



# Introduction

## The Role of the United States Attorney

Walt Green

United States Attorney

Middle District of Louisiana



# U.S. Attorneys

- Appointed by President. Each judicial district has a U.S. Attorney.
- Chief federal law enforcement officer in the district and responsible for enforcing federal criminal laws.
- Represents federal government in civil matters.
- Manages community programs.



# U.S. Attorney's Office

- Headquartered in the Russell B. Long Federal Courthouse in downtown Baton Rouge.
- Approximately 60 total staff.
- Criminal, Civil, and Administrative Divisions
- Covers a nine-parish region centered around Baton Rouge with a population of around one million.



# U.S. Attorney's Office Leadership

- U.S. Attorney leads the office and has wide discretion on how to handle matters in the district.
- First Assistant U.S. Attorney Corey Amundson serves as second-in-command.
- The office is part of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) which is led by U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder.



# U.S. Attorney's Office Criminal Division

- Approx. 144 defendants prosecuted in FY 2014
- Criminal Division Management
  - Chief: Corey Amundson
  - Deputy Chief: Jennifer Kleinpeter
  - Deputy Chief: Alan Stevens
  - Appellate Chief: Helina Dayries
  - Senior Litigation Counsel: Patricia Jones
  - Litigation Counsel: Robert Piedrahita



# U.S. Attorney's Office Criminal Division

## National Security

- Top Priority
- Senior prosecutor is Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council (ATAC) on the Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF).
- JTTF focused on preventing and investigating terrorism and national security-related crimes in the district.



# U.S. Attorney's Office Criminal Division

## Violent Crime and Narcotics Section

- Human Trafficking
- Civil Rights Violations
- Sexual Exploitation of Children
- Violent Offenders
- Narcotics
- Immigration Crimes



# U.S. Attorney's Office Criminal Division

## Fraud and White Collar Crime Section

- Health Care Fraud
- Public Corruption
- Computer Crimes
- Identity Theft
- Tax Fraud
- Environmental Crimes





# U.S. Attorney's Office Criminal Division

## Advantages of Federal Prosecution

- Independence
  - USAs are not elected
  - AUSAs are career attorneys
  - Federal judges are appointed for life
  - Jury pool is larger
- Resources and reach
- Sentencing Guidelines



# U.S. Attorney's Office Criminal Division

## Federal/State Differences

- Fed: Jurisdiction limited.
- Fed: Prosecutor and investigator work together before an arrest.
- Fed: Long term investigations
- Fed: Plea bargaining limited
- Fed: Guidelines reduce sentence variances



# U.S. Attorney's Office Criminal Division

## Healthcare Fraud



# U.S. Attorney's Office Criminal Division

- Strike Force established in 2009
- One of nine of the country
- 72 defendants charged
- 98.6% conviction rate
- Convictions involving \$100+ million in fraud



# U.S. Attorney's Office Criminal Division

## Public Corruption



# U.S. Attorney's Office Criminal Division

- Operation Blighted Officials
  - Deputy Insurance Commissioner
  - 4 Mayors
  - City Councilman
  - Chief of Police
  - Superior Performance Award by U.S. Attorney General and EOUSA Director



# U.S. Attorney's Office Criminal Division

- Operation Illegal Motion
  - Bribery in criminal and traffic matters
  - Senior Assistant City Prosecutor
  - Three Court Employees
  - Two Police Officers
  - Chief Public Defender Investigator



# U.S. Attorney's Office Criminal Division

Narcotics





# U.S. Attorney's Office Criminal Division

- Operation Snake Eyes
  - 18 defendants convicted
  - Sentences range 210-327 months
  - > \$1,000,000 seized



# U.S. Attorney's Office Criminal Division

- Operation Gator Bait
  - 16 defendants convicted
  - Ringleader sentenced to 293 months
  - > \$700,000 seized



# U.S. Attorney's Office Civil Division

- Responsibilities of the Civil Division
  - Defend the United States in civil litigation.
  - Sue to recover wrongfully obtained federal funds.
  - Collect criminal and civil debts owing to the United States.



# U.S. Attorney's Office Civil Division

## ➤ FY 2014

- Collected \$1,138,286 in criminal debt
- Collected \$1,389,373 in civil debt
- Obtained \$1.2 civil judgment against Sabine Optical for wrongdoing obtained healthcare funds.



# U.S. Attorney's Office Outreach Programs

- Louisiana Law Enforcement for Gun Safety (LEGS)
  - USAO is a founding partner in 2013, along with local law enforcement agencies.
  - Over 20,000 children taught gun safety
  - Expanded to other Louisiana districts
  - Expansion to Alabama planned



# U.S. Attorney's Office Outreach Programs

## ➤ Reentry Efforts

- BRAVE expands to at-risk federal inmates reentering the district.
- O'Brien House



# U.S. Attorney's Office Conclusion

The goal of the United States Attorney is to ensure that justice is done. The guilty shall not escape nor the innocent suffer.