

Justice Newsletter

WINTER/SPRING EDITION:

Jan. 2019-May 2019

Third Judicial District Attorney
Mark D'Antonio



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Southern New Mexico Fallen Peace Officer's Memorial service

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Justice Newsletter is produced by 3rd District Attorney Mark D'Antonio's office. Editor: Roxanne Garcia-McElmell: PIO Rgarcia-mclemell@DA.State.NM.US.

Victims Advocate Lucy Jimenez reads Dr. Seuss in Spanish to 1st Graders.



Message from Mark D'Antonio



We hear the terms “public servant” and “serving the people” often in our line of work. Unfortunately, these have become trite terms with little substance or relevance in recent times. The motto of our times appears to be “what’s in it for me?” However, there are many in our office that embrace and exemplify working, with little rest, for

the public good. They are sacrificing time and money for a noble and just cause. The pursuit of justice is a long road littered with obstacles and issues that, if unchecked may trigger self doubt and apathy. The goals of our office are not just lofty goals but absolutely necessary for a free and safe community. What everyone in our office does is extremely important and although some take our work for granted, we stay confident. We are focusing on protecting the innocent, establishing justice for victims’ and fairness toward the accused; all of us embody the spirit of the public servant. Let me share one of my favorite passages with you:

“It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belong to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.”

-Teddy Roosevelt



The 3rd Judicial District Attorney's Victims Advocacy program, along with its partners: Las Cruces Police Department, Doña Ana Sheriff's Office, La Piñon, Aprendamos, Children's Youth & Family

Department, La Casa, Alpha Phi Sigma-NMSU, Las Cruces Foster Adoption Ministry, Family-Youth Incorporated, Las Cruces Guardians of the Children and CYFD-Pulltogether helped with this great community event. The memorial walk and expo was held to promote community awareness of crime victims' rights and child abuse prevention services, kicking off 2019 National Crime Victims' Rights Week April 7 – 13.



The theme for 2019 National Crime Victims' Rights Walk & Expo was **"Honoring Our Past. Creating Hope for the Future."** This year's event took place on Saturday, April 6th at Young Park, it began at 8 am with registration and backpack give-away, 600 free backpacks with goodies were handed out at the registration booth from 8 am to 9 am. The presentation of colors was by LCHS Army JROTC Bulldog Battalion started off the event then a few words from our guest speakers; Third Judicial District Attorney, Mark D'Antonio, Las Cruces Chief of Police, Patrick Gallagher and DASO Sheriff Kim Stewart. The Memorial Walk was held during the morning, the theme during the walk gave voice to those victims and victims' families with talking stick quotes through-out the path. After the walk, free lunch, snow cones and popcorn as well as free activities like; Memorial tent, local community resource information booths, music, custom classic car show, National Guard rock climbing wall, face painting, pony rides and a jumping balloon obstacle course were on site. Over 800 people attended the event.

A shout out goes to all those employees' who volunteered, but especially the Victim Advocates from our office: Suzanne Sandoval, Vanessa Holguin, Elima Avalos, Lucy Jimenez, Roberta Trujillo, Debbi Alvillar, Kristine Cross, Lorena Hermosillo and Daniel Rosales. These individuals dedicated time, effort, and heart to this great event for our community.

WORK ANNIVERSARIES

All Employees who have served the DA's office and that were hired in the months of January to May

Anna Garcia, Senior Legal Secretary
22 years

Juliet Lucero, CFO
18 years

Daniel Rosales, Special Program Dir.
12 years

Yvette Sierra, District Office Mgr.
12 years

Marie Alejo, Senior Legal Secretary
11 years

Cynthia Dungan, Senior Legal Secretary
10 years

Patricia Maldonado-Meza, Legal Secretary
7 years

Leticia Avilucea, Program Specialist
6 years

Gerald Byers, Chief Deputy DA
6 years

Vanessa Roybal, Program Assistant
6 years

Eunice Calderazzo, Program Administrator
5 years

Victor Sanchez, Program Specialist
5 years

Misha Gonzales, Legal Secretary
1 year

Jesus Holguin, Program Assistant
1 year

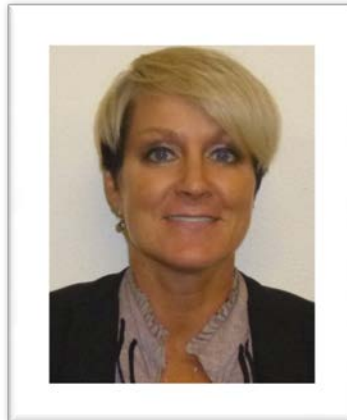
Felisha Molina, Program Assistant
1 year

