

## **Wendy Patrick Mazzarella**

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Wendy Patrick Mazzarella is a Deputy District Attorney in the San Diego District Attorney's Office. Before joining the District Attorney's Office Ms. Mazzarella was a Deputy Public Defender for San Diego County. Most of her practice is trial work; she has completed approximately 85 criminal jury trials ranging from stalking, to torture, to first-degree murder. Ms. Mazzarella is the Chair of the San Diego County Bar Association's Ethics Committee, an incoming member of the California State Bar Committee on Professional Responsibility and Conduct, and an accomplished ethics speaker both nationally and internationally.

### **Prosecuting Hate Crimes**

Prior to her current assignment in the Family Protection Division where she prosecutes child molesters and domestic violence abusers, Ms. Mazzarella was assigned to the Hate Crime Unit where she prosecuted hate crimes countywide. This proactive assignment also included a significant amount of public speaking to community based groups as well as educational and legal organizations including the Association for Criminal Justice Research, the San Diego Chapter of the United Nations, the California Association of Equal Rights Professionals, the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing, and the California State Bar Association. As an Institute of Criminal Investigation (ICI) certified instructor she provided hate crime training to law enforcement on a regular basis both at the Police Academe and at law enforcement agencies countywide. Ms. Mazzarella has been featured on informational films, radio programs and numerous local news programs on the topic of hate crimes.

In the Hate Crimes unit Ms. Mazzarella worked closely with the Anti Defamation League, served on the Steering Committee for Pathways to Tolerance- a program targeting youth at risk of becoming hate crime offenders, and was an active member of the San Diego Regional Hate Crimes Coalition. She was instrumental in providing information and assistance to the San Diego Muslim community dealing with retaliatory hate crimes in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 attacks. Her community outreach in the Hate Crime Unit earned her the Friend of the Community Award from the Tom Homann Law Association (gay and lesbian Bar association) in 2003, and an award from the Pan Asian Bar Association/ Filipino American Lawyers of San Diego for teaching hate crime law at their Community Law School Program.

### **Publications**

Regarding publications, Ms. Mazzarella was a contributing author to *Hate Crimes: Causes, Controls, and Controversies* by Phyllis B. Gerstenfeld, is the author of a chapter

in an upcoming *Encyclopedia of Race and Racism*, and wrote “Hate-Crimes Law” in *Did You Know* (California District Attorneys Association March 2003). Ms. Mazzarella is published on a regular basis on other topics as well. She has her own ethics column in the *San Diego Daily Transcript*, has a regular column in *Law Enforcement Quarterly*, is a regular contributor and editorial Board member for *San Diego Lawyer* magazine, writes for the California State Bar *Criminal Law Journal*, has been quoted in the *American Bar Association Journal*, and was a contributing author for the National College of District Attorneys in *Doing Justice* (NCDA 2002) and *The Practical Prosecutor* (NCDA 2005).

### **Awards and Personal Information**

Ms. Mazzarella received the Service to the San Diego County Bar Association Award from the San Diego County Bar Association in 2005, and was recognized as one of San Diego *Metropolitan Magazine’s* 40 under 40 honorees in 2001. On a personal note, Ms. Mazzarella holds a purple belt in karate, plays violin in the La Jolla Symphony Orchestra, and plays the electric violin professionally with a rock band.