



DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE OF CHESTER COUNTY

201 W. MARKET STREET, SUITE 4450

POST OFFICE BOX 2748

WEST CHESTER, PENNSYLVANIA 19380-0991

TELEPHONE: 610-344-6801

FAX: 610-344-5905

Thomas P. Hogan
District Attorney

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PRESS RELEASE

Chester County District Attorney Names New Deputies

Chester County District Attorney Tom Hogan announced the promotion of four prosecutors to the position of Deputy District Attorneys. The new Deputy District Attorneys are Michelle Frei, Thomas Ost-Prisco, Renée Merion, and Mark Conte.

District Attorney Hogan stated, "The new deputies are dedicated and experienced prosecutors. They all have distinct areas of expertise. The District Attorney's Office just made a strong leadership team even stronger."

The background for the new deputies is as follows:

- Michelle Frei: Ms. Frei has been a prosecutor for 12 years. She received her undergraduate degree from Gettysburg College and her law degree from Villanova University School of Law. She is the head of domestic violence prosecutions in Chester County and also handles a full trial list before the Honorable Thomas G. Gavin. Most recently, Ms. Frei was part of the team that convicted Laquanta Chapman of first degree murder in a death penalty case.

- Thomas Ost-Prisco: Mr. Ost-Prisco has been a prosecutor for 15 years. He received his undergraduate degree from Ursinus College and his law degree from Widener University School of Law. He is in charge of arson and explosives investigations in the County, acting as a liaison to Chester County fire departments and arson investigators. In addition, he is assigned to trial duties before the Honorable Ronald C. Nagle.
- Renée Merion: Ms. Merion has been a prosecutor for 19 years. She received her undergraduate degree from Sweet Briar College and her law degree from Widener University School of Law. She is the head of the Chester County District Attorney's Juvenile Unit, handling all aspects of juvenile prosecutions.
- Mark Conte: Mr. Conte has been a prosecutor for 13 years. He received his undergraduate degree from Millersville University and his law degree from Widener University School of Law. In addition to his trial assignments, Mr. Conte is in charge of trial advocacy training for the District Attorney's Office. He is assigned to the courtroom of the Honorable James P. MacElree II, the President Judge of Chester County.

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Approved for release:

Thomas P. Hogan