

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2014 NDAA SUMMER CONFERENCE

FOR THOSE OF YOU who did not attend the NDAA Summer 2014 Conference in Denver, the NDAA held a successful event featuring three days of exhibits of interest to prosecutors. The annual conference is an opportunity for NDAA members to meet and exchange ideas in an effort to protect the rights and safety of the people in their jurisdictions and their states. A number of important elections and other activities were conducted in Denver that we would like to share with members.

WELCOME MICHAEL MOORE, NEW NDAA PRESIDENT

President Henry Garza passed the gavel to incoming President-elect Michael Moore July 21, 2014. Mr. Moore is the State's Attorney in Beadle County, Huron, South Dakota, and earned a bachelor's degree in history from Ohio Dominican University and a juris doctorate from the University of South Dakota School of Law. He has been a prosecutor with the Beadle County State's Attorney since 1994, when he started as a deputy state's attorney. Elected as the state's attorney for Beadle County in 1996, Mr. Moore has trained law enforcement, prosecutors and advocates about domestic violence and sexual assault throughout the state of South Dakota and this country. He has lectured for NDAA, FLETC, South Dakota State's Attorneys Association, Huron Police Department and the South Dakota Trial Lawyers People's Law School. His talks cover domestic violence, successful homicide prosecution, use of a computer forensic expert in court, sexual assault, search and seizure, criminal law and procedures, and prosecutor ethics.

Mr. Moore has been a member of NDAA since 1994 when he first became a prosecutor. He served as the NDAA state director for South Dakota since 2005 and was co-chair of the Science and Technology Committee and a past member of the Executive Committee. Mr. Moore is a past president of the South Dakota State's Attorneys Association and received the South Dakota Prosecutor of the Year award in 2010. In 2012, he received the Prosecutor of the Year award by the South Dakota Domestic Violence Coordinating Committee.

Mr. Moore lives in Huron with his wife, Candace, and two daughters.

We would also like to thank Henry Garza for his service as past president and wish him continued success in his position as the NDAA chairman of the board.



Welcome New NDAA Board Members and Officers

At the July 20 board meeting, new members were received by motion and approval and formally seated for a one-year term.

The new NDAA Board members are:

- David Leyton (Michigan)
- Marc Robbins (Kentucky)
- Mark Vargo (South Dakota)
- Mary Ashley (California)
- Dean Flippo (California)
- Sim Gill (Utah)
- Seth Williams, Director-at-Large (Philadelphia)

The NDAA also welcomed newly elected NDAA officers:

- William Fitzpatrick (president-elect)
- Lemuel Martinez (secretary-treasurer)
- Raymond Morrogh (assistant secretary-treasurer)

New NDAA Executive Committee members are:

- Henry Garza (Texas)
- William Fitzpatrick (New York)
- Thomas Robertson (Michigan)
- Amy Hanley (Kansas)
- Don Kleine (Nebraska)
- Raymond Morrogh (Virginia)
- Keith Henderson (Indiana)
- Jonathan Blodgett (Massachusetts)
- Sherri Walsh (Ohio)

AWARD RECIPIENTS

The National District Attorneys Association is proud to announce the following recipients of two distinguished awards given during the July 2014 NDAA Board Meeting.

Fred Van Valkenberg, Missoula County Attorney, Missoula, Montana, was presented the President's Award for



Left to right: Henry Garza, Fred Van Valkenberg, Tim Fox

the stance he took against the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice (DOJ). The award was presented by outgoing NDAA President Henry Garza to Mr. Van Valkenberg for his courage and dedication of service to America's prosecutors. County Attorney Van Valkenberg came

under critical scrutiny by the Department of Justice for failing to prosecute sexual assault cases on the University of Montana campus at Missoula. The Department of Justice took unprecedented action against County Attorney Van Valkenberg's office, which he defended and ultimately filed suit against. His actions were taken not only to defend his office from such unprecedented action but to also preserve and protect the discretionary authority of prosecutors throughout the United States. Tim Fox, the Montana attorney general, spoke to the NDAA Board about Van Valkenberg's courage, stance with the Department of Justice, and his win for prosecutors in keeping the DOJ out of local prosecution.

Bradley Berry, Yamhill County, Oregon district attorney; **Curtis Hill**, Elkhart County, Indiana prosecuting attorney; and **Tom Robertson**, Michigan Prosecuting Attorneys Association, executive director, also received the President's Award for their co-chairing and leadership of strategic planning.



Left to right: Bradley Berry, Curtis Hill, Henry Garza and Tom Robertson

The second award is the National District Attorney's Association

2014 Home Run Hitter Award for Outstanding Trial Prosecutor. The award is given to prosecutors who have "hit it out of the park" by obtaining convictions in extremely difficult, challenging and often high-profile cases. In addition to being recognized by their peers as the best in the nation, the winners receive a genuine Louisville Slugger baseball bat inscribed with their names.

A Home Run Hitter award was given to **William J. Halstead**, deputy prosecutor, Lewis County Prosecutor's Office, Lewis County Washington, by President-elect and Syracuse District Attorney William Fitzpatrick. Halstead was nominated by J. Bradley Meagher, the chief criminal



Left to right: Jonathan Meyer, Henry Garza, William Halstead, William Fitzpatrick

deputy prosecuting attorney for Lewis County, stating "this is one for the record books." The 25-year-old cold-case homicide struggled to gain traction until it was assigned to Halstead as deputy prosecutor.

The elderly victims, Wilhelmina and Edward Maurin, were kidnapped, forced to withdraw money from their bank account, and then murdered. Halstead was recognized for his impressive trial delivery and closing argument, his dedication to seeking justice for the Maurin family and his tireless efforts to amass close to 100 witnesses. Discovery ID featured this murder case in its show "Ice Cold Killers."

Deputy County Attorneys **Rick Unklesbay** and **Nicol Green**, both from the Pima County Attorneys' Office in Tucson, Arizona, were nominated and presented Home Run Hitter awards by County Attorney Barbara LaWall. LaWall highlighted their unrelenting dedication and focus in the murder-conspiracy case of prominent Tucson businessman Gary Triano, who was killed by a remote detonated improvised explosive device that had been placed in his car. Unklesbay and Green tried this cold-case homicide, resulting in the conviction of Triano's former wife, Pamela Phillips.

County Attorney LaWall also recognized Detective **Keith St. John** from the Pima County Sheriff's Department for his part in solving this case.

The 2015 conference, entitled NDAA Summit on Prosecution Integrity, is July 19-21, 2015, at the InterContinental Chicago Magnificent Mile in Chicago. Please visit <http://www.ndaa.org/index.html> for details. For those interested in exhibiting at the conference, please contact Truby Chiaviello at 202-363-3741 or email at potompub@aol.com.



Left to right: Rick Unklesbay, Keith St. John, Nicol Green, Henry Garza, William Fitzpatrick, Barbara LaWall