

Cooley for D.A.



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Dear Fellow Deputy District Attorney,

I am pleased to present myself for your consideration as the next District Attorney of Los Angeles County. After more than 26 years in this office, I am proud to have worked with many of you. My views of the criminal justice system and the proper role of the District Attorney are set forth in great detail on my website. I love this job. My record of achievements clearly demonstrates this. During my 15 years as a Head Deputy, I have continued to try cases and appear in court. This has given me an appreciation of what it's like for you who serve on the line every day. I am confident that when you compare my record with the incumbent's, you will agree it's time for a change—a *good change*—in the leadership of the DA's office.

The Garcetti legacy is one of failure, marked by misfeasance and malfeasance. Your good work has been diminished by his failings. Our office has lost respect in the legal community, among law enforcement, in local and national press, and, most importantly, in the eyes of the citizens we serve. This **MUST** change. Let's look at the legacy of Gil Garcetti, a man who:

Has been a globetrotting, camera-seeking, abusive and absentee landlord.

Cannot lead by example, because he lacks credibility as a knowledgeable, experienced trial lawyer.

Has not pursued public corruption in many cases.

Expanded self-aggrandizing public relations programs at the expense of promotions and improved working conditions.

Gives special favors to campaign contributors and the politically well connected.

Doles out unequal justice under an inconsistent "three-strikes" policy.

Has not met with head deputies in over five years.

Has insulated himself by creating the most bloated management staff in history.

Is afraid to face his troops and the public, communicating instead through a phalanx of political mouthpieces.

Has been at war with the ADDA for years and insulted all deputies by refusing to attend ADDA meetings.

Gave secret, unprecedented, undeserved cash bonuses and unconscionable overtime to some of the losing OJ lawyers.

As Chief Deputy paid himself and a close confidante thousands of dollars in suspect cash overtime.

Denies earned overtime pay to many, causing an accomplished prosecutor to quit the office.

Punishes those who question his wrongdoing by banishing them to punitive assignments or delaying and denying their promotions.

Dumps skilled, veteran DA's into funded special units to hide them off the payroll, hurting their morale.

Abolished the rollout program when there was more than enough money in the budget to pay for it.

Seeks publicity with phony-baloney crime prevention programs instead of concentrating on trials and important policy issues.

Decorates his offices regally, while allowing DDA offices and furniture to fall apart from age and neglect.

Misallocated scarce resources.

Publicly stated he wants the power to cut your salary. (Bill Rosendahl cable t.v. show)

We cannot afford four more years of Gil Garcetti! Here are **MY** priorities for the DA's office in 2000 and beyond:

- ☛ Restore honor and ethics --- starting at the top.
- ☛ Pursue and prosecute public corruption wherever it occurs.
- ☛ Reduce Management Staff bloat - our "army" has too many generals --- not enough well-equipped soldiers.
- ☛ Support diversity in the criminal justice system and in our employee ranks.
- ☛ Regularly rotate preferred assignments among all the troops, promoting a sense of fairness and team spirit.
- ☛ Create an effective mentoring system for newer DDA's.

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- ☛ **Revamp** the promotional exam process. All other things being equal, seniority should count for something. Not morale more than denial of a well-earned promotion. If you do your job well, that is what should matter.
- ☛ **Budget** increases should go to promotions, not automatically to the hiring of more deputies.
- ☛ **Recognize** that not every DDA wants to, or can be, a permanent trial machine. Deputies have different skills, talents strengths. Unique talents should be recognized, utilized and rewarded.
- ☛ **Upgrade** the physical office environment of our employees with new furniture, paint, office equipment.
- ☛ **Place** more trained paralegals in every work location, particularly to help with major cases.
- ☛ **Reduce** involuntary transfers to a minimum; assign people as close to home as possible.
- ☛ **Support** full employee benefits for job-sharers; expand the program to meet the needs of DDA's with medical or childcare or eldercare responsibilities
- ☛ **Work** with ADDA in getting the best salary and benefits possible. We must remain the best paid prosecutors in the country. We will earn it by being the best prosecution office in the country.
- ☛ **Give** calendar deputies more discretion and clear policies. They should not be second-guessed or micro-managed by level managers who have not been in court for years.
- ☛ **Ethical** responsibilities and evenhanded justice must replace improper considerations. No more McMorrrows, B. Lockheed-Martins, Guess? Jeans, Rosenkrantz, et al.
- ☛ **Finally**, we must have an office that seeks the important goals of accurate justice, efficiency, honesty, and collegiality.

We should feel proud to serve in this office. The DA should be above reproach in personal and professional conduct. The DA should lead by example. The DA should not allow political favoritism, cronyism, or misuse of this office for personal or political gain. Policies should be clear. We will make some long-overdue changes. We will be non-partisan and resist any kind of political interference. Deputies will succeed by following their oaths as attorneys and adhering to responsibilities as officers of the court and the public prosecutor. I would be honored to have your vote in the plebiscite and in the primary election on March 7, 2000.

Sincerely,

Steve

STEVE COOLEY
Candidate for District Attorney