

ADDA
2014 Awards Dinner
Thursday, October 30, 2014

Millennium Biltmore Hotel
 506 South Grand Avenue, Los Angeles

Los Angeles County Association of Deputy District Attorneys



Michele Gilmer
 2014 DDA of the Year Award

Jose Cisneros
 2014 DA Investigator Award

William Hodgman
 2014 Career Prosecutor Award

Geoff Levin
 Outstanding Prosecutor
 (Specialized Prosecutions)

Joy Roberts
 Outstanding Prosecutor
 (Specialized Prosecutions)

Christmas Brookens
 Outstanding Prosecutor
 (Central Operations)

Emily Spear
 Outstanding Prosecutor
 (Branch and Area Operations)

Max Huntsman
 Pursuit of Justice Award

Sean Hassell
 Pursuit of Justice Award

Edward Miller
 Pursuit of Justice Award

William Clark
 Pursuit of Justice Award

JoAnn Lach
 President's Award

Chief Jim McDonnell
 Pursuit of Justice Award

Please make checks payable and mail to:
 ADDA Dinner Committee
 5533 Garth Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90056
 (Also payable at the door with RSVP)

RSVP: for tables and tickets:
 (213) 974-3935 or email to:
 bobbygdax2@yahoo.com
 or lmail@yahoo.com

Special Guest Speaker

Edmund G. Brown Jr.
 Governor - State of California

\$100 per person

**\$65 per person, DDAs,
 DA Staff, Law Enforcement
 and Gov't Employees**

**\$35 per person
 for ADDA members**

Valet and Pershing Square Parking Available

Additional inquiries may be made to Bobby Grace at (213) 974-3935 or email: bobbygdax2@yahoo.com

Calendar of Events

- Saturday, October 18: Saturday Seminar, BOS Auditorium
- Tuesday, October 21: ADDA Board of Directors Regular Meeting
AFSCME, 514 Shatto Place
Los Angeles, California
- Wednesday, October 22: Quarterly ADDA Membership Meeting
Taix French Country Cuisine
1191 Sunset Blvd.
Los Angeles, California
- Tuesday, October 28: Last day to apply for Vote-By-Mail
- Thursday, October 30: ADDA Awards Dinner
Millennium Biltmore Hotel
506 S. Grand, Los Angeles, California
- Tuesday, November 4: Statewide General Election
- Saturday, November 15: Saturday Seminar, BOS Auditorium
- Tuesday, November 18: ADDA Board of Directors Regular Meeting
AFSCME, 514 Shatto Place
Los Angeles, California
- Saturday, December 13: Saturday Seminar, BOS Auditorium
- Tuesday, December 16: ADDA Board of Directors Regular Meeting
AFSCME, 514 Shatto Place
Los Angeles, California

ADDA

c/o AFSCME District Council 36
 514 Shatto Place
 Los Angeles, CA 90020

New ADDA By Laws Ratified and Implemented

The ADDA membership overwhelmingly approved a significant By Laws revision on August 5, 2014. Many improvements on the old version were made, including:

- A percentage-based dues structure (0.6% of gross pay) which reduces dues for most people and provides some relief to our part-time DDAs who have been paying the full rate;
- The creation of a Political Action Committee (PAC) so that we can endorse and support political candidates;
- Regular membership meetings open to all members in good standing (in addition to the monthly Board of Directors meetings, which are also open to members);
- A reduction in the number of Directors from 21 to 11;
- The addition of three elected Trustees to independently oversee a yearly audit of the union's finances;
- A reduction in the term of office for Directors from three years to two;
- Better definitions for the duties of Officers and Directors; and
- A clearly defined elections procedure, including an appeals process.

Many of the changes (such as regular membership meetings, the election procedure, and the creation of the Trustee positions) are required by our affiliation with AFSCME. Others, such as the reduction of the number of Directors or the percentage-based dues structure, reflect an attempt to solve problems we've encountered over the years. Included in the revision are provisions that will allow the By Laws to continue to be functional even if the membership should choose to end the affiliation with AFSCME.

Coupled with the Unincorporation vote last year, this significant restructuring of the union positions us to become stronger and more politically active in the coming years.



