



CLARK COUNTY
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Criminal Division

STEVEN B. WOLFSON

District Attorney

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CHRISTOPHER LALLI
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June 11, 2024

Michael K. Morton
Special Assistant Attorney General
State of Nevada
Advisory Council for Prosecuting Attorneys
100 North Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

RE: Nomination for Christopher J. Lalli for The 2024 William Raggio Award

Dear Michael K. Morton:

Please find enclosed my nomination form for The 2024 William Raggio Award for Christopher J. Lalli, Assistant District Attorney.

Enclosed you will find a letter detailing his qualifications and merit for the award.

Sincerely,

Steve Wolfson
District Attorney
Enter Team Name

SBW/mg

Enclosures
cc:



STATE OF NEVADA
ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS
100 North Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Michael K. Morton, Special Assistant Attorney General
mkmorton@ag.nv.gov
775-687-2110

NOMINATION FORM
THE 2024 WILLIAM J. RAGGIO AWARD

The Nevada Advisory Council for Prosecuting Attorneys is seeking nominations for the 2024 William J. Raggio Award. This prestigious annual award is given to a person employed by, or retired from, a federal, state, county or municipal prosecutor's office in Nevada who has contributed significantly to the improvement of the administration of justice in Nevada.

Nominee's Name: Christopher J. Lalli

Nominee's Title and Office (or prior office if recently retired):
Assistant District Attorney, Clark County District Attorney's Office

Steven B. Wolfson, District Attorney Clark County District Attorney
Your Name, Title Office

200 Lewis Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89101
Address, City, State ZIP

(702) 671-2700 Steven.wolfson@clarkcountydav.gov
Office Phone Email

PLEASE ATTACH A LETTER DETAILING NOMINEE'S QUALIFICATIONS AND MERIT FOR THE AWARD.

Please email the completed nomination form and letter to Michael K. Morton, Special Assistant Attorney General, at mkmorton@ag.nv.gov.

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT NOMINATION(S): June 10, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

The Advisory Council will review all nominations and make the selection. The recipient of the 2024 William J. Raggio Award will be honored at the 2024 Nevada Prosecutors Conference, scheduled for September 25-27 in Las Vegas, NV.

Raggio Award

Work at the Nevada Legislature: During the 2015 Legislature, Chris worked with others in the initial crafting of AB193 – an omnibus criminal justice bill – and participated in the Assembly hearing in support of it. He met with prosecutors, defense attorneys, and legislators regarding the bill's passage. He also created a PowerPoint presentation used during the Assembly hearing on the bill. In 2017, Chris traveled to Carson City to provide testimony against a bill that would have abolished the death penalty in this state. Moreover, while in Carson City, he coordinated an extremely powerful presentation by family members of murder victims. In addition, Chris returned to Carson City to testify against an expansive bill that would have fundamentally changed, in a negative way, the handling of discovery in this state. Both bills died before becoming law.

Project 48: Project 48 was a plan to decrease the time required between waiver of preliminary hearing in Justice Court and first appearance in District Court with a goal of decreasing jail population. Chris has worked with members of the Justice Community as well as our Team Chiefs to accelerate Justice Court bindovers to District Court to 48 hours. He participated in numerous meetings and telephone conferences with members of the Justice Court, District Court, and defense bar to get the program started. After the project was launched, 512 individuals were bound over to District Court within 2-5 days (far shorter than the 14 days which had previously been the norm), with an estimated savings of 5,120 days jail days to the County.

Wiretap: During the 2015 Legislative Session, Chris worked to expand wiretap law to create an exception where hostage barricade situations occur. Over the years, Chris updated how our office processes wiretaps, created new and improved instructions to be given during minimization training, and updated the Wiretap Application and Order in response to an appeal then pending in the Nevada Supreme Court and the statutory modification made pursuant to language contained in AB433.

Lake's Crossing Issues: In 2015, the Office of the Public Defender and the ACLU began to aggressively challenge the process of getting criminal defendants to the Lake's Crossing Center. Numerous Motions to Dismiss were filed in pending cases. To address these challenges, Chris was able to reconvene the Lake's Crossing Task Force which had been defunct for several years. The Task Force addressed the Lake's Crossing wait list and confronted problems the various Justice Partners faced in moving defendants to the Lake's Crossing Center in Sparks and Stein Hospital in Las Vegas. Chris also appeared on every Motion to Dismiss filed and successfully defended against the remedy sought by the Public Defender.

Conviction Review Unit: Chris was tasked with the creation of a Conviction Review Unit. Conviction Review Units re-examine convictions where new evidence suggesting actual innocence has surfaced and guard against future error by adopting and implementing

prosecution best practices in an office. He wrote the funding request which was ultimately granted by the County and worked with others to create the Unit currently in place in the Office.

