



**RICHARD A. BROWN**  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
QUEENS COUNTY**  
125-01 QUEENS BOULEVARD  
KEW GARDENS, NEW YORK 11415-1568  
718-286-6000

Release # 202-2009  
[www.queensda.org](http://www.queensda.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2009

**CONTACT: PRESS OFFICE**  
(718) 286-6315

**U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION OFFICER SENTENCED TO THREE TO NINE YEARS IN PRISON FOR FATAL SHOOTING OF QUEENS REAL ESTATE BROKER**

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a United States Customs and Border Protection Officer formerly assigned to John F. Kennedy International Airport has been sentenced to three to nine years in prison for the off-duty shooting death in June 2008 of a Forest Hills real estate broker outside the officer's residence.

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendant has now been held accountable for his actions and will spend considerable time behind bars for recklessly drawing his weapon absent an imminent threat and taking an innocent life while abusing alcohol. Hopefully, the victim's family can find some degree of solace in this sentence."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Erik Alke, 43, of 72-07 Kessel Street in Forest Hills, Queens. He was convicted last month of second-degree manslaughter following a ten-day jury trial before Acting Queens Supreme Court Justice Robert McGann who imposed today's indeterminate sentence of three to nine years in prison.

In passing sentence, Justice McGann noted that he had never seen a case where a human life was so senselessly taken, yet so easily and totally preventable, and that there had never been the slightest acknowledgment of responsibility by the defendant. In response to remarks by Alke that the victim was responsible for his own death, Justice McGann noted that the defendant might have thought his biggest problem was the sentence about to be imposed but, in reality, it was that he lacked the courage to admit to himself what he had done.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to trial testimony, Alke, who had been drinking at the time, recklessly fired his .38 caliber revolver on the afternoon of June 26, 2008, striking Adrian Moldovan, a real estate agent, in the chest and killing him. At the time, Moldovan, 50, was helping his friend, Alke's landlord, build a backyard patio at the Kessel Street address.

Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Daniel A. Saunders prosecuted the case under the supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Charles A. Testagrossa.

#

Note to Editors: Press release e-version posted at [www.queensda.org](http://www.queensda.org).