



# Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan

116 W. Ottawa Street ~ Suite 200  
Lansing, Michigan 48913 (517)  
334-6060 ~ FAX: 334-6351  
[www.michiganprosecutor.org](http://www.michiganprosecutor.org)

## OFFICERS

**President**  
Ronald J. Schafer  
Ionia

**President-Elect**  
Larry J. Burdick  
Isabella

**Vice President**  
David S. Leyton  
Genesee

**Secretary-Treasurer**  
Kym L. Worthy  
Wayne

**Immediate Past President**  
Brian A. Pepler  
Chippewa

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Elected Directors

Karen Bahman  
Alger

Michael Carpenter  
Midland

Arthur J. Cotter  
Berrien

Thomas E. Evans  
Barry

Jeffrey R. Fink  
Kalamazoo

Victor A. Fitz  
Cass

Joseph T. Hubbell  
Leelanau

Byron J. Kenschuh  
Lapeer

William P. Nichols  
Monroe

Mark E. Reene  
Tuscola

Tony D. Tague  
Muskegon

Thomas J. Weichel  
Alcona

Michael D. Wendling  
St. Clair

Henry C. Zavislak  
Jackson

## Active Past Presidents

Norman W. Donker  
Saginaw

Stuart J. Dunnings III  
Ingham

William A. Forsyth  
Kent

Ronald J. Frantz  
Ottawa

James J. Gregart  
Kalamazoo

Charles H. Koop  
Antrim

Brian L. Mackie  
Washtenaw

David L. Morse  
Livingston

Jeffrey L. Sauter  
Eaton

Charles D. Sherman  
Clinton

Michael D. Thomas  
Saginaw

Gary L. Welker  
Marquette

**Attorney General**  
William D. Schuette

**N.D.A.A. Director**  
Michael D. Thomas

May 24, 2011

The Honorable Rick Jones  
Chairman Senate Judiciary  
Committee  
P.O. Box 30036  
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

Dear Chairman Jones:

Re: SB 361: Post Conviction DNA Testing

The Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan supports SB 361, Senator Bieda's bill on post-conviction DNA testing.

The number one duty of the prosecuting attorney is to provide justice to victims and to those accused of crimes. DNA testing has proven to be an important tool in determining guilt or innocence, and in 2000 PAAM worked with then Senator Bill Schuette and the Innocence Project at the Thomas M. Cooley Law School to develop a fair process for post-conviction DNA testing. That law served as a model that protects the rights of the victim, while allowing prisoners who are actually innocent to access DNA testing.

History has shown that it is time-consuming to evaluate and investigate the thousands of requests received by the Cooley innocence project, and they will be unable to complete their review before this act sunsets at the end of this year. Accordingly, SB 361 appropriately extends the sunset to allow the Cooley Project the time needed to properly evaluate and investigate these requests. We urge your support for this bill.

Sincerely,

Ronald J. Schafer  
President

cc: Senate Judiciary Committee

