

6/10/09 District Attorney Hillar Moore Announces Juvenile Violent Crime Funding

District Attorney Hillar Moore announced today that the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice has awarded his office stimulus funds under the federal Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program. This grant will provide a total of \$212,418 over the course of the next two years to add two new prosecutor positions in our Juvenile Courts to prosecute juvenile violent offenders.

Effective immediately, experienced prosecutor Melanie Fields will be assigned to the newly created juvenile violent crime prosecutor position in Division A of Juvenile Court before the honorable Judge Kathleen Richey. New employee Aishala Burgess will replace Melanie Fields as a juvenile prosecutor.

Experienced prosecutor Lori Nunn will be assigned to the newly created juvenile violent crime prosecutor position in Division B of Juvenile Court before the honorable Judge Pamela Taylor Johnson. New employee April Leon will replace Sonia Washington as a misdemeanor prosecutor. Sonia Washington will serve as the felony prosecutor in Section 8, replacing Ron Gathe who has succeeded Lori Nunn as the Section Chief for Criminal Trial Section 8.

The addition of these two new positions to prosecute juvenile violent offenders would not have been possible without this grant. This grant represents a significant step in District Attorney's Hillar Moore's efforts to continue to address the serious issues of violent juvenile crime in the Parish of East Baton Rouge. Other actions currently being taken by the District Attorney include relocating his entire Juvenile Crime Section from their downtown offices to offices physically located with the Juvenile Court and working closely with law enforcement, education, business and community partners to establish a multi-agency Adolescent Reporting and Truancy Center for the early identification of juveniles in need of services.

