



Kenneth P. Thompson
District Attorney

DISTRICT ATTORNEY
KINGS COUNTY
350 JAY STREET
BROOKLYN, NY 11201-2908
(718) 250-2000
WWW.BROOKLYNDA.ORG

Office of Public Information
718-250-2300

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 7, 2014

**Kings County District Attorney Kenneth P.
Thompson Announces Harvard Law Professor Ronald S. Sullivan As New
Chief of the Conviction Review Unit**

Professor Sullivan Also Led Washington D.C.'s Public Defender Service

Brooklyn, NY. Kings County District Attorney Kenneth P. Thompson today named Harvard Law Professor Ronald S. Sullivan, Jr. as Special Counsel to the District Attorney for the revamped Conviction Review Unit (CRU). Professor Sullivan, who teaches at Harvard Law School and heads its Criminal Justice Institute, will guide the CRU, which has been tasked with the responsibility of conducting a thorough and fair reinvestigation of cases under review by the District Attorney's Office. The CRU has recently been expanded and reorganized and consists of experienced prosecutors, investigators and support staff. The Unit will work in consultation with an outside independent panel of three attorneys, Bernard W. Nussbaum, Jennifer G. Rodgers and Gary S. Villanueva, who will provide assistance in evaluating the cases.

"I am pleased that Professor Sullivan has agreed to bring his considerable legal knowledge, experience and scholarship to lead the efforts of this very important Conviction Review Unit. The CRU has the crucial task of reexamining a number of cases to determine if justice was done and Professor Sullivan's background and experience makes him an excellent choice to fill this essential role. We will continue our careful and deliberate review of these cases in our pursuit of justice and fairness," said District Attorney Kenneth Thompson.

Professor Sullivan has been on the Harvard Law faculty since 2007 and teaches and writes in the areas of criminal law, criminal procedure, legal ethics and race theory. Prior to teaching at Harvard, Professor Sullivan served on the faculty of the Yale Law School, where, after his first year teaching, he won the law school's award for outstanding teaching. Between the years 1995 and 2004, at different times, he served as Staff Attorney, General Counsel and eventually Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Washington D.C. Public Defender Service.

Professor Sullivan also served as Chief Counsel for the Orleans Public Defenders Board, where he designed an indigent defense delivery system for New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. In that

role, he implemented a number of reforms that brought the office in compliance with relevant norms and standards for indigent defense. In addition, Professor Sullivan was the Chair and Founding Member of the Jamestown Project, a national, non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to creating, articulating, promoting and implementing new ideas for enriching American democracy. Professor Sullivan also has served as Liaison to the American Bar Association's Standards Task Force on the Prosecution and Defense Function since 2006.

Professor Sullivan is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Morehouse College, and the Harvard Law School.

-###-

Contact:

Office of Public Information
Kings County District Attorney's Office
(718) 250-2300