

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**August 16, 2013**

**COURT APPOINTED MONITORING TEAM TO BEGIN MONITORING NEW ORLEANS  
POLICE DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO CONSENT DECREE**

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana has ordered the start of New Orleans Police Department (“NOPD”) monitoring by national law firm Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton and a team of police practices experts from around the country. The Court Order was issued pursuant to the terms of a Consent Decree approved by the Court on January 11, 2013. United States District Court Judge Susie Morgan, who will oversee the NOPD’s compliance with the Consent Decree, appointed the Sheppard Mullin team to serve as the Consent Decree Monitor (“CDM”) on July 5, 2013.

The Consent Decree followed a lengthy investigation of the NOPD by the DOJ’s Civil Rights Division ending in March 2011. The Consent Decree addresses the

goal of ensuring that police services are delivered to the people of New Orleans in a manner that complies with the Constitution and laws of the United States.

The Consent Decree is “intended to protect the constitutional rights of all members of the community, improve the safety and security of the people of New Orleans, and increase public confidence in the New Orleans Police Department.”

As the Court-appointed monitor, the Sheppard Mullin team will serve as the eyes and ears of the United States District Court with respect to the NOPD’s efforts to implement the terms of the Consent Decree. The team will conduct audits and reviews and perform outcome assessments to ensure that the terms of the Consent Decree are

- (i) Accurately incorporated into the Department’s written policies,
- (ii) Effectively presented to all personnel through training, and
- (iii) Actually implemented in practice.

The Sheppard Mullin team will spend significant time on the ground in New Orleans monitoring police practices; reviewing policies, reports, and data; meeting with officers, officials, and members of the public; and conducting other assessments as required by the Consent Decree. The Team will issue regular reports, which will be submitted to the Court and made available to the public through the Team’s website, [www.consentdecreemonitor.com](http://www.consentdecreemonitor.com), and the Court’s website, [www.laed.uscourts.gov/Consent/consent.htm](http://www.laed.uscourts.gov/Consent/consent.htm).

The Monitoring Team – which is independent from the City, the NOPD, and the Department of Justice – will be led by Sheppard Mullin attorneys Jonathan Aronie (Primary Monitor) and David Douglass (Deputy Monitor), and former police chief Dennis Nowicki (Deputy

Monitor). Each brings important and unique experiences to this monitoring project. Summaries of their biographies – along with the biographies of the other core team members – are included at the end of this Release.

Additionally, the Sheppard Mullin monitoring team will be supported by Metro-Source LLC, a New Orleans firm specializing in planning, organizing, communications, and community outreach. The firm is led by life-long New Orleans resident Judith Williams Dangerfield. Ms. Williams Dangerfield brings to the team extensive experience working with local, state, and federal government agencies, as well as with non-profit and community-based agencies, throughout New Orleans.

While the responsibilities of the monitoring team are wide-ranging, they are explicitly governed by the terms of the Consent Decree and the oversight of the United States District Court. In short, the Team's primary responsibility is to monitor and report on the NOPD's implementation of the Consent Decree. The Monitor is not intended to, nor is it permitted to, replace or assume the role and duties of the City or the NOPD. Neither is it the Monitor's role to replace or duplicate the function of the City's own Independent Police Monitor ("IPM"). The IPM maintains its current duties and responsibilities, including its responsibility to monitor the NOPD, receive citizen complaints alleging police misconduct, and issue public reports. *Importantly, the IPM, not the court-appointed Consent Decree Monitor, will remain the primary New Orleans entity for receiving citizen complaints involving the NOPD through its website ([www.nolaipm.org](http://www.nolaipm.org)), by email ([policemonitor@nolaoig.org](mailto:policemonitor@nolaoig.org)), or by phone (504.681.3217).*

Those interested in learning more about the Court-appointed Consent Decree Monitor will be able to visit the Team's web site at [www.consentdecreemonitor.com](http://www.consentdecreemonitor.com), which will be active shortly.

### **Members Of The Court-Appointed Independent Monitoring Team**

- ***Jonathan Aronie (Primary Monitor)*** is a partner in Sheppard Mullin's Government's Contract and Internal Investigations Practice. Since 1994, Jonathan has conducted complex internal investigations and compliance reviews for a wide range of Fortune 500 companies. Jonathan previously served as the Deputy Independent Monitor over the District of Columbia Metropolitan Police Department. Prior to private practice, Jonathan served as a law clerk to the Honorable Patricia Wynn, DC Superior Court, where he spent most of his time in the Juvenile Crimes division. Jonathan is a graduate of Duke University School of Law. He is cleared at the highest levels and frequently handles cases involving national security issues.
- ***David Douglass (Deputy Monitor)*** is a partner in Sheppard Mullin's Government's Contract and Internal Investigations Practice. In private practice, David represents corporations and individuals in civil and criminal investigations, litigation, and prosecutions. Prior to entering private practice, David was an Assistant United

States Attorney and then a DOJ civil rights prosecutor, where, among other responsibilities, he investigated and prosecuted excessive force cases. In addition to extensive trial experience, David also brings significant experience reviewing the actions of law enforcement agencies. In 1994, he served as Executive Director of the U.S. Treasury Department's Review of White House Security. Prior to that, he was Assistant Director of the Treasury Department's investigation of the ATF raid on the Branch Davidian compound in Waco Texas. David received his law degree, *cum laude*, from Harvard Law School and his undergraduate degree from Yale College.

