

For Immediate Release

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CIRCUIT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE LAUNCHES NEW INITIATIVE TO PROTECT TAXPAYERS

Virginia Lay Appointed to Special Prosecutor for Unemployment Fraud

November XX, 2012, St. Louis, MO – The economic recession has forced millions of Americans out of work and dependant upon unemployment benefits to survive. Unemployment benefits were designed to provide financial assistance to those who lose their job, while they search for a new job. Unfortunately, there are individuals that see this as an opportunity to defraud the system.

To combat this fraud and protect St. Louis taxpayers, the Circuit Attorney's Office has created a new initiative to prosecute those who choose to defraud the unemployment system. Circuit Attorney Jennifer M. Joyce has appointed Virginia Lay as a Special Prosecutor for the White Collar Fraud Unit.

"Virginia has a unique set of skills and experience that will enable her to make a tremendous impact on our ability to address this area of taxpayer fraud," said Joyce. "She is tenacious and knowledgeable with high integrity and she has the relationships we need to collaborate with other agencies across the city who can assist us with this effort."

Lay has previously worked for the Jackson County Prosecutors Office, the St. Louis Circuit Attorney's Office, and as a Special Prosecutor with the Missouri Attorney General's Office. She has participated in over 75 jury trials, including federal employment cases. Lay is a graduate of Columbia University and Washington University School of Law.

For more information please visit www.circuitattorney.org or call the Fraud Prevention Task Force at 314-612-1412.

"You deserve to live, work and play in a safe city that respects the rights of all people."