



Office of Northwestern District Attorney
David E. Sullivan

2022 Annual Report



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Message from the District Attorney



I am pleased to share the Office of the Northwestern District Attorney's 2022 Annual Report to highlight for the people of the Northwestern District the dedication of our prosecutors, advocates, and staff who work on behalf of victims of crime who may be innocent children, vulnerable senior citizens, or survivors of intimate partner violence.

I am proud to say the commitment of our team to seek justice for all is unflagging. This report aims to highlight specific achievements over this past year and recognize the justice innovations we have collectively built over the past twelve years of our administration.

In 2022, the staff and assistant district attorneys demonstrated an extraordinary degree of resilience and dedication in rebounding from two years of COVID pandemic hardships and restrictions. The office continued to operate 24/7 to handle investigations and prosecutions and work with victims of crime. We have diligently worked to resolve the hundreds of cases that were delayed due to the pandemic.

There were many cases in which our prosecutors distinguished themselves in seeking justice for victims of crime. Victim witness advocates provided outstanding assistance to victims and survivors. We have highlighted some of these cases in this report. I am proud of the many court matters and justice initiatives our dedicated prosecutors and staff have worked on in the past year. We continue to innovate and change in response to the multitude of challenges we face every day.

This office strives for equal justice and remains steadfast in our focus on prevention and helping people struggling with addiction. We continue to collaborate with residents of the district in pursuit of safe and healthy schools and communities. We extend our deep appreciation to our state and federal legislators, community partners, and law enforcement professionals who work hand in hand with us in support of these efforts.

I am honored to serve as District Attorney for the people of the Northwestern District. I look forward to working with you and many other community members in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David E. Sullivan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David E. Sullivan

The Office of the Northwestern District Attorney, in partnership with the communities it serves, is dedicated to the pursuit of truth and justice, protection of the innocent, and safety of the public.

THE 47 CITIES AND TOWNS OF THE NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY

- Amherst
- Belchertown
- Chesterfield
- Cummington
- Easthampton
- Goshen
- Granby
- Hadley
- Hatfield
- Huntington
- Middlefield
- Northampton
- Pelham
- Plainfield
- South Hadley
- Southampton
- Ware
- Westhampton
- Williamsburg
- Worthington

FRANKLIN COUNTY

- Ashfield
- Bernardston
- Buckland
- Charlemont
- Colrain
- Conway
- Deerfield
- Erving
- Gill
- Greenfield
- Hawley
- Heath
- Leverett
- Leyden
- Monroe
- Montague
- New Salem
- Northfield
- Orange
- Rowe
- Shelburne
- Shutesbury
- Sunderland
- Warwick
- Wendell
- Whately

WORCESTER COUNTY

- Athol



The 2022 Annual Report is dedicated to Ann Metzger in honor of her 40 years of exemplary service to the office.

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM



Martie Murphy Kane

The District Attorney works with Deputy District Attorney Jennifer Suhl, First Assistant District Attorney Steven Gagne, Director of Operations Martha Murphy Kane and Chief Financial Officer

Donna Dudkiewicz to ensure the office fulfills its mission to pursue truth and justice, protect the innocent, and enhance public safety. The Senior Management Team combines years of prosecutorial, managerial and fiscal experience to foster a productive, efficient and healthy work environment within the office.



Donna Dudkiewicz



Steven Gagne and Jennifer Suhl in Franklin Superior Court

SUPERIOR COURT UNIT



Superior Court and Appellate prosecutors

Superior Court jury trials in 2022 returned to nearly pre-pandemic levels, as COVID-era restrictions were lifted and jurors returned to courthouses to decide the most serious felony cases. Certain felonies, such as murder, robbery, rape, home invasion, and drug trafficking, are so egregious they are required by law to be prosecuted in Superior Court. There are two Superior Courts in the Northwestern District: Hampshire Superior Court in Northampton and Franklin Superior Court in Greenfield.

Before a case can be prosecuted in Superior Court, it must first be presented to a Grand Jury of 23 citizens who hear a variety of cases during a three-month term of service. Assistant District Attorneys present evidence to establish probable cause that a particular person committed one or more felonies. So long as 12 Grand Jurors are satisfied this standard of proof has been met, the Grand Jury issues indictments (also known as “true bills”). The case then proceeds in Superior Court, where the standard of proof rises to “beyond a reasonable doubt.”

Pleas v. Trials



Courtesy of Greenfield Recorder

Joseph Webber addresses a judge in Franklin Superior Court

Most criminal cases prosecuted in Superior Court are resolved by way of guilty pleas rather than trials. This is not just a local occurrence: nationwide, well over 90% of all criminal cases are resolved without a trial. This is primarily because prosecutors and defense attorneys routinely negotiate plea agreements to resolve cases in a manner that is fair to both sides. If the two sides can't find common ground, they can pursue what is known as an unagreed plea, in which each side argues for a particular sentence and the judge decides the outcome. When defendants exercise their right to a trial, the case is tried either by a judge, referred to as a bench trial, or a jury, during which the Commonwealth must prove the defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. In jury trials, all 12 jurors must be unanimous as to their verdicts.

Sexually Dangerous Persons

When convicted sex offenders near the end of their sentence, prosecutors can file a petition to determine if they are a high risk to reoffend, which could prevent their release. A Sexually Dangerous Person petition triggers a process in which the inmate is examined by experts to determine if they suffer from a mental abnormality or personality disorder that

renders them highly likely to reoffend sexually. If inmates are deemed sexually dangerous at trial, they are committed for treatment to the Massachusetts Treatment Center in Bridgewater indefinitely, with periodic re-evaluation to determine if they are sufficiently rehabilitated for release.

In 2022, the office reviewed 26 inmates eligible for sexually dangerous determinations as they neared their release dates, filing a petition against just one of those inmates. A petition filed in 2020 was resolved in early 2022 when the inmate conceded that he was sexually dangerous and agreed to be committed to the Treatment Center.

First Assistant District Attorney Steven Gagne and Assistant District Attorneys Nicholas Atallah and Lori Odierna work on Sexually Dangerous Person considerations with help from Coordinator Sue Snyder and Assistant Coordinator Jean Zimmerman.

Notable Case Resolutions in 2022

Commonwealth v. Keith Hamel (Franklin Superior Court) – the defendant was convicted by a jury of first-degree murder committed with extreme atrocity or cruelty in connection with the November 2019 beating death of 26-year-old Kelsey Clifford in Athol. The jury also found Hamel guilty of two counts of misleading a police officer and four counts of tampering with evidence. The Court sentenced Hamel to life without the possibility of parole in state prison. As with all first-degree murder convictions, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court will review the case on appeal, a process that could take several years. Chief Trial Counsel Jeremy Bucci and Assistant District Attorney Joseph Webber prosecuted the case with assistance from

Victim Witness Advocate Kimberly Devine.

Commonwealth v. Elijah Michonski (Franklin Superior Court) – the defendant pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and armed assault with intent to murder for fatally stabbing Nicholas Weir, his uncle, and stabbing Teresa Weir, his aunt, who survived the attack, inside their Montague home in July 2020. The defendant, who was 18 years old at the time, was sentenced to serve 35-40 years in state prison before he becomes eligible for parole. The case was prosecuted by First Assistant District Attorney Steven Gagne and Assistant District Attorney Sandra Staub, the Chief of the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Unit, with assistance from Victim Witness Advocates Lori Roy and Rebekah Nager.

Commonwealth v. Wilmer Alvarez-Vargas (Hampshire Superior Court) - the defendant pleaded guilty to two counts of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon causing serious bodily injury and related firearms charges in connection with shooting two men inside the bathroom in the Hadley Walmart in August 2021. The two men had faced their own charges for possession of narcotics and

a firearm. The Court sentenced the defendant to serve four years in state prison. The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Jennifer Suhl, with assistance from Victim Witness Advocate Michelle Torto.

Commonwealth v. Peter Toomey (Franklin Superior Court) - the defendant pleaded guilty to motor vehicle homicide, leaving the scene of an accident, and misleading a police officer in connection with striking and killing 45-year-old Rhonda Thompson, who was taking her morning walk along Route 2 in Shelburne in June 2021. The defendant fled the scene and was stopped a short while later by an attentive State Police trooper on Interstate 91 in Northampton. The Court sentenced the defendant to serve five years in state prison, followed by five years on probation. The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Joseph Webber, with assistance from Victim Witness Advocate Kimberly Devine.

Commonwealth v. Steven Rivera (Hampshire Superior Court) – the defendant pleaded guilty to two counts of intimidation of a probation officer and two counts of threatening to commit a crime for making menacing



District Attorney David E. Sullivan and ADA Jeremy Bucci at a farewell gathering after he was appointed to the bench. Judge Bucci, formerly Chief Trial Counsel for the Northwestern DA's Office, left his post in November, 2022 after being appointed to the Massachusetts Superior Court bench. Bucci had worked as a senior prosecutor since January, 2011, when DA Sullivan assumed office.

statements and leaving threatening voice messages for his Northampton District Court probation officer. The defendant was arrested in Connecticut and returned to Massachusetts, where he was sentenced to serve two to four years in state prison. The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Andrew Covington, with assistance from Jackie Gaw, Director of the Victim/Witness Assistance Unit.

