



Riverside County District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

PAUL E. ZELLERBACH
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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John Hall
Senior Public Information Specialist
Contact: 951.955.8662

DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE ANNOUNCES ANNUAL PRIDE AWARD RECIPIENTS

RIVERSIDE – District Attorney Paul Zellerbach has announced the recipients of this year's annual PRIDE awards, honoring the outstanding work of prosecutors and staff in 2013.

The 31st Annual PRIDE Awards were presented during three separate ceremonies in the three geographic divisions of the DA's Office: Palm Desert, Southwest and Riverside, concluding with the final ceremony on April 11, 2014.

PRIDE, the *Program Rewarding Incentive of District Attorney Employees*, honors attorney and non-attorney staff for demonstrating extraordinary responsibility, professional development, productivity, dedication, initiative, a positive attitude, quality of work, dependability, cooperation, attendance, and public demeanor.

"I believe it is always important to acknowledge those in the office who go the extra mile and to honor them for their great work," Zellerbach said. "It is important to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of our employees who work under difficult and often very stressful circumstances."

There were numerous PRIDE award recipients specific to each division as well as countywide awards presented.

The Countywide Prosecutor of the Year was presented to Deputy District Attorney Elan Zektser from the Western Division. He was recognized both for his dedication and for his success as a prosecutor.

Zektser has been one of the most productive trial attorneys in the office recently, both in volume and in results. In 2013, he tried eight cases with six of those resulting in life sentences for the people he prosecuted. Another case involved the molestation of a 13-year-old girl who had a very high blood-alcohol level when she was assaulted and Zektser was able to successfully prosecute and prove a gang allegation in that case. Zektser is known as the "go-to" guy in the Western Division's Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Unit. He serves as a trial team leader in the unit and regularly assists anyway he can including helping less-experienced prosecutors develop strategies and deal with issues their cases present. Zektser also conducts training to law enforcement officers and attends forums at our local colleges to help educate students on issues related to sexual assault.

Below, please find all recipients for this year's PRIDE awards, countywide and by division:

2013 PRIDE AWARD RECIPIENTS

Area	Award	Name
Countywide	Prosecutor of the Year	Elan Zektser
Countywide	Juvenile Prosecutor of the Year	Clara Chen
Countywide	SPS Prosecutor of the Year	Dave Allen
Countywide	Investigator of the Year	Heidi Chebahtah
Countywide	Advocate of the Year (SW)	Diane Kalp
Countywide	Paralegal of the Year (SW)	Francine Stinnett
Countywide	Clerical Support of the Year (SW)	Olivia Arm
Countywide	Administrative Employee of the Year	Raquel Zubi
Countywide	Big Heart	Janet Hasegawa
Countywide	Bulldog	Sharon Shuster
Countywide	Stick it to "Em	Jon Brandon
Countywide	Group/Unit	Wiretap Unit: Deena Bennett Christine Gonzales Carrie Zimmerman Raquel Zubi
Western Division	Felony Prosecutor of the Year	Gary Polk
Western Division	Misdemeanor Prosecutor of the Year	Michael Boyd Jon Jorgenson
Western Division	Investigator of the Year	Craig Johnson Brent Westwood
Western Division	Victim Services Advocate of the Year	Patricia Cardenas
Western Division	Bureau of Investigation Technician of the Year	Cathie Sanchez
Western Division	Clerical Support of the Year	Barbara Green
Eastern Division	Felony Prosecutor of the Year	Manny Bustamante
Eastern Division	Misdemeanor Prosecutor of the Year	Sara Chebahtah Rosa Zavala
Eastern Division	Investigator of the Year	Bruce Moore
Eastern Division	Victim Services Advocate of the Year	Lupe De La Cruz
Eastern Division	Bureau of Investigation Technician of the Year	David Junior
Eastern Division	Clerical Support of the Year	JoAnn Everhart

Eastern Division	Group/Unit	MASH Unit: Garrett Behrens Jeremiah Johnson Molly McMullen Kevin Miller Steve Sorenson
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Area	Award	Name
Southwest Division	Felony Prosecutor of the Year	Erica Schwartz
Southwest Division	Misdemeanor Prosecutor of the Year	Mike Maloney
Southwest Division	Investigator of the Year	Rodney Bishop
Southwest Division	Victim Services Advocate of the Year	Hollie Simkins
Southwest Division	Bureau of Investigation Technician of the Year	Debra Tucker
Southwest Division	Clerical Support of the Year	Ana Winter
Southwest Division	Group/Unit	Misdemeanor Records: Cary Boone Darlene Parent Amelia Perry
Special Award	Community Hero: (West)	Gerry Lopez