

U.S. Attorney's Report to the District

Concluding My Service as U.S. Attorney

On April 30, 2016, I stepped down as the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of California after serving in this post for six and a half years, and as a federal prosecutor in this office for nearly 24 years. Shortly after becoming U.S. Attorney in November 2009, I began posting these reports to the district nearly every month. This one, #73, is my last.

The Acting U.S. Attorney will be Phillip A. Talbert. Phil has been serving as the First Assistant for over four years, has spent 13 years in the office, and nearly two decades in the U.S. Department of Justice. He is a man of broad experience, great intelligence, and excellent judgment. Under his leadership, the office will continue to achieve success as one of the finest U.S. Attorney's offices in the country.

My tenure as U.S. Attorney was the second-longest in the history of the district. (Dwayne Keyes served for seven years in the 1970s.) While it was the right time for me to move on to new challenges, it is with considerable regret that I leave my colleagues in this office.

The women and men who serve in this office are the finest public servants I have known. They work very long hours, at difficult jobs, for less compensation than they could earn in the private sector. They work without complaint through budget battles and government shutdowns. Much of the work that this office does is little noticed by the media or the public. Their primary reward is the satisfaction of knowing that they are seeking justice each day. I told the new attorneys hired by my office that their job is to find out the truth, and do the right thing, free from political, personal or other extraneous considerations. Few legal jobs have such moral clarity. Each day, the liberty of fellow Americans rides on decisions made in this office. That is a weighty burden, but it is one that these employees shoulder with dedication and enthusiasm.

It has been the honor of my professional career to have led this office. I am proud of all that has been accomplished during my tenure. It is now my time to step aside, and to admire their work from afar.

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