

Office of Northwestern District Attorney
David E. Sullivan

2013 Annual Report



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Message from District Attorney David E. Sullivan

I am pleased to report that the Office of the Northwestern District Attorney (NWDA) had another successful year. We continue to strengthen our community prosecution efforts with smart and fair prosecutions, progressive prevention initiatives, and outstanding victim assistance. Strong collaborations with our law enforcement and community partners have helped us build safer and stronger communities throughout Hampshire and Franklin counties and the town of Athol.

Some of this year's highlights include the following accomplishments and initiatives:

- **The Northwestern District Anti-Crime Task Force** was established in March, 2013 with a Community Innovation Challenge grant. The Anti-Crime Task Force, led by Massachusetts State Police Sergeant Chris Ray and NWDA Chief Trial Counsel, Jeremy Bucci, is a collaborative effort between the NWDA, state police, Franklin and Hampshire Sheriff's Departments, and local law enforcement agencies. This regional Anti-Crime Task Force helps identify, investigate and prosecute illegal narcotics offenses, unlawful firearms offenses, major crimes, and other organized criminal activities. In 9 months, the task force has increased law enforcement efforts to pool resources and target crimes in the 47 Northwestern communities. Arrests and Superior Court indictments of illegal drug traffickers have increased significantly.
- **Justice for Victims and Survivors of Northampton Arson Fires.** The conviction of serial arsonist, Anthony Baye, for 27 separate fires and the tragic deaths of Paul Yeskie and his son Paul Yeskie, Jr. was a significant achievement for our community, the NWDA, fire investigators, and law enforcement. This successful prosecution was led by Special Assistant District Attorney Brett Vottero and Assistant District Attorney (ADA) Matthew Thomas.
- The NWDA and our partner, the Northwestern Children's Advocacy Center (CAC), embarked on a new initiative to bring a **Child Advocacy Center** to our Franklin and North Quabbin regions. A local community advisory board was formed to help establish a new CAC that will serve hundreds of children each year and start them on their journey to safety, healing, and justice.
- Our **Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Unit**, led by ADA Jen Suhl and Mary Kociela, further strengthened our domestic and sexual violence prevention and prosecution efforts with numerous trainings for police, prosecutors, and community advocates. The NWDA helped initiate a nationally recognized **Campaign Against Sexual Assault on College Campuses**. The NWDA, six area colleges, and community partners developed materials and public service announcements to raise awareness and prevent sexual assault on college campuses.
- The **2nd Annual Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Conference** was held on October 16, 2013 with more than 150 middle and high school students, educators, and community partners in

attendance. The conference provided student teams with insights and strategies to educate their school community about the risks and consequences of alcohol and drug use. Dr. Marisa Silveri, an international expert on the impact of alcohol and drugs on brain development, was the keynote speaker.

- Our **2nd Annual Safe School Summit** was held on November 20, 2013. Our Summit focused on Youth Mental Health and featured Ross W. Greene, Ph.D. a noted authority on adolescent mental health and author of *The Explosive Child* and *Lost in School*. Dr. Greene and others presented workshops on how to understand, recognize, and positively impact student mental health in the classroom and community.
- The NWDA, police, and community partners held two **National Prescription Drug Take Back Days** and collected and disposed of over 2 tons of unwanted prescription and non-prescription drugs. The NWDA and Triad Coordinator, Chris Geffin, led the effort to locate **15 permanent collection boxes** in our area police stations. Since 2011, more than 14,000 pounds of unwanted medications have been collected and disposed of in an environmentally sound way.
- **Valley Gun Buy Back**. On October 5, 2013, a total of 301 working guns were collected at our first Valley Gun Buy Back located at the Northampton and Greenfield police stations. The Valley Gun Buy Back was sponsored by the NWDA, Northampton and Greenfield Police Departments, and many generous community partners.
- **The Community Restorative Justice Program** was established in Eastern Hampshire District Court. The citizen boards meet with adult offenders on criminal probation cases. This program gives community members a forum to uphold the values of the community, support and involve those victimized, and build avenues for offenders to make amends. We are grateful for the leadership of Probation Officer Kristy Paciorek who helped spearhead this initiative.
- **The Veterans Justice Partnership (VJP)** is a collaboration of the NWDA and community partners to help court-involved veterans. From October 2012 to October 2013, VJP was able to help 168 court-involved or incarcerated veterans receive benefits, services, housing, treatment, or diversion. The partnership works together to provide resources which help veterans build better futures.

I am proud of the many justice initiatives our dedicated prosecutors and staff have worked on in the past year. We have been able to achieve successes in crime prevention, public safety, and justice because of community collaboration. We are thankful to our state and federal legislators, community partners, and law enforcement professionals that support our mission.

I remain deeply grateful for the opportunity 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 coming year.

Sincerely,



District Attorney

STAFF and ORGANIZATION

Senior Management Team

District Attorney David E. Sullivan
Deputy District Attorney Janice Healy
First Assistant District Attorney Steven Gagne
Director of Operations Martha Murphy Kane
Chief Financial Officer Donna Dudkiewicz

Superior Court

First Assistant DA Steven E. Gagne
Chief Trial Counsel ADA Jeremy Bucci
ADA Michael McHale
ADA Jayme Parent
ADA Linda Pisano
ADA Carrie Russell
ADA Jen Suhl
ADA Christine Tetreault, COPS Grant
ADA Matthew Thomas
ADA Caleb Weiner
David Rist, Criminal List Manager
Ann Metzger, Senior Case Administrator
Mary-Elizabeth Connly, Superior Court Support

Economic Crimes Unit

Bob Harrison, Forensic Investigator/Fraud Examiner

Child Abuse Unit

ADA Linda Pisano, Chief
ADA Caleb Weiner
Kellie Beaulieu, CAU Coordinator/Advocate
Susan Loehn, CAC Executive Director
Suzanne Koch, Forensic Interviewer
Deb Kierstead, Family Service Advocate
Sidney Reavey, Family Service Advocate
Linda Rogers, Family Service Advocate
Heather Hubbard, Unit Administrator

Elders & Persons with Disabilities Unit

ADA Jayme Parent, Chief
Chris Geffin, EPD Unit & TRIAD Coordinator

Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Unit

ADA Jennifer Suhl, Chief
Mary Kociela, Director of DV Projects
Cassie Carter, High Risk Team Coordinator
Elizabeth Finn, AWARE/DVIP Coordinator

Appellate Unit

ADA Thomas Townsend, Chief
ADA Steven Greenbaum
ADA Cynthia Von Flatern
Kellie Mason, Paralegal

District Court

ADA Rosemary Tarantino, Chief
ADA Jeffrey Bengtson, (AIC) Greenfield
ADA Kristen Brandt, Eastern Hampshire
ADA Stephen Jacobson, Hampshire
ADA Becky Michaels, Hampshire
ADA Richard Morse, Greenfield
ADA Bob Opsitnick (AIC/DV), Eastern Hampshire
ADA Elizabeth Priest (DV), Greenfield/Orange
ADA Matt Russo, Eastern Hampshire
ADA Michael Russo, (AIC/DV) Northampton
ADA Stephen Sloan, (AIC/DV) Orange
ADA Melinda Soffer, Hampshire
ADA Joe Webber, Hampshire
ADA Anne Yereniuk, (CAU) Eastern Hampshire

*AIC=Attorney-In-Charge

*DV=Specialized Domestic Violence ADA

*CAU=Specialized Child Abuse ADA

Juvenile Justice Unit

ADA Yvonne Pesce, Chief
ADA Elizabeth Mulcahy
ADA Caitlyn Rock

Victim/Witness Assistance Unit

Jackie Gaw, Director
Bonnie Press, Deputy Director
Lori Roy, Supervisor
Wendy Adams, Advocate
Kate Clogston, Advocate
Heather Darling, Advocate
Kim Devine, Advocate
Karen Fitzpatrick, Advocate
Janice Francis, Advocate
Margaret Laselle, Advocate
Karyn Miller, Advocate
Jennifer Pise, Advocate

Consumer Protection Unit

Janice Garrett, Director
Caroline Smith, Case Coordinator

Outreach and Education Unit

Jana McClure, Director

Civil Rights Review Team

Deputy DA Janice Healy - Co-Chair
ADA Rosemary Tarantino - Co-Chair
Jana McClure – Director, Community Outreach
& Education

Communications Unit

Mary Carey, Director

IT Department

Bruce Fieldman, Director
Nathan Foote, IT Support Specialist

State Police Detective Unit

Detective Lt. Robin Whitney, Unit Commander
Sgt. John Cummings, Executive Officer
Sgt. Christopher Ray, Narcotics Unit
13 State Police Troopers

Support Staff

Jean Bryant, Hampshire Office Manager
Roberta Reardon, Franklin Office Manager
Michelle Candiano, Damion Administrator
Michelle Richotte, Executive Assistant
Sue Snyder, Executive Assistant
Kelley Mason, Paralegal
Pat Matusiewicz, Supervisor
Marygrace Patterson, Intern
Mary Bates, Administrative Assistant
Dan Carey, Administrative Assistant
Jamie Chew, Litigation Support Specialist
Luisa Cruz, Administrative Assistant
Noreen Grogan, Administrative Assistant
Donna Jackson, Administrative Assistant
Debra Jacques, Administrative Assistant
Cassie Jerome, Administrative Assistant
Vicky Novotny, Administrative Assistant
Erin O'Brien, Administrative Assistant
Karin Sheehy, Administrative Assistant

Fiscal

Donna Dudkiewicz, CFO
Higy Chan, Fiscal Assistant
Jess Diemand, Fiscal/Administrative Assistant

SUPERIOR COURT



First Assistant District Attorney Steven E. Gagne

The Superior Court Unit prosecutes some of the most serious cases that occur in the Northwestern District including murders, arsons, robberies, sexual and physical assaults, drug trafficking, child abuse, embezzlement, and vehicular homicides. Sentences in Superior Court can range from probation to life in prison, depending on the nature of the case and the criminal history of the defendant.

