



# Department of Justice



## Office of Justice Programs

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Office of Justice Programs (OJP)  
Contact: Sheila Jerusalem  
(202) 307-0703

### PUBLICATION ADVISORY

**Justice Department Releases New DNA Training Guide for Defense Attorneys**  
*New Resource Provides an Overview on Using the Science of DNA in the Courtroom.*

WASHINGTON – The Department of Justice’s Office of Justice Programs has announced the availability of *DNA for the Defense Bar*. Specifically designed as a resource for criminal defense attorneys, *DNA for the Defense Bar* offers a primer on using the science of DNA, from collection at a crime scene to laboratory analysis and findings. It provides general discussions on working with a criminal defense client and preparing a defense, including securing the testimony of a DNA expert witness and cross-examining prosecution DNA witnesses. The guide also includes an in-depth discussion of CODIS match probabilities and an overview of post-conviction DNA testing.

TITLE: *DNA for the Defense Bar*  
AUTHOR: National Institute of Justice (NIJ), Office of Justice Programs  
WHERE: [www.nij.gov/pubs-sum/237975.htm](http://www.nij.gov/pubs-sum/237975.htm)

#### About the DNA Series

Since 2004, NIJ has been responsible for administering public funds to ensure the nation’s criminal justice system maximizes the use of DNA in solving crimes, protecting the innocent, and improving public safety. NIJ has previously published training guides specifically designed for officers of the court, law enforcement officers, and prosecutors. *DNA for the Defense Bar* is fourth in a series of free, publicly available resources designed to improve the administration of justice in the U.S.

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#### **About NIJ**

The National Institute of Justice – the research, development and evaluation agency of the U.S. Department of Justice – is dedicated to improving knowledge and understanding of crime and justice issues through science. NIJ provides objective and independent knowledge and tools to reduce crime and promote justice, particularly at the state and local levels.

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The Office of Justice Programs (OJP), headed by Acting Assistant Attorney General Mary Lou Leary, provides federal leadership in developing the nation's capacity to prevent and control crime, administer justice, and assist victims. OJP has six bureaus and offices: the Bureau of Justice Assistance; the Bureau of Justice Statistics; the National Institute of Justice; the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; the Office for Victims of Crime; and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking (SMART). More information about OJP and its components can be found at [www.ojp.gov](http://www.ojp.gov).

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