



April 2, 2013

Deputy Attorney General James M. Cole
United States Department of Justice
Office of the Deputy Attorney General
950 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Ref: The National Commission on Forensic Science

Deputy Attorney General James M. Cole,

The International Association for Identification (IAI) would like to express our support and optimism for the implementation of the National Commission on Forensic Science. As stated in the press release from the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), the objective of the Commission is to strengthen and enhance the practice of forensic science, and to develop policy recommendations for the Attorney General. Considering the diversified membership of stakeholders on this Commission dedicated to this objective, the IAI is encouraged that this effort will provide the framework and tools necessary for practitioners, educators, researchers, attorneys and judges to strengthen the forensic science enterprise and ultimately the administration of justice.

We look forward to sharing developments from the Commission with our members. The IAI has the unique ability to reach 7,000 members and 52 divisions through an organizational structure comprised of 15 representatives on the executive board; regional, international and division representatives; an educational program staff and training partner; 17 discipline-specific subcommittees; 13 liaison positions to external organizations; 17 special committees; 8 certification boards and an advocacy committee (approximately 350 volunteers) available to network across regions and divisions as requested by the IAI executive board.

The IAI's mission is to associate professionals actively engaged in the scientific examination of physical evidence, improve the science within each discipline, and educate members on the latest technologies and advances within the scientific community through IAI official publications. These publications, as well as the conferences, websites, and newsletters have been an essential source of communication for members, private industry, academic partners and researchers around the world.

Regarding a uniform code of ethics, all members have a responsibility to affirm and practice according to the IAI Code of Ethics and Standards of Professional Conduct to become, and remain a member.

The IAI is one of the leading forensic organizations offering both certification and specialized training for practitioners and promotes innovation and standardization within each discipline. The IAI certification program is accredited by the Forensic Specialties Accreditation Board (FSAB) providing a mechanism for

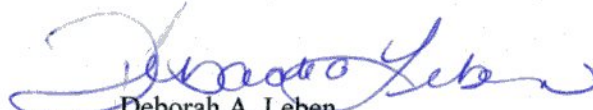
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the forensic community to assess, recognize, and monitor the program that certifies individual forensic scientists and specialists. This program is reviewed by FSAB and the IAI Professional Programs Quality Assurance Governing Board to insure continuous improvement in the administration and management of certifications. In addition, the certification boards and scientific subcommittees review protocols, research, and practices for each discipline and collaborate with the Scientific Working Groups to facilitate the same. The information is then published on the IAI website to provide transparency to the public, practitioners, and to foster student education. With this common effort in mind, the IAI supports the advancement of the NIST-administered guidance groups and proposed practice guidance that will be centralized and publically available to the community. The IAI is confident that the participation from the forensic science practitioners on these guidance groups and on the Commission will offer the perspective and experience needed to develop and execute new policies within the work environment.

In closing, we are encouraged by this initiative to establish a National Commission on Forensic Science as it parallels the IAI mission and we offer our assistance at any time to advance this agenda.

Respectfully submitted,



Deborah A. Leben