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 ANNOUNCES PUBLIC HEARING ON FORENSIC SCIENCE ISSUES TO BE HELD WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2007 IN SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA.

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, announced that it will hold a public hearing to address the issues surrounding the availability and reliability of forensic science evidence in California criminal investigations and trials.

The hearing will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 10, 2007, in Hearing Room 4203 of the State Capitol Building in Sacramento, California. The Commission issued a list of seven questions to focus its inquiry. Among the experts invited to address the Commission are Peter Neufeld, Co-Director of the Innocence Project at Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law in New York, and a member of the New York State Commission on Forensic Science; Barry Fisher, Director of the Crime Laboratory for the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department; and Lance Gima, the Chief of the Bureau of Forensic Services for the California Department of Justice.

This will be the fourth public hearing convened by the Commission. Prior hearings focused upon the problems surrounding eyewitness
misidentification, false confessions, and informant testimony, which were addressed in interim reports issued by the Commission earlier this year. These reports can be viewed at the Commission’s website, www.ccfaj.org.