

The IAP is pleased to present a Special Achievement Award to John Pallas, of the Michigan Department of the Attorney-General, in recognition of his outstanding career achievements. An expert in appellate law, John Pallas has always been a champion for victims of crime and has dedicated himself to fairness and equity in the criminal justice system.

In championing the public interest, John Pallas has always advocated vigorously for victims, not only before the courts but even with the parole board. In one notorious case, he obtained an emergency stay of a release order for a dangerous offender, twenty-eight years after he kidnapped, assaulted, and raped a woman. On her behalf, and with her interests in mind, John Pallas was able to delay the offender's release and have the parole board reverse its decision to release him.

Recently, John Pallas was called upon to join the team prosecuting the so-called "Wolverine Watchmen", a right-wing extremist group intent on causing civil unrest, who intended to attack police, storm the Capital Building and kidnap the governor of Michigan. The prosecution was a first of its kind in the state, utilising the terrorism provisions.

John Pallas believes strongly that a prosecution doesn't end with the verdict. Throughout the appeal period, John Pallas keeps in touch with crime victims to ensure they are well informed. Given his dedication to the ideals of fairness, John Pallas doesn't hesitate to review cases as they arise where there may be an indication of a wrongful conviction. The goal for John Pallas is not winning at all costs but ensuring that victims and accused alike receive fair treatment.

The IAP congratulates John Pallas on his achievements.

