**Prosecutor Scenarios**

Imagine you are the prosecutor representing the government in enforcing criminal law. You have a very heavy case load. At most, you can go to trial in one of the following four cases. Therefore, you must work out plea bargains for at least three of the defendants in the cases below.

As a prosecutor, you are able to decide what the criminal charges are against the defendants, whether to even bring criminal charges against the defendants, whether to dismiss criminal charges, whether to reduce a criminal charge to a lesser charge, and what recommendations you might make to the judge – to impose an exceptionally high amount of imprisonment or to impose a sentence in the standard range set by the state legislature. When there is more than one count or charge, each charge may receive a separate term of imprisonment. You can recommend that these terms of imprisonment run at the same time or back-to-back (for example, if two terms of three-months’ imprisonment are imposed by the judge – if they run together, the defendant serves three months in jail; if they run back-to-back, the defendant serves six months).

**Directions** –In the cases that follow, you will be approached by the defense attorney tonegotiate about the charge and/or the sentence. Negotiate as you deem is necessary.

*Case One –* Ward has been charged with robbery. He was arrested for robbing a clerk at a furniture store after an informant notified the police that Ward had admitted to committing the robbery. Ward has no prior history of criminal activity.

*Case Two* – While being held for shoplifting at a thrift store by two store employees, Chester pulled a knife and stabbed both of them. The two employees had several stab wounds that were life-threatening. The injuries required surgery and several days in the hospital. Chester is charged with two counts of aggravated assault. The knife has not been recovered as a piece of evidence.

*Case Three* –Watson committed at least five burglaries in January and February. She ischarged with two counts of burglary. The search of Watson's apartment turned up items that had been taken during the two burglaries. There is a possible question as to whether or not the search was legal.

*Case Four* – A woman who was a passenger in his cab charged David with sexual assault. David totally denies the charge, but there is very strong circumstantial evidence against him.