAI supported through the CFSO to conduct a needs assessment for forensic science.

It is very important that our community provide comments to the Attorney General about how we believe the future of forensic science should look. The Department of Justice has asked for comments on "how the Department should move forward to evaluate and improve the underlying science of forensic evidence; improve the operational management systems of forensic science service providers; and improve the understanding of forensic science by legal practitioners".

It is critical that you let the new Administration know how you feel about a proposed path forward that DOJ should pursue for forensic science. Comments must be submitted through www.regulations.gov by **June 9, 2017** (enter "advancing forensic science" in the search box). Reference "Docket No. OLP 160" on your submission.

The IAI plans to submit a detailed statement to DOJ that states the following:

- It is the belief of IAI that an Office of Forensic Science (OFS) should be created to ensure that those resources provided to the community match the needs of the actual practitioners. This office should be equal to other components within the Office of Justice Programs, such as the Office of Victims Crime (OVC), the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing (SMART), the Office of Juvenile Justice (OJJDP), the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), and the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS).
- A permanent Advisory Board should be created consisting of state, county, and local forensic science practitioners to advise the OFS
- A review and prioritization of the recommendations made by the NCFCS with a cost analysis and implementation plan should be developed.
- A database of existing research should be created and then a plan to advance forensic science research should be developed.
- The Department of Justice should continue to fund and help make permanent the OSAC to insure its uninterrupted continuation in creating national standards for each of the forensic science disciplines.
- A national strategy providing for a timeline and resources to achieve accreditation and certification.

Harold Ruslander, President