Creation of Third Grand Jury: For years, there were two Clark County Grand Juries. In July of 2016, Chris filed an Application in the District Court for the empanelment of a third grand jury. Chris conducted an evidentiary hearing and ultimately received an Order from the Chief Judge granting his Application. Chris then worked with County Management to procure funding to make the third grand jury a reality. Funding for the third grand jury was included in our 2017 Supplemental Budget award. Then, Chris worked with District Court Administration and our own Grand Jury team to muddle through the legal and practical minutia of working the third grand jury into our criminal justice system. As a result of his efforts, the third grand jury was empaneled in January of 2018.

Clark County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council: Clark County established a Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) in 2018. It is a collection of criminal justice partners who discuss and work through issues in the Clark County criminal justice system. Chris was very involved in its creation, making significant modifications to the group's bylaws which helped to keep the more significant members participating. Chris was nominated and elected to chair the CJCC's Subcommittee on Improved Responses to Probation Violations. His subcommittee quickly went to work, reexamined the entire revocation process, and created a new system whereby every defendant is notified of his or her discharge from probation and can be heard regarding the type of discharge they receive.

Nevada Commission on Statewide Rules of Criminal Procedure: Chris was a member of the Nevada Commission on Statewide Rules of Criminal Procedure. He was added when the Commission was working furiously to complete the project. Chris contributed to the drafting of a rule creating settlement conferences in criminal cases and a modification to Rule 250 addressing when a Notice of Intent to Seek Death Penalty can be filed. He significantly helped with the creation of rules on case assignment, appearance and withdrawal of an attorney, initial appearance and arraignments, release and detention pending judicial proceedings, discovery, pretrial motions, pretrial writs of habeas corpus, stay orders, sentencing, continuances, voir dire, and appeals. These rules were eventually adopted by the Nevada Supreme Court and remain in effect today.

Eighth Judicial District Court Jury Improvement Committee: District Attorney Wolfson nominated Chris to this committee created by the District Court to address jury services issues. Chris was very involved, meeting separately, multiple times, with the Clark County Jury Commissioner to ensure he had an adequate understanding of the challenges being faced there. Chris and others on the committee formulated strategies to enhance the juror experience and to foster greater and more diverse juror participation by members of our community. Many of the recommendations by the Committee were adopted by the District Court, including creating a more inviting waiting space for jurors, stronger access to Wi-Fi, and providing potential jurors with better access to food and beverage.

Initial Appearance Court: On January 7, 2019, Clark County started the Initial Appearance Court process. This represented a fundamental change to the way defendants enter the criminal justice system. This new process consolidated the probable cause review and the first appearance held pursuant to NRS 171.176. As a result, defendants have seen judges much sooner after arrest. The process of creating this new approach was ongoing for over a year. Throughout this time, Chris worked with the courts, defense counsel, and law enforcement to create the best possible process.

Policy Review Committee: In 2018, Chris and several others in the office formed the Policy Review Committee to review and update Clark County District Attorney Policies. DA Policies had not been reviewed and updated since first established during the DA Stewart Bell Administration. In the coming months, every policy will have been reviewed – some multiple times – with updates being made and disseminated to the Office.

Project Redirect: Chris was placed in charge of an effort to create a pre-charge diversion program offered by the Clark County District Attorney's Office. Under the program, certain cases are identified wherein a defendant is offered the opportunity of pre-charge diversion. An individualized program of therapeutic counseling, punishment, and remediation (e.g. restitution and/or letter of apology) is created and monitored. Upon successful completion, the case is formally denied. Chris met telephonically with prosecutors from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where a similar program exists. He enlisted the assistance of the Chief of our Conviction Review Unit to oversee the program. In addition, he initiated a dialogue with the Assistant County Manager who oversees Clark County Social Services to create a system of therapeutic counseling to be incorporated into the program. Though the program had a rocky start coinciding with the COVID Pandemic, it is now up and running and providing a pre-charge diversion option to qualifying defendants.

Nevada Prosecution Best Practices Committee: Best practices committees are nonpartisan bodies of prosecutors that meet on a regular basis. The committees gather and examine information on the latest developments in criminal justice and community safety and provide assessments and recommendations that can benefit all prosecutors and law enforcement in the state. In late 2018, Chris submitted a proposal to the Nevada District Attorneys Association to create the Nevada Prosecution Best Practices Committee. The proposal was accepted and in March of 2019, Chris was elected Chair of the Committee. The Best Practices Subcommittee, chaired by Chief Deputy District Attorney Nell Christensen continues to meet monthly and has proven to be a valuable resource to prosecutors throughout Nevada.

Management through COVID Pandemic: In March of 2020, because of the COVID pandemic, our Governor shut down the State while leaders of the judiciary significantly limited the criminal justice system. We were forced to send most of our deputies and support staff home to comply with state-wide and county-wide directives. By the summer of 2020, the number of cases pending in the Case Assessment Unit had risen to over 7,000. Additional resources were added to Case Assessment, and by November of 2020, the backlog of cases on the data side of unit had been eliminated. This is unprecedented. In fact, the strategies employed by our Case Assessment Unit in responding to the pandemic

backlog were so successful and innovative, representatives from The Justice Management Institute asked Chris to participate in a panel to discuss these strategies with other prosecutors throughout the country.

