



OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY
MADISON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Thomas D. Gibbons
State's Attorney

157 North Main Street
Suite 402
Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

Voice: 618 692-6280
Facsimile: 618 296-7001
www.madco-sa.org

Contact: Stephanie Smith
618/692-6280; @MadisonCoSAO

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PRESS RELEASE

Edwardsville—First Assistant State's Attorney Jennifer Vucich was recently honored by the Major Case Squad of Greater St. Louis with their Prosecuting Attorney Award of Excellence. The award, according to the Major Case Squad criteria, is given to a prosecutor for their work with the organization that goes "above and beyond the normal call of duty."

"I'm honored to be recognized by the wonderful men and women of law enforcement," said Vucich who received the award in March. "The Major Case Squad plays such a vital role in investigating homicides in the Metro-East. I have worked with them countless times over the years and I'm always impressed with their commitment and perseverance in solving crimes."

Madison County State's Attorney Tom Gibbons appointed Vucich as his First Assistant State's Attorney in December 2012. She has been with the office since September 1999 when she was hired as a law clerk while attending St. Louis University School of Law. After graduating in December 2000, Vucich was hired as an Assistant State's Attorney in the Misdemeanor Division. In April 2003, she was promoted to the Felony Division where she has tried numerous cases, including serving as lead or co-counsel on dozens of murder trials.

Recently, Vucich served as lead prosecutor in the murder case of Kevin Reid, 57, who was convicted for the murders of Anquiaette "Tweety" Parker, 19, and her 4-year-old cousin Cermen "C.J." Toney Jr. The Madison County State's Attorney's Office charged Reid after the bodies of Parker and Toney Jr. were found in an underground cistern on property once owned by Reid. He is currently serving a life sentence.

State's Attorney Gibbons was pleased to see his First Assistant State's Attorney recognized. "One of Jennifer's many skills is her ability to work so closely with our local law enforcement in solving crimes and ensuring that justice is served. It was gratifying to see the Major Case Squad acknowledge her dedication and service to the people of Madison County."

Vucich was nominated by Major Jeff Connor from the Granite City Police Department. "Each year we recognize a prosecutor from the Metropolitan St. Louis area for their involvement and dedication to Major Case" said Connor, who is also a member of the Major Case Squad. "I've worked with Assistant State's Attorney Vucich on many tough cases over the years and I'm glad to see her get the recognition she deserves."

In addition to her duties with the Felony Division, Vucich is also an instructor with the Illinois State's Attorney's Appellate Prosecutor's Office where she helps train new prosecutors during their bi-annual Trial Advocacy Course. She has been a board member with the Madison County Child Advocacy Center and was instrumental in implementing the Madison County Child Abduction Response team led by Madison County Sheriff Bob Hertz. Vucich has also led the office in various community prosecution programs such as Line in the Sand with the Alton Police Department. Likewise, she has attended hundreds of trainings in a variety of topics during her time with the State's Attorney's Office. Prior to Illinois' elimination of the death penalty, Vucich also served on the Illinois Capital Litigation Bar.

Vucich, who lives in Bethalto, has two children and is an avid runner. She completed her first marathon in 2011.

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