



McGREGOR W. SCOTT

*United States Attorney
Eastern District of California*

NEWS RELEASE

*Sacramento
501 I Street, Suite 10-100
Sacramento, CA 95814
Tel 916/554-2700
TTY 916/554-2877*

*Fresno
2500 Tulare Street, Suite 4401
Fresno, CA 93721
Tel 559/497-4000
TTY 559/497-4500*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 21, 2008

Contact: Lauren Horwood
(916) 554-2706
<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae>

VETERAN STANISLAUS COUNTY GANG PROSECUTOR CROSS-DESIGNATED AS FEDERAL PROSECUTOR TO TARGET GANG CRIME

SACRAMENTO—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott and Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager jointly announced today that Stanislaus County Deputy District Attorney Thomas Brennan was sworn in today as a Special Assistant United States Attorney (SAUSA) by the United States Attorney. Mr. Brennan is a veteran prosecutor and has served as a senior gang prosecutor for the Stanislaus County District Attorney's Office for the past seven years. As a SAUSA, Mr. Brennan will be able to bring federal criminal charges, which often carry more severe punishments and may result in incarceration outside of California, against Modesto and area gang offenders. Mr. Brennan will prosecute these cases on behalf of the United States in the Robert Coyle United States Courthouse in Fresno, California.

District Attorney Fladager stated, "Gang violence in Modesto and Stanislaus County must be stopped. The District Attorney's Office will make use of every tool at our disposal to remove gang members from our streets. The cross-designation of a local Deputy District Attorney as a Special Assistant United States Attorney will allow us to seek longer prison terms authorized under federal law for those violent gang offenders who choose to use a gun. The very real chance they will do their time far away from here is a further benefit to the citizens of California."

“Tackling gang violence in the Central Valley requires a concerted effort among local, state, and federal authorities. This cross-designation of a highly regarded local prosecutor from Modesto will serve as a force multiplier in cracking down on hardcore gang members in Stanislaus County. It will allow the District Attorney’s Office and the United States Attorney’s Office to maximize our options in making the community safer,” stated United States Attorney Scott.

###