



Department of Justice

**United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian
Northern District of New York**

Friday, April 30, 2010

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United States Attorney Investiture and Announcement of Leadership Appointments

Albany, New York – The investiture of United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian takes place today at 2:00 p.m. in the United States Courthouse in Albany. United States Attorney Hartunian took office January 3, 2010, with interim status until his confirmation by the U.S. Senate on February 11th and swearing in on February 19th pursuant to his appointment by President Obama. He had been an Assistant U.S. Attorney since 1997, serving as the Northern District’s Narcotics Chief and Organized Crime Drug Task Force Coordinator since 2006.

Mr. Hartunian, 49, has resided in the capital area since early childhood. He graduated from Niskayuna High School in 1979, from Georgetown University (cum laude) in 1983, and from Albany Law School in 1986. He began his legal career in private practice with local law firm Devine, Piedmont and Rutnik, where he worked from 1987 to 1990. In 1990, he became an Assistant District Attorney in Albany County, where he handled narcotics and violent crime cases. Mr. Hartunian was designated as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney in 1994 and became a full-time Assistant U.S. Attorney three years later. Hartunian has prosecuted numerous large drug and gang cases, including the racketeering case his office successfully brought against 30 members and associates of the notoriously violent Jungle Junkies street gang in Albany, as well as immigration, violent crime, and

money laundering cases.

United States Attorney Hartunian expressed his gratitude to his family and friends; his colleagues in the U.S. Attorney’s Office, broader legal community, and law enforcement; and the elected officials and public servants who enabled him to have this opportunity; his commitment to U.S. Department of Justice priorities such as combating terrorism, promoting border security, attacking public corruption, gangs and drug-related violent crime, child exploitation, and economic offenses, and crime prevention; and his enthusiasm for working to secure justice for the people and communities of the Northern District of New York.

Turning to his leadership team, United States Attorney Hartunian said, “I am proud to announce these appointments and grateful to have the assistance of such fine leaders in pursuing justice. Each one is an accomplished lawyer with extensive experience and well-recognized expertise, involved in the community, and committed to the mission of the United States Attorney’s Office.”

United States Attorney Hartunian announced the following leadership appointments and positions:

First Assistant U.S. Attorney:	Grant C. Jaquith
Chief, Criminal Division:	Steven D. Clymer
Chief, Appellate Division, and Syracuse Office Manager:	Brenda K. Sannes
Chief, Civil Division:	William H. Pease
Associate Criminal Chief, National Security Division & Native American Affairs:	Gregory A. West
Deputy Chief, Criminal Division:	William C. Pericak

Chief, Albany Office:	Thomas Spina, Jr.
Senior Litigation Counsel:	Edward R. Broton
Narcotics Chief and Lead Organized Crime Task Force Attorney:	John M. Katko
Counsel to the U.S. Attorney:	Robert P. Storch
Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney for Public and Community Affairs:	John G. Duncan

Grant C. Jaquith is the First Assistant U.S. Attorney. Mr. Jaquith has been an Assistant U.S. Attorney since 1989, serving as Chief of the Criminal Division 2006 - 2010 and Chief of the Albany Office and Narcotics Chief, 1998 - 2006. Mr. Jaquith's noteworthy cases have included prosecutions of: five defendants responsible for murdering an undercover drug task force officer at mid-day in a grocery store parking lot in downtown Syracuse as he attempted to purchase two kilograms of cocaine; twelve defendants involved in a Rome, New York cocaine enterprise, three of whom were accountable for two murders at an auto parts store; ten defendants involved in a cocaine distribution ring in Auburn, including a lawyer, the owner of an oil company, and state prison guards, and their Pennsylvania and Brooklyn suppliers; four defendants who participated in a thwarted conspiracy to import at least 100 kilograms of cocaine and 2,000 pounds of marijuana into the United States from Jamaica; cocaine enterprises in Syracuse led by Carnell Donaldson (15 defendants), Tyrone Hines (14 defendants), and Vyron Hargrett (15 defendants), and one at the border led by Jason Anderson (12 defendants); a drill sergeant who committed forcible sodomy and indecent assaults on soldiers in basic training; a soldier whose abuse of an infant resulted in multiple broken bones and swelling of the brain; the president of a statewide union whose labor racketeering involved embezzlement of union funds in New York and Florida; investors in penny stocks who used a nominee borrower

and paid gratuities to a bank president to obtain funds fraudulently; and a research coordinator for cancer treatment at the Stratton VA Medical Center in Albany who falsified patient records and caused the death of a patient, as well as the Chief of Oncology who supervised his work.

