

The New Hires - 2022



SANTA CLARA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

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Thomas Butterfoss graduated from the University of Chicago in 2012. While there, he was a member of the Neighborhood Schools Program and the men's rugby team. He was Phi Beta Kappa and on the Dean's List. Mr. Butterfoss received his law degree from Stanford Law School in 2019. During his time at Stanford, he was a public interest fellow and an articles editor for the Stanford Law Review. While some students went to Cabo San Lucas, Mr. Butterfoss took an alternative spring break at Centro Legal de la Raza in Oakland writing briefs for asylum applications and worked with clients to complete applications for permanent U.S. residency.

Since January 2020, Mr. Butterfoss has worked at the Monterey County District Attorney's Office, as a Deputy District Attorney, in Salinas. He has conducted five misdemeanor jury trials and co-chaired one felony jury trial.

In 2019, Mr. Butterfoss was a law clerk at Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy in Burlingame. Prior to that, he was a Fair and Just Prosecution fellow at the San Joaquin County District Attorney's Office in Stockton.

Mr. Butterfoss started his career at this Office as a law clerk in 2018. He returned to the law clerk internship program in 2019 where he presented evidence and argued in felony preliminary hearings.

In 2017, Mr. Butterfoss was a law clerk in the Economic Justice Unit at Bay Area Legal Aid in Oakland. From 2012 to 2016, he worked as a policy analyst for the Bureau of Planning and Management at the Manhattan District Attorney's Office in New York City. It was there, working on grants for such things as the office's Crime Analysis Unit and playing pickup basketball with prosecutors, that the idea struck him that he would like to represent the People.

One of the grants was to fund the testing of sexual assault kits. As the money flowed, so did the testing of many kits. Mr. Butterfoss would think: "My god, we just caught a rapist."

The St. Paul, Minnesota native – whose father was a law professor there - was heartened to see the Office take a leading role in announcing a series of reforms in the wake of the George Floyd protests last summer.

Mr. Butterfoss: "It confirmed why I wanted to work at the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office in the first place - the culture of respect for all people, the sense of duty and service to the community, and the commitment to seeking justice, even when that means re-thinking the ways things have always been done."



Daniel Dahlin graduated from the University of California, Berkeley in 2010. While there, he was a Barrows scholar and treasurer for the Cal Veterans Group. He was crew team captain for the Orange Coast Community College in Costa Mesa, where he went for his first two years of undergraduate studies. Mr. Dahlin received his law degree from the University of San Francisco School of Law in 2015. He was the editor-in-chief for the Maritime Law Journal.

Mr. Dahlin comes to this Office from the Orange County District Attorney's Office, where he had been working since 2017. His last assignment was with the General Felonies Trial Panel.

In 2016, Mr. Dahlin was a deputy district attorney for the Tuolumne County District Attorney's Office where he tried 14 jury trials.

Mr. Dahlin was a supervising research attorney for the Alameda County Superior Court, under the Honorable Stuart Hing in 2016. It was his experiences under Judge Hing that convinced him that he wanted to be a prosecutor. Earlier that same year, he was an intern assigned to the Alameda County District Attorney's Office Sexually Violent Predator Unit. Mr. Dahlin was an intern for the California Department of Justice's Licensing Litigation Section in Oakland that same year.

Mr. Dahlin served in the U.S. Army from 2000 to 2004. He was honorably discharged as a sergeant from the U.S. Army, 10th Mountain Division, in Fort Drum, New York.

Mr. Dahlin said: "I am a new member of this community, but my devotion to serve and provide my voice as a member of this Office comes from a long-held desire to give a voice to the bullied, or voiceless."



Norma De Santiago graduated from California State University, Long Beach in 2011. She received her law degree from California Western School of Law in San Diego in 2017.

Since 2018, Ms. De Santiago has worked as a deputy district attorney for the Tuolumne County District Attorney's Office in Sonora. As one of two misdemeanor prosecutors for that office, she was responsible for filing half of all the misdemeanors in the county. She has tried 25 cases before a jury, over 30 traffic court trials, and 12 juvenile contested hearings.