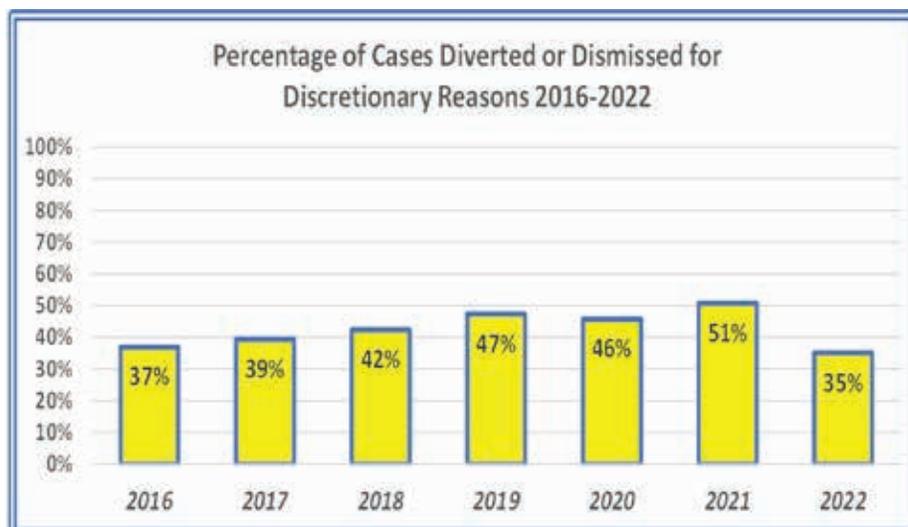
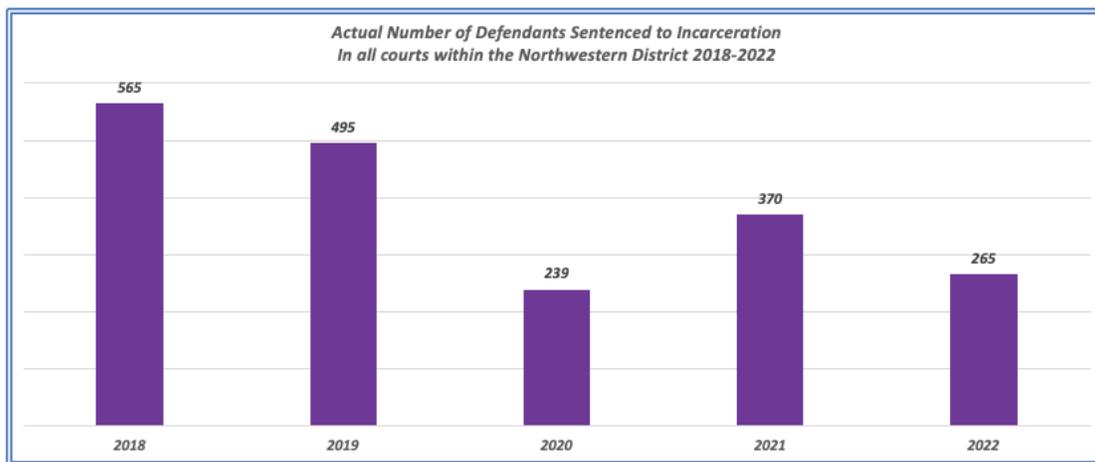
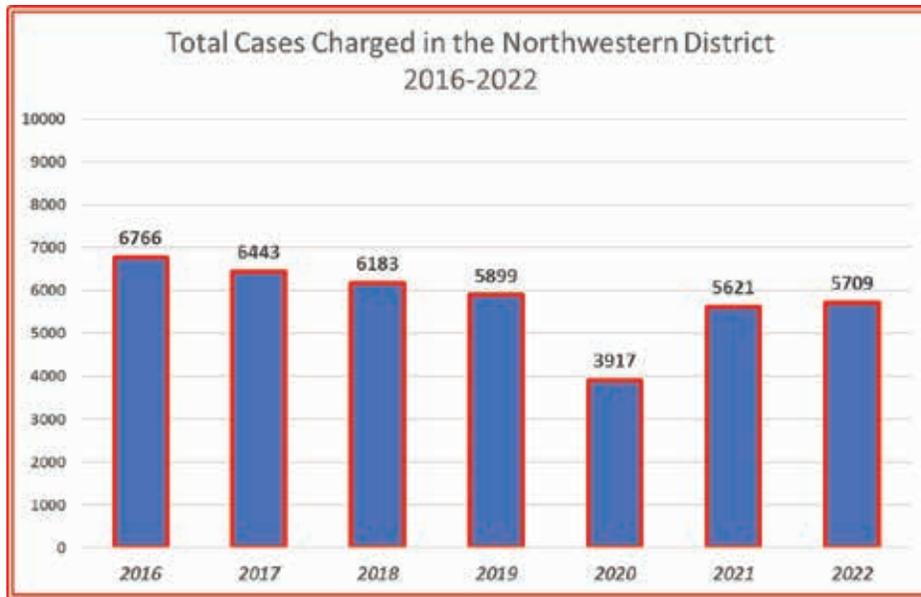
Commonwealth v. Brett Waddell (Hampshire Superior Court) - the defendant tried to rob a hair salon in Northampton by threatening an employee with a hypodermic syringe. He was indicted and pleaded guilty to one count of armed assault with intent to rob and one count of assault by means of a hypodermic needle, for which he was sentenced to three to five years in state prison. Assistant District Attorney Matthew Thomas prosecuted the case, with assistance from Victim Witness Advocate Wendy Adams.



Matthew Thomas



Andy Covington and Steven Gagne present a training to State Police officers in Framingham

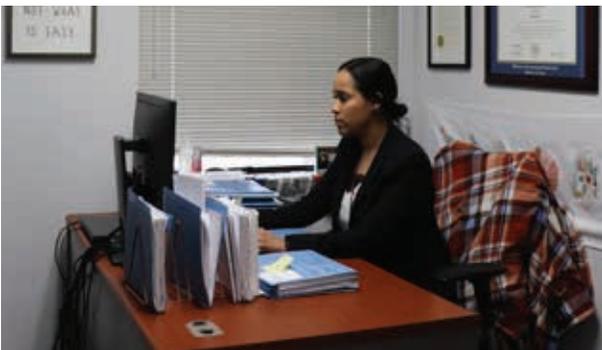


DISTRICT COURT UNIT



District Court prosecutors

The vast majority of criminal cases are prosecuted in the District Court, where misdemeanors and many felonies are adjudicated. In 2022, the District Court team of Northwestern assistant district attorneys handled 4,733 new arraignments in the four district courts within the district. All told, with the daily flow of arraignments and pretrial conferences, they shepherded more than 9,600 cases through the district court system. District Court ADAs tried more than 90 cases in 2022.



Veronica Santana in her office in Eastern Hampshire District Court in Belchertown

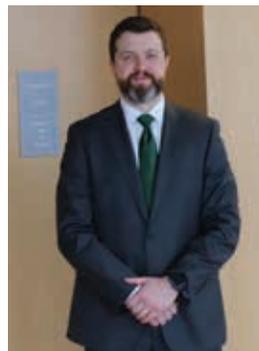
The District Courts in the Northwestern District - located in Northampton, Belchertown, Greenfield and Orange - have jurisdiction over all misdemeanors, including drug-related

crimes, property crimes, public order offenses, assault crimes and motor vehicle violations. They also have jurisdiction over felonies punishable by incarceration for not more than five years, which includes certain weapon-related offenses, sexual offenses, and property crimes.

The majority of domestic violence, child abuse and elder abuse cases in the district are prosecuted within these courts, with ADAs receiving specialized training to handle these sensitive cases. Experienced ADAs in each of these courts are designated as domestic violence prosecutors and child abuse prosecutors.



Jillian Handy, Michael Russo and Alexa Pascucci



Ryan Scott

District Court Chief, ADA Michael Russo, supervises 11 ADAs assigned to handle the four District Courts. Senior ADAs are designated as the Attorneys-in-Charge for each of the four District Courts: Jillian Handy in Northampton; Alexa Pascucci in Eastern Hampshire (Belchertown); Danielle Cruz in Orange; and Ryan Scott in Greenfield.



internal staff trainings on specialized topics such as dangerousness hearings and elder abuse cases, and the office streams MDAA webinars on diverse topics ranging from using jail calls to prove domestic violence cases to eyewitness identification issues.

Assistant District Attorneys in the four District Courts handled 9,658 cases in 2022, of which 4,733 were new arraignments. They tried 90 cases.



Assistant District Attorneys hired in 2022: top left, Justine Aljoe, top right, Alex Keir and above, Elayna Bartolomeo

In 2022, the office welcomed three new prosecutors. Justine Aljoe, Alex Keir and Elayna Bartolomeo all joined the staff as District Court ADAs. ADA Danielle Cruz left her position to take post in the Hampden County Superior Court Clerk's Office and ADA Matthew Russo left the unit when he was promoted to Chief of the Elders and Persons with Disabilities Unit.

The office is committed to professional development for all ADAs and provides it in several forms. Lawyers attend trainings sponsored by the Massachusetts District Attorneys Association that are specifically tailored to new prosecutors. The office hosts

JUVENILE JUSTICE UNIT



Juvenile Justice Unit staff, from left, Elizabeth Mulcahy, Janice Francis, Deanna Weech, Naomi Bledsoe, Bruce Patryn

The Juvenile Justice Unit works hard to keep young people out of the criminal justice system by harnessing restorative justice approaches, a juvenile diversion program and early intervention and prevention initiatives. Our staff work in partnership with schools and other community-based organizations to support positive youth development and reduce risky behavior that can lead to acting out or crime. The goal of the unit is to promote the health and well-being of children and adolescents, support families to thrive, and protect and enhance public safety. In interactions with individual youth, staff work hard to understand the underlying causes

of juvenile delinquency behavior in order to hold youth accountable and address their risks and needs. The Juvenile Court has jurisdiction over people who commit crimes when they are between the ages of 12 and



Judge Mary Beth Ogulewicz

18. The Juvenile Court also handles adult criminal complaints for contributing to the delinquency of a minor, furnishing alcohol to a minor and failure to send a child to school. Juvenile Court proceedings are closed to the public with the exception of particularly serious Youthful Offender matters.

Juvenile Diversion Program

This alternative to formal criminal prosecution for youth ages 12 to 18 usually takes place prior to arraignment, keeping participating youth from further court involvement as well as avoiding a criminal record. Staff carefully consider cases appropriate for diversion and the strengths, risks and needs of the child in developing a diversion plan. Input from victims, as well as from the child and parent/guardian are critical to developing an appropriate diversion plan. The child's diversion plan may include counseling, an education program, community service and possibly restitution as well as other appropriate restorative efforts. Diversion plans consider the offense, so, for example, if a young person commits a crime while under the influence of alcohol, they may be required to participate in an alcohol education program. Youth who successfully complete the diversion program prior to any

criminal arraignment will not start a criminal offender record.



