

U.S. Attorney's Office Southern District of Illinois

A. Courtney Cox, U.S. Attorney
May 2008



A Message from the U.S. Attorney

Partnership. Our District is made up of the 38 southernmost counties in Illinois. It is an area roughly the size of Maryland. Within our District there are many dedicated and hardworking members in local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies working together with state and federal prosecutors for one purpose: to ensure the safety and well-being of the more than 1.5 million residents of our District. One mission . . . one team. When we work together, we see amazing results. When we don't, criminals win.

While we generally cooperate with each other with great success, we could all do better. Open and frank communication is the key. To that end, I hope to keep you advised of what we are doing at the U.S. Attorney's Office through this newsletter U.S. Attorney's Office

through this newsletter and emails. I have also assigned an Assistant U.S. Attorney to each county in the District to act as a liaison with the state prosecutors, sheriffs, and chiefs of police. This program will not replace the Dragoon teams that are already in place. Rather, I hope this will enhance that program by providing you with a direct contact in our office. In addition, you can always contact me directly. My email address is courtney.cox@usdoj.gov. My direct cell phone number is 618-593-4356.

In the near future, I plan to visit many of you in your counties and cities to discuss the many issues that face our District and explore ways to tackle those issues as a team.

A. Courtney Cox



U.S. Attorney Cox (center front) is pictured with FCI-Greenville staff (left to right) Officer B. Gibbs, Lieutenant M. Grissom, Officer A. Wodtka, U.S. Attorney Cox, Officer V. Miller, Lieutenant J. Mancini, Officer K. Atchley, Officer K. Duncan, and Lieutenant B. Dobbs.

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Link to our website:

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/il/s/index.html>

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CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES & TRENDS

Illinois Top 10 List of Fraudulent Schemes: Data compiled from more than 206,000 complaints shows that men lost \$1.67 to every \$1 lost by women in online fraud. Illinois made the top 10 list of fraud perpetrators and complainants (internet crime). The top five subject states for reported mortgage fraud were California, Florida, Illinois, Georgia, and Texas. This represented a change in position from the initial report (2006) where the top five subject states were California, Florida, Georgia, Texas, and Illinois. Illinois moved from fifth position to third, and Georgia and Texas moved from third and fourth to fourth and fifth positions.

Internet Fraud: Money lost in internet-related crimes hit a new high last year, topping about \$240 million, according to a government report showing increases in scams involving pets, check-cashing schemes, and online dating. The number of reported internet scams dropped slightly from previous years, but the total lost jumped \$40 million, according to the report released recently by the FBI and the National White Collar Crime Center. The most common crime reported was auction fraud in which consumers did not get the right merchandise they paid for. A consumer might pay \$25 for a DVD that somebody actually recorded in the back of a movie theater, said FBI spokeswoman Cathy Milhoan. Source: The AP

Mortgage fraud: Reports of suspected mortgage fraud rose 42% last year as banks became more leery of lies on loan applications. The Treasury Department's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network reported that there were 52,868 reports of mortgage fraud in 2007, up from 37,313 a year earlier. Mortgage fraud reports were the third most common type of sus-

picious activity. Banks and other financial institutions are required to alert the government of fishy financial transactions such as money laundering or check fraud. The Treasury Department's enforcement unit singled out mortgage brokers for criticism, noting a growing number of them were listed as initiators of the suspected fraud. Brokers were "intermediaries that did not verify information submitted on the loan application," the report said. It also cited growth in fraud reports tied to "cash-out" refinancing, in which borrowers are able to pull out equity from their homes.

The Mortgage Bankers Association has called for more than \$31 million over the next five years in new funding for the FBI and Justice Department to fight mortgage fraud, money that would go for new investigators and prosecutors. Total SAR filings in 2006 on suspected mortgage loan fraud, when divided by the subject's state address, showed the greatest increases in Illinois (75.8%), California (71.29%), Florida (53.04%), Michigan (51.5%), and Arizona (48.73%).