Ms. De Santiago began her career at this Office as a legal intern in 2011. She returned in 2017 as a post bar honors law clerk for the Law and Motions Unit.

In 2017, Ms. De Santiago was a certified law clerk for the San Diego County District Attorney's Office. She was a judicial intern for the Superior Court of San Diego in 2016. Earlier that same year, she was a certified law clerk for the City Attorney's Office of San Diego.

In 2015, Ms. De Santiago was a legal intern for the Fiscalía Nacional (Attorney General) in Santiago, Chile.

It was when this daughter of a farm worker and a housewife was volunteering for FACEs – which later became our Victim Services Unit – that Ms. Santiago found her calling. She could directly help victims, many who reminded the Silver Creek High graduate of the people she had grown up near in her neighborhood. "I'm San Jose through and through," she said. "I'm coming home to protect my own community."

Ms. De Santiago attended mass at St. Maria Goretti Church every Sunday and formed relationships with lower-middle class Hispanic families like her own. Through working as a receptionist at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Milpitas during high school, she came into contact and networked with wealthy tech executives from some of the world's largest corporations.

Ms. De Santiago said: "As a prosecutor, I am committed to serving the diverse communities of this County. I believe that whether a person lives in Palo Alto or East San Jose, we are all part of Santa Clara County and deserve to be safe and protected."

Her older brother, Carlos De Santiago, is a Monterey County DA investigator who served as a Palo Alto Police officer for 16 years.

Ms. De Santiago is an animal lover and during her free time she enjoys volunteering at animal shelters and rescuing homeless pets.



Jessica Goston graduated from the University of Notre Dame in Indiana in 2015. While there, the History and Spanish language student was a volunteer tutor for Latino students in the South Bend area in the after-school programs of St. Adalbert Catholic School and La Casa de Amistad. Ms. Goston received her law degree from the University of Notre Dame Law School in 2021. She was a member of the Future Prosecuting Attorneys Council, admissions chair for the Black Law Students Association, student leader for the Galilee Public Interest Immersion Program, and a volunteer with the Volunteer Lawyer Network.

Ms. Goston will become a prosecutor with the Office where she has clerked since the summer after her first year of law school. She was a second-year honors law clerk for this Office in 2020 where she successfully conducted three felony preliminary hearings where the defendants were held to answer. She also conducted a probable cause hearing that resulted in the defendant's guilty plea. She returned in 2021 as a post bar honors law clerk.

Ms. Goston was a certified legal extern for the St. Joseph County Prosecutor's Office Special Victims Unit in South Bend, Indiana in 2020. During her externship, she appeared as second chair in a three-count misdemeanor bench trial. Ms. Goston prepared the witnesses to testify and the defendant pleaded guilty after the prosecution won all pretrial motions and the first witness testified.

In 2015, Ms. Goston was employed at The Advisory Board Company in Washington, D.C., a health care research and consulting firm. Over three years, she was promoted from an account management associate to an advisor for over 80 independent medical groups.

Ms. Goston was born and raised in Fresno, the only child to a high school football coach and a former probation officer who is now a public school principal. They both inspired her to give back to her community. Ms. Goston's family of former college athletes and die-hard Fighting Irish fans contributes to her love of being on a team.

Originally, she had thought of being a nurse. But shadowing a supervising prosecutor in Fresno was a turning point. When the prosecutor tried a domestic violence preliminary hearing, the prosecutor was the only person in the courtroom for the victim. The defendant had a courtroom filled with supporters. Later, as Ms. Goston sat in, the prosecutor discussed case strategy with her unit.

Ms. Goston said: "Showing compassion, working with a team. These are incredible aspects for a job. I can work toward justice every day and I come from educators and coaches so maybe one day I can be a coach and a cheerleader for younger prosecutors."

Ms. Goston enjoys sports and listening to podcasts.



Daniel Johnston graduated from the University of California, Santa Barbara in 2009. He received his law degree from Santa Clara University School of Law in 2019. While there, Mr. Johnston received the Witkin Award for Academic Excellence, the CALI Excellence for the Future Award, the Sarah Weddington Writing Prize for New Students Scholarship, the Herman and Edith Wildman Social Justice Law Writing Award, and the Public Interest & Social Justice Law Certificate. He was also the Honors Moot Court Internal Champion, Internal Best Oral Advocate, Internal Best Quarterfinal, Semifinal, and Final Oral Advocate in 2018. In 2019, he was an Honors Moot Court Advocacy Board member.

Since 2020, Mr. Johnston has prosecuted misdemeanor and felony jury trials as a deputy district attorney for the Sutter County District Attorney's Office in Yuba City. Mr. Johnston was a summer intern for the United States Attorney's Office in San Francisco in 2018. In 2017, Mr. Johnston was a legal intern for this Office. He returned in 2019 as a post bar legal intern and appeared in court for a variety of matters including preliminary hearings for felony cases.

Mr. Johnston comes to this Office with nearly a decade of experience in mental health services. He was a Mental Health Rehabilitation Specialist in Santa Cruz County with a focus on adults managing mental illness.

In 2015 he was the lead coordinator for Front St. Incorporated in Santa Cruz where he supervised four mental health coordinators in a residential care setting and counseled a caseload of ten individuals managing a wide array of mental health diagnoses. In 2009, he was a mental health counselor for Encompass Community Services in Santa Cruz. While there, he supported clients in managing mental health probation, attending required court appointments, meeting with the public guardian, and complying with treatment requirements.

The Santa Cruz native grew up in a household where service to the community is paramount. His father, a licensed clinical social worker, and mother, a former mental health worker now licensed acupuncturist, instilled in him the drive to give all you can to make the world around you better. His focus on mental health and prosecution comes from his parents and from seeing the fallout of many mentally ill crime victims struggling to make sense of the criminal justice system. He recalled how a mentally ill crime victim had to choose between finding stable housing and showing up for court dates.

Mr. Johnston said: "Rather than bemoan the state of things, I have set out to embody the growth I want for those around me."

Mr. Johnston is a 3rd Dan Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do. He enjoys instructing, composing, and performing with a guitar, antique restoration, and digital audio recording.



Sophia Khan graduated from Brown University in Rhode Island in 2004. Ms. Khan received her law degree from Harvard Law School in 2008.

Since 2017, she has been a deputy title IX coordinator and investigator at Stanford University. She has investigated numerous sexual assault, harassment and stalking cases at the University.

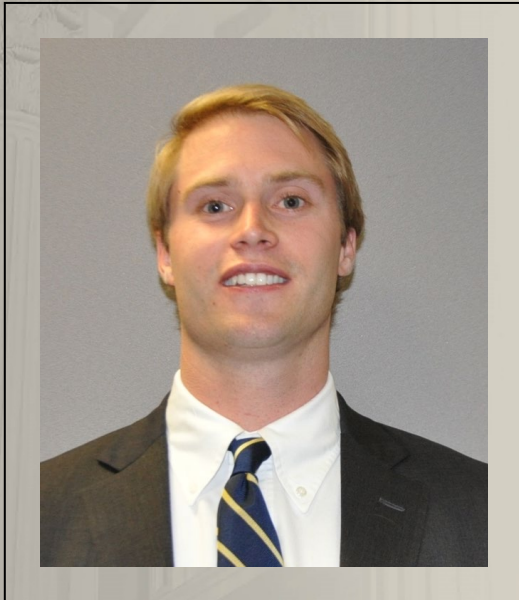
For six years before that position, Ms. Khan was a prosecutor with the Manhattan District Attorney's Office. While there, she handled 19 jury trials for defendants charged with domestic violence, robbery, and other violent felonies.

In 2008, she was an associate litigation attorney with Gibson Dunn & Crutcher, LLP in New York City, handling anti-trust and securities litigation matters.

In Manhattan, Ms. Khan was handed a stack of evidence after an arrest for a stabbing. It included a 911 call from an eyewitness that seemed to describe the defendant, grainy video footage of the stabber running in the direction where the defendant was apprehended moments later, and a blood-spattered shirt. The clincher was that the defendant's hands appeared to have blood on them.

