

# The CAO Weekly Report

The week of January 5, 2015



## *Monterey County Administrative Office*

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- Contracts/Purchasing Officer named to national board
- Child Support Services honors staff



## District Attorney Secures Continued Funding for DUI Unit



For the second year in a row, the District Attorney's Office has received a special grant targeting DUI offenders, and it appears the specialized effort to combat drunk and drugged driving is picking up steam and will be able to continue for some time.



The District Attorney's Office sees 2,400 cases of DUI cases each year and in 2011 there were 237 deaths and injuries as a result of alcohol-involved DUI crashes in Monterey County. Thanks to a second grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, those arrested for

DUI in Monterey County, particularly repeat offenders and those involved in fatal or injury crashes, can continue to expect to face highly trained, specialized staff.

The \$404,925 grant continues funding for a special Vertical Prosecution team that will work cases from arrest through sentencing. It covers salaries, benefits and training for the two Deputy District Attorneys and Investigator assigned to the program.

“Driving under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or a combination of both is a very serious problem that every year results in the death and injury of innocent motorists and passengers,” says Dean Flippo. “This grant funding allows us to focus direct attention on the problem and bring those responsible to justice in a more efficient and effective manner.”

Deputy District Attorneys Meredith Sillman and Aaron Brown have been assigned to the DUI Team this year. The special training prosecutors on the team undergo is very similar to what a CHP Officer would receive; in fact, they will train alongside officers and by the end of the coursework will be qualified to administer field sobriety tests. Although it is unlikely they will do so, they will be able to use this training to more effectively present the evidence in court. Besides learning all there is to know about handling drunk driving cases, they must learn about drugged driving as well, and go through a drug recognition program.



But what makes this program unique is that these prosecutors and investigator will have to be ‘on call’ and respond in the field if there is a serious DUI case. They will get a first-hand view of a potential crime, learn what’s going on in the field and participate in every aspect. In turn, they will be able to share with officers what is needed to make an effective court case.



Deputy District Attorneys Meredith Sillman (above) and Aaron Brown (left) are the new members of the DUI Prosecution Unit.

There is also an outreach component to the program. Those assigned to the DUI Unit must use their expertise and offer training to other local law enforcement agencies, plus do outreach to educate students on the dangers and consequences of drunk or drugged driving.

“With this unified training, our department is seeing more successful prosecutions and better cases being put together,” explains Managing Deputy District Attorney Ed Hazel. “Ultimately, our aim is to hold people accountable for their actions. We have sent drunk drivers who have hurt or killed people to prison, and we have been able to use those cases as examples to young people in hopes they will avoid getting into the same situation.”



## County Contracts Officer Appointed to National Board

Mike Derr, Contracts and Purchasing Officer as well as Fleet Business Manager for the County, has a new job for his ‘off hours.’ Derr has been appointed to the Board of

Directors of the National Procurement Institute (NPI). As part of his role, he will participate in the organizations Conference Team, assisting with exhibits and sponsorships.



Mike Derr.

NPI was founded in 1968. It focuses on professional development and networking for members and others who work in public sector (government, education and institution) procurement and supply management. It also gives yearly awards recognizing excellence in the field. NPI is the official Public Sector Affiliate of the Institute for Supply Management (ISM), which offers an extensive training opportunities.

Derr is actively involved in professional development in the field of procurement at both the national and state level. He is also on the Board of Directors of CAPPO, the California Association of Public Procurement Officials.



## Child Support Services Honors Staff

Child Support Services (CSS) wrapped up 2014 by holding its semi-annual employee recognition event in December. The event is called WOWEE, short for What Outstanding Work; Employee Excellence.

WOWEE recognizes the work done by the entire office, plus singles out one



WOWEE honorees hold their certificates. Front row: Daniel Gutierrez, Supervising Child Support Officer; Therese Hernandez, Senior Civil Process Server; Sharon Larkin, Accounting Technician; Jennifer Loguidice, Accounting Technician. Back row: Frank De La Torre, Child Support Assistant; Dawn Yonemitsu, Legal Assistant; Jared Wason, DISC; Byron Bland, Accounting Technician and Karsten Rother, System Support Manager (DISM), ISO.

individual from each of CSS's five units for special efforts.

Special thanks from the department goes to CSS Managing Attorney Lisa Ortiz, who has been inspirational in developing this awards program.