- **Chief Dennis Nowicki (Deputy Monitor)** is a senior law-enforcement professional whose career spans over forty-nine years of public service. Retiring as Chief of Police for Charlotte-Mecklenburg, North Carolina in 1999, Chief Nowicki also has served as Executive Director of the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority and Chief of Police for Joliet, Illinois. Since retiring from Charlotte-Mecklenburg, he served as the executive director of a COPS funded regional community policing training institute and, more recently, has concentrated his work on assisting police departments and DOJ in matters relating to managing police use of force. Chief Nowicki has served on the teams monitoring the District of Columbia Police Department and the U.S. Virgin Islands Police Department.
- **Chief Theron "T" Bowman** currently serves as a Deputy City Manager in Arlington, Texas. He served as the Chief of Police in Arlington from 1999-2012. Dr. Bowman received his Ph.D. in Urban and Public Administration from the University of Texas at Arlington and has served on the faculty of several universities teaching Sociology, Criminology, and Criminal Justice courses. Dr. Bowman has been inducted into the George Mason University Evidence-Based Policing Hall of Fame, recognized by the African American Peace Officer Association as "Officer of the Year," selected by the John Ben Shepperd Leadership Institute as an "Outstanding Local Texas Leader," and has received Proclamations of Achievement from both the Texas State Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives.
- **Chief Robert McNeilly** is the current chief of Elizabeth Township, Pennsylvania. Prior to moving to Elizabeth, Chief McNeilly served as Chief of Police of Pittsburgh, PA from April 1996 to January 2006. Chief McNeilly led his department through a U.S. Department of Justice consent decree in the mid-1990s, resulting in his department reaching substantial compliance and being released from the consent decree monitoring. He was also active as a United States Coast Guard Reserves Chief Petty Officer from 1987 to 2011, and is a United States Marine Corps veteran.
- **Chief Mary Ann Viverette** served as Chief of Gaithersburg, Maryland for 21 years. As the first female president of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, Chief Viverette led the agency through organizational change, while embracing the diversity of the community, and while facing the dramatic changes the population faced. In addition to serving on the Maryland Chiefs of Police Training Committee for over a decade, Chief Viverette, as a pioneer woman police chief, was often called upon to speak on issues affecting women and minorities in law enforcement. She

conducted dozens of training sessions on the recruitment of women and minorities over a fifteen year period and has served as an Investigator with the Department of Justice.

- **Dr. Geoffrey Alpert** is a Professor in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of South Carolina and an Adjunct Professor at the Centre for Excellence in Policing and Security, Griffith University in Brisbane, Australia. He is an internationally recognized criminologist who specializes in research, training and the evaluation of high-risk police activities, including the use of force, deadly force, pursuit driving, racial profiling and accountability systems. He is a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police Research Advisory Council.
- **Dr. Alejandro del Carmen** currently is a professor and chair of the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Texas at Arlington. Dr. del Carmen earned a Ph.D. in criminology and criminal justice from Florida State University in 1997. His research interests include law enforcement, racial profiling, crime prevention and corrections. Dr. del Carmen has published over thirty-five refereed academic manuscripts in internationally recognized journals. His most recent book is titled *Racial Profiling in America* (2008), Prentice Hall Publishing.
- **Tracey Kennedy** is a partner in Sheppard Mullin's Litigation and Labor & Employment Practice Groups, working out of New York and Los Angeles. Tracey has extensive experience working in the area of race, gender, and other forms of discrimination cases, and has extensive experience working with employee unions. In the late 1990s, Tracey was retained by the County of Los Angeles to monitor the discriminatory hiring practices of the Sheriff's Department. Tracey has been named one of the country's "top woman litigators" by the Daily Journal.
- **Peter Morris** is a partner in Sheppard Mullin's Government Contracts and Internal Investigations Practice Group. Prior to moving into private practice, Peter served an Assistant United States Attorney for the Central District of California, where he led multiple fraud task forces. Peter has extensive experience working with federal and state law enforcement agencies, and was involved in monitoring the Los Angeles Fire Department following a state-mandated investigation in 1992. Peter is a graduate of Harvard Law School where he served on the Harvard Civil Rights & Civil Liberties Law Review.