

DA emails

An inside look at how prosecutors viewed their case, before and after conviction.

From: BIRGIT FLADAGER
Date: 11/4/04 5:20PM
Subject: Peterson case

Well, we have come to the end of a very long road, and all that is left now is the waiting. Bets over here range from as soon as tomorrow to two weeks.

We fought off another media motion this morning. They wanted the judge to unseal all of our in-chambers discussions, and also to have the judge change his mind and allow cameras in the courtroom for the verdict. Then, we had to return to the courthouse (which is surrounded by more satellite trucks than you count) later in the day. The court keeps receiving phone calls from nutcases who want to inject themselves into the process, and the judge calls us in to listen to them with the defense.

We have had a great team over here. Rick and Dave were outstanding and brought great credit to the office. Kevin and Craig Grogan worked tirelessly from Day 1 to get this case into a posture where it could be effectively prosecuted; they also worked hand in hand with us on a daily basis to keep up with a case that just kept getting bigger every single day of the trial. Jan kept a handle on discovery—which was an issue on a daily basis—as well as making arrangements for witnesses.

Bill Grogan and Mark Smith provided critical additional investigative support. Alex took care of getting the Rochas to court. Specific folks back at the office who were integral parts of the team effort include Vickie Saad who worked with Jan, and Steve Jacobson who managed the wiretaps and facilitated the organization and presentation of the calls in court. We couldn't have done the job we did without everyone's support.

Keep those fingers crossed!

Win, lose or draw—the efforts put into this case have been extraordinary.

From: JOHN GOOLD
To: ALLSTAFF
Date: 11/9/04 8:06AM
Subject: Message from the Peterson team:

>>> BIRGIT FLADAGER 11/08/04 07:52PM >>>

Please let the office know that they should put **NO** credence in claims that the jury is already deadlocked based solely on the fact that the judge chose to reiterate a couple of instructions.

While we are not at liberty to discuss the specifics of what we learn during in-chambers conversations, rest assured that there is **NO** indication at this point that the jury is deadlocked, or even that they have cast their first ballot. This is media-engendered **nonsense** and should be treated as such.

The jury is working hard and deserves the time to work through all of the evidence that has been presented.

Keep the faith.

Christmas is coming! [added by JJG]

From: LINDA WELCH (Diana Mejia) (LINDA WELCH)
To: ALLSTAFF
Date: 11/12/04 1:19PM
Subject: Verdict

Per John Goid, for those of you who don't yet know, verdict was guilty with special circumstances. Please remember that no comments are to be made to the press or any others...we still have the penalty phase to go.

From: KATHY MATT
To: ALLSTAFF
Date: 11/12/04 1:57PM
Subject: MESSAGE FROM BHRS

At 1:30 this afternoon, I had a message from the HR Manager from the Stanislaus County Behavior Health & Recovery Services. She called to express "congratulations" to all of the DA employees on the outcome of the Scott Peterson Case and to commend all of the DA employees on their hard work and effort.

From: JOHN MAYNE
To: ATTORNEY'S
Date: 11/12/04 1:22PM
Subject: Scotty

I'm proud of this office today. The Peterson verdict is obviously a great day for justice; the public's view of justice is enhanced, and a murderer will never see the outside again.

I'm also proud of the quieter efforts made every day; we had plenty of murderers, robbers, rapists, thieves, drunk drivers, and other criminals. We put a lot of resources into Peterson, but we put a lot of resources into all of the other criminals we prosecuted. We put a lot of resources into the justice system, and ground out justice a case at a time.

I'm proud of management for making the efforts to help the Peterson team, and for making sure to be available for all of the other cases. We made sure that justice here didn't suffer for the pursuit of a single case, however important that was.

I'm proud of the public face we put on, with our public comments on the case limited and reasoned, in sharp contrast to the defense. Well, except for Dave Harris' gangsta rap song. But, everyone makes mistakes.

I'm proud of our clerical staff for continuing to keep the files moving and properly input; we notice the ones that go astray, but most of the time we are doing it right.

I'm proud of the investigators for investigating, of witness services for keeping things together, and of everyone for the continuing pursuit of justice.

I'm proud of the District Attorney, and his entire office.

Great job, great result, Peterson team. Hooray for justice.

—JRM, off to court.

From: CAROL SHIPLEY
To: ALLSTAFF
Date: 11/15/04 9:10AM
Subject: Fwd: Scotty

John Mayne beat me to this. I want to say that all of you have done an outstanding job throughout the duration of this trial. You have kept up with the work minus about 5 or 6 staff members, you've supported the team with good thoughts and prayers, and you never gave up the faith in our team. Well done and congratulations to all of you!!

From: "Marie King" [REDACTED]
To: "Jim Brazelton" <Jim.Brazelton@mail.standa.org>
Date: 11/15/04 1:49PM
Subject: Congratulations

October 15, 2004

Jim Brazelton:

Congratulations to you and the Peterson trial team.

Your leadership and staff expertise makes us proud.

Thank you for your leadership.

Jane Weinheimer
SEAPA

From: BIRGIT FLADAGER
To: ALLSTAFF.DA_PO.DA_DMN
Date: 11/22/04 5:11PM
Subject: Re: Thanks!!

For all members of the District Attorneys's Office:

We would like to extend to each of you our sincerest thanks for what each of you has done during the past year to help us do the job we were able to do on the Peterson case. Without the help and support of all of you back there in Modesto, we would not have been as successful as we were. You each played a part in the trial and share in the victory.

We also immensely appreciated your generosity and kind words. The cards that you sent to us, and the gift certificates, completely overwhelmed us at a time when we were exhausted and desperately in need of a boost. They accomplished more than you will ever know. It is impossible for us to adequately express our thanks, other than simply by saying:

"Thank you!"

Dave, Rick and Birgit



**TONY RACKAUCKAS
ORANGE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

ORANGE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
401 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE WEST • SANTA ANA, CA 92701 (714) 834-3636

December 14, 2004

James C. Brazelton, District Attorney
Office of the District Attorney
Stanislaus County
Post Office Box 442
Modesto, California 95353

Dear Mr. Brazelton:

I would like to take this opportunity to commend you and your office on the fine work in prosecuting Scott Peterson. You showed tremendous leadership and resolve in taking this case through the court process despite the intense media and public scrutiny. I know how difficult high profile cases can become when under the microscope.

Through the hard work by you and your staff justice is being served in this case. It is an honor to serve with you as District Attorney.

Sincerely,



Tony Rackauckas
District Attorney

TR:vjb

12/14/04 10:00 AM
12/14/04 10:00 AM
12/14/04 10:00 AM

DEC 17

BY TO: ORANGE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
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DEC 2004

From: JIM BRAZELTON
To: DAOFFICE
Date: 12/16/04 1:59PM
Subject: From Lexington, Ky. D.A.

The following was sent to us by Ray Larson, Commonwealth's Attorney in Lexington, Kentucky:

Jim,

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!!! You and your team have made every prosecutor across America proud.

As usual, the main stream media, and those Monday morning quarterbacks they claim are "former prosecutors" never give credit to the dogged persistence, and insistence on justice of prosecutors who just keep their eyes on the target, and don't get caught up in the media hoopla and attention.

Not only have you accomplished a great and just sentence in perhaps the highest profile case yet, but you did it with such great dignity and professionalism. You have also bailed California out as well. After the LA disaster called O.J. and the never ending saga of the 9th "Circus" Court of Appeals, the country wondered about justice "California style." You have just defined it - "Straight forward, no nonsense, you do the crime - you get consequences."

Jim, you and your office are the men and women of the hour. Real heroes. THANKS, from all of the rest of us. We were watching.