Websites of Interest:

-National White Collar Crime Center:

<http://www.nw3c.org/>

- FBI Internet Crime Report Press Room: http://www.fbi.gov/page2/april08/ic3_report040308.html

-Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) Annual Report (Noted by State):

<http://www.ic3.gov/media/annualreports.aspx>

-2007 Annual Report:

http://www.ic3.gov/media/annualreport/2007_IC3Report.pdf

-Illinois 2006:

<http://www.ic3.gov/media/annualreport/2006/Illinois%202006%20Report.pdf>

RECENT NOTEWORTHY CASES

CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

On January 11, 2008, **JASON WADE BECKHAM**, age 35, of DuQuoin, Illinois, was sentenced in the U.S. District Court in Benton. **BECKHAM** was sentenced to 180 months imprisonment, was fined \$800, and was placed on 5 years supervised release.

BECKHAM had previously pleaded guilty to a two-count federal indictment, charging him with one count of distribution of child pornography and one count of possession of child pornography.

The investigation was conducted by the FBI Southern Illinois Cyber Crimes Task Force, the Illinois Attorney General's Office Crimes Against Children Task Force, the Illinois State Police, the Mt. Vernon Police Department, and a number of state and local law enforcement agencies. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney George A. Norwood.

On April 11, 2008, **RICHARD D. HEATHERLY**, 58, of Collinsville, Illinois, was sentenced in the U.S. District Court in East St. Louis for eight counts of distribution of child pornography. **HEATHERLY** pleaded guilty to all eight counts on January 8, 2008. **HEATHERLY** was sentenced to 97 months of imprisonment, a supervised release term of life, was fined \$400, and was ordered to pay an \$800 special assessment.

The investigation began in August 2005 and was conducted by the FBI and the Collinsville Police Department. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Angela Scott.

On April 11, 2008, **CALVIN CLAY SACHS**, age 34, of Fairfield, Illinois, was sentenced in the U.S. District Court in East St. Louis. **SACHS** was sentenced to 97 months imprisonment, was fined \$750, and placed on 10 years supervised release.

SACHS had previously pleaded guilty to a one-count indictment which charged him with possession of child pornography.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the FBI Southern Illinois Cyber Crimes Task Force, along with assistance from the Carbondale, Police Department, Marion, Police Department, Mt. Vernon Police Department, and the Southern Illinois University Police Department. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney George A. Norwood.

METHAMPHETAMINE

On February 29, 2008, **MONTE S. GEARHART**, age 38, of Pomona, Illinois, was sentenced in the U.S. District Court in Benton, Illinois. **GEARHART**, who had previously been convicted by a jury of conspiracy to manufacture 500 grams or more of methamphetamine, was sentenced to life imprisonment and was fined \$500.

The investigation was conducted by the Jackson County Sheriff's Office, the Union County Sheriff's Office, the Murphysboro Police Department, the U.S. Marshals Service, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives pursuant to their participation in the Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative in the Southern District of Illinois. The case

Recent Noteworthy Cases, continued

was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Amanda A. Robertson.

On March 10, 2008, **EARL R. LIPPERT**, of Shattuc, Illinois, was sentenced for his role in a methamphetamine manufacturing conspiracy. The violations took place between January 1, 2003, and August 2006, in Clinton County, Illinois. **LIPPERT** was sentenced to life imprisonment as to the conspiracy count. He was sentenced to concurrent terms of 480 months, 360 months, and 360 months on the other counts.

The investigation was spearheaded by the Clinton County Sheriff's Department assisted by the Illinois State Police and the Drug Enforcement Administration. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Jennifer Hudson and Don Boyce.

TAX EVASION

On March 14, 2008, **GERALD M. DORTCH, DMD**, received a six-month sentence of imprisonment following his conviction for tax evasion. Following release from incarceration, **DORTCH** will serve a three-year term of supervised release with the first six months to be spent on home detention. He was also ordered to perform 240 hours of community service and to make restitution to the Internal Revenue Service in the amount of \$127,103.

The case was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Suzanne M. Garrison.

