

# **Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations (CFSO)**

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# CFSO

Ø History

Ø Founded in 2000

Ø Forensics Community sent fragmented message in Washington

## Consortium Organizations:

Ø American Academy of Forensic Sciences  
(AAFS)

Ø International Association for Identification  
(IAI)

Ø American Society of Crime Laboratory  
Directors (ASCLD)

Ø American Society of Crime Laboratory  
Directors – Laboratory Accreditation Board  
(ASCLD-LAB)

# Consortium Organizations

Ø National Association of Medical Examiners  
(NAME)

Ø Forensic Quality Services (FQS)

## “Consortium” Idea

- ∅ Bring together organizations with similar goals
- ∅ Will not agree on all things
- ∅ Basic Premise:

“We have more in common than we have in difference...”

# Consortium Purpose

Ø Speak with a unified voice for the public forensic community to influence funding and policy for forensic science.

Ø Create a Washington, DC presence

Ø What is the forensics community?

# Forensics Community

Ø Crime Laboratories

Ø Medical Examiners

Ø Law Enforcement Identification Units

Ø Quality System Providers (Accreditation,  
Certification etc.)





- Ø Leverage the power of strength in numbers
- Ø Speak with one voice on matters of mutual concern and common interest
- Ø Day to day representation in DC is essential

## Message – Not New

- NIJ Status and Needs Assessment – 1999
- 180 Day Study
- 2002 Crime Lab Census and census currently under way

## Contributing factors...

Emphasis on physical evidence

Ø Miranda v. Arizona 1966

Ø CSI

Ø 9/11

# CFSO Funding Goals

- § Support full funding for Coverdell legislation
- § Coverdell has been very, very helpful
- § DNA Funding has been critical to DNA
- § Support funding for all forensic disciplines

# Policy Goals

§ Liason with Congress

§ Annual Congressional Technology Fair

§ NAS Forensic Science Committee

§ Liason with International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and National Sheriff's Association (NSA)

# Policy Goals

Liason with:

§ Technical Support Working Group (TSWG)

§ National District Attorneys Association  
(NDAA)

# NAS Committee

DNA Initiative: 1 billion to DNA over 5 years

Ø What about everything else?

Ø 2002 Census of Crime Laboratories showed  
DNA is only a small fraction of casework

Ø Large backlog of other forensic analyses

## Outcome of NAS Committee

- Ø Increased visibility of forensic science
- Ø Funding strategies for all forensic disciplines
- Ø Recommendations for research
- Ø Recommendations for public policy regarding forensics



## Outcome of NAS Committee

Ø Great need for training of forensic scientists particularly in-service training

Ø Critical shortage of examiners particularly in the areas of fingerprint and firearm examination

# NAS Committee

Ø Work with the committee to address any issues where CFSO involvement might be helpful

# NAS Committee

A packet of articles indexed by discipline will  
be provided to the committee