

THE 21ST MONTHLY

FROM THE OFFICE OF DISTRICT ATTORNEY SCOTT M. PERRILLOUX
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ADA SPEAKS AT LAFASA

November 27-29, 2012, the Louisiana Foundation against Sexual Assault hosted Louisiana's 9th annual conference on Sexual Assault and Family Violence.

The conference, held at the Baton Rouge Marriott, hosted multiple workshops, such as: *Prosecution of Domestic Violence, Pediatric Sexual Assault, Forensic Exams, Intimate Partner Violence on College Campuses, Addressing Vicarious Trauma, and Sexual Exploitation and Assault of Incarcerated LGBT Youth.*

Assistant District Attorney Jeff Johnson spoke with attendees about the difficulties in prosecuting domestic violence cases. He discussed the differences in prosecuting domestic violence cases vs. other criminal matters, specific jury issues that arise when prosecuting domestic violence cases, victim dynamics, and how to establish rapport with victims.



Tri-Parish Rape Crisis Program Coordinator Loretta Swank feels the three-day event offered many benefits. "The conference is a great way to network with other domestic violence and sexual assault centers from around the state. It also gives us a chance to talk about current issues-what's working and what isn't. The conference offered me some of the best information and training that I have had in a long time."

As an accredited member, the District Attorney's Tri-Parish Rape Crisis Program receives funding and on-going support from LaFASA

According to Swank, the conference reminded participants that, "sexual assault and domestic violence programs have come a long way from their grass roots beginnings. Most programs are professionally run with high standards. Also "best-practices" have been established and a lot has been learned over the years. There is more continuity from program to program and very skilled people dedicated to this work."

Pictured from left to right: TPRCP Coordinator Loretta Swank, ADA Jeff Johnson, and Tracy Dahmer from the Attorney General's Office.

JOHNSON TO SERVE 18 YEARS

Livingston- On November 15, 2012, Grant Elliot Paul Johnson, age 34, was sentenced to 18 years with the department of corrections by Judge Ernest Drake after pleading guilty to one count of Molestation of a Juvenile.

According to the prosecutor, Assistant District Attorney Mathew Belser, in 2011, the 13-year-old victim disclosed to her grandmother that she had been molested by Johnson on two separate occasions that year.

The grandmother notified the child's mother of what she had been told, said Belser. The victim's mother then demanded Johnson, of Buddy Ellis Road, Denham Springs, LA, turn himself into police.

The case was investigated by both the Walker Police Department and the Livingston Parish Sheriff's Office, the prosecutor said. Johnson did give statements to both agencies admitting to the acts of sexual abuse.

The victim and her family were consulted prior to Johnson's plea, said Belser, and gave victim impact statements prior to sentencing.

NOTABLE CONVICTIONS

Livingston- On November 8, 2012, Judge Morrison sentenced Adam H. Blackwell, age 21, of Prairieville, LA, to 10 years with the department of corrections for Simple Burglary.

Livingston- On November 15, 2012, Kevin D. Johnson, age 37, of Denham Springs, LA, was sentenced by Judge Drake to a total of 10 years with the department of corrections for Possession of Schedule II Controlled Dangerous Substances (2 counts).

Amite- On November 19, 2012, Quroy Johnson, age 22, was sentenced to 10 years with the department of corrections by Judge Wolfe for Attempted Aggravated Rape.