TRAVELING

On March 10, 2008, **WARREN D. HARBISON**, age 23, of Edwardsville, Illinois, was sentenced in the U.S. District Court in East St. Louis. **HARBISON** was sentenced to 235 months imprisonment to be followed by 10 years supervised release. **HARBISON** was also ordered to pay \$15,045.75 in restitution to the victim's family. **HARBISON** was convicted of transporting a minor in interstate commerce with the intent to engage in unlawful sexual activity.

The investigation was conducted by the Edwardsville Police Department, the Taylor Springs Police Department, the Madison County Sheriff's Department, the St. Louis County Police Department, the Amarillo, Texas Police Department, the Potter County, Texas Sheriff's Department, and the FBI. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Donald Boyce and Nicole Gorovsky prosecuted the case.

CRACK COCAINE

On March 14, 2008, **DAMIAN Y. JAMES, a/k/a "Ree,"** age 34, of Mt. Vernon, Illinois, was sentenced in the U.S. District Court in Benton. **JAMES** was sentenced to 295 months imprisonment, was fined \$800, and placed on 10 years supervised release.

JAMES had previously been convicted by a jury on four counts in a federal indictment, charging him with conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine, possession of a firearm by a felon, and two counts of distribution of crack cocaine.

Recent Noteworthy Cases, continued

The investigation was a cooperative effort between the Joint Narcotics Unit of the Mt. Vernon Police Department and the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Illinois State Police, the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office, and the FBI pursuant to their participation in the Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney George A. Norwood.

On April 11, 2008, **GLADYS SHANEA WILSON, a/k/a "Nikki,"** age 26, of Murphysboro, Illinois, was sentenced in the U.S. District Court in Benton. **WILSON**, who had previously pled guilty to four counts of distribution of crack cocaine, was sentenced to 200 months imprisonment, three years supervised release, and was fined \$800.

The distribution offenses occurred in January 2005 in Jefferson County. At sentencing, the District Court found that **WILSON** was responsible for more than 4.5 kilograms of crack cocaine that was distributed in Jackson and Jefferson counties. One co-defendant has pled guilty and is awaiting sentencing. One co-defendant has pled not guilty and is awaiting a May 5, 2008, jury trial.

The investigation was a cooperative effort between the Jackson County Sheriff's Office, the Murphysboro Police Department, the Joint Narcotics Unit of the Mt. Vernon Police Department, the Joint Narcotics Unit of the Mt. Vernon Police Department and the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, and the Drug Enforce-

ment Administration pursuant to those agencies' participation in the Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative.

The case was assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney Amanda A. Robertson for prosecution.

PHARMACY BURGLARIES

On February 8, 2008, **LEAMON A. HATFIELD**, age 40, of Lynco, West Virginia, was sentenced to 38 months imprisonment for conspiracy to unlawfully enter pharmacies in order to steal controlled substances.

According to evidence presented at trial, **HATFIELD** and at least four other co-defendants committed approximately 40 pharmacy burglaries in at least ten states between 2001 and 2004. In southern Illinois, the group burglarized pharmacies in Harrisburg, Greenville, Carmi, Mt. Vernon, McLeansboro, Metropolis, Caseyville, Fairfield, El Paso, Flora, Mattoon, and Herrin. The total value of the controlled substances stolen in all 40 of the burglaries was approximately \$250,000.

The investigation was conducted by special agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration assigned to St. Louis, Missouri, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives assigned to Fairview Heights, Illinois.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert L. Garrison.

Recent Noteworthy Cases, continued

FELON IN POSSESSION

On January 14, 2008, **MARIO JONES**, age 32, of Alorton, Illinois, was sentenced in the U.S. District Court in East St. Louis to 115 months imprisonment and three years supervised release following his conviction of being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The investigation was conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Alorton Police Department pursuant to their participation in the U.S. Attorney's Office's Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Deirdre A. Durborow.

On March 20, 2008, **CALVIN C. MONTGOMERY**, age 42, of Washington Park, Illinois, was sentenced in the U.S. District Court in East St. Louis for possession of a firearm by a previously convicted felon.

