



Questioned Documents Section – 2005

J8 Update on a Report Prepared by the American Academy of Forensic Sciences Relative to Needs of Crime Lab and Medical Examiner Community Beyond the “DNA Initiative” in the Field of Questioned Documents

John L. Sang, MS, Sang Forensic Document Laboratory, One Harbor Lane, Glen Head, NY 11545*

The goal of this presentation is to present the status of the “180 Day Study.”

This presentation will impact the forensic community and/or humanity by providing the forensic community with information to judge the progress of the “180 Day Study” for funding Forensic Laboratories and Medical Examiners.

The United States Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice, at the direction of the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee, requested four forensic science organizations: the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors, the International Association for Identification and the National Association of Medical Examiners to each nominate three persons to assist in developing a plan which will address the needs of the crime labs and medical examiner community beyond the “DNA Initiative” and report back to the Committees on Appropriations no later than 180 days from the date of enactment of this Act. The report should address the following: (1) manpower and equipment needs, (2) continuing education policies, (3) professionalism and accreditation standards, and (4) the level of collaboration needed between Federal forensic science labs and State/local forensic science labs for the administration of justice.

The nominees from the American Academy of Forensic Sciences are: Ronald L. Singer, MS, President; Edmund R. Donoghue, MD, PresidentElect; Barry A. J. Fisher, MS, MBA, Past President, 1998-99.

In response to the request, Barry Fisher prepared an e-mail survey request form titled “180 Day Study Questionnaire” and with the assistance of Questioned Document Section Chairman, the questionnaire respondents and other key members of forensic science community data was collected for the report. A report was prepared by the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. This presentation will elaborate on the progress of the study.

Crime Laboratory Needs, Medical Examiner, Funding