



Department of Justice

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SIX ATTORNEYS, PARALEGAL SPECIALIST FROM ATLANTA RECEIVE PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS FROM JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

Atlanta, GA - The United States Attorney's Office today announced six current or former Assistant U.S. Attorneys and one Paralegal Specialist from Atlanta received prestigious awards from the Department of Justice in Washington D.C. on Friday, when the Department of Justice held its 25th annual Executive Office for United States Attorneys (EOUSA) "Director's Awards" Ceremony, during which 160 award recipients were recognized for their excellence in law enforcement. Recipients around the country included Assistant United States Attorneys, law enforcement agents, litigation and information technology support personnel, and others who have made outstanding contributions in federal, state and local law enforcement.

"The attorneys, agents and staff we have honored are dedicated public servants," said Attorney General Michael B. Mukasey. "The award recipients are leaders in carrying out the Department's mission, and the citizens in the communities they serve should be proud of their efforts and accomplishments."

•First Assistant United States Attorney Sally Quillian Yates and former Assistant United States Attorneys Phyllis B. Sumner and Russell G. Vineyard won the Director's Award for Superior Performance by a Litigative Team. This prosecution team for the City of Atlanta corruption case was recognized for their outstanding work on the investigation and prosecution of former Atlanta Mayor Bill Campbell and 12 others for tax fraud, bribery, and related charges. Throughout the lengthy investigation, despite being met with aggressive resistance and obstruction of justice, the team displayed an unwavering resolve to uncover the truth about corrupt dealings during the Campbell Administration. This award confirms that their work exemplified the highest degree of professionalism, integrity, and dedication in the Department.

•Paralegal Specialist Kimberly J. Casperson won the Director’s Award for Superior Performance in a Litigative Support Role for her outstanding work as a paralegal in the investigation and prosecution of complex and difficult cases, including the Eric Robert Rudolph serial bombing case and the prosecutions of former Atlanta Mayor Bill Campbell and others for bribery, tax fraud, and related charges. Her hard work, organizational skills, and command of the evidence in these challenging, high-profile cases was critical to their success.

•Assistant United States Attorneys Joseph Plummer and Francey Hakes won the Director’s Award for Superior Performance as Assistant United States Attorneys for their outstanding dedication in the prosecution of a dangerous serial arsonist in metropolitan Atlanta. Defendant Mock, a local cab driver and former police officer, set no fewer than 14 fires between September and October 2004, mostly in apartment buildings. Because no one was a direct witness to the defendant's setting the fires, the AUSAs used the circumstantial evidence drawn from the defendant's cab's GPS system and a tracking-device to place the defendant the scene of nearly every fire. At trial, a jury convicted the defendant, who received a 20-year sentence.

•Assistant United States Attorney Sandra Strippoli won the Director’s Award for Superior Performance as an Assistant United States Attorney for her excellent work on a complex black market peso exchange investigation and prosecution that lasted four years and involved 32 defendants, eight of whom were extradited from Colombia, South America. AUSA Strippoli coordinated with Colombian prosecutors and agents to develop evidence against high-level Colombian targets involved in money laundering. Six indictments charging 32 defendants resulted from the investigation. AUSA Strippoli obtained guilty pleas from 26 defendants, including the eight from Colombia, and convicted another defendant after a trial. (Five fugitives remain abroad.) Twenty-six defendants were sentenced to prison terms ranging from 27 months to over 24 years (one was deported without a prison sentence). AUSA Strippoli managed and organized a multi-defendant, multi-national financial investigation that advanced a leading priority of the OCDETF Program and the Department.

“We are honored to have the Justice Department recognize the extraordinary work done by our current and former Assistant United States Attorneys and our outstanding paralegal specialist. Their exemplary work on some very important cases benefitted this district and the nation,” said United States Attorney David E. Nahmias, who attended Friday’s ceremony in Washington. “We are fortunate to have many dedicated and skilled prosecutors, paralegals and support staff in this district working with federal, state, and local law enforcement and regulatory agencies, and making a real difference for the citizens in North Georgia.”

The Executive Office for United States Attorneys provides oversight, general executive assistance, and direction to the 94 United States Attorneys' offices around the

country. For more information on EOUSA and its mission, visit <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao>.

For further information in Atlanta, please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan.