2009 INTRODUCTION TO DRUG PROSECUTION COURSE

The Role of the Drug Prosecutor

ADA Ray Mayer, Coweta Judicial Circuit

- **Know the law.** The Drug Prosecutor, more than any other ADA in the circuit, should know the law pertaining particularly to drug prosecutions, the substantive law (including keeping up with the statutes and changes thereto and the case law and particularly knowing that which the casual reader may overlook), the procedural law and the rules.

- **Convey the law.** It is not enough for the Drug Prosecutor to know the law. The Drug Prosecutor should convey that law to fellow ADA's, law enforcement and even the judges, whether it be informally by passing out highlighted cases or statutory amendments, more formally by memo or e-mail or more intensely via training sessions.

- **Training.** More than just conveying the law, the Drug Prosecutor should train circuit drug agents in the legal aspects of their jobs, e.g., search and seizure, asset forfeitures, case file reporting, testifying, etc.

- **Assisting.** The Drug Prosecutor should *actively* assist law enforcement in the circuit, e.g., in developing and implementing procedures, in investigations and operations, executing search warrants, dealing with suspects and confidential informants, coordinating with other agencies, dealing with the DA's office, etc.

- **Leading.** The Drug Prosecutor, through education, training, experience and familiarity with the drug situation throughout the circuit, should be a leader in the local war on drugs.

- **Asset Forfeitures.** The Drug Prosecutor should handle the circuit's asset forfeitures, personally to the extent possible and otherwise training other ADA's and staff involved.

- **PAC.** The Drug Prosecutor should seek out opportunities to assist PAC in state wide training.