



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Michael T. Dougherty, District Attorney

Press Release

For Immediate Release
September 14, 2022

Contact: Shannon Carbone
Phone: 303-441-3804
scarbone@bouldercounty.org

Senior Deputy District Attorney Recognized as Colorado's Prosecutor of the Year

Each year, the Colorado District Attorneys' Council recognizes one Colorado prosecutor with the Prosecutor of the Year, Robert R. Gallagher Award. Senior Deputy District Attorney Michelle Sudano has been named Prosecutor of the Year. She received the award at the Colorado District Attorneys' Council Conference.

Michelle Sudano is assigned to our Sex Crimes Unit and prosecutes felony-level sex crimes. She had an outstanding year in her work within the Sex Crimes Unit. Throughout the year, and despite the continued challenges associated with the pandemic, Michelle Sudano sought justice for her victims and worked closely with law enforcement. This year, her noteworthy sex crime trials included an extremely difficult, multi-defendant sexual assault case, a sex assault trial with two young victims, and a stranger sex assault case that went to trial.

In addition, Michelle Sudano took on some of the most difficult and violent cases in other areas of the office. In the first-degree murder shooting case of *People v. Richard Martinez*, the defendant shot and missed his original target, instead killing Matthew Bond. Her performance in trial and commitment to justice were excellent. Simultaneously, Ms. Sudano was assigned to the cold case murder investigation into the disappearance of Rita Gutierrez-Garcia. Along with the team from Longmont Police Department and the DA's Office, Michelle participated in the Grand Jury investigation resulting in the indictment of *Juan Figueroa* for Murder. Ms. Sudano helped lead the team effort to ultimately obtain not only a confession and a murder conviction, but also information leading to the recovery of Rita's body. Ms. Sudano, also, played an integral role on a major human-trafficking indictment and an officer-involved shooting investigation.

District Attorney Michael Dougherty presented the award at the Conference. He stated, "Michelle is an outstanding prosecutor. She consistently demonstrates compassion for victims and has brought some of the most dangerous offenders to justice. Her commitment to justice and her work ethic are exemplary. This Prosecutor of the Year Award reflects Michelle's extraordinary efforts in the courtroom and for our community."