ADDA
 Association of Deputy District Attorneys

FALL 2014

ADDA Endorsements

ADDA has made the following endorsements for the 2014 election, to be held Tuesday, November 4.

Los Angeles County Supervisor, 3rd District: Sheila Kuehl
 Los Angeles County Sheriff: Jim McDonnell
 Los Angeles County Assessor: John Morris

Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge: Dayan Mathai, Tom Griego

Proposition 47 (Reduction of Criminal Sentences): Oppose
 U.S. Congress (33rd District): Elan Carr

California Election Update: Primary Election Recap

By James R. Bozajjan, Associate Member of ADDA

The most striking feature of the 2014 California Primary Election was the incredibly low level of voter participation. Statewide, only 25% of registered voters showed up to vote in June. In Los Angeles County, turnout was an abysmal 17%. These figures mark a modern-day record for non-participation, and the shrunken composition of the Primary electorate yielded some interesting and often surprising results at the polls.

With term limits finally kicking in, the races for two open seats on the County Board of Supervisors ended as generally expected. In the 1st District, Hilda Solis, whose political resume includes service in the State Legislature, U.S. Congress, and as U.S. Secretary of Labor, captured 70% of the vote against two other candidates and was thereby elected outright. Solis, who was endorsed by ADDA, will assume the seat being vacated by 23-year incumbent Gloria Molina. In the 3rd District, the eight-candidate race was winnowed down to the top two vote-getters: Sheila Kuehl, former State Assemblymember and Senator; and Bobby Shriver, former Santa Monica City Councilmember and Mayor. This seat is open due to the retirement of 20-year incumbent Zev Yaroslavsky.

Prosecutors fared incredibly well in the Primary. A total of 16 Deputy District Attorneys filed to run for 15 Los Angeles County Superior Court offices (14 of them open). There was, in fact, at least one DDA running in each of the slots up for election.

Three of them — Chris Frisco, Serena Murillo, and Ann Park — were elected in uncontested races. Nine deputies were elected to open seats by garnering more than 50% of the vote in the Primary. They include: Donna Hollingsworth Armstrong, Amy Carter, Joan Chrostek, Andrew Cooper, Alison Matsumoto Estrada, Shannon Knight, Teresa Pineda Magno, Carol Rose, and Stacy Okun Wiese. One deputy, Dayan Mathai, received a plurality of the vote but was forced into a November run-off in his three-way race because he fell short of a majority. Finally, Carol Najera unseated an incumbent judicial officer. Historically,

defeating an incumbent judge has been extraordinarily difficult and an exceedingly rare occurrence.

Only two of our deputies lost their judicial races. One was running against a fellow DDA. The other was running in a three-way contest against a Deputy City Attorney and a criminal defense attorney who disguised himself as a prosecutor by using the ballot designation of "gang/homicide attorney." Such an intellectually dishonest title would probably have been removed if someone had thought to lodge a protest — but no one did so.

There were two other Countywide races on the Primary ballot involving open seats. In both cases, no one received more than 50% of the vote, and so the top two finishers will square off in the General Election. There were seven candidates vying to succeed 16-year Sheriff Lee Baca. Jim McDonnell, Long Beach Police Chief and former Los Angeles Police Department Assistant Chief, and Paul Tanaka, Mayor of Gardena and former Assistant Sheriff, came out on top. In the race for Assessor, the winners in a field of 12 candidates were Deputy District Attorney John Morris and Jeffrey Prang, Special Assistant to the Assessor and a West Hollywood City Councilmember. Morris and Prang are vying to succeed current Assessor John Noguez, who is stepping down in the wake of an open criminal case alleging multiple felony charges stemming from misconduct in office.

There was one federal contest of note, that being the open race for the U.S. House of Representatives in California's 33rd Congressional District. Deputy District Attorney Elan Carr and California State Senator Ted Lieu finished first and second in a remarkable, 18-candidate field. They will now face off against each other in November.

Looking Ahead to the General Election

Several races of interest to prosecutors are shaping up for the General Election. They include contests at the federal, State, and County levels. Turnout in November will undoubtedly be higher than it was in June, but is nonetheless expected to remain

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California Election Update

Continued

very low by historical standards. All of which makes it more challenging to predict the outcome of individual races.

