

## Lifesavers 2010

### FMSCA: Effective Enforcement, Education and Awareness Strategies

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#### **What is effective enforcement?**

*Effective enforcement is the consistent and accurate application of traffic safety laws on CDL drivers by law enforcement officers, prosecutors and the courts.*

#### **What problems with CDL cases exist in the criminal justice system?**

*Too often, a 'give the working man a break' mentality prevails in our criminal justice system. This can result in prosecutors or judges who are reluctant to enforce or adjudicate CDL cases as required by law. In other words, this can be 'masking'.*

#### **What challenges face law enforcement?**

*CDL laws are complicated and officers must be aware of both federal and state level. Prosecutors and judges who are not handling CDL cases consistently within the statutory framework may send a 'don't bother' message to law enforcement officers. Law enforcement officers need a resource they can turn to for training and reference materials.*

#### **What challenges do prosecutors face?**

*Prosecutors are expected to handle a wide variety of cases. CDL cases can be complicated and usually are not something a prosecutor sees on a daily basis. Prosecutors and judges need a resource they can turn to for training and reference materials.*

#### **When is the job done?**

*Everyone in the court system needs to remember that convicting a CDL driver for a violation is not the whole job. Convictions must be reported to the appropriate licensing authorities. If those authorities don't know who is repeatedly violating safety regulations how can they make sure only safe drivers have CDLs?*

#### **Why is it important?**

*Most CDL holders are safe and law abiding drivers. Those drivers should not be forced to compete against drivers or carriers who try to cut corners and break the rules. Also, no drivers should have to share the road with an unsafe driver operating a huge vehicle. Enforcing these regulations and reporting violation will save lives.*

# **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

**For Commercial Motor Vehicle/Commercial Driver's License Questions~**

**Kristen K. Shea, Senior Attorney  
National Traffic Law Center  
National District Attorneys Association  
44 Canal Center Plaza, Ste. 110  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
KShea@NDAA.org  
(703)519-1644**

**For all other inquiries related to Traffic Law~**

**Joanne Michaels, Director  
National Traffic Law Center  
National District Attorneys Association  
44 Canal Center Plaza, Ste. 110  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
Joanne.Michaels@NDAA.org  
(703)519-1645**

**Mark Neil, Senior Attorney  
National Traffic Law Center  
National District Attorneys Association  
44 Canal Center Plaza, Ste. 110  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
Mark.Neil@NDAA.org  
(703)519-164**