





Stephen B. Russell, State Attorney

The Russell Report

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New Chief Assistant State Attorney

State Attorney Steve Russell is pleased to announce Amira Fox as the new Chief Assistant State Attorney. Amira replaces Randy McGruther who retired recently after more than 30 years with the State Attorney’s Office. She has been acting as the Deputy Chief Assistant State Attorney in the year leading up to McGruther’s retirement.

Amira graduated from American University in Washington D.C. in 1987 with degrees in International Studies and Economics. She received her law degree from The George Washington University in Washington, D.C. in 1990 and then began her career as an Assistant State Attorney with the 20th Judicial Circuit.

She worked in the misdemeanor, juvenile and felony divisions of the State Attorney’s Office before becoming head of the LaBelle office in 1998. In 1999 she became the first female head of the Collier County office.

Amira was in private practice from 2002-2012. During that time she was the managing partner of Fox & Ramunni, P.A., where she specialized in criminal defense and family law. Amira rejoined the State Attorney’s Office as the head of the Special Prosecutions Unit in 2012.

Amira is married to Mike Fox, who recently retired from the Collier County Sheriff’s Office after 30 years of service. Between them they have 4 children.

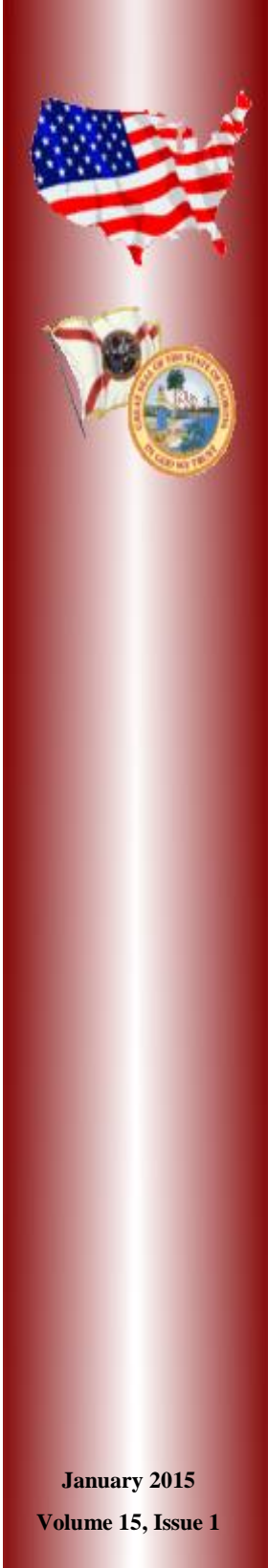


Amira Fox



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Mock Trial Team Win

Congratulations to the Charlotte High School Mock Trial team! The team won the county level competition taking both the first and second place awards with their two main teams. This is the fourth year that Charlotte High School has won and is also the fourth year prosecutors from the State Attorney's Office have coached the team. We also want to recognize Assistant State Attorneys Kate Horst, Stephanie Powers and Kyle Stublen for volunteering on this project!

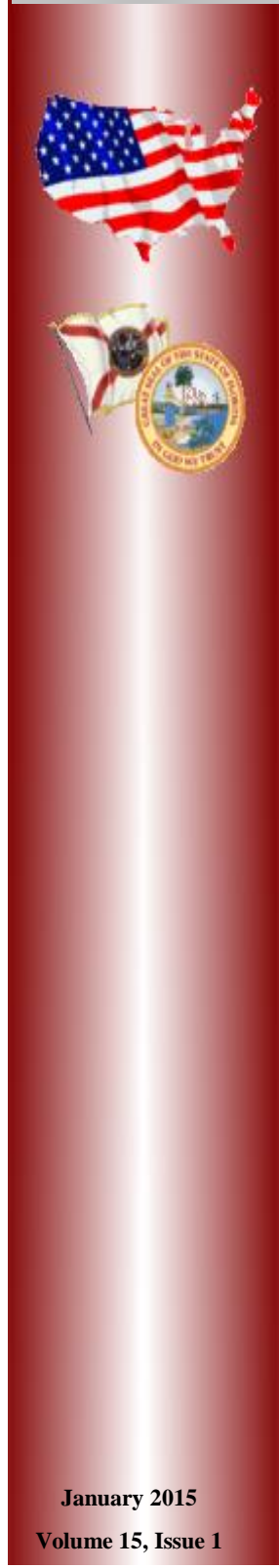
Learning About the State Attorney's Office

Staff members of the State Attorney's Office are available to speak to local students. Throughout the year we visit local classrooms and teach kids about what our office does and how the law works in Florida. We also invite local college students to volunteer at one of our offices throughout Southwest Florida. We have many volunteers who get to work closely with our prosecutors and get an education about the criminal justice system. If you would like to learn more about our programs, contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Nancy Cruz at ncruz@sao.cjis20.org or call her at 533-1000.



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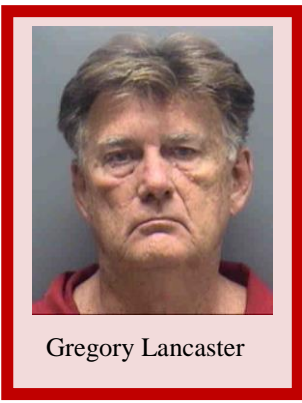
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Lewd Case

Gregory Lancaster was sentenced to 25 years in prison followed by lifetime sex offender probation. This is for 3 counts of lewd molestation, 1 count of lewd exhibition and 1 count of providing obscene material to a minor. 66-year-old Lancaster was a former tutor at a Lee County school.