Mr. Jaquith also is a Colonel in the United States Army Reserve. Mr. Jaquith served as a circuit judge from 2001 through January of 2010, presiding over courts-martial at forts throughout the continental United States, and in Alaska, Germany, and Korea, including trials on charges of solicitation to murder, rape, indecent assault, conspiracy, and internet solicitation of sex with children. Mr. Jaquith currently serves as the Chief of Military Law (IMA) for U.S. Army Forces Command.

Before joining the U.S. Attorney's Office, Mr. Jaquith was an associate in the litigation department of Bond, Schoeneck & King, in Syracuse, 1988-89, and a Judge Advocate on active duty in the U.S. Army, 1982-88, where his work included administrative law, settling claims, legal assistance to soldiers and their families, criminal prosecutions, and teaching college courses in federal income taxation and juvenile law. Mr. Jaquith graduated from Presbyterian College (cum laude) in Clinton, South Carolina in 1979 and from the University of Florida College of Law in 1982.

Steven D. Clymer is the Chief of the Criminal Division. Mr. Clymer first became an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Central District of California in 1987, where he worked until 1995 and 2003 - 2005, serving as Chief of the Criminal Division, Senior Litigation Counsel, Chief of the Major Crimes Section, Deputy Chief of the Narcotics Section, and Chief of Training. A graduate of Cornell University (magna cum laude, 1980) and Cornell Law School (magna cum laude, 1983), Mr. Clymer served as Associate Professor of Law at Cornell Law School 1995 - 1998 and Assistant

Professor of Law 2001 - 2003, and has been a Professor of Law since 2005. Mr. Clymer was an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Northern District of New York 1998 - 2000, served as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney 2001 - 2003 and 2005 - 2007, returned to the Office in 2007, and became Deputy Chief of the Criminal Division in 2008. Before becoming an Assistant U.S. Attorney, Mr. Clymer was an Assistant District Attorney for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia County) 1983 - 1986.

Mr. Clymer's notable cases have included prosecutions of: the LAPD police officers responsible for use of unlawful force when arresting Rodney King; two men who killed two DEA agents and wounded a third; a case arising from "Operation Polar-Cap," the largest money-laundering investigation in United States history, resulting in the laundering of over \$100 million per year of cocaine proceeds; two cases arising from multi-defendant conspiracy to smuggle in excess of 60 tons of Thai marijuana to the United States by use of large ocean-going vessels; a Syracuse area physician who was defrauding Medicare and private insurers by charging over \$10,000 for patient physical examinations; a Syracuse heart surgery practice for filing false claims to Medicare about use of second physician in open heart surgeries; executives at two Central New York insurance companies in a scheme to defraud Medicare; and an Albany area pain management physician who submitted false claims to Medicare and private health insurance companies and had nurses illegally dispense prescriptions for schedule II controlled substances without physician involvement.

Brenda K. Sannes is the Chief of the Appellate Division, a post she has held since 2005, and also now serves as Syracuse Office Manager. Ms. Sannes was an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Central District of California (Los Angeles) 1988 - 1995 and 2003 - 2005 and has been an Assistant

U.S. Attorney in the Northern District of New York 1995 - 2003 and 2005 to date. In the U.S. Attorney's Office in Los Angeles, Ms. Sannes handled narcotics and money laundering cases, served as a supervisor in the Narcotics Section 1993 - 1995, and was Anti-Terrorism Advisory Counsel Coordinator 2003 - 2005. In the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of New York, Ms. Sannes has handled a variety of criminal cases involving narcotics, child exploitation, corruption, and health care fraud offenses, including *United States v. Comer*, an eleven-week cocaine conspiracy trial. As Chief of the Appellate Division, Ms. Sannes' significant appeals have included *United States v. Guzman*, which upheld the constitutionality of the federal statute proscribing failure to register as a sex offender.

Ms. Sannes graduated magna cum laude from Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota in 1980 and from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 1983, where she was an Articles Editor on the Law Review and a member of the Order of the Coif. Following law school, she clerked for Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Jerome Farris and was a litigation associate at a large law firm in Los Angeles, Wyman, Bautzer, Christensen, Kuchel and Silbert, 1984 - 1988, before becoming an Assistant U.S. Attorney.