There are ten prosecutors assigned full-time to the Superior Court Unit, prosecuting cases in Hampshire Superior Court and Franklin Superior Court.

First Assistant District Attorney Steven E. Gagne oversees the Superior Court Unit. He approves cases for indictment, assigns indicted cases to prosecutors, and prosecutes his own caseload of felonies. In addition, he supervises the work of the Child Abuse Unit, Elders and Persons with Disabilities Unit, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Unit, Appellate Unit, Economic Crimes Unit and the Child Sexual Predator Project. He is assisted in his supervisory responsibilities by Chief Trial Counsel Jeremy Bucci, who specializes in narcotics prosecutions, homicides, search warrants, and asset forfeiture.

In 2013, Superior Court prosecutors indicted 136 new cases, while resolving a total of 109 cases by way of trial, plea, or other disposition. Convictions or admissions of guilt were obtained in approximately three-quarters of all cases prosecuted in Superior Court in 2013.



Press conference following conclusion of Anthony Baye case

Among some of the more notable cases resolved in 2013 were:

- ***Commonwealth v. Anthony Baye*** (Hampshire Superior Court) – in the early stages of his jury trial, the defendant agreed to plead guilty to setting 27 separate fires in Northampton between January 2007 and December 27, 2009, one of which claimed the lives of a father and son in their Fair Street home. The defendant was sentenced to serve 19-20 years in state prison, followed by 15 years of supervised probation. These cases were some of the most significant to come out of Hampshire County in decades. The cases were prosecuted by Special Assistant District Attorney Brett J. Vottero and Assistant District Attorney Matthew Thomas.

- ***Commonwealth v. Richard May*** (Franklin Superior Court) – the defendant, a habitual criminal based upon his prior criminal record, pleaded guilty to committing three separate armed robberies of banks in Greenfield in February and March 2013, for which he was sentenced to 9-10 years in state prison followed by four years of supervised probation. Prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Carrie Russell.
- ***Commonwealth v. Brittini Benton*** (Hampshire Superior Court) – the defendant was indicted for motor vehicle homicide after striking and killing an UMass student in Hadley, which occurred when the defendant drove southbound in the northbound lane of Route 116 while under the influence of alcohol. The defendant is currently serving a 5-7 year state prison sentence, after which she will be on five years of supervised probation. Prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Jayme Parent.
- ***Commonwealth v. Leeland Nimitz*** (Franklin Superior Court) – after a jury trial, the defendant was convicted of kidnapping, witness intimidation, violation of a restraining order, and aggravated assault and battery, in connection with a domestic assault he committed in September 2011. The defendant was sentenced to 3½ years in the House of Correction, after which he will be on supervised probation for five years. The case was tried by Assistant District Attorney Jennifer Suhl, the Chief of the Office’s Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Unit.
- ***Commonwealth v. Nancy Gehrung*** (Hampshire Superior Court) – the defendant was indicted in connection with an armed burglary she committed inside a Northampton residence on

Christmas day in 2012, during which she assaulted the homeowners with a firearm. After pleading guilty to this and other crimes, the defendant was sentenced to a total of six years incarceration, to be followed by 10 years of supervised probation. Prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Stephen Sloan.



Insurance Fraud Bureau awards NWDA \$10,000 to help fight fraud

ECONOMIC CRIMES UNIT

The Economic Crimes Unit (ECU) is comprised of First Assistant District Attorney Steve Gagne, Bob Harrison, Forensic Investigator and Certified Fraud Examiner and ADA Jayme Parent, with cases occasionally prosecuted by additional Superior Court ADAs. Since its establishment in July, 2012, the Unit has focused on the significant need for investigation and prosecution of “white collar crime”. The ECU focuses its resources, expertise, and energies toward the investigation and prosecution of economic crimes committed by bookkeepers, bank tellers, cashiers, caretakers, and other offenders who use their trust position to victimize elders, disabled persons, or employers. In 2013, economic crimes totaling more than \$1 million were under review or being prosecuted.

Two notable cases prosecuted in 2013 were:

- ***Commonwealth v. Giselle Dudley*** (Northampton District Court) - The defendant, a church administrator, received church funds and deposited them into her personal accounts for her own use. This scheme was exposed when a member of the church requested documentation of his donation for tax purposes and the Church had no record of the donation. An investigation resulted in a finding that the defendant had taken several thousand dollars and converted them for her own use. The defendant was placed on probation and ordered to repay the church and its insurance company. Prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Michael Russo.
- ***Commonwealth v. John Meisner*** (Northampton District Court) – The defendant, the treasurer for a local public school parent organization, was charged with Larceny Over \$250 by Single Scheme and Embezzlement. The allegations stem from the defendant writing unauthorized checks from the organization’s bank account. After admitting the charges, the defendant was placed on probation for 5 years and ordered to pay over \$10,000 in restitution to the organization. Prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Matthew Thomas.

CHILD ABUSE UNIT

The mission of the Northwestern District Attorney’s Child Abuse Unit (CAU) is to investigate and prosecute child abuse cases, to protect and keep children safe. The CAU team is led by Unit Chief Linda Pisano. ADA Caleb Weiner joined the CAU in May 2013 following ADA Carrie Russell’s designation as Franklin County Superior Court ADA.

The CAU works closely with law enforcement and child protective services staff to provide a multi-disciplinary approach to responding to child abuse.

2013 proved to be a very busy year for the CAU. There were 344 cases referred to the Child Abuse Unit for investigations involving 412 victims. There were 119 offenders charged in child abuse cases. 100 CAU cases were resolved in 2013, 20 of which in the Superior Court. Of the 100 overall cases resolved, 81 resulted in convictions.

- In 2013, 344 cases were referred to the CAU for investigation;
- A total of 100 cases were resolved by trial, plea or other disposition.

CAU Significant Case Highlights:

Noteworthy Superior Court cases were:

- ***Commonwealth v. Frank Stanley*** (Hampshire Superior Court) - The defendant was charged with 18 counts of child sexual abuse, including rape, indecent assault and battery and posing and exhibiting a child in a state of nudity. The crimes, which involved 3 minor male victims, occurred over the course of almost ten years. The defendant was sentenced to 20-30 years in state prison followed by 10 years of probation. Prosecuted by CAU Chief Linda Pisano.
- ***Commonwealth v. Mark Goewey*** (Franklin Superior Court) - The defendant, who was the victim’s mother’s boyfriend, sexually assaulted the victim over a lengthy period of time. The defendant was charged with three counts of aggravated rape of a child and two counts of indecent assault and battery. The defendant was sentenced to 10-12 years in state prison followed

by 5 years of probation. Prosecuted by ADA Carrie Russell.

- ***Commonwealth v. Jody Mason*** (Franklin Superior Court) - The defendant had been prosecuted in 2003 for raping and indecently assaulting the 12 year old victim. As a result of that case, the defendant was placed on lifetime probation. The defendant violated probation by his failure to register as a sex offender while living in Montague and was sentenced to 3-5 years in state prison. Prosecuted by ADA Christine Tetreault.
- ***Commonwealth v. Craig Cilley*** (Hampshire Superior Court) - As part of Operation Corral, a state wide operation to combat the trading of child pornography on the internet, a search warrant was issued for the defendant's home in Belchertown. The defendant was charged with file sharing of child pornography. A search of the defendant's computers contained some 100 to 150 videos consisting of children under the age of 18, engaged in sexual acts. The defendant received a House of Correction sentence followed by probation. Prosecuted by ADA Christine Tetreault.



Child Abuse Unit and CAC Staff

The Northwestern Children's Advocacy Centers



2013 Child Abuse Awareness Week Kick-off Breakfast, CAC Exec. Director Susan Loehn, Jane Chevalier, Sidney Reavey and CAU Chief Linda Pisano

Northwestern Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) - Northampton

The Northwestern Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) which is located in Northampton and serves all of Hampshire County, provides a child-friendly house where physically and sexually abused children receive the services that they need through a coordinated, multi-disciplinary response.



Northwestern Children's Advocacy Center in Northampton



The CAC is supported by the Northwestern Children's Advocacy Project, a non-profit organization, in collaboration with the Office of the Northwestern District Attorney, Cooley Dickinson Hospital, and local business and community supporters.



CAC Executive Director Susan Loehn accepts \$10,000 check from Massachusetts Bankers Association Charitable Foundation

Our Child Abuse Unit works collaboratively with the CAC, in screening, interviewing and helping abused children. **In 2013, 99 children were served at the CAC house in Northampton.** The CAC team served an additional 79 children through the NWDA Greenfield Office. These services include:

- Forensically sound interviews conducted by a qualified forensic interviewer, as part of a multidisciplinary Sexual Assault Intervention Network (S.A.I.N.) approach;
- Medical intervention;
- Therapeutic intervention;
- Victim and family support services.

In October of 2012, following a rigorous review process, the CAC was awarded national accreditation by the National Children's Alliance.

