

For Immediate Release
October 6, 2011

**ROSWELL ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY DESIGNATED AS
SPECIAL ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY UNDER HIDTA PROGRAM**

ALBUQUERQUE – U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales and Janetta B. Hicks, District Attorney for the Fifth Judicial District of the State of New Mexico, announced that Donald F. Moore, Jr., an Assistant District Attorney in Ms. Hicks' office, has been designated as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney under a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the two prosecutors' offices. Mr. Gonzales and Ms. Hicks made the announcement today during a community organizing session of the Roswell-Chaves County Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) Strategic Planning Committee in Roswell, N.M.

Mr. Moore has been an Assistant District Attorney in the Fifth Judicial District Attorney's Office since July 2009, initially serving in the Hobbs office where he prosecuted misdemeanor and felony narcotics cases in addition to being assigned to Children's Court. In December 2010, Mr. Moore transferred to the Roswell office in December 2010 where he has prosecuted a variety of cases, including felony narcotics and violent crimes. Mr. Moore received his law degree in 2007 from Texas Wesleyan University, and is licensed to practice law in both New Mexico and Texas. He is a native of Artesia, New Mexico.

Under the MOU, Mr. Moore will dedicate 50% of his time to federal matters under the supervision of the U.S. Attorney's Las Cruces Branch Office and the remainder of his time to state matters for the Fifth Judicial District Attorney's Office. He will be located in Roswell. Funds from the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy's High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HITDA) program will cover a portion of Mr. Moore's salary.

PSN is a nationwide commitment by the U.S. Department of Justice to reduce gun and

gang crime in America by networking existing local programs that target gun and gang crime and providing these programs with additional tools necessary to be successful. Since its inception in 2001, approximately \$2 billion has been committed to this initiative. This funding has been used to hire new federal and state prosecutors, support investigators, provide training, distribute gun lock safety kits, deter juvenile gun crime, and develop and promote community outreach efforts as well as to support other gun and gang violence reduction strategies.

The U.S. Attorney's Office, in partnership with local, state and federal partners, has established several effective PSN task forces in the northern, central and southern New Mexico, and the eastern part of the Navajo Nation. The Roswell-Chaves County PSN was established by the U.S. Attorney's Office, the Roswell Police Department, the Chaves County Sheriff's Office, and other local and federal agencies in spring of 2011 in response to requests from Roswell community leaders for federal assistance to address a surge in violent criminal street gang activity directly associated with drug trafficking in Chaves County. The recent DEA Mobile Enforcement Team (MET) deployment in Roswell that culminated on September 22, 2011, when most of the 84 Roswell-area residents charged with federal and state narcotics trafficking offenses were arrested, was part of the federal response to the Roswell community's request for assistance. Mr. Moore's appointment as a SAUSA is another part of that response.

In announcing Mr. Moore's appointment, U.S. Attorney Gonzales said, "District Attorney Hicks and I agree that joining forces is the best way to get a handle on serious criminal activity in southeastern New Mexico. I am very pleased to have one of the District Attorney's finest prosecutors join the federal ranks."

"This is an exciting time in the District Attorney's office," said District Attorney Hicks. "With this partnership, we will be able to combine federal and state resources to make

southeastern New Mexico a safer place for our families.”

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