

PRESS RELEASE

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FROM: CALIFORNIA COMMISSION ON THE FAIR  
ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

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CALIFORNIA COMMISSION ON THE FAIR ADMINISTRATION OF  
JUSTICE ISSUES REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON  
COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROSECUTORIAL DUTY TO DISCLOSE  
EXCULPATORY EVIDENCE.

The California Commission on the Fair Administration of Justice, created by the California State Senate to examine the causes of wrongful convictions and make recommendations and proposals to further insure that the administration of criminal justice in California is just, fair and accurate, released its eighth report and recommendation today, addressing the problems of compliance with the prosecutorial duty to disclose exculpatory evidence.

The Commission made five recommendations to district attorneys and police agencies in California to promulgate publicly available written policies governing the collection and dissemination of exculpatory evidence which the U.S. Constitution requires be made available to the defense, and to train deputies and officers to ensure they understand and apply office policies. The Commission recommendations gained the full support of all twenty-two members of the Commission. The Commission is chaired by former California Attorney General John Van de Kamp, and includes a broad spectrum of prosecution, defense, police and victim representatives.

The Commission conducted a public hearing addressing these issues at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles on July 11, 2007. The Commission heard testimony and received written responses to focus questions from

organizations representing prosecutors, public defenders, criminal defense attorneys and judges, as well as individuals engaged in these roles.

The Commission will continue its deliberations, preparing forthcoming reports related to the funding of defense services and the administration of the death penalty in California. Its final public hearing will be at Santa Clara University on March 28, addressing the administration of the death penalty. The Commission is scheduled to issue its final report in June, 2008.