Assistant State Attorney's Stephanie Russell and Alyssa Wolf handled the case.



Gregory Lancaster

Law Enforcement Appreciation Day

We are seeking sponsors for the 13th Annual State Attorney's Office Law Enforcement Appreciation Day Softball Tournament Event.

The event is May 9, 2015 at the Lee County Sports Complex. It's a free day of fun for law enforcement and their families. It's also open to the public.

Agencies from across Southwest Florida will be competing in 4 softball games on 4 fields throughout the day. There will also be carnival games, sponsor tables, great food and amazing raffle prizes.

If you want to learn about sponsorship opportunities, contact Communications Director Samantha Syoen at 239-533-1000.

All of the proceeds benefit Southwest Florida Crime Stoppers.





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GUILTY VERDICTS

ASA's Cassandra Quaglia and Marilla Pauly: Wanton Fleeing and Eluding, Driving While License Suspended, Aggravated Assault on a Law Enforcement Officer, Resisting or Obstructing a Law Enforcement Officer without Violence

ASA's Andrew Woodliff and Lindsay Scott: Leaving the Scene of an Accident

ASA's Andrew Woodliff and Lindsay Scott: Petit Theft over \$100

ASA's Matt Roepstorff and Cassandra Quaglia: Trafficking in Amphetamines 200 grams or more

ASA Lindsay Scott: Possession of Marijuana, Possession of Paraphernalia

ASA Connie Serrano: Possession of a Controlled Substance

ASA's John Grochowski and Andrew Woodliff: Battery (Domestic Violence)

ASA's John Grochowski and Mitchell Cooper: DUI 2nd or more

ASA's Cassandra Quaglia and Matt Roepstorff: Robbery

ASA's John Grochoswki and Andrew Woodliff: Driving While License Suspended

ASA Andrew Woodliff: Domestic Violence Battery

ASA's Maria Berrette and Lisa Difilippo: DUI

ASA Brad Willard: Reckless Driving

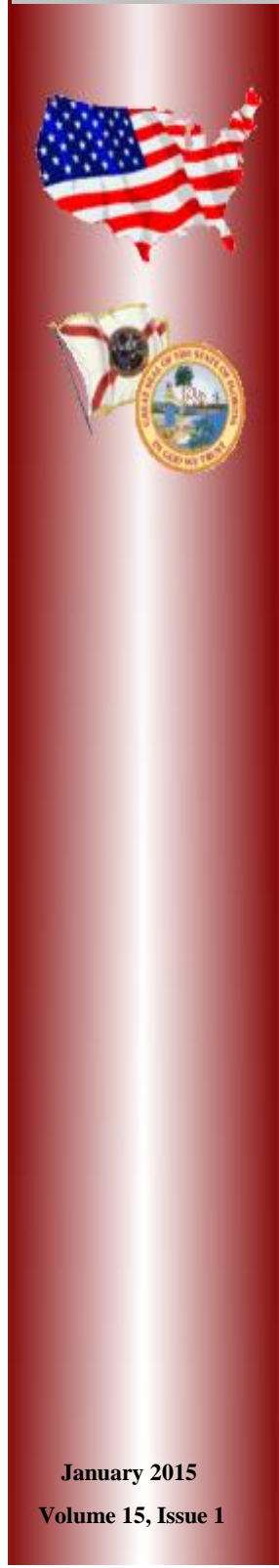




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Serving Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee Counties

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JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES:

In recognition of service to the people of Southwest Florida, and dedication to their jobs with the State Attorney's Office, a heartfelt thank you goes to the following people on their January employment anniversary dates:

- | | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Steve Maresca '86 | Jody White '09 | John Grochowski '14 |
| Celeste Lyons '90 | Maryann Malizia '10 | Robert Nichols '14 |
| Dave Scuderi '95 | Christine Cummins '10 | Nathan Zahrt '14 |
| Martin Stark '95 | Tracy Detzel '10 | |
| Kelly Worcester '96 | Lisa Travis '10 | |
| Larry Justham '03 | Kimberly Gobble '11 | |
| Steve Russell '03 | Steven Bentley '11 | |
| Connie Serrano '04 | Karen Matejkovic '11 | |
| Mark Moore '05 | Heather Searcy '12 | |
| Samantha Syoen '07 | Nabeel Basit '13 | |
| Barry Lewis '09 | Agnieszka Osowicka '13 | |
| Cameron Siggs '09 | Abigail Driver '14 | |

SOMETIMES THEY MAKE IT EASY

A night at a cemetery for some fraternity brothers belonging to Sigma Alpha Epsilon at the University of South Carolina Upstate ended with one of them going to jail. They claimed they were there for a bonding ritual at the cemetery. The 21-year-old was carrying an unlicensed Glock 9mm when police arrested him. He claimed it was for protection at the cemetery. No one has elaborated on what the ritual was about or just what would be at a cemetery that you would need a gun for protection. Ghosts maybe?

