

NEWS RELEASE

R. Andrew Murray
District Attorney

April 8, 2013

DA Andrew Murray selected for U.S. Department of Justice delegation to Turkey

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Mecklenburg County District Attorney Andrew Murray has been selected to participate in a delegation that will travel to Turkey next week to teach Turkish justice officials about criminal case resolution.

U.S. experts are being sent to Turkey to speak with judges and prosecutors as the result of a partnership between the U.S. Department of Justice and the Turkish Justice Academy, which trains judges and prosecutors before they enter Turkey's Ministry of Justice. Mr. Murray will join four other American justice officials and legal experts in the delegation.

During the April 13-20 visit, Mr. Murray will travel to Ankara and Istanbul. He'll make presentations to justice officials about the roles of prosecutors and defense attorneys in criminal case resolution. The delegation is a follow-up to an October 2012 program in which Turkish judges came to North Carolina to learn about the U.S. criminal justice system.

Turkey is interested in the United States' methods of criminal case resolution, including plea bargaining, because the country has an overwhelming backlog of cases. Turkey is forced to dismiss thousands of cases because trials cannot be held within the period required by the statute of limitations. Turkey, which has no incentive system to persuade defendants to cooperate, is also interested in plea bargaining as a tool in prosecuting terrorism and organized crime. Turkey is an important ally in the United States' fight against terrorism.

According to the Global Counterterrorism Forum's [Rabat Memorandum on Good Practices for Effective Counterterrorism Practice in the Criminal Justice Sector](#), justice systems are encouraged to adopt incentive systems to obtain cooperation from terrorist suspects and to encourage those suspects to provide accurate and useful information to authorities. "Without adequate incentives, those with knowledge of or involvement in terrorist activity may have little reason to cooperate with law enforcement authorities," the memo says.

"It's an honor to be chosen for the delegation," says Mr. Murray. "This is not only a chance to partner with federal prosecutors and broaden our horizons in the prosecution of criminal matters but it is also an opportunity to participate in an international collaboration that will ultimately help protect our country."



**Mecklenburg County
District Attorney
Andrew Murray**

Any media interested in interviewing Mr. Murray should contact Meghan Cooke at meghan.a.cooke@nccourts.org. Mr. Murray will be available for interviews on April 11, 2013.

Note: For more information about the District Attorney's Office, visit www.charmeckda.com. For updates and other information, "like" the DA's Office on Facebook at www.facebook.com/charmeckda and follow us on Twitter: @CharMeckDA

// End //

