



## The El Paso County District Attorney's Economic Crime Unit

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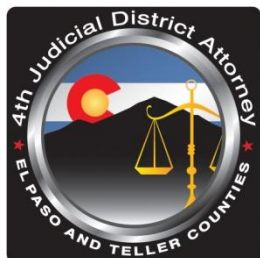
The District Attorney's Economic Crime Unit was started by District Attorney Bob Russell in 1973. Welfare fraud, check fraud, and consumer protection were the priorities of the day. Today, the Economic Crime Unit still handles check fraud, welfare fraud, and an occasional Consumer Protection Act civil matter; but as the face of fraud changes, so do the priorities.

Because of the "specialty" nature of financial crimes, the District Attorney's Office has assigned investigators to the Unit to conduct the "special" investigations. In this burgeoning electronic data age, economic crimes have become more complex in design and scheme and more difficult to investigate.



Deputy Chief Investigator Linda Dix and Investigator Nancy Collins

The current investigators in the Unit include Deputy Chief Investigator Linda Dix, Investigators Nancy Collins, Randy DeGering and Lee Gizzi. Linda Dix and Nancy Collins have combined law enforcement experience of over 63 years. Linda was a police officer in Baltimore and Colorado Springs before joining the District Attorney's Office and Nancy was a CHIP, CA game warden and with the CA Division of Insurance before joining our office. Randy DeGering and Lee Gizzi are relatively new to law enforcement but are retired from the Air Force and Army respectively.



The Economic Crime Unit investigators assist local law enforcement with financial fraud crimes but also conduct entire investigations involving securities fraud, mortgage and real estate fraud, and other unique and unusual fraud cases. Linda Dix and Randy DeGering are currently preparing themselves to take the CFE exam to become certified fraud examiners. The challenges faced in investigating, filing and prosecuting financial fraud cases are what make these investigators special. Without their expertise, knowledge and experience, successful prosecutions of the cunning fraudsters would not be possible. These challenges are also what make the economic crime unit a fun and satisfying place to work for experienced investigators. Being able to catch the criminals and build a successful case to put them in jail or prison is the adrenalin that keeps them enthused and challenged.

As the Senior Deputy District Attorney in charge of the Economic Crime Unit, I am thankful for investigators that will stop at nothing to find the evidence necessary to prosecute financial crime criminals.

*Robyn J. Cafasso*

Sr. Deputy District Attorney  
Economic Crime Division