



## ***United States Attorney District of New Jersey***

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### **U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY HONORED WITH MULTIPLE DIRECTOR'S AWARDS**

NEWARK, N.J. – Paul J. Fishman, United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey, announced today that six members of the Office, along with law enforcement agents with whom they worked, received awards today at the Department of Justice's 27th annual Executive Office for United States Attorneys Director's Awards Ceremony. A total of 159 award recipients from more than 45 districts were recognized for their dedication to carrying out the mission of the Department of Justice. Recipients included Assistant United States Attorneys, law enforcement agents, litigation teams and others who have made outstanding contributions in federal, state and local law enforcement.

U.S. Attorney Fishman stated: "That our Office is celebrated in so many categories is a testament to the breadth and depth of the talent of our staff. I am proud that the Department of Justice recognizes the important contributions our Office makes to law enforcement nationwide."

Assistant United States Attorney Shana W. Chen, Criminal Division Chief Nancy Hoppock, and paralegal Camille R. Capaccio – along with Ronald C. Conyers, Joseph D. Salavarría, Angelo L. Valentino, and Rosario Amorim of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Homeland Security Investigations – together were honored with the *Director's Award for Superior Performance by a Litigative Team*. The team was honored for its outstanding investigation and prosecution of Akouavi Kpade Afolabi and co-conspirators for human trafficking, alien smuggling, and visa fraud. Over five years, defendants obtained the forced labor of two dozen African girls, ranging from 10 to 19 years old. Through physical beatings, threats of voodoo curses, shame, and isolation, the defendants forced the victims to work without pay seven days per week, for 10 to 14 hours each day. The team did a superior job working with traumatized victim-witnesses and investigating the case, which resulted in three pleas, the convictions of two defendants in separate jury trials, and over \$3.9 million in restitution. Afolabi, who led the operation, was sentenced to 27 years in prison.

Justin W. Arnold was honored with the *Director's Award for Superior Performance as an Assistant United States Attorney - Criminal* for the prosecution of Wayne Puff and ten other individuals involved in a \$101 million Ponzi scheme and mortgage fraud. As a result of the investigation, including Arnold's quick synthesis of scores of witness interviews and thousands of pages of financial records, all 11 defendants, including Puff, pleaded guilty and have been sentenced. Puff, who orchestrated the shredding of documents and made other attempts to conceal evidence and obstruct justice, received a sentence of 18 years.

Glenn J. Moramarco was awarded the *Director's Award for Superior Performance as an Assistant United States Attorney - Appellate* for his outstanding appellate advocacy in upholding the convictions of six animal rights activists and an organization that terrorized numerous victims throughout the country while claiming First Amendment protection. As the first prosecution under the Animal Enterprise Protection Act, which Congress enacted to protect facilities engaged in government-required animal testing from domestic terror threats, the appeal raised difficult and novel issues of First Amendment jurisprudence and statutory construction. Mr. Moramarco responded to more than 500 pages of defense briefing, extensively researched the legislative and constitutional issues, crafted a brief that persuasively framed the legal issues from the perspective of the victims, and engaged in brilliant oral advocacy before the Court of Appeals – which resulted in an important precedential victory.

James B. Nobile, Chief of the Office's Special Prosecutions Division, received the *Director's Award for Superior Performance in a Managerial or Supervisory Role*. Nobile was honored for his leadership of the successful prosecution of almost 200 public officials who breached their sworn duty to the people of New Jersey in exchange for personal profit. Public corruption cases are a core part of the Office's mission in New Jersey, and such cases are often complex and the focus of intense public scrutiny. Their successful investigation and prosecution benefit from the knowledge, skill and judgment of a seasoned prosecutor. During Mr. Nobile's tenure, virtually every charged defendant has been convicted – a testament to the close oversight and consistent direction he provides to every investigation and prosecution. In an Office long distinguished by its aggressive pursuit of public corruption, no single individual has more substantially furthered this critical mission than Mr. Nobile.

“These award recipients have been honored for their service and dedication to our country, as well as to their local communities,” said Attorney General Eric Holder. “Each of these committed public servants has helped to advance the Justice Department's critical work. Their contributions have had a powerful impact in ensuring the strength of our justice system, the security of our communities, and the promise of our democracy.”