



John Choi, Saint Paul City Attorney John Choi currently is the Saint Paul City Attorney. In that role, he leads a prosecution office and public law agency of 70 employees. The Saint Paul City Attorney's Office prosecutes misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor crimes and provides civil legal counsel to the City, HRA, Port Authority and the Public Housing Agency.

Mr. Choi was recognized nationally by his peers in 2009 as the top city attorney in America for his pioneering and innovative work in leading his office. In addition, Mr. Choi is the 2009 recipient of the Kay Pranis Restorative Justice Award from the Dispute Resolution Center and the B. Warren Hart Award for public leadership from the St. Paul Jaycees.

Some of his many accomplishments in office include his work in developing a Driver Diversion Program to get people without valid licenses on the right track, working with police and the community to reduce obstructing legal process arrests by 30%, establishing a worthless check diversion program that has resulted in significant victim restitution and effective offender intervention, and implementing better protocols for handling domestic abuse cases to improve victim safety. Working with police Mr. Choi also developed an innovative and effective approach to prohibit criminal gangs from disrupting our community festivals.

Mr. Choi is a passionate advocate for better interventions and coordination within the criminal justice system to ensure that offenders don't come back into the system. From a perspective of ensuring public safety, fiscal responsibility and justice, Mr. Choi is a strong supporter of the Second Chance Coalition.

Brockton Hunter, Legislative Chair, MN Ass. Of Criminal Defense Lawyers Brockton Hunter is a Minneapolis-based attorney and Legislative Chair for the Minnesota Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. He is also a military veteran who has represented many veterans in the criminal courts and advocates for veterans at the Minnesota Legislature and across the country. In 2008, Brock helped draft and pass Minnesota's pioneering veterans sentencing mitigation bill that encourages treatment over incarceration of veterans whose psychological injuries played a role in their criminal offense. Brock has, since, worked at a national level to help other states pass similar legislation and has helped brief the Obama Administration, and leadership at the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs on how best to deal with veterans in the criminal justice system.

Brock is currently part of the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Court Working Group, whose mission is to make Minnesota the first state in the nation to establish statewide veteran's specialty courts. He also recently helped form the Veterans Advocacy Institute, a non-profit organization intended to educate policy-makers and the public on how our nation can best honor our veterans and the sacrifices they have made on our behalf.

Todd Axtell, Commander Saint Paul Police Department

Commander Todd Axtell has been honored to serve the citizens of Saint Paul Saint Paul for more than 20 years. He has risen through the ranks within the Saint Paul Police Department and has served in a diverse category of patrol, investigative and administrative assignments Todd is very active in Saint Paul by serving on the board of directors for Breaking Free, which is an organization serving women and girls involved in systems of abuse, exploitation, prostitution, and sex-trafficking. Todd also serves on the board of directors for the Saint Paul RiverCentre Convention and Visitors Authority.

Todd has a passion of volunteering with and investing in St. Paul's at-risk youth. He mentors both one-on-one and in group interaction through 180 Degree's Resiliency Mentoring program. In 2006, Todd initiated and created the SPPD/YWCA Junior Police Academy. This was a one-week academy in partnership with the YWCA's Youth Achiever's Program. The academy was designed to engage a diverse group of Saint Paul's youth with an emphasis on improving police/community relations. It also serves as an early recruitment tool to promote Todd's passion of recruiting police personnel who are more reflective of the community he serves.

Todd's education accomplishments include a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Metropolitan State University, a Master's Degree in Police Leadership, Administration and Education from the University of Saint Thomas, a graduate of the 207th session of the FBI National Academy and the 47th session of the DEA's Drug Unit Commander's Academy.

Sue Abderholden, Executive Director NAMI MN Sue Abderholden has devoted her career to changing laws and attitudes that affect people with disabilities and their families. Most recently, she has focused on the stigma surrounding mental illness and the broken system of care for children and adults with mental illnesses as the executive director for the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Minnesota.

Over the last twenty-five years, she has successfully fought for community and family supports and for laws that enable people with disabilities to fully participate in society. She understands the isolation that is caused by discrimination and stigma and has devoted herself to empowering people to come together to create change. Sue was on the White House lawn when the ADA was signed into law. A fervent believer in the power of personal stories, she has presented at national conferences and to numerous groups in Minnesota on grassroots lobbying and coalition building.

She has held positions with Arc of Minnesota, U.S. Senator Paul D. Wellstone and PACER Center (Minnesota's Parent Training and Information Center). Sue has a B.A. in political science from Macalester College and a master's degree in public health administration from the University of Minnesota.

Active in her community, she has been a Girl Scout leader, a volunteer in Minneapolis public schools, host family for international students at Macalester College, and a volunteer in numerous political campaigns. Sue and her family have a foster care license and provide respite care to children with disabilities.

