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## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release on Jan. 25, 2016

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### **D.A. McMahon: Appeals Chief Morrie Kleinbart receives prestigious Morgenthau award**

*\*\*\* Distinguished honor acknowledges Kleinbart's devotion to prosecution \*\*\**

STATEN ISLAND, NY – Richmond County District Attorney Michael E. McMahon today announced that Assistant District Attorney Morrie Kleinbart, Chief of the Appeals Bureau, has been honored with the prestigious Robert M. Morgenthau Award.

The District Attorneys Association of the State of New York presented the distinguished honor to Kleinbart during a ceremony held Friday at the association's Winter Conference in the Grand Hyatt, Manhattan.

"Assistant District Attorney Morrie Kleinbart has been a prosecutor for 29 years and has devoted his life to upholding the law," said District Attorney Michael E. McMahon. "Since joining the office in 2007, he has led the Appeals Bureau and is tireless in his efforts to defend the office and its prosecutions against legal challenges. He is greatly respected among his peers throughout the state and beyond for his counsel and acumen. I want to offer ADA Kleinbart my sincerest congratulations on this well-deserved award."

The award was given by Rockland County District Attorney and current president of DAASNY Thomas P. Zugibe.

"I am truly humbled by this recognition and it is especially meaningful because it is named after the legendary prosecutor for whom I had the privilege to work for over 20 years," said ADA Kleinbart.

ADA Kleinbart oversees the office's Appeals Bureau, which handles all appellate work, defending convictions and sentences against legal challenge in all appellate courts in New York State, including the state's highest court, the New York Court of Appeals. The Bureau is also responsible for defending convictions from collateral attack in state court or by petition for writ of habeas corpus in federal courts. Additionally, the Bureau serves as a valuable legal resource to all attorneys in the office, providing advice and research assistance when requested and helps oversee civil litigation in which the office is involved.

The District Attorneys Association of the State of New York established the Morgenthau Award in 2009. Its name is derived after the illustrious Manhattan district attorney and is presented every year to four assistant district attorneys from four designated regions of the state, each of whom exemplify Morgenthau's high standard of honesty, integrity, and commitment to justice. ADA Kleinbart was selected from Region 2 which also includes Kings, Queens, Nassau, Suffolk, Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland and Westchester counties.

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