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Jennifer Downing Sworn In as Deputy First Assistant Prosecutor

TRENTON -- Acting Mercer County Prosecutor Angelo J. Onofri recently announced the promotion of Jennifer Downing to deputy first assistant prosecutor.

Downing began her legal career serving as a law clerk for the Honorable Paulette Sapp-Peterson (retired). She has been an assistant prosecutor with the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office for 18 years, working in various units such as Megan's Law, Juvenile, Domestic Violence, Grand Jury, Trial and Special Victims. Downing has previously served as the chief of the Megan's Law Unit, and for the past eight years she has worked as the chief assistant prosecutor of the Special Victims Unit.

"Jennifer has always been a valuable asset to the office. She is dedicated, experienced, and as a lifelong Mercer County resident, she offers a deep understanding of our community," Onofri said. "I look forward to continuing our work together and her increased role in the office."

Downing is a certified legal instructor with the New Jersey Police Training Commission, instructing new recruits attending the Mercer County Police Academy. She conducts annual trainings for officers and detectives throughout Mercer County, and also conducts trainings on sexual assault and child abuse for all of the public and private schools, and colleges and universities in Mercer County.

A member of the New Jersey State Bar, the Mercer County Bar, and Assistant Prosecutors Associations, Downing is active in the Association of Black Women Lawyers of New Jersey, New Jersey Women in Law Enforcement, and the Eggerts Crossing Civic

League. Additionally, she finds time for significant involvement in the Mercer County Inns of Court, the Mercer County Commission on Abused, Neglected and Missing Children, and the Mercer Vicinage Superior Court Advisory Committee on Minority Concerns.

Downing is the daughter of retired undersheriff Robert “Bob” Downing and Sarah Downing. Born in Trenton and raised in Lawrenceville, she attended the Lawrence Township Public School System. She graduated from Rider University in 1994 and earned her law degree from Widener University School of Law in Wilmington, Delaware, in 1997.

The promotion of Downing comes after the retirement of Deputy First Assistant Prosecutor Tom Meidt earlier this year.

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New Mercer County Deputy First Assistant Prosecutor Jennifer Downing (second from right) is joined by her mother, Sarah Downing, and her fiancé, Lloyd Mathis, as Mercer County Superior Court Judge Janetta D. Marbrey (far left) administers her oath of office.