Northwestern Children's Advocacy Center of Franklin County and North Quabbin

A priority for District Attorney Sullivan in 2013 was to establish a Children's Advocacy Center which will serve our Franklin County and North Quabbin regions. Great strides have been made towards achieving this goal. A Community Advisory Board was created to help locate a site for the new Children's Advocacy Center and build community support for the project.



DA Sullivan and children raise the Children's Memorial Flag in Amherst For Child Abuse Awareness Month

2013 Highlights for both the Child Abuse Unit and the Children's Advocacy Center

- The CAC sponsored the 13th Annual Child Abuse Awareness month breakfast which was attended by 315 law enforcement, child advocates, and community members;
- CAU hosted 4 Northwestern District Child Fatality Review Team meetings;
- CAU held case reviews involving representatives from Department of Children and Families, medical professionals, law enforcement and a mental health professional;
- In April, District Attorney Sullivan and Northwestern District Attorney's Office staff participated in the Children's Memorial Flag-raising and Mayoral Proclamations in Northampton, Amherst and Greenfield to commemorate National Child Abuse Awareness month;

- On October 3, 2013, the Children's Advocacy Center hosted the Wet Paint Fundraiser to raise funds for the Children's Advocacy Center in Northampton and Greenfield. Numerous artists from the Valley met on September 21, 2013 and painted art work which they later donated to the Wet Paint fundraiser;
- On October 25, 2013, the Children's Advocacy Center, in conjunction with Massachusetts General Hospital and Cooley Dickinson Hospital, hosted a full day medical conference with nationally known child abuse experts presenting. The conference was attended by approximately 100 law enforcement, child protective services, mental health, medical and legal community professionals.



Raising the Children's memorial Flag in Greenfield for Child Abuse Awareness Month

COPS Grant - Child Sexual Predator Project

Launched in 2011 and funded by a federal Department of Justice Community Oriented Policing (COPS) Grant, the Child Sexual Predator Project is a NWDA initiative which seeks to protect children from sexual predators by:

- establishing and maintaining a computer forensics laboratory within the district to examine digital media for evidence of child pornography and other predatory behaviors;
- ensuring that sex offenders comply with conditions of probation, parole and registration by assisting with rigorous oversight of such offenders;
- aggressively prosecuting sex offenders who fail to comply with registration requirements or who violate conditions of probation/parole; who create, distribute or possess child pornography; and/or who target child victims through the Internet;
- training local law enforcement officers in the latest techniques for detecting child pornography on computers, cell phones and other digital media;
- maintaining a text-a-tip line which allows citizens to report offenders who are in violation of their conditions of release; who are creating, distributing or possessing child pornography; who are targeting child victims through the Internet; or who are actively offending;

Wet Paint! ²⁰¹³

Silent Art Auction & Wine Tasting for the Northwestern Children's Advocacy Project



Wet Paint! Thursday, October 3, 2013 Hotel Northampton For more information visit www.northwesternCAC.org

Paintings donated by local artists for the Wet Paint fundraiser

- collaborating with the NWDA Community Outreach & Education Unit, providing Internet safety training in the community for children, parents, educators and professionals who work with children.

Assistant District Attorney Christine M. Tetreault is the Director of the Child Sexual Predator Project.

Child Sexual Predator Task Force

In 2012, the NWDA formed a Child Sexual Predator Task Force with the help of the federal Department of Justice COPS Grant. The Task Force is led by ADA Christine Tetreault and Massachusetts State Police Detective Sgt. Tom Bakey. At the end of 2013, following the successful completion of a rigorous program, Det. Sgt. Bakey achieved the status of Certified Forensic Computer Examiner. The certification is awarded by the International Association of Computer Information Systems.

The protection of children has been the core mission of this Task Force. Members of the Task Force have worked tirelessly to hold child sexual predators accountable through investigations, prosecutions, probation and parole home audits. The investigation and prosecution of cases involving child pornography, child sexual exploitation and enticement, and failure to register as a sexual offender have been the primary functions of the Task Force. The Task Force is a collaboration of NWDA prosecutors, Mass. State Police detectives, United States Marshals Service, United States Attorney's Office, local law enforcement, and state and federal probation and parole departments.



ADA Christine Tetreault & MSP Detective Sgt. Thomas Bakey

ELDERS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES UNIT



EPDU Chief ADA Jayme Parent

Unit Coordinator Chris Geffin

The Elders and Persons with Disabilities Unit (EPDU) investigates and prosecutes crimes in which elders and persons with disabilities have been victimized. EPDU also provides education and training to vulnerable populations and local law enforcement agencies in areas of prevention and effective investigation of financial exploitation, physical and sexual abuse and caretaker neglect. The Unit works with state civil agencies including adult protective services agencies and human resource agencies, on joint investigations where there are allegations of abuse or neglect by caretakers or others.

The Unit is led by Assistant District Attorney Jayme Parent and Unit Coordinator Chris Geffin. Cases are referred to the Unit by the Disabled Persons Protection Commission (DPPC), adult

protective service agencies, local and state law enforcement agencies and private citizens.

In 2013, the Elders and Persons with Disabilities Protection Unit investigated and/or prosecuted over 150 cases in which elders or persons with disabilities were victims.

2013 EPDU Case Highlights:

- ***Commonwealth v. Linda Valotta*** (Franklin County) -The defendant, a caregiver for a couple in their nineties, wrote more than forty unauthorized checks from the couple's checking account. The total loss was in excess of \$24,000.00. The defendant pled guilty to multiple counts of larceny from an elder, forgery and uttering and was sentenced to 5 years probation. Prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Jayme Parent.
- ***Commonwealth v. Daniel Orzol*** (Hampshire County) -The defendant broke into the home of a 77 year old man confronting and shoving the victim as he left the scene. While in the home, the defendant stole coins and jewelry; some of which was recovered. The defendant was sentenced to serve 1 year in the House of Correction followed by a period of probation. Prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Matthew Russo.
- ***Commonwealth v. Vernon Nelson*** (Franklin County) - Based on prior incidents, the defendant, whose parents were in their eighties, was trespassed from their residence. In violation of the order, the defendant went to the residence and assaulted his mother. When the police arrived, the defendant prevented his mother from responding to the police and, thereafter, resisted arrest. The

defendant was sentenced to serve 18 months in the House of Correction. Prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Stephen Sloan.

2013 EPDU Special Initiatives



Permanent Drug Take Back Box at Greenfield PD

2013 Drug Take Back Campaign

On February 13, 2013, the Northwestern District Attorney's Office along with 15 police departments in the Northwestern District launched the permanent drug take back initiative. Fifteen permanent drug boxes were installed in the following police departments: Amherst, Athol, Belchertown, Deerfield, Easthampton, Erving, Granby, Greenfield, Hadley, Montague, Northampton, Orange, South Hadley, Sunderland and Ware. **Since the first collection in March 2013, our permanent boxes have collected a total of 3,156 pounds of unused medications.**



April 27, 2013 National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, Belchertown

The April 27, 2013 Drug Take Back collection yielded 1,737 lbs. of unused medications. The total of **permanent and National Take Back Drug collections for 2013 was 4,893 pounds.**

Since 2011, our Drug Take Back initiatives have collected and environmentally disposed of 14,393 lbs. of unused medication.



DA Sullivan and Chris Geffin at Covanta Energy Systems

On October 30, 2013, DA Sullivan was recognized by Covanta Energy Systems for his leadership in getting unused drugs out of people's homes. This was to commemorate Covanta Energy Systems milestone of having

burned 1 million pounds of unwanted medications.



Getting prescription drugs out of the wrong hands with Drug Take Back Day

Senior Outreach and Education



Amherst TRIAD members help at National Prescription Drug Take Back Day

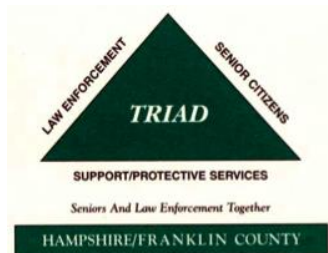
The TRIAD Program

As part of the EPDU, the TRIAD program plays a major role in building community partnerships in order to better serve seniors. TRIAD is a community policing initiative of seniors, law enforcement and service providers which is focused on increasing safety through education and crime prevention. Its goals are:

- To reduce criminal activity which targets seniors;
- To alleviate seniors' fears of victimization, build confidence and improve their quality of life;

- To enhance the delivery of law enforcement services to seniors.

TRIAD is anchored by the Northwestern District's three top law enforcement officials: District Attorney David E. Sullivan, Hampshire County Sheriff Robert Garvey, and Franklin County Sheriff Christopher Donelan. Chris Geffin services as the NWDA TRIAD Coordinator.



TRIAD Activities for 2013:

Numerous community education and outreach projects took place with our TRIAD program in 2013:

- 20 Educational programs on Elder Protection;
- 3 Health and Safety Fairs;
- 2 Community Safety nights (Granby and So. Hadley);
- House Numbering program continues and has numbered over 10,000 homes in the jurisdiction;
- Presentation at 3 conferences on the Elder Protection and Drug Take Back, Western Mass DPH conference, Mass Council on Aging New England Conference and Department of Fire Services annual conference;
- 2 Community Shredding Events;
- Continued collaboration with the following communities to implement the TRIAD Program: Amherst, Belchertown, Hadley, Deerfield, Granby, South Hadley, Southampton, Westhampton, Ware, Greenfield, Whatley, Worthington, Montague, and Northampton.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT UNIT



Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Unit Chief
Jennifer Suhl

The Chief of the Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Unit (DVSAU) is ADA Jennifer Suhl. The Unit also includes four highly trained and experienced staff members: Mary Kociela, Director of DV Projects; Cassie Carter, High Risk Team Coordinator; Elizabeth Finn, DVIP/AWARE Project Coordinator; and Karin Sheehy, Administrative Assistant. Susan Loehn, DV Prosecutor Liaison and former Unit Chief who served in the Unit for twenty years, retired in September of this year. Attorney Loehn currently serves as the CAC Executive Director.

