

How do you know if a District Attorney and his/her office is right for the job? Below is the District attorney in questions background and what a legit

prosecutor's role is. You will also find information on what the remedy is to remove or demand change from such an abusive DA. If you pull his records, you will find that his office lost its way a long time ago and needs oversight to refocus convictions to be based on adhering to due process, the constitution, and most importantly JUSTICE!

Kevin R. Steele, District Attorney

Kevin Steele has been the District Attorney of Montgomery County since 2016. Since then, he has continued his nearly 30-year commitment as a prosecutor to seeking justice—for victims, for defendants and for the community. As District Attorney, Steele has been smart but tough on crime and has created and implemented innovative programs that provide a second chance to deserving offenders. Steele and his team of detectives, prosecutors and staff have worked to proactively attack crime in Montgomery County, especially tackling the opioid-heroin-fentanyl crisis in multiple ways as well as focusing on illegal firearms and domestic and relationship violence. But at the same time, the DA's Office has continued efforts to reduce crime through education and prevention.

A career prosecutor, Steele thrives on seeking justice by trying cases. Along with his duties as District Attorney, he continues to personally prosecute cases in court. This year, he prosecuted *Commonwealth v. Lawrence Crawley*, a horrific relationship violence homicide case where

the defendant was found guilty and sentenced to life plus 9 to 18 years. In the last few years, Steele prosecuted *Commonwealth v. Kevin Stillman*, an illegal firearms case, and *Commonwealth v. Kathleen Kane*, the former attorney general of Pennsylvania, who was found guilty of perjury, obstruction of justice and leaking confidential Grand Jury information. These cases were just three of thousands that Steele has handled in his 29 years as a prosecutor. His prosecutions have involved all types of charges: homicide, drug trafficking, robberies, firearms offenses, sexual assaults and many others. In 2019, he was inducted into the prestigious American College of Trial Lawyers for his trial advocacy. He is also committed to victims and victims' rights, and as such was honored with the 2019 Pennsylvania Governor's Pathfinder Award for his commitment

Throughout his career, Steele has been committed to community involvement and public service. He was recently appointed President of the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association and serves on its Executive Board. He is Chairman of the Executive Board of the Liberty Mid-Atlantic High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area. Steele is the Board Vice President of Penn Wynne-Overbrook Hills Fire Company as well as a board member of the Baldwin School, Mission Kids Child Advocacy Center and the Montgomery County Child Advocacy Project. Steele was given the Hometown Hero Award by the 76ers for his work with Big Brothers/Big Sisters. He is a longtime Penn State alumni volunteer, serving on the Penn State Board of Trustees (2017–2019), as the Penn State Alumni Association President (2015–2017) and on the PSAA Alumni Council (2005–2019). Steele is an adjunct faculty member at Cabrini University and the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Institute.

The Prosecutor's Job (By Janet Portman, Attorney Updated: Sep 24th, 2021)

to victims and victim services.

From investigating and charging crimes to handling post-conviction appeals and writs, the prosecutor's job is to do justice.

Prosecutors are lawyers who investigate, charge, and prosecute (take to trial) people whom they think have committed a <u>crime</u>. In the <u>federal</u> system, these prosecutors are called U.S. Attorneys and Assistant U.S. Attorneys. Prosecutors in the states are known as district attorneys, state attorneys, or have other similar names.

Although a prosecutor regularly deals with police officers, witnesses, and victims, the prosecutor's primary obligation is not to serve the interests of these parties. However sympathetic to the suffering of a victim, the prosecutor is also not the victim's lawyer. Instead, the prosecutor's duty is to serve the cause of justice. The prosecutor's true client is justice itself, which means that the prosecutor must exercise discretion (sound judgment) at every step in a criminal investigation, trial, and beyond. The sections below illustrate how discretion infuses a prosecutor's decisions.

"The prosecutor's true client is justice itself..."

The Prosecutor's Post-Conviction Role

Most defendants who are convicted of felonies <u>appeal</u> their convictions. The appellate division of the prosecutors' offices handles the case for the government, arguing that the conviction and sentence should be upheld on appeal. Occasionally, defendants file <u>writs of habeas corpus</u>, in which they allege incompetence of their trial <u>counsel</u> or try to present newly-discovered evidence, as a reason to overturn their convictions. State prosecutors respond to these filings, also.

What Restrains the Prosecutor's Discretion?

Not much, but here's a run-down of how abusive prosecutors can be brought to heel:

• Ask for a legal remedy. Prosecutors are subject to state and federal constitutions, which require them to uphold due process rights and equal protection of the law (for example, a prosecutor cannot present false evidence or discriminate during jury selection). Because there's a presumption that the prosecutor is

- acting properly, it is very difficult for defendants to win claims of unconstitutional treatment.
- Refer them to professional disciplinary bodies. Prosecutors are generally immune from prosecution for their advocacy decisions, but they are still subject to rules of professional conduct. Bodies, like their state bar agencies and the Department of Justice's Office of Professional Responsibilities, examine claims of prosecutorial misconduct and poor judgment.
- Initiate an internal review. Though some might see this as an ineffectual attempt for an office to "police itself," this avenue might have merit and get results.
- Fire them or vote them out. Prosecutors can be removed if they are viewed as abusing their discretion. Those who stand for office can be voted out, and those who are appointed by the executive branch of government (such as the President or a governor) can be fired.
- Legislatures can change the underlying laws. Legislatures write the laws (complete with sentences) that the prosecutors charge, and if it appears that a particular statute is being improperly charged, the legislature (and the executive, who signs the law) can change it.

If you or someone you know is being mistreated by our judicial system, please contact me at: www.shattereddreamz.com, in addition, please sign our petition for change and a new trial based on a Brady violation at: https://chng.it/pKnbPtF6