



Elected Prosecutors Endorse the Use of Courthouse Dogs

Norm Maleng late King County Prosecuting Attorney - Seattle, WA **Former NDAA Board Member**

"When I was a boy on the farm, our dogs lived in the barn. I could never imagine taking a dog into a courthouse, now after meeting [courthouse dogs] Ellie and ... Jeeter, I think that no Prosecutor's Office is complete without one." "I center on their healing power within the justice system. There is so much hurt—the victims, families, even members of our office— from exposure to trauma and anxiety. So within this environment, the dogs contribute to justice." Seattle Times May 14, 2005 quoting from an excerpt from Children's Response Center newsletter and Bark Magazine May-June 2007

Jan Scully Sacramento County District Attorney - Sacramento, CA **President of NDAA**

"Reggie provides victims and witnesses with support and peace during their involvement in the criminal justice process - from taking interviews to providing court testimony. He is a valued member of our office, lifting the spirits of those who are often facing the most harrowing time in their lives." Sacramento Bee April 2009

Keith Kaneshiro Honolulu City Prosecutor - Honolulu, HI **NDAA Board Member**

[Referring to the courthouse dog program] "I am in favor of anything that helps victims, especially child victims, through the difficult process of testifying in court and presenting evidence at trial," said Kaneshiro. "We've looked at this, and I don't foresee any legal problems." Honolulu News and Honolulu Star-Advertiser November 2010

Russ Hauge Kitsap County Prosecuting Attorney - Port Orchard, WA

[Referring to courthouse dog Kerris] "Having a friendly, non-judgmental, docile presence is helpful to people in stressful situations," "It's not to make things better for us; it's to make the process go more smoothly. "It's just remarkable how the dynamics in the room changes. ... the dog provides a calming influence." Kitsap Sun April, 2010

Dan Satterberg King County Prosecuting Attorney - Seattle, WA **NDAA Board Member**

"The dogs help us break down the barriers of fear, distrust and anxiety so we can get to the truth." "I think this has been an essential part of our office, and I think other offices will have the same experience." Seattle PI September, 2007.

Donald Gallegos 8th Judicial District Attorney - Taos, NM **NDAA Board Member**

"The dogs are trained not to be distractions and not to interfere in the process in any way, shape or form," [For sexually and physically abused children] "To be able to talk to 12 strangers, a bunch of lawyers and a judge is very traumatic for them," "Because the child victims can't bring themselves to tell their stories, the abusers often cut deals for lenient sentences or walk on all charges". "It's another way of assuring accountability for those who take advantage of our most precious and most vulnerable segment of the population out there." KRQE TV ABQ, NM Jan. 2011

Greg Bower Ada County Prosecuting Attorney- Boise ID **NDAA Board Member**

"My deputy prosecutors that have experience with [our courthouse dog] Sunday want her in the room with them when they meet with victims." Boise Weekly Feb. 2011