



San Diego City Attorney Mara W. Elliott

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Mothers Against Drunk Driving Honors City Attorney's DUI Prosecutor

*Deputy City Attorney Giovanna Longobardo Named
MADD Outstanding Prosecutor of the Year*

Deputy City Attorney Giovanna Longobardo has been honored by the local chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving as its Outstanding Prosecutor of the Year for 2017.

Since joining the San Diego City Attorney's Office in January 2016, Longobardo has had 19 jury trials, eight of them driving under the influence cases. She obtained guilty verdicts in all of the DUIs except one, where the jury hung 11-1 in favor of guilt and she resolved it with a conviction for reckless driving with alcohol involved.

In *People v. Alyssa Poston* (M225772), Longobardo convicted a highly intoxicated driver who was observed by an officer driving in a parking lot just after leaving a bar. In *People v. Tariro Chigorimbo* (M220139), she overcame the arguments of an experienced DUI defense attorney who tried to cast doubt on the accuracy of breath testing. In *People v. Eric Chang* (M225517), Longobardo skillfully impeached a defense expert who testified that a defendant with a 0.10% breath test was below a 0.08% and not under the influence, convicting the defendant of DUI. In *People v. Ivan Melendez* (M228566), Longobardo overcame a "rising blood alcohol" defense that, despite a Preliminary Alcohol Screening result of 0.14% and an evidentiary breath test reading of 0.12%, defendant theoretically could have been below 0.08% at the time of driving, convicting the defendant of DUI.

"Despite the many responsible alternatives to drinking and driving, our Office continues to prosecute and convict thousands of drunk drivers each year," stated City Attorney Mara W. Elliott. **"Giovanna Longobardo's aggressive prosecution of drunk drivers played a key role in our efforts to reduce the number of DUI-related crashes, injuries, and fatalities in the City of San Diego. Drinking while driving is an intentional crime that we'll prosecute to the maximum extent of the law."**

Longobardo is passionate about prosecuting DUI offenders and keeping the public safe from those who choose to drink and drive. Longobardo's work ethic and tenacious attitude ensure that DUI offenders are held accountable in the City of San Diego. Her trial results are a testament to her meticulous preparation and exemplary trial skills. **"MADD could not have picked a better Prosecutor of the Year,"** City Attorney Mara W. Elliott said.

Longobardo was honored this morning, Friday, May 25, 2018 at MADD's 2018 Law Enforcement & Prosecutor Recognition Ceremony at the Balboa Park Club in San Diego, California.

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EDITORS: A photo of Giovanna Longobardo is attached for your use. Credit: Giovanna Longobardo

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