United States Attorney's Office
Eastern District of Michigan

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 10, 2010

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UNITED STATES ATTORNEY ANNOUNCES OFFICE RESTRUCTURING

Detroit - U.S. Attorney Barbara L. McQuade announced today that she has restructured the U.S. Attorney's Office to reallocate attorneys according to new priorities.

McQuade announced the creation of units that will focus on violent crime, public corruption, and civil rights, as well as a more focused approach to white collar crime, such as mortgage fraud, health care fraud and environmental crime.

"The current structure of the office was created in the 1970s, when we had 35 attorneys," McQuade said. "We now have more than 100 attorneys and new challenges that we need to address. This structure will best equip us to focus on priority areas."

McQuade listed the office priorities as terrorism, public corruption, violent crime, civil rights and financial fraud, including mortgage fraud, health care fraud, and environmental crime.

In addition to announcing the new structure, McQuade also named the chiefs of

each unit. "One goal is to give different people an opportunity to lead these units," McQuade said. "We are fortunate to have an office of dedicated professionals, and many of them have strong visions of how to make these units productive and effective."

The Violent and Organized Crime Unit will be supervised by John O'Brien, an eight-year veteran of the U.S. Attorney's Office and former chief assistant prosecuting attorney of the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office. McQuade said she seeks to work strategically with the county prosecutors, local police departments and federal agencies to reduce violent crime.

The Public Corruption Unit will be supervised by Kathryn McCarthy, who has served as the chief of the Controlled Substances Unit. McQuade has assigned additional attorney resources to this unit to handle the large public corruption caseload. McCarthy successfully prosecuted public corruption cases before taking on the duties as chief of the Controlled Substances Unit. She previously worked at the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office. She has been an Assistant U.S. Attorney since 1995.

The Civil Rights Unit will be supervised by Judith Levy, who worked at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission before joining the U.S. Attorney's Office in 2000.

Financial fraud has been divided into three units, a White Collar Crime Unit, a Complex Fraud Unit, and a Health Care Fraud Unit. McQuade said she hoped that this focused approach would bring renewed attention to priority areas.

The White Collar Crime Unit, which will focus on mortgage fraud and identity theft, will be supervised by Cynthia Oberg, a former criminal defense attorney who has served in the office since 1992.

The Complex Fraud Unit will focus on environmental crimes as well as cybercrime and intellectual property, such as trade secrets in the auto industry.

Stephen Hiyama, a 25-year veteran of the office, will supervise that unit.

The Health Care Fraud Unit will be supervised by Wayne Pratt, who has served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney since 1983.

Other units in the office will continue, some with new leadership. Jonathan Tukel will continue to serve as chief of the National Security Unit. He has held that position since 2008. Tukel has served in the U.S. Attorney's Office since 1990.

Dawn Ison, a former criminal defense attorney and eight-year veteran of the office, will serve as chief of the Drug Task Force.

Kevin Mulcahy, who served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in San Diego before joining the Detroit office in 2005, will supervise the General Crimes Unit.

Peter Caplan is the new chief of the Affirmative Litigation Unit. Caplan has been an Assistant U.S. Attorney since 1985.

Julie Beck will supervise the Asset Forfeiture and Financial Litigation Unit. Beck is a seven-year veteran of the office.

Vanessa Mays will supervise the Defensive Litigation Unit. Mays has served in the office since 1999.

Barbara Colby Tanase will continue to supervise the branch offices in Flint and Bay City. Tanase is a 19-year veteran of the Department of Justice, having served in the Western District of Michigan as well as Washington, D.C., before joining this office.

The United States Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Michigan prosecutes civil and criminal matters on behalf of the United States of America and its

agencies and defends claims against the United States in the 34 counties that make up the eastern half of the state. The office currently employs approximately 206 personnel in three locations (Detroit, Flint and Bay City) and serves more than 6.5 million residents throughout the eastern part of Michigan.