



## NEWS

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### **Chicago Crime Commission to honor DuPage County prosecutors**

#### **For Immediate Release**

**Chicago, IL – Tuesday, November 5, 2013** –The Chicago Crime Commission announced that three Assistant State’s Attorneys from the DuPage County State’s Attorney’s Office will be honored on Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup> at its *Stars of Distinction, 2013 Awards Dinner*. The Chicago Crime Commission Mitchell A. Mars Prosecutorial Excellence Award will be presented to DuPage County State’s Attorney’s Office Assistant State’s Attorneys Amanda Meindl, Bernie Murray and Joseph Ruggiero.

“We are pleased to recognize the efforts of DuPage County Assistant State’s Attorneys Amanda Meindl, Bernie Murray and Joseph Ruggiero by honoring them with the Chicago Crime Commission’s *Mitchell A. Mars Prosecutorial Excellence Award*,” according to Joe Ways, Executive Director of the Chicago Crime Commission. “The award recipients are credited with the successful prosecution of Johnny Borizov and Jacob Nodarse for the first-degree murders of Jeffrey Kramer, Lori Kramer, and Michael Kramer. The three were shot to death in their home on March 2, 2010 in Darien, IL. Jeffrey and Lori's Daughter, Angela, escaped the shooting by hiding in a closet,” he continued.

Nodarse was arrested the day after the shooting at his parents' home in Florida. He confessed to having encouraged Borizov to let him kill the Kramer family, specifically Angela, with whom Borizov was involved in a custody battle over the couple's infant son. Borizov had an alibi for the night of the murder which was confirmed when investigators discovered he was at a riverboat casino. This proved to be a very difficult investigation. (more)

The state struck a plea deal with Nodarse, who pled guilty but mentally ill to one count of first-degree murder in exchange for testimony that incriminated Borisov. The trial lasted for four weeks, but the jury only deliberated for three hours and found Borisov guilty of three counts of first-degree murder. He was sentenced to three consecutive terms of natural life imprisonment on July 15, 2013, while Nodarse was sentenced to 75 years imprisonment.

The Chicago Crime Commission *Stars of Distinction Mitchell A. Mars Prosecutorial Excellence Award* is named after the late Assistant U.S. Attorney who is credited with convicting some of Chicago's most notorious organized crime figures in the Operation Family Secrets trial. "As recipients of the *Mitchell A. Mars Prosecutorial Excellence Award*, Assistant State's Attorneys Amanda Meindl, Bernie Murray and Joseph Ruggiero find themselves in the company of some of Illinois' finest prosecutors," Ways said. "Past recipients of the award include state and federal prosecutors responsible for ridding our communities of street gang leaders, outfit members, drug dealers and murderers," he added.

The *Stars of Distinction, 2013 Awards Dinner* will honor individuals and the organizations they serve in recognition of their outstanding work in law enforcement. "Recipients of the *Stars of Distinction* awards stand out among the ranks because of their commitment and dedication to the fight against crime," Ways concluded.

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