



# Strengthening Forensic Science in Texas: Moving Forward

A Series of Roundtable Discussions Hosted by the  
Texas Forensic Science Commission

On February 18th 2009, the National Academy of Sciences released a report on the status of forensic science in the United States. The report was entitled "Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States: A Path Forward."

The report identified key areas where improvements are needed and offered a number of specific recommendations. The intent of the report was to elevate forensic science standards uniformly across the United States. These efforts were recognized and applauded by the Texas Forensic Science Commission, along with many other agencies and organizations. Numerous initiatives have been underway since that time to implement the recommendations contained in the report.

As an independent body created by the Texas Legislature, the Commission is committed to promoting justice through science. The Commission was encouraged by the recommendations set forth in the report, but also recognizes the need for forensic scientists and stakeholders in Texas to engage in constructive dialogue to address the issues raised as they apply in our state.

In a series of roundtable meetings, the first of which will occur on June 6, 2012 at the Texas State Capitol, the Commission will provide a forum for discussion on issues of concern to forensic scientists, legislators, policymakers, law enforcement and attorneys. The purpose is to identify the most pressing issues facing the forensic science community and highlight possibilities for improving the quality of forensic science and accessibility of forensic services to stakeholders in Texas. Collectively, these discussions will help identify the most critical issues in our state and allow those who have already implemented successful new policies to share their success. Through this exchange, we aim to identify specific areas in which stakeholders can work together to improve the quality of forensic science in Texas.

Participants will have the opportunity to select six interactive roundtables from a list of topics. Roundtables will be moderated by subject matter experts. The ideas, suggestions and comments that emerge from the roundtables will be summarized and presented at the conclusion of the meeting.

Participation of forensic scientists, attorneys, the judiciary, policy makers and law enforcement is critical. We encourage crime laboratories in Texas to participate to the fullest extent possible. Attendance at the meeting is limited to approximately eighty, so pre-registration is required. Registrants will receive a confirmation of attendance after submitting their registration. For more information, please contact the Commission's office at (512) 936-0770.