The Unit is responsible for overseeing the prosecution of all domestic violence and adult sexual assault cases in the Northwestern District.

The majority of domestic violence (DV) cases in 2013 were handled in the District Courts. In order to provide comprehensive and consistent treatment of domestic violence cases at the District Court level, the District Attorney has designated a specialized domestic violence prosecutor in each of the four district courts: Elizabeth Priest in Greenfield, Steve Sloan in Orange, Michael Russo in Northampton and Robert Opsitnick in Belchertown.

The Unit collaborates with numerous community and law enforcement partners to deliver coordinated, best-practice prosecution of all DV cases.

- Approximately 8 percent of the total cases prosecuted at the District Court level in the Northwestern District were domestic violence cases for a total of 1282 cases.
- In 2013, grand jury indictments were obtained in 11 domestic violence cases which were prosecuted in Superior Court.
- Two cases involving domestic violence homicides will be tried in 2014.
- There were a total of 70 adult sexual assault cases; 61 at the District Court level and 9 in Superior Court.

The Unit also coordinates numerous prevention and intervention initiatives aimed at strengthening victim safety and offender accountability and facilitates a task force of over 100 community and law enforcement members.



Several members of the Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Unit



Getting ready for the 2013 White Ribbon Campaign student video contest-DA Sullivan & Director of DV Projects Mary Kociela

2013 DVSAU Initiatives:

District Attorney's Task Force on Domestic and Sexual Violence

The District Attorney's Task Force on Domestic and Sexual Violence (TF) is made up of members of law enforcement, victim service advocates and community leaders. The Task Force meets monthly and offers training and networking opportunities for people working to end domestic and sexual violence. In 2013, meetings included updated information and trainings on topics such as services for teens, service dogs assisting survivors in court, human trafficking laws, non-fatal strangulation, elder abuse and updates on DV laws. The Task Force also crafted a letter, signed by District Attorney Sullivan on behalf of the Task Force, which was sent to Governor Patrick and several ranking members of the House and Senate. The letter supported Senate Bill 760, House Bill 1275, a bill which proposes changes to DV law. A priority of the Task Force was the proposal to designate strangulation as a felony crime and to eliminate the use of accord and satisfaction agreements in DV cases.



2013 White Ribbon Campaign Video PSA contest winners from UMass

White Ribbon Campaign

In 2013, the Task Force organized the 6th Annual White Ribbon Campaign to involve men in the movement to end violence against women. Two colleges and ten high schools held events in their schools and the pledge was taken at several community events throughout the year. Over 4,000 white ribbons were distributed and over one thousand students and staff took an official pledge to end violence against women. A particular highlight of the campaign is the video contest. In 2013, students from Granby High School and UMass-Amherst were selected as the winners. All video submissions may be viewed on our webpage.

DVIP/AWARE Project

The NWDA continued its work through the Domestic Violence Intervention Project (DVIP) which is funded through a Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security STOP Grant. The DVIP is an early intervention program designed to coordinate the efforts of police, advocates, court personnel and batterer's intervention programs. Specially trained advocates from local battered women's programs, NELCWIT & Safe Passage, are immediately available following a domestic violence incident. Police departments, in Franklin and Hampshire County and the Town of Athol, contact an on-call advocate who in turn contacts the victim. Advocates offer victims immediate support, safety information

and referrals for counseling, shelter and/or legal advocacy. New locks were installed for several victims of abuse. Representatives from the local batterer's intervention program, Moving Forward, are also available to meet with offenders in court at the time of arraignment. Offenders are provided with information about their responsibilities under the law and available batterer's intervention groups. Quarterly DVIP partnership meetings were held for police, dispatchers and advocates. In 2013, training topics included working with homeless and LGBTQ populations, human trafficking laws and non-fatal strangulation investigation.

The AWARE (Abused Women's Active Response Emergency) project provides victims of domestic violence with in-home personal safety alarms. Identified participants are given a silent alarm pendant allowing them priority police response in a domestic violence emergency. Although ADT Security, Inc. no longer installs new alarms free of cost, they have continued to monitor existing alarms. On occasion, alarms are also offered at a reduced rate for those survivors who can afford the installation cost. Recipients of these alarms continue to receive ongoing support by the Project Coordinator, Elizabeth Finn.

In 2013, the DVIP published three DV law enforcement newsletters which were distributed to law enforcement in the district. Newsletters featured articles about human trafficking laws, elder abuse, working with LGBTQ survivors, resources for homeless victims of violence, accord & satisfactions in DV cases and non-fatal strangulation investigation.

Finally, a "roll call" video was created this year to assist new police officers in their understanding of the DVIP program and inform them of the process for contacting on-call advocates. The short video includes a segment with staff from our answering service at Crocker Communications and with a DVIP Advocate and police officer experienced with the program. The video will be distributed to all police

departments and posted on the DA's website once final edits are made.



High Risk Team Coordinator Cassie Carter presenting to police

Domestic Violence High Risk Team Project

In an effort to reduce domestic violence homicides and to identify the most serious, repeat offenders, high risk teams in each county were established in 2010. Evidence based research has identified a set standard of high risk behaviors that can substantially increase the level of risk for victims. By identifying high risk behaviors and sharing case information, the teams make recommendations to maximize offender accountability and safety for victims. The purpose of the project is to identify and closely monitor high risk offenders in order to prevent further incidents of abuse and homicide. Teams collaborate with representatives from Probation Departments, Houses of Correction, the Parole Board, police, 911 dispatchers, NWDA prosecutors, Department of Children and Families and community advocates. Once an offender is identified as high risk, detailed information regarding that offender, as well as his/her victim(s), is distributed to dispatchers, police, probation, prosecutors, and other agencies to ensure a coordinated, comprehensive, and consistent response to future incidents involving the offender.

In 2013, as a means to strengthen our ability to protect victims, the Coordinator, Cassie Carter, met with the Chiefs of Probate and Family Courts in both Franklin and Hampshire Counties. They have now begun to send staff to team meetings and can offer information on divorce proceedings and other non-criminal matters that are essential to a full understanding of high risk cases.

Also this year, in response to a growing number of strangulation cases, a checklist was created to assist police officers in their investigation of these cases. The checklist is used as a guide when interviewing victims and can then be attached to the police report. It includes important information that informs victims of safety concerns and can greatly enhance the prosecution's case. Ten regional police trainings were held throughout the District to train officers in high risk assessment, strangulation investigation and in the use of the checklist. Each department received a digital camera (acquired through VAWA STOP grant funds) and information on its use for taking photographs at the scene. Officers also received evidence bags and learned about the safe delivery of cell phones to departments where they can upload messages in stalking cases.

In August, Jennifer Suhl and Mary Kociela attended the Advanced Strangulation Course taught by the Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention in San Diego, CA. The course covered the history and research of domestic violence and sexual assault strangulation crimes and key aspects of the medical, law enforcement, and prosecution's response to strangulation cases. Course materials will be incorporated in our local trainings for law enforcement and first responders.

DVSAU Community Outreach and Education



Turners Falls plaque in memory of DV victims

Each year, the Unit sponsors several training and outreach programs. In 2013, this included programs for middle school and high school students, first responders, health professionals, police officers, social workers and community advocates. Staff presented our Domestic Violence High Risk Project at a state-wide conference and educated social workers and counselors about non-fatal strangulation. The District Attorney and Unit staff also attended several community events including the Take Back Our Lives Rally in March which was sponsored by NELCWIT, a memorial tree planting in Turners Falls to honor and remember past domestic violence homicide victims, a tree planting ceremony in Northampton in honor and memory of Sherry and Cedric Morton and The Friends of NELCWIT annual celebration of women at Greenfield Community College.

Sexual Assault Prevention Campaign



With funding from an Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant, the NWDA launched a Sexual Assault Prevention Media Campaign in 2012. The focus of the campaign is to increase college students' understanding of consent in cases of sexual assault and to illustrate ways students can be active bystanders to protect themselves and others on campus. In 2013, the campaign really got underway with students from each of the 5 colleges in Hampshire County and Greenfield Community College participating in the design of the logo and writing of the scripts for the PSA's. The final consent logo above was produced on posters, buttons and stickers and three PSA's were taped utilizing local student actors. All of the media products were unveiled at a conference held at Hampshire College on April 5th which was attended by students, college presidents, Title IX Coordinators, Deans, sexual assault prevention staff, campus police and members of the DA's office. Products and PSA's can be viewed at our website: northwesternda.org.



New York Times photo of Campus Sexual Assault Prevention poster

Conference participants developed an action plan which was distributed to all conference attendees. A priority of the action plan was to work with Title IX Coordinators and Deans to incorporate the PSA's into freshman orientation and to display posters as interior bus ads. In June, a working group began meeting with administrators and staff at UMass-Amherst to do just that. Posters and PSA's were adapted to incorporate the "U Matter at UMass" theme and all Resident Assistants were trained to utilize the PSA's to educate incoming freshman. UMass also allocated funds to resize the posters for exterior bus ads to be displayed in 2014.



