

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: All Elected District Attorneys and Staff

FROM: Joseph R. John, Sr. Director of the NC State Crime Laboratory

DATE: November 17, 2011

SUBJECT: Forensic Scientist Certification

As you may be aware, the recently enacted Session Laws 2011-307 and 2011-19 require forensic science professionals at the North Carolina State Crime Laboratory to obtain individual certification in their specific scientific discipline unless no certification is available.

To meet its statutory obligations, the State Crime Lab has scheduled two dates for the majority of the forensic scientists from the Raleigh, Triad and Western labs to take the required certification examination. The examination will be administered on December 5<sup>th</sup> and December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011. In addition, the toxicologist in the laboratory will be taking the required examination on December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

The State Crime Lab will greatly appreciate your efforts in not scheduling any cases that may require the attendance of any Lab forensic scientists on these days. Although this accommodation may create an isolated issue or two, it is anticipated that each of you will recognize the essential nature of this statutory mandate for the Lab. We sincerely hope that this advance notice will be adequate for your scheduling purposes.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.