



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

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**MANHATTAN U.S. ATTORNEY ANNOUNCES
SUPERVISORY APPOINTMENTS IN THE ORGANIZED CRIME
AND VIOLENT CRIMES UNITS**

PREET BHARARA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced today the appointments of JENNIFER RODGERS as Chief and ELIE HONIG as Deputy Chief of the Organized Crime Unit of the Office's Criminal Division. Ms. RODGERS will replace MIRIAM ROCAH, who will now serve the Office as Senior Trial Counsel. Mr. BHARARA also announced the appointments of MARGARET GARNETT as Chief and TODD BLANCHE as Deputy Chief of the Criminal Division's Violent Crimes Unit. Ms. GARNETT replaces DAVID RODY, who previously served as Chief of the Violent Crimes Unit. Mr. RODY has left the Office for private practice.

The Organized Crime Unit

As supervisors of the Organized Crime Unit, Ms. RODGERS and Mr. HONIG will oversee the investigations and prosecutions of dangerous criminal organizations -- including La Cosa Nostra -- that are involved in a wide range of illegal activity such as racketeering, violent crimes, narcotics trafficking, extortion, loansharking, alien smuggling, various fraud schemes, gambling, and counterfeiting. They will also focus on labor union corruption and racketeering, as well as international organized crime offenses perpetrated by foreign-based criminal organizations.

Ms. RODGERS, 40, joined the Office in 2000 and has served as Deputy Chief of the Organized Crime Unit since October 2009. She has also served as Chief of the General Crimes Unit, Acting Chief of the Organized Crime Unit, and Acting Deputy Chief of the Criminal Division. Before becoming a supervisor, Ms. RODGERS secured convictions in dozens of cases in the Organized Crime and Terrorism Unit, including guilty verdicts in trials involving six members of a violent Albanian racketeering enterprise, and a medical doctor who attempted to provide

material support to the terrorist group al Qaeda. She graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles, in 1992, and from the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law in 1995. After law school, Ms. RODGERS clerked for the Honorable STANLEY A. WEIGEL of the Northern District of California, and worked as a litigation associate at Cravath, Swaine and Moore in New York.

Mr. HONIG, 36, joined the Office in 2004 and has served as Acting Deputy Chief of the Organized Crime Unit since 2010. He has successfully prosecuted several members and leaders of La Cosa Nostra, including Genovese Organized Crime Family Acting Boss Matthew Ianniello and nineteen other mafia members and associates, and Gambino Organized Crime Family Acting Boss Daniel Marino, along with thirteen other Gambino Family members and associates. Mr. HONIG was also part of a Southern District trial team that obtained the murder conviction of Angelo Prisco, a Genovese Organized Crime Family Captain, as well as the trial team that obtained the multiple murder convictions of Arthur Nigro, the former Acting Boss of the Genovese Crime Family, and two other Genovese Family associates. Prior to joining the Office, Mr. HONIG worked as an associate at Covington and Burling in Washington, D.C. He graduated from Rutgers University in 1997, and from Harvard Law School in 2000.

Ms. ROCAH, 41, joined the Office in 2001, and served as both Chief and Deputy Chief of the Organized Crime Unit. She also served as Deputy Chief of the Narcotics Unit and worked in the Office's Organized Crime and Terrorism Unit. Ms. ROCAH has been involved in the trials and successful prosecutions of over 40 members and associates of the DeCavalcante Organized Crime Family, as well as the successful prosecution of leaders of the Genovese and Gambino organized crime families, as well Russian and Albanian criminal organizations. She graduated from Harvard College in 1992, and from New York University School of Law in May 1997. Following law school, MS. ROCAH clerked for the Honorable John Gleeson of the Eastern District of New York, as well as the Honorable Chester J. Straub of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. Ms. ROCAH previously worked as a litigation associate at the New York law firm, Cravath, Swaine and Moore in New York.

The Violent Crimes Unit

Ms. GARNETT and Mr. BLANCHE will lead the Violent Crimes Unit in prosecuting the most dangerous criminals and gangs in the Southern District of New York.

Ms. GARNETT, 40, joined the Office in 2005, and served most recently as Deputy Chief of the Violent Crimes Unit. She has been part of the teams responsible for many successful prosecutions, including Hector Rivera, the leader of a Diamond District robbery and extortion crew; four defendants from a violent drug-dealing crew operating on DeKalb Avenue in the Bronx; and three defendants who perpetrated a \$2 billion tax fraud scheme. Before joining the Office, Ms. GARNETT clerked for the Honorable Gerard E. Lynch of the Southern District of New York, and worked as an associate at Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen and Katz in New York. She graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 1992, and from Columbia University Law School in 2000.

Mr. BLANCHE, 36, joined the Office in 2006, and has been a member of the Violent Crimes Unit since 2008. He was part of the teams that successfully prosecuted several Bronx-based criminal organizations and gangs, including a crack operation located on the Grand Concourse, the "Wheeler Avenue Boys" gang, and the "Dominicans Don't Play" gang. Prior to joining the Office, Mr. BLANCHE clerked for the Honorable Denny Chin of the Southern District of New York and the Honorable Joseph F. Bianco of the Eastern District of New York. Mr. BLANCHE also worked as an associate at Davis, Polk and Wardwell in New York. He graduated from American University in 1996, and from Brooklyn Law School in 2003.

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In making these appointments, Mr. BHARARA stated:
"With the appointments announced today, we are bringing skilled and seasoned prosecutors to lead the Office in its efforts to rid our streets of some of the most dangerous criminals and criminal organizations. Each of these prosecutors possesses the integrity, leadership and commitment that are required of a public servant, and I'm confident that they will serve the Office and the residents of the Southern District of New York well."

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