



## OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF TULARE

*Timothy Ward*

ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

November 2012, will mark Tim Ward's 13th anniversary with the Tulare County District Attorney's Office. Tim was promoted to Assistant District Attorney in April 2011 and is in charge of the Bureau of Administration, overseeing all logistical operations of the largest law office in Tulare County.

Since joining the District Attorney's Office, Tim has held numerous assignments varying from Felony Trial Division, Juvenile Division, and the Porterville Division. He has completed a number of special prosecution assignments where he prosecuted Agricultural Crime, Career Criminal, and Homicide cases. In 2005, Tim was promoted to Supervising Deputy District Attorney and has supervised both the Juvenile Divisions and Porterville Divisions. In addition, he has supervised the Operations Division consisting of the Support staff, I.T., Fiscal, Special Programs, and the Victim Advocate units.

Tim is a 1988 graduate of the University of Tennessee with a Bachelor's of Science in Education.



After completing an Army ROTC scholarship, he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in 1989 and served at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California holding positions as Tank Platoon Leader, Tank Company Executive Officer, and Scout Platoon Leader. In 1992, Tim was promoted to the rank of Captain. He was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army.

After his service in the Army, Tim earned his Juris Doctor from Western State University College of Law in Fullerton, California. During law school he held an internship at the Orange County District Attorney's Office which is where his career as a prosecutor began.

In addition to his desire to become a prosecutor, Tim was drawn to this region of the Sierras to pursue his hobby of whitewater kayaking. His passion for whitewater kayaking has taken him across the country and as far Central America. After moving to Tulare County, he met his lovely wife Devon who is a native Visalian. They have been married for five years and their daughter Peyton celebrated her 4th birthday in September.

**PROSECUTORIAL EXPERIENCE**

Since 1999, Tim has fought for justice as a prosecutor in the Tulare County District Attorney's Office. In April 2011, Tim was promoted to Assistant District Attorney, overseeing the Bureau of Administration. Tim is responsible for the logistical operations of the largest law office in Tulare County, which includes Support staff, I.T., Fiscal, Special Programs, and the Victim Advocate units. During his tenure, Tim has held numerous positions within the office, encompassing nearly every aspect and several leadership functions of the Tulare County District Attorney's Office.

**Assignments:**

- Assistant District Attorney, ..... April 2011 – Present  
Bureau of Administration
  
- Supervising Attorney
  - Administrative Operations ..... August 2007 – April 2011
  - Porterville Division ..... July 2006 – August 2007
  - Juvenile Division ..... September 2005 – July 2006
  
- Deputy District Attorney
  - Violent Crime/Homicide ..... December 2003 – September 2005
  - Career Criminal Prosecutor ..... December 2002 – December 2003
  - Visalia Division ..... June 2001 – December 2002
  - Rural Crime Prosecutor ..... October 2000 – June 2001
  - Porterville Division ..... May 2000 – October 2000
  - Visalia Division ..... March 2000 – May 2000
  - Juvenile Division ..... November 1999 – March 2000

**MILITARY EXPERIENCE**

- United States Army, Ft. Irwin, CA
- Served from 1989 to 1992
- Captain, Honorable Discharge 1992
- Served as Armor Officer in the elite Opposing Force Unit at the National Training Center with various command positions
- Tank Platoon Leader. Achieved the rating of "Best Platoon in Company"
- Promoted to Executive Officer of a 75 man tank company and assumed command in the absence of the commander
- Served as Scout Platoon Leader, commanding one of only two opposing force platoons replicating a Soviet reconnaissance company

**EDUCATION**

- Western State University, College of Law, Fullerton, CA  
Juris Doctor Degree, May 1998  
Member, California State Bar  
American Jurisprudence Awards: Con Law II, U.C.C., Wills and Advance Trial Practice
  
- University of Tennessee, Knoxville  
Bachelor of Science Degree, Marketing Education 1988  
Army ROTC Scholarship

**ADDITIONAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING**

- Scout Platoon Leader's Course, Ft. Knox, KY 1991
- Armor Officer's Basic Course, Ft. Knox, KY 1989
- Leadership Summit 2009 – California District Attorney's Association
- Experience Prosecutor's Course 2006 – National District Attorney's Association

**AWARDS AND CERTIFICATES**

- Prosecutor of the Year, 2009: Central Valley Arson Investigators Association
- Prosecutor of the Year, 2006: Porterville Exchange Club
- Order of Hamby, First Class: U.S. Army, National Training Center
- Recipient, Draper Leadership Award: Armor Officer's Basic Course

**NOTEWORTHY CASES:**

**People v. Meraz (2010)**

Defendant convicted of First Degree Murder with special allegation that he was an active member in a criminal street gang. In 2003, defendant shot and killed a rival gang member who was parked in the drive-through at Jack-in-the-Box restaurant on Mooney Boulevard.

**People v. Courtney (2009)**

Defendant convicted of four counts of Unlawfully Causing a Wildfire along with special allegations of causing great bodily injury or death to firefighters and injuring more than one victim. In 2006, Defendant started wild land fires in the Bear Creek drainage area near Mountain Home conservation camp. During reconnaissance flight, a Cal Fire plane crashed killing two crew members.

**People v. Donna Andrews (2006)**

Former Golden West High School teacher convicted of attempted murder with special allegation that she personally used a handgun. In 2005, defendant shot her daughter-in-law two times with a 9mm handgun while in the victim's residence.

**People v. Mejia & Gaytan (2005)**

Both defendants convicted of First Degree Murder stemming from their attempted carjacking of a vehicle at Caldwell Village apartments in Visalia on Christmas morning, 2003. During the attempt to steal a vehicle, the owner confronted the defendant(s) and during an altercation defendant Mejia fired a weapon at a victim which struck and killed a third accomplice in the carjacking.

**PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS:**

- Board of Directors, Tulare County Bar Association
  
- Tulare County Community Corrections Partnership
  
- California District Attorney's Association
  
- Tulare County Criminal Justice Group
  
- Managed Project Proximity in conjunction with the Visalia Police Department
  
- District Attorney's Office Gang Task Force Commander, 2004-2005