Elizabeth Mulcahy and Naomi Bledsoe at the 2022 Safe and Healthy School Summit

Juvenile Justice Staff

Unit staff handle court matters and work in partnership with youth and their families as well as with schools, police, the Children's Advocacy Centers and many youth-serving organizations. Assistant District Attorney Elizabeth Mulcahy is Chief of the Juvenile Justice Unit and Program Director for the Juvenile Diversion Program. ADA Bruce Patryn serves as litigation counsel for the unit and primarily handles cases in Hampshire County. In 2022, Juvenile Assistant District Attorney Mary Beth Ogulewicz left the office upon her appointment as an Associate Justice of the District Court. ADA Fred Bartmon joined the unit in her stead, taking on Franklin County juvenile cases. Naomi Bledsoe, Diversion Specialist and Unit Administrator, works closely with youth, families and community partners. Several Victim Witness Advocates and Family Service Advocates work with victims, witnesses, and families in juvenile cases: Kathy Bengtson, Janice Francis, Karen Hernandez, Heather Hubbard, Linda Rogers,

and Deanna Weech. Juvenile Justice ADAs participate in investigations undertaken by the Child Abuse Unit, work with Family Service Advocates, attend Sexual Assault Intervention Network interviews (also known as forensic interviews), attend multi-disciplinary team case reviews with the Child Advocacy Centers in Hampshire and Franklin Counties, and prosecute child abuse cases in Juvenile Court.

In 2022, the Juvenile Justice Unit handled 302 cases, of which three involved Youthful Offender matters. In 2022, 82 cases were handled through our Juvenile Diversion Program.

Delinquency and Youthful Offender Cases

Some cases are not appropriate for diversion, and those most often will be prosecuted in one of the four juvenile courts located in Hampshire and Franklin counties: Hadley, Belchertown, Greenfield and Orange.

Occasionally, juvenile cases are prosecuted in Superior Court and District Court. Delinquency cases include misdemeanor offenses as well as serious felony offenses. Some examples of offenses the Juvenile Justice Unit handled in 2022 included malicious destruction of motor vehicles, carrying a dangerous weapon on school grounds, rape and assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.

For the most serious crimes, the District Attorney may elect to prosecute a juvenile as a Youthful Offender, a designation that allows a judge discretion to sentence the individual as a juvenile or as an adult. Those cases must meet certain requirements according to state law, and the facts and circumstances surrounding the youth and the case are carefully considered in making such a designation. If a Youthful Offender indictment is pursued, then the case is presented to a Grand Jury for indictment. If an indictment is returned, the case may proceed in Juvenile Court or Superior Court.

Community Based Juvenile Justice

The Community Based Juvenile Justice initiative, required by state law, brings together schools, law enforcement and other youth-serving agencies to address school violence and undertake violence prevention efforts. CBJJ meetings are convened by Juvenile ADAs to provide a forum for information sharing about school issues as well as confidential conversations about how to help youth who may be at risk. The program has established solid partnerships and avenues of communication throughout the Northwestern District, providing an opportunity to proactively intervene to help at-risk youth before their conduct leads to further public safety concerns and negative consequences such as court involvement.

Safe Schools Response Team

District Attorney Sullivan established a Safe Schools Response Team to promptly review and respond to complaints and referrals involving threats, harassment, bullying, civil rights violations and other safety concerns occurring in schools. Additional goals are to assist local schools in their response to bullying and harassing behavior targeting students and to serve as a resource to schools, parents, and victims. In 2022, members of the Safe Schools Response Team include Deputy District Attorney Jennifer Suhl, Juvenile Justice Unit Chief Elizabeth Mulcahy,

ADAs Mary Beth Ogulewicz, Bruce Patryn, Fred Bartmon and Diversion Specialist Naomi Bledsoe.

Juvenile Justice Outreach and Education

The Juvenile Justice team works closely with schools and community partners on prevention and intervention strategies to support families and youth. ADAs and other staff work with youth substance use prevention coalitions and support community-based efforts that promote positive opportunities for youth. The unit collaborates with other units in the office and community partners to develop conferences and other educational opportunities for youth, parents, school personnel and school resource officers. Our staff participate in training and professional development opportunities always working to hone skills to better work with youth and families. Unit members worked alongside community partners in 2022 to host the 9th Safe and Healthy School Summit: Supporting Schools in Seeking Racial Healing in Polarizing Times, featuring Dr. Beverly Tatum as keynote and many other local presenters.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT UNIT



Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Unit staff from left, Alyssa Devlin, Sandra Staub, Siobhan Powers, Erin Aiello, Katie Rosewarne

The Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Unit is responsible for the prosecution of all domestic violence and sexual assault cases in which the victim is 18 years of age or older. The unit works closely with law enforcement and community partners to address the serious problems of domestic violence and sexual assault through prosecution and strategies for prevention and intervention for the victims. The unit's primary mission is to hold offenders accountable and keep victims safe.

The majority of domestic violence cases in 2022 were handled in the District Courts. To provide comprehensive and consistent treatment of domestic violence cases, the District Attorney has designated specialized domestic violence prosecutors in each District Court: ADA Jillian Handy in Northampton, ADA Veronice Santana in Belchertown, ADA Aidan Lanciani in Greenfield and ADA Jillian Parent in Orange.

In 2022, the unit handled **1,268** domestic violence cases of which **13** were in Superior Court and **1,255** were in District Court; received **62** referrals for sexual assault investigations and handled **94** adult sexual assault cases, of which 26% were prosecuted in the Superior Court.

Sexual assault investigations typically come to the unit when local law enforcement agencies forward reports of police investigations into complaints of sexual assault, a partnership strengthened by memoranda of understanding between the office and law enforcement agencies in the district. This process helps to ensure investigations are conducted in

an efficient, comprehensive and consistent manner and to identify repeat offenders and trends within the community.

Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Unit Staff



Katie Rosewarne

Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Unit Chief and Assistant District Attorney Sandra Staub works with Assistant District Attorney Erin Aiello and Legal Assistant Alyssa Devlin on the investigation and

prosecution of cases. Following the departure of Zoraida Agudelo as Director of Domestic & Sexual Violence Projects, Katie Rosewarne was promoted to the director's post from her previous job as High Risk Team Coordinator. Also departing the unit in 2022 was Christine Torres, coordinator of the Domestic Violence Intervention Program. The unit is supported by Administrative Assistant Siobhan Powers.



The 2022 Judges Panel, "A View from the Bench: The Trial Court's Guidelines for Judicial Practice: Abuse Prevention Proceedings" presented in July, 2022

Notable Case Resolutions in 2022

Commonwealth v. Ryder Chilcoff (Hampshire Superior Court) – In December 2017, the defendant engaged in sexual

intercourse with a woman after she had stumbled into his residence hall room at UMass Amherst showing signs of extreme intoxication and expressing her belief that she had entered her own room, which was in fact located directly below defendant's room on the next floor down. A jury convicted the defendant of rape after a six-day trial centered on the legal concept of incapacity to consent to sexual intercourse. The defendant was sentenced to three to five years in state prison. The case was prosecuted by ADA Sandra Staub and Deputy District Attorney Jennifer Suhl, with assistance from Victim Witness Advocate Jennifer Reid.



Participants in the 2022 Judges Panel with DA Sullivan as moderator

Commonwealth v. Erik Wheeler (Hampshire Superior Court) - The defendant had been indicted in 2020 for sexual assault, strangulation and other abuse on multiple occasions spanning several years against a woman who lived with him. When she finally left the defendant's home in 2019, she chose homelessness over continuing to live with this defendant and exposure to his abuse. After a 10-day trial in September and October 2022, a jury convicted the defendant of rape, strangulation, suffocation and two counts of assault and battery stemming from assaults in 2018 and 2019 and he was sentenced to five to seven years in state prison followed

by probation with treatment conditions. The case was prosecuted by ADA Sandra Staub, with assistance from Victim Witness Advocate Jennifer Reid.



Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Unit staff listen to the Judges Panel

Commonwealth v. Marty Moit (Franklin Superior Court) – In July of 2019, the defendant forced his live-in partner to engage in sexual intercourse multiple times by brandishing a knife and threatening to harm her and also by stabbing and threatening to kill their mutual friend. In 2022, the defendant pleaded guilty to multiple counts of aggravated rape as well as several other charges including assault and battery with a dangerous weapon and witness intimidation. The defendant was sentenced to eight to ten years in state prison followed by probation with treatment conditions. The case was prosecuted by ADA Sandra Staub, with assistance from Deputy Director of the Victim/Witness Assistance Unit Lori Roy.

Commonwealth v. Alexander Yee (Hampshire Superior Court) – The defendant had been indicted after being observed pouring a substance in the fuel tank of the truck belonging to a 19-year-old woman who was parked in Southampton’s Big Y parking lot. During the investigation, the Southampton Police Department learned that the defendant

had been pouring water in the fuel tank which causes any vehicle to break down and that he was suspected of committing the same offense in various communities in Hampshire county and also throughout the Commonwealth, leaving each of his female victims in the same vulnerable situation. On August 30, 2022, this defendant pled guilty to four counts of malicious injury to property and was sentenced to three years probation with conditions that he complete mental health treatment and wear a global positioning system monitoring device to ensure the safety of the community. This case was prosecuted by ADA Erin Aiello with assistance from Victim Witness Advocate Jen Reid.

Outreach, Prevention & Intervention

Community outreach and education is a key part of the unit’s prevention efforts. In 2022, staff provided trainings for police that focused on trauma-informed responses; served on the Greenfield Mayor’s Domestic Violence Task Force; and helped organize annual events in collaboration with the Children’s Advocacy Centers. Among the intervention initiatives were:

District Attorney’s Task Force on Domestic and Sexual Violence: Law enforcement met regularly with representatives from victim services and community programs for training and networking opportunities for people working to end domestic and sexual violence. ADA Erin Aiello offered training on the intersection of animal abuse and intimate partner violence. Other topics covered included research-based approaches to violence prevention programs and a Judge’s Panel on Abuse Prevention Orders moderated by District Attorney Sullivan.