William H. Pease continues to serve as Chief of the Civil Division, a post he has held since 1987. Mr. Pease has been an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Northern District of New York since 1983. He graduated with a B.A. degree from SUNY-Buffalo in 1969, received his J.D. from Syracuse University College of Law in 1972. Mr. Pease was in private practice 1972 - 1983, serving as acting village justice in Liverpool, New York, 1978 - 1983. While an Assistant U.S. Attorney, Mr. Pease has served as an adjunct law professor at Syracuse University.

Gregory A. West is the Associate Criminal Chief responsible for the National Security Division & Native American Affairs. Mr. West became an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of New York in 1980. He served as Senior Litigation Counsel 1992 - 1994, when he became a Supervisory Assistant United States Attorney, serving as the Chief of the Organized Crime and Racketeering Section. In 2002, Mr. West became the Associate Criminal Chief and Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council Coordinator.

Before becoming an Assistant U.S. Attorney, Mr. West clerked for a New York State Supreme Court Justice Donald H. Miller 1976 - 1978, then for Northern District of New York Chief U.S. District Judge Howard G. Munson 1978 - 1980. Mr. West went to college and law school at Syracuse University, graduating with B.A., magna cum laude, in 1973, and from the College of Law in 1976.

As a federal prosecutor, Mr. West has tried a variety of cases involving bank robberies, bank fraud and embezzlement, multi-district narcotics trafficking, mail and wire fraud, racketeering, tax crimes, money laundering, and public corruption. His most notable cases include the first successful RICO prosecution of the Hell's Angels Motorcycle Club, several successful prosecutions of members of La Cosa Nostra, the successful investigation and prosecution of former Syracuse Mayor Lee Alexander, the first successful prosecution of an international tobacco company for cigarette smuggling, and a number of national security matters.

William C. Pericak is the Deputy Chief of the Criminal Division. Mr. Pericak has been an Assistant United States Attorney in the Northern District of New York since 1989 and has been a supervisor since 2002. He has served as the Attorney-in-Charge of the Albany Division of the United States Attorney's Office since 2006.

Mr. Pericak has prosecuted many cases of substantial significance, including: United States v. Richard Vallee, leading to a sentence to life imprisonment for a member of the Hells Angels Motorcycle Club convicted at trial of murdering a federal witness with a car bomb; United States v. Yassin Aref and Mohammed Hossain, leading to sentences including imprisonment for 15 years upon trial convictions of conspiracy to commit money laundering, conspiracy to provide material support to terrorism, and related offenses; United States v. Pekerman, convicting several defendants for participating in an international Medicare fraud scheme run from Mexico and the Ukraine; and United States v. Albert Lawrence, leading to a sentence of imprisonment for 37 months upon the jury trial conviction of honest services fraud and other offenses arising from the embezzlement of about \$35 million by the owner of an insurance company.

Before joining the United States Attorney's Office, Mr. Pericak practiced law with the firm Willcox, Pirizzolo & McCarthy, P.C., in Boston, 1981-89, and served as a Law Clerk to the Massachusetts Superior Court, 1980-81. Mr. Pericak received his B.A. from SUNY Buffalo, magna cum laude, in 1977, and his J.D. from Boston University School of Law in 1980.

Thomas Spina, Jr. is the Chief of the Albany Office. Mr. Spina has been an Assistant United States Attorney for the Northern District of New York since 1990 and a Supervisory Assistant U.S. Attorney since 2008. He has served as the office Project Safe Childhood Coordinator since the program began and prosecuted a multitude of child exploitation cases. From 2003 - 2007, Mr. Spina trained and coached the Albany Law School team in the American Trial Lawyers Association Student Trial Competition. Mr. Spina was an Assistant District Attorney for New York County in Manhattan 1986 - 1990 and a judicial clerk for the Appellate Division of the Third Department in Albany 1985 - 1986. He graduated from Siena College, summa cum laude, in 1982, and from

Albany Law School, cum laude, in 1985.

