

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

**Minutes of Meeting of September 17, 2010**

The third 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 Rhode Island Attorney General in Providence on Friday, September 17, 2010 at approximately 1:00 p.m.

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)
- Richard Ratcliffe, Esq., (Representing the President of the Rhode Island Bar Association)
- Chief Anthony Silva (Executive Director, Rhode Island Municipal Police Training Academy)
- Sgt. Shari Russell (Rhode Island State Police)
- Professor Ross Cheit (Brown University)
- Michael Evora, Esq. (Executive Director, Rhode Island Commission for Human Rights)

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

Minutes of the meeting of August 27, 2010 were unanimously approved.

**Future Meetings**

Future meetings of the Task Force were discussed.

The following tentative dates were scheduled:

September 29, 2010 – Meeting at Public Defender's office to hear from Dr. Garrett Berman and Captain Kenneth Patenaude (Ret.) (formerly of the Northampton, MA Police Department). Tentatively scheduled for 1:00 p.m.

October 8, 2010 – Meeting at Roger Williams University to hear from law enforcement presenters.

New York District Attorneys Association Policy

Copies of the model policy prepared by the New York District Attorneys Association were distributed.

Presentation by Ezekial Edwards, Esq. of the Innocence Project

Zeke Edwards of the Innocence Project presented an overview of “Best Practices” from the perspective of the Innocence Project, and provided general background on the topic of eyewitness identification.

Note: Following his presentation, Mr. Edwards forwarded an e-mail which was distributed to all Task Force members including additional information. Among the items he included were a response he drafted to the New York policy, as well as a video link demonstrating the “Folder Method” of conducting a “blind” identification procedure.

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Gerald J. Coyne