

Risa Vetri Ferman
District Attorney



County of Montgomery
Courthouse
Norristown, Pennsylvania
19404

SPECIAL COMMENDATION

FIRST ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY KEVIN R. STEELE

For your leadership, investigative skill and prosecutorial excellence, you are hereby commended for exemplary performance.

In 2014 alone, you personally prosecuted and obtained five first degree murder convictions in two vicious murders, Joseph McAndrews and Ragu Yandamuri. Your outstanding investigative and trial skills and work ethic led to the proper verdicts and justice for the McAndrews and Venna families.

You have demonstrated a strong sense of teamwork and collaboration that has allowed the Montgomery County law enforcement community to thrive. One example, of many, this year was the trial of a Pottstown man who fired upon law enforcement officers responding to a call. You personally prosecuted this challenging case to stand up for those who protect us daily.

My colleague, Adams County DA Shawn Wagner recently wrote to me about your unwavering support of law enforcement. When Wildlife Conservation Officer David Grove was ambushed and murdered in Adams County, you volunteered to work on the case with DA Wagner to ensure justice was done. DA Wagner noted your trial skill, relentless pursuit of truth and justice and your humility. After the verdict and death sentence, you deflected attention from yourself and requested the focus be on the victim's family and fellow law enforcement officers.

You were tasked with examining two high profile errors and developing systemic improvements. Through your work with academics and professionals in quality control, you and your team recommended changes to the office structure to ensure accuracy and accountability in all cases, from investigation through charging and prosecution, all to ensure the fair administration of justice. In recognition of your work in best practices, the President of the PA District Attorneys Association appointed you to the Statewide Best Practices Committee for Prosecutors. Your understanding of the need for us to tackle violent offenders led to the creation of the first Violent Crime and Technology Unit in the Detective Bureau.

For your unwavering commitment to justice, human compassion and decency and a sense of fairness that the justice system demands, is in the highest tradition of public service and the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office.

Presented this 15th day of January, 2015


Risa Vetri Ferman