



# STATE OF MONTANA

## Office of the State Public Defender

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*October 2013*  
*Report to the Public Defender Commission*  
*Catherine Huston, Liaison for Investigators and Support Staff*

### **SUPPORT STAFF:**

#### **Support Staff Training:**

Support Staff training was held at Fairmont in April. Survey results indicated that the training was valuable and feedback from many of our Support Staff is that they were pleased with the majority of the training, having break outs and choices, and feeling like they had some say in what was needed/requested.

OVERALL: How would you rate the Support Staff conference?

37 respondents answered the question and none skipped the question  
Poor 2; OK 4; Good 15; Excellent 16;

The following members of our Support Staff received awards for the appreciation of their hard work and continued dedication to the OPD. Regional awards were presented to:

Polson	<i>Mary Roth and Juanita Nystrom</i>
Missoula	<i>Nancy Paul</i>
Great Falls	<i>Jason Kindsvatter</i>
Helena	<i>Hailey Dugger</i>
Anaconda	<i>Mary Brown and Butte Becky Craik</i>
Havre	<i>Jamie Moore</i>
Lewistown	<i>Gail Hikel</i>
Bozeman	<i>Sarah Wardinsky</i>
Billings	<i>Jan Cates</i>
Glendive	<i>Ronda Hansen</i>
Miles City	<i>Gabriela Stradley</i>

Appellate Defender Office award:	<i>Elizabeth Hines</i>
Major Crimes Unit award:	<i>Alta Solan</i>
Central Services award:	<i>Traci Brasier</i>

**OPD Administrative Support of the Year: Craig McKillop, Missoula**

**Labor Negotiations:**

Contract Negotiations for Support Staff and Investigators began June 27, 2013. Both sides wanted to ratify a contract quickly to get the HB 13 3% in effect ASAP. (Retroactive to July 1, 2013) The contract was signed, and the back pay and raises were seen on the last paycheck in August.

**Case Counts and Support Staff:**

Tom Schoenleben, Region 6 RDPD will present on this.

**INVESTIGATORS:****Comings and Goings:**

Best of luck to investigators Ryan Evans who is leaving the Region 4, Helena, office, and Bill Buzzell who is leaving Region 2, Hamilton.

Welcome aboard Christine Munsey from Townsend, who will be taking over the Helena position starting November 4, 2013.

**Investigator Training:**

Investigator training took place in Ennis, MT August 28-29. Feedback was positive. Mark Beck, investigator in Missoula, is qualified as an expert in fingerprint analysis. He gave a presentation, followed by Trace DNA that was presented by the Crime Lab. The two topics went hand in hand. Doug Ziglar from the Kalispell office gave a presentation on Coordinating Services with Attorneys. The OPD is capitalizing on each investigators' unique work history and education. They have expertise in various capacities and the OPD is starting to utilize the resources we have on board. The agenda is provided as a supplement to this report.

**OPD Investigator of the Year: Cathy Huston, Region 6, Havre**

**2013 OPD INVESTIGATOR TRAINING CONFERENCE**  
**Wednesday-Thursday, August 28-29, 2013**  
**El Western Hotel, Ennis, Montana**

Investigators will travel to the conference site on Tuesday, August 27.

The training session will begin at 8:30 AM on Wednesday, August 28 and will adjourn at 5:00 that afternoon. Training will recommence at 8:30 AM on Thursday, August 29 and will adjourn at Noon at which time investigators will travel back to their home offices.

Participants will stay at the El Western hotel in Ennis, Montana on Tuesday and Wednesday nights, August 27-28.

**WEDNESDAY August 28**

8:30 – 8:45 AM: Welcome (Mori Woods)

8:45 – 10:45 AM: Session 1: Forensic Science 1: Fingerprints (Mark Beck)

10:45 – 12:15 PM: Session 2: Forensic Science 2: Trace DNA (Montana Forensic Science Division)

**12:15 – 1:30 PM: LUNCH**

1:30 – 3:15 PM: Session 3: Teamwork 1 – Working with a Capital Mitigation Specialist (Holly Jackson, Ron Cummings)

3:15 – 4:15 PM: Session 4: Teamwork 2 – Coordinating Services with Staff Attorneys (Doug Ziglar)

4:30 – 5:00 PM: Session 5: Teamwork 3 – Coordinating Services with Contract Attorneys (Stephanie Kruer)

**WEDNESDAY August 28**

8:30 – 9:00 AM: Session 6: 2013 Legislative Update (Peter Ohman)

9:00 – 10:00 AM: Session 7: Reports and statements: When do I have to surrender my work product? (Wade Zolynski)

10:00 – Noon: Session 8: Investigating DUI's (Rich Buley)

**Participants:**

OPD investigators

**Instructors:**

Mori Woods, Mark Beck, Philip Kinsey, Holly Jackson, Ron Cummings, Doug Ziglar, Stephanie Kruer, Peter Ohman, Wade Zolynski, Rich Buley