Sexual Assault Response Team

Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)

The SART is a coordinated, multi-disciplinary team of people, including Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Unit Chief Jennifer Suhl, ADA Susan Loehn, and Victim-Witness Unit Chief Jackie Gaw, who respond to sexual assaults. The Center for Women & Community coordinates the SART, which includes representatives of: Law Enforcement, Health Care, Forensic Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners, Prosecutors, and Victim/Survivor Advocates. The SART reviews best practice models in responding to sexual assault that are victim centered and increase the chances of effective prosecution. SART members share these models within their own department and develop and implement cross training opportunities.

In 2013, the SART completed a training video entitled "Best Police Practice in Responding to Sexual Assault" which was distributed to all 47 cities and towns in the Northwestern District along with written materials. The video was designed to assist patrol and desk officers in understanding how best to respond to a victim/survivor's initial call to the police to report a sexual assault. In addition, members of the SART training team conducted on-site trainings for interested departments which allowed participants to not only acquire important information, but to get direct answers to questions regarding appropriate responses to victim/survivors.

In May, several members of the SART team presented at the Board of Directors meeting of the National Sexual Violence Resource Center. The SART was invited to present at the meeting to inform the attendees (who came from all over the country) about the SART and the way in which it worked to establish and coordinate a "team" approach to sexual assault response so that the model may be used in other parts of the country.

In November, the SART held a free, open training regarding emerging immigrant communities in the Pioneer Valley. The training helped attendees understand best practices for working with immigrants and specifically how to increase the likelihood that immigrants would report crimes such as sexual assault.

At the end of 2013, the SART began development of a law enforcement roundtable training series designed to bring experienced and seasoned sexual assault investigators from throughout the Northwestern District together to discuss complex sexual assault investigations, such as cases involving drug and alcohol use by the victim/survivor and the perpetrator and cases involving victim/survivors suffering from mental health disorders. This training series will be implemented in 2014.

APPELLATE UNIT



ADAs Cynthia Von Flatern, Thomas Townsend and Steven Greenbaum

The Appellate Unit is comprised of ADAs Thomas Townsend (Chief), Cynthia Von Flatern, and Steven Greenbaum. The three members of the Appellate Unit represent the NWDA before the Massachusetts appellate courts. When a defendant is convicted of a crime, he or she may challenge that conviction by filing a legal brief outlining any purported errors that may have occurred at trial. Upon receipt of the defendant's brief, an appellate prosecutor is assigned to respond with an opposing brief and then to argue the merits of the appeal before a panel of judges in Boston. The Unit also supports all ADAs through legal updates and advice.

- 2013 was a record-breaking year for the Appellate Unit. Its members filed 42 briefs -- the most briefs in NWDA's history. And the Appellate Unit caseload shows no signs of abating.
- There were 55 new cases entered in the Massachusetts Appeals Court in 2013: a 25% increase over 2012, a 50% increase over 2011, and a 150% increase over 2010.
- The NWDA also has several cases pending in the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, including five first-degree murder convictions.

Notable appellate decisions from 2013 include:

Certain appellate decisions are published to serve as precedent in future cases. Among the NWDA's published decisions from 2013 are

- ***Commonwealth v. Steven Smeaton***, in which the NWDA appealed all the way to the Supreme Judicial Court and won an important victory which validated a college police officer's power to enforce the law and safeguard students in areas near the college campus.
- ***Commonwealth v. Yardley Y.***, in which the Supreme Judicial Court agreed with the NWDA that a juvenile-court judge possesses the authority to deny motions for a new trial that attempt to undermine settled criminal dispositions.
- ***Commonwealth v. Avram A.***, in which the Appeals Court, in a widely reported and discussed case, upheld a judge's restitution order which required a 12-year-old boy to reimburse his neighbors for spray-painting graffiti on their houses. The Court rejected the claim that the boy was too young to pay for the damage that he had caused, noting that he was capable of raking leaves, shoveling snow, or collecting cans.

The Appellate Unit also responds to motions for a new trial, which can be filed at the trial level before or after an appeal.

In 2013, the NWDA responded to a record total of 25 motions for a new trial.

In addition, the Appellate Unit oversees parole hearings for those serving life sentences but who are eligible for parole.



Old Courthouse, Northampton

SEXUALLY DANGEROUS PERSONS UNIT

The Sexually Dangerous Person (SDP) Unit is responsible for reviewing cases in which an individual is completing any sentence after being convicted of a sex offense. The purpose of the review is to determine whether or not the individual meets the criteria of a Sexually Dangerous Person as outlined in the statute, G.L. c. 123A. It is not the intention of the law to retry the inmate on his sex offense, but to determine if he poses a risk to the safety of the public at the present time if not confined to a secure facility.

SDP Unit Staff

Two seasoned prosecutors, Jayme Parent and Steve Greenbaum, handle all of the SDP cases for the Office. Sue Snyder supports the Unit as our SDP Coordinator.

In calendar year 2013, the Northwestern District Attorney's Office reviewed sixty (60) inmates under G.L. c. 123A, the Sexually Dangerous Persons (SDP) statute. Of the sixty inmates reviewed, six were sent to experts for review after an initial review by members of the SDP Unit. After review by experts, two of these inmates met the criteria of the SDP statute and two new SDP petitions were filed during 2013. Of these two petitions, one was dismissed after both independent qualified examiners found

that the individual did not meet the G.L. ch. 123A criteria and one remains pending awaiting completion of examination by the independent qualified examiners.



Belchertown District Court ADAs and staff

DISTRICT COURT

The District Court is the gateway to the criminal justice system. It is where the vast majority of criminal cases are prosecuted. The District Courts in the Northwestern District are located in Northampton, Belchertown, Greenfield and Orange. These courts have jurisdiction over all misdemeanors, including drug offenses, weapon offenses and motor vehicle offenses. The District Courts also have jurisdiction over those felonies that are punishable by imprisonment in the state prison for not more than 5 years.

Rosemary Tarantino is the Chief of the District Court Unit. She supervises the eleven ADAs who are assigned to the four District Courts. There were several staff departures in 2013. Three ADAs with prior prosecutorial experience were hired: Anne Yereniuk, Matt Russo and Melinda Soffer. Joe Webber also joined the District Court team.



District Court ADA Anne Yereniuk

In addition to designating a senior ADA as "Attorney in Charge" (AIC) in each of the four District Courts, DA Sullivan also designated ADAs in each of these courts as "Domestic Violence" (DV) prosecutors. An ADA in the Belchertown District Court has been designated as a Child Abuse (CAU) prosecutor.

Assistant District Attorneys in District Court managed 15,310 cases in 2013.

New District Court Initiatives:

Best Practices Committee

A review of internal practices and procedures was conducted in an effort to identify and establish the "best practices" to use in the four District Courts. Best practices were established in a number of different areas, including file creation and maintenance, data collection and case preparation.

Staff and Prosecutor Training

The Training Committee sponsored, hosted or conducted fifteen internal trainings on a variety of topics including failure to register as a sex offender cases, DNA, opening statements and Rule 17 (discovery) motions.

Prosecutors and staff were involved in numerous advanced trainings and conferences in addition to NWDA trainings.

JUVENILE JUSTICE UNIT



ADAs Elizabeth Mulcahy, Caitlyn Rock and Yvonne Pesce, Unit Chief

The Juvenile Justice Unit aims to reduce youth violence and crime through the use of a coordinated community approach that includes early intervention and prevention. The Juvenile Court has jurisdiction over delinquency matters; youthful offenders; civil Children Requiring Assistance (CRA) and Care and Protection matters; and adult criminal complaints of contributing to the delinquency of a minor. With the exception of youthful offender cases, juvenile court proceedings are closed to the public.

The Juvenile Justice Unit team is led by Unit Chief Yvonne Pesce, and includes ADA Caitlyn Rock, who covers Franklin County; ADA Elizabeth Mulcahy, who serves as the Unit's Community Prosecutor and Diversion Program Coordinator; and two victim witness advocates, Janice Francis and Heather Darling. The Juvenile Unit handles cases in the four juvenile courts located in Hampshire and Franklin counties.

Delinquency Cases

In September of 2013, a new law (Chapter 84 Of the Acts of 2013) went into effect which expanded the age of Juvenile Court jurisdiction in Massachusetts from 17 to 18, thereby providing 17 year olds with access to the benefits of the juvenile justice system.

While the NWDA has not experienced a substantial increase in cases, the new law

necessitated a complete review of all cases involving 17-year-olds who were already in the district courts, in order to ensure fairness in dispositions.

During 2013, the Juvenile Unit handled 251 delinquency cases in Hampshire County, out of both the Hadley and Belchertown Juvenile sessions. In Franklin County and the town of Athol, the Juvenile Unit handled 200 delinquency cases out of both Greenfield and Orange Juvenile courthouses.

Many of the delinquency cases in both counties required additional investigative assistance, requiring collaboration between the Unit, school administrators, local law enforcement and State Police detectives.

For serious crimes in which certain criteria are met, the District Attorney can elect to prosecute a juvenile as a Youthful Offender which allows a judge to sentence the individual as a juvenile or as an adult. In order for a juvenile case to be prosecuted as a Youthful Offender, the case must be presented to a Grand Jury for indictment. If an indictment is returned, the case proceeds in Juvenile Court. In 2013, three juveniles were indicted as Youthful Offenders for violent crimes including an armed masked robbery.

