

DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is the lead agency for the development of overall Federal drug enforcement strategy, programs, planning and evaluation. It is charged with disrupting and apprehending major interstate and international drug criminals and with gathering and disseminating drug intelligence.

The DEA was created in 1973 with the merger of the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, the Office for Drug Abuse Law Enforcement, the Office of National Narcotics Intelligence, the Narcotics Advance Research Management Team, and the elements of the U.S. Customs Service that worked with drug trafficking intelligence and investigations.

The mission of DEA is to enforce the controlled substances laws and regulations of the United States of America and to bring to the criminal and civil justice system of the United States, those organizations, and principal members of organizations, involved in the growing, manufacture, or distribution of controlled substances appearing in or destined for illicit traffic in the United States.

DEA has 19 domestic field divisions, 108 resident offices and 8 district offices. It operates seven forensic laboratories; a special testing and research laboratory; an airwing which provides air support for drug enforcement operations throughout the world; and the El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC), a central repository for tactical drug enforcement intelligence. Overseas, DEA maintains 72 offices in 49 countries.

Women have had important roles in DEA throughout its history. Many hold positions as special

agents, intelligence analysts, diversion investigators, chemists, attorneys, and various management, administrative and support positions.

DEA is very proud of the women who have been essential in the battle against global drug trafficking. The following is a look at just a few of the professional women employed by the DEA.

Judith E. Bertini
Associate Deputy Assistant
Administrator for Intelligence



Judith E. Bertini began her federal service with the Federal Records Center of the National Archives as an archivist assistant. In 1968, Ms. Bertini became an Intelligence Research Specialist with the Central Intelligence Agency and later the Department of the Army.

Ms. Bertini joined the DEA in 1975. She remained in the Office of Intelligence developing expertise in a number of speciality areas, including Asian heroin and organized crime. Ms. Bertini has extensive experience in all aspects of drug intelligence and became a

Supervisory Intelligence Research Specialist in 1981.

Ms. Bertini presently holds the position of Associate Deputy Assistant Administrator for Intelligence. She is responsible for the day-to-day operations of DEA's Intelligence program, which includes strategic, operational and financial intelligence matters. She also formulates and manages DEA's long range planning for intelligence and directs its implementation worldwide.

Helen E.R. Bass
Special Agent



Helen Bass began her career with DEA in 1983 in the Philadelphia Division. Upon completion of basic agent training school, Special Agent Bass was assigned to the Baltimore Office. She has distinguished herself as a thorough investigator specializing in Jamaican criminal groups and has developed particular expertise in conducting Title III intercepts. Special Agent Bass currently is assigned to the Violent Crimes Task Force Group in Baltimore.

Frances Dolores Cintron
Special Agent



Frances Cintron has worked as a narcotics investigator since 1977 when she started her career as a Narcotics Officer for the State of Nevada. She became a DEA special agent in 1978 and has worked in Los Angeles and in Latin America. Ms. Cintron and her husband (also a DEA special agent) were stationed in Bogota, Colombia, in the mid-1980's during a time of escalating violence surrounding the Colombian drug cartels. They later transferred to Lima, Peru, where they were trained for special jungle operations as part of DEA's Operation Snowcap.

After spending six years overseas, Special Agent Cintron is now stationed at the DEA training facility in Quantico, Virginia.

Margaret A. Brophy
Diversion Investigator



Margaret Brophy has worked for the Drug Enforcement Administration since 1973. Investigator Brophy worked as a Diversion Group Supervisor in the New York Field Division for over seven years. She then transferred to Headquarters as a Staff Coordinator in the Diversion Operations Section. Since then she has served as the Chief of the Registration Unit and Deputy Section Chief of the Liaison and Policy Section.

Ms. Brophy currently serves as Chief of the Drug Investigation Unit, which monitors the activities of diversion investigators stationed in over forty domestic field offices. Most recently, Investigator Brophy devised and implemented a strategy to enforce the new provisions of law that control the use and distribution of anabolic steroids.

Michele Marie Leonhart
Supervisory Special Agent



Special Agent Leonhart has been involved in law enforcement since 1979 when she joined the Baltimore Police Department. She distinguished herself early in her career by graduating "Top Cop" from the Baltimore Police Academy. She graduated from the DEA National Academy in 1981 as "Outstanding Student".

Ms. Leonhart's first assignment as a DEA special agent was conducting complex conspiracy investigations in Minneapolis. In 1986 she transferred to the St. Louis Field Division where she was selected as the Special Agent Recruitment Coordinator. In 1988 Ms. Leonhart was promoted to Intelligence Group Supervisor in the San Diego Field Division. For the past two years, Ms. Leonhart has supervised Enforcement Group One, an enforcement group consisting of eleven DEA special agents and two U.S. Customs special agents.