

Eyewitness Identification

NMCDLA believes that:

- The single greatest reason for the conviction of innocent people in this country is mistaken eyewitness identification. More than 150 people have been convicted and sentenced to death based on mistaken eyewitness identification.
- Improper eyewitness identification not only convicts the innocent, it allows guilty, violent criminals to remain free.
- The science of eyewitness identification is now well understood. Well-intentioned witnesses make mistakes, especially when nervous, asked to identify an individual of a different race, and influenced in selecting a suspect.

NMCDLA supports the Reliable Eyewitness Identification Act because:

- The Act incorporates the National Institute of Justice's research and recommendations for uniform practices.
- The Act improves on the scientific accuracy of eyewitness identification, requires no additional personnel or cost, and reduces the chances of error.
- The Act will ensure that law enforcement officers in our state use the very best eyewitness identification practices every time.
- The Act will help reduce litigation over identification procedures and ensure that the guilty are convicted and the innocent walk free.

For further information:

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