When Ms. Khan interviewed the defendant (a common practice for prosecutors in Manhattan), she couldn't shake a nagging feeling that they had arrested the wrong person. He seemed older and to move much slower than the man depicted in the video, and several other odd facts didn't quite line up. Despite the police being confident in their arrest, she decided that it would not be ethical to charge the defendant with the stabbing when she had significant doubts. In the coming weeks, she continued to investigate the case. When she went out on foot to canvass the neighborhood of the stabbing in search of additional surveillance footage, she found a bodega with video that showed the stabber in the moments before the crime. This video was close and clear enough to prove that it was not the same man who'd been arrested. In the meantime, the DNA tests on the blood-spattered shirt came back, showing that it was not a match for the victim's blood, and the defendant's hand swabs came back as not containing blood at all. The man was innocent.

In the middle of her time as a prosecutor in New York City, a family member was prosecuted (in another part of the country). Ms. Khan said: "The experience strengthened my resolve to wield my power as a prosecutor ethically, responsibly, and humanely."



John Little graduated with high distinction from the University of Virginia, Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy, in Charlottesville, Virginia, in 2017. Mr. Little was a Skinner Scholar, member of the Virginia Alpine Ski and Snowboard Team, Club Lacrosse Team, Chi Phi Fraternity, and played the upright bass in the Charlottesville Symphony at the University of Virginia. In 2021, he received his law degree from Washington and Lee University School of Law in Lexington, VA. While there he was president of the Sports, Entertainment, and Intellectual Property Law Society, co-chair for the Lewis F. Powell, Jr. Distinguished Lecture Series Board, and a 1L coach and brief writer in the International Baseball Arbitration Competition at Tulane University. He represented indigent clients as a student attorney at the W&L Criminal Justice Clinic.

The Virginia native began his career at this Office as a certified post bar law clerk for the Violent Felony Unit in 2021.

In 2020, Mr. Little was a certified law clerk for the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office in the Preliminary Hearing Unit. He was a judicial intern for the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia, S. Bernard Goodwyn. Prior to that he was assigned as lead paralegal for The Walt Disney Company – 21st Century Fox, Inc. merger investigation while employed at the Antitrust Division of the United States Department of Justice in Washington, D.C.

In college, a man abducted, raped, and murdered his friend, Hannah Graham. The murder sent shock and grief throughout the University, town, and the UVA Ski and Snowboard team, to which they both belonged. It galvanized him to become a prosecutor.

Mr. Little said: "In law school we take criminal law, criminal procedure, evidence and other courses so that we have legal knowledge to succeed as prosecutors. We do not take classes on how to engage with victims and their families. Our duty as prosecutors is to listen, support, and empathize with victims. Whenever I communicate with victims, I remember how I felt on that tragic day to do my best to come from a place of compassion and understanding."

Mr. Little enjoys skiing, running, fly fishing, hiking, and playing tennis and the bass.



Maia Maszara graduated from the University of the Pacific in 2009, making the Dean's List and writing her senior thesis on Human Trafficking. She received her law degree at the Golden Gate University School of Law in San Francisco in 2012. While there, she was on the Dean's List and was a student editor of the Annual Survey of International and Comparative Law. Ms. Maszara was the recipient of Witkin Award: Criminal Litigation, and of CALI Awards for Advanced Mock Trial, Lawyering Skills, Criminal Litigation. She was the semi-finalist in the 2012 National Trial and 2011 ABA Labor & Employment Law Competitions.

Ms. Maszara has been a prosecutor with the San Francisco District Attorney's Office since 2016, specializing in Human Trafficking and internet crimes against children. Prior assignments include the Crime Strategies, Felony Domestic Violence, General Felonies, and Misdemeanors units.

From 2013 to 2016, she worked as a prosecutor in the San Joaquin District Attorney's Office in the General Felony and Misdemeanor units.

In total, she has completed 40 jury trials, garnering 38 convictions.

In 2013, she was a volunteer deputy DA in the San Francisco DA's Office. The two years before, she was a law clerk in our Office, serving under now - ADA Stacey Capps and ADA James Gibbons-Shapiro.

In 2010 and 2011, Ms. Maszara was a co-chief law clerk with the US Attorney's Office in San Francisco.