Domestic Violence Intervention Project:

This initiative coordinates the work of police and community advocates, sending specially trained advocates from the New England Learning Center for Women in Transition in Franklin County and Valley Human Services at Behavioral Health Network in Hampshire County to work with victims immediately after a report of domestic violence. Police officers contact on-call advocates who reach out to victims to provide support, safety information planning and referrals for counseling, shelter and legal advocacy. Advocates incorporate risk assessment when safety planning with victims and assist officers who also rely on risk assessment worksheets at the scene of domestic violence cases to identify and respond to high risk cases. At regular meetings for police, dispatchers, advocates and other partners, participants discuss challenges and successes and receive training. The project is funded through a state grant that supports early intervention to better protect victims of domestic violence.

Domestic Violence High Risk Teams: To identify the most serious, repeat offenders of intimate partner violence and to prevent domestic violence homicides in the district, high risk teams in both Hampshire and Franklin counties use evidence-based research to identify offender behaviors that substantially increase levels of risk for victims. The teams share case information, identify concerning behaviors and make recommendations to identify and hold offenders accountable. The goals are to maximize safety for victims and closely monitor high risk offenders to prevent further incidents of abuse and homicide. The office provides robust support and follow-up for victims of intimate partner violence and training for police, EMS

responders and dispatchers to assess and identify high risk situations. These teams include representatives from the probation department, houses of correction, the Parole Board, police departments, emergency dispatchers, the Department of Children and Families, the Department of Transitional Assistance, batterer’s intervention programs and community-based advocates.

Sexual Assault Response Team: This multi-disciplinary team coordinated by the Center for Women & Community – the state-designated rape crisis center for Hampshire County –includes Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Unit Chief Sandra Staub, Legal Assistant Alyssa Devlin and Victim/Witness Assistance Unit Director Jacqueline Gaw. Other members of the team include representatives from law enforcement, health care, forensic sexual assault nurses, prosecutors, and domestic violence advocates. In 2022, the team hosted several community trainings including a presentation by ADA Aiello on animal cruelty and the link with domestic violence.

In 2022, Domestic Violence Intervention Project advocates provided crisis support for **126** victims of abuse, including lock changes for three victims. **55%** of referrals to the High Risk Team came from DVIP advocates. **27** domestic violence offenders were flagged as high risk in the Northwestern District, bringing the total of offenders identified as high risk to **343**.

CHILD ABUSE UNIT



Child Abuse Unit staff from left, Stephanie Jimenez, Lori Odierna, Kellie Beaulieu, Andrew Covington, Anne Yereniuk, Jillian Handy

The Child Abuse Unit's mission is to protect children by preventing child abuse, holding offenders accountable and supporting families to be strong and resilient. Created as a special unit in 1987 in recognition of the unique nature of crimes against children, unit members understand the profound responsibility that accompanies the investigation and prosecution of such crimes. The unit's specially trained assistant district attorneys, family service advocates and child interview specialists work closely with law enforcement and child protective services workers in multi-disciplinary, trauma-informed approaches to child abuse.

Chief and Assistant District Attorney Lori Odierna leads a unit that includes Deputy Chief and Assistant District Attorney Anne Yereniuk, Assistant District Attorney Stephanie Jimenez and Assistant District Attorney Andrew Covington. Other key staffers are Unit Coordinator and Forensic Interviewer Kellie Beaulieu, Paralegal Jamie Foster, Family Service Advocates Linda Rogers, Sonia Serrazina, Kathy Bengtson and Moira McDonald, Forensic Interviewer Suzanne Koch, and Unit Administrator Heather Hubbard.

Child Abuse Unit staff work closely with the Department of Children and Families and Children's Advocacy Centers in Greenfield and in Northampton serving every city and town in the district. This collaboration is essential to make an excruciating experience less traumatizing and set victims on a path toward healing. The unit works in partnership with local and national experts to seek just outcomes while providing support, medical care and mental health services to victims and their families.

Prosecution of child abuse presents special challenges. Often key witnesses are the child victims themselves. For sexual abuse – the most commonly prosecuted type of abuse – there is often limited evidence, which means



Heather Hubbard



Above left, Suzanne Koch, right, Jamie Foster

the victim's statement takes on greater importance. Because sharing that information can be traumatizing, forensic interviewers talk individually with victims in child-centered sessions observed by other members of the multidisciplinary team via live video streaming. This process means child victims do not have to repeatedly relate their experiences. When child victims need to testify in court about what happened to them, unit staff work closely with children and their families to minimize the trauma and call upon agencies that provide support to children as they prepare for trial.

Child Fatality Review Team

The Child Abuse Unit is the convener of the district's Child Fatality Review Team that reviews all infant and child fatalities in the district to determine if they could have been prevented. Mandated by state law at DA's offices across the state, these teams meet to evaluate deaths and make recommendations about policies and practices that might prevent infant and child deaths. Team members include prosecutors, police officers, emergency responders, health care and child protection workers coming together to prevent needless deaths through information sharing and analysis.

Notable Case Resolutions in 2022

Commonwealth v. Jeffrey Fleury (Franklin Superior Court) – This case was brought to the attention of law enforcement following a child's disclosure to a family member. After a trial, the defendant was convicted by a jury of aggravated rape and abuse of a child and witness intimidation. The defendant was sentenced to state prison for 12-14 years, followed by three years of probation. This case was prosecuted by Unit Chief, ADA Lori

Odierna and ADA Stephanie Jimenez, with the assistance of Family Service Advocate Linda Rogers. The dedicated team worked with the young victim and family members to support and guide them through the investigation and successful prosecution of this case.

Commonwealth v. Isaac Alexander Villalobos AKA Angel Carattini-Rivera (Hampshire Superior Court) – In September of 2019, police responded to a call for an unresponsive infant who was later pronounced deceased at a local hospital. Several months later, toxicology results showed the infant had died from acute doxylamine intoxication, a substance found in adult sleep medication. Local and state police worked with prosecutors throughout the lengthy investigation which ultimately resulted in the indictment of the baby's father. He pleaded guilty to assault and battery on a child causing substantial bodily injury and was sentenced to five to seven years in state prison. The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Andrew Covington with assistance from Family Service Advocate and Unit Coordinator Kellie Beaulieu.

Commonwealth v. Mark Bakerlis (Franklin Superior Court) – This case began with a disclosure by a child who had experienced ongoing abuse by the defendant. The defendant was convicted of multiple counts of rape and abuse of a child and several other sexual abuse charges and sentenced to six to eight years in prison, followed by eight years of probation. This case was prosecuted by Unit Chief, ADA Lori Odierna, with assistance from Family Service Advocate Sonia Serrazina who supported the victim and guardian through the investigation and prosecution of this case.

Commonwealth v. Steven Trznadel (Hampshire Superior Court) – Local and state police coordinated an investigation resulting in charges of child sexual abuse in Hampshire and Hampden counties. The defendant was convicted of several counts of aggravated rape and abuse of a child in addition to numerous other sexual abuse charges. He received a state prison sentence of 10-13 years followed by five years of probation. This case was prosecuted by Unit Deputy Chief, ADA Anne Yereniuk, with assistance from Family Service Advocate Kathleen Bengtson. At the conclusion of the case, the victim and caregivers expressed gratitude for the support of the multidisciplinary team throughout this difficult process.

In 2022, the Child Abuse Unit: opened **304** cases involving **382** children; conducted forensic interviews of **120** children coordinated by a multidisciplinary team; filed criminal charges against **132** defendants, **25** of which were prosecuted in Superior Courts; and resolved **149** child abuse cases.

ELDERS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES UNIT



Rachel Senecal at the Aging in Place Health and Wellness Fair in South Hadley

In 2022, Assistant District Attorney Matthew Russo was promoted to the position of Chief of the Elders and Persons with Disabilities Unit, replacing former Chief Mary Beth Ogulewicz when she was appointed to the District Court bench. The work of the unit is strengthened by the diligence and vision of its coordinator, Rachel Senecal. Victim Witness Advocate Deanna Welch supports the unit by guiding elderly and disabled victims through the criminal justice process.



Matthew Russo

Staff in the unit work to keep uniquely vulnerable individuals safe, focusing on prevention of harm to elders and people with disabilities and holding individuals accountable when they cause harm through criminal acts. In 2022, the unit investigated, reviewed, or prosecuted **267** cases of abuse against elders and persons with disabilities.

Notable Case Resolutions in 2022

Commonwealth v. Candace Caswell (Greenfield District Court) - The defendant was convicted of identity fraud and larceny over \$1,200. The defendant preyed on her elderly mother by using her personal information to open accounts online and transfer money to herself without her mother's knowledge. The Greenfield Police Department and unit staff worked to bring justice to the defendant's parents from whom she stole thousands of dollars. The case was prosecuted by Unit Chief, ADA Matthew Russo, with assistance from Victim Witness Advocate Rebekah Nager.

Commonwealth v. Rebecca Campagna and Jason Hamon (Franklin Superior Court) - These co-defendants were convicted of larceny from an elder over \$250 and sentenced to three to five years in state prison. The victim was an elder with memory issues. The defendants targeted him on a weekly basis by cashing numerous checks without his knowledge that combined to be nearly \$130,000. The case was prosecuted by ADA Joseph Webber, with assistance from Deputy Director of the Victim/Witness Assistance Unit Lori Roy.

TRIAD



Ware TRIAD members in October, 2022

TRIAD brings together law enforcement, seniors and elder care providers to prevent crime and educate seniors about how to stay safe by building community partnerships to serve seniors. It is implemented by a Senior and Law Enforcement Together Council, known as the S.A.L.T. Council, whose goals are to prevent criminal activity targeting seniors; help seniors be proactive to prevent victimization; build confidence and improve their quality of life; and provide trauma-informed law enforcement services to seniors. TRIAD efforts are led by District Attorney David Sullivan, Hampshire County Sheriff Patrick Cahillane and Franklin County Sheriff Christopher Donelan. Rachel Senecal is TRIAD Coordinator for the office.

