



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Michael T. Dougherty, District Attorney

**Press Release**

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***Release – District Attorney Michael Dougherty Attends Conference on Racial Injustice, Announces Continued Commitment and New Program to Address Racial Inequities***

District Attorney Michael Dougherty travelled to Montgomery, Alabama and Atlanta, Georgia earlier this week. In Alabama, Mr. Dougherty participated in a discussion entitled “Our Nation’s History of Racial Injustice – Connecting the Dots to Mass Incarceration and the Role of Elected Prosecutors in Addressing Racial Inequities.” The visit to Alabama also included a tour of the Equal Justice Initiative’s Legacy Museum, the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, and other historical civil rights sites in Montgomery. Following the visit to Alabama, attendees took a bus to Atlanta, Georgia for a meeting entitled, “In the Interest of Justice: Forging Alliances Between Reform-Minded Prosecutors and Law Enforcement Leaders.” Elected prosecutors and law enforcement leaders from around the country participated in discussions focused on developing an understanding of the role of race in the criminal justice system, structural racism, the drivers of racial disparities, and joint strategies to further address these issues. *Fair and Just Prosecution* hosted the gatherings in both cities.

District Attorney Michael Dougherty stated, “It has been an incredibly moving, powerful, and informative trip. I am honored to have been invited. Law enforcement and prosecutors have a shared responsibility to reduce racial disparities and other systemic injustices. We must face this country’s history head on. For as long as racial inequality exists in our country, the criminal justice system will continue to struggle with racial inequities. In speaking with attendees from around the country, I am reminded of the good work that has been done in Boulder County. At the same time, our community is not immune from these challenges; there is more work to be done.”

Prior to the trip, the District Attorney’s Office posted “Our Commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity” on the office website. It is an overview on the office’s continuing efforts to promote diversity and equity within the office and the criminal justice system. It can be found here: <https://assets.bouldercounty.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Our-Commitment.pdf>

In addition to providing implicit bias training programs for all staff in June, the District Attorney's Office held a community discussion entitled, "Swords & Shields: A 21st Century Justice System – Can It Be Just for All?" at the Boulder Jewish Community Center. Over four hundred community members attended the event.

Today, the District Attorney is announcing a commitment to engage an outside, independent entity to review charging and sentencing data, to determine whether and how race and gender factor into those decisions at all. This data analysis will provide an independent and direct review, identifying if there are disparities and areas for improvement. The District Attorney is in communication with different groups regarding this project and plans to start the review before the end of the year.





