



District Attorneys Association of the State of New York

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Message from the President

Hon. Kathleen B. Hogan, Warren County District Attorney



On behalf of DAASNY, I would like to welcome the six newly elected District Attorneys in New York State. Please join me in welcoming DA Lori Rieman, Cattaraugus County; DA Kristy Sprague, Essex County; DA Cyrus Vance, Jr., New York County; DA Barry Porsch, Seneca County; DA James Farrell, Sullivan County; and DA Jason Cook, Yates County to the District Attorneys Association.

In this edition we have highlighted two of the creative initiatives for preventing crime that are being implemented around the state. The first is in Monroe County, the other is in Staten Island. These programs exemplify how DAs across the state are being proactive about crime prevention. It is programs such as these that contribute to the continuing reduction of crime in New York. DAASNY looks forward to a new year of dropping crime rates, resulting from the hard work, the innovation, and the fair administration of justice exercised by the state's DAs and our law enforcement partners.

Spotlight On: Monroe County District Attorney Michael Green's Project Step Up



In the summer of 2005, District Attorney Michael Green, in partnership with the Monroe County Sheriff's Office and the Rochester Police Department, introduced Project Step Up at the Boys & Girls Club of Rochester. Project Step Up combines a basketball league with educational programming for youth between the ages of 15 and 20. In an attempt to attract at-risk teens, the program recruits from many locations, including from the street corners of Rochester's high-crime, high-poverty neighborhoods. Project Step Up provides Rochester teens with a safe, fun place to spend their summer nights.

The program runs five nights a week throughout the summer; four nights for the male league and one night for the female league. Teens must attend a 30-60 minute educational session prior to basketball games. The program uses the Boys & Girls Clubs of America's Street SMART curriculum to teach participants how to resist gang activity. Interactive educational sessions include lessons on employment preparation, drug and alcohol avoidance, and conflict resolution. In order to build a relationship between the youth and law enforcement, representatives from the law enforcement community speak one night a week.

Larry King, a four-year participant of the program, personifies the kind of success Project Step Up hopes to inspire. Larry is one of 14 children, and the first in his family to graduate from high school. Project Step Up gave Larry the opportunity to build meaningful relationships that encouraged him to succeed. This past May, DA Green attended Larry's college graduation from Buffalo State College.

In the past five years nearly 800 Rochester teens have participated in Project Step Up. The program culminates with a championship basketball game at the end of the summer. Upon successful completion of the program, every

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participant earns a free one-year membership to the Boys & Girls Club.

Funding for the educational and mentoring aspects of Project Step Up comes from money forfeited to the Monroe County District Attorney's Office's by drug dealers. A community partner sponsors items such as uniforms and trophies.

Monroe County District Attorney's Website:

<http://www.monroecounty.gov/da-index.php>

Spotlight On: Richmond County District Attorney Daniel Donovan, Jr.'s Anti-Shoplifting Campaign



For the second consecutive year, Richmond County District Attorney Daniel Donovan, Jr. sponsored an anti-shoplifting campaign during the holiday season at the Staten Island Mall. This program was introduced in 2008 after merchants at the Staten Island Mall, the largest in the county, reported severe shoplifting problems. The DA's Office began by engaging those in charge of mall security, encouraging retailer cooperation in bringing stronger and better cases. In the course of working with mall management, it was learned that a small percentage of the population was responsible for a majority of the offenses. The campaign identified the worst of the worst, all with previous shoplifting related convictions, and featured their "mugshots" on electronic billboards at locations throughout the mall.

From introduction of the initiative on January 1, 2008 though November 1, 2009, 434 people were arrested for theft-related crimes at the Staten Island Mall. The merchants at the mall report that the campaign has had a great deterrent effect. In addition, the level of merchant cooperation in connection with prosecutions has increased because the campaign has demonstrated the District Attorney's determination to work with the merchants to combat thefts. Significantly, large scale shoplifting rings, in which some of those depicted in the "mugshots" participated, have, for the most part, disappeared.

As DA Donovan noted, "The response to this program last year was incredible, with merchants and customers contacting us to express their appreciation that this crime is being targeted. Shoplifting is not a victimless crime. It impacts business owners and customers, resulting in decreased profits for merchants and higher prices for consumers. In this poor economy some may be tempted to steal, but there are consequences for the defendant that can include the embarrassment of public arrest and a permanent criminal record."

