



NATIONAL DISTRICT ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION

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NDAA Launches New Task Force to Promote Prosecutor Wellbeing

ARLINGTON, VA – Today, the National District Attorneys Association (NDAA) launched the Prosecutor Wellbeing Task Force designed to develop and disseminate resources, training and peer to peer exchanges for prosecutors around the country to promote their health and wellbeing. Prosecutor health and wellbeing was one of four key priority areas identified by new NDAA President Nancy Parr for her presidency.

Leading the newly formed task force will be Kirsten Pabst, the elected County Attorney for Missoula County, Montana, who developed and implemented a resiliency program and toolkit to address the impacts of secondary trauma on prosecutors in her office. Comprised of four key components – Orientation; Development of Group Culture of Trauma Resiliency; Integration and Impact; and Case-Specific Trauma Response Teams – the program aims to establish resilience as a guiding principle of the organization while offering education, peer support, opportunities for self-care and a management team trained to increase engagement and promote wellbeing.

On Pabst's selection as chair of the task force, NDAA President Nancy Parr said, "When I listened to Kirsten at our May 2019 Board meeting describe with such passion the secondary trauma program she started in her office, I made a note that I would ask her to lead a similar project for all of our prosecutors. She did not hesitate to accept. We will be better prosecutors and better people serving all of our citizens if we have tools to assist us with our own wellbeing."

The new task force aims to enhance the wellbeing, resiliency and growth for individual prosecutors, prosecution organizations and the profession as a whole. The program will provide education about secondary trauma and productive ways to address it through webinars, courses, a blog and peer to peer networking. In the coming days and weeks, resources and other information about the initiative will be unveiled to the wider prosecution and criminal justice stakeholder communities.

"I am so honored to be involved in this important project," Pabst said. "Prosecutors everywhere have seen and experienced firsthand the damage resulting from years of unchecked exposure to secondary trauma, ranging from addiction, burnout, health decline and even suicide. We are implementing necessary change for the wellbeing of our prosecutors and support staff to make this critical work more sustainable for prosecutors across the country."

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.

Contact: Nelson Bunn, Executive Director, National District Attorneys Association (703) 519-1666

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