

## A Review of Law Enforcement Trends & Prevention Initiatives

Moderator, Mike McKeehan, Verizon

Panelists:

Attorney General Patrick Lynch, Rhode Island

Attorney General Rob McKenna, Washington

Sgt. James Smith, Connecticut State Police

Parry Aftab, WiredSafety

Anne Harkins, National Crime Prevention Council

The law enforcement panelists agreed that collaboration between industry, the NGO sector and law enforcement is critical to preventing crimes against children online. All the panelists discussed the prevention initiatives they are working on, nearly all of which involve cooperation among different entities.

General Lynch stressed the importance of education. Explained that when it comes to online safety, more progress is made through outreach than in the courtroom. As president of NAAG, General Lynch used the presidential initiative of the “Year of the Child” to bring together AGs, law enforcement and corporate citizens. He also explained that the state AGs are using NCMEC as a central point from which to reach agreement with industry.

General McKenna used examples to demonstrate that AGs can play an important role as a convener bringing together different sectors, each of which has its own expertise. He also discussed how the state of Washington is developing a blue print for a digital forensics crime lab. He stressed the importance of collaboration with the private sector. General Lynch agreed explaining that half of the state attorneys general are new and that the private sector ought to cultivate a relationship with them.

Sergeant Smith from the CT Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force focused his remarks on local law enforcement. He stressed the importance of knowing the age group that people are addressing with messages. For example, when it comes to 12 to 15 year olds, it is time to give kids an Internet “reality check” about the potential ramifications of their actions. Younger kids, on the other hand, need as much education as possible. Sergeant Smith thinks it is important to empower local law enforcement officers so they can effectively develop a case.

Ann Harkins agreed that local communities need local help. Harkins believes that youth/adult partnerships are the most effective ways to teach kids. Trust and communication are essential between youth and adults. Parry Aftab discussed her teen and tween angel programs, which allow kids to speak to kids about this important issue. She agrees that collaboration is essential and suggests that Attorney Generals develop a video series on Internet laws that could be made available to kids.