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CRIME LABORATORY DIRECTORS, INC.**

65 Glen Road, Suite 123, Garner, NC 27529

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December 20, 2019

Re: ASCLD Comments to NIJ's 2019 Needs Assessment Report

The American Society of Crime Lab Directors (ASCLD) is a nonprofit professional society of over 600 crime laboratory directors and forensic science managers across the United States and worldwide, dedicated to providing excellence in forensic science through leadership and innovation. The purpose of the organization is to foster professional interests, assist the development of laboratory management principles and techniques; acquire, preserve and disseminate forensic based information; maintain and improve communications among crime laboratory directors; and to promote, encourage and maintain the highest standards of practice in the field.

ASCLD welcomes the publication of the *Needs Assessment of Forensic Laboratories and Medical Examiner/Coroner Offices* by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ). This comprehensive report summarizes the continued resource needs of Forensic Science Service Providers as caseloads are increasing, at the same time that there has been a significant increase in the complexity and scope of forensic services requested and required.

ASCLD thanks the NIJ for thoroughly researching the needs of the forensic science community and for seeking input from such a broad stakeholder base, which included members from many professional science organizations representing federal, state, and local laboratories, academic forensic science degree programs, attorneys and judges, and subject matter experts from the federal government. We thank our many members who contributed to the success of this report.

ASCLD encourages its members to use this report to assist in evaluating the needs of providing quality and timely forensic science services in their respective jurisdictions. This report provides detailed information on the needs, challenges, and promising practices that impact the forensic science community nationally.

ASCLD looks forward to continued work with policymakers on improving resource allocation for forensic science laboratories to meet the needs of the criminal justice system.