



Call for Submissions: 2019 DNA Hit of the Year

*The selected case will be announced at the 2019 HIDS Conference –
Kobe, Japan June 18-19*

Gordon Thomas Honeywell Governmental Affairs (GTH-GA) is pleased to announce the third annual DNA *Hit of the Year* – a global program established to demonstrate the power of forensic DNA databases to solve crime and identify missing persons.

GTH-GA encourages you to submit impactful DNA database hit cases from your jurisdiction. If you are receiving this announcement and you are not from a crime lab or police department, we hope you will forward the announcement to your crime lab and police department friends and colleagues to help spread the word.

Upon receiving this year's case submissions, GTH-GA will collaborate with a distinguished international panel of forensic DNA scientists, police, and prosecutors to determine which case will be recognized as the *DNA Hit of the Year*.

The DNA *Hit of the Year* will be announced and presented during a plenary session hosted by GTH-GA at the 2019 Human Identification Solutions (HIDS) Conference in Kobe, Japan, June 18-19. See conference link <https://bit.ly/2Lt7tF4>. Scientific and investigative highlights from other finalist cases will also be discussed.

Police and crime lab representatives from the jurisdiction selected as the DNA *Hit of the Year* are invited to attend the conference to provide a presentation about the case. Attending the conference is not required. However, if a representative does attend, funding will be available to sponsor travel, lodging, meals, and conference registration.

We hope you will participate in this year's DNA *Hit of the Year* program. Listed below are the eligibility requirements and the case submission process.

Eligibility Criteria

- The case must be a “cold hit” case where the criminal suspect was identified due to a match in the database where DNA from an unsolved crime scene was matched to a previously

unidentified suspect in the database. Familial searching hits will be accepted, as well as hits that utilized private genealogy websites.

- A missing persons case where a missing person was identified using a DNA database match will also be accepted.
- The cold hit must have occurred between January 1, 2014 and December 31, 2018 (60 months).
- A case must have received community-wide attention, have significant public safety impact, or have other circumstances making the case unique.
- Cases that were submitted during a previous *Hit of the Year* call for submissions will not be eligible.
- Jurisdictions may submit more than one case.

Submission Process

- Visit our submission page online at <http://www.dnaresource.com/hitoftheyear>, or go to dnaresource.com, click “Hit of the Year” on the menu, and navigate to “Submit Here”;
- Fill out our online form with information including: name of submitter, agency, email, country/state/jurisdiction, web links to media coverage about the case; and;
- Write 500 words or less in the “story” box summarizing the case and explain what makes the case impactful or unique. Upon receiving the submission, GTH-GA staff will conduct further research about the case and may contact you for further information prior to the judges’ review;
- GTH-GA must receive your email no later than March 15, 2019.

We look forward to receiving your case. If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Kyle Schroeder at kschroeder@gth-gov.com or call +1 (360) 929-2106.

About GTH-GA

Gordon Thomas Honeywell Governmental Affairs is globally recognized as experts in forensic DNA database policy, legislative, and law. For nearly twenty years, consultants at GTH-GA have consulted in over 50 countries and states on legislation and policies to establish or expand criminal offender DNA databases. GTH-GA collaborates closely with governmental officials, crime labs, police, and the DNA industry. GTH-GA operates the DNAResource.com website that has been used as the world’s primary source for DNA database policy and legislative information.