2022 TRIAD Highlights



Dignitaries at the grand opening of the TRIAD field office in the Hampshire Mall

APPELLATE UNIT



Sheriff Patrick Cahillane, DA Sullivan and other dignitaries at the TRIAD field office grand opening

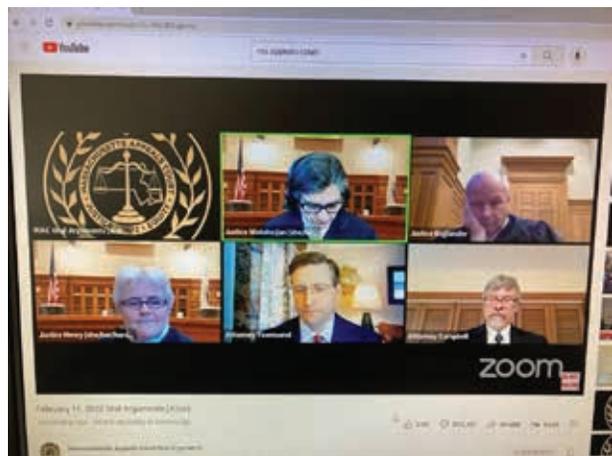
TRIAD celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2022, with a community event at the Hatfield Lions Pavilion. Current and past TRIAD volunteers and professionals came together to highlight the program's successes. Also in 2022, Hampshire Sheriff Cahillane, District Attorney Sullivan, and Hadley Police Chief Michael Mason opened a TRIAD field office at the Hampshire Mall where local law enforcement will increase outreach to older adults and expand TRIAD. Notably, TRIAD delivered 807 pieces of durable medical equipment at no cost to seniors in need and provided 687 buckets of sand to seniors to help prevent falls, using a \$2,000 grant for buckets from Home Depot to support the rapidly growing program.

In 2022, the Elders and Persons with Disabilities Unit: investigated, reviewed, or prosecuted **267** reports of abuse against elders and persons with disabilities, delivered **687** buckets of sand to seniors through TRIAD; and participated in **34** educational events for vulnerable populations.



Members of the Appellate Unit

The Appellate Unit is comprised of Chief and Assistant District Attorney Thomas Townsend, Assistant District Attorneys Cynthia Von Flatern and Bethany Lynch, and paralegal Jamie Foster.



Appellate Unit Chief Thomas Townsend appearing during a remote session of the Massachusetts Appeals Court

When defendants are convicted of a crime, they may challenge that conviction by filing a legal brief outlining any alleged errors that may have occurred at trial. The prosecutor's office responds by defending the conviction and the process that earned it. This is the work that falls to the Appellate Unit. In handling appeals, appellate ADAs confer with the prosecutors



Courtesy of Daily Hampshire Gazette



Courtesy of Daily Hampshire Gazette



who conducted the trial; review the arguments contained in the defendant's brief; research the various legal issues those arguments involve; and draft briefs for the appropriate appellate court. The appellate ADA will then argue the case before the seven justices of the Supreme Judicial Court or a three-judge panel of the Massachusetts Appeals Court. The appellate court will usually render a written decision on the appeal within 130 days of the oral argument.

Attorneys in the Appellate Unit have logged more than 25 years each in appellate prosecution, making the unit by far the most experienced appeals unit, per capita, in the Commonwealth. Their combined years of experience is 79 years.

Lawyers with the Appellate Unit also respond to motions for a new trial, represent the office before the Massachusetts Parole Board, and support all ADAs through legal updates, training sessions and case consultation. In 2022, in addition to its normal caseload of appeals, the unit continued to see a surge in motions for new trials. In fact, these motions outnumbered traditional appeals by more than two to one. Appellate ADAs responded to this wave of litigation often in conjunction with the trial prosecutors who tried the individual cases. Appellate prosecutors also dealt with a steady stream of medical-parole petitions, public-records requests, and motions to seal or expunge convictions.

The earliest word on appellate practice "If a judge try a case, reach a decision and present his judgment in writing; if later error shall appear in his decision, and it be through his own fault, then he shall publicly be removed from the judge's bench, and never again shall he sit there to render judgment." Code of Hammurabi (1750 B.C.E.)

Notable 2022 Appellate Decisions

Commonwealth v. Arthur Salsbury – In two separate decisions, the Massachusetts Appeals Court affirmed the rape convictions of a defendant who picked up women in Hampden County and then drove them to secluded areas in Hampshire County where he raped them. In the first case, which appeared as a published decision to serve as statewide precedent, the court rejected the defendant's argument that the Superior Court judge had improperly empaneled the jury. In the second case, the court held that the Superior Court judge had correctly instructed the jury on the law of evidence, that the jury properly returned the verdict, and that the prosecutor had given a permissible closing argument.

Commonwealth v. Colby Hume – The Appeals Court upheld the defendant's conviction for rape of a child. The defendant had invited three underage girls to his home where they drank alcohol and he raped one of them. In affirming the conviction, the court concluded that the judge had correctly ruled on the admissibility of evidence and correctly instructed the jury on the law.

Commonwealth v. James Rode – This case involved an on-duty police officer who committed motor-vehicle homicide through negligent operation of his police cruiser. The Appeals Court rejected challenges to the conviction based on the judge’s instructions to the jury and the prosecutor’s closing argument.

VICTIM / WITNESS ASSISTANCE UNIT



Victim / Witness Assistance Unit staff

Being the victim of a criminal act or witness to a crime can be traumatizing. The Victim/Witness Assistance Unit provides support to make these difficult experiences more bearable. Advocates work with victims, witnesses and survivors to reduce stress by providing information, support and advocacy as cases proceed in the criminal justice system. Working cooperatively with assistant district attorneys provides a teamwork approach that is the best route to successful resolution of cases. The office believes that in order to seek justice, the full participation of victims and witnesses is essential – and they need support and guidance through that process.

Services provided by victim/witness advocates are free. Advocates are trained in trauma-sensitive responses as they support victims and witnesses involved in criminal proceedings in courtrooms across the Northwestern District. Staff members in the unit assist individuals who are either victims of or witnesses to a crime by protecting their rights as mandated by the Massachusetts Victim Bill of Rights, Massachusetts General Laws chapter 258B. Advocates ensure victims and witnesses understand the court process, remain informed about upcoming court hearings, receive help in seeking orders from a judge to prohibit abuse or harassment and can access funds available to victims of violent crime.

The Massachusetts Victim Bill of Rights guarantees victims of crime the right to:

- *Be present at all court proceedings.*
- *Address the court about the impact of the crime.*
- *Receive notification of an offender’s release.*
- *Apply for funds from the Victim Compensation Fund.*
- *Be heard in the parole process.*

Advocates also offer resources and referrals for help from agencies such as the Center for Women and Community, Safe Passage, the New England Learning Center for Women in Transition, the Drunk Driving Trust Fund program, the Center for Community Resilience after Trauma and the Homicide Bereavement Program.

Advocates also help victims with applications for victim compensation and post-conviction notification, accompany them to court for

hearings, schedule and attend meetings between victims and case prosecutors and assist victims in drafting and presenting victim impact statements to the court. In cases in which the victims' safety was at risk, such as domestic violence cases, advocates assist victims with emergency shelter, long-term housing, financial resources, and community services, as well as collaborate with local law enforcement to keep victims safe and free from intimidation.



Kate Clogston and Michelle Torto in the DA's Eastern Hampshire District Court office



Moira McDonald

The unit welcomed new advocates Moira McDonald and Bryan Pimentel in 2022. Bryan ultimately left to attend law school and Advocate Mariana Carbajal left for a position with a District Attorney's Office closer to home. Unit staff are Director

Jacqueline Gaw, Deputy Director Lori Roy, advocates Wendy Adams, Kate Clogston, Kimberly Devine, Janice Francis, Rebekah Nager, Jennifer Reid, Michelle Torto, Deanna Weech, and administrative assistant Erin O'Brien.



Kim Devine and Lori Roy



Karen Hernandez



Rachel Senecal and Deanna Weech

In 2022, the Victim Witness Unit:

- handled **1,783** cases
- assisted **2,199** victims
- supported **951** witnesses
- helped **76** victims obtain certification with the Victim Notification Registry to be informed of changes to offenders' incarceration status
- assisted **65** victims in applying for 178A certification, giving them information about a defendant's criminal record while a case is pending.

CONSUMER PROTECTION UNIT



Consumer Protection Unit Director Anita Wilson, TRIAD coordinator Rachel Senecal, Consumer Specialist Joanne O'Donoghue and DA Sullivan

The Northwestern District Attorney's Consumer Protection Unit has been working in cooperation with the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office on behalf of consumer rights since 1973. It is one of 18 local consumer programs receiving grants from the Attorney General's Office. The unit serves residents in every city and town in Hampshire and Franklin counties as well as 17 Worcester County communities.

Director Anita Wilson and Case Coordinator Joanne O'Donoghue are trained to resolve consumer complaints through consumer advocacy and assistance. They also work on preventing victimization, providing educational programs, resources, and referrals to the public. Staff assist residents with disputes involving automobile purchase and repairs, home improvement projects, retail purchases and billing, credit and debt issues, landlord/tenant matters and identify theft. Complaints are resolved through an informal process involving phone calls and other correspondence to reach settlements that are agreeable to both consumers and businesses. The Consumer Protection Unit presents educational outreach programs to prepare residents to be informed consumers and protect against scams and fraud.



NWDA staff at an educational presentation for seniors

Presentations cover topics such as preventing identity theft, buying a used car, rebuilding credit, retail rights, and how to recognize and avoid scams. The unit also offers the interactive Senior Savvy Showdown and financial literacy games for high school students and adults, which aim to educate about consumer issues while having fun. In 2022, the Consumer Protection Unit participated in 37 community outreach events.

Other outreach and education initiatives include Consumer Tips videos airing on public access television stations and monthly Consumer Tip graphics focusing on scams and consumer issues distributed to senior centers, elder services, elder housing and other community organizations. These tips are used in newsletters, printed out and posted on bulletin boards, and uploaded to social media accounts. Working with the Elders and Persons with Disabilities Unit, the unit created and delivered 1,000 Consumer Calendars to elders in the district.



Joanne O'Donoghue and Anita Wilson

Unit staff serve on the Money Management Advisory Boards at LifePath and Highland Valley Elder Services; programs that work with residents who need assistance with bill paying.

The unit belongs to the Consumer Federation of America, an association of non-profit consumer organizations working to advance the consumer interest through research, advocacy, and education.

