U.S. Department of Justice
First Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Colorado
Cliff Stricklin

Cliff Stricklin, an experienced federal prosecutor and former judge, is the First Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Colorado. He was appointed by United States Attorney Troy Eid. Cliff has nearly twenty years in law enforcement, most recently serving on the Enron Task Force where he was one of four attorneys to present the evidence in the fraud and conspiracy trial against former Enron executives Ken Lay and Jeff Skilling. He was also the co-lead prosecutor in the securities and accounting fraud case against five executives from Enron's Broadband division.

Prior to joining the Task Force, Cliff was a state district judge in Dallas, Texas, where for four years he presided over felony criminal cases ranging from fraud and narcotic crimes to capital murder cases. In all, Cliff heard over 130 jury trials while on the bench. Each of his cases has been affirmed at the appellate level. While at the state courthouse, Cliff was the principal author of Dallas County's Indigent Defense Plan and the appointment qualifications requirements for attorneys seeking court appointments to represent indigent defendants. He also created an innovative Mental Health Diversion Court to address the needs of non-violent offenders with mental illness. In 2002, his fellow district court judges elected Cliff to the position of Presiding Judge, a position he held until returning to the Department of Justice.

Cliff previously served eight years as an Assistant U.S. Attorney with the Eastern District of Texas. He started with the office right out of law school and was immediately thrust into the courtroom trying drug cases. He later moved to general crimes, eventually graduating to complex public corruption and white collar cases. In all, Cliff tried numerous jury trials, wrote 28 appellate briefs, and argued four cases orally before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit as an assistant with the Eastern District of Texas. He has received the Texas Department of Public Safety's highest civilian award given for his service to law enforcement as well as honorary awards from the FBI, the U.S. Customs Service and IBM, Inc. An enthusiastic teacher, Cliff has shared his experience in the courtroom with other lawyers and students as an instructor at the Justice Department's National Advocacy Center and the Attorney General's Advocacy Institute as well as an adjunct professor at Southern Methodist University's School of Law.

Cliff is a graduate of Washington & Lee School of Law and Baylor University. In addition to his other experience, Cliff has served as an intelligence analyst with the Drug Enforcement Administration in Washington, DC, as a Special Assistant to the Administrator at the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, also in Washington, as a law clerk hired by Rudolph Guiliani in the Securities Fraud Section of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, and as a senior attorney with the national law firm of Andrews & Kurth, LLP, in Dallas. In 1999 he was a principal drafter of the City of Dallas's Code of Ethics as a member of the city's Ethics Task Force, a position he held alongside now Counsel to the President Harriet Miers.

Cliff is licensed to practice in Texas and the District of Columbia and is Board Certified in Criminal Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. He and his wife Robin have been married for seventeen years. They have two children, ages 11 and 6.