



DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

News Release

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

Mark J. Bennett, Attorney General
Phone: (808) 586-1500
Fax: (808) 586-1239

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HAWAII TO HOST CRIMINAL PROSECUTION TRAINING FOR MEXICAN STATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL AND PROSECUTORS

HONOLULU – Attorney General Mark Bennett announced today that Hawai'i will host a prosecutorial training seminar in Honolulu next week for more than 45 prosecutors and other professionals from 20 Mexican state Attorney General offices and Mexico's federal Attorney General's office.

Included in this group are the Attorneys General of the Mexican states of Baja California Sur, Guanajuato, Nayarit, Puebla, Sinaloa, and Tlaxcala.

Representatives from the states of Aguascalientes, Baja California, Chihuahua, Coahuila, Hidalgo, Michoacán, Morelos, Oaxaca, Quintana Roo, San Luis Potosí, Sonora, Tabasco, Yucatán, and the Federal District will also participate.

The participants will engage in week-long specialized training in oral advocacy for criminal prosecutors. Ten highly experienced trial attorneys and criminal law experts will present lectures on the theory and practice of oral advocacy, and coach the participants in the presentation of a realistic trial, from opening statements through verdict.

This training is part of the Conference of Western Attorneys General's (CWAG) Rule of Law project under the United States-Mexico Alliance Partnership. The Alliance Partnership is a collaborative program between CWAG, the Council of State Governments, the National Association of Attorneys General, the U.S. Agency for International Development, Mexico's National Conference of Attorneys General, Mexico's Federal Attorney General's Office, and others aimed at enhancing United States–Mexico cooperation. The Alliance Partnership strengthens and promotes collaboration among state attorneys general from both countries. Binational exchanges and workshops provide opportunities to establish innovative mechanisms and cross-jurisdictional cooperation on many law enforcement issues.

This training is funded by the U.S. Department of State's Merida Initiative, a program to confront criminal organizations whose illicit actions undermine public safety, erode the rule of law, and threaten the national security of the United States.

"I am delighted that Hawaii can host this extraordinarily important training for Mexican state and federal prosecutors. I am also very pleased that we can host six Mexican state Attorneys General," Bennett said. "The rule of law, in both the United States and Mexico, is crucial to justice and law enforcement. Crime on both sides of the border is a problem for both the United States and Mexico. This training is an important component of the United States's commitment to promoting the rule of law. I would like to thank the prosecutors of Mexico for their commitment to justice, the Conference of Western Attorneys General for sponsoring this training, and the U.S. Department of State for funding this training."

The training will be held October 18-22 at the Moana Surfrider Westin Resort and Spa. Bennett and the Attorney General of Puebla will give remarks at the Welcome on October 18 at 9:00 am.

CWAG will hold its Annual Conference in Kona in July 2011. More than 500 people are expected to attend.

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For more information, contact:

Bridget Holthus
Special Assistant to the Attorney General
Department of the Attorney General
(808) 586-1284
bridget.holthus@hawaii.gov
www.hawaii.gov/ag