

**Task Force to Identify and Recommend Policies and Procedures to
Improve the Accuracy of Eyewitness Identifications**

Minutes of Meeting of August 12, 2010

The initial meeting of the "Task Force to Identify and Recommend Policies and Procedures to Improve the Accuracy of Eyewitness Identifications" (hereafter, "the Task Force") was convened at the office of the Attorney General on Thursday, August 12, 2010 at approximately 9:45 a.m.

Introductory remarks were presented by Deputy Attorney General Gerald Coyne and Public Defender John Hardiman.

Present at the meeting were the following members:

- John Hardiman (Public Defender)
- Gerald Coyne (Attorney General)
- Col. Joseph Moran (Central Falls Police Department, representing Rhode Island Police Chiefs Association).
- Professor Andrew Horwitz (Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, Roger Williams University Law School, representing the Rhode Island Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers)
- Michael Evora, Esq. (Executive Director, Rhode Island Commission for Human Rights)
- Captain David Ricciarelli (Rhode Island Municipal Police Training Academy)

Also present was Michael DiLauro of the Office of the Public Defender.

Following opening remarks, Mr. Hardiman reviewed the statute forming the Task Force (Chapters 165 and 169 of the Rhode Island Public Laws, 2010).

It was noted that the statute requires that one member of the Task Force be, "A representative from a Rhode Island university with expertise in the relevant social sciences as demonstrated by teaching, publication and other scholarly applications." Because the statute does not specify how this member should be selected and appointed, Mr. Hardiman and Mr. Coyne jointly recommended that Professor Ross Cheit of Brown University be invited to join the Task Force. Those members present unanimously agreed.

Future meetings of the Task Force were discussed. It was recognized that in order to meet the statutory deadline of submitting a report by January 1, 2011, the Task Force will need to meet aggressively during September and October, so that there will be adequate time to draft and circulate a report to Task Force members. In addition, the statute authorizes the submission of minority reports.

In order to complete its mission, the Task Force hopes to hear from a number of presenters, including representatives of the Innocence Project, researchers who have examined the psychology of identification, and law enforcement representatives from jurisdictions that have adopted revised identification procedures. Suffolk County, Massachusetts and the State of New Jersey were specifically noted as jurisdictions the Task Force hopes to examine.

The Task Force will attempt to meet bi-weekly, with the next meeting scheduled for:

Friday, August 27 at 1:00 p.m., at the Rhode Island Municipal Police Academy, located at the CCRI Lincoln Campus.

Gerald J. Coyne