



## United States Attorney William J. Ihlenfeld, II Northern District of West Virginia

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### **WINNERS OF 2012 UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S AWARDS ANNOUNCED**

*Sixteen individuals recognized for extraordinary service*

WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA – Local, state and federal law enforcement officers from throughout Northern West Virginia were honored by the United States Attorney on Monday for their exceptional work in fighting crime in the Mountain State.

United States Attorney William Ihlenfeld, II announced the winners Monday morning before a packed courtroom at the federal building in Wheeling. Each of the sixteen individual winners were nominated for going above and beyond their normal duties.

“The recipients of this year’s awards have all done something special to keep our communities safe, whether it was the elimination of a drug trafficking organization, the arrest and conviction of an especially dangerous child predator, or the prevention of money laundering which threatens our nation’s financial system,” said Ihlenfeld.

Winners of the 2012 awards and the cases leading to the recognition include:

- **Investigation of HSBC:** FinCEN Senior Special Agent Bryant Moravek, IRS-Criminal Investigation Special Agents Ryan Korner & Jason Gandee, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael Stein;
- **Operation “Blue Haze” (Fairmont, WV, gun and drug investigation):** ATF Special Agent Gregory Perry;
- **U.S. v. Kevin Blaine Johnson (Ohio County, WV, child exploitation case):** Ohio Co. Sheriff’s Department Lt. Joseph Cuchta;
- **U.S. v. Christopher Oden (Jefferson County, WV, child pornography case):** West Virginia State Police Trooper William Garrett and Deputy U.S. Marshal John Laliberte;

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- **West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence (recognition of 30 years of service):** Sue Julian and Tonia Thomas, Team Coordinators;
- **Operation “Double Down” (Nationwide pill trafficking investigation):** (Undercover agents);
- **U.S. v. Dale Hamilton (Ohio County, WV, child exploitation case):** (Undercover agents);
- **Heroin/Firearm investigation in Harrison County, WV:** (Undercover agents)

Several of the award winners could not be publicly named because they work exclusively in an undercover capacity.

The Honorable James E. Seibert, United States Magistrate Judge, made opening remarks at the ceremony. Presenters included Assistant United States Attorneys John C. Parr, Shawn A. Morgan, Randy Bernard, Michael Stein, and Erin Reisenweber.

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