

REMARKS
AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY

OF

THE HONORABLE KAROL V. MASON
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL
OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS

AT THE

NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING ON CHILD EXPLOITATION

ON

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ATLANTA, GA

Good morning, and welcome to the 2016 National Law Enforcement Training on Child Exploitation. I'm Karol Mason, Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs within the U.S. Department of Justice. It's a privilege to welcome all of you to this conference, and I'm thrilled to be joined by the Attorney General and the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia, John Horn.

I'm also pleased to have Dr. Michael Bourke, whom I'll have the pleasure of introducing a little later. And it's good to see our friend and the President and CEO of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, John Clark. Let me also extend a warm welcome to the U.S. Attorneys and their staff from other districts of the country, as well as leadership and staff from across the Department of Justice, including Deputy Assistant Attorney General Richard Downing.

Finally, welcome to our counterparts in federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement and prosecutors' offices; to the many forensic experts who are part of today's training; and of course to the members of the Internet Crimes Against Children task forces – and a special thank-you to our host ICAC task force led by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. We're glad to see you all.

There are more than 1,400 of you in the room today, which makes this training conference the largest of its kind in the nation. Over the course of this week, you will hear from and interact with the best in the business. You'll benefit from 28 unique lab sessions and more than 100 separate workshops. If there's an issue you've addressed – or even heard about – it's covered here.

It's so gratifying – and encouraging – to see the wealth of knowledge and the depth of commitment represented here. My office, the Office of Justice Programs, exists to support our allies in law enforcement and public safety. Our goal is your goal – to keep our children and our communities safe from harm.

We've been working together for a long time, at least since our Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention funded the first 10 ICAC task forces 18 years ago. There are now 61 task forces across the country, all working hard to solve some of the most difficult and heart-wrenching cases imaginable – and all on behalf of our children.

This year also marks the 20th year since the creation of the AMBER Alert system, one of the pillars of our child protection work. More than 800 abducted children have been rescued thanks to this vital public safety resource – and I am grateful to John Clark and his staff for the outstanding work they have done over the years to further the goals of the AMBER Alert program.

These are only a couple of markers of the tremendous progress we have made together on behalf of our children's safety. We know that we have all of you to thank for these impressive accomplishments. It's the tireless work that you do in your states and communities every day that makes the difference, and for that we are very grateful.

It's now my pleasure to introduce our next speaker.

John Horn has been prosecuting cases on the federal level since 2002, as Deputy Chief of the Narcotics Section; as Chief of his office's Appellate Division; as a First Assistant U.S. Attorney; and now as United States Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia.

He's prosecuted a number of high-profile cases, ranging from international drug cartels to computer crime and fraud. He's also worked a number of cases involving child sex offenses at both the district and appellate levels. And he's been a strong collaborator with state and local law enforcement.

I'm thankful for his commitment to resolving child exploitation cases and to protecting children, and I appreciate his participation today. Please join me in welcoming U.S. Attorney John Horn.

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