DNA and Crime

Wednesday, Aug. 14, 2013

1:45 - 3:00 p.m.

Senator Bill Cowsert was elected to the Georgia State Senate from the 46th District in 2006. He represents Oconee and parts of Clarke and Walton counties. Senator Cowsert currently serves as vice chairman of the Senate Higher Education Committee and as a member of the Appropriations, Judiciary, Reapportionment and Redistricting, Natural Resources and the Environment and Special Judiciary committees. He is also a partner in his law firm, Cowsert & Avery. He is the past president of the Athens Sertoma Club and Clarke County Heart Association, and is also a board member of the Athens Touchdown Club. Senator Cowsert graduated from Presbyterian College and earned his law degree from the University of Georgia Law School. He, his wife Amy, and their three children are members of the First Presbyterian Church of Athens, where Senator Cowsert serves as a Sunday school teacher.

Representative Roger Goodman is serving his fourth term in the Washington State Legislature from the 45th District, which includes the Seattle suburbs of Kirkland and Redmond. He serves as chair of the House Public Safety Committee and is a senior member of the House Judiciary Committee. His legislative work has focused on reducing drunk driving and domestic violence, and expanding early childhood education programs. Representative Goodman also serves on the NCSL Law and Criminal Justice Standing Committee and the Public Safety and Justice Task Force of the Council of State Governments. In the late 1990s he directed Washington’s Sentencing Guidelines Commission and he previously served in the 1980s and 1990s as legislative director, counsel and chief of staff for two senior Democratic Members of the U.S. Congress. He received an A.B. degree as a Senior Fellow from Dartmouth College; a J.D. degree from the George Washington University; and an M.P.A. degree from Harvard University, where he concentrated on social policy issues, including criminal justice, public health, education reform and economic security.

Lisa Hurst is the senior governmental affairs consultant for Gordon Thomas Honeywell. Ms. Hurst primarily represents clients in the multi-state division of the firm. She regularly consults with members of state legislatures, legislative staff, state agency officials, and a variety of interest groups throughout the
country. She actively represents clients in matters relating to legislative appropriations and authorizations, as well as state agency budgets and regulations. In 2003, Ms. Hurst was the project manager when the firm received a Department of Justice grant to study forensic DNA backlogs and has subsequently been selected to run other government research projects. Working in governmental affairs since 1998, she has experience working for a member of Congress and with a large Washington, D.C. lobbying firm. Her federal background and experience working with state legislative and regulatory bodies gives her a unique perspective in working with a wide variety of client interests. A native of Kentucky, Ms. Hurst received her undergraduate degree from Miami University of Ohio. She currently resides in the Washington, D.C. area with her husband, daughter and son.

**SENATOR DEBBIE SMITH** was elected as vice president of NCSL at the 2012 Legislative Summit in Chicago. She serves as Chair of the Member Outreach and Communications Subcommittee. Senator Smith served in the Nevada Assembly for more than 10 years, 2001-2002 and 2004-2011 (first elected November 2000; after lapse in service, subsequently elected November 2004)—for eight special and five regular sessions, and was elected to the Senate in 2012. She is a board member of the Nevada Afterschool Network, Education Alliance and Washoe County School District Parent Involvement Council. Senator Smith is also a consultant for the Nevada Parent Teacher Association (PTA). She was a Toll Fellow in 2010 and named Elected Official of the Year by Disability Advocates, Public Official of the Year by the Nevada Association of Social Workers, and Legislator of the Year by School Counselor’s Association. Senator Smith was born in Tucson, Arizona and is married with four children.