Richmond County District Attorney's Website: <http://rcda.nyc.gov/>

Introducing New York State's New District Attorneys



Lori Rieman, Cattaraugus County District Attorney

Lori Rieman graduated from Belmont Abbey College and the University of Tennessee College of Law. She worked at the Knox County District Attorney General's Office from 1993-1995. Rieman moved to New York in 1997 at which point she went into private practice for three years. In 2001 she became the First Assistant District Attorney at the Cattaraugus District Attorney's Office. Rieman is the first female district attorney in Cattaraugus County history. She lives with her husband Craig, who works for the U.S. Department of Energy at West Valley and two sons.

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 Little Valley, NY 14755

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Scott D. McNamara

Oneida County

William J. Fitzpatrick

Onondaga County

R. Michael Tantillo

Ontario County

Francis D. Phillips, II

Orange County

Joseph V. Cardone

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Donald H. Dodd

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Gerald L. Stout

Wyoming County

Jason L. Cook

Yates County

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Kristy Sprague, Essex County District Attorney

Kristy Sprague has spent her entire legal career as a prosecutor. After graduating from Albany Law School in 1998, she worked as an Assistant District Attorney, and later Chief Assistant District Attorney, for the Clinton County District Attorney's Office. Sprague has extensive trial experience, including double homicides and other serious felony offenses. She also established North Country's first Child Advocacy Center in Plattsburgh in 2009. North Country is the eight northernmost counties of New York State. Sprague lives with her husband Steve Trow and two children in Willsboro, NY.

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Cyrus Vance, Jr., New York County District Attorney

Cyrus R. Vance, Jr. began his legal career as an Assistant District Attorney in the Manhattan District Attorney's Office. As an ADA, Vance handled cases involving murder, organized crime, political corruption, and white-collar crime. Vance then moved to Seattle, where he co-founded McNaul, Ebel, Nawrot, Helgren & Vance, PLLC, and taught trial advocacy as an adjunct professor at Seattle University School of Law. In 2004 Vance returned to New York and became a partner at Morvillo, Abramowitz, Grand, Iason, Anello & Bohrer, P.C. He served by appointment of the Governor of New York as a member of the New York State Appellate Division, First Department, Judicial Screening Panel, and was a member of the New York State Commission on Sentencing Reform. Vance is a graduate of Yale University and Georgetown University Law School. He lives on the Upper West Side with his wife Peggy McDonnell.

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Barry Porsch, Seneca County District Attorney

Barry Porsch is the new District Attorney in Seneca County. He earned a degree in Industrial and Labor Relations at Cornell University and a law degree at the Syracuse University College of Law. For the past 15 years, Porsch was employed as a Court Attorney at the Appellate Division, Fourth Department, in Rochester. Prior to taking office, Porsch held the position of Principal Appellate Court Attorney at the Fourth Department. In the 1990s, he served nearly four years as a Village Justice in Seneca Falls. Porsch resides in Seneca Falls with his wife Kathy.

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Check out the new and improved DAASNY web site at:

www.daasny.org



James Farrell, Sullivan County District Attorney

James Farrell has been working at the Sullivan County District Attorney's Office for the past 14 years. He served as Chief Assistant District Attorney prior to running for District Attorney. Farrell graduated from Albany Law School and spent two years practicing law in Rutland, Vermont. He lives in Cochetton with his wife Nicole and two children.

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Jason L. Cook, Yates County District Attorney

Jason L. Cook comes to the Yates County District Attorney's Office having been a career prosecutor. Before his election to the position of District Attorney, he was First Assistant for seven years in Yates County with the Hon. Susan H. Lindenmuth and previously served as an Assistant District Attorney with the Hon. John C. Tunney in Steuben County and also as Chief Assistant District Attorney with the Hon. Joseph G. Fazzary in Schuyler County. He obtained his bachelor's degree from Ithaca College and his law degree from the Dickinson School of Law, in Carlisle, PA.

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DAASNY Winter Conference, January 27-29

The DAASNY Winter Conference will be held January 27-29, in New York City at the Grand Hyatt New York. At 9:00am on January 29 there will be a Continuing Legal Education lecture on Best Practices, designed to educate elected and senior-level prosecutors and law enforcement professionals. The program will fulfill 2 hours of CLE credit, one of which is ethics.

There will be a reception and buffet luncheon at 11:30am on January 29 featuring key note speaker Ray Kelly, NYPD Commissioner. Also in attendance will be Governor David A. Paterson, Attorney General Andrew Cuomo, and Secretary Denise O'Donnell.

Conference inquiries should be directed to Michael DeMartino, Special Assistant to the DAASNY President, michael.demartino@daasny.org, (518) 447-2496.
