



Saint Louis County

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DATE 10/10/13

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Northeast Minnesota / Northwest Wisconsin prosecutor's summit on domestic violence – October 11, 2013

St. Louis County Attorney, Mark Rubin, and the St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorneys are hosting the first ever, NE MN / NW WI Prosecutor's Summit on Domestic Violence on October 11, 2013. Rubin stated the reason behind this significant undertaking: "While we have made great strides in our prosecution of these cases, the reality is that people still continue to beat, rape, strangle, and stalk those they purportedly love."

The sad statistics in St. Louis County alone are alarming: year to date, there have been 395 domestic violence crimes, including 78 assaults by strangulation; 19 domestic assaults with a weapon, and six domestic violence cases including sexual assault of an adult.

Rubin and the Prosecuting Attorneys who make up the St. Louis County Domestic Violence Unit decided to recommit with an even more powerful response to prosecuting these crimes by inviting prosecutors from other cities and counties throughout the Sixth Judicial District as well as from northwest Wisconsin. "We are committed to a proactive response in prosecuting these matters. We want to raise the awareness: domestic violence is not acceptable."

Jessica Smith, one of four attorneys in the county's Domestic Violence Unit states several reasons why this Summit is so important. "Prosecution of domestic violence crimes poses unique challenges to us as prosecutors. We want to have an open exchange of ideas to increase the successful prosecution of these cases. As prosecutors, we want to focus on the accountability of the offenders because domestic violence and violence against women is such an egregious offense with wide sweeping effects all across our Northland communities."

“Domestic violence perpetrates harm on our communities; it attacks the core of the family,” says Assistant County Attorney Rebekka Stumme, who is also one of the experts presenting at the Summit. “It creates a ripple effect because of the damage done to the victims, their family members, their friends and their employers.”

Nationally known presenters on domestic violence and its successful prosecution include: David Brown, Chief Deputy, Hennepin County Attorney’s Office; Rhonda Martinson, Attorney Advisor, AEquitas, with more than a dozen presenters and panelists giving of their time and expertise to send a message to abusers: domestic violence is not acceptable.”

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