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**U.S. ATTORNEY FITZGERALD RESTRUCTURES OFFICE DIVISIONS;
ACCOMMODATES GROWING CASELOAD AND BOOST IN PROSECUTORS**

CHICAGO – After a year in office, U.S. Attorney Patrick J. Fitzgerald today announced a reorganization of the federal prosecutor's office that aims to focus attorney resources on particular categories of crimes and more evenly distribute the caseload and levels of experience throughout the office. At the same time, Mr. Fitzgerald, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, announced a substantial increase in the number of cases and defendants being prosecuted and, for the first time in many years, a boost in the number of Assistant U.S. Attorneys allocated to the Northern District.

Since taking office on Sept. 1, 2001, Mr. Fitzgerald has devoted a substantial amount of time to familiarizing himself with the attorneys, their cases and the manner in which cases are handled in the office and the Federal Court in Chicago. Notwithstanding the shift of some resources from traditional law enforcement to national security following the Sept. 11 tragedy, the number of indictments and defendants being prosecuted in the Northern District of Illinois has risen dramatically during the first 10 months of fiscal 2002, from Oct. 1, 2001, to July 31, 2002, compared to the same 10-month period the year before. The number of indictments rose 42 percent to 747,

up from 520 during the first 10 months of fiscal 2001, and the number of defendants increased 62 percent to 1,525, up from 938 during the same period in the previous year.

Recently, the number of Assistant U.S. Attorneys was authorized to increase from 137 to 149, with the majority of the new positions dedicated to cases involving terrorism, cybercrime and guns. Once the new positions are filled, of the 149 attorneys, 117 will be in the Criminal Division and 26 in the Civil Division in Chicago, with the six remaining attorneys located in a branch office in Rockford.

“We have continued the upward trend, that began under previous U.S. Attorney Scott R. Lassar, of doing more cases by working harder and more efficiently, even though the number of attorneys has remained constant,” Mr. Fitzgerald said. “With 12 new attorneys, I anticipate that the volume of cases will grow even higher.”

Mr. Fitzgerald said the reorganization will continue to give prosecutors the opportunity to handle different types of cases, while at the same time focusing attorney expertise and resources on specific priority areas of crime. He said his plan, which will begin to be phased in on Sept. 17, is intended to balance the level of experience throughout the office by teaming-up more junior and senior attorneys on more cases. While the plan is flexible, the assignment of attorneys is intended to remain in place for two years before being re-evaluated.

“This was a great office long before I arrived and every U.S. Attorney has improved upon it,” Mr. Fitzgerald said. “The aim of these changes is to keep people fresh trying cases, increase efficiency by bringing different perspectives to different types of cases, and encourage both newer and more experienced attorneys to learn from each other.”

The position of Deputy U.S. Attorney, held by Joan B. Safford until she left the office last month to become the Justice Department's attache in Mexico, will not be filled. Instead, Mr. Fitzgerald named Dean Polales to the new position of Counsel to the U.S. Attorney, in which he will review investigative plans and proposed prosecutions, and advise Mr. Fitzgerald on complex cases. Mr. Polales was chief of the Special Prosecutions Section, which is being eliminated and supplanted by three new sections – each reflecting priorities in the areas of corporate fraud and cybercrime and public corruption. The remaining members of the Executive Division, Gary S. Shapiro, First Assistant U.S. Attorney, and Nancy K. Needles, Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney, will continue in their current positions. Also unaffected are Criminal Division Chief David A. Glockner and Civil Division Chief Thomas P. Walsh.

Previously, the Criminal Division was divided into four parts – General Crimes, Narcotics, Special Prosecutions and Organized Crime. Under the new plan, the structure of General Crimes and Organized Crime remain largely unchanged, along with the re-named Narcotics and Gangs Section, and they will be complemented by the following four new units – Major Case, Complex Financial Fraud, Public Corruption, and Money Laundering/Asset Forfeiture. The Appeals unit, the Rockford office and the Administrative Division remain unaffected by the re-organization. The new alignment features:

Major Case

This new section will handle a wide range of cases, including general business and government fraud, cybercrimes, environmental crimes, many tax cases and export control cases, along with reactive drug and gun cases. James M. Conway was named chief; previously he was a deputy chief in Special Prosecutions.

Complex Financial Fraud

The focus of this section will be on corporate fraud, securities and commodities fraud, financial institution fraud and health care fraud. Attorneys in this section will team up with attorneys in other sections in an effort to streamline investigations and prosecutions of complex matters. Robert W. Kent was named chief; previously he was a deputy chief in Special Prosecutions.

Public Corruption

This section will focus on public and political corruption. Philip A. Guentert was named chief; previously he was a deputy chief in General Crimes.

Narcotics and Gangs

This section will concentrate on urban and suburban cases involving drugs, guns and gangs on one hand, and the national and international drug-trafficking conspiracies and cartels on the other. Mark S. Prosperi continues as chief.

Money Laundering and Asset Forfeiture

This section, which became operational earlier this summer, is focused on taking the profit out of crime in all categories. It is responsible for tracing the proceeds of criminal activity and recovering the assets of convicted criminals to take away their illegal gain. Marsha A. McClellan was named chief; previously she was a deputy chief in Organized Crime.

Organized Crime

The structure of this section remains largely unchanged. Mitchell A. Mars remains chief and Mark J. Vogel deputy chief.

General Crimes

This structure of this section also remains largely unchanged. Zalwaynaka L. Scott will continue as chief.

Financial Litigation

This section, housed in the Civil Division, will focus on collecting fines, restitution and forfeiture in both criminal and civil cases. Michele S. Schroeder was named chief.

In the fight against terrorism, now the Justice Department's top priority, Mr. Fitzgerald said the office will assign attorneys from throughout the various sections to terrorism cases. Victoria J. Peters, associate chief of the criminal division, will continue in the position of Anti-Terrorism Task Force coordinator. Daniel W. Gillogly, senior management counsel, will continue in the post of national security coordinator and international affairs coordinator, in addition to other responsibilities.

"I am proud of the men and women in the office, both attorneys and support staff in both the criminal and civil divisions, for their hard work and dedication, which continues to serve the people of northern Illinois quite well," Mr. Fitzgerald said.

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