Ms. Maszara is coming home, where she was raised and to an Office where she interned.

She moved to Morgan Hill when she was ten years old, the first of her family born outside Poland and was a graduate of Presentation High School.

Ms. Maszara said: "I understood at an early age the value of a justice system that works with the citizens to provide a voice to those who are marginalized. Within months of moving to this county, we met other Polish immigrant families who had created a community for themselves here. Decades later, I spend every important life moment surrounded by this adopted family. Over one third of Santa Clara's population is comprised of immigrant families like mine. I came to SCCDA as a 2L intern, post-bar, and an applicant, with the hope of serving the members of this community."



Britlyn McCormick graduated from the University of California, Berkeley in 2017. Ms. McCormick received her law degree from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law in San Francisco in 2021. She was the digital editor for The Constitutional Law Quarterly.

Ms. McCormick began her career at this Office as an intern in the Juvenile Justice Unit in 2019. The following year she returned as a 2L honors clerk where she conducted preliminary hearings and compiled information on California and Santa Clara County spousal rape cases to support efforts of DA Rosen, lawmakers, and sexual assault survivor advocates to end the differentiated treatment of marital and non-marital rapists. In 2021, she worked as an honors post bar law clerk.

In 2019, Ms. McCormick was an intern with the Homicide Unit of the San Francisco District Attorney's Office in San Francisco. In 2020, she was a certified law clerk for the Alameda County District Attorney's Office in Oakland.

As she went through school, Ms. McCormick aimed toward a life in academia – writing about the historical German American experience. While studying in Germany, Ms. McCormick read on social media the victim impact statement by Emily Doe – now known as Chanel Miller. After reading her words, Ms. McCormick felt an immediate call to action.

Ms. McCormick said: “By the time I returned to the United States, I had made up my mind that I would do everything in my power to protect the public and help uplift the voice of people like Chanel by becoming a prosecutor.”

The Rocklin native spends time with her high school sweetheart and husband, Ryan. Just this year, Ms. McCormick was sworn in as a lawyer by her father-in-law, a judge in Sacramento and former prosecutor. She enjoys riding her bicycle, bouldering, and competing in trivia competitions. She may look familiar as a January 2020 contestant on Jeopardy.



Allison Montonye graduated magna cum laude from Arizona State University in Tempe in 2018. In 2021, she received her law degree from Santa Clara University, School of Law. While there, she was on the competitive trial team, where she competed in the Texas Young Lawyers National Trial Competition.

During law school, Ms. Montonye worked part-time as a council assistant for San Jose City Councilmember Dev Davis, where she developed public outreach content for social media, and co-developed a community outreach plan for “Community Solutions to End Homelessness” in District 6. Ms. Montonye also spent time out in the community for litter pick-ups and community meetings.

Ms. Montonye began her career at this Office as an intern in 2020. She returned in 2021 as a post bar clerk assigned to the Homicide Unit. Ms. Montonye was a certified law clerk for the City of San Jose Attorney’s Office in 2020. Earlier that same year, she was a legal research clerk for the Santa Clara County Superior Court. In 2019, Ms. Montonye was a Santa Clara County Superior Court judicial intern for the late Honorable Sharon A. Chatman.

Ms. Montonye’s dedication for public service extends far beyond her professional life. She has been mentoring a youth for the last year and a half. Ms. Montonye has volunteered for nonprofits that support victims of domestic violence, homelessness, and most recently, Child Advocates of Silicon Valley. CASA’s support youth as they navigate through the Santa Clara County dependency court system.

The Gilroy native sees her employment with the Office as more than an opportunity to serve the People of Santa Clara County. Rather, it is an opportunity to protect, serve, and give back to the community that raised and educated her. Ms. Montonye was also raised by the local law enforcement community. Both of her parents have been in law enforcement for many years. Her father, Michael Montonye, is a 26-year veteran of the San Jose Police Department and has been for the last three years an integral part of the DA’s Bureau of Investigation. Her mother, Carol, has been a dispatch officer for SJPDP for 25 years.

“It may sound cliché, but I’ve known since I was a kid that I would work in law enforcement. I actually wanted to be a police officer until I was 20.” Ms. Montonye said.

