

Reader callout

Send us your Little League photos

Interim parole board director named

GateHouse News Service

Posted Jan 14, 2011 @ 10:51 AM

Recommend

Sign Up to see what your friends recommend.



Woburn, MA — As part of the shakeup of the state Parole Board following the shooting death of Woburn Officer John “Jack” Maguire by a parolee, Gov. Deval Patrick has named a new interim director of the board.

Josh Wall, first assistant district attorney for Suffolk County has the job.

Wall, 51, came to the Suffolk District Attorney’s office in 1993 and served as chief of the Child Protection Unit, Major Felony Unit and Senior Trial Unit. When Suffolk County District Attorney Daniel F. Conley took office in 2002, he promoted Wall to the position of first assistant and supervisor of all Superior Court prosecutions.

“If it was the governor’s intention to appoint someone to oversee Parole with a profound commitment to justice, the deepest empathy for victims, a proven record as a reformer, and unassailable credentials protecting the public safety, he could not have made a finer pick than Josh Wall,” Conley said.

Maguire was killed in a Dec. 26 shootout by Domenic Cinelli, 58, who was serving three lifetime sentences when he was freed by a unanimous vote of the Parole Board. The officer’s shooting resulted in widespread criticism of the board and its procedures. Cinelli was also killed in the incident, which followed a botched robbery attempt at the Kohl’s department store in Woburn.

Wall was a winner of the 2009 William C. O’Malley Prosecutor of the Year Award, a statewide honor recognizing him for his outstanding work as a trial lawyer, office leader, and mentor to younger prosecutors throughout his career. In 2004, he represented the Suffolk District Attorney’s office on a blue-ribbon panel tasked with addressing, correcting, and preventing wrongful convictions in Suffolk County; that panel brought about sweeping reforms that one prominent defense attorney said puts Suffolk County “at the nation’s forefront” in preventing miscarriages of justice.

Prior to his career as a Suffolk prosecutor, Wall served with the Rhode Island Attorney General’s office from 1987 through 1991 and worked in private practice in both Boston and New York City.

He is a 1982 graduate of Harvard University and a 1986 graduate of Boalt Hall School of Law at the University of California Berkeley.

“Josh has been with me from my first day as District Attorney and he has been one of the most critical players in all that we have accomplished here in Suffolk County,” Conley said. “His integrity, leadership and judgment are second to none. Losing Josh as first assistant is incredibly difficult but at this point in time, the people of Massachusetts are in need of strong and credible new leadership at Parole. Josh is the consummate public servant and, unsurprisingly, felt he could not ignore this latest, important call to service.

“I am grateful to Josh for all he’s done on my behalf, on behalf of this office, in the pursuit of justice, and for the victims we serve. I will miss him as a colleague and as a friend.”