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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Michelle Frei Named  
Chief Deputy District Attorney**

Chester County District Attorney Tom Hogan announced that prosecutor Michelle Frei has been promoted to the position of Chief Deputy District Attorney for Trials. As Chief Deputy for Trials, Michelle assumes responsibility for supervising all of the trial courtrooms for the District Attorney's Office.

District Attorney Hogan stated, "Michelle Frei has earned the position of Chief Deputy District Attorney. She is a fierce advocate for victims and a formidable adversary for criminals. She never quits on a case, no matter how difficult the circumstances. She has the respect of her colleagues and the judges."

"As a career prosecutor, I am excited, grateful, and honored for the opportunity to serve as the District Attorney's new Chief Deputy of Trials," said Ms. Frei. "I will strive to continue the commitment to high ethical standards, seeking justice for all of our victims, and fair treatment for criminal defendants maintained by my predecessors. It is a privilege to work for the citizens of Chester County."

Michelle received her undergraduate degree from Gettysburg College. She received her law degree from Villanova University School of Law.

She has been with the District Attorney's Office for 18 years. Prior to becoming a prosecutor, she served as a public defender in Montgomery County.

Michelle has prosecuted some of the most high-profile cases in Chester County. When the prosecutor assigned to the Scotty McMillan homicide case suddenly quit the District Attorney's Office, Michelle immediately volunteered to step in and prosecuted the criminals who tortured and killed the three-year old victim. She worked on the McMillan case with First Assistant District Attorney Michael Noone.

When James Hvizda stabbed his wife to death in the middle of a Wawa parking lot, Michelle worked with District Attorney Hogan to make sure Hvizda was sentenced to life imprisonment. Michelle also remained close with the four children who essentially were orphaned by Hvizda killing his wife and their mother.

Michelle, together with then Chief of Trials Patrick Carmody, tried and convicted Laquanta Chapman for the killing and chainsaw dismemberment of a 16-year old. Most recently, Michelle was the lead prosecutor in the case of David Desper, who was convicted of murder for the road-rage shooting of 18-year old Bianca Roberson.

Michelle has long served as the head of domestic violence prosecutions for the District Attorney's Office. She played a vital role in working with the Domestic Violence Center of Chester County to create the Lethality Assessment Program, a tool that uses a series of simple questions to victims to help the police predict which domestic violence cases are likely to lead to extreme violence. This program allows the police to intervene early, getting help for the victim before the case turns into a homicide.

Dr. Dolly Wideman-Scott, the CEO of the Domestic Violence Center of Chester County, said, "The Domestic Violence Center congratulates Michelle Frei for her well-deserved promotion. Michelle has a genuine concern for the safety of victims and an unerring sense of justice. As a thorough and dedicated professional, Michelle will be an exemplary Chief Deputy of Trials."

Michelle also is well-known for mentoring younger prosecutors in the District Attorney's Office. She carefully guides them in the process of becoming experienced and effective prosecutors.

Andrew Davis, a former Assistant District Attorney now in private practice with Mullen Coughlin LLC, said, "Entering a courtroom as a prosecutor for the first time is a humbling and somewhat daunting experience. Thankfully, as a young prosecutor, I was guided by Michelle Frei. Whether discussing case resolution options, honing opening and closing statements, or generally imparting advice and legal knowledge, Michelle spent hours mentoring me as a young prosecutor, as she has many others, which laid the foundation for our legal careers. With a full caseload of her own and numerous other responsibilities in the DA's office, Michelle always found time to provide insight and mentorship during our time as trial partners and thereafter. Michelle is a loyal, devoted, and truly wonderful friend and colleague, and her hard-charging efforts set the standard which I strive to live up to each day in a profession that is both mentally and physically taxing."

Michelle's hobbies reflect her character. She enjoys mountain climbing and all of the physical fitness training that is required for the sport. She also teaches courses at the police academy.

Michelle is replacing Chief Deputy Ron Yen, who has served in the position for the last six years. Ron requested to move to part-time status, continuing to prosecute individual cases but divesting himself of the administrative duties of Chief Deputy.

"Michelle has big shoes to fill," District Attorney Hogan added. "Ron's skills and work ethic are legendary in the Justice Center. The District Attorney's Office is lucky that we had

many outstanding candidates to fill this position, and we have full confidence in Michelle's abilities."

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Approved for release:

Thomas P. Hogan