



***United States Attorney
Southern District of New York***

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**ELEVEN LAWYERS IN MANHATTAN U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
HONORED AT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S
ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY**

PREET BHARARA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced today that several representatives of the Office are recipients of this year's Attorney General awards. Assistant U.S. Attorneys JEFFREY ALBERTS, ANNA E. ARREOLA, SHARON COHEN LEVIN, TARA LaMORTE, AMY LESTER, MATTHEW L. SCHWARTZ, JONATHAN R. STREETER, SERRIN A. TURNER, JEANNETTE A. VARGAS, and LI YU, and former Assistant U.S. Attorney SEAN LANE, who was sworn in as a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge in September 2010, were honored today at the Department's 58th Annual Awards Ceremony at DAR Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C.

The Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service is the Department's second highest award for employee performance. TARA LaMORTE, SEAN LANE, JEANNETTE A. VARGAS, and LI YU were honored with this award for their extraordinary work in the Chrysler LLC bankruptcy proceedings. The recipients successfully litigated the motion to approve the government-financed sale of Chrysler LLC assets to a new company owned in part by Fiat, the United States, and Canada. The team also included the Deputy Solicitor General and a trial attorney from the Solicitor General's Office.

The Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service was also awarded to seventeen individuals, including SERRIN A. TURNER, for their significant contribution to the review of Guantanamo detainees conducted last year by the Guantanamo Review Task Force. In various leadership roles, the recipients were responsible for directing, guiding, and supporting the review effort to ensure that the task force collected and analyzed all relevant information, and provided informed and reasoned recommendations to senior officials.

The John Marshall Awards recognize attorneys for outstanding professional contributions and excellence in specialized areas of legal performance. Six Assistant U.S. Attorneys from this Office received the John Marshall Award for Asset Forfeiture for their extraordinary work in forfeiting assets on behalf of victims of the massive securities fraud executed by Marc Dreier. In addition to securing a preliminary forfeiture order that imposed a \$746.7 million judgment against Dreier and ordered the forfeiture of Dreier's interest in 177 properties worth more than \$80 million, the team helped pioneer a model for handling simultaneous collateral litigation of forfeiture, bankruptcy, and securities enforcement actions. Recipients were SHARON COHEN LEVIN, Chief of the Asset Forfeiture Unit, and Assistant U.S. Attorneys JEFFREY ALBERTS, ANNA E. ARREOLA, AMY LESTER, MATTHEW L. SCHWARTZ, and JONATHAN R. STREETER.

"It is my pleasure to congratulate this year's Attorney General Award winners and to recognize their extraordinary contributions," Attorney General Holder said. "Not only is their service to our nation inspiring, it is strengthening the work of the Justice Department at every level and making a powerful difference for people across our country, and far beyond. This year's awardees exemplify the Department's finest traditions, and I am privileged, and grateful, to count them as colleagues."

Manhattan U.S. Attorney PREET BHARARA said: "It is a privilege to lead such a talented and dedicated group of professionals, and I congratulate them on receiving this well-deserved acknowledgment for their outstanding service to this Office, to the Department of Justice, and to the United States. The level of their commitment to their work cannot be overstated, and I heartily congratulate and thank them for their dedication and extraordinary efforts."

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

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