

LEX QUOD ORDO

ASSOCIATION OF PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER | SUMMER 2012 VOLUME III ISSUE II

Welcome to the second issue of volume III of LEX QUOD ORDO (Law and Order), the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys' (APA) quarterly newsletter dedicated to the field of community prosecution. This spring at APA has been a busy and productive one, and we look forward to sharing with you our recent projects and successes.

Most recently, APA, in partnership with the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and the Center for Court Innovation (CCI), hosted the 7th National Community Prosecution Conference: *A Framework for High Performance Prosecutorial Services* from May 7-8, 2012, in Minneapolis, MN. The conference took place at the Target Corporate headquarters and drew over 150 prosecutors and criminal justice professionals, both nationally and from abroad. Highlights from this conference are featured in this newsletter, but we at APA would like to thank Target, our faculty, and all of our participants for their support, collaboration, and partnership in helping to make this conference an overwhelming success. We plan to utilize many of the great ideas and opportunities discussed throughout the conference to help further develop training and no-cost technical assistance for community prosecutors seeking to implement innovative community-justice-based programs and improve public safety.

In other exciting news, we would like to announce the release of our fifth monograph in APA's Prosecutor's Report series. This monograph, *The Prosecutor's Policy Guide: A Roadmap to Innovation*, was commissioned to APA by the Public Welfare Foundation to assist prosecutors' offices in positioning themselves to embrace innovation and those innovative practices which are making our justice system more efficient and effective. The *Prosecutor's Policy Guide* highlights the obstacles prosecutors face in developing and implementing innovative crime solutions, and is designed to equip prosecutors with practical and existing strategies to overcome such challenges. The monograph also includes five templates derived from frequently discussed prosecutorial roundtable topics, as well as checklists, reminders, and points of departure for further thought and action. We hope this guide will serve as a resource and benefit to all prosecutors seeking assistance with innovative program implementation or replication.



Following the release of *The Prosecutor's Policy Guide*, APA hosted a congressional briefing on June 12th to present the monograph to members of Congress. Board members Chairman John Chisholm, Milwaukee District Attorney, Vice –Chair Paul Howard, Fulton County (GA) District Attorney were in attendance. Charles J. Hynes, Kings County (NY) District Attorney, represented by First Assistant District Attorney Anne Swern, member of APA's President's Advisory Council, and P. David Soares, Albany District Attorney and also a member of APA's President's Advisory Council were also in attendance. To download or view a copy of The Prosecutor's Policy Guide, visit the APA website at: <http://www.apainc.org/html/The%20Prosecutors%20Policy%20Guide%20-%20FINAL%205-30%20COMPATIBLE.pdf>

We would like to thank and recognize all who contributed to this newsletter. Specifically, Portland, Maine for highlighting their implementation of community prosecution, and we would like to thank the Center for Court Innovation (CCI) for their Community Corner article. As always, we encourage you to reach out to us at our website www.apainc.org, connect with us on our Facebook Fan page and follow us on Twitter. Please feel free to contact me at Robert.Hood@apainc.org if you need assistance, have questions, or suggestions for future issues, trainings and publications.

Robert Hood, APA

Director, Community Prosecution & Violent Crime Division

**7TH NATIONAL COMMUNITY PROSECUTION CONFERENCE:
A FRAMEWORK FOR HIGH PERFORMANCE PROSECUTORIAL SERVICES**

BY KELSEY DOTY, ASSOCIATION OF PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS

APA, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance and the Center for Court Innovation, recently hosted the 7th National Community Prosecution Conference: *A Framework for High Performance Prosecutorial Services* this past May in Minneapolis, MN. The conference was hosted at Target headquarters. We would like to thank Target for providing exceptional meeting facilities for our attendees.

The conference was attended by over 150 prosecutors and criminal justice practitioners from across the country. The first morning, attendees were welcomed by local officials including Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman, Hennepin County Sheriff Richard Stanek, Minneapolis Police Chief Tim Dolan, and Minneapolis City Attorney Susan Segal. Target Vice-President of Assets Protection Brad Brekke was also on hand to welcome guests on behalf of our hosts. Attendees were also privileged to hear from Minnesota Senator and Senate Judiciary Committee member Amy Klobuchar and the Keynote address was given by U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance Director Denise O'Donnell.



Minneapolis Police Department Color Guard presented the Minnesota and United States flags at the start of the conference.