In 2022, the Consumer Protection Unit:
received **1,296** calls from the public;
opened **402** cases; and
recovered **\$128,516.81** for consumers

COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH



Members of the Citizens Advisory Board

The Communication and Outreach Unit draws from across the Northwestern District Attorney's Office staff to build and nurture relationships with people throughout the district, inform the public about notable cases and trends within the criminal justice system, and keep lines of communication open so that the office remains accessible to all who live and work within the 47 communities in the district.

Director of Communication and Outreach Laurie Loisel and staff members from all units, ranging from lawyers to victim witness advocates to administrative support staff, participate in community outreach events such as National Night Out, community block parties and health and wellness fairs throughout the year around the region. The Citizens Advisory Board meets with District Attorney Sullivan for conversations that aim to increase community

knowledge of office initiatives and inform staff of matters of concern within its communities. Staff sit on youth prevention coalitions, participate in efforts to build trauma-informed responses throughout the district and work with community groups on other progressive prevention initiatives including the Safe and Healthy School Summit and other educational events and offerings.

COMMUNITY PROSECUTION AND EQUITY INITIATIVES



Becky Michaels

Effective community prosecution requires three key ingredients: community involvement, partnerships, and an understanding of community concerns. This approach improves public safety, boosts confidence in the justice system, and makes communities stronger by emphasizing fairness and bringing community members to the table to seek just solutions.

Justice requires that prosecutors evaluate practices and examine policies to ensure they are prosecuting equitably and consistently with our community values. Director of Community Prosecution Projects and Assistant District Attorney Becky Michaels oversees these initiatives that strengthen prosecutor accountability:

Equity in Prosecution Committee: Senior management, assistant district attorneys, and the director of the victim/witness assistance unit, and others work together to examine arraignments, bail, potential declination of certain charges, and other areas in which prosecutors exercise discretion, proposing policies to ensure equity and consistency in all our courts.

Conviction Integrity Committee: Senior ADAs from the trial and appellate units and the Honorable Bertha Josephson (retired) review claims of wrongful conviction based on claims of innocence or procedural error. The committee reports directly to District Attorney Sullivan. One committee member serves on the statewide Massachusetts Conviction Integrity Working Group, created in 2018 by the Massachusetts Bar Association.

Brady Committee: Senior ADAs from the trial and appellate units, as well as the District Attorney, ensure that the office complies with its discovery obligations to provide all evidence in its possession under *Brady v. Maryland*, 373 U.S. 83, 87 (1963). One member of the committee participates in the statewide Brady working group.

Professional Responsibility Committee: Experienced ADAs and other staff are on call to respond quickly to ethical issues that arise at any time during the investigation and prosecution of cases. They also assist with related training within the office.

Prosecutorial Performance Indicators: This data collection project is guided by a national group of academics and attorneys who recommend that prosecutors' offices collect and analyze data in particular categories to guide their work and to make the data

available to the public. For this multi-year project, the office worked with a data analyst to gather and analyze data in categories including prosecutor caseload; sentencing; bail and pretrial detention; and victim services.

ALTERNATIVES TO PROSECUTION AND EQUITY INITIATIVES



Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee

Restorative Justice: The office partners with the community-based nonprofit Communities for Restorative Justice, commonly known as C4RJ, to divert cases from the court system into restorative justice on both a pre- and post-arraignment basis. The office and C4RJ partner with Hampshire County police departments so diversion can happen in some cases prior to the issuance of charges. Once a case is diverted, trained volunteers from throughout Hampshire County lead circles that give victims an opportunity to be heard and responsible parties an opportunity to make amends. When the restorative process reaches completion, the case is dismissed. In addition, ADAs often include components of restorative justice – restitution, letters of apology, community service or other restorative practices – where appropriate in dispositions.

Drug Diversion and Treatment Program:

This program provides immediate access to substance misuse treatment for people whose substance use is the predominant cause of their criminal involvement.

Operating out of the four District Courts in the Northwestern District, the pre- and post-arraignment program diverts individuals out of the court process and into treatment. When an individual has completed the program, which includes treatment with community providers for a minimum of six months, the case is dismissed. DDTP Director Maria Sotolongo oversees the program, working with Intake Coordinator Tara Wilson.

This alternative to prosecution helps improve overall public safety by reducing substance use and criminal recidivism. At any given time, approximately 75 people are participating in the DDTP, and, since its inception in 2016, the criminal recidivism rate of individuals in the program is 10 percent.

Adult Diversion Program: This initiative offers people charged with certain crimes the opportunity to perform community service and enroll in an on-line educational course relevant to the crime charged. Once those obligations are met successfully, the case is then dismissed.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee:

The DEI committee recommends initiatives to the District Attorney that promote diversity, equity, and inclusion. The IMPACT (Impacting People and Communities Together) Program launched in 2022, with a half-dozen staff members volunteering their time at community programs that improve food insecurity and other social issues.

Civil Rights Review Team: The protection of citizens' civil rights is a core mission for the office. District Attorney Sullivan created the Civil Rights Review Team to review and respond to alleged hate crimes and hate incidents, as well as civil rights complaints and referrals. Co-chaired by Deputy District Attorney Jennifer Suhl and District Court Chief Michael Russo, the team includes Juvenile Diversion Specialist Naomi Bledsoe, Director of Communication and Outreach Laurie Loisel, Juvenile Justice Unit Chief Elizabeth Mulcahy, and Family Service Advocate/Forensic Interviewer Sonia Serrazina. The team ensures that the office responds promptly and effectively to civil rights incidents, complaints, referrals, and community inquiries. In 2022, the team reviewed and assisted police departments in several hate crimes investigations and aided in the prosecution of cases where hate crimes were charged.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES

As part of its mission to work in partnership with the communities it serves, staff work closely with community organizations whose goals are to help the people of the district thrive. Among the partnerships are:

Children's Advocacy Centers



Children's Advocacy Center flag-raising at the South Hadley Police Department



A child abuse awareness event in Hadley

In 2022, 319 children and their families/ caregivers relied on support from the Children's Advocacy Centers of Hampshire County and of Franklin County and the North Quabbin Region. The DA's office works closely with these centers, which are independent, non-profit organizations accredited by the National Children's Alliance.

CACs provide child-friendly, supportive environments where law enforcement, staff from the DA's office, the Department of Children and Families and medical personnel work together to help children disclosing abuse. At the centers, professionals conduct and observe forensic interviews of children; provide medical services and mental health referrals; and provide support to children who are victims of crimes and their non-offending family members. This means children need not endure repeated interviews involving traumatic disclosures.

The Children's Advocacy Center of Hampshire County, based in Northampton, serves the people and communities in Hampshire County. In collaboration with the DA's office and Cooley Dickinson Hospital, it provides a child-friendly house where physically and



DA Sullivan at a CAC child abuse awareness event in Greenfield

sexually abused children and their families can receive the support and services that they need through a coordinated, multi-disciplinary response. Kara McElhone is the director of the Children’s Advocacy Center of Hampshire County.



Franklin & North Quabbin CAC Director Irene Wood

The Children’s Advocacy Center of Franklin County and the North Quabbin Region, led by Director Irene Wood and based in Greenfield, serves Franklin County and the North Quabbin Region. Shortly after District Attorney Sullivan first took office, he announced that one of his top priorities was to establish a Children’s

Advocacy Center for the children of this area. In February 2016, the Children’s Advocacy Center of Franklin County and North Quabbin Region officially opened its doors.



Conway residents turn out for a CAC event

NORTHWESTERN FIRE INTERVENTION RESPONSE, EDUCATION AND SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (NoFIRES)



Members of the NoFIRES Board of Directors with DA Sullivan

NoFIRES is a collaboration of fire, law enforcement, mental health providers and social service agencies working to provide coordinated and compassionate responses to youth under 18 who set fires or engage in fire-related behavior. The goal is to protect youth, their families, and their communities from the dangerous, and sometimes fatal, act of setting fires.



Children’s Advocacy Center of Hampshire County Director Kara McElhone at a flag-raising event in Belchertown

A non-profit organization, NoFIRES offers intervention and education to youth who have misused fire and provides fire safety education to 51 communities in Hampshire and Franklin counties, North Quabbin and Holyoke. NoFIRES is one of only a few programs available in the state for youth who have engaged in fire-related behavior. To date, NoFIRES has worked with nearly 500 families and become a model program. NoFIRES is led by Executive Director Loren Davine, M.Ed., CAGS. Director of Operations Martha Murphy Kane of the Northwestern DA's Office serves as president of the NoFIRES Board of Directors.

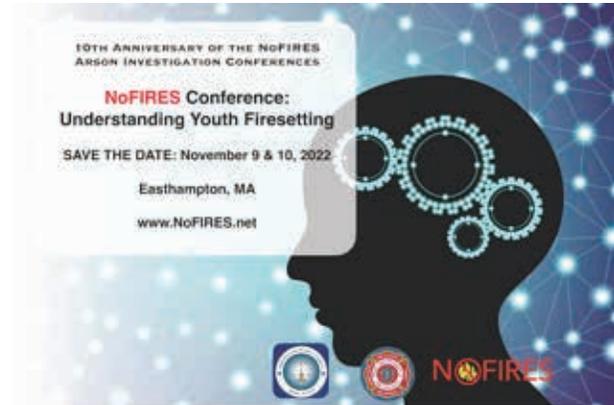


NOFIRES Director Loren Davine

NoFIRES is dedicated to providing high quality, low-cost professional development in collaboration with their community partners so that youth who set fires can get the help they need and

communities can be safer for all. In November of 2022, NoFIRES presented its 10th anniversary conference titled Understanding Youth Firesetting at The Boylston Rooms in Easthampton. The two-day conference drew 125 people, among them prosecutors, police officers, firefighters, mental health clinicians and investigators from around New England. The conference was supported by the Massachusetts Property Insurance Underwriting Association, the Northwestern District Attorney's Office, the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services, and the Massachusetts State Police.

District Attorney Sullivan was honored with the Friend of NoFires Award for his unwavering dedication to addressing the problem of youth firesetting in the district and beyond.



