

# NATIONAL DISTRICT ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 19, 2021

## **NDAA Elects North Carolina District Attorney as New Association President**

ARLINGTON, VA – On Sunday, July 18, the National District Attorneys Association (NDAA) Board of Directors unanimously elected Billy West, District Attorney for Cumberland County, NC, as its next president. West was introduced by outgoing association president, Nancy G. Parr, and sworn in at the awards luncheon as part of NDAA's annual summer conference in Virginia Beach, VA. West's focus for his presidency will be the important role that prosecutors play in community engagement and relationship building to enhance trust in the criminal justice system.

Outgoing president Nancy G. Parr said, "Billy is dedicated to making the criminal justice better for all who enter it. It is an honor to serve as President of NDAA and Billy will be an exemplary leader."

West received his undergraduate degree from N.C. State University and his law degree from the Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law at Campbell University. After graduation, he began his legal career as an Assistant District Attorney for former Cumberland County District Attorney Ed Grannis. While serving as an Assistant District Attorney for ten years, he worked in every aspect of the office to include Juvenile Court, District Court and Superior Court. West was then elected Cumberland County District Attorney in 2010. He has tried numerous Superior Court jury trials to include narcotic cases, armed robberies, sexual assaults, homicides, child homicides, and various other felony cases.

As District Attorney, West is the leader of the fourth largest district attorney's office in North Carolina. During his time in office, West has created a repeat offender program to identify and successfully prosecute offenders who continue to commit serious crimes in his community. West and his staff have also partnered with law enforcement and others in the court system on initiatives such as: the Nation's second Human Trafficking Court, the Southeast's first Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion Program, North Carolina's first Veterans Court, the Gun Violence Task Force, Drug Court, Sobriety Court, an annual Expungement Clinic, and a Driver's License Restoration Program.

In addition to the work in his office, West currently serves on the North Carolina Human Trafficking Commission, Cumberland County Justice System Advisory Council, and serves as a board member for the Fayetteville Police Foundation and the Fayetteville Academy. West has also served on the North Carolina Chief Justice's COVID-19 Task Force and the North Carolina House of Representative's Select Committee on Community Relations, Law Enforcement, and Justice. West has also served on the Executive Working Group at the federal level comprised of local prosecutors, state attorney generals, and members of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Upon his election as the new Association president, Peg Dorer, Executive Director of the North Carolina Conference of District Attorneys, said, "The Conference of District Attorneys is proud to share Billy West with the National District Attorneys Association. He is a proven leader among North Carolina's prosecutors and we are sure he will serve NDAA with the same commitment."

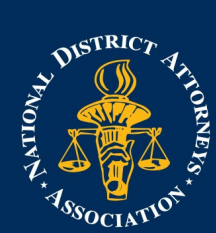
At the annual conference, several other individuals were also elected as new or returning members of the NDAA Board of Directors:

- Spencer Merriweather, District Attorney, Mecklenburg County, NC
- Sonia Paquet, Deputy Chief Prosecutor, Quebec, QC
- Ben David, District Attorney, 6<sup>th</sup> Prosecutorial District, NC
- Mark Dupree, District Attorney, Wyandotte County, KS
- Seth Banks, District Attorney, 35<sup>th</sup> Prosecutorial District, NC
- Kimberly Baird, First Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney, Lexington, KY
- Stephanie Newell, First Assistant District Attorney, Belton, TX

*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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## Seeking Justice and Serving Communities

- Resume and expand our National in person trainings for prosecutors while maintaining our virtual training platforms
- Provide strategies to address a nationwide rise in violent crime
- Continue to promote diversion programs, treatment courts and alternative dispositions
- Maintain a strong presence on Capitol Hill advocating for prosecutors and victims on the national level while supporting common sense criminal justice reform
- Expand our Diversity and Inclusion Initiative to promote diversity and inclusion in prosecutors' offices across the nation
- Begin a Community Engagement Initiative to highlight and encourage relationships between the local prosecutor and government, schools, non-profits, the business community, faith community and the public.

*"The citizen's safety lies in the prosecutor who tempers zeal with human kindness, who seeks truth and not victims, who serves the law and not factional purposes, and who approaches his task with humility."*

- **Robert H. Jackson**, U.S. Supreme Court Justice, U.S. Attorney General, and Chief U.S. Prosecutor at the Nuremberg Trials

### 2021 - 2022 Committee Chairs

- **Legislative Committee** - Mark Vargo, Rapid City (SD)
- **Membership Committee** - Kevin Cockrell, Mt. Sterling (KY) & Bill Ring, Flagstaff (AZ)
- **Finance Committee** - Charlie Smith, Frederick (MD)
- **Training & Education Committee** - Amy Weirich, Memphis (TN)
- **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee** - John Belton, Ruston (LA) & Mark Dupree, Kansas City (KS)
- **Standing Rules Committee** - Kevin Cockrell, Mt. Sterling (KY)
- **Investment Committee** - Charlie Smith, Frederick (MD)
- **Metro DAs Section** - Spencer Merriweather, Charlotte (NC) & Mike Freeman, Minneapolis (MN)
- **Women Prosecutors Section** - Summer Stephan, San Diego (CA)
- **Associates** - Lori DiGiosia, Stafford (VA)
- **Well-being Task Force** - Kirsten Pabst, Missoula (MT)
- **Community Engagement Initiative** - Ben David, Wilmington (NC)

### 2021 - 2022 Executive Committee

- Bill Fitzpatrick**, Syracuse (NY)  
**Bill Ring**, Flagstaff (AZ)
- \***Billy West**, Fayetteville (NC) - *President*
- \***Charlie Smith**, Frederick (MD) - *Secretary/Treasurer*
- Duffie Stone**, Bluffton (SC)  
**Elizabeth Ortiz**, Phoenix (AZ)  
**Eric Zahnd**, Platte City (MO)  
**Jennifer Webb-McRae**, Bridgeton (NJ)  
**John Belton**, Ruston (LA)
- \***John Flynn**, Buffalo (NY) - *President-Elect*
- Jonathan Blodgett**, Salem (MA)  
**Kirsten Pabst**, Missoula (MT)  
**Lori DiGiosia**, Stafford (VA)  
**Lou Anna Red Corn**, Lexington (KY)  
**Mark Vargo**, Rapid City (SD)  
**Mike Freeman**, Minneapolis (MN)
- \***Nancy Parr**, Chesapeake (VA) - *Chair of the Board*  
**Seth Banks**, Boone (NC)

\*Designates President, President-Elect, Chair of the Board, and Secretary/Treasurer