The conference's focus on the High Performance Prosecution model began with a plenary session on three national examples of high performing prosecution offices with Cook County (Chicago, IL) State's Attorney Anita Alvarez, Ramsey County (St. Paul, MN) County Attorney John Choi, and Minneapolis City Attorney Susan Segal serving as panelists. The first day also included

a presentation on the recent University of Chicago Crime Lab's evaluation of Cook County's community prosecution program, a panel on criminal justice data sharing, and breakout sessions on community prosecution basics and more detailed presentations on the Minneapolis Downtown 100 targeted prosecution program and Kings County, New York and Chittendon County, Vermont diversion and reentry programs. Attendees heard from Kings County (Brooklyn,

NY) District Attorney Charles J. Hynes during the lunch presentation. District Attorney Hynes inspired attendees to continue their innovative and important work as key players in increasing public safety and offender outcomes in their jurisdictions.

The evening of the first conference day included

Continued on next page.



Reception attendees and I.C.E. Award winners. From L-R: Steven Jansen, APA Vice-President; Tim Baer, Target Executive Vice-President and General Counsel; David LaBahn, APA President; Charles J. Hynes, Kings County District Attorney; Denise O'Donnell, U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance Director; Cindy Hudson, Target Assets Protection; Anne Swern, Kings County First Assistant District Attorney; Alicia Jolla, Target Senior Group Manager, Assets Protection; Thomas J. Donovan, Chittendon County State's Attorney; and Mahogany Eller, Target Community Engagement & Assets Protection.

a reception for conference attendees and faculty hosted by Target at the nearby Target Studio. During the reception, APA President David LaBahn and APA Vice-President Steven Jansen awarded the 2012 I.C.E. (Innovations in Community Engagement) Awards. Honorees included Target Corporation, as this year's recipient for Good Corporate Citizenship, Milwaukee County Assistant District Attorney Christopher Ladwig for his work in developing a community prosecution curriculum, Chittendon County State's Attorney Thomas J. (T.J.) Donovan for his Rapid Intervention Initiative, and Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes for his office's many innovative and community-based prevention, diversion, and reentry programs.

The conference concluded with breakouts on how to apply problem-solving in a community

prosecution setting, building community trust and relationships, and how to address juvenile issues through community prosecution. Feedback from attendees indicated a wide range of knowledge gained on both basic community prosecution instruction and innovative topics such as reentry, engaging underserved communities, and zone prosecution.

APA would like to express our gratitude to the wonderful attendees, dedicated faculty, and our supportive partners BJA, CCI, and Target for making the 7th National Community Prosecution Conference a success. We hope all in attendance made productive connections and gained the needed skills and knowledge to further your community

prosecution and public safety efforts in your jurisdiction. We look forward to the 8th National Conference.

If you were unable to attend the conference, but are interested in any session materials, please contact APA's Community Prosecution and Violent Crimes Program Director Bob Hood at Robert.Hood@APAInc.org.

**PORTLAND, MAINE POLICE DEPARTMENT FEATURES
A UNIQUE COMMUNITY PROSECUTOR
BY BOB HOOD, ASSOCIATION OF PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS**

One of the interesting aspects of community prosecution is how different jurisdictions have adapted the model and have made it work in their communities. APA COO Steve Jansen and I had a recent opportunity to make a site visit to the Portland, Maine Police Department to take a look at their Neighborhood Prosecutor Program, one of the few in the nation to actually feature a community prosecutor who is directly employed by a police agency rather than a prosecution entity.

Neighborhood Prosecutor Trish McAllister is credited with having a major impact on three of Portland's biggest quality of life problems: bringing problem properties into code compliance, reducing illegal dumping, and reducing the presence of graffiti. Trish helped to spearhead a rewrite of the city's problem property ordinance and make changes to the city's graffiti ordinance. Relying on only civil remedies, she has filed cases and worked with city departments, the police, property owners, and tenants; and has often been able to bring violators into voluntary compliance.

While in Portland, Steve and I had the opportunity to observe a Portland Police Department COMSTAT session, make a presentation at the Portland Community Policing Advisory Board, take an extensive ride-a-long with Senior Lead Officer Dan Townsend, meet with Portland Downtown Association members, tour a social services day services center, and meet with Police Chief Michael J. Sauschuck and with Assistant DA Meg Elam of the Cumberland County District Attorney's Office.

Only in existence for about two years, this community prosecution program has been warmly received by city policy makers, the police, and the community. Started with a federal grant, the program was so valued that the position was funded by Portland's budget when grant funding expired. With these early successes, Trish, with the support of Chief Sauschuck, is exploring new ways to impact some of Portland's other problems such as aggressive panhandling and street disorder. APA will be providing ongoing technical assistance to Portland in the hopes of helping them reach their future goals.

COMMUNITY CORNER

**UPDATE: FULTON COUNTY COMMUNITY PROSECUTION
15 YEARS LATER
BY ELVITA DOMINIQUE, CENTER FOR COURT INNOVATION**

Community demand pushed the growth of community prosecution in Fulton County, Georgia. Originally, founded by District Attorney Paul Howard in 1997 as a pilot program in two of Atlanta's police districts, community prosecution has since expanded to include all six of Atlanta's police districts and also the North Fulton County and South Fulton County police districts. "We started in Zone Four," explained Steven Jones, Senior Assistant District Attorney for the Office of the Fulton County District Attorney, "and because of our work in Zone Four, other communities asked for it. Each time we would add a prosecutor, another community wanted it the program kept growing because the community supported it. The community really wants us here. That is a complete turnaround from before we began the program, when prosecutors weren't as welcome."