Shutdown and Reopening of Three Grand Juries During COVID: When the pandemic hit, the District Court suspended all grand jury proceedings. This created significant challenges. At the shutdown, there were two complex cases in grand jury that had not yet received true bills. Chris worked with the District Court to see that these matters could be successfully concluded before the grand juries were disbanded. After being closed for several months, Chris and our Grand Jury Chief Deputy created procedures to provide for the safe resumption of our three grand juries. This required a great deal of coordination with the District Court. In addition, our grand juries were physically moved into a much larger location to ensure social distancing while the grand juries were in session. Chris personally inspected the grand jury area, directed that staff be brought in, and created several areas where the grand juries could congregate at lunch time and on breaks while maintaining social distancing.

Supplemental Budget Process: The Supplemental Budget is the mechanism through which Departments in Clark County obtain additional staffing. Beginning in 2022, Chris took an aggressive position advocating for additional staffing for the District Attorney's Office. Along with DA Wolfson, each fiscal year, Chris met with members of County Management and each of the County Commissioners to make the case for additional staffing. As a result of these efforts, the District Attorney received the following additional positions:

- 5 DA Team Clerks
- 14 Deputy District Attorneys
- 6 Electronic Evidence Specialists
- 1 Process Server
- 1 Database Administrator
- 3 Investigators
- 1 Law Clerk
- 3 Legal Secretaries
- 1 Office Services Manager
- 1 Office Specialist
- 1 Victim Advocate

Resort Corridor Court: In the Summer of 2022, there was discussion among various stakeholders, including the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, the Chair of the Clark County Commission, the judiciary, and members of the Nevada Resort Association to address the growing level of crime on the Las Vegas Strip. The parties ultimately agreed to create a "Strip Court." Chris devised a plan to do this with little economic impact to the County – by tracking all crime committed within the Resort Corridor into a single Las Vegas Justice Court. The plan was agreed to and scheduled to take effect January 2023. Once the idea was approved, Chris began working with the Court and other members of our

Office to implement the new court. Resort Corridor Court remains in existence today, now in two Las Vegas Justice Court departments. The impact has been extremely favorable, with all properties in the Resort Corridor reporting lower crime levels and a more favorable visitor experience.

Traffic Special Prosecutor: Following the pandemic, there was a backlog of traffic matters in the Las Vegas Justice Court. Specifically, there were approximately 177,000 traffic cases awaiting adjudication. In nearly 4,000 of those cases, the defendant had entered a not guilty plea and was expecting a trial. It was impossible for the Criminal Division to absorb these cases. Working with the Nevada Supreme Court, the Las Vegas Justice Court, and the County, Chris helped to develop a plan to appoint two traffic special prosecutors to work through these cases. Chris worked with others on the Resolution which was ultimately approved by the Board of County Commissioners. He also worked with the Las Vegas Justice Court and our internal IT Staff to create a system where subpoenas for members of law enforcement could be issued through JustWare. The program was extremely successful and significantly reduced the number of pending traffic matters in the Las Vegas Justice Court.

Doggett and LMVPD: Following his oral argument at the Nevada Supreme Court in *Sunseri v. State*, 137 Nev. 562 (2021), Chris approached the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department to sound the alarm regarding violations of *Doggett v. United States*, 505 U.S. 647 (1992). Chris presented to their Search and Seizure Committee on *Doggett, Inzunza, and Sunseri* which prompted a full-scale review of their warrant and extradition procedures. The result is a vastly improved system of monitoring warrants with a better appreciation and respect for suspect's Sixth Amendment Rights.

Legal Advisor to Metro Criminal Intelligence Unit: For years, Chris has been a legal advisor and liaison to Metro's Criminal Intelligence Unit. This elite team of detectives conducts investigations concerning the wrongdoing of attorneys, police officers, politicians, and other high-profile targets in the Las Vegas community.

Work with the State Bar: Chris was appointed a Hearing Panel Chair with the State Bar of Nevada Southern Disciplinary Board in 2014. He has presided over countless disciplinary matters. In 2020, he was appointed Vice Chair of the State Bar of Nevada Southern Disciplinary Board by the Board of Governors and remains Vice Chair to this day.

Trial Work: Chris has tried thirty-eight (38) jury trials through verdict. This is a significant number of trials when one considers that for most of his career, including the preceding twelve years, Chris has been in an administrative position. Moreover, many of his trials were not run-of-the-mill cases. Some lasted weeks and involved as many as 130 witnesses and the presentation of many expert witnesses. Some were tried against the very best defense attorneys including Curtis Brown, Scott Coffee, Pete Christiansen, Jr., Christopher Oram, Tony Sgro, and Stephen Stein.