



Greg Champagne
Sheriff

St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office Special Services Department

Post Office Box 7 • Hahnville, Louisiana 70057
Voice (985) 783-1355 • Fax (985) 783-1195

News Release

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NSA 1st Vice President Greg Champagne Appointed to DOJ National Commission

The 1st Vice President of the National Sheriff's Association (NSA), Sheriff Greg Champagne of St. Charles Parish, Louisiana, has been appointed by the Office of the Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), to the National Commission on Forensic Science (NCFS). In the July 20th invitation to Sheriff Champagne, formally requesting his service on the Commission, the DOJ stated: "We were impressed by your experience, your credentials, and your interest in strengthening the field of forensic science. We believe that you have much to contribute to the work of the Commission."

Established in partnership with the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the DOJ's National Commission on Forensic Science is tasked with enhancing the practice and improving the reliability of forensic science. Specifically, the NCFS has as its objectives and scope of activities "to provide recommendations and advice to the Department of Justice concerning national methods and strategies for: strengthening the validity and reliability of the forensic sciences; enhancing quality assurance and quality control in forensic science laboratories and units; identifying and recommending scientific guidelines and protocols for evidence seizure, testing, analysis and reporting by forensic science laboratories and units; and identifying and assessing other needs of the forensic science communities to strengthen their disciplines and meet the increasing demands generated by the criminal and civil justice system at all levels of government.

In their May 2015 letter to Attorney General Loretta Lynch, in support of Sheriff Champagne's appointment to the Commission, then NSA President, Sheriff John Aubrey and NSA Executive Director Jonathan Thompson wrote: "Sheriff Champagne has served as Sheriff of St. Charles Parish, Louisiana, since 1996; prior to that, he was an Assistant District Attorney. In 1999, Sheriff Champagne became the only Sheriff in the history of St. Charles Parish to be re-elected with no opposition; he was re-elected in 2003 with 81% of the vote; in 2007 with 83% of the vote, and in 2011, he was again re-elected with no opposition. Sheriff Champagne has also served on the NSA Executive Board since 2004 and is in line to assume the NSA Presidency in 2016. The dual 'prosecutorial' and 'law enforcement' perspectives that Sheriff Champagne brings to his service on the NSA's Board of Directors would be equally applicable, we submit, to the interdisciplinary contributions you seek from the Commission. In closing, we very much hope that you will include a "Sheriff's representative in the membership makeup of this Commission, and we can think of no one more merit than Sheriff Greg Champagne. He is a respected law enforcement leader locally and nationally."

The National Commission on Forensic Science is comprised of approximately 30 Commissioners, including federal, state, and local forensic science services providers; research scientist and academics; law enforcement officials; prosecutors, defense attorneys, and judges; and other stakeholders from across the country. Greg Champagne is the sole "Sheriff" Commissioner, and the National Sheriff's Association is proud and appreciative of his service to NCFC.