The District Attorney's office developed this good will by seeking to establish a strong positive presence in the community. Since the inception of the program community prosecutors have been required to attend Neighborhood Planning Unit (NPU) meetings, which are open forums for community members to discuss problems with city agencies. Also, Citizen Advisory Committees (CAC) were instituted to foster direct communication between the community and community prosecutors. Further, in addition to the NPU meetings and CACs, community prosecutors regularly attend a broad variety of other community gatherings, such as tenant or homeowner association meetings and business association meetings. "Our office makes a concerted effort to connect with the community. If the community doesn't know that you are there for them, they aren't comfortable reaching out to you. That makes a huge difference," said Jones. Jones further explained that, "the community has

been a strong partner for the District Attorney's Office in identifying challenges, making suggestions to address those challenges and promoting new criminal justice initiatives."

Public enthusiasm for active participation in community prosecution was so high that District Attorney Howard developed the Court Watch program. The program is designed to teach community members about the criminal justice system and community prosecution. They are put through a formal Court Watch training which is conducted by District Attorney Howard. Once they complete the training they receive a pin and are sworn in as court watchers. Members of the Court Watch team observe hearings. If there is a hearing of particular importance to the community, for instance a well-known repeat offender, the District Attorney's office may ask the Court Watch team to make special effort to attend the hearings. This is a way for the community to send a message to the criminal justice system that they take a real interest in the outcome of the case and that they would like for prosecution and sentencing to reflect the values of the community. "Court Watch is one of the strongest aspects of community prosecution in Fulton County. You are giving the community an opportunity to see what happens. At the same time you are displaying community support for prosecution of a particular case," explained Jones.

The District Attorney Office also seeks to provide positive youth engagement activities for community members. Two such programs are Legal Lives and the Junior District Attorney program. Legal Lives is a 15 week instructional program led by prosecutors for high school students. The program teaches civics and criminal law and culminates in

a mock trial competition. To encourage active engagement two students from each participating school are eligible for an all-expenses paid trip to Washington, DC. The school that wins the mock trial is allowed to send three students to Washington, DC. 11 schools currently participate in the program.

The Junior District Attorney program is a law centered education program for middle school students. Similar to Legal Lives, the program focuses on training students on the criminal justice system. To that end students participate in site visits to various criminal justice agencies such as the Atlanta City Hall, the Fulton County's Sheriff's Office and the Supreme Court of Georgia. In a story that drew national media coverage, Jessica Maple, a former Junior District Attorney student, was able to use the knowledge she had gained through the program to solve the burglary of her grandmother's home. She recovered the stolen property and supplied investigators with the name of a suspect. Jones sees Jessica Maple as an illustration of the power of an informed and engaged community in addressing criminal justice challenges.

Fulton County has also continued to develop innovative criminal justice interventions. One current major initiative is "Heavy Metal." An operation developed in conjunction with the United States Marshal and the City of Atlanta Police Department, Heavy Metal is designed to combat the rising level of auto thefts in Atlanta. Under Georgia law a car can be sold for scrap without a title as long as it is 12 years or older. Awareness of this law has increased and thieves have begun targeting older vehicles and taking these stolen cars to recycling facilities. To transfer the car to the recycling facility for compensation, the thieves only need to complete a cancellation of title form and provide a driver's license.

Using recycling facilities' records the task force was able to generate a list of the driver's licenses associated with cars that had been reported stolen and were subsequently

crushed for scrap metal. Further, the task force used other evidence, such as signature comparison between driver's licenses and recycling facility forms, to narrow the list of suspects. On March 26th, 2012, through the work of the Heavy Metal initiative, 98 suspects were arrested on theft and theft by receiving charges. The District Attorney's office is now in the process of prosecuting these cases.

To learn more about community prosecution in Fulton County, GA please contact Steven Jones, Senior Assistant District Attorney, at steven.jones@fultoncountyga.gov.



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SAVE THE DATE
THE ASSOCIATION OF PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE'S BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE PRESENT:
THE 3RD NATIONAL ANIMAL CRUELTY PROSECUTION CONFERENCE:
PROSECUTING ANIMAL CRUELTY & PRESERVING COMMUNITY SAFETY
OCTOBER 3-5, 2012
TOPICS INCLUDE:
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This project was supported by Grant No. 2011-DP-BX-K051 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the SMART Office, and the Office for Victims of Crime. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not represent the official position or policies of the United States Department of Justice.

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