In the Primary Election for the County's 3rd Supervisorial District, Sheila Kuehl beat Bobby Shriver by a margin of 36% to 29%, with the remaining votes split between six other candidates. Kuehl's showing was widely regarded as stronger than expected, Shriver's weaker. Still, these two candidates are fairly evenly matched and the General Election should be close. But Kuehl's numbers in the Primary make her at least a slight favorite here. After the Primary, ADDA interviewed both candidates and voted to endorse Kuehl.

The race for County Assessor is nearly always difficult to . . . assess. It is a non-partisan election for a relatively obscure office that ordinarily does not receive much public attention. The two candidates in the General Election — Deputy District Attorney John Morris and Jeffrey Prang — fought to a dead heat in the Primary, with Prang receiving 18% of the vote, Morris garnering 17%, and 10 other candidates getting the rest. Most analysts project a close contest that could tip either way. ADDA has endorsed Morris.

In California's 33rd U.S. Congressional District, Deputy District Attorney Elan Carr received a plurality of 22% of the vote, topping a field of 18 candidates in one of the most high-profile House races in California. Ted Lieu finished a close second, with 19% of the vote. Carr had an impressive showing in the Primary that generally exceeded expectations, no doubt due in part to a higher concentration of Republican voters in a low turnout election. But Carr will face a much more difficult task in the General Election when going head-to-head with Lieu. The reason is strictly partisan. Carr is a Republican, Lieu is a Democrat. The partisan composition of the District is 43% Democrat, 27% Republican, and 30% Independent/Other. Yet Carr is expected to put up a spirited fight. Historically, the Republican share of the actual vote in the 33rd Congressional District is higher than the raw registration numbers would lead one to believe. In the 2012 General Election, for instance, an Independent candidate held the incumbent Democrat to a narrow victory. 2014 is expected to be a good year for Republicans, but this would be a steep climb for any Republican candidate. ADDA has endorsed Carr.

There are two remaining races for Los Angeles County Superior Court. In both cases, there were three candidates running in the Primary, no one received the requisite majority to avoid a run-off, and the top two vote-getters will therefore meet again one-on-one.

Good News for Open Enrollment

By Tris Carpenter, AFSCME/ADDA Business Representative

As you probably know, October is Open Enrollment month for Los Angeles County employees. There's some good news on the horizon for the ADDA.

For health insurance benefits, both Anthem Blue Cross and Kaiser are decreasing their rates for 2015 by a little over 2% for each

In Office #61, Deputy District Attorney Dayan Mathai will compete against Superior Court Commissioner Jacqueline Lewis. In the Primary, Mathai beat Lewis by a margin of 47% to 41%. In Office #67, Los Angeles Deputy City Attorney Tom Griego will go up

against criminal defense attorney Andrew Stein. In the Primary, Stein bested Griego by a margin of 37% to 34%. ADDA has endorsed Mathai and Griego in their respective races. Both of these contests are thought to be competitive.

In the race for County Sheriff, Jim McDonnell

finished quite well in the Primary, coming within a fraction of a percentage point of receiving a majority of the vote and winning outright. Trailing far behind were the other six candidates for Sheriff, who split the remainder. Paul Tanaka collected 15% of the Primary vote — less than one-third of McDonnell's haul — and will proceed to the General Election as a considerable underdog. Few analysts see this race as potentially competitive, and McDonnell is expected to win easily. ADDA has endorsed McDonnell.

There is only one Statewide measure on the General Election ballot of significance to prosecutors. Misleadingly entitled, "Criminal Sentences Initiative." Proposition 47 would mandate a reduction in criminal sentences for numerous theft-related offenses such as non-residential burglary, receiving stolen property, and forgery. Passage of this referendum would result in current alternative felony/misdemeanor crimes ("wobblers") involving losses of less than \$950 becoming straight misdemeanors. Possession of any illegal drug would also become an automatic misdemeanor. Moreover, the legislation would apply retroactively. Hence, all defendants previously convicted of felonies falling into these categories would retroactively have their crimes reduced to misdemeanors. Because of the elimination of prosecutorial discretion and the adverse impact to public safety, ADDA has taken a position in opposition to Proposition 47.

Election Day is November 4th, and absentee/vote-by-mail voting begins soon. ADDA encourages you to take the time to vote in this election.

variant and level of their respective products. While that only translates into \$5-\$25 back in your pocket each month, it's a relief from the big increases that we've seen over the last decade.

