

Participants Give the Summit on Prosecution Integrity Two Thumbs Up!

By Linda J. Braun

WE HAVE REPEATEDLY HEARD from many participants that NDAA's meeting in Chicago a few weeks ago was the best in our history. You might suggest that we have "selective" listening so don't get us wrong, there are always ways to improve the event, but we have been pleased at the number of comments coming from a wide range of participants that validated the same conclusion — Chicago was a great meeting! Special thanks to our gold sponsors: Complete Equity Markets Insurance, ABC NEWS, AXON, and DATELINE.

The highlights of the event started during the first session Sunday afternoon with **Anita Alvarez's** opening plenary session on prosecution integrity (...and her own experiences, which were shown in the new "Murder in the Park" documentary at the event). State's Attorney Alvarez's



Left to right: William Fitzpatrick, Justice Diane Fitzpatrick and Michael Moore

session was followed by the Home Run Hitter and President's Awards (see NDAA Names in the News for details), followed by a reception and vendor exposition.

Monday's sessions did not disappoint with presentations on witness intimidation, forensic science, juvenile justice, and the impact of encryption on law enforcement. The Passing of the Gavel Ceremony is

always a highlight of the event, with members saying goodbye to **Michael Moore** as president and welcoming **William (Fitz) Fitzpatrick** as the new NDAA president. Mike moves on to become chairman of the board.

John Bobo, author of the "Best Story Wins," kept our attention with his keynote on his life as a former state's prosecutor, followed by speakers on conviction integrity units, prosecutor leadership in family justice centers, and a final session on developing a national strategy to address prosecution integrity. The NDAA's Women Prosecutors Section evening event drew over 100 attendees. **Dr. Andrea Rees Davies'** presentation on building a culture

of women leaders kept many of us discussing the issues well into the night.

The highlights continued Tuesday as the program offered breakout sessions on body-worn cameras, data-driven funding, and public/private partnerships to battle organized financial crimes and report out recommendations on the national strategy for prosecution integrity. Deputy Attorney General **Sally Quillian Yates** closed the plenary highlighting her priorities and encouraging partnership with NDAA and its members.

Based on discussions with people at the event, including many new members to the NDAA, the Chicago meeting was certainly one of the best gatherings lately. These events are successful because of the community of people (that's you!) and organizations that make it possible. Again, thanks to our generous sponsors and we hope to see you in Boston next July!

Welcome NDAA President William Fitzpatrick

For over 37 years, the last 24 as the county's chief law enforcement officer, District Attorney Fitzpatrick has served the people of Onondaga County. DA Fitzpatrick is a



nationally recognized expert on infant deaths, cold case reviews, forensic science and prosecutorial ethics. He currently serves as Chair of the New York State District Attorney's Association Committee on Fair and Ethical Administration of Justice, including the Best Practices Committee, a committee he created and is now

employed in over 30 states. He has twice been named New York Prosecutor of the Year; he is past president of the New York District Attorney's Association and, as of July 2015, is the president of the National District Attorney's Association. He is a longtime member of the New York State Forensic Science Commission, and he frequently appears in the national media commenting on trial techniques and prosecutorial ethics.

Admitted to the bar in 1977, he progressed rapidly over the next decade to become a chief assistant district attorney, the youngest person ever appointed to this position and eventually was responsible for overseeing all homicide prosecutions in the county. He has lectured in over 30 states and Canada, and his cases have been the subject of five books, including the Edgar Allan Poe Award Winning “The Death of Innocents,” which chronicled the district attorney’s decade long quest to bring Waneta Hoyt, a woman who murdered her five children, to justice.

Fitzpatrick recently served as co-chairman of New York State’s Moreland Commission to Investigate Public Corruption, having been appointed by Governor Andrew Cuomo.

DA Fitzpatrick left his native Brooklyn many years ago to attend Syracuse University and Syracuse University School of Law and now lives in LaFayette with his wife of 34 years, New York State Court of Claims Justice Diane Fitzpatrick. They have three wonderful children: Dan, who is a graduate of Syracuse University, daughter Sara, a graduate of Binghamton University, and son Sean, who is a graduate of St. John Fisher College.

Welcome NDAA President-elect Michael A. Ramos

As top prosecutor of the largest county in the United States, District Attorney Michael Ramos has fought corruption and made victims' rights, public safety, and anti-gang programs the cornerstone of his office. Ramos started his career with the district attorney’s office in June 1989, as a deputy district attorney where he prosecuted over 125 jury trials. In addition to his work in general prosecution and the narcotics unit, he served with the Major Crimes Unit for



four years, until 2002, when he was elected District Attorney of San Bernardino County. Ramos is currently serving his fourth term.

District Attorney Ramos is a former president of the California District Attorneys Association, and he currently serves as one of three members appointed by the governor to the California Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board. He was recently named the 2014 statewide “Prosecutor of the Year” by the California Narcotics Officers’ Association. In 2005, DA Ramos formed the Hardcore Gang Prosecution Unit to wage a hard-fought



Welcome New NDAA Board Members and Officers

At the July 19, 2015, board meeting officers were received by motion and approval.

President:

William J. Fitzpatrick (New York)

Vice Presidents:

- Anita Alvarez (Illinois)
- Cyrus Vance (New York)
- Sherri Walsh (Ohio)
- R. Seth Williams (Pennsylvania)

Director-at-Large:

- Dean Dankelson (Missouri)
- Thomas Donovan (Vermont)
- Brenden Kelly (Illinois)
- Greg Totten (California)
- Matt Wilbur (Iowa)

Secretary/Treasurer:

Ray Morrogh (Virginia)

Assistant Secretary/Treasurer:

Dave Aronberg (Florida)

battle against gangs across the county. Since that time, there have been 5,000-plus state prison commitments secured for a total of 40,250 years plus 250 life terms in state prison.