



August 7, 2017

The International Association for Identification assembled at its 102nd Annual Educational Conference in Atlanta, Georgia was honored to welcome United States Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein to address the forensic professionals in attendance. DAG Rosenstein, during his remarks (<https://www.justice.gov/opa/speech/deputy-attorney-general-rod-rosenstein-delivers-remarks-international-association>) first thanked the IAI by stating, "I am grateful to the International Association for Identification for giving me the opportunity to participate in your Annual Conference." He continued with, "I have worked as a prosecutor for 27 years. I understand the critical role the critical role that forensic analysis can play in our criminal justice system. I know how forensics can be used to exonerate the innocent and convict the guilty."

DAG Rosenstein highlighted the Justice Department's plan to advance forensic science by announcing to the membership that Attorney General Jeff Sessions had appointed Ted Hunt, former state prosecutor and member of the former National Commission on Forensic Science to serve as the Department's Senior Advisor on Forensics. Part of the plan entailed the funding of forensic science through grant programs at the Office of Justice Programs and elsewhere.

DAG Rosenstein announced the creation of a new Forensic Science Working Group. The first order of business will be to resume work on the Uniform Language for Testimony and Reports. The Working Group will be tasked with finalizing the Uniform Language program, "so we can implement it in the near future. We will rely on input from outside stakeholders, including defense attorneys, academic scientists, and statisticians, as well as forensic scientist practitioners. Ted Hunt will coordinate closely with federal, state, local, and tribal forensic science practitioners and identify ways to conduct ongoing outreach to those stakeholders. We are taking other steps to improve forensic science. In April, we announced a Needs Assessment of Forensic Laboratories. We plan to examine workload, backlog, personnel and equipment needs of public crime laboratories, and the education and training needs of forensic science practitioners." DAG Rosenstein stated, "We face many law enforcement challenges - new challenges spawned by the internet and modern technology, old challenges like combating violent gangs, and evolving challenges such as the unprecedented surge in drug overdose deaths from synthetic chemicals. The President has tasked the Department of Justice to address those challenges. The Attorney General strongly believes that forensic analysis can help us find solutions."

The International Association for Identification strongly supports Attorney General Jeff Session's initiative as presented by Deputy Attorney General Rosenstein in his efforts to advance forensic science in the US. In achieving these goals, the stakeholders of the criminal justice system will be better served. We look forward to working in concert with DOJ to achieve these common goals.

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