

U.S. Attorney's Report to the District

We at the U.S. Department of Justice cannot effectively enforce federal law without reliance on our allies in state and local law enforcement. The peace officers who serve CHP, the California Department of Justice, the 34 elected Sheriffs and over 120 Police Chiefs within the Eastern District of California far outnumber federal law enforcement agents in this area. The 34 District Attorneys within this federal district enforce state laws that often overlap with federal criminal laws, particularly in the areas of violent crime and narcotics. All of those officials have an understanding of their jurisdictions which is of vital importance to us in deploying our federal resources in the joint effort to ensure public safety.

Since becoming U.S. Attorney I have made a priority of sustaining and strengthening the collaboration between this office and state and local law enforcement agencies operating in the Eastern District of California. That effort has included regular visits with Sheriffs, Police Chiefs and District Attorneys from the Oregon border to Bakersfield, and participating in meetings of the California Sheriffs Association and the California District Attorneys' Association. Over the last four years we have distributed more than \$4.7 million in forfeited assets to law enforcement agencies in the district through the Department of Justice's asset sharing program. Three years ago we began publishing a biannual bulletin for our law enforcement colleagues to keep them informed of relevant developments in the U.S. Attorney's Office, including information on federal prosecutors assigned as points of contact for each county. In order to recognize outstanding examples of collaboration between our office and state and local law enforcement, I also created the U.S. Attorney's Law Enforcement Awards.

The Law Enforcement Awards are presented annually to a law enforcement agency and to a law enforcement officer in each of the Sacramento and Fresno Divisions of the district. Nominations for the awards are submitted by line prosecutors in this office – those who work shoulder to shoulder with their state and local counterparts in developing and prosecuting important criminal cases. In November and December, I presented this year's awards to the Elk Grove Police Department, to Sacramento Police Detective Scott Maldonado, to the Fresno Police Department, and to Bakersfield Police Officer Paul Yoon. The Elk Grove and Fresno Police Departments were recognized for their sustained partnership with this office in the investigation and prosecution of multiple violent crime and narcotics cases. Detective Maldonado and Officer Yoon were recognized for their incredible dedication over multiple years as part of financial crimes task forces. Their work with the task forces resulted in the federal prosecution of multiple defendants and the seizure of millions of dollars in proceeds from illegal conduct.

Federal, state and local law enforcement agencies in this district have worked well together in recent years. In a sprawling district like this one, however, which covers over half the state of California, maintaining those relationships requires a sustained commitment. Because effective collaboration across jurisdictional boundaries is so important to public safety, it is a commitment well worth making.

If you would like to communicate with our office, contact the main number in Sacramento, or submit a suggestion by clicking on the button below. Thank you.

United States Attorney

Benjamin B. Wagner