The investigation was conducted by the East St. Louis Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, in cooperation with the St. Clair County State's Attorney's Office, as part of those agencies' participation in the Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Angela Scott.

IDENTITY THEFT

On February 8, 2008, **RAYMOND L.**

SPINNER, JR., age 41, was sentenced to 27 months in federal custody for aggravated identity theft and making a fraudulent application to the Social Security Administration.

SPINNER admitted using the name of a disabled relative to acquire a social security card bearing his disabled relative's name. **SPINNER** further admitted that he then used the fraudulent social security card he had obtained to open a bank account in the name of his disabled relative.

The investigation that resulted in **SPINNER'S** conviction was conducted by special agents of the Social Security Administration, Office of Inspector General, in Swansea, Illinois. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert L. Garrison.

\$25 MILLION CIVIL SETTLEMENT

The Tennessee Valley Authority ("TVA"), a government corporation (as well as certain private companies), contracted with **Kinder Morgan Energy Partners, L.P.**, **Kinder Morgan Operating L.P.**, and **Kinder Morgan Operating L.P. "B,"** and **Kinder Morgan Energy Operating, L.P. "C"** (collectively "**Kinder Morgan**") to handle coal at **Kinder Morgan's** Cora and Grand Rivers terminals. **Kinder Morgan** provides energy transportation and distribution services, including the handling, unloading, storing, blending and/or transferring of coal at its terminals, with its Cora terminal located in Rockwood in

Recent Noteworthy Cases, continued

Randolph County, Illinois.

In a fraudulent scheme, **Kinder Morgan** took and sold approximately 258,725.84 tons of coal attributable to the TVA which amounted to a total loss of \$6,599,526 for the TVA. In a civil settlement, **Kinder Morgan** agreed to pay back three times this amount to the U.S. for a total of \$19,798,578.

This is the largest settlement in the history of the TVA. In addition, **Kinder Morgan** will reimburse other private customers in the amount of \$5,208,383, for a total settlement of \$25,006,961.

This matter was investigated by the TVA, Office of Inspector General, and the FBI. The government was represented by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Gerald M. Burke and Stephen B. Clark.

DISPENSING CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE

On April 10, 2008, **DR. JOSEPH K. SMITH**, age 54, of Mt. Vernon, Illinois, was sentenced in the U.S. District Court in Benton. **SMITH** was sentenced to five months imprisonment, was fined \$100, and placed on three years supervised release. **DR. SMITH** has also voluntarily surrendered his medical license.

SMITH had previously pleaded guilty to two counts of illegally dispensing a controlled substance (hydrocodone) outside scope of his professional practice and not for a legitimate medical purpose, and three counts of illegally dispensing a controlled

substance (morphine) outside the scope of his professional practice and not for a legitimate medical purpose.

The investigation was a cooperative effort between the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Joint Narcotics Unit of the Mt. Vernon Police Department and the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney George A. Norwood.

MURDER FOR HIRE

On April 18, 2008, **CHRISTOPHER A. HEMMINGHAUS**, age 36, of High Ridge, Missouri, was sentenced in East St. Louis following a guilty plea on January 3, 2008, to an indictment charging him in count one with use of a facility of interstate commerce with the intent that murder be committed and in count two with destruction of evidence. **HEMMINGHAUS** was sentenced on count one to 120 months imprisonment and three years supervised release, and on count two to 180 months imprisonment and three years supervised release, the sentences to run concurrently. Additionally, he was ordered to pay a \$10,000 fine and a \$200 special assessment.

Court documents establish that in approximately December 2006, **HEMMINGHAUS**, who owned and operated the Washington Park Pawn Shop in Washing-

Recent Noteworthy Cases, continued

ton Park, Illinois, approached a part-time employee, who later became a confidential witness (CW) for the FBI, about murdering his girlfriend. The CW thereafter contacted the FBI and advised the FBI of **HEMMINGHAUS'** intentions to murder the victim. The CW told the FBI that **HEMMINGHAUS** offered him \$600 to commit the murder. **HEMMINGHAUS** offered to provide a reciprocating saw to the CW to dismember the victim's body following the murder. The FBI thereafter obtained recordings of **HEMMINGHAUS** discussing the murder with the CW as described to the FBI by the CW.

