

Connie Fernandez— New York County District Attorney’s Office

Connie Fernandez recently celebrated her 32nd anniversary as an Assistant District Attorney with the New York County District Attorney’s Office. During her tenure, she has served as Deputy Chief of the Major Offense Career Criminal Program, where she prosecuted repeat felony offenders who were responsible for a disproportionate share of burglaries, robberies and other street crimes in Manhattan, as well as working in the Homicide Investigation Unit, which focuses on violent drug gangs. In 2010, Ms. Fernandez was appointed Deputy Chief of Trial Bureau 30, where she currently oversees approximately 50 ADAs.

Ms. Fernandez’s career has included many notable and challenging cases. For example, she spearheaded the successful murder prosecutions of Sante and Kenneth Kimes, mother and son drifters responsible for a cross-country crime spree, and did so without the body of the 82 year-old widow they killed in Manhattan. Ms. Fernandez has also investigated and secured convictions in numerous other cases, including a disfiguring attack against aspiring model Marla Hanson, the murder of an NBC employee by William Tager outside the “Today Show” studios in Rockefeller Plaza, extortion by members of an Asian gang, and the prosecution of Adela Holzer, who defrauded numerous persons seeking United States citizenship. As Deputy Chief of Trial Bureau 30, in addition to her significant supervisory responsibilities, Ms. Fernandez continues to carry her own caseload of complex prosecutions, which demonstrates the confidence that the District Attorney’s Office places in her judgment and investigative skills.

In addition to her trial and supervisory work, Ms. Fernandez has been a member of the Diversity Committee since its inception in 1989, has mentored numerous members of the legal staff, and is active in the office’s Community Affairs Unit. In addition to her service to the District Attorney’s Office, Ms. Fernandez has travelled to Guatemala City to educate lawyers and judges about prosecuting criminal cases and has participated in a variety of community programs to promote and protect the interests of children.

It is an honor to present Connie Fernandez with the Dewey Medal in recognition of her long history of accomplishments in the courtroom, as well as her active and positive presence in the community.