



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
Southern District of Mississippi
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UNITED STATES ATTORNEY DUNN LAMPTON ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

Jackson, Miss - United States Attorney Dunn Lampton has announced that he will retire from the Department of Justice on January 31, 2009. Lampton is the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Mississippi, which covers the southern forty-five counties of the state. U.S. Attorney Lampton, who has been a prosecutor throughout his professional career, began serving in his present position on September 14, 2001.

Mr. Lampton said it has been a great honor and privilege to serve the people of Mississippi and the American public as United States Attorney, and he is proud of the accomplishments of his office. He added that he is particularly impressed with the caliber of the District's professional staff. During his tenure Mr. Lampton has had the privilege of hiring a total of 50 employees, including 24 Assistant U.S. Attorneys, a number equal to the size of the office at the time he began his tenure. He stated he especially was proud of hiring 6 minority AUSA's and 6 minority support employees, the most minority hires by any U.S. Attorney in the history of the Southern District.

During Lampton's tenure as U.S. Attorney, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Mississippi has received numerous national awards covering several national enforcement priorities. The Southern District of Mississippi has received two Attorney General Awards, ten Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys Director's Awards, a national Department of Justice "Weed and Seed" Award, and the office has been listed by the Department of Justice in its Best Practice Publication for Anti-Terrorism Initiatives. Lampton has also been recognized by the local community for his efforts in law enforcement, receiving the Pat Yarborough Award given by the Metro Jackson Chamber of Commerce for his devotion to excellence in law enforcement.

In addition to anti-terrorism, national priorities covered by these awards and other national recognitions include: enforcement of the Americans with Disabilities Act, environmental enforcement, financial/white collar crime enforcement, counter-narcotics enforcement, law enforcement recovery initiatives after Hurricane Katrina and initiatives to prosecute Katrina fraud. Also included in these awards and recognitions were executive achievement in office administration, community crime prevention programs, and the successful prosecution of civil rights "cold cases" from the 1960s.

The 1960s-era civil rights cases successfully prosecuted by the office under Lampton, were the cases of U.S. v. Avants and U.S. v. Seale. Lampton personally served as lead prosecutor in the Seale case, which is scheduled for an en banc hearing before the entire Fifth

Circuit Court of Appeals later this year. In 2008, members of the Seale prosecution team were selected for the Attorney General's Award for Exceptional Service, the Department's top award.

Further, Lampton noted that, during his tenure in the U.S. Attorney's Office, the office had been successful in obtaining additional Assistant U.S. Attorney positions to prosecute cases involving Katrina fraud, felons in possession of firearms, and illegal narcotics, as well as anti-terrorism and national security/critical infrastructure cases. Lampton said he was proud that the Department of Justice provided the additional resources, which effectively acknowledged "the amount and quality of work being done by prosecutors in the Southern District of Mississippi."

U.S. Attorney Lampton, went on to thank other federal, state and local law enforcement agencies for their cooperation during his years in office. He noted that the U.S. Attorney's Office had been an active partner in the creation of the State's first law enforcement fusion center as well as a separate cyber-crime fusion center, both of which were federal/state initiatives. Another example of the federal, state and local law enforcement cooperation he cited, was enhancement of law enforcement access to computer technology and criminal justice computer databases.

In addition to criminal prosecutions and civil defense of the federal government, Lampton pointed out that the U.S. Attorney has a substantial law enforcement coordination and special program role. As the chief federal law enforcement officer of a federal judicial district, the U.S. Attorney oversees a Law Enforcement Coordination Committee (LECC) and multiple special program initiatives such as the "Weed & Seed" Crime Reduction and Prevention Program, the Project Safe Childhood Program focused on internet crimes against children, and the Project Safe Neighborhoods and Project Sentry Programs targeted at combating illegal firearms and prosecuting felon-in-possession cases.

Lampton highlighted numerous law enforcement training programs sponsored by the U.S. Attorney's Law Enforcement Coordination Committee including special Anti-Gang Conferences, the most recent of which, in November 2008, hosted over 350 law enforcement personnel from across the State. He also noted that in addition to doubling the size of the West Jackson Weed & Seed in the State's Capital City, a new Weed & Seed Site had produced numerous successes in the East Biloxi/D'Iberville area on the Gulf Coast. The East Biloxi/D'Iberville initiative was the site of "Operation Sweet-Tooth" which became a national Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) operation.

Regarding DEA cooperation, Lampton thanked the management of the Gulf Coast High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) site, and said he was proud to have served as a HIDTA co-chair. During the Lampton years, the Gulf Coast HIDTA (which also operates in the Jackson area) was named the top HIDTA site and its local director received an Executive Office of U.S. Attorney's Director Award.

Together with Law Enforcement Coordination Committee training and other programs, Lampton expressed his thanks for all of the inter-agency cooperation seen since 9/11 with the District's U.S. Attorney sponsored Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council or ATAC. The ATAC works to provide information sharing and awareness/training programs that compliment the operational work of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) led Joint Terrorism Task Force

(JTTF). Lampton cited the State's central location along the Gulf Coast and the Southern District's number of military and critical infrastructure facilities as reasons why federal, state, local cooperation has been so important.

On a national level, Lampton has served on four different subcommittees of the Attorney General's Advisory Committee, including the Executive Working Group, the Native American Issues Subcommittee, the Environmental Issues Subcommittee, and the Military Issues Working Group. The Attorney General's Advisory Committee is comprised of a group of U.S. Attorneys who provide reports and make recommendations to the Attorney General on matters relating to U.S. Attorney's Office operations and law enforcement efforts around the country.

Lampton will be succeeded temporarily by First Assistant U.S. Attorney Stan Harris who will serve as Acting U.S. Attorney, under the Vacancy Reform Act. No announcement has been made by the Administration with respect to a new Presidentially-appointed U.S. Attorney.

Lampton, age 58, said he does not have any immediate plans for other professional endeavors, and will be focusing more on continued long-term health recovery issues. Lampton had a severe accident on his farm in 2007, and has undergone extensive physical therapy and other treatments since that time. He recently entered a research project at Methodist Rehabilitation Center designed to study and potentially improve recovery opportunities in cases involving spinal cord injury.

Prior to serving as U.S. Attorney, Lampton served as for 20 years as District Attorney for the 14th Judicial District of Mississippi. He also had served as an Assistant District Attorney for five years. In the military, Mr. Lampton served for over 30 years and was as the State Staff Judge Advocate, the Mississippi National Guard's leading attorney. Lampton retired from military service as a Colonel in the Mississippi Army National Guard.

Mr. Lampton noted that shortly after he was sworn in the Clarion Ledger editorialized that "Criminals should be put on notice that a tough, tenacious criminal prosecutor is officially on the job today ... [h]e should excel pursuing both white collar and other criminals." He expressed the hope and belief that he has lived up to those expectations.

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