On March 5, 2007, **HEMMINGHAUS**, with the intention that the murder occur that evening, telephoned the victim and instructed the victim to be at the pawn shop. Before the victim arrived at the pawn shop, **HEMMINGHAUS** permitted the CW to take coveralls from the pawn shop to wear while dismembering the victim. He told the CW that he was expecting the victim between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m., and that he wanted the CW to follow the victim after she left the pawn shop and murder her that night. The victim arrived at the pawn shop at 4:45 p.m. as instructed by **HEMMINGHAUS**. While the victim was at the pawn shop, the CW went to the pawn shop and was provided the reciprocating saw by **HEMMINGHAUS**. **HEMMINGHAUS** told the CW that he would stall and prevent the victim from leaving the pawn shop until dark. **HEMMINGHAUS** told the CW to bring him the victim's purse, cellular telephone, keys, the jewelry she was wearing, and DVDs she would have with her to the

pawn shop the next day. **HEMMINGHAUS** indicated he would pay the CW a portion of the \$600 he promised to pay for the murder following the receipt of these items.

On March 5, 2007, at approximately 7:15 p.m., the victim left the pawn shop. She was followed from the pawn shop and stopped by investigating agents and thereafter cooperated with the investigation. She provided the FBI with her purse, cellular telephone, car keys, the jewelry she was wearing, and DVD movies the defendant provided her before he left the pawn shop.

On March 6, 2007, the CW met with the defendant at the pawn shop and provided the defendant with the victim's purse, cellular telephone, keys, jewelry, and the DVD movies. The defendant paid the CW \$200 and promised to pay the remaining balance upon further proof that the victim was dead. The defendant specifically asked for the victim's hand. The defendant indicated that he was going to burn the victim's belongings in a burn barrel behind the pawn shop.

Shortly thereafter, law enforcement observed the defendant exit the back door of the pawn shop and proceed to a barrel at the back of the building. When law enforcement saw black smoke coming from the barrel, the agents arrested the defendant, extinguished the fire in the burn barrel, and secured the premises until a search warrant was obtained. During the execution of a search warrant later that day, law enforcement officers seized the victim's

Recent Noteworthy Cases, continued

keys and the remains of her purse and its contents from the burn barrel.

Information for the indictment was obtained in an investigation conducted by the FBI. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Kit R. Morrissey.

JURY CONVICTS TELEMARKETER

On April 18, 2008, **KYLE KIMOTO**, age 32, was found guilty following a two-week trial of one count of conspiracy, one count of mail fraud, and 12 counts of wire fraud.

Evidence presented at trial proved **KIMOTO** was the owner of Assail, Inc., a Nevada corporation whose principal place of business was St. George, Utah, and did business with the public under the names of Advantage Capital, Capital First, Premier One, Bay Area Business Council and American Leisure Card. The indictment alleged that the scheme operated out of Utah and utilized a network of U.S. outbound call centers **KIMOTO** organized in Utah, Kansas, Oregon, Idaho, Arizona, Virginia, and Florida; Caribbean outbound call centers in Grenada, St. Lucia, and St. Vincents; an outbound call center in Toronto, Canada; and outbound call centers in India. The indictment alleged that the scheme affected victims in 34 of the 38 counties comprising the Southern District of Illinois and victimized over 300,000 consumers throughout the U.S. in an amount of approximately \$43 million.

The indictment alleged that the defendant and his co-conspirators obtained

lead lists of consumers who had applied for and had been turned down for credit cards. Utilizing these lists, a cold call was made to consumers by telemarketers. According to the indictment, the telemarketer would begin the conversation by telling the consumer that "our records indicate that within the past 12 months, you filed an application for a credit card and you are now eligible to receive your MasterCard, "implying that the caller was calling from the consumer's financial institution.

