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Three Leading Assistant US Attorneys in DC to Step Down

Three of the top homicide prosecutors for the United States Attorney's Office in Washington DC have decided to leave their positions only months after Ronald C. Machen, Jr., was appointed the District's newest US Attorney to oversee the office. Assistant US Attorneys Glenn L. Kirschner, Deborah Sines, and Daniel Zachem are all leaving their posts after careers filled with the prosecution of high-profile homicide cases.

Glenn Kirschner, head of the US Attorney's Office homicide unit for the past six years, is stepping aside to return to trying cases. Kirschner is notable for prosecuting the Robert Wone conspiracy case in which three of Wone's housemates were accused of covering up his fatal stabbing in 2006. The three were acquitted. [DC criminal defense lawyer](#) Vincent H. Cohen, Jr., who has been tapped as the newest US Attorney's right-hand man, observed the Wone trial.

Also returning to full-time prosecution of homicide cases is Deborah Sines, considered the homicide unit's second in command. One of Sines's most notorious cases was the prosecution of Banita Jacks, who was convicted last year of killing her four daughters, aged 5-17.

Leaving homicide prosecution to spend more time with his family is Assistant US Attorney Daniel Zachem. Zachem has recently been criticized for failing to sign an arrest warrant for a suspected drug dealer only days before the man was allegedly involved in a drive-by shooting that killed four people and injured six others.

While the DC United States Attorney's Office has been disparaged by victims' rights advocates who claim that the office only prosecutes cases with a high likelihood of conviction, US Attorney Ronald Machen disputes the allegations, saying that arresting suspects without proper evidence results in a violation of the rights of the accused. Such procedural violations could result in the acquittal of a violent criminal.

This article is presented by The Law Offices of David Benowitz, a criminal and DUI defense firm serving Washington DC, Maryland, and Virginia. For more information, please visit our [Maryland Criminal Attorney](#) or [Virginia Criminal Lawyer](#) websites.