Ms. Abderholden has received numerous awards for her advocacy including the NASW Citizen of the Year, Excellence Award from the NAMI National Executive Directors Group, Paul Wellstone Advocacy Award from the Minnesota Psychiatric Society, the National Council of Executives for Arcs, the Marvelous Minnesota Woman Award from the Governor in 1991, Betty Hubbard Leadership Award from the Minnesota

Association for Persons with Severe Handicaps, Advocacy Award from Pacer Center, and Leadership Award from the Minnesota S.I.L.S. Providers.

Richard W. Stanek, Hennepin County Sheriff Sheriff Richard W. Stanek is the 27th Hennepin County Sheriff. Sheriff Stanek was born and raised in Northeast Minneapolis and is a lifelong resident of Hennepin County. He graduated from the University of Minnesota with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice, and earned a masters degree in public administration from Hamline University.

Sheriff Stanek is a 24-year veteran of law enforcement who earned several promotions for his dedication and passion for public safety, rising through the ranks within the Minneapolis Police Department. Prior to being elected as the Sheriff of Hennepin County, he served the Minneapolis Police Department as Commander of the Criminal Investigations Division, overseeing investigations in the areas of Homicide, Robbery, Assault, Family Violence, Organized Crime, Narcotics, Gangs and Sex Crimes.

A five-term legislator in the Minnesota House of Representatives, he Chaired the House Crime Policy and Finance Committee. The Sheriff has also managed the largest law enforcement agency in the state when, in 2003, he was appointed Minnesota's Commissioner of Public Safety and Director of Homeland Security.

Sheriff Stanek is considered to be one of Minnesota's foremost experts on crime policy, law enforcement and intelligence-led policing. He co-chairs the national Criminal Intelligence Coordinating Council, advising the U.S. Attorney General and U.S. Department of Homeland Security. He is an active member of the National Major County Sheriff's Association and the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Recently, Sheriff Stanek has had the opportunity to share lessons learned from commanding the recovery efforts at the I-35W bridge collapse in August at the local, state and national levels.

In addition to a career dedicated to public safety and public service, Sheriff Stanek actively volunteers his time and energy on a number of boards and community-focused organizations dedicated to working with youth including: Boys & Girls Club of The Twin Cities, Hennepin County Sheriff's Office Foundation and East Side Neighborhood Services.

Teresa Mullins, Administrative Assistant City, Inc. Teresa Mullins originally hails from Chicago, IL where she worked as a nursing assistant while raising her family prior to being convicted of a serious felony. Determined to make a better future for her and her family, Teresa completed a B.A. in the Social Sciences and several certification programs while incarcerated. After reuniting with her family in Minneapolis in 2005, Teresa found employment with a local social enterprise and currently works as an Administrative Assistant at The City, Inc. in Minneapolis. A notable speaker that has experienced significant barriers since release, Teresa is frequently asked by local groups to share her story.

Marvin Clark, Program Manager Emerge Community Development Having left behind a life of drug addiction and career criminality, Marvin Clark is celebrating fourteen years of sobriety this year. Thirteen of those years have been spent working directly with ex-offenders to help them reenter communities and achieve positive goals, whether in employment, housing, addressing gang issues, or maintaining sobriety. Currently Marvin is the Program Manager for Emerge Workforce's Reentry programs, and he stays busy by keeping active in his church, owning his own business, and raising (as a single father) his seven year old daughter.

Kissy Mason, Employment and Housing Resources Specialist Council on Crime and Justice Kissy Mason works at the Council on Crime and Justice as an Employment and Housing Resource Specialist. She has an A.S. degree in Criminal Justice and is completing her BA in Criminal Justice from Metropolitan State University College. She has a passion for working with this population of people and thinks that people can change and believes in second chances. Kissy was born in St Louis MO and began her journey here in MN when she was 17 years old. She is a single mother of three children and has 4 sisters and two brothers, and was raised in a one parent household. She says, "I too know how it is to be a victim, an offender, and a person who has been rehabilitated."

Russell Wech, Goodwill EasterSeals Program Participant has moved back and forth between Jamaica and the United States since he was a young boy with two Jamaican-born parents. In Jamaica, Russell adopted the language and culture of the islanders and developed a love for reggae music, poetry, cooking and creative writing. He has attended several schools and has held jobs that range from sales to international marketing and from line cook to managing restaurants before he founded a Community Development Center called All for One in the City of Montego Bay. While living in Minnesota, Russell was incarcerated twice but his determination to succeed has not diminished by his incarceration. Since his release, Russell completed his GED and later earned a certificate in Small Business Management. He has worked with numerous nonprofit groups to develop his character and improve his relationships with his family. He continues to write music and poetry and also continues to be an active member of his community while being the best Dad and fiancée he can be.