The telemarketer would then ask the consumer questions about monthly income "to verify that my records are still correct." After the consumer provided the information, the consumer would be placed on hold "for computer authorization," after which the consumer would be told that the consumer was to receive a "MasterCard." The consumer was further told that the card would improve the consumer's credit rating, specifically through Equifax.

After paying what was characterized as a "one time" processing fee of anywhere from \$159 to several hundred dollars, the consumers generally received a "benefits package." Rather than containing a credit card as promised, the package contained an application for a stored value MasterCard, a form of debit card that had no credit line and which had to be "loaded" with funds before it could be used.

Recent Noteworthy Cases, continued

The case was investigated by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service in St. Louis, Missouri, and the Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation in Reno, Nevada. Substantial assistance was provided by the Federal Trade Commission in Chicago and Washington, DC. Also assisting was the Competition Bureau Canada. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce E. Reppert.



Justice for VICTIMS. Justice for ALL.

FOR NATIONAL INFORMATION:

www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/ncvrw

FOR LOCAL INFORMATION:

www.okbemad.org

National Crime Victims' Rights Week Activities

During the week of April 13-19, 2008, crime victims, service providers, criminal justice, allied professionals, and community leaders joined together across America to commemorate the 28th annual observance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week. The Greater St. Louis Metropolitan Area Victim Rights Planning Committee--composed of victims, self-help groups, and victim service organizations--had a series of activities to commemorate the week. There was also a Resource Fair that highlighted various victim service programs in the Greater St. Louis Area.

On our side on the river, there were at least three events starting on April 14 with the Homicide Survivors Candlelight Vigil at the East St. Louis City Hall honoring those who have lost their lives in East St. Louis in the past year due to violence. On April 16, there was a Candlelight Memorial at the Mary Chapel at Our Lady of the Snows which is an annual event sponsored by the St. Louis Area wide Chapter of Parents of Murdered Children and Other Survivors of Homicide Victims. The memorial consisted of the reading of the names of murdered children, poetry readings, music, memorial statements, and speakers. Finally, there was a seminar sponsored by Project Heaven which is an agency which provides assistance to crime victims in East St. Louis. Julie Swanston, Victim Witness Coordinator, was part of the committee which planned the events in the Metro-East area for this week.

LECC Activities

On January 17, 2008, Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee (LECC) Coordinator, Ron Shownes, made a presentation at the National LECC conference on the Project Safe Neighborhood initiative in this District that was held at the National Advocacy Center from January 15-18.

On January 31, 2008, Ron made a presentation on Law Enforcement Officers Flying Armed at the Springfield, Illinois Police Academy. This course is mandated for any law enforcement officer who was planning to fly with his weapon. Thirty-two officers completed the course.

On February 27 and 28, 2008, Ron coordinated with 12 other state and local agencies to conduct the Southern Illinois Criminal Justice Summit in Effingham, Illinois. Approximately 258 local and state officers registered for the conference. The topics at the summit covered: Creating a Culture of Integrity; Coping with Adversity and Change; The Kidnappings from Franklin County; and Interpersonal Skills for Law Enforcement Executives.

On April 1 and 2, 2008, Ron co-sponsored for the fifth year the Southern Illinois Meth and Other Drugs Awareness Conference (Breaking the Chains and Building Bridges). The conference was held at Logan College in Carterville, Illinois, and 458 participants attended. Opening remarks were made by U.S. Attorney A. Courtney Cox and the topics included: Meth Awareness and Identification; Faith-Based Recovery and Support; The Tightrope of Adolescence; and Identifying Meth Mouth Patients.

On April 3, 2008, Ron conducted Document Training to enable law enforcement to identify fraudulent federal- and state-issued identification cards and their status. The training was conducted by agents from ICE and SOS Police at the Clinton County Board Room in Carlyle, Illinois.

On April 30 and May 1, 2008, the LECC co-sponsored the Annual Metro East Methamphetamine Conference. Topics included: The Neurobiology of Addiction; Why Willpower Does Not Work; The Effects of Methamphetamine on Children; Joining Forces Against Meth Building; and Supporting Community Coalitions. The conference was held at Our Lady of the Snows Shrine in Belleville.



