

Solano County District Attorney's Office

Newsletter

Krishna A. Abrams, District Attorney

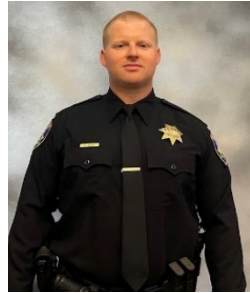
IN MEMORY OF CAREER PROSECUTOR MARY SMITH



It is with great sadness that we share the passing of one of our beloved DA family members, Mary Smith. Mary passed away peacefully on July 10, 2024, surrounded by her loved ones. Mary was such a special person. Throughout her long and successful career at our office, she worked a wide variety of different assignments and

became known as the "law and motion guru." If you had a legal issue, Mary would always find the answer. Besides being brilliant, Mary was funny, witty, and always smiling regardless of the circumstance. We are eternally grateful that we had the privilege to know and work alongside Mary throughout her long and successful career. For over 17 years at the District Attorney's Office, Mary fought the good fight for the People. Even after Mary retired, she continued to fight the good fight against cancer. She was a fearless warrior who never lost her sense of humor, her ability to laugh, and smile throughout this painful journey. Mary's strength and courage has been an inspiration to all of us. We pray for all of Mary's friends, family, and colleagues during this difficult time. Heaven definitely gained another angel.

FALLEN VACAVILLE POLICE OFFICER MATTHEW BOWEN



On behalf of the Solano County District Attorney's Office, we extend our thoughts and prayers to Officer Matthew Bowen's family, friends, Vacaville Police Department, Concord Police Department, and our entire community in which Officer Bowen loved and proudly served.

Law enforcement officers go to work each and every day to protect and serve the public while risking their lives to make our neighborhoods safer. Officer Bowen embodied the greatest of those qualities and was unwavering in his dedication to service. We feel blessed and honored to have known him and to have worked with him.

Officer Bowen will be forever remembered and never forgotten for his bravery and commitment to public service. He strongly believed in serving our community and laid down his life in doing so.

To you Officer Bowen, we thank you for your commitment to service and we honor you for your dedication to duty. We shall never forget you or the great work you did for Concord Police Department, Vacaville Police Department, and Solano County.

JUSTICE FOR ERICA BROWN

On July 25, 2024, in Department 23 of the Solano County Superior Court before the Honorable John B. Ellis, the jury found Defendant Mark Randle Guilty of Murder in the First Degree.

On the night of August 20, 2023, the defendant physically assaulted his girlfriend, Erica Brown, during an argument. Two hours later, Erica Brown was dead. The defendant disposed of her body, destroyed evidence of the crime, and went on the run. Erica Brown was never seen or heard from again. To this day, her body has not been found.

After the verdict, the defendant was remanded into custody without bail. He faces 25 years to life in state prison for this senseless and horrific act of violence. The case was investigated by Fairfield Police Detective Sean Spillner and prosecuted by Deputy District Attorneys Mary Nguyen and Elaine Kuo. District Attorney Investigator Brandi Aguilar assisted throughout the trial. The District Attorney Victim Witness Unit provided victim support.

NATIONAL NIGH OUT



It was great to see so many of our law enforcement partners and community members at all the neighborhood block parties on August 6, 2024. Participating in National Night Out is a great way to engage with your local law enforcement officers. Since 1984, communities, neighbors, and law enforcement agencies have been celebrating National Night Out on the first Tuesday in August. We believe that by working together and building strong relationships between neighbors and law enforcement, we can achieve a true sense of community. Working with one another builds trust and strengthens the safety of our community. Together we make Solano County a great place to work, live and play.



2024 SUMMER INTERNS AND LAW CLERKS

Our internship program continues to thrive. This summer we had another enthusiastic and talented group of student interns and law clerks working at the District Attorney's Office. Our interns provide an invaluable resource to our investigators, prosecutors, and support staff, while at the same time gaining vital experience in the field of criminal prosecution. We'd like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the students who stepped up to assist our office in carrying out the mission of seeking and doing justice every day. Their dedication and commitment to this work never went unnoticed and their time here truly made a difference.

If you or anyone you know is interested in gaining experience from the Solano County District Attorney's Office please visit our website at <https://www.solanocounty.com/.../volunteer.../default.asp> for the different intern positions we have available.



Sydney Wang, Patrick Fabi, Jaia Perry,
Jason Braun, Lavani Madadi



Isaac Beltran, Sarah Navarro,
Michelle Ruffner, Thomas McGrath

CATHY BRETT RETIRES AFTER 29 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE



Congratulations to Cathy Brett, who has had a long and successful career in public service. After two years of working in the Solano Courts (Vallejo Division), Cathy joined the clerical staff of the District Attorney's Office in 1997. Throughout her career, Cathy handled a wide variety of assignments and responsibilities. She was always resourceful, helpful, and the ultimate team player. Cathy worked tirelessly in supporting all prosecutors on their cases. She was always the first one in the office to make sure she could assist them. In 2018, Cathy was promoted to Clerical Operations Supervisor where she became instrumental in running the Vallejo Office. Her great qualities of leadership, communications skills, and ability to problem-solve made her an invaluable asset. Thank you Cathy for your unwavering commitment and dedication to public service. We congratulate you on your retirement and wish you and your family much fun in your new chapter.

DEFENDANT FOUND GUILTY OF MURDER JUSTICE FOR TIMOTHY PULT

On July 24, 2024, in Department 2 of the Solano County Superior Court, before the Honorable Judge Daniel Healy, the jury found Defendant Kashius Brazeal-Nelson Guilty of First-Degree Felony Murder in violation of California Penal Code Section 187.



On December 20, 2016, at approximately 3 p.m., Defendant Brazeal-Nelson and his co-defendant burst into Pawn Advantage, a pawnshop located at the corner of Springs Road and Rollingwood Avenue in the city of Vallejo. The defendant, wearing a mask and armed with a loaded semi-automatic firearm, proceeded to rob the employees in the store. Defendant Brazeal-Nelson then brought Timothy Pult, the owner of Pawn Advantage, into the back of the store where the safes were located. At that time, his co-defendant fired a shot at one of the employees in the front of the store who had produced a handgun. Defendant Brazeal-Nelson executed Mr. Pult at point-blank range and then shot and killed "Copper," the dog, as he exited the business.

Defendant Brazeal-Nelson was later identified by his step-father. Detectives from the Vallejo Police Department learned that Defendant Brazeal-Nelson had been arrested for another armed robbery by West Sacramento Police Department on January 12, 2017. At that time, detectives from the West Sacramento Police Department worked collaboratively with detectives from the Vallejo Police Department to solidify the defendant's role in this horrific crime. The case was prosecuted by Chief Deputy District Attorney Bruce T. Flynn.



Contact Information

If you or someone you know has been a victim of a crime or has any questions or concerns, please contact our office.

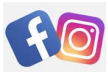
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