

# LEX QUOD ORDO

ASSOCIATION OF PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER | SPRING 2010 VOLUME I ISSUE I

WELCOME TO THE FIRST EDITION OF LEX QUOD ORDO (LAW AND ORDER), the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys' (APA) quarterly newsletter devoted to the field of community prosecution. This newsletter is designed to assist prosecutors, law enforcement and community partners in their efforts to reduce crime and create safer neighborhoods through community prosecution initiatives. Lex Quod Ordo is designed to be a source for information on innovations in prosecutor's offices around the country as well as provide information on APA events and technical assistance services.

The APA was formed last year in January 2009 as a prosecutorial think tank based in our nation's capital. Our mission is to support and enhance the effectiveness of prosecutors in their efforts to create safer communities. Our community prosecution division provides training, publications and technical assistance while maintaining an electronic listserv to foster information sharing. This project is made possible through our partnership with the United States Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA).

APA and the Center for Court Innovation (CCI) have been working towards the development of community prosecution performance measures. These performance measures will serve as a guideline for jurisdictions attempting to measure and determine the impact or success of their community prosecution efforts. However, if you are searching for assistance with community prosecution performance measures you do not have to wait until our monograph is complete. Please see BJA's Center for Program Evaluation and Performance Measurement which has worked with APA and CCI in the development of a community prosecution program area webpage.<sup>1</sup>

On January 25, 2010, APA, in partnership with BJA and CCI, hosted the first meeting of the Community Prosecution Advisory Council (CPAC). This council is comprised of elected district attorneys and city prosecutors who have been identified as national experts and leaders in the area of community prosecution. The purpose of the council is to provide guidance to our nation's prosecutors in their efforts to advance community prosecution. The council discussed issues such as the changing role of the prosecutor in community-based crime prevention efforts and how to provide community members with a voice in the criminal justice process.

One goal that emerged from the discussion was the need for prosecutors to implement the key principles of community prosecution<sup>2</sup> throughout their offices.

APA looks forward to the rest of the year, in which we will be host the 6<sup>th</sup> National Community Prosecution Conference, September 27-29, 2010 in Washington, D.C. Please save the date!

Our first newsletter highlights recent community prosecution programs and activities from the Rockland County District Attorney's Office in New York and the King's County District Attorney's Office in Brooklyn, NY.

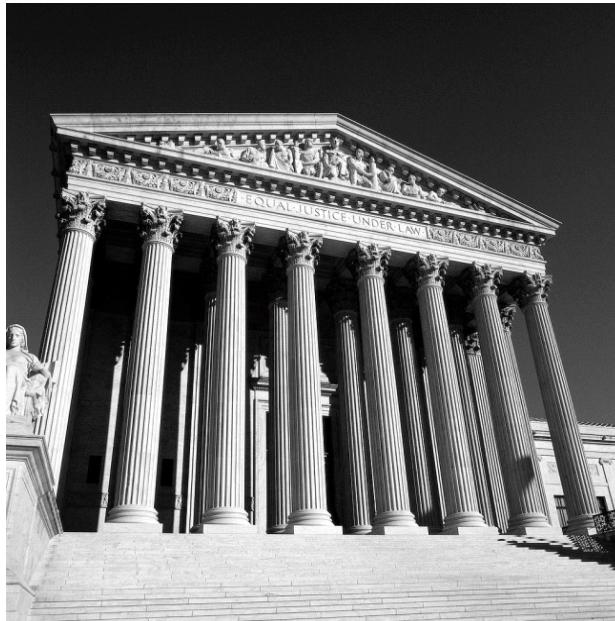
We would like to thank and recognize the prosecutors who contributed to this newsletter and so graciously shared their work with

the field.

Please visit our website at [www.APAInc.org](http://www.APAInc.org), connect with us on our Facebook Fan page and follow us on Twitter. In addition, please feel free to contact me at [Steven.Jansen@apainc.org](mailto:Steven.Jansen@apainc.org) if you need assistance, have questions, or suggestions for issues we should address in future trainings and publications.



-Steven Jansen  
Vice-President and COO



<sup>1</sup> From BJA's website: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/evaluation/program-adjudication/comm-prosecution-index.htm>.

<sup>2</sup> From APA's website: [http://www.apainc.org/html/final\\_key\\_principles\\_updated\\_jan\\_2009.pdf](http://www.apainc.org/html/final_key_principles_updated_jan_2009.pdf)

**KEEPING YOUTH IN SCHOOL AND OUT OF TROUBLE**  
**THE ROCKLAND COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S HIGH SCHOOL INTERVENTION**  
**AND DIVERSION PROGRAM**

BY: DISTRICT ATTORNEY THOMAS P. ZUGIBE AND APA STAFF

AS PART OF A COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY PROSECUTION initiative launched in 2008, Rockland County District Attorney Thomas P. Zugibe has developed and implemented a countywide model program designed to maximize the number of at-risk students who choose to successfully complete their studies rather than face more severe criminal sanctions.