During her last year in college, she decided to attend law school. Ms. Montonye wanted a different lifestyle and way of helping her community. “Being a prosecutor is not always about incarceration, it is about seeking justice and supporting victims.” After hearing about her new job, her father was relieved and deeply proud.

“I am dedicated to serving this community – my community,” she said. I hope to follow in my family’s footsteps and like them, be a positive influence of change within the justice system.”



Ciara Muñoz graduated cum laude from California State University in Northridge in 2017. She was accepted into The National Society of Collegiate Scholars. She received her law degree from Golden Gate University School of Law in San Francisco in 2021. Ms. Muñoz was on the Dean's List and received the CALI Award for highest grade in Civil Procedure I, multiple Witken awards for highest grade in Evidence, Criminal Procedure, and Mock Trial. She was part of the National Mock Trial Team, and a GGU Environmental Law Journal editor.

Ms. Muñoz began her career at this Office as a 2L honors law clerk in 2020. She was pregnant at the time and recalls the empathy and accommodation the Office gave her. She was most recently a post bar clerk assigned to the Misdemeanor Unit where she successfully conducted preliminary hearings in 2021.

In 2019, Ms. Muñoz was a law clerk for the San Francisco District Attorney's Office in San Francisco. Earlier that same year, she was a law clerk at Modern Family Law in Oakland.

The Antelope Valley native is the child of a longtime, now retired LAPD administrator. Her mom and her African/Mexican American roots play an important role in her commitment to achieve justice and build faith in the criminal justice system within the community. So did meeting DDAs Debbie Hernandez, Alaleh Kianerci, and SuDDA Chris Arriola. She saw how much they loved their jobs and how much respect they got from the Office.

Ms. Muñoz said: "I believe it is more important now than ever that prosecutors possess diverse backgrounds to better represent the People and the change the public wants to see in the criminal justice system."

Ms. Muñoz enjoys spending time with her fiancé and newborn. The self-proclaimed adrenaline junkie is also into boxing and skydiving.



Christopher Paynter graduated from the University of San Diego in 2012. Mr. Paynter received his law degree from Golden Gate University School of Law in San Francisco in 2016. While there, he was on the Dean’s List for five semesters and received the CALI Award Remedies in 2015.

Since 2018, Mr. Paynter has worked as a deputy district attorney for the Riverside County District Attorney’s Office in Indio. He prosecuted 21 misdemeanor and felony jury trials. Mr. Paynter supervised law clerks during preliminary hearings and motions. In 2018, Mr. Paynter was assigned to the Misdemeanor Unit that went on to win the countywide Misdemeanor Prosecution Team of the Year Award. He followed up that success in 2019 by receiving the Misdemeanor Prosecutor of the Year Award.

Mr. Paynter began his career at this Office in 2016 as a post bar law clerk for the Narcotics Unit under DDA Bobby Philbrook. Earlier that year, he was a judicial extern for the U.S. District Court of the Northern District of California for the Honorable Maria-Elena James.

Both of those experiences were catalysts for the Marin native to switch his career choice from the military... to the FBI ...to becoming a prosecutor.

“To do the right thing. To speak up for the voiceless. To go after the certain horrible parts of society – like those who commit domestic violence - and stand up to them, make them accountable for what they’ve done.” Mr. Paynter said.

His parents were his “North Stars” – a couple diligently teaching their only child the importance of stability, respect, politeness, and navigating between right and wrong.

Mr. Paynter said: “I want nothing more than to take what I have learned and give back to the Bay Area community I know and love. It is an honor to return to the Santa Clara County District Attorney’s Office as a Deputy District Attorney.”



Oscar Torres graduated from San Jose State University in 2016. In 2021, Mr. Torres received his law degree from Santa Clara University School of Law. While there, he was a member of the Santa Clara Law Trial Team, a semi-finalist in the Santa Clara Law 1L Moot Court competition, and a board member of the La Raza Student Organization. He was also a member of the Student Bar Association and the Black Law Student Association.