Arthur Van Haselen, Trial Attorney
1 year



3rd District News

Congratulations to Anne Marie Peterson



3rd's new Deputy District Attorney

After graduating from Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing, MI, Anne Marie moved with her husband to Deming, New Mexico. She immediately went to work as the Assistant District Attorney for Luna County, 6th Judicial District.

There she conducted numerous criminal trials and assisted the local undercover narcotics units with raids on many occasions.

When her family started to grow, Anne Marie chose to spend more time actively engaged with her daughters. She opened a private practice in 1999 specializing in Family Law and Trust, all the while still taking on some Civil Law and Criminal Defense cases. In 2012, she started working at Children, Youth and Families Department as the Children's Court Attorney for Chaves County and in 2014 she was transferred to the Otero/Lincoln county offices because of a move with her husband. At Children, Youth and Families Services she determined filing status for abuse and neglect proceedings, often mediating and conducting trials on behalf of the department and for the best interests of the children in care of the State.

In 2015 while in Ruidoso, she joined the 12th Judicial Court as the Domestic Relations Hearing Officer, where she oversaw civil hearings relating to domestic relations such as divorce, child custody, child support and kinship guardianship issues as referred by the District Court Judges. During her tenure as a Domestic Relations Hearing officer, she was chosen to oversee some of the Adult Drug Courts in the 12th Judicial District as well as the Juvenile Drug Court in Otero County.

In 2017, AnneMarie was hired as a Senior Trial Attorney for the 3rd Judicial District Attorney's office. Here, she maintains a felony trial caseload from intake and motion hearings through to trial. She has handled all felony intakes and prepares each case for Grand Jury presentation, twice each

week. She is the current lead attorney on several high profile cases and has convicted several including Richard Chavez, a former official with Gadsden Independent Schools charged with 4 counts of Criminal Sexual Contact of a minor and is now serving 18 years.

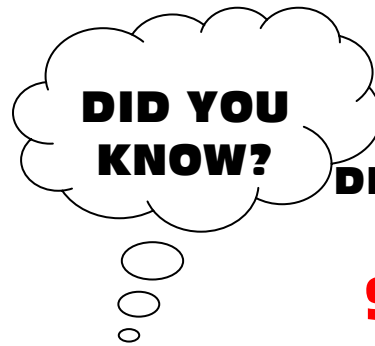
She frequently teaches classes for the Las Cruces Police Academy in the areas of Civil Law, Criminal Procedure, Indian Law, Liquor Law, 4th Amendment Rights and Domestic Violence. She has garnered respect around the office and is known to be hardworking, tough, passionate about her cases and has a wicked sense of humor.

3RD SHOUT OUT!

NMDAA Spring Conference Awards



PROSECUTOR OF THE YEAR
Gerald Byers
&
EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR
Kayla Elias



THE THIRD'S PRE-PROSECUTION DIVERSION PROGRAM

Has reclaimed
\$98,435.50
So far this year!

Third Judicial District Attorney's office announces Four Veterans graduate from Veterans Court.

The Third Judicial District Attorney's office and Legal Counsel from District Court are proud to announce that four Las Cruces Veterans have graduated from the Veterans Court Treatment program. The four veterans who completed the program have served in the US Air force, US Army, US Marine Corps and The National Guard from the years 1993 to as recently as 2011. One of the Veterans Court graduates, who had been unemployed, was recently hired as a Fire Fighter working for the US Forest Service; he hopes to train for a position with the Interagency Hotshot Crews.

"As a veteran myself, I am extremely proud to establish a program to help veterans who have suffered as a result of their service to our country. These are veterans who have worked hard to complete the rigorous standards set forth in this program and they were granted releases today. This is a clear indicator that this alternative program is working to help keep our veterans from incarceration and back to contributing members of our community." - Third Judicial District Attorney Mark D'Antonio

