



## **Nelson S.T. Thayer, Jr.**

*Deputy U.S. Attorney for the District of New Jersey*

Nelson Thayer attended the University of Pennsylvania Law School on a Public Interest Scholar full fellowship, after which he joined the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division through the Attorney General's Honor Program. As a Trial Attorney in the Division's Criminal Section, Nelson traveled throughout the country investigating and trying hate crime and law enforcement brutality cases. In 1998, Nelson joined the U.S. Attorney's Office in Philadelphia as an Assistant U.S. Attorney, and, having moved north in 2002, transferred to the Newark U.S. Attorney's Office in the Special Prosecutions Division as a line AUSA and then Deputy Chief.

In 2005 Nelson took a leave of absence to prosecute war crimes at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia at The Hague, where he spent almost six years prosecuting and convicting eight high-level Bosnian Serb military commanders for their roles in the systematic genocide of over seven thousand Bosnian Muslim men and boys in Srebrenica in July 1995, the largest massacre on European soil since The Holocaust.

In two separate cases, Nelson spent four and a half years in trial, helping the survivors, bystanders and, occasionally, perpetrators bear witness to unspeakable atrocities committed in the name of ethnic, religious and national purity. Upon returning to the U.S. Attorney's Office in 2011, Nelson served as Attorney-in-Charge of the Trenton branch office, then transferred to the Camden branch office, where he currently serves as the Deputy U.S. Attorney for the Southern Vicinages.