



Department of Justice

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U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL RECOGNIZES TWO CASES FROM THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI IN NATIONAL AWARDS DAY CEREMONY

ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY JAY GOLDEN AND SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI LITIGATION TEAM HONORED

Jackson, Miss – The United States Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of Mississippi is proud to announce that two of its cases were selected for national recognition during the Department of Justice 56th Annual Awards Ceremony. United States Attorney General Michael Mukasey presided over the ceremony which was held October 28th at Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C.

“The achievements of the people we honor today span the globe, and are as broad as the mission of the Department: To enforce the law and defend the interests of the United States according to the law,” said Attorney General Mukasey. “We all serve that mission in different ways, but what all of these award recipients have in common is that they have reached the highest level of accomplishment in the work that they do.”

Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) Jay T. Golden, who is assigned to the U.S. Attorney’s branch office in Gulfport, Mississippi, was among Department of Justice employees presented with the Attorney General’s John Marshall Award for Trial of Litigation.

Golden was part of the Department of Justice team recognized for their successful prosecution of Robert Lucas and others in a case involving Big Hill Acres in Jackson County, Mississippi. The case became one of the most significant Clean Water Act prosecutions in United States history.

Southern District of Mississippi U.S. Attorney Dunn Lampton cited the case involving Big Hill Acres as providing a major example of environmental crimes that have direct impact on the daily lives of many local residents who became victims. Lampton further cited AUSA Golden for his consistent professionalism and hard work. “Jay Golden is one of the finest prosecutors in the U.S. Department of Justice, and we are proud that he serves in the Southern District of Mississippi” said Lampton.

The John Marshall Award for Trial of Litigation also was presented to Jeremy F. Korzenik, Senior Trial Attorney in the Department of Justice Environmental Crimes Section; Deborah L. Harris, Assistant Chief for the Environmental Crimes Section; Katherine J. Barton and John L. Smeltzer, Trial Attorneys, Appellate Section, Environment and Natural Resources Division.

Attorney General Mukasey and Deputy Attorney General Mark R. Filip also presented the Attorney General's Award for Exceptional Service to the prosecution team responsible for the prosecution of United States v. Seale. The Attorney General's Award for Exceptional Service is the Department's highest award.

Evidence presented at trial showed that on May 2, 1964, the defendant, James Seale, and his accomplices, all members of the Klu Klux Klan, abducted two victims and drove them into the Homochitto National Forest in Franklin County, Miss., where they beat the victims and interrogated them at gunpoint. Seale and the other Klansmen then bound the two men, drove the victims to Parker's Landing in Warren County, Miss., and drowned them in the Old Mississippi River.

U.S. Attorney Dunn Lampton, led the litigation team and was the lead prosecutor in the case. While U.S. Attorneys, as Presidentially appointed officials, are ineligible for Attorney General Awards given to the Department's civil service employees, Lampton said he was extremely proud of his colleagues in the Department's Civil Rights Division and the Jackson Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Lampton also credited retired FBI Special Agent, and former Jackson Field Office Special Agent-in-Charge, Jim Ingram with providing invaluable assistance to the investigation and prosecution effort. Lampton said as a retired agent, Ingram also was not eligible to receive the Attorney General's award; but, Lampton noted, "Jim Ingram has the thanks of citizens throughout this state, and is well known as one of the true heroes of law enforcement."

Members of the Seale litigation team receiving the Attorney General's Award for Exceptional Service were, from the Criminal Section of the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, Paige M. Fitzgerald, Special Litigation Counsel; Eric L. Gibson, Trial Attorney; and Connie Lee, Paralegal Specialist; and from the FBI's Jackson, Mississippi Division, Special Agent William J. Stokes.

The Attorney General's Annual Awards Ceremony provides an opportunity to recognize the extraordinary accomplishments of a number of U.S. Department of Justice employees as well as certain law enforcement officials from outside of the Department.

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