Additionally during 2013, three defendants were the subjects of Transfer Hearings pursuant to G.L. c. 119, section 72A. Although the crimes were committed when the defendants were juveniles, a transfer hearing was required in each of these cases because the offenses were not reported until after each defendant became an adult. These cases were charged in Juvenile Court and after an evidentiary transfer hearing, were sent to adult court for prosecution.

- In 2013, the NWDA handled 451 delinquency cases;
- The Franklin County Juvenile Unit handled 200 delinquency cases;
- The Hampshire County Juvenile Unit handled 251 delinquency cases.

In order to further enhance their knowledge and skills, all of the Juvenile Justice Unit prosecutors attended numerous trainings and conferences, including the prosecution of child sex offenses; cell phone and child pornography investigations; distracted driving prosecutions and trial advocacy.



Juvenile Diversion Program

The Northwestern District Attorney's Office's Juvenile Diversion Program offers an alternative to formal prosecution in the juvenile court to certain eligible offenders under the age of 18. Utilizing a pre-arraignment model, the diversion program is designed to protect participating youth from having a juvenile record. Juveniles in the program are given the opportunity to attend and complete counseling and educational programs, perform community service and, when applicable, pay restitution, in lieu of prosecution. An important goal of the diversion program is to address the underlying causes of juvenile delinquency in order to enable the juvenile to be held accountable while at the same time addressing his or her individual needs.

ADA Liz Mulcahy serves as the Coordinator for the Juvenile Diversion Program.



ADAs Yvonne Pesce and Liz Mulcahy at NoFIRE Conference

In 2013, 97 juvenile cases were handled through our Diversion Program: 52 in Hampshire County and 45 in Franklin County.

Community-Based Justice Meetings

The Community Based Justice Program (CBJ) is a statutorily mandated school-based initiative designed to establish and coordinate a partnership between schools, police, and state agencies to address school violence and violence prevention. CBJ meetings are convened by a Juvenile Unit ADA throughout the school year and provide a forum to share information regarding violent and at-risk youth, as well as individual students whose conduct has raised concerns about their health, safety or well-being. These meetings also serve to provide a means to build relationships and foster communication between the NWDA, local law enforcement agencies, schools, and state service agencies.

Safe Schools Response Team

District Attorney Sullivan established a Safe School's Response Team to enable the Northwestern District Attorney's Office to review and promptly respond to complaints and referrals involving harassment, threats, bullying, and civil rights violations occurring in schools.

Additional goals of the initiative 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.

Members of the Safe School Response Team include Deputy District Attorney Janice Healy, Juvenile Justice Unit Chief Yvonne Pesce, Assistant District Attorneys Caitlyn Rock and Liz Mulcahy, Victim-Witness Advocates Janice Francis and Heather Darling, Director of Community Outreach & Education Jana McClure and Administrative Assistant Sue Snyder.

Issues reviewed and investigated in 2013 included complaints alleging civil rights violations, threats, cyber-bullying, harassment and bullying.

Juvenile Justice Unit Outreach and Education

During 2013, the Juvenile Justice Unit was actively involved in the development of numerous conferences and outreach programs aimed at youth, parents, and school personnel.



Students participating in Distracted Driving workshop at the NWDA's 2nd Annual Youth Conference

2nd Annual Youth Conference on Substance Abuse Prevention

On October 16, 2013, more than 150 middle and high school students, educators and community partners, attended the 2nd Annual

Youth Conference on Substance Abuse Prevention at Greenfield Community College(GCC). The theme of the 2013 conference – Be the Influence- focused not only on providing students with the knowledge and tools to make good decisions about alcohol and drugs, but also on how they can be a positive influence with their friends and help them to make healthy choices. The conference featured keynote speaker, Dr. Marisa Silveri, a recognized expert in brain development and the impact of alcohol and drugs on the adolescent brain. This conference was sponsored by the NWDA, GCC, Partnership for Youth, SPIFFY and the Northampton Prevention Coalition. These community partners helped fund and plan this successful event and also assisted, along with the Gill-Montague Community School Partnership, with inter-active workshops on “building your best brain” and creating media messages; distracted and impaired driving; and producing educational theater. Both Caught Off Guard, the student educational theater group from Northampton High School and the Not Ready for Bedtime Players from UMass-Amherst performed at the conference.



Ware High School students at NWDA's 2nd Annual Youth Conference

VICTIM/WITNESS ASSISTANCE UNIT

The purpose of the Victim/Witness Assistance (VWA) Unit within the Northwestern District Attorney's Office is to provide information, support and advocacy services for victims, witnesses and survivors throughout the criminal justice process by ensuring the delivery of

mandated rights enumerated in G.L. c. 258B. The advocates work with the Assistant District Attorneys throughout the pendency of a case in an effort to provide a team approach and ensure effective communication with victims. The advocates strive to prevent secondary victimization within the court system by trying to ensure a victim's safety and to make sure that each victim has a voice in the process. **In 2013, over 3,000 victims and 1,800 witnesses were given assistance.**

VWA Unit Statistics

In Hampshire County, our advocates were assigned to 1305 cases. They assisted 1649 victims, 1151 witnesses and 26 family members.

In Franklin County, our advocates were assigned to 1117 cases. They assisted 1352 victims, 724 witnesses and 26 family members.

In addition, advocates from both counties assisted prosecutors with open investigations regarding reported sexual assaults and motor vehicle crashes that resulted in death. In these instances, the advocates provided much needed information and guidance to a victim or family member about their rights and services available to them, such as Victim Compensation. Also, referrals were made to outside agencies where appropriate, such as the Center for Women and Community, the Drunk Driving Trust Fund program, Community Crisis Response Team and the Homicide Bereavement Program.

Over the course of 2013, our staff filed 298 approved applications to the Victim Notification Registry for either Offender Release Information or CORI certification for access to documents and offender BOP records. This reflects an increase of 35% from 2012.

Statewide, in comparison with other District Attorney's Offices, the NWDA Victim Witness Assistance Unit is highly competitive in total accepted applications. This reflects not only the success in prosecutions and sentences of incarceration, but also reveals the attention of the advocates to providing proper post-conviction services to victims, witnesses and family members.



Planting a flowering cherry tree in honor of domestic violence victims



VW Advocate Kim Devine

In 2013, our staff had one new addition. Kim Devine started officially in January as an advocate assigned to work in the Franklin County office, primarily in the Orange District Court, but also to assist in Greenfield. Kim brought with her several years of experience as an advocate. She was previously a member of this office in the 1990's.

Also, we welcomed back Kathy Bengtson who provided coverage in Orange District Court for a staff member on leave. Her professionalism and expertise were greatly appreciated.

Karen Fitzpatrick saw her responsibilities change in 2013. Karen became the Domestic Violence/Sexual Violence Advocate for Greenfield under the GTEA Grant. Karen is tasked with handling intimate partner violence and sexual assault cases and investigations in the Greenfield District and Superior Courts. In addition, she is an active member of the Franklin High Risk Team and the NWDA's Domestic and Sexual Violence Task Force.

The Victim Witness Unit was fortunate to have had 9 interns work within the Unit in 2013. Four hailed from UMass, 2 from Westfield State, 1 from Smith College and 1 from Champlain College in Vermont. They all brought diverse backgrounds and enthusiasm to the job at hand. The interns were a delight to have with us and proved to be great assets to our program. They all acclimated well to the courtroom and office environment and provided great support to the advocates in their daily tasks.

2013 VWA Training and Outreach

In 2013, our advocates participated in and attended a number of professional development opportunities. Most notably, a number of staff attended the annual MOVA Victim Rights Conference and the MDAA Victim Advocate Conference. Throughout the year, various staff members were sent to conferences and seminars which touched on topics such as Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault on Campus Awareness, 58A Hearings, Safe Schools, Economic Security for DV Survivors and Homicide Bereavement.

In collaboration with MOVA and the Hampden County and Berkshire County VWA Directors, our office participated in a Western Mass. Homicide Forum discussion. This forum brought together providers within our region who focus on homicide bereavement, prosecution and counseling to have a conversation and network about services available in our jurisdictions.

In February, Jen Pise represented the VWA Unit at the UMass Career Fair. Jen and other office personnel manned a table and information booth targeting students looking for guidance and direction as to employment and internships.



Videographer Jim Garrett filming domestic violence community advocate Yoko Kato for Victim/Witness education video

Working with Mary Carey, the Director of Communications, several projects were completed. One was a video produced to air on the NWDA's website and local public channels which featured the VWA Unit Director and several staff. This video's goal was to introduce the public to the VWA Program and its purpose. Also, in recognition of National Crime Victims' Rights Week, various versions of Victims' Rights posters were created and distributed to partner agencies for posting.

In July of 2013, four advocates attended the Massachusetts Victim Assistance Academy. This Academy is a weeklong intense program for victim service providers with less than 5 years experience. All four reported this training to be rigorous and highly rewarding in their continued professional development and skills improvement.

Two public service roundtables were filmed at Greenfield Community Television (GCTV) for broadcast in Hampshire and Franklin Counties. DA Sullivan moderated a discussion of victim rights.



Advocate of the Year Bonnie Press (center) with the NWDA Staff

Recognition

In May, Deputy Director Bonnie Press was recognized by the Massachusetts District Attorney's Association (MDAA) with their Advocate of the Year Award. This award is named the Gerard D. Downing Award after former Berkshire District Attorney Downing, who was a champion of Victims' Rights in Massachusetts. Bonnie is a most deserving recipient of this recognition for her tireless dedication to victim services. We are fortunate to have her on our staff to be the model of what an advocate is and stands for.