With its southernmost boundary just fifteen miles north of New York City, Rockland is the smallest county geographically in New York State. Like most other suburbs in the New York metropolitan area, Rockland County is facing youth crime trends historically seen in the city's five boroughs, including a rise in truancy, drug abuse, gang involvement and other delinquent behavior.

During his tenure as a judge in the Village of West Haverstraw, District Attorney Zugibe created this program that leverages the authority of the Judiciary to modify behavior by imposing school performance conditions at all stages of the judicial process from arraignment through disposition. Similar to the coercive authority of Drug Court, this diversionary program was created and implemented as an alternative to the formal juvenile justice system for youth who have been charged with a minor crime. By partnering with the North Rockland Central School District, then Judge Zugibe linked the adjudication of offenses committed by High School students to improve school performance and conduct, seeking to divert youthful offenders from the criminal justice system.

During his first year as District Attorney, Thomas Zugibe expanded the successful High School Intervention and Diversion Program (IDP) to include courts in the Village of Haverstraw and the Towns of Haverstraw and Stony Point. In 2009, the Zugibe Administration expanded IDP to all local courtrooms in Rockland County.

The goal of IDP is to reduce dropout rates and facilitate the successful completion of high school by those students who are facing personal, behavioral and legal problems. Moreover, IDP seeks to engage school administrators in the official supervision of those students who are under the jurisdiction of the Criminal Justice System and who have demonstrated

an unwillingness to comply with school rules and regulations.

Zugibe's diversion program employs a variety of sanctions, including restitution to the victim(s), curfew, letter of apology to the victim(s) and substance abuse or mental health counseling and specific school involvement. One unique aspect of the program allows young offenders to serve community service hours in a specially designated "homework room" at their school. This option allows at-risk students, already struggling with coursework, to get the extra help they need, providing another opportunity to avoid failure and dropout.

By expanding the High School Intervention and Diversion Program to each courtroom in Rockland, law enforcement, judges and educators are able to supervise participating students regarding judicially imposed conditions with uniformity throughout the county.

The target population includes all male and female youth under 18 years of age with a focus upon youth 16 years and younger. These youth are at high risk of becoming serious or chronic offenders. By partnering public school districts with Community Prosecutors and Rockland County's two dozen local courts, IDP has yielded significantly lower recidivism and dropout rates, while ameliorating the problem of overburdened juvenile courts and overcrowded corrections institutions.

For further information on this initiative please contact Kristen Conklin, Rockland County Senior Assistant District Attorney, at 845-638-5001 or [conklink@co.rockland.ny.us](mailto:conklink@co.rockland.ny.us).



## COMMUNITY CORNER



CONNECTING WITH YOUR COMMUNITY is a crucial and often difficult task for a prosecutor. The King's County District Attorney's Office bridged the gap between their office and the community through sponsoring and coaching a little league baseball team called Hynes' Heroes, named after DA Charles J. Hynes. Initially, the community and families of the players were skeptical about the prosecutor-coaches, but by the end of the season the relationships they forged proved to be beneficial for everyone. Assistant District Attorneys Brandon Smith and Paul Vitale, due to their presence in the community as coaches and mentors, were able to transform their community's view of the Office, increase cooperation with prosecutors, and bolster residents' views of the District Attorney's Office and the criminal justice system.

"Community Corner" will highlight programs designed to connect prosecutor's offices with their communities and enhance community relations. If you would like to be featured in future issues, please contact Syrita Simpkins at [Syrita.Simpkins@apainc.org](mailto:Syrita.Simpkins@apainc.org).

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### MISSION

SUPPORT AND ENHANCE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PROSECUTORS IN  
THEIR EFFORTS TO CREATE SAFER COMMUNITIES.

### SAVE THE DATE

The Association of Prosecuting Attorneys will host the 6th National Community Prosecution Conference from September 27-29, 2010 in Washington, D.C.

The conference will be held at the Capital Hilton, 1001 16th St NW, Washington D.C. 20036. Call 1-800-HILTONS or (202)393-1000 for reservations. Book by September 6th, 2010 for APA rate.

To register for the conference, please visit our website at [www.APAInc.org](http://www.APAInc.org).

Interested in future newsletter contributions or want to help highlight an innovative program? Please contact Syrta Simpkins at [Syrta.Simpkins@apainc.org](mailto:Syrta.Simpkins@apainc.org).

For other trainings and webinars please refer to the APA website.

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