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Manhattan Prosecutor Joins Inquiry Into Russian Meddling in Election

By BENJAMIN WEISER JUNE 30, 2017

One federal prosecutor in Manhattan is being promoted to become the new chief of the public corruption unit, while another is departing to join Robert S. Mueller III, the special counsel overseeing the investigation into Russia's meddling in the 2016 presidential election.

The new chief of the corruption unit in Manhattan is Tatiana R. Martins, who in 2015 helped to convict Dean G. Skelos, the Long Island Republican who was the majority leader of the State Senate until shortly after his arrest that year.

Ms. Martins, the deputy chief of the unit, succeeds Andrew D. Goldstein, who will join Mr. Mueller's team after having led the public corruption unit for about a year.

As a line prosecutor, Mr. Goldstein was a member of the team that in 2015 won the conviction of Sheldon Silver, a Manhattan Democrat who had been the longtime speaker of the State Assembly.

Mr. Goldstein is the first prosecutor to join Mr. Mueller's team from the United States attorney's office for the Southern District of New York, an office known for its pursuit of public corruption, white-collar crime and Wall Street fraud, the office confirmed on Friday.

Ms. Martins is expected to take her new post in early July, when Mr. Goldstein departs the office, according to an email that Joon H. Kim, the acting United States attorney in Manhattan, sent to his office this week.

The changes come at a time of transition in the United States attorney's office: Mr. Kim succeeded Preet Bharara, the longtime chief federal prosecutor in Manhattan who was fired by President Trump in March after he refused a request to resign. Mr. Trump has not named a successor.

Under Mr. Kim, the office's corruption unit, overseen by Mr. Goldstein and Ms. Martins, has continued to aggressively pursue cases, most notably its pending prosecution of an alleged bribery and bid-rigging scheme against eight people, including two former advisers to Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo. (They all have pleaded not guilty.)

Mr. Kim's office also announced, in March, that it would not bring criminal charges against Mayor Bill de Blasio or any of his aides after a lengthy investigation. According to a statement Mr. Kim's office released at the time, the investigation examined several instances in which Mr. de Blasio, and others acting on his behalf, solicited donations from individuals who wanted official favors, after which the mayor contacted city agencies on their behalf.

The convictions of Mr. Silver and Mr. Skelos in 2015 followed the two most prominent public corruption trials held in New York City in decades; both men remain free while they appeal their convictions.

Mr. Goldstein, 43, joined the United States attorney's office in 2010 and has also worked in its money laundering and asset forfeiture unit. In 2013, Mr. Goldstein helped win the convictions of three men in connection with a scandal-ridden payroll modernization project known as CityTime.

Ms. Martins, 40, has been a federal prosecutor for five years and previously worked in the office's narcotics unit. She also helped to prosecute a widespread disability fraud scheme involving retired Long Island Rail Road workers.

Mr. Goldstein and Ms. Martins are graduates of Yale Law School.

"The special counsel is lucky to be getting Andrew, and we are lucky to have Tatiana," Mr. Kim said in the email to his staff.

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