



NATIONAL DISTRICT ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 18, 2022

NDAA Elects Erie County (NY) District Attorney as Next President

ARLINGTON, VA – On Sunday, July 17, the National District Attorneys Association (NDAAs) Board of Directors unanimously elected John F. Flynn, District Attorney for Erie County, NY, as its next president. Flynn was introduced by outgoing association president, Billy West, and sworn in at the awards luncheon as part of NDAAs annual summer conference in Denver, CO. Flynn’s focus for his presidency is the dual role that prosecutors play in holding bad actors accountable, particularly in light of increases in certain violent crimes across the country, while also promoting innovative thinking and smart criminal justice reforms to protect communities. Additionally, he plans to promote greater leadership and trial advocacy skills training for prosecutors, especially as prosecutors’ offices across the country experience severe recruitment and retention challenges.

Outgoing president Billy West said, “John is a dedicated public servant and will be a strong voice for America’s prosecutors. He is a proven leader for Erie County and the State of New York and has the right leadership skills to lead this great organization.”

Born and raised in Western New York, Flynn received his undergraduate degree from Bowling Green State in 1988 and then joined the United States Navy. After graduation from Naval Officer Candidate School and Navy Supply Corps School, he was stationed on the USS Cleveland (LPD-7) in San Diego, CA. While onboard, he served as the Assistant Supply Officer, was deployed to the Western Pacific and served during the Gulf War.

After fulfilling his naval commitment, Flynn returned to Western New York to attend the University at Buffalo School of Law. He continued to serve in the Naval Reserves while studying for his Juris Doctor degree. After graduating from UB Law in 1995, he returned to active duty in the Navy Judge Advocate General’s (JAG) Corps. He served as a Navy attorney at the Pensacola Naval Air Station where he was appointed as a Special Assistant United States Attorney. He served his final two years on active duty at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland as the Officer-in-Charge of the Office of Legal Counsel. During his time on active duty, Flynn was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal and two Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals.

In 2001, Flynn left active duty and returned home to Western New York where he served as an Assistant District Attorney in the Erie County District Attorney’s Office. He was quickly promoted to the Homicide Bureau where he served until 2002 to enter private law practice. Flynn was a personal injury attorney from 2002 to 2016. He was also a lecturer at SUNY Buffalo State from 2009 to 2016, teaching a Moot Court class in the Political Science Department. Flynn continued to serve in the Naval Reserves until his retirement in 2017, reaching the rank of Commander.

In 2003, Flynn decided to make his first run for public office and won a seat on the Tonawanda Town Board. In December of 2006, Flynn was appointed as Town Justice in the Town of Tonawanda and won election to a full term the following year. In 2008, Flynn was appointed an acting Buffalo City Court Judge. In 2010, Flynn left the bench and was appointed as Town Attorney in Tonawanda. In 2016, Flynn was elected as Erie County District Attorney and took office on January 1, 2017. He is currently serving his second term as District Attorney.

At the annual meeting, several other individuals were also elected as new or returning members of the NDAA Board of Directors:

- Spencer Merriweather, District Attorney, Mecklenburg County, NC
- Andrew Wylie, District Attorney, Clinton County, NY
- Mark Dupree, District Attorney, Wyandotte County, KS
- Lorrin Freeman, District Attorney, Wake County, NC
- Mike Ferrarese, District Attorney, Chenango County, NY

Formed in 1950, NDAA is the oldest and largest national organization representing state and local prosecutors in the country. With more than 5,000 members representing over two thirds of the state and local prosecutors' offices, NDAA is recognized as the leading source of national expertise on the prosecution function and is a valuable resource for the media, academia, government, and community leaders. NDAA's mission is to provide state and local prosecutors with the knowledge, skills, and support they need to ensure that justice is done and that public safety rights are protected.

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