Mr. Torres began his career at this Office as a law clerk in 2019. He returned as a 2L certified law clerk in 2020 where he prepared, researched, and argued five motions to suppress hearings for the Misdemeanor and Narcotics Units. He was most recently an honors post bar certified law clerk assigned to the Misdemeanor and General Felony units.

In 2020, Mr. Torres volunteered as a clinical student for the Northern California Innocence Project. During his 10 month stay, he analyzed cases from a defense attorney's perspective and learned about ethical practices and procedures necessary to reduce the number of wrongful convictions. He also learned about the magnitude of legal decisions and the effects of wrongful convictions.

He had been fascinated by the criminal justice system since hearing a prosecutor speak to his Tracy High School career education class. Seeing the prosecutor in his suit, articulately speaking about justice, the other students were impressed. Mr. Torres – who had felt like an outsider as a first generation American whose first language was Spanish – saw a calling.

“He told us how the system wasn’t perfect but that those who work inside try to work toward making it as equal as they could,” Mr. Torres said. “The light came on.”

Mr. Torres could serve as bridge to a community that often didn’t understand the importance of not just believing in the system but participating in it as a cooperating witness or victim.

Born in Palo Alto and raised in Tracy to Mexican immigrants, Mr. Torres knows what it is like having English as a second language, having undocumented family members, relatives in jail, and being a victim of crime.

Mr. Torres said: “All these experiences make me well equipped to serve my community.”

When he got his job, his parents who had supported him by getting him involved in soccer and sending what money they could for his education told him – and everyone they could – how proud they were. They were not surprised. His father said: “You achieved what you set your mind to.”



Monroe H. Tyler graduated from the University of Miami in 2012 in Coral Gables, Florida. While there, he was captain of the rugby team, a research assistant at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Agency, and a research assistant at the Rosenstiel School of Marine Science. In 2016, he received his law degree from the William & Mary Law School, in Williamsburg, Virginia, where he was the president of the Student Intellectual Property Society.

Mr. Tyler came to the Office from the Stanislaus County District Attorney's Office in Modesto. He began his career there as a deputy district attorney in 2019. Mr. Tyler was the sole prosecutor for arson cases in the county and also took on homicide cases as assigned. Several months before coming to this county, he was assigned to the Special Victims Unit while maintaining his arson caseload.

In 2017, Mr. Tyler was an assistant district attorney (our DDA equivalent) at the State of Alaska, Department of Law in Bethel - covering a plane-in region the size of Oregon that included 56 rural Alaskan Villages. While there, he prosecuted sexual assault, aggravated assaults, DUIs, burglaries, drug offenses, homicides, and fish and game violations such as shooting and abandoning the carcass of a moose. He handled 18 jury trials as a first chair trial attorney. He won the 2018 State of Alaska Prosecutor's Top Team Member Award for his contributions in a sexual assault trial.

In 2016, Mr. Tyler was a commercial fisheries observer in the Aleutian Islands, AK, where he enforced fishing regulations by collecting biological samples that were used to determine fishing quotas and moratoriums. Earlier that year, he was a research associate on the Environmental Social & Governance Team for Glass Lewis & Co. in San Francisco. Mr. Tyler was a summer intern at the NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia in 2015. He was also a becario (intern) for the Corporate and Capital Markets Department for Baker & McKenzie in Madrid, Spain.

Although his life has brought him far afield, from prep school in New Hampshire to the Bering Sea, Mr. Tyler was born and raised near here in Foster City and Santa Cruz.

"I've never shied away from adventure or challenge," Mr. Tyler said. But now he wanted to be closer to his family. He "gravitated toward the office that would teach me the most. In Alaska it was great to be thrown into a rape case as a one-year attorney. But probably not the best way to learn."

Mr. Tyler enjoys hiking, climbing, running, biking, snowboarding, and skiing.



Nikhil Warrior graduated cum laude from Georgetown in 2008, writing his senior thesis on the exclusion of women from front line combat roles and its effect on perceptions of gender within the military. He received his law degree from Santa Clara University School of Law in 2013, after graduating magna cum laude and being named Dean's Fellow. While in law school, he was the winner of the Honors Moot Court Competition; of the Gray's Inn competition in London; and was a pupil of the Ingram Inn of Court. He won Witkin awards for Constitutional Law I, Comparative Government Spending, and Criminal Procedure: Adjudication. He also received CALI awards for Domestic Violence Seminar and Evidence.

