



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
DOUGLAS COUNTY

Mark B. Jackson
District Attorney

April 21, 2026

Michael K. Morton
Executive Director
Nevada Advisory Council for Prosecuting Attorneys
100 North Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701

via email mkmorton@ag.nv.gov

Re: Nomination of Luke Prengaman for 2026 William J. Raggio Award

Executive Director Morton,

It is my honor and privilege to nominate Washoe County Chief Deputy District Attorney Luke Prengaman for the 2026 William J. Raggio Award. Luke has served as a prosecutor for twenty-eight years and he has led the Major Violators Unit for the past twelve, overseeing the prosecution of homicides, violent offenders, career criminals and the complex criminal cases in Washoe County. His career reflects the professionalism, integrity and statewide impact that the Raggio Award was designed to recognize.

What distinguishes Luke is his unwavering commitment to improving the administration of justice for prosecutors across all seventeen Nevada District Attorney Offices. His most consequential statewide contribution has been his service on the Criminal Jury Instruction Subcommittee of the Committee on Statewide Rules of Criminal Procedure. As a member of the oversight committee myself, I have firsthand knowledge of the extraordinary time, expertise and leadership Luke devoted to the creation of Nevada's Pattern Criminal Jury Instructions.

Nevada had previously attempted, unsuccessfully, on three separate occasions in the 1980s, 1990s and 2000s to create pattern criminal jury instructions. Those efforts failed because they lacked someone with Luke's combination of legal expertise, work ethic and collaborative discipline. The subcommittee formed in 2015 met 46 times between 2015 and 2023, with meetings ranging from two to six hours and additional all-day retreats to complete what ultimately became the 536-page Nevada Pattern Criminal Jury Instructions. As the publication itself acknowledges:

"Washoe County Chief Deputy District Attorney Luke Prengaman is to be credited with rewriting, editing and providing the initial legal authority for each and every instruction prior to subcommittee editing. Like the Leavitt instructions

before us, prior to editing, the modern compilation of statewide instructions should be called the “Prengaman instructions.” Mr. Prengaman was an original member of the subcommittee in 2015 and saw this project through to completion, attending, preparing and participating in all meetings as the state prosecution representative including, the last editorial read through meeting held in January 2023.”

This recognition is not hyperbole. The subcommittee consisted of five judges, six deputy public defenders and only two prosecutors. Four of the five judges had previously been criminal defense attorneys. In a heavily defense-oriented environment, Luke’s meticulous research, drafting and subject-matter expertise ensured that Nevada’s pattern jury instructions were accurate, balanced and faithful to Nevada law. Without his leadership and unwavering dedication, the final product would have looked markedly different.

Luke accomplished all of this while simultaneously prosecuting high profile cases and supervising the Major Violators Unit. His contributions have permanently strengthened the fairness, consistency and clarity of criminal jury trials throughout Nevada. Every prosecutor, defense attorney and judge in this state now relies on a body of work that exists because Luke refused to let the project fail.

Luke Prengaman embodies the qualities that define the William J. Raggio Award: exceptional professionalism, statewide impact and a career devoted to strengthening Nevada’s justice system. His work on the Nevada Pattern Criminal Jury Instructions will influence criminal practice for decades to come and stands as one of the most significant contributions to Nevada criminal jurisprudence in a generation. For these reasons, I offer my strongest endorsement of his nomination.

Respectfully,

Mark B Jackson

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