Case of Note

- ***Commonwealth v. Anthony Baye*** - 2013 saw the disposition of one of the most publicized and tragic cases the NWDA has handled. Anthony Baye was charged with 2 counts of Murder and 40 other counts including Arson, Attempted Arson and Breaking and Entering arising out of a several year odyssey of setting fires to cars and homes, mostly in the Ward 3 section of Northampton. The residents of this area lived in fear for a number of years due to the random nature of these fires, culminating on December 27, 2009 in the deaths of Paul Yeskie Sr. and Paul Yeskie Jr. and the setting of up to 15 other fires that night.

After one day of trial testimony, the defendant ultimately pled guilty to 2 counts of Manslaughter and to all the remaining counts. He received a sentence of 19-20 years to be followed by 15 years of probation.

Heather Darling was assigned to this case from its inception in 2009 and later worked with Director Jackie Gaw. Heather tirelessly worked with a large number of victims and witnesses. Her organization and willingness to do whatever was needed was paramount to a successful outcome.

VWA Unit Accomplishments

The on-going mission of securing Safe and Secure Waiting Areas (SSWA) in all courthouses continued into 2013. The SSWA Task Force continues to monitor and assess the progress of the implementation of the proper use of these rooms.

One success for Franklin County was the establishment of a SSWA in the Greenfield courthouse. Space vacated by the county offices provided an opportunity for a room to be used for witnesses. Thanks to the focused determination of staff and the cooperation of court personnel, a safe area was finally provided for our victims and witnesses. Special thanks goes to Wendy Adams for her commitment to creating a secure waiting area for victims and witnesses. Her foresight in knowing what is important to making a victim feel at ease and to lessen anxiety was vital in this room's furnishings and atmosphere.

In 2013, the Victim/Witness Assistance Unit of the Northwestern District Attorney's Office continued to excel in providing the statutory rights and services that victims, witnesses and family members are entitled to. The staff in both Hampshire and Franklin County have sustained a constant level of proficiency, compassion and dedication to their work. The citizens of both counties are well served by the

program. The commitment and expertise of the advocates are the keys to the success of this program and it is anticipated that this degree of professionalism will continue in the coming years.

CONSUMER PROTECTION UNIT



Case Coordinator Caroline Smith answering consumer calls

The Northwestern District Attorney's office has been home to a local consumer protection program since 1973. The Consumer Protection Unit's Director, Janice Garrett and Case Coordinator, Caroline Smith, are trained mediators who work to resolve consumer complaints through an informal mediation process and also provide resources and referrals to the public. Unit staff also provide education and outreach programs throughout both counties in order to give consumers the information they need to make informed decisions and protect themselves against scams and fraud.

The Consumer Protection Unit (CPU) works in cooperation with the Attorney General's Office (AGO). We are one of eighteen programs throughout the state which receives a grant from the AGO to provide a local consumer program.



Consumer Protection Unit Chief Janice Garrett advises a consumer

2013 CPU Highlights

In addition to the coverage area of Hampshire and Franklin Counties, the Consumer Protection Unit was asked by the AGO to cover all of Worcester County from March through June 30th. The CPU rose to this challenge; providing needed consumer protection services. For FY 2015, the AGO has assigned an additional sixteen bordering Worcester communities to the Northwestern District Attorney's Consumer Protection Unit.

Our consumer educational outreach has continued to expand. This year we produced eight public service announcements, which air regularly on local community access stations, as well as on our website. We tackled a serious problem affecting many of our consumers who have fallen victim to a "Money Wiring Scam" by producing and distributing prevention posters to every bank in Franklin and Hampshire County. One of our local banks, in turn, sent a copy of the poster to every one of their customers. We have also provided trainings in both counties to elder services outreach workers so they, in turn, can provide their clients with consumer information. CPU outreach and education efforts include attending many health & safety fairs, senior events and senior centers. CPU has been featured on television and in our local newspapers with consumer information and tips. CPU advances its knowledge and expertise with ongoing training and education, attending

roundtable discussions, webinars, and meetings.

In 2013, the Consumer Protection Unit received approximately 2,280 calls, opened 604 cases and recovered \$420,776.21 for consumers.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND EDUCATION UNIT

The Community Outreach and Education Unit was very successful in engaging with many community partners in 2013. Director Jana McClure continued to strengthen the NWDA's collaboration with diverse groups throughout our District in order to create safer and more inclusive communities. A wide range of initiatives were implemented in 2013 which focused on healthy youth development, community safety, cyber-safety and civil rights. The year also brought new opportunities to join with other NWDA Units on initiatives and projects which are helping to raise awareness of critical public safety issues affecting our communities including the Valley Gun Buy Back Initiative, Prescription Drug Take Back Program, and the Campaign Against Sexual Assault on College Campuses.



NWDA staff and community partners - 2013 conference planners

The past year also solidified two annual conferences that have become signature events of the District Attorney's Office: the Youth Conference on Substance Abuse Prevention and the Safe Schools Summit. Goals and objectives were set for the Unit that clearly demonstrate

the effectiveness of outreach efforts. Evidence of this effort is marked by increases in the number of new community partners, number of participants at conferences and new outreach projects. With an eye toward prevention, the Community Outreach and Education Unit has helped foster the District Attorney's vision of providing the citizens of the Northwestern District with critical information that supports families and helps build safer and stronger communities.

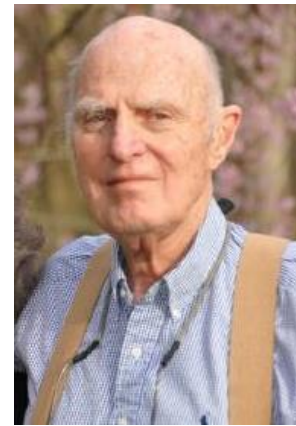


Mary Carey, Jana McClure and ADA Becky Michaels at the 2013 Amherst Block Party

2013 Community Outreach and Education Unit Programs & Projects

Citizen Advisory Board

The Citizen Advisory Board (CAB) was very active in 2013. In addition to meeting six times as a full board, several members served on multiple planning committees which developed eight projects or events with our office and community partners. Some of the key activities the Board participated in were: Valley Gun Buy Back Initiative, Hampshire and Franklin County Law Day events, 2nd Annual Youth Conference on Substance Abuse Prevention, the 2nd Annual Safe Schools Summit and the UMass Stand Against Racism event.



Citizens Advisory Board member
Herschel Shohan

Conferences

2nd Annual Youth Conference on Substance Abuse Prevention

The Outreach and Education Unit partnered with the Juvenile Justice Unit and community partners to develop our 2nd Annual Youth Conference on Substance Abuse Prevention for middle and high school students held on October 16, 2013. Keynote speaker Dr. Marisa Silveri, addressed how the developing brain can become impaired with drug and alcohol use. Youth spent the day engaging in interactive workshops that were geared toward reinforcing skills of how to be a positive active bystander for peers. A highlight of the conference was the performance of Caught Off Guard, Northampton High School's theater group that portrays difficult situations affecting youth and ways to solve them.

2nd Annual Safe Schools Summit

270 education support professionals and other educators attended The 2nd Annual Safe Schools Summit on Youth Mental Health which was held on November 20, 2013. The Summit focused on Youth Mental Health and featured Dr. Ross Greene, an acclaimed educator and the author of *The Explosive Child* and *Lost in School*. The conference was co-sponsored by the NWDA, the Massachusetts Teachers' Association (MTA) and the National Education Association (NEA).

Participants attended nine workshops led by nationally recognized experts, as well as a special recognition celebration for para-educators which included addresses by presidents of the NEA and MTA. The goal of the conference was to have school community members learn more about how to positively impact student mental health in the classroom and in our school communities.



Safe School Summit Keynote Speaker, Dr. Ross Greene



NEA, MTA, NWDA Staff at 2nd Annual Safe Schools Summit

Cyber-Safety/On-line Child Sexual Predator Presentations

An increased number of parents and youth attended the Cyber-Safety presentations this year. The Outreach and Education Director and the Director of the Child Sexual Predator Project co-presented the 1.5 hour presentation to school administrators, parents and youth. The program was revised this year to allow parents and youth to attend the presentation together. Thirteen presentations were conducted during 2013, reaching 945 participants.



ADA Christine Tetreault on a WHMP radio panel talking about Internet Safety for young people

Law Day Events

The NWDA collaborated with the Hampshire County and Franklin County Bar Associations and the Hampshire Bar Advocates to produce an event in each county to celebrate National Law Day. Both programs, which focused on the American Bar Association's law day theme, *Realizing the Dream: Equality for All*, were remarkable. Two Citizen Advisory Board members sat on the Franklin County Law Day panel and brought unique and historical perspectives to the issue of racial equality, the civil rights movement and African-American's access to education under the Jim Crow system. Honorable Judd Carhart, an Associate Justice of the Massachusetts Appellate Court, was the keynote speaker for the Hampshire County Law Day event. One of the day's highlights was hearing three students deliver their spoken word poems before 150 peers, as well as watching their video submissions. Students also had the opportunity to take a full tour of the courts, meet and talk with court officials and even view the holding cell.



Hampshire County Law Day Spoken Word Contest winners

Stand Against Racism

UMass-Amherst's Center for Multicultural Advancement & Student Success hosted the Stand Against Racism full-day event in the spring. The Outreach and Education Unit coordinated the opening panel discussion for the event. Members of the panel included the District Attorney, an Assistant U.S. Attorney, Chancellor's Office Advisor for Diversity and Excellence and Director of the UMass Equal Opportunity and Diversity office. Students had the opportunity to speak with panelists about issues of concern as well as offer solutions.