OPIOID PREVENTION



Local police departments, the Federal Drug Enforcement Agency, Hampshire and Franklin County Sheriff's Departments and the Northwestern District Attorney's Office organize and execute National Prescription Drug Take Back days two times a year

Prevention of opioid overdose deaths and treatment for people facing opioid misuse disorders is a top priority for the Northwestern District Attorney's Office. That is why staff participate in creating and enacting strategies by both the **Opioid Task Force of Franklin County & North Quabbin Region** and **Hampshire HOPE**, the Hampshire County based opioid prevention coalition. District Attorney Sullivan serves as co-chair, along with Franklin Register of Probate John



Merrigan and Franklin County Sheriff Christopher Donelan, and he serves on the executive team for Hampshire HOPE, which operates out of the Northampton Department of Health and Human Services.

The OTF and Hampshire HOPE both work within their respective regions, to bring key stakeholders together in a community-wide effort to prevent overdoses and stop the epidemic of overdose deaths.

One of the many tried and true strategies of opioid prevention efforts is to remove unneeded prescription drugs from the community to prevent their misuse. The office is a leader in this effort by championing drug collection boxes in police departments in the community and working with federal and local partners to host **National Prescription Drug Take Back Day** events spearheaded by the Drug Enforcement Agency twice a year. In 2022, these efforts collected and disposed of 3,835 pounds of unwanted and unneeded medications, bringing the total amount of drugs disposed of since 2011 to just over 67,300 pounds.



VETERANS JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP

A collaboration of the Northwestern District Attorney's Office, veteran's organizations, mental health providers, local, state and federal veteran agencies, and numerous criminal justice and community partners, this partnership aims to help court-involved and incarcerated veterans. These teams help veterans before and after case dispositions. A Department of Mental Health initiative, Mission Direct Vet, is working collaboratively with the partnership to help veterans get the necessary mental health services to address and prevent criminal conduct. For incarcerated veterans, the partnership benefits from the direct involvement of Sheriffs Patrick Cahillane (Hampshire), Christopher Donelan (Franklin), and Nicholas Cocchi (Hampden) to help with both treatment and re-entry options. The VA Veterans Outreach and Soldier On partners have been the driving forces in identifying and screening court-involved veterans to address and reduce their criminal behavior and improve the quality of their lives. The partnership was created in 2011 by District Attorney Sullivan and other community leaders.

Western Massachusetts Veterans Treatment Court



Michael Russo at a Western Mass Treatment Court graduation

Since 2015, this court has worked to meet the needs of veterans from all branches of the military when they become court-involved in Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden counties. Participants commit to a long-term, intensive probation during which they receive mental health and substance use treatment and assistance finding stable housing and employment.

Judge Laurie McLeod, presiding justice of the court based in the Holyoke District Court, leads a team that includes representatives from the Northwestern and Hampden County District Attorney's Offices, probation, Holyoke Police, defense attorneys and clinical support from Soldier On and the VA Hospital in Leeds. District Court Unit Chief and Assistant District Attorney Michael Russo coordinates the NWDA's participation in the treatment court.

The NWDA believes in the fundamental purpose of this specialty court which is that those who were willing to give up their lives for their country deserve full support when they fall on hard times.

In 2022, the court handled the cases of **15** veterans, of whom **10** were from communities within the Northwestern District. According to court data, **78%** of the program's graduates have had no new criminal convictions.

NWDA Internship Program



Martha Murphy Kane and Moira McDonald

Undergraduate and law school students are welcomed in several units at the office for placements in the spring, fall and summer. Law students work with ADAs on research, writing, and case preparation, and assist prosecutors in court. Interns are also placed in administrative roles, work in victim/witness services and in the Consumer Protection Unit. In 2022, the office placed 14 interns within seven units.

MASSACHUSETTS STATE POLICE DETECTIVE UNIT/ NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT ANTI-CRIME TASK FORCE

Massachusetts State Police Detectives attached to the Northwestern District Attorney's Office work in tandem with local police departments to investigate fatalities and serious felonies, including all suspicious or unattended deaths. These State Police



State Police Lt. Steven Hean and ADA Jeremy Bucci at a training for local police officers in January 2022

detectives led by Captain Jeffrey Cahill work directly out of the DA's office. Working alongside local law enforcement, the unit ensures all major criminal incidents are vigorously and thoroughly investigated. Cases often involve collaboration with the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, the State Police Crime Scene Services Section and the State Police Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Section. The unit also works on complex, multi-jurisdictional investigations.



State Police Detective Unit Commander Jeffrey Cahill and ADA Andy Covington

In 2022, the unit handled 768 cases, 441 of which were unattended deaths, returned 10 fugitives from other states to face charges in Massachusetts courts and investigated:

- 16 cases of sexual assaults against children
- 4 cases of child physical abuse
- 13 cases involving images of child sexual abuse and exploitation
- 10 adult sexual assault cases
- 13 fatal motor vehicle crashes
- 3 homicides

The Northwestern District Anti-Crime Task Force is composed of investigators from the Hampshire/Franklin State Police Detective Unit, the Hampshire and Franklin County Sheriff's Offices, and 11 municipal police departments. The task force identifies, investigates, and prosecutes illegal narcotics offenses, unlawful firearms offenses, gang-related crimes, major crimes, human trafficking, and other organized criminal activities.

In 2022, the task force conducted 130 criminal investigations, made 95 arrests, executed 92 search warrants, seized \$362,044.80 in United States currency, and seized seven unlawfully possessed firearms. By state law, forfeiture funds are redistributed for use by law enforcement and crime prevention initiatives as well as to community organizations for drug rehabilitation programs, drug education, and recovery support.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES



Edward Drummond and Nathan Foote

The work of the Information Technologies Department is central to everything the office does. The department procures, installs, develops, supports and maintains information technology hardware and software for the entire office. It ensures the right technology is available to effectively present information in courtrooms and the community. Director Nathan Foote and IT Systems Support Engineer Edward Drummond worked this year to keep the Northampton office connected with minimal disruption during extensive renovations. IT staff helped oversee the upgrades made to the network and workspaces to bring the office up to current state standards. The IT department helped prosecutors transition back to full use of spaces and equipment in the courthouses throughout the district that had been closed through the pandemic and aftermath. The goal of the small but mighty IT department is to continually adapt to changing circumstances to keep staff working effectively with the technology they need.



Some of the staff who contributed to a holiday gift giving campaign for children in need



Community CSO Fair in Greenfield

FISCAL DEPARTMENT



Fiscal Department staff Higy Chan, Donna Dudkiewicz and Jessica Diemand

This department oversees and manages the entire budget for the Northwestern District Attorney's Office. This includes money appropriated in the state budget as well as from federal sources. The Fiscal Department is responsible for the sound financial management and allocation of all funds received by the office to ensure they are expended in a fiscally responsible manner. The department is made up of Chief Financial Officer Donna Dudkiewicz, assisted by Higy Chan and Jessica Diemand, fiscal assistants. The department tracks forfeiture funds recovered through successful prosecution of narcotics cases and plays an integral role in the writing and administration of state and federal grants.

NWDAO Budget for Fiscal Year 2022

- Total Appropriation Funding: \$9,420,076.11
- Total Grant Funding: \$706,339.11
- Grand Total: \$10,126,415.22
- Percentage Appropriation: 93%
- Percentage Grant: 7%



ADA Nicholas Atallah with his 2022 Massachusetts District Attorneys Association Spotlight Award with First ADA Steve Gagne



DA Sullivan with ADA Becky Michaels, holding her Women Of the Law Award given by Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly



The Positivity Pod presenting at the 2022 Safe and Healthy School Summit



Samantha Johnson

STAFF AND ORGANIZATION

Senior Management Team

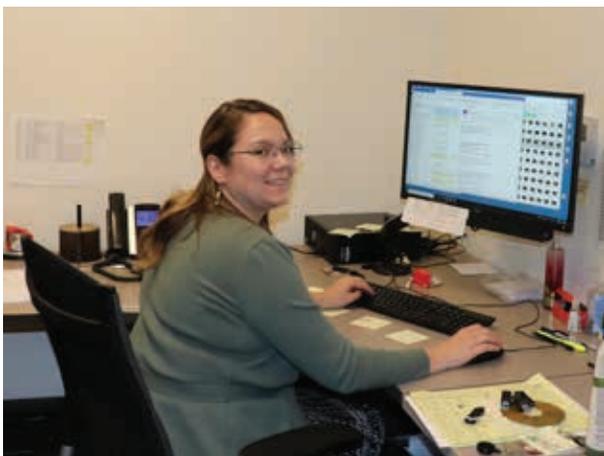
David E. Sullivan, District Attorney
Jennifer Handel Suhl, Deputy District Attorney
Steven E. Gagne, First Assistant District Attorney
Martha Murphy Kane, Director of Operations
Donna Dudkiewicz, Chief Financial Officer

Superior Court

First Assistant District Attorney Steven E. Gagne
Deputy District Attorney Jennifer Handel Suhl
ADA Jeremy Bucci, Chief Trial Counsel*
ADA Matthew Thomas, Senior Trial Counsel
ADA Frederic Bartmon*
ADA Andrew Covington
ADA Stephanie Jimenez
ADA Matthew Russo
ADA Sandra Staub
ADA Anne Yereniuk
ADA Joseph Webber
Mary-Elizabeth Connly, Superior Court
Administrator
Cassandra Jerome, Franklin Superior Court
Coordinator, Franklin Office Supervisor
Kelley Mason, Hampshire Superior Court
Coordinator, DAMION Administrator
Ann Metzger, Senior Case Administrator*



Administrative staff of the DA's office



Cassandra Jerome

Child Abuse Unit

ADA Lori Odierna, Chief
ADA Frederic Bartmon, Deputy Chief*
ADA Anne Yereniuk, Deputy Chief
ADA Andrew Covington
ADA Stephanie Jimenez
Kellie Beaulieu, Unit Coordinator/ Advocate/
Forensic Interviewer
Kathy Bengtson, Family Service Advocate

*Formerly held position



Erin O'Brien

Jamie Foster, Paralegal
Karen Hernandez, Family Service Advocate*
Heather Hubbard, Unit Administrator/Advocate
Suzanne Koch, Forensic Interviewer
Moira McDonald, Family Service Advocate
Linda Rogers, Family Service Advocate
Sonia Serrazina, Forensic Interviewer/Advocate

