



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
RICHMOND COUNTY

DANIEL M. DONOVAN, JR.
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

130 STUYVESANT PLACE
STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK 10301
TELEPHONE (718) 876-6300

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release on August 19, 2009

Contact: William J. Smith (718) 556-7150
William.Smith@rcda.nyc.gov

D.A. DONOVAN ANNOUNCES HIRING OF 6 NEW PROSECUTORS

STATEN ISLAND, NY - Richmond County District Attorney Daniel M. Donovan, Jr. today announced that six new prosecutors have joined his office as Richmond County's newest Assistant District Attorneys. The new group of attorneys, who be assigned to the Criminal Court Bureau, represents the largest single hiring class to join the District Attorney's office in its history.

District Attorney Donovan stated, "I am pleased to have this talented, diverse group of young, aggressive attorneys join what is already one of the top prosecutor's offices in the State of New York. These new additions, recruited from hundreds of applicants from across the nation, will join a dedicated team of prosecutors and support personnel committed to serving our community and keeping Staten Island the safest borough of the safest big city in America."

- **ADA Pia Das**, is a 2006 *cum laude* graduate of the Tulane University Law School, where she served as Senior Notes and Comments Editor of the *Tulane Environmental Law Journal*. She has previously served as a law clerk to the Hon. Stephen Wm. Smith, U.S.M.J, Southern District of Texas and as a Litigation Associate at the firm of Schulte, Roth & Zabel for two years. She is fluent in Bengali and French.
- **ADA Natalie P. DiDonna** is a 2009 *cum laude* graduate of New York Law School where she graduated in the top 25% of her class, and was a member of the Dean's List. She received the 2009 Justice Action Center Citizenship Award, the Chief Justice Bird Award for Motivation & Pursuing Public Interest Law, the Bailey Family Foundation Scholarship, and was Co-Director of the Street Law Project.
- **ADA Brian M. Jenks** is a 2009 *cum laude* graduate of the University of Wisconsin where he finished in the top 8% of his class. He served as the Managing Editor of the *Wisconsin Law Review*. He is joining the office from a one-year deferral from the law firm of Cravath, Swaine and Moore.
- **ADA David Newton** is a 2008 *cum laude* graduate of the Boston University School of Law. He previously served one year as an Associate at the law firm of Goodwin Proctor LLP and is a five-year veteran of the United States Marine Corps.
- **ADA Ameer A. Shah** is a 2006 graduate of the Hofstra University School of Law, where she was an Associate Editor of the *Hofstra Law Review*. She has previously served for two years as a Litigation Associate at the law firm of Schulte, Roth & Zabel. She is fluent in Gujarati.

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- **ADA Craig Trainor** is a 2005 *cum laude* graduate of the Columbus School of Law at the Catholic University of America. He has previously served as a law clerk to the Hon. Frederick J. Scullin, Jr., Chief Judge, U.S.D.J., Northern District of New York, and for three years as an Associate at the law firm of DeFeis, O’Connell & Rose.

The Criminal Court Bureau is the point of entry for almost all prosecutions conducted by the Richmond County District Attorney’s office. Each year, approximately 10,000 cases are processed through Criminal Court. Felonies, the most serious level of crime, are screened in Criminal Court and directed to the appropriate bureau or unit within the District Attorney’s Office for eventual prosecution in Supreme Court. All misdemeanors and violations are prosecuted directly in Criminal Court. The range of misdemeanor cases handled by Criminal Court assistants is wide. It includes, but is not limited to, prostitution, driving while intoxicated, graffiti writing, gambling, petit larceny, menacing and assault. The Chief of the Criminal Court Bureau is Assistant District Attorney Quentin Smith. The Deputy Bureau Chief is Assistant District Attorney Joanne Grippo.

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Pictured, from left, are Assistant District Attorneys: Natalie DiDonna, Pia Das, David Newton, Ameer E. Shah and Craig Trainor (not pictured: Brian M. Jenks)