



James D. "Buddy"  
**CALDWELL**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**ATTORNEY GENERAL BUDDY CALDWELL**  
**MEETS WITH PRESIDENT BUSH**

Washington, D.C.-- Louisiana Attorney General James D. "Buddy" Caldwell is in Washington, D.C. this week as part of The National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG) Annual Spring Meeting. During his visit, Caldwell was able to meet with President George W. Bush, U.S. Attorney General Michael Mukasey and Supreme Court Justice John Roberts. "It was a very unusual occurrence to get a meeting with the President, U.S. Attorney General and Chief Justice all in one afternoon," says Caldwell. "The President acknowledged our efforts on behalf of the citizens of Louisiana but he did not reflect on the issues involving New Orleans, FEMA, the Road Home Program and other disaster assistance."

Attorney General Caldwell says after meeting with the President he is disturbed the federal government is continuing with its Early Release Program for Federal Prisoners. The early release went into effect Monday, March 3. It will allow some 20,000 crack cocaine users nationwide to walk out of jail. "This news is very alarming to me," says Caldwell. "Crack cocaine users are quite different from powder cocaine users. Crack is highly addictive. Crack users can be some of your worst criminals and they will strike again."

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Caldwell says this Spring Meeting with the other AG's is a great networking mechanism. He says he and his First Assistant John Sinquefield have been able to ask questions and learn about other state crime fighting programs that are successful. For example, there is an aggressive advertising campaign in Montana and Arizona which lets the general public know about the dangers of methamphetamines and crystal meth. "I am usually very skeptical of such programs but this one works," remarked Caldwell. "I plan to implement a similar advertising program in Louisiana after obtaining funding."

Caldwell is one of more than 40 Attorneys General from across the country attending the conference, as well as representatives from trade associations, law firms, and federal and state government officials. The Spring Meeting allows Attorneys General to discuss a number of complex legal issues, including homeland security and terrorism, social networking websites, methamphetamine use, anti-counterfeiting and piracy initiatives, recent decisions by the U.S. Supreme Court, and federal legislation.

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