



Kanawha County Sheriff's Office

Law Enforcement Division

301 Virginia Street E.

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Sheriff Joseph H. Crawford

Chief Deputy Sean D. Snuffer

NEWS / MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 17, 2025

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Historic Promotion at Kanawha County Sheriff's Office: Lt. Ana Pile Becomes First Female Chief of Detectives



Kanawha County, WV – The Kanawha County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) proudly announces a groundbreaking promotion within its ranks. Sheriff Joe Crawford and Chief Deputy Sean Snuffer are honored to recognize Lieutenant Ana Pile as the first female deputy in KCSO history to assume the role of Chief of Detectives. With this appointment, Lt. Pile will lead the Criminal Investigative Section (CIS) and the Kanawha Bureau of Investigations (KBI), playing a crucial role in solving major cases and collaborating with surrounding law enforcement agencies.

Lt. Pile, a 20-year veteran of KCSO, began her distinguished career in 2004 as a patrol deputy. Her keen investigative skills, unwavering dedication, and commitment to justice quickly set her apart, earning her the respect of both her colleagues and the community. In 2009, she was temporarily reassigned to the

CIS Division, where she excelled. By 2013, her exemplary work secured her a permanent position in the division. Her tireless dedication to investigative work quickly became evident as she consistently assisted in solving high-profile cases, bringing closure to victims and their families. Her ability to approach complex cases with determination and diligence has been instrumental in enhancing the investigative capacity of KCSO.

In January 2020, Lt. Pile was appointed Assistant to the Chief of Detectives, then-Lt. Sean Snuffer, who now serves as Chief Deputy of KCSO. During this time, she continued her professional development, earning a master's degree while gaining invaluable experience under Chief Deputy



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Snuffer's mentorship. Her commitment to continuous learning and professional development has been a driving force behind her success. In 2022, she was promoted to Lieutenant and continued serving as Assistant Chief of Detectives. As of January 1, 2025, Lt. Pile has made history, officially assuming the role of Chief of Detectives for KCSO's Criminal Investigative Section.

Sheriff Crawford and Chief Deputy Snuffer commended Lt. Pile's work ethic, leadership, and dedication to the department, stating: "This appointment was an effortless decision. Ana has continuously demonstrated the hard work, dedication, and compassion necessary to oversee this critical division. Detectives face some of the most complex and harrowing cases in law enforcement, and Ana leads with both professionalism and empathy. She is an inspiration to both her colleagues and the community."

A testament to Lt. Pile's investigative expertise is the recent successful prosecution of the Whitefeather/Lantz case, a landmark criminal trial in West Virginia. Under her leadership, law enforcement secured convictions against two adoptive parents for charges including human trafficking, forced labor, child abuse, gross neglect, and civil rights violations. Her relentless pursuit of justice was instrumental in bringing closure and hope to the five siblings who endured years of horrific abuse. This case is one of many examples of her unwavering commitment to justice, as she has overseen numerous complex investigations that required months, and sometimes years, of perseverance to ensure justice for victims.

As Chief of Detectives, Lt. Pile will continue to lead with the same enthusiasm, dedication, and passion that have defined her career. Her promotion is a milestone for KCSO and serves as an inspiration for young female deputies and community members aspiring to leadership roles in law enforcement. Her impact will be felt not only within KCSO but throughout the broader law enforcement community as she continues to elevate the standards of investigative excellence and mentorship.

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