Delta Dental will be going up, but by less than a dollar per month at each level. DeltaCare USA, however, is going down by about

the same amount. Safeguard rates stayed the same as 2014.

In other good news, as a result of the retiree health care negotiations last year, the cap on the Horizons 457 savings plan was raised. For those who remember, the total amount that the County will match on your contribution to the 457 Plan has been capped; when the money is gone (usually in May), letters go out informing participants that there is no match for the remainder of the fiscal year. For FY 2014-2015, the cap will be \$130 million (up from \$121 million in FY 2013-2014). Beginning, July 1, 2015, there will no longer be a cap.

AV Bonus Issues

There have been some questions and complaints about the so-called "Lancaster Bonus" and how or why it applies differently to Grade 2 DDAs. The bonus system is established in the County Code 6.70.020.

Grade 2 Bonus

Grade 2s are treated differently than Grade 3s, 4s, and 5s in terms of this bonus. Grade 2s have 9 levels, Steps 1 through 9. If you are a Grade 2 in either Step 1 through 4 and you are transferred to Lancaster your salary is immediately increased to Step 5. So the biggest bonus as a Grade 2 is when you are transferred to Lancaster as a Step 1 because you then leap to Step 5. When you hit your anniversary date you then become a Step 6, and so on, up to Step 9. So long as you are a Grade 2, your distance from home to work does not determine your eligibility; the bonus applies regardless of where you live.

If you are already a Step 5 through Step 9, you do not get a bonus.

When you leave Lancaster, you revert to whatever Grade 2 Step you would have had if you had not been transferred to Lancaster. For example, if you started in Lancaster as a Grade 2 Step 2 and you worked there two years, you would be paid at the level of a Grade 2 Step 7. When you are transferred out of Lancaster two years later you would revert to a Grade 2 Step 4.

If you get promoted to Grade 3 while in Lancaster you get whatever Grade 3 Step is 5.5% above your current Lancaster Grade 2 Step. Also, if you are promoted from a Grade 2 to a Grade 3 in Lancaster, once you leave Lancaster your Grade 3 Step would be reduced 5.5% from whatever Grade 3 step you would have attained if you had not been transferred.

Grade 3 and 4 Bonus

The Grade 3 and 4 bonus is a straight 5.5%. It is not a Step increase. A DDA Grade 3-5 gets the 5.5% raise even if they are topped out in a particular Grade. They lose the bonus when they leave Lancaster. The criteria for this bonus is that you must live more than 30 miles from the courthouse. The bonus is removed if and when you are transferred from Lancaster.

The Problem

Obviously, the problem arises for anyone who is at Grade 2 Step 5 or above who then gets transferred to Lancaster. For them, there is no bonus, no matter how far away they live. There is no bonus until they become a Grade 3.

In my role as an AFSCME Business Representative, I was assigned to the retiree health care negotiations and the Choices negotiations (the plan that covers about half the County's 100,000 employees). The Flex and MegaFlex Plans, as you probably know, are not negotiated plans where the various unions have a say in the structure and/or cost of benefits. However, benefits won in the Choices and Options (SEIU) plan negotiations are usually reflected in the Flex and MegaFlex plans.

If you have any questions about those benefit negotiations, or have an idea for the next round (in 2015), please let me know.

The ADDA is looking into how we can change this policy. It may be that this is something we need to address at the next MOU/contract negotiations in Spring 2015.

In order for the ADDA to be successful in negotiations we need all DDAs Grades 1-4 to become full dues paying members. Applications can be found on our website at la-ADDA.com. For a few dollars more you can make your union significantly more effective and communicate your support for the ADDA's efforts to negotiate on your behalf. Full membership sends a message to the County that our Union is strong, unified and backs the Board's efforts.

AFSCME-Sponsored AB 634 Becomes Law: ADDA Can Help Members Protect Confidential Personal Info

AB 634, a bill sponsored by AFSCME and lobbied heavily by the ADDA, became law on September 28. Assembly Majority Whip Jimmy Gomez (D – Echo Park) authored the bill.