Janice Brennan, Training Director of Support Dogs, Inc., is pictured with U.S. Attorney Cox at the minimum security camp in Greenville. The female inmates at the camp raise and train service dogs for placement with people with physical disabilities as part of a vocational training program and community service project called P.A.W.S. (Prisoners Assisting With Support). Ms. Brennan provides instruction and training to the inmates.

Introducing Our New Employees

Donald S. Boyce

Prior to joining the U.S. Attorney's Office, Don Boyce practiced at a large firm in Chicago, primarily in civil litigation. Don is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame Law School, where he served as a note editor on the Notre Dame Law Review. Prior to going to law school, Don gained valuable experience as a police officer in the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department.

Since joining the office, Don has worked in the General Crimes unit, prosecuting a variety of offenses, including drug crimes, gun crimes, and crimes involving the exploitation of children. Don also serves as the District's Weed & Seed coordinator and as Dragoon Team Leader for Madison, Jersey, and Calhoun Counties.

Audrey Brazier

Audrey joined the U.S. Attorney's Office on October 1, 2007, as a legal assistant to provide Assistant U.S. Attorneys with case-specific litigation support such as discovery production and automated litigation support. She previously worked as a paralegal for over 17 years in the private sector. She re-

ceived a master's degree in business administration from Fontbonne University, a bachelor's degree in liberal arts from SIUE, and a paralegal certificate from the National Institute for Paralegal Studies.

Traci Colvis

Traci joined the office on March 5, 2008, and was assigned to the OCDEF unit. She is currently working with Ranley Killian on the crack cocaine resentencing project. Prior to coming here, she worked as a paralegal for private firms in New London, Connecticut, and St. Louis, Missouri.

Nicole E. Gorovsky

Nicole (Niki) Gorovsky is from Rochester, New York. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan and attended Washington University Law School. Niki worked as an assistant attorney general in the state of Missouri for over two years in the Criminal Appeals Division. Following her work there, her next job was at the Boone County, Missouri Prosecutor's Office where she specialized in prosecuting sex crimes against adults and all crimes against children.

Niki joined the U.S. Attorney's Office in July 2007. She has second-chaired three

New Employees, continued

trials, prepared several appellate briefs, and been involved in many interesting cases.

Laura Johnson

Laura has been with the U.S. Attorney's Office since July 2007. She is the legal assistant to Dan Kapsak and Andy Simonson in the OCDEF section. Before coming to this office, she worked at the CENTCOM's Staff Judge Advocate's Office at MacDill AFB in Florida. Before that, she was a human resource manager at a large company. Prior to that, she was active duty in the Air Force.

Phyllis (Cissie) Thompson

Cissie received her B.S. in paralegal studies at SUIC. Prior to coming to the U.S. Attorney's Office, she worked for a private firm in St. Louis. Cissie began working for the U.S. Attorney's Office in March 2008. She works in the White Collar unit for Norm Smith, Steve Weinhoeft, and Mike Quinley.

Linda Voelker

Linda started with the U.S. Attorney's Office in July 2007. She works as a legal assistant in the White Collar unit

with Bruce Reppert, Kevin Burke, and Liam Coonan. She was previously with a large St. Louis law firm.

Steven D. Weinhoeft

Steve was born and raised in Springfield, Illinois. He obtained a Bachelor of Science degree from Illinois State University in 1993. After completing college, he attended the University of Memphis where he earned his Juris Doctor degree, with honors, in 1996.

After graduating from law school, he began his career working for the Sangamon County State's Attorney in Springfield, Illinois, where he worked for the past 11-1/2 years. Most recently, he served for the past 2-1/2 years as the first assistant state's attorney. In addition to his full-time employment, Steve worked as an adjunct faculty member at the University of Illinois at Springfield from 2002-2007. He has also worked as a contract brief writer for the Illinois State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor's Office where he drafted appellate briefs on behalf of the state in criminal appeals.