

I want to focus this week on our relationships with our relationships with attorneys. ASCLD supports many different training events for attorneys throughout the year. Forensic science education for attorneys is important because they can fill roles of in-house counsel, officers of the court, or potential advocates for resources and legislation that benefit the laboratory.

Training for attorneys representing laboratories:

The Virginia Department of Forensic Science is hosting a training for attorneys representing laboratories. The purpose of the training is to bring together forensic laboratory counsel from across the country to discuss the numerous contemporary issues confronting their laboratories. There will be round table discussions and presentations on the following topics: Giglio and transparency issues, outreach to stakeholders, probabilistic modeling, familial searching, the use of genetic databases, the proposed amendments to FRE702, the OSAC standards, and post-conviction testing. The training will be held at the Richmond Laboratory of the Virginia Department of Forensic Science. For more information, contact Amy Curtis, Department Counsel, Virginia Department of Forensic Science, at amy.curtis@dfs.virginia.gov or (804) 786-2281.

ASCLD Partnership with National Association of Attorney’s General (NAAG):

The relationship between ASCLD and NAAG has grown very strong through our partnership on the Puerto Rico project. We are working together to make a big difference in the criminal justice system in Puerto Rico. Idaho Attorney General Lawrence Wasden leads the Puerto Rico project for NAAG and has publically praised ASCLD for working with NAAG and helping Puerto Rico. AG Wasden is incredibly supportive of this project and his efforts are very much appreciated.

ASCLD supported the NAAG forensic science training at the Washington DC Department of Forensic Science last summer and look forward to the event again this year. I asked the ASCLD membership to support a survey that NAAG put together to find out about legal representation in forensic science laboratories. We wanted to provide you with the results of that survey. NAAG surveyed Attorney General Offices (AGO) to ask the same questions they asked of the ASCLD members. They were mainly interested in the relationships between the AGOs and state labs.

Here are the results (from a total of 42 states/ territories):

	Any relationship between AGO & state crime lab?	Oversight (the AG has direct control over the crime lab in some fashion)	Consulting (off-site but available for case consultation or other legal assistance)	Policy (the AG assists in, e.g., proposing or responding to proposed legislation that could effect the lab)	Embedded personnel (specific deputy or assistant attorneys general work directly with the lab on-site)
Yes	37	12	33	28	9
No	5	30	9	14	33

Training for prosecutors and defense attorneys:

As I briefed earlier this summer (but it is worth repeating for those that may have missed it), the American Bar Association Meeting holds a Criminal Justice Section meeting at Fordham Law School in New York City each June where ASCLD is a co-sponsor and proud contributor. All of the meetings are archived and over the years there have been a great number of fantastic presentations. June 2018 was no exception. There was great debate and discussion on a number of topics. Presentation after presentation discussed the emergence of research, standards, techniques, instrumentation, and methods that will dramatically advance our profession. I have provided a link to the presentations given at the ABA meeting, and a link to the session videos.

- Video of the ABA meeting presentation
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLwP7FgYL0jctaih96Hd08pvN6bZIMCD4Y>
- PowerPoint Presentations of the ABA meeting
https://www.americanbar.org/groups/criminal_justice/events_cle/forensics2018.html

Training for prosecutors on sexual assault:

It is essential that forensic practitioners constantly provide training regarding forensic science to maintain the knowledge base among our stakeholder groups. I was recently reviewing some excellent training that ASCLD members developed and presented at an FTCoe coordinated symposium for NIJ. The training was so well done that it warrants a second look by all forensic stakeholders. The information is all archived and I have found it very helpful to educate various stakeholders and interested parties. Hopefully this information is as helpful to you as it has been for me.

<https://www.nij.gov/topics/law-enforcement/investigations/sexual-assault/Pages/national-sexual-assault-symposium.aspx>