



UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
Southern District of New York

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**ATTORNEY GENERAL AWARDS 24 MEMBERS OF U.S. ATTORNEY'S
OFFICE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK WITH
HONORS AT ANNUAL CEREMONY**

PREET BHARARA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced today that 24 representatives of the Office are recipients of this year's Attorney General awards. This year's award recipients were honored today at the Department's 59th Annual Awards Ceremony at DAR Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C., among 340 Justice Department employees and 44 other individuals.

Attorney General ERIC HOLDER said: "This year's award recipients have made significant contributions across, and far beyond, the Department of Justice and helped to protect the rights, safety and best interests of the citizens we are privileged to serve. I am grateful for the dedication and passion that these extraordinary public servants bring to their work, and I am honored to count them as colleagues."

Manhattan U.S. Attorney PREET BHARARA said: "It is a privilege to work with such a talented, dedicated, and tireless group of professionals who have chosen careers in service to both the residents of the Southern District, and Americans everywhere. They are a credit to this office and to our country and I am proud to count them as my colleagues."

John Marshall Award

*Mark Lanpher, Tara M. La Morte, Benjamin H. Torrance, Lisa R. Zornberg
United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners Case*

The John Marshall Award is the Department's highest award, and is given in recognition of attorneys' contributions and excellence in specialized areas of legal performance. Assistant U.S. Attorneys MARK LANPHER, TARA M. LA MORTE, BENJAMIN H. TORRANCE, and LISA R. ZORNBERG received the John Marshall Award for the outstanding results they achieved in a case of historic importance to the Department of Justice's labor racketeering program, and to the New York City construction industry. From 2002 through 2010, the team succeeded in exposing massive racketeering that occurred within the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, a nationwide labor organization. From 1994 through 2009, the Union was involved in bribery, corruption, mob influence, embezzlement, and systematic obstruction of court orders and investigations. The team's Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations

(RICO) litigation -- both civil and criminal -- resulted in 22 criminal convictions, sweeping reform of the Union, and the recovery of millions of dollars for the Union's benefit funds. Through their extraordinary, collaborative efforts and perseverance, the team of lawyers exposed decades of racketeering, corruption, and organized crime influence in the New York City Carpenters Union.

Award for Exceptional Service

*Michael E. Farbiarz, Glen Kopp, Jason Smith
Russian Secret Agents Case*

The Attorney General's Award for Exceptional Service is the Department's highest award for employee performance. This year, it was awarded to Assistant U.S. Attorneys MICHAEL E. FARBIARZ, GLEN KOPP, and JASON SMITH for the investigation and prosecution of ten Russian secret agents. During the summer of 2010, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) arrested ten Russian secret agents, many of whom were highly-trained "deep cover" operatives, dispatched by Russia's Foreign Intelligence Service to infiltrate the United States under carefully-constructed false identities. The arrests were the culmination of an exceptionally creative and tenacious multi-year investigation in which the FBI decrypted the secret agents' messages to Moscow and conducted court-authorized electronic surveillance and physical searches in the United States and abroad. Following the arrests, the Russian operatives were quickly indicted. All 10 pled guilty and were exchanged for four men whose freedom was tremendously important to the United States. This investigation and prosecution was one of the most complex and successful counter-intelligence operations in the modern history of the United States. It was made possible by the cooperative efforts of agents, prosecutors, and others, who worked together to expose and dismantle Russia's ring of secret agents while protecting sensitive sources and methods.

Award for Distinguished Service

*Sean S. Buckley, Elizabeth Buner, Harry A. Chernoff, Jesse M. Furman, Nicholas J. Lewin,
David Raskin, Kyle Wirshba
U.S. v. Ahmed Ghailani*

The Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service is the Department's second highest award for employee performance. Assistant U.S. Attorneys SEAN S. BUCKLEY, HARRY A. CHERNOFF, JESSE M. FURMAN, NICHOLAS J. LEWIN, and DAVID RASKIN, and paralegals ELIZABETH BUNER and KYLE WIRSHBA were honored with this award for their dedicated service to the prosecution of Ahmed Ghailani for his role in Al Qaeda's 1998 attacks on the U.S. Embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, which killed 224 people. Prior to his transfer to civilian custody, Ghailani spent years in the custody of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), and was then transferred to Guantánamo Bay where he became the first and only former Guantánamo detainee to be tried in Federal court. During the pretrial period, the prosecution team turned aside a series of very difficult legal challenges and worked to gather, review, and produce a massive amount of discovery, much of which was highly classified material that needed to be protected through multiple rounds of complex *ex parte* litigation under the *Classified Information Procedures Act*. After months spent preparing in Africa, and a trial that included scores of witnesses -- most of whom had traveled from Africa and other parts of the world to testify -- Ghailani was convicted and sentenced to life in prison. This prosecution was a landmark case in our Nation's line of prosecutions of terrorists, and it ensured that a dangerous

terrorist would never again walk free. Additionally, it vindicated the rights of thousands of victims.

Award for Distinguished Service

Jeffrey Brown, George F. Corey, John P. Cronan, Sharon E. Garvey, Randall W. Jackson, Brendan R. McGuire, Guruanjan S. Sahni, Jocelyn E. Strauber, Charles J. Villani
U.S. v. Faisal Shahzad

The Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service was also awarded to Assistant U.S. Attorneys JEFFREY BROWN, JOHN P. CRONAN, RANDALL W. JACKSON, BRENDAN R. MCGUIRE, GURUANJAN S. SAHNI, and JOCELYN E. STRAUBER; General Investigators GEORGE F. COREY and CHARLES J. VILLANI; and Intelligence Research Specialist SHARON E. GARVEY, for their quick response and excellent coordination in the investigation and prosecution of Faisal Shahzad for his attempted bombing in Times Square, New York City on May 1, 2010. The team was under tremendous pressure to act quickly, and within 72 hours, Shahzad was identified and apprehended. Throughout the dedicated and painstaking investigation, the team gathered significant intelligence that was helpful to the U.S. Government's identification of a foreign terrorist organization. This work was done in an unprecedented coordinated effort between the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), various U.S. Attorney's offices, and the National Security Division's (NSD) Office of Intelligence, and the Counterterrorism Section.

Award for Distinguished Service

Michael Ferrara
Jack Abramoff & Associates Case

Assistant U.S. Attorney MICHAEL FERRARA also received the Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service for his work in the investigation of the lobbying activities of Jack Abramoff and his associates. FERRARA and other prosecutors involved with the case successfully convicted 20 individuals since 2005, including a former Member of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Interior, other high-ranking public officials, and various lobbyists including Abramoff. Additionally, the investigation resulted in significant changes to Federal laws and rules governing lawmakers and their interactions with lobbyists. The prosecutors also successfully faced a number of challenging legal issues and conducted themselves with tremendous professionalism. Thanks to their efforts, the Department made substantial progress in its critical fight to protect the integrity of our Government.

The Attorney General's Annual Awards Ceremony provides an opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of a number of U.S. Department of Justice employees as well as individuals from outside the Department.

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