



MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS

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HILLMAN BECOMES MAPA PRESIDENT

Kevin Hillman is set to take the helm of the Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (MAPA). Hillman, who is the Pulaski County Prosecuting Attorney, will lead the Association that represents Missouri's prosecutors over the next year.

"There have been many calls for reform of the criminal justice system over the past several years," said Hillman. "Prosecutors have led the way for many of those reforms, including revising the criminal code, recording police interrogations when dangerous felonies are committed, improving diversion programs, and supporting reasonable parole eligibility for truly non-violent offenders.

"Recently, however, much criticism has been leveled at prosecutors and law enforcement officers who work to keep our communities safe. Many of these criticisms miss the mark in an attempt to blame the criminal justice system for too many of society's woes.

"Unfortunately, a host of ideas that are promoted under the guise of 'reforming' the criminal justice system would actually open the floodgates of our prisons, erode valuable Truth in Sentencing laws, decriminalize serious offenses, and undermine the autonomy of locally elected prosecutors who are elected by and accountable to our communities. None of these ideas are good. And none of them really go to the heart of the legitimate challenges we face as a society.

"Instead, the answer is to refocus community efforts on strengthening families, improving educational and employment opportunities, obeying the law, and fostering respect for police officers who put their lives on the line to provide safe communities. Over the next year, my prosecutor colleagues and I look forward to an honest discussion about how to achieve what everyone truly wants: a safe and productive Missouri."

Hillman is the 46th president of MAPA since its inception in 1969. He succeeds immediate past-president and Boone County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Knight. Christian County Prosecuting Attorney Amy Fite is the Association's president-elect. Other officers include Cole County Prosecuting Attorney Mark Richardson and Taney County Prosecuting Attorney Jeff Merrell.

Hillman is the elected prosecutor for Pulaski County. In 2010, he began his first term as the elected prosecutor and he now is in his second term. Hillman attended Centre College in Danville, Kentucky, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in History and Government. Upon graduation, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army. Hillman graduated from the University of Cincinnati College of Law in 2000. He began his prosecution career as an assistant prosecutor with Butler County, Ohio. He was accepted into the Army's Judge Advocate General's Corps and stationed at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. After leaving active duty, Hillman continued to serve in the Missouri Army National Guard. Hillman was deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation Enduring Freedom with the 35th Combat Aviation Brigade. He currently holds the rank of lieutenant colonel and serves as the Command Judge Advocate of the 35th Combat Aviation Brigade, which is located in Sedalia, Missouri.

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