

2025 Presidential Initiative Summit

August 5–6, 2025 | Portsmouth, New Hampshire

*Building on the Opioid Litigation Success:
AGs Leading the Fight Against Substance Abuse and Drug Trafficking*

The 2025 NAAG Presidential Initiative focuses on advancing the work started with opioid litigation, where attorneys general from across the country have held accountable parties responsible for the opioid crisis. This initiative aims to leverage the success of those efforts to address the ongoing threats posed by fentanyl, methamphetamine, and other illegal drugs. Attorneys general will explore strategies to support law enforcement, enhance prevention and treatment, address the intersection of substance abuse and mental health issues, and foster collaboration with the private sector to combat drug trafficking. Through this initiative, attorneys general will strengthen local, state, and federal partnerships, promote criminal justice reforms, and utilize opioid settlement funds to support enforcement and recovery efforts. The initiative provides a platform for attorneys general to share best practices, overcome state-specific challenges, and drive continued progress in the fight against substance abuse.

All Programing and Meals will take place in the Envio A-C Ballroom

Monday, August 4

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm **Welcome Reception – [RSVP Required](#)**
Waterview Grill, 37 Bow Street, Portsmouth, NH

Tuesday, August 5

8:00 am – 8:55 am **Breakfast & Registration**

9:00 am – 9:15 am **Welcome**

Brian Kane, *Executive Director, National Association of Attorneys General*

Opening Remarks: Building on Wins – What’s Next for Attorneys General in the Fight Against Substance Abuse

John Formella, *NAAG President and New Hampshire Attorney General*

PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Portsmouth Police Color Guard

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9:20 am – 10:30 am **Emerging Drug Threats: Fentanyl, Meth, & Xylazine**

As synthetic drug threats evolve rapidly, the need for real-time, data-driven responses has never been more urgent. This panel brings together voices from public health, emergency medicine, and law enforcement to discuss the latest intelligence on emerging drug compounds—including fentanyl analogs, methamphetamine, and xylazine—and the tools available to combat them. The panel will also explore blind spots in national surveillance and how states can proactively address them through interagency collaboration.

MODERATOR

Dave Sunday, *Pennsylvania Attorney General*

PANELISTS

Erin Artigiani, *Deputy Director for Policy, University of Maryland Center for Substance Use, Addiction & Health Research (CESAR)*

P. Travis Harker, MD, MPH, *Chief Medical Officer, Appledore Medical Group, Portsmouth Regional Hospital, HCA Healthcare*

Shane W. Larkin, *Lieutenant, Narcotics Investigations Unit Commander, New Hampshire State Police*

10:30 am – 10:45 am **Break**

10:50 am – 12:10 pm **State Innovation Spotlight: Highlighting Jake’s Law in Texas and North Carolina’s Death by Distribution Statute**

In the face of the fentanyl crisis, states are forging bold legal paths to hold drug distributors accountable for overdose deaths. This session highlights two such efforts: Texas’s Jake’s Law and North Carolina’s Death by Distribution statute—and what it’s meant for prosecutors on the ground.

MODERATOR

Charity Clark, *Vermont Attorney General*

PANELISTS

Caren Cook Burbach, *Attorney*

Jena Ehlinger, *Mother, Advocate, Jena Ehlinger Counseling*

Jordan M. Ford, *Chief Financial Crimes Resource Prosecutor, NC Conference of District Attorneys*

Meghan Hagaman, *Senior Assistant Attorney General, New Hampshire Attorney General’s Office*

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12:10 pm – 1:10 pm **Networking Lunch**

1:15 pm – 2:15 pm **Frontlines & Firewalls: Drug Trafficking from Streets to Screens**

This panel will explore how drug trafficking has expanded into digital spaces, from social media to illicit online pharmacies, challenging traditional enforcement models. The conversation will examine the rise of counterfeit medications, regulatory blind spots, and the urgent need for tech-savvy legal strategies.

MODERATOR

William Tong, *Connecticut Attorney General*

PANELISTS

Josh Bolin, *Senior Advisor, National Association of Boards of Pharmacy*

Jim Crotty, *Law Enforcement Outreach Manager, Meta Platforms, Inc.*

Tom Galvin, *Executive Director, Digital Citizens Alliance*

2:15 pm – 2:30 pm **Break**

2:35 pm – 3:35 pm **Fireside Chat: Better Collaboration with Federal Partners**

What are our federal partners seeing on the frontlines? How can attorneys general and federal officials better collaborate on drug interdiction?

MODERATOR

John Formella, *NAAG President and New Hampshire Attorney General*

SPEAKER

Ted E. Docks, *Special Agent In Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Boston Field Office*

Jay McCormack, *Acting U.S. Attorney, District of New Hampshire*

George S. Papadopolos, *Deputy Chief of Operations, U.S. Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration*

3:35 pm – 3:40 pm **Closing**

5:30 pm – 7:30 pm **Reception**

Martingale Wharf

99 Bow Street, Portsmouth, NH

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Wednesday, August 6, 2025

8:00 am – 8:55 am **Breakfast**

9:00 am – 9:15 am **Welcome**

Kelly Ayotte, New Hampshire Governor and former Attorney General

9:15 am – 10:15 am **Maximizing Impact: Attorneys General and Opioid Settlement Funds for Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery**

This session highlights emerging best practices and inspires cross-state dialogue on maximizing the reach of these dollars.

MODERATOR

Andrea Campbell, *Massachusetts Attorney General*

PANELISTS

Gentner Drummond, *Oklahoma Attorney General*

James Boffetti, *Chief Deputy, New Hampshire Department of Justice*

Caleb A. Pracht, *Special Assistant Attorney General, Mississippi Attorney General's Office*

10:20 am – 11:25 am **Better Understanding Addiction: A 2025 Lens on Mental Health & Substance Use**

A science-first discussion on addiction, mental health, and public policy. Experts examine the latest in neuroscience, the influence of Big Marijuana, and how attorneys general can promote health-centered responses to substance use.

MODERATOR

Derek Brown, *Utah Attorney General*

PANELISTS

Janet Herold, *Legal Director, Justice Catalyst*

Kevin Sabet, *PhD, President & CEO, Smart Approaches to Marijuana & Foundation for Drug Policy Solutions*

Stephen M. Taylor, *MD, MPH, DFAPA, DFASAM, Chief Medical Officer, Pathway Healthcare Services, LLC*

11:25 am – 11:40 am **Break**

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11:45 am – 12:45 pm **Modern Drug Education: Preventing the Next Crisis**

This panel examines the shift from outdated drug education models to youth-driven, community-based prevention efforts that prioritize trust, relevance, and mental health. Featuring voices from schools, tech platforms, and advocacy groups, the discussion will explore how attorneys general can support modern strategies that meet students where they are—both offline and online.

MODERATOR

Lyndsay Rutolo, *First Assistant Attorney General, New Jersey*

PANELISTS

Paul DelPonte, *Executive Director & CEO, National Crime Prevention Council*

Francisco Pegueros, *D.A.R.E. America/International*

Bethany Hall-Long, *P.h.D., R.N., Former Governor/Lt. Governor, Delaware*

12:45 pm – 1:00 pm **Closing Remarks– Call to Action**

John Formella, *NAAG President and New Hampshire Attorney General*

1:00 pm **Grab and Go lunches available**

Thank you for coming to the 2025 NAAG Presidential Initiative Summit!

NOW OPEN FOR REGISTRATION!!

NAAG Capital Forum

December 8–10, 2025

J.W. Marriott | Washington D.C.