

# CLEAN AND SOBER 'BLUE' STAR BACK ON COP SHOW BEAT



## CSI: Miami bags Kim Delaney

**F**ORMER NYPD Blue beauty Kim Delaney has won her battle with the bottle and her career is soaring again. She's landed a lead role in a hot new TV crime drama, CSI: Miami.

"It's been a rough six months for Kim," says a friend of the 40-year-old actress. "Her arrest and the publicity surrounding it was a huge wakeup call for her. She knew she had no choice but to cut way back on her drinking - so that's what she did.

"Instead of having glass after glass of wine, she'll have just one, then stop. We're really proud of her."

Kim, who will play a crime scene investigator on the new series, was clobbered by a double whammy this year. In January, she got busted for drunk driving after another motorist reported that her black Mercedes was swerving across lanes, narrowly missing other vehicles.

She pleaded no contest to reckless driving, was sentenced to probation and ordered to take a safe-driving course.

Then in May, Kim was devastated when TV honchos dumped her ABC series, Philly, in which she played an attorney

and single mom, after just one year.

"Kim found out on Mother's Day," the friend confides. "She was crying on and off the entire day.

"This was supposed to be my show," she sobbed. "It was created for me. What happened?"

But just six weeks later, Kim, whose live-in boyfriend is producer Alan Barnette, was back on top when she learned she'd nabbed a starring role on CBS's spin-off of the hit CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. The

new show is set to air this fall and her co-star is another NYPD Blue alum, David Caruso.

"Kim feels incredibly lucky to have landed the part," the source says.

Adding icing to the cake, her relationship with her ex-hubby,

actor Joe Cortese, 53, who just wrapped shooting the upcoming Meg Ryan flick Against the Ropes, has smoothed out.

The pair divorced after a five-year marriage and had battled bitterly over the custody of their 12-year-old son Jack. But now they've ironed out their differences.

"Their relationship has improved a lot," the friend says. "And she's thrilled about CSI: Miami. Kim's doing really great."

- ROBIN MIZRAHI



Kim co-stars with David Caruso (right) in the new CSI: Miami. At left, the actress's mug shot from her DUI bust



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