



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

Eastern District of Pennsylvania

615 Chestnut Street

Suite 1250

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106-4476

(215) 861-8200

Richard Manieri

Direct Dial: (215) 861-8525

Facsimile: (215) 861- 8509

E-mail Address: richard.manieri@usdoj.gov

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THREE FROM EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA RECEIVE AWARDS FROM ATTORNEY GENERAL

WASHINGTON – The Department of Justice held its 23th annual Executive Office for United States Attorneys Director’s Awards Ceremony today. The 154 award recipients from across the country include Assistant United States Attorneys, litigation and information technology support personnel, as well as others who have made outstanding contributions in federal, state and local law enforcement. The ceremony was held in the Great Hall, Robert F. Kennedy Main Justice Building in Washington.

Three members of the U.S. Attorney’s Office in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania received awards:

The first two are **Kathy A. Stark and Richard A. Lloret** for their prosecution of 37 defendants in the Carter Drug Organization, an entrenched, violent cocaine distribution organization headed by Courtney Carter which operated in Philadelphia. Kathy and Rich oversaw a three-year investigation and prosecution which developed and organized mountains of evidence, including electronic surveillance, ballistic evidence from more than a dozen shootings and one homicide, financial information, and evidence developed from local arrests of many of the street-level dealers who worked for the Carter Drug Organization. They successfully presented cases to seven different juries against the 17 defendants who proceeded to trial. Many defendants who went to trial made attempts to threaten witnesses and their family members but their attempts were discovered and thwarted. Kathy and Rich secured convictions against the members of the Carter Organization for drug, gun, money laundering and continuing criminal enterprise charges. Sentences of life imprisonment were imposed on three of the co-conspirators, while sentences of between 15 and 35 years were imposed on the remaining non-cooperating defendants.

The third attorney to receive this award is **Joseph A. LaBar** for his outstanding contributions to the Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) program and his coordination of the Violent Crime Impact Team (VCIT) in the Eastern District. When he first joined the program, Joe focused his efforts on prosecuting violent gangs and armed career criminals. He brought to PSN the ability to effectively coordinate the efforts of local and federal law enforcement officials to accomplish this. During the time he has been assigned to PSN, Joe has indicted and convicted more than 45 violent criminals as part of the PSN initiative.

The Executive Office for United States Attorneys provides oversight, general executive assistance, and direction to 94 United States Attorneys’ Offices around the country.