

## **District Attorney Hicks announces recusal from decision on internal promotion**

The District Attorney's Office is proud to announce the expected creation of a new Chief Deputy District Attorney (CDDA) position to oversee the office's participation in the Mental Health Court initiative being funded in the county's next budget cycle.

This initiative was the culmination of efforts by the Second Judicial District Court, the Public Defender, the Alternate Public Defender, and the District Attorney, who all requested funding to move this valuable cause forward for the community after the County Commission made it a top priority and objective late last year and earlier this year. The new program will streamline and expand on tools to divert or provide treatment options in appropriate cases for individuals in the criminal system suffering from a wide variety of mental health conditions with the goal being reductions in recidivism in an effective and compassionate way while balancing public safety interests and crime victims' rights.

The CDDA appointee will be selected from an internal list of qualified and experienced Deputy District Attorneys (DDA). District Attorney Hicks has voluntarily recused himself from any participation in the decision and will not be acting upon this matter because his wife is one of the internal applicants being considered for the appointment.

In lieu of District Attorney Hicks, Assistant District Attorney Zach Young, the head of the Criminal Division of the office, will make the decision of who will be appointed to the position.