

Call for Submissions: “DNA Database Hit of the Year” Award

Winning case announced at 2017 HIDS Conference - Vienna, Austria, May 16-17

Gordon Thomas Honeywell Governmental Affairs (GTH-GA) is pleased to announce the “DNA Database Hit of the Year” award which will celebrate recent forensic DNA database hits from around the globe that have had significant impact on criminal justice and public safety. Upon compiling a list of impressive cases, GTH-GA will collaborate with well-known forensic DNA scientists, police, and prosecutorial thought leaders to decide the winning case.

The winning case will be announced during a plenary session hosted by GTH-GA at the Human Identification Solutions (HIDS) Conference in Vienna, Austria on May 16 and 17 (*See link to conference: <http://bit.ly/2jMvYiy>*). During the plenary session, a panel will present the Hit of the Year case, as well as the other impactful cases identified. The panel will discuss the scientific and investigative highlights of the cases, and how these cases further demonstrate the value of criminal DNA databases to solve and prevent crime.

Police and crime lab representatives from the winning jurisdiction 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 to have a robust list of DNA database hit cases to consider for the award, and hope that you send GTH-GA details about cases you think should be considered. Please send links to media coverage, publicly available reports, or any other information pertinent to the case (including details and other summaries in your own words). We will also welcome information about cases occurring outside of your jurisdiction.

Cases being submitted must meet the following criteria:

1. Type of Case: The case must either 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.
 - A missing persons case where a missing person was identified through the use of a DNA database match.
2. DNA Hit Timeline Requirements:
 - If a case is the result of a cold hit where a criminal trial has not yet concluded at the time of submission, the cold hit must have occurred in the last 24 months.

- If the case is from a cold hit where the criminal trial has concluded at the time of submission, the criminal trial must have concluded in the last 24 months. However, in cases where the criminal trial has concluded, there is no timeline restriction on when the cold hit occurred.
 - If the case is from a missing persons' case, the match that identified the missing person must have occurred in the last 24 months.
3. Serious or Unique Case: To be considered, a case must be a serious criminal case that has had community-wide attention and/or significant public safety impact, or includes other circumstances making the case unique.

Case submissions may be submitted through February 28, 2017. There is not a standardized format for case submission. Simply send a short narrative about the case (perhaps one or two pages) and any available media, report links, or other information. After we screen the cases, we will be in touch for additional information.

We look forward to hearing about your cases. If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Tim Schellberg tims@gth-gov.com, +1 (253) 209-8818.

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 since 2000.