

Warren Hired for Justice Integrity

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a crime to ask a judge to revisit a conviction or reduce prison time.

Schmidt said the work will include reviewing requests from people convicted years ago of crimes such as drug dealing who have stayed out of trouble and want to have felony convictions reduced to misdemeanors so they can seek housing and employment.

"They haven't had any crimes in over a decade and yet they are stuck with these marks they can't remove," he said.

The unit also could include looking at juveniles serving time under Oregon's mandatory minimum sentencing law that applies to the most serious violent crimes. In 2019, the Legislature changed the law in an effort to keep young people out of adult court and its related harsher sentences.

"We are going to have to figure out with the resources we have how many cases we can take on," Schmidt said, adding that he had spoken with the top prosecutor in Washington's King County who said a similar unit handled about 30 cases in its first year.

The District Attorney's Office has had a conviction integrity unit in the past, but Schmidt said the

work was previously bare bones.

Warren has been vocal about holding the District Attorney's office accountable to carrying out justice fairly and equitably as well as the deep racial disparities in our criminal justice system throughout his career.

In a prepared statement, he said working for the top prosecutor in the county and running the Justice Integrity Unit would not be a departure from his zealous advocacy for accountability and fairness in the criminal justice system.

"Instead, this role is an inflection point in a career devoted to seeking justice, where I can do the most possible good for the greatest number of people impacted by the criminal justice system," Warren said.

Born and raised in Portland, Warren attended Willamette University earning a Bachelor's degree in economics, followed by the Atkinson's School of Management before pursuing a law degree at Arizona State University. A veteran mentor to clients, gang-impacted youth, students, new attorneys and more, he has dedicated himself to service well beyond his law practice.

Schmidt said Warren has the background and experience to ensure that the new Justice Integrity

Unit is carried out with fairness and equity as a north star.

"Justice doesn't stop at the conclusion of a trial, it includes critically evaluating past convictions, ensuring current reliance on forensic evidence is well placed, re-examining old sentences that may no longer be necessary for the safety of the community, and giving people who have served their time a chance to move on with their lives by expunging past convictions and eliminating fines and fees that can keep people in downward debt spirals," Schmidt said.

Multnomah County joins a half-dozen other large city prosecutors' offices in creating a sentencing review unit and another 90 that have conviction integrity units, said Aliza Kaplan, a professor at Lewis & Clark Law School and a criminal justice reform advocate who advised Schmidt on the plan.

Kaplan said it's unusual for a DA's office to combine those efforts and to ensure they are robust.

She said analyzing wrongful convictions goes beyond DNA exonerations. The work requires "a real investigation and a deep dive into what happened years and years ago."

-Associated Press contributed to this story.

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Madison Reopens as McDaniel High School

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engineering, robotics, digital art, biomedical, sculpture, construction, and sustainable agriculture, in addition to a brand-new maker space. Plus, the school has dedicated facilities for the community including a child care center, public health clinic, and community food pantry.

Madison was one of two Portland high schools to go through a re-naming process in response to student and community concerns about the racist beliefs and actions of the U.S. presidents

they were named for. The effort was started by Madison students who wanted a school name that reflected the values of their community.

The Madison Renaming Committee engaged the school and larger communities through robust outreach efforts, gathering nearly 2,500 comments. After careful consideration, Leodis V. McDaniel was selected as the new name.

McDaniel was a greatly respected, and well-loved Portland community leader who gained an impeccable reputation as an

administrator at Madison High School in the 1970s and 1980s.

He was one of only a handful of Black High school principals in Oregon in the 1980s and was tasked with leading Madison through desegregation and busing. McDaniel embraced these challenges as he did all of his work with the singular purpose of fairness to all.

McDaniel was wildly popular with students and staff while earning numerous awards and accolades from the many community organizations to which he contributed.

Health, Safety Tips

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sition to and from the classroom.

"Back-to-school is my favorite time of the year," Oregon PTA President Kristi Dille shared.

"We've heard from many parents and families who have mixed emotions about sending their children to school. These five tips make it easy for everyone to do their part in reducing the spread of COVID-19 in Oregon communities."



**In Memory of
Gary Washington**

Sunrise: September 6, 1959

Sunset: March 30, 2013



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