Mr. Warrior comes here after serving for eight years as a counsel, prosecutor, and magistrate for the U.S. Army, based in such places as Washington, Germany, and Afghanistan. He was honorably discharged as a captain.

From 2020 to this year, he was the sole in-house general counsel for a Special Operations unit of about 600 soldiers which served in the Middle East. Based in Fort Campbell, Kentucky, Mr. Warrior handled criminal investigations, general compliance issues, and ethical opinions.

From 2018 to 2020, Mr. Warrior was based in Stuttgart, Germany as general counsel for special forces deployed in Africa. Legal issues ranged from counter-terrorism operations to international security. He was named the Special Operations Command Outstanding Attorney in 2019. From 2016 to 2018, he was a prosecutor based in Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington – the busiest court martial jurisdiction in the Army. While there, he prosecuted 14 felony court martials, including for sexual assault, domestic violence, and homicide. From 2015 to 2016, he was a legal advisor for the command of Southern Afghanistan. Based in Kandahar, he advised more than 200 combat operations, ensuring compliance with rules of engagement. From 2014 to 2015, he was an Administrative Law Attorney at Lewis-McChord, providing regulatory compliance counsel and serving as military magistrate.

A Bellarmine College Prep grad, Mr. Warrior is coming back to the county where he was raised, and his family still lives. It was during his speech and debate club experience at Bellarmine that Mr. Warrior realized he wanted to commit his professional life to public service, preferably in a courtroom. "Rather than to adapt the view that we should shun the institutions responsible for some social justice ills, I decided to embrace them," he said. "I thought it was important to have someone who was going to be making conscientious and informed decisions."

Mr. Warrior and his wife, Justine, love to travel, though the COVID-19 pandemic and the recent birth of their son have put a pause on that passion. Now – in his free time – he watches English Premier League Soccer and the trials and tribulations of Arsenal.



Morgan Willis graduated from California State University San Marcos in 2018. While there, she was a member of the volleyball team and a volleyball representative for the Student Athlete Advisory Committee. Ms. Willis received her law degree from Santa Clara University School of Law in 2021. She was the Black Law Student Association co-president, Galloway Moot Court assistant chair, National Lawyers Guild co-founder, Academic Success Program Fellow, and a Trial Team competitor. During her first year as a law student, she was a quarter finalist in the Galloway Moot Court competition.

Ms. Willis began her career at this Office as an intern in 2019. She returned as a bar certified law clerk in 2020 where she prepared and conducted two preliminary hearings and argued three motions. As a honors post bar clerk, she conducted two motion to suppress hearings.

In 2018, Ms. Willis was an intern for the San Diego County Council Juvenile Dependency Department. That same year, she also volunteered with the San Diego County Council Dependency Unit.

Ms. Willis grew up watching her parents make an impact on their community as public servants. Her father, a prosecutor turned San Diego County Superior Court judge, would bring her and her brother to Juvenile Hall as a barely concealed scare tactic. Her late mother, who was the deputy director of San Diego County's Child Welfare Services, would bring her to foster care picnics. They both ignited her passion to pursue justice on behalf of victims. The focus of her legal work has always been to serve vulnerable populations.

Ms. Willis said: "The vulnerable populations want to see representation in the legal system that they encounter. As a Black woman, I have been questioned as to why I would want to work with law enforcement and my answer is always the same. Yes, there are Black defendants but there are also Black victims, and they deserve to see someone who represents them fighting on their behalf. Representation is the first step to rebuilding trust between the community and law enforcement."

When she was sworn in as a lawyer, an old friend texted her that her father was the judge for his criminal case. Her father had given him a second chance. He wrote that he was excited she was following in his footsteps.

Ms. Willis enjoys running, yoga, and cooking healthy meals. She is also a self-proclaimed Disney fanatic with a special love for The Lion King. Her favorite quote: "Oh yes, the past can hurt. But the way I see it, you can either run from it or learn from it."