

NEWS RELEASE



OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

San Diego, California

***United States Attorney
Carol C. Lam***

For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - January 16, 2007

United States Attorney Carol Chien-Hua Lam announced today that she will be leaving her position as the United States Attorney for the Southern District of California, which includes San Diego and Imperial Counties, effective February 15, 2007. “It has been both a great honor and a great privilege to have served the nation and the Southern District of California as United States Attorney for the past four and one-half years,” said U.S. Attorney Lam. “The dedication shown by the men and women of the U.S. Attorney’s Office can be seen every day in the important cases they prosecute, including cases relating to terrorism, immigration, narcotics, public corruption, and fraud.”

“I thank the President for giving me the opportunity to serve as United States Attorney.”

Lam, a graduate of Yale University and Stanford Law School, was sworn in as the United States Attorney on September 4, 2002, having previously served as a Superior Court judge in San Diego. Prior to her appointment to the bench, Ms. Lam was an Assistant United States Attorney in the San Diego office from 1986 to 2000, where she was Chief of the office’s Major Frauds Section. Ms. Lam has extensive experience

in the prosecution of health care fraud and white collar crime cases in San Diego. She served as the Chairperson on the San Diego Medical Fraud Task Force, as well as a member of the National Health Care Fraud Working Group. Ms. Lam began her legal career as a law clerk in the Department of Justice Appellate Tax Division in 1984. Later that year, she began an internship in San Diego with United States District Judge Earl B. Gilliam and later served as a law clerk to the Honorable Irving R. Kaufman, Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals, Second Circuit, in New York. Ms. Lam also taught conversational English and American literature at the Jiao Tong University in Shanghai, China in 1982. During her tenure as United States Attorney, she served as a member of a number of the Attorney General's Advisory Committee's Subcommittees on Health Care Fraud, Controlled Substances, Terrorism/National Security, Border and Immigration, and White Collar/Fraud.

Adele Fasano, San Diego Director of Field Operations, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, said, "U.S. Customs and Border Protection has enjoyed a strong, collaborative relationship with the U.S. Attorney's Office to combat smuggling activity through the ports of entry. This focused effort has been particularly effective in the area of alien smuggling and has resulted in the aggressive prosecution of serious violators and organizations. Such efforts by the U.S. Attorney's Office have been an integral part of our enforcement program to combat cross-border smuggling."

Michael Unzueta, Special Agent in Charge, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) said, "There is no greater challenge than that of public service. Carol Lam is truly an example of a dedicated public servant and a law enforcement professional. We will miss her leadership and we wish her well in any future endeavor. I will personally miss her."

Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) Southwest Field Office Special Agent in Charge John Cooper said, "The departure of Ms. Lam will be a great loss, as our offices have consistently worked closely and successfully during her tenure. Ms. Lam is the consummate law enforcement executive who leads by example, continually demonstrating tremendous conviction, integrity, and the highest of professional standards. It has truly been an honor to work with her."

Alan Poleszak, Acting Special Agent in Charge, Drug Enforcement Administration, San Diego Field Division, stated, “Over the past four years DEA enjoyed a productive and proactive relationship with United States Attorney Carol Lam and her team of dedicated and talented prosecutors. The ongoing prosecution of the Javier Arellano Felix drug trafficking organization is both historic and noteworthy, adding to a legacy which includes aggressive regional methamphetamine enforcement and the prosecution of marijuana dispensaries. The United States Attorney is an integral part of the close-knit San Diego law enforcement community. As such, her commitment to federal law enforcement in this judicial district, county and city will be missed. DEA wishes her the very best.”

Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation, Special Agent in Charge Kenneth Hines stated, “It is a loss to the law enforcement community to lose such a respected and dedicated prosecutor that has served the citizens of San Diego County throughout her career. The Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation has worked well with her as a prosecutor and as the United States Attorney.”

Chief William Lansdowne, San Diego Police Department, said, “Carol is one of the best U.S. Attorneys I have had the pleasure of working with. She is always available, very responsive and makes tough decisions quickly. I believe crime is down in our city because of her aggressiveness, especially with the gang challenges we experience. I am impressed with her recent handling of the case against the Arellano-Felix cartel members. Carol gets high marks from all of our assistant chiefs as well. I admire Carol for her assertiveness in going after elected officials who have broken the law. She certainly isn’t shy when it comes to these types of cases and that is a quality we need in a U.S. Attorney.”

United States Attorney Lam said, “During the past four years, we have obtained higher sentences for illegal aliens with serious criminal histories, and the violent crime rate has declined in San Diego. We have prosecuted serious cases involving public corruption, dismantled the leadership of large narcotics cartels and prison gangs, and protected the public fisc in civil litigation. I want to take this opportunity to thank the talented attorneys and staff of the U.S. Attorney’s Office for serving the people of the Southern District of California so well.”