Elders & Persons with Disabilities Unit

ADA Mary Beth Ogulewicz, Chief*
ADA Matthew Russo, Chief
Rachel Senecal, Unit & TRIAD Coordinator

Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Unit

ADA Sandra Staub, Chief
ADA Erin Aiello
Zoraida Agudelo, Director of Domestic and Sexual Violence Projects*
Katie Rosewarne, Director of Domestic and Sexual Violence Projects
Alyssa Devlin, Legal Assistant
Siobhan Powers, Administrative Assistant
Katie Rosewarne, High Risk Team Coordinator*
Christine Torres, AWARE/DVIP Coordinator*



Debra Jacques

Appellate Unit

ADA Thomas Townsend, Chief
ADA Bethany Lynch
ADA Cynthia Von Flatern
Jamie Foster, Paralegal

District Court

ADA Michael Russo, Chief
ADA Danielle Cruz, Orange Attorney-in-Charge (AIC*)
ADA Jillian Handy, Northampton AIC
ADA Alexa Pascucci, Belchertown AIC
ADA Matthew Russo, Belchertown AIC*



Julia Wallace



Kelley Mason

ADA Ryan Scott, Greenfield AIC
 ADA Erin Aiello
 ADA Justine Aljoe
 ADA Nicholas Atallah
 ADA Elayna Bartolomeo
 ADA Jillian Handy
 ADA Alexander Keir
 ADA Aidan Lanciani
 ADA Becky Michaels
 ADA Jillian Parent
 ADA Veronice Santana

Juvenile Justice Unit

ADA Elizabeth Mulcahy, Chief
 ADA Frederic Bartmon
 ADA Mary Beth Ogulewicz *
 ADA Bruce Patryn
 Naomi Bledsoe, Diversion Specialist

Victim/Witness Assistance Unit

Jacqueline Gaw, Director
 Lori Roy, Deputy Director
 Wendy Adams, Advocate
 Kate Clogston, Advocate
 Kimberly Devine, Advocate
 Janice Francis, Advocate
 Karen Hernandez, Advocate
 Moira McDonald, Advocate*
 Rebekah Nager, Advocate
 Bryan Pimentel, Advocate*
 Jennifer Reid, Advocate
 Michelle Torto, Advocate
 Deanna Weech, Advocate

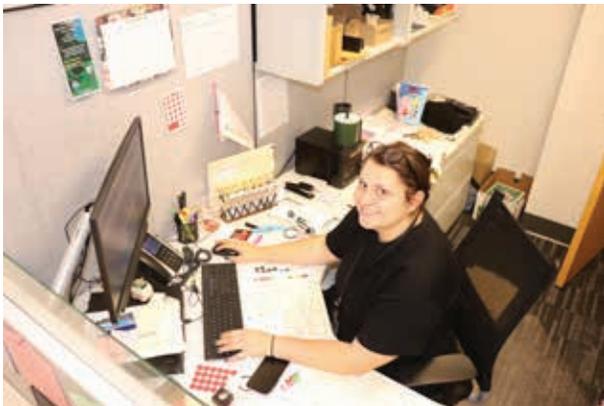
Consumer Protection Unit

Anita Wilson, Director
 Brianna Fuller, Case Specialist*
 Joanne O'Donoghue, Case Specialist

*Formerly held position



Lauren O'Roark



Melissa Hersey



Michelle Richotte

Communication and Outreach

Laurie Loisel, Director

Community Prosecution Projects

ADA Becky Michaels, Director of Community Prosecution Projects

Maria Sotolongo, Director of Drug Diversion & Treatment Program

Tara Wilson, Diversion Specialist

Erin Yarrows, Data Analyst

Information Technologies Department

Nathan Foote, Director

Edward Drummond, IT Systems Support Engineer

State Police Detective Unit

Captain Jeffrey Cahill, Unit Commander

Lieutenant Steven Hean, Narcotics Unit

Sergeant Corey Mackey, Executive Officer

Sergeant Stephen Bushay

Sergeant Gary Darling

10 State Police Troopers



Nicollette Racine

Administrative Staff

Cassandra Jerome, Franklin Superior Court

Coordinator, Franklin Office Supervisor

Kelley Mason, Hampshire Superior Court

Coordinator, DAMION Administrator

Ann Metzger, Senior Case Administrator*

Lauren O'Roark, District Court Administrative Supervisor

Taylor Chapin, District Court Administrator

Mary-Elizabeth Connly, Superior Court

Administrator

Alyssa Devlin, Legal Assistant

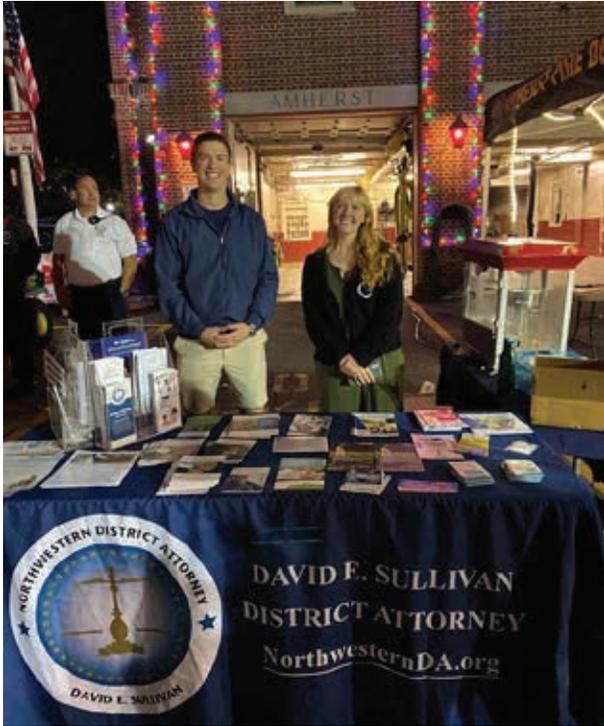
Jamie Foster, Paralegal

Brianna Fuller, District Court Administrator*

Melissa Hersey, District Court Administrator



Martha Murphy Kane accepts an award honoring DA Sullivan from the North Quabbin Community Coalition



Andy Covington and Deanna Weech

Heather Hubbard, Child Abuse Unit Administrator
 Debra Jacques, District Court Administrator
 Cameron Jerome, District Court Administrator
 Samantha Johnson, District Court Administrator
 Timothy Kwarcinski, District Court Administrator*
 Erin O'Brien, Administrative Assistant
 Nicollette Racine, District Court Administrator
 Michelle Richotte, Executive Assistant
 Joviana Rosario, Administrative Assistant
 Susan Snyder, Executive Assistant
 Julia Wallace, District Court Administrator
 Jean Zimmerman, Administrative Assistant

Fiscal Unit

Donna Dudkiewicz, Chief Financial Officer
 Higy Chan, Fiscal Assistant
 Jessica Diemand, Fiscal/Administrative Assistant

*Formerly held position



Erin Aiello records a video about animal cruelty for a police academy training unit in South Carolina



DA Sullivan at a training for faith leaders





DA Sullivan with others at the grand opening for the Learn to Cope office in Easthampton



The red-heads who work at the Northwestern DA's office



DA Sullivan at a National Night Out event in the North Quabbin



Community members peruse the Northwestern DA's table during Orange National Night Out festivities

CONTACT INFORMATION

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FRANKLIN COUNTY OFFICE

56 Bank Row
Greenfield, MA 01301
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ORANGE DISTRICT COURT OFFICE

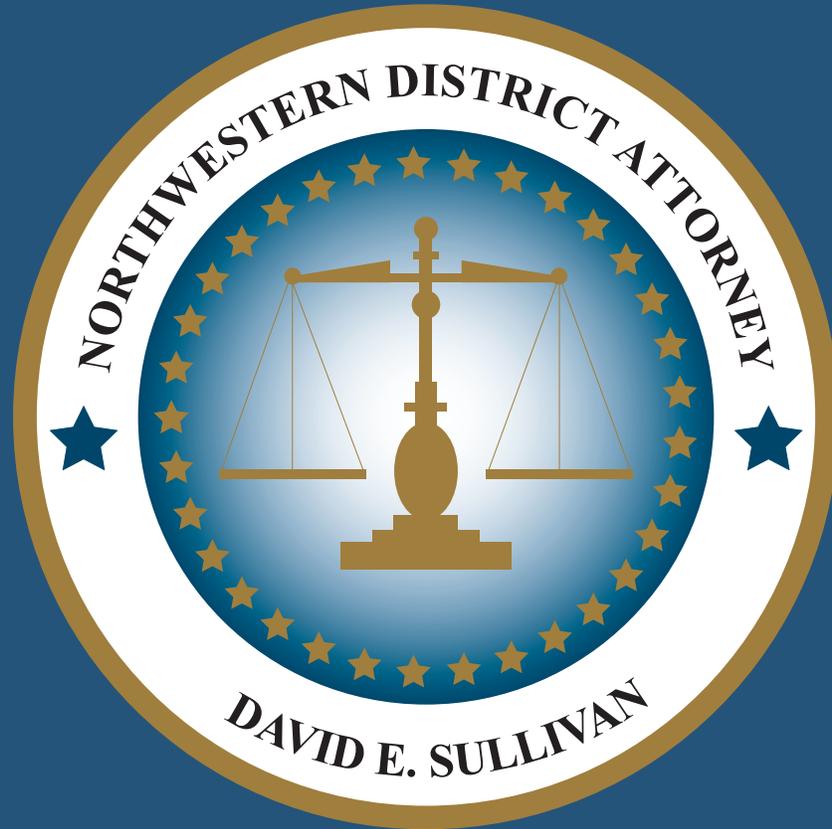
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Orange, MA 01364
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WEBSITE

NorthwesternDA.org

FACEBOOK

Northwestern District Attorney's Office



Our Mission

The Office of the Northwestern District Attorney, in partnership with the communities we serve, is dedicated to the pursuit of truth and justice, protection of the innocent, and safety of the public.

Our Vision

Our vision is to enhance public safety and quality of life for all citizens in the 47 Northwestern communities. We will be leaders in fair and effective prosecution and progressive prevention initiatives.