

United States Attorney's Office

Eastern District of Virginia

U.S. Attorney Neil H. MacBride

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U.S. Attorney Hires New Prosecutors for National Security and Major Crime Units

ALEXANDRIA, Va. – Neil H. MacBride, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, today announced he has hired two prosecutors to fill positions in the Terrorism and National Security Unit and the Major Crimes Unit.

Andrew Peterson has been hired to join the Terrorism and National Security Unit and help the Office fulfill the Department of Justice's highest priority: To protect the American people from national security threats. The Eastern District of Virginia has traditionally played a lead role in the prosecution of significant terrorist and spy cases, including those of Zacarias Moussaoui, Aldrich Ames and Robert Hanssen, among many others.

"The Eastern District of Virginia has a long-standing reputation of handling some of the most challenging and important national security cases, and Andy has the background we need to continue this tradition," said U.S. Attorney MacBride, who serves on the Attorney General's Advisory Committee and is Chair of its Terrorism and National Security Subcommittee.

Prior to joining the U.S. Attorney's Office, Peterson was an attorney for the Central Intelligence Agency's Office of General Counsel, where he received the 2010 Intelligence Community Junior Lawyer of the Year Award. At the CIA, he represented the Agency in federal court, provided guidance on laws regulating CIA intelligence gathering, and briefed senior Agency leadership on pending litigation issues. Peterson clerked for the Honorable Kenneth M. Karas of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. He also was a research associate and a member of the board of advisors for the Center on Law and Security at New York University (NYU) School of Law in New York. He received his juris doctorate from NYU

School of Law and his bachelor's degree in global studies and Asian languages and literature from the University of Iowa.

U.S. Attorney MacBride has also hired Justin Fairfax to serve as a prosecutor in the Major Crimes Unit, which prosecutes most of the Office's violent crime cases, including murder, gangs, robbery and firearms violations.

"Justin cares deeply about making a positive difference in this community," said U.S. Attorney MacBride. "He brings deep experience on both the private sector and public service – including a deep knowledge of the EDVA court – and we are grateful to have someone with his drive and record of success fighting on behalf of the United States in federal court."

Fairfax comes to the U.S. Attorney's Office from the law firm Wilmer, Cutler, Pickering, Hale & Dorr of Washington, D.C., where he conducted multiple internal investigations concerning alleged federal and state violations by various corporate clients in both criminal and civil cases. Fairfax has a long history of public service, including three years on the Duke University Board of Trustees, two years working in the United States Senate handling judiciary matters, and he currently sits on the Board of Visitors of the Duke Sanford School of Public Policy. Fairfax clerked for the Honorable Gerald Bruce Lee of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia. He received his juris doctorate from Columbia Law School, where he was a member of the *Columbia Law Review*, and his bachelor's degree in public policy from Duke University.

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