



United States Attorney District of New Jersey

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STAFF OF U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY HONORED AT THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE'S ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

WASHINGTON – Paul J. Fishman, the United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey, announced today that three representatives of the Office are recipients of this year's Attorney General awards. Deputy U.S. Attorney William Fitzpatrick and Assistant U.S. Attorneys Erez Liebermann and Seth B. Kosto were honored today at the Department of Justice's 58th Annual Awards Ceremony.

Today, Attorney General Eric Holder recognized 303 Department of Justice employees and 55 other individuals for their distinguished public service. Held at DAR Constitution Hall, this annual ceremony recognizes both department employees and others for their dedication to carrying out the Department of Justice's mission.

"It is my pleasure to congratulate this year's Attorney General Award winners and to recognize their extraordinary contributions," Attorney General Holder said. "Not only is their service to our nation inspiring, it is strengthening the work of the Justice Department at every level and making a powerful difference for people across our country, and far beyond. This year's awardees exemplify the Department's finest traditions, and I am privileged, and grateful, to count them as colleagues."

U.S. Attorney Fishman said, "Bill, Erez, and Seth are all remarkable lawyers in the great tradition of this Office. They are true professionals who are admired by their colleagues for their expertise and leadership. I am proud that the Attorney General recognizes the important contributions our Office makes to law enforcement nationwide."

The Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service is the Department's second-highest award for employee performance. William Fitzpatrick was among the 17 individuals who received this award today for their significant contribution to the review of Guantanamo detainees conducted last year by the Guantanamo Review Task Force. In various leadership roles, the recipients were responsible for directing, guiding, and supporting the review effort to ensure that the task force collected and analyzed all relevant information and provided informed and reasoned recommendations to senior officials.

Erez Liebermann and Seth B. Kosto were also honored with the Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service for their roles in directing the largest and most successful identity theft and hacking investigations and prosecutions ever conducted in the United States. The team also included: from the Department's Criminal Division's Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section Howard Cox, Assistant Deputy Chief; Kimberly Kiefer Peretti, Senior Counsel; and Trial Attorneys Evan C. Williams and Jenny C. Ellickson; from the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Massachusetts, Stephen P. Heymann, Assistant U.S. Attorney; from the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York, William Campos, Assistant U.S. Attorney; from the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Minnesota, Timothy C. Rank, Assistant U.S. Attorney; from the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of California, Orlando Gutierrez, Assistant U.S. Attorney; and from the U.S. Secret Service, Special Agents Peter Gannon, Andrew J. Bonillo Jr., Jeremy J. Ehrhardt, Stuart K. Van Buren, and Richard K. LaTulip.

The team's work resulted in the identification of an international hacking ring; the apprehension of its members in the United States, the Middle East, and Asia; and their conviction before American and foreign courts.

Liebermann and Kosto investigated a series of intrusions into the networks of major payment processor Heartland Payment Systems, Hannaford Supermarkets, and the 7-Eleven convenience store chain. This was the single largest data breach ever identified in the United States, and resulted in the exposure of over 130 million customer records. Albert Gonzalez, identified as a member of the ring responsible for the intrusions, was convicted and sentenced to 20 years in prison, the longest cybercrime sentence ever adjudicated in the United States.

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