Edward R. Broton continues to be Senior Litigation Counsel, as he has since September of 2008. Mr. Broton has been Assistant U.S. Attorney since 1983. He received his B.S. degree from Canisius College in 1975 and his J.D. from Albany Law School in 1979. Mr. Broton was in private practice before joining the U.S. Attorney's Office. As a federal prosecutor, he has prosecuted a wide variety of offenses, including the successful prosecution of violent crimes such as the RICO-connected 1976 contract murder of Al Marrone in Utica; numerous bank robberies, including Ron Peterson, an armed serial robber who was killed in a shootout with the FBI while on his way to rob a bank near Rochester; an elementary school principal who possessed child pornography; and an organized ring responsible for a string of armed home invasions across the District (which resulted in the leader receiving a sentence of imprisonment for 155 years). Recently, Mr. Broton has concentrated on prosecution of white collar offenses, including bank fraud and embezzlement and a variety of schemes involving international networks and securities, credit card and insurance fraud. Mr. Broton has served as an adjunct professor at Onondaga Community College for over 20 years, teaching courses in criminal law and white collar crime.

John M. Katko is the Narcotics Chief and Lead Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force Attorney. Mr. Katko has been an Assistant U.S. Attorney since 1998 and a Narcotics Supervisor in Syracuse since 2006. His notable cases have included prosecutions of four corrupt police officers in Schenectady, several street gangs in Syracuse, and many drug rings. From 1995 - 1998, Mr. Katko was a trial attorney for the Department of Justice's Narcotic & Dangerous Drug Section in Washington, D.C., prosecuting narcotics cases throughout the United States, including a major Puerto Rican drug trafficking organization on drug and multiple murder charges (which led

to life sentences for six defendants). Mr. Katko worked for the Enforcement Division of the United States Securities and Exchange Commission 1991 - 1995, and prosecuted criminal cases on detail to the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia in 1994. From 1988 - 1991, he was a litigator for the firm of Howrey & Simon in Washington.

Mr. Katko is a cum laude graduate of both Niagara University (1984) and Syracuse University School of Law (1988), where he was Associate Editor of the Syracuse Law Review.

Robert P. Storch is the new Counsel to the United States Attorney and serves as the District Ethics Advisor. Mr. Storch first became an Assistant U.S. Attorney in his hometown of Jacksonville, Florida, in 1987, and has been an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of New York since 1995. Mr. Storch graduated magna cum laude from Harvard, and obtained his law degree from Columbia University as a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar. He served as law clerk to U.S. District Judge William Keller in Los Angeles, and then worked for the law firm of Covington and Burling in Washington, D.C., before becoming an Assistant U.S. Attorney. From 1990 - 1994, Mr. Storch was in the Public Integrity Section of the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice, working on public corruption prosecutions throughout the country. In 1994, he moved to Albany, where he worked at the law firm of Bond, Schoeneck and King. Since his return to the Department of Justice in 1995, Mr. Storch has handled a variety of primarily white collar crime cases and has primary responsibility for election crimes and bankruptcy fraud offenses. From September 2001 through March 2003, he served as the District's Anti-Terrorism Coordinator, and was Appellate Chief and Senior Litigation Counsel 2004 - 2005. He taught "Terrorism and Civil Rights" at Russell Sage College in 2005, and has spoken at numerous programs in the United States and several other nations on corruption, election crimes, and economic offenses. Mr. Storch served as a Resident Legal

Advisor helping to manage the Department of Justice's anti-corruption program in the Ukraine from December 2007 through December 2009.

John Duncan is Executive Assistant United States Attorney for Community and Public Affairs. Mr. Duncan has been an Assistant U.S. Attorney since 1988. Before that, he was with the Onondaga County District Attorney's Office in Syracuse for 10 years, rising to the post of Chief Assistant District Attorney. He has extensive trial experience in both state and federal courts prosecuting drug, homicide, RICO and white collar crime offenses. Mr. Duncan also serves as coordinator for the District's Project Safe Neighborhoods and Gang Violence programs. He received his undergraduate degree in economics from the State University of New York at Buffalo. He is a graduate of the Syracuse University College of Law, where he also serves as an Adjunct Professor of Law. A U.S. Army veteran, Mr. Duncan served with the White House Communications Agency.

United States Attorneys serve as the nation's principal litigators, under the direction of the Attorney General and the U.S. Department of Justice. There is one United States Attorney for each judicial district in the United States and its territories. The primary statutory responsibilities of United States Attorneys are the prosecution of federal criminal cases, the prosecution and defense of civil cases in which the United States is a party, and the collection of debts owed the federal government which are administratively uncollectible.

The Northern District of New York is comprised of thirty-two counties in upstate New York, covering an area of over 30,000 square miles that is home to about 3.4 million people. The United States Attorney has offices in Syracuse, Albany, Binghamton and Plattsburgh.

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