

State of North Carolina General Court of Justice

Twenty-eight Prosecutorial District

P. O. BOX 7158 ASHEVILLE, NC 28802

RONALD L. MOORE DISTRICT ATTORNEY FIFTH FLOOR COURTHOUSE TELEPHONE: (828) 259-3410 FAX: (828) 259-3411

August 2, 2012

Dear Defense Attorney,

As you may be aware, this Office filed a Motion on June 12, 2012, seeking information from the North Carolina State Crime Lab, the State Bureau of Investigation and the Attorney General's Office, regarding testing given to Crime Lab Analysts following passage of the Forensic Sciences Act. A hearing was held on this matter on June 26th, 2012. The Court has since issued an Order, mandating disclosure of a portion of the items we requested, including letters sent to analysts by testing organizations indicating whether or not an analyst was successful on an examination and if unsuccessful, in what areas, if any, an analyst needed further study.

The information we have received from the Crime Lab indicates approximately eighty (80) cases since December 1, 2011 involved an unsuccessful analyst; of these eighty (80) cases, it appears two (2) cases involved trials. As noted in prior correspondence, attorneys who represented individuals in criminal cases since December of 2011 in which an analyst was unsuccessful will receive this notification in writing; attorneys receiving such a notification are listed below. These attorneys need to pick up these notifications from Danielle Gelder on the 5th Floor in the old main office (Room 501), or Susanne Middleton on the 6th Floor in Room 602. You will be required to sign for their receipt and you will not receive notification regarding cases in which analysts were successful. Attorneys representing individuals in custody pending disposition of a case/s in which an analyst was unsuccessful, and attorneys involved as trial counsel in affected cases (trials occurring since December of 2011) have already been notified.

Please be advised that per the Court's Order we can only disclose the results of analyst testing on a case-by-case basis; more specifically we are precluded from providing information regarding analyst testing to attorneys not involved in particular individual cases. Further, attorneys receiving notification/s should review a copy of Judge Gavenus' Order found in Buncombe County file 12CRS0138 regarding the information they receive and the manner in which it may be used.

Please also be advised that this Office does not at this time have the ability to independently identify and/or confirm by any computerized method, all cases potentially affected by these issues; this is in large part due to the fact that Court Records do not track which Crime Lab Analysts are assigned to particular criminal cases. Instead we have had to rely on information provided to us by the Crime Lab regarding which analysts performed work on which cases. Therefore if you are aware of any case in which you were involved which you believe may be affected by these issues, please don't hesitate to contact this Office. While we cannot publish a list of analysts with their results, we can provide information on individual cases at the request of counsel.

For those attorneys still seeking additional information, please be advised that all of the information requested by this Office was not ordered disclosed by the Court. Therefore should you desire some particular additional information, it may be beneficial to you to first advise this Office of the same so that we may work with you to obtain that information, as well as advise you of any steps we may have already affirmatively taken to obtain the same. However, prior to the filing of any post-conviction motions in cases involving guilty pleas, it may be beneficial to first review the United State Supreme Court decision <u>United States v. Ruiz</u>, found at 536 U.S. 622, 122 S.Ct. 2450 (2002).

Best Regards,

Moore Ronald L Moore

District Attorney

Attorneys who need to pick up notifications:

Kimberly Adams Janna Allison Ehsan Akhavi **Bill Anderson** Scott Armstrong Corey Atkins Bill Auman Bill Barnes Courtney Booth David Budd Fave Burner Michael Casterline Bob Christy Sam Craig Sean Devereux Tom Diepenbrock Noe Flores Rick Foster Wade Hall

Keith Hanson Matthew Holloway Larry Leake Todd Lentz Michael Macht Leann Melton Al Messer Jake Minick Rhonda Moorefield Vijay Nathan Suzanne Nelson Tony Rollman Joel Schechet Justin Sigmon Sam Snead Roger Smith Jack Stewart Jason Wilson Stan Young