Public safety officials, including DDAs, have the right to demand removal of their home address and telephone number from records published on the Internet. This can be applied to records held by public entities, such as a County Registrar-Recorder, as well as private companies and online information clearinghouses like Spokeo or WhitePages.com.

The new change allows collective bargaining agents, like the ADDA, to make those demands with the permission of their members. The advantage is that, instead of a lone DDA asserting his or her right to demand removal of such information, the union (which is presumably better equipped financially and otherwise to enforce its members rights than the lone individual) can make the demand on behalf of the individual member.

In the coming months, ADDA will discuss how best to utilize this new law to the advantage of its membership.

ADDA Endorses Sheila Kuehl for County Supervisor

In late August, the ADDA Board of Directors voted to endorse Sheila Kuehl in her run for the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. Kuehl is running for the 3rd LA County Supervisorial District (West Side and San Fernando Valley), a seat currently held by Zev Yaroslavsky, who will term out.

The race is an important one for all County employees. Two of the five Supervisors who will be seated come December have tended to be Labor friendly (Ridley-Thomas and the incoming Hilda Solis). Adding a third Labor-friendly vote should prove to be a major shift in priorities at the Board of Supervisors.

In the interviews with the ADDA Board, Kuehl clearly demonstrated a command of County governance issues, and was much more on point than her challenger, Bobby Shriver. Of course, Kuehl's background serves her well in that regard, she served for eight years in the California State Senate and six years in the State Assembly, and is a Founding Director of the Public Policy Institute at Santa Monica College.

ADDA Awards Dinner Update

The Association of Deputy District Attorneys will host its annual awards dinner, Thursday October 30, 2014 at the beautiful Biltmore Hotel in downtown Los Angeles. As our office prepares to move into the historic Hall of Justice it is appropriate for us to celebrate the achievements of our colleagues at the most historic venue in Los Angeles. The event will begin with cocktail reception at 6:00 pm and dinner at 6:45 pm.

The ADDA will honor the best of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. The honorees include Assistant District Attorney William Hodgman who will receive the Career Prosecutor Award. Mr. Hodgman is universally recognized as one of the top trial lawyers in the history of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. He is nationally known for his prowess as a litigator and is probably best known for his work in the Charles Keating case. Keating was convicted of banking fraud after investigators looked into the failing Lincoln Savings and Loan Company in the early 1990's. The Keating case was a precursor to the current banking industry crisis.

The District Attorney of the Year for 2013-2014 is Michelle Gilmer. Michelle is being honored for her stellar work in the prosecutions of State Senator Roderick Wright and former Los Angeles City Council member Richard Alarcon. Both politicians were convicted of voter fraud related to campaign residency paperwork they filed to qualify to run for office in their respective districts.

The ADDA will also give out awards for Investigator of the Year, Specialized Prosecutions Attorney of the Year, Branch and Area and Central Operations Attorneys of the Year and several others. The ADDA will give a special Pursuit of Justice Award to Long Beach Police Chief Jim McDonnell. Chief McDonnell has been a pioneer in the implementation of community policing, first as a deputy chief with the Los Angeles Police Department and now as chief of the Long Beach Police Department. Los Angeles County

"As a legislator, attorney, law professor and victims' advocate, Sheila Kuehl has broad experience in issues of public safety," said Marc Debbaudt, ADDA President. "The Board voted overwhelmingly to support Sheila for Los Angeles County Supervisor and trusts she will be a great partner in strengthening our County's justice system."

"I am honored to have the support of an organization whose members play such a critical role in Los Angeles County's justice system," said Kuehl. "I look forward to working with ADDA to develop innovative ways to strengthen our justice system and courts."

More information about how you can assist ADDA and Kuehl can be found at our website at www.LA-ADDA.com.

District Attorney Jackie Lacey will present the award to Chief McDonnell.

Tickets for this exciting awards dinner are now available at the following prices:

ADDA Members – \$35.00 dollars

Deputy District Attorneys and law enforcement - \$65.00 dollars

Public - \$100.00

Guests may RSVP with Dinner chair Bobby Grace at bobbygdax2@yahoo.com or by county mail. Tickets may be purchased individually or in tables of ten. Contact any ADDA member for further information

Deadline for payments is Friday, October 25, 2014. Contact Dinner Chair Bobby Grace with questions and table information.