

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE CRIMINAL DIVISION

The following is a biography of one of the outstanding women who work in the Department of Justice Criminal Division.

Karen P. Tandy **Chief, Litigation Unit** **Asset Forfeiture Office**

Ms. Tandy received her B.S. from Texas Tech University in 1974 and her J.D. from Texas Tech University School of Law in 1977. After law school, she clerked for Federal District Court Judge Halbert O. Woodward in the Northern District of Texas. From August 1978 to September 1979 she worked as a trial attorney in the Organized Crime and Racketeering Section of the Department of Justice Criminal Division.

From September 1979 to October 1988 Karen was an Assistant United States Attorney in the Eastern District of Virginia. During this period she successfully prosecuted over 130 felony defendants. She supervised a task force of prosecutors and agents dedicated to the prosecution of more than 100 prisoners involved in murder, arson, rioting and other violent crimes.

Ms. Tandy was the lead OCDETF attorney for the District of Columbia for several years. In one case, she obtained the conviction of 22 individuals, two of them for RICO and one for CCE. This case resulted in the forfei-

ture of over \$8 million in assets.

She also handled the drug/money laundering prosecution of 26 defendants in another organization, successfully convicting all of the defendants and obtaining CCE convictions against the three kingpins. Karen's criminal prosecution of this case resulted in the leading Supreme Court decision approving the forfeiture of attorneys fees, *Caplin and Drysdale, Chartered v. United States*, 109 S. Ct. 2646 (1989).

From November 1988 to November 1990 Karen was an AUSA in the Western District of Washington. During most of this period, she supervised the new Asset Forfeiture Unit in that office, personally handling numerous drug and money laundering investigations and the related civil and criminal forfeiture actions.

Karen joined the Asset Forfeiture Office in November 1990. In August 1991 she was appointed Chief of the Litigation Unit. During her first year at the Asset Forfeiture Office, Karen has distinguished herself in many respects.

First, Karen has represented the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice on numerous occasions as a speaker on forfeiture-related issues, particularly money laundering related forfeiture. She has spoken before multiple DOJ money laundering conferences, several DOJ basic asset forfeiture conferences, numer-

ous United States Attorneys' offices training sessions, a national meeting of IRS District Counsel, a national FDIC investigators' conference, and the Mid-Atlantic regional OCDETF conference. She also spoke at the annual meeting of the senior counsel of the nation's top 25 title insurance companies, and made a special presentation on forfeiture in white collar fraud cases before the ABA General Litigation Section at this year's ABA Convention in Atlanta.

Second, Karen is primarily responsible for drafting the most important new policy statement issued this past year on behalf of the Asset Forfeiture Program: the policy on Expedited Forfeiture Settlement Policy for Mortgage Holders. While forfeiture proceedings are pending - sometimes for many months or years - lienholders are uncertain of their status. This delay has caused much criticism of the Program by financial institutions.

In response to this criticism, Karen helped develop a system for the expedited settlement of claims against forfeitable property. Under this system, agreements to pay creditors specific sums upon forfeiture may be entered into prior to the entry of a final forfeiture order. Karen worked with former AFO Director Larry Fann in drafting the final policy and getting it accepted and released by the Executive Office for Asset Forfeiture.

Other FWP activities have included support of the Philadelphia Annual Fun-Sur in support of the Criminal Division