



Department of Justice

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ATLANTA U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE EMPLOYEES RECEIVE NATIONAL AWARDS

WASHINGTON D.C. –Five employees of the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia have received Justice Department Director's Awards. Lola Grant, Smita Patel, Terri Kohler, David McClernan, and Russell Phillips accepted the awards this morning in ceremonies at the Justice Department in Washington, D.C.

At the 24th Annual Executive Office for United States Attorneys (EOUSA) Director's Awards Ceremony today, the five from Atlanta were among 132 award recipients from around the country recognized for their excellence in law enforcement. Recipients included Assistant United States Attorneys, litigation and information technology support personnel, and others who have made outstanding contributions in federal, state and local law enforcement.

“Those that we are honoring today are some of the Department's finest public servants,” said Acting Attorney General Peter D. Keisler. “Through their leadership and integrity in carrying out the Department's mission, those of us in the Department and the citizens in the communities they serve can be proud of the duties they perform on our behalf every day.”

In Atlanta, United States Attorney David E. Nahmias said, “We are very proud of our colleagues whose exceptional dedication, innovation, and hard work have earned them one of the Justice Department's highest awards.”

McClernan and Phillips, both Assistant United States Attorneys, won the award Superior Performance as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for their prosecution of Abraham Kennard and three associates, including attorney R. Scott Cunningham, and for their successful forfeiture of real estate, vehicles, bank accounts and other assets the defendants purchased with money taken from their victims. Kennard and his coconspirators defrauded over 1600 churches in 40 different states of approximately \$7.9 million by promising them \$500,000 for every \$3,000 membership fee paid to “Reverend Doctor” Kennard. In two separate trials, AUSAs McClernan and Phillips persuaded the jury that Defendant Kennard's and his codefendants' representations were fraudulent, and that his

attorney, codefendant R. Scott Cunningham, laundered the fraud scheme proceeds.

IT Systems Manager Lola Grant, IT Specialist Smita Patel, and Legal Support Manager Terri Kohler won the award for Superior Performance by an Administrative Team for the development and implementation of an automated trial subpoena database system, which enables legal assistants to perform all tasks associated with the production and tracking of trial subpoenas in a streamlined fashion, and enables the district to use the information entered into the database by each legal assistant to electronically track the trial subpoena process. The system significantly decreased the time required to complete these tasks resulting in greater productivity and efficiency. This team demonstrated exemplary skill and innovation in using technology to contribute to the mission of this organization. Their database is being adopted for use by other U.S. Attorney's Offices around the country.

The Executive Office for United States Attorneys provides oversight, general executive assistance, and direction to the 94 United States Attorneys' offices around the country. For more information on EOUSA and its mission, visit <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao>.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney, or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan.