

DA Hicks Commemorates Retirements of Two Extraordinary Women from the Office and Announces Recusal from Decision on Internal Promotion Replacement: Following the March celebration of Women’s History awareness month and our commemorating the many contributions of women in history and society, the Washoe County District Attorney’s Office would like to acknowledge two extraordinary women leaders in its Criminal Division who are moving on to their next chapter.

Chief Deputy District Attorney Jo Lee Wickes

Chief Deputy District Attorney Jo Lee Wickes has proudly served the citizens of Washoe County in the Juvenile Division of the office since 1999. She served as the Chief Deputy District Attorney of that team since 2004. During her tenure, she guided her team with a steady hand while exhibiting the highest levels of professionalism, legal acumen, and effectiveness. Her impact on juvenile justice in our community is incalculable. Moreover, it extends statewide. Jo Lee served on numerous local and statewide efforts to improve juvenile justice, including the Nevada State Juvenile Justice Oversight Commission where she was appointed by Governor Sandoval. She is deeply respected by her peers and members of the bench. In commenting on her retirement DA Chris Hicks said, “Personally, I consider it an honor to have worked with someone of her caliber for all these years. Needless to say, she is a pillar of this office and the juvenile justice community. Jo Lee’s character, everlasting commitment to justice, and enduring resolve, will be sorely missed and surely unforgotten.”

Following Jo Lee’s retirement on February 4, 2022, another extraordinary woman was promoted to Chief Deputy District Attorney. Shelly Scott has proudly served the office as a Deputy District Attorney with distinction for years. Her noteworthy background as a prosecutor and her deep knowledge of our juvenile delinquency system made her an ideal candidate for Jo Lee’s position.

Chief Deputy District Attorney Kay Lyon

Chief Deputy District Attorney Kay Lyon has been with the office since March 2000, and has served as a prosecutor on the misdemeanor team, juvenile team and two felony trial teams. During her many years of exceptional service to the citizens of this community, Kay has successfully prosecuted numerous felony criminal cases and has acted as the office’s *Project Safe Neighborhoods* liaison, working alongside Federal partners to target gun violence. Kay was promoted to Team Chief in 2019 and most recently supervised the Misdemeanor Unit, which is comprised of some of the office’s newest deputy district attorneys. During her tenure in this leadership position, Kay has provided each new prosecutor in her charge with experienced guidance and ensured they have built the solid foundation needed to succeed.

Kay will retire on April 29, 2022, and her replacement will be selected from an internal list of qualified and experienced deputy district attorneys*. This selection will be made in April by an independent external interview panel created to consider the applicants and make a promotional recommendation to Assistant District Attorney Zach Young for appointment.

*Public Disclosure in the Matter of Replacement: District Attorney Hicks will not be acting upon this matter because his wife is one of the Deputy District Attorney applicants being considered for internal promotion.