DA Sullivan with Citizen Advisory Board member Amilcar Shabazz at Stand Against Racism event at UMass, April 2013

Campus Community Coalition to Reduce High Risk Drinking

Illegal and binge drinking among college students is a national problem with very serious local impact.

The Campus and Community Coalition to Reduce High-Risk Drinking (CCC) is a diverse group of leaders from UMass-Amherst, law enforcement and the community who have come together to address this problem. Using environmental management strategies, the coalition is working to change aspects of our culture which promote, support or allow dangerous drinking.

Director Jana McClure and an ADA assigned to the Eastern Hampshire District Court, which handles the majority of alcohol-related criminal offenses involving college students, participate in this coalition.

Extending the Reach of the Community Outreach & Education Unit

Other 2013 highlights include working closely with the Domestic Violence Projects Director on the White Ribbon Campaign. The Community Outreach and Education Director also coordinated the NWDA's participation in the National Night Out project which was led by the North Quabbin Community Coalition.



2013 National Night Out participation organized by Community Outreach and Education Unit

The Community Outreach and Education Unit works closely with many other Units to ensure that the knowledge, expertise and resources of the DA's office reaches the citizens of our communities.



ADA Mike McHale led the winning team in the 2013 Amherst Trivia Bee to benefit the Amherst schools

CIVIL RIGHTS REVIEW TEAM

The protection of citizens' civil rights is a mission for the Northwestern District Attorney's Office. District Attorney Sullivan created the Civil Rights Review Team in 2011 to review and respond to alleged hate crimes and hate incidents in our communities, as well as civil rights complaints and referrals. Team members include Deputy District Attorney Janice Healy, District Court Chief Rosemary Tarantino and Outreach and Education Director Jana McClure. Having this team in place has allowed the NWDA to respond in a prompt and effective way to civil rights incidents, complaints, referrals and community inquiries.



Approximately 250,000 fires per year are set by children. National and Massachusetts statistics show that arson is the number one crime committed by juveniles. In fact, juveniles

account for more than half of all arson arrests in the United States. Fire setting is a troubling trend, which, if left unaddressed, will result in young people who continue to engage in this dangerous behavior. However, juveniles who receive education about fire safety/fire science are significantly less likely to re-offend.

The Northwestern District Attorney's Office worked with community partners to develop the Northwestern Juvenile Fire Intervention Response, Education and Safety Partnership (NoFIRES) to serve as an educational and prevention initiative aimed at reducing youth-set fires in the home, school, and community. Over the past 18 months, the NoFIRES Partnership received two Commonwealth of Massachusetts Community Incentive Challenge (CIC) grants to formally launch and develop this program.



NoFIRES Executive Director Loren Davine

NoFIRES is a non-profit organization that offers education and intervention to youth fire setters. In 2013, NoFIRES expanded to serve 51 communities located in Franklin County, Hampshire county, North Quabbin Region, and the City of Holyoke. The core mission is to protect our youth, their families, and the communities in which they live from the dangerous, and sometimes fatal, act of setting fires. A collaboration of fire, law enforcement, mental healthcare providers and social service agencies, NoFIRES is committed to providing a coordinated and appropriate response to youths ages 5 through 17, who set fires or engage in fire-related behavior. In less than

two years, the NoFIRES program has become a national model program for helping juvenile fire setters.

When there is a fire-related incident involving a juvenile, police, prosecutors, and courts may recommend the offender to the NoFIRES; however it is not required that charges be pending for a child to participate in the program. NoFIRES is a referral-based program, and accepts referrals from the many different community agencies, Department of Children and Families, and clinicians. A screening interview of the youth and the youth's family are conducted by a licensed clinical social worker and fire educator with a determination as to whether the child is an appropriate candidate for the program. If the child is determined to be suitable for the program, a fire safety educational program may be recommended, referrals made to social services agencies and/or for clinical mental health counseling and treatment. The NoFIRES Fire Safety School focuses on preventing further fire-related incidents by encouraging the youth to adopt safe and healthy behaviors associated with fire.

In the 18 months that the program has been in operation, NoFIRES has received more than 85 referrals to the program.

At this time, NoFIRES is one of the only programs, statewide, available for juveniles that have engaged in fire-related behavior. Our unique model of utilizing licensed clinical social workers for screenings and specialized fire educators for classes makes this program an invaluable asset to the 51 communities it serves. Loren Davine, Executive Director of NoFIRES, coordinates this program.

In addition to providing fire safety education to juveniles that have engaged in fire setting, NoFIRES is committed to providing high-quality trainings in this field to educators, clinicians, and law enforcement. In 2013, NoFIRES sponsored several trainings including the first

annual Arson Investigation and Prosecution Conference which was attended by more than 200 police and fire investigators from around the state.



Chief Trial Counsel Jeremy Bucci presenting at the NoFIRES conference

COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

The Communications Unit is vital in keeping the Northwestern District Attorney's Office accessible and responsive to the public and media. The Communications Unit is led by Mary Carey who coordinates with prosecutors, staff, and law enforcement to get information to the public in a timely, accurate and ethical way.

In 2013, the Communications Unit continued to expand the Northwestern District Attorney's Office website and Facebook pages, which provide up-to-date information to the public on cases being prosecuted by the NWDA, as well as access to information about the work of all of our Units and community partners.



WWLP's Anaridis Rodriguez interviews Community Outreach and Education Director Jana McClure

The Communications Unit worked to enhance and expand the Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP) portal on our website, filming and posting to the site more than 50 instructional videos accessible by police and assistant district attorneys.

The Communications Unit also continues to work closely with all of the NWDA Units to plan, promote and document a wide range of events, trainings and educational programs.



WWLP reporter David McKay interviewing a student participant at the 2013 Youth Conference on Substance Abuse Prevention

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY UNIT



IT Director Bruce Fieldman

The Information Technology (IT) Unit works in a critical behind-the-scenes role to support the work of all Units within the NWDA. Our IT Director, Bruce Fieldman and his staff are charged with procuring, installing, developing and supporting information technology hardware, software and applications for all of our offices in both Hampshire and Franklin counties. The IT Unit also actively assists our prosecutors with courtroom presentations and educational productions.



IT Specialist Nathan Foote

IT Unit's 2013 Accomplishments

- Carried out major upgrade in the NWDA's capabilities for multimedia courtroom presentations. New equipment was rolled out that allow for simultaneous wireless transmission of high definition video and audio by

prosecutors to multiple devices situated around the courtroom, including high definition flat screen televisions on rolling carts. New equipment was also deployed that allows for high quality presentations of photos and other paper-based documents;

- Developed numerous new databases and modernized others to improve office efficiencies, allowing administrative staff and the NWDA Units to better track data—including employee, financial, case, and community outreach-related data;
- Installed new servers and workstations to ensure that the NWDA continues to have the capabilities to function efficiently going forward in an ever-increasing digital world;
- Began preparations for implementation of an enterprise level modernized backup system that will provide encrypted off-site backup of all critical office data. Final implementation of this system is expected by the 3rd quarter of 2014;
- Began implantation of an improved reporting system that will allow prosecutors and administrative staff to have flexible access to data in the NWDA case management system, and provide for automated creation and distribution of up-to-the-minute reports to the administrative staff and the District Attorney. This system will be rolled out in early 2014 and will be in development throughout the year to develop a complete set of useful reporting tools;
- Made live and available to all law enforcement agencies in Hampshire and Franklin counties, a law enforcement training portal on the NWDA website (NorthwesternDA.org). This law enforcement training portal is accessible only to law enforcement agencies.

MASSACHUSETTS STATE POLICE **DETECTIVE AND NARCOTICS UNIT**



Detective Lt. Robin Whitney, *Daily Hampshire Gazette* photo



The State Police Detective and Narcotics Unit (SPDU) is attached to the Office of Northwestern District Attorney and staffed by dedicated law enforcement professionals. The SPDU Commander is Detective Lt. Robin Whitney and the Executive Officer is Sgt. John Cummings. There are an additional 13 Troopers assigned to the Detective and Narcotics Units. State Police assigned to the Detective Unit investigate homicides, major felonies, and special investigations in the District. The Narcotics Unit works closely with the Detective Unit, local police departments, Anti-Crime Task Force, and federal law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute drug cases in the Northwestern District.

In 2013, 529 SPDU cases were opened and investigated, an increase of 32% from the prior year.

All unattended deaths in Franklin and Hampshire counties and the town of Athol are investigated by the State Police Detective Unit. There were 218 death investigations in 2013, an increase of 52% over the prior year. The substantial number of cases and high quality of investigative work is a testament to the dedicated state police professionals that respond 24 hours a day to major felonies death investigations.



Drug Arrest in Franklin County *Greenfield Recorder photo*

The Northwestern District Anti-Crime Task Force (NDACTF) was established in March 2013 with a Commonwealth of Massachusetts Community Innovation Challenge Grant. The Anti-Crime Task Force, led by Massachusetts State Police Sergeant Chris Ray and the NWDA Chief Trial Counsel, Jeremy Bucci, is a collaborative effort between the NWDA, Massachusetts State Police, Hampshire and Franklin Sheriff's Departments, and local law enforcement agencies. The regional Task Force helps identify, investigate and prosecute illegal narcotics offenses, unlawful firearms offenses, major crimes, and other organized criminal activities. In the first 9 months, the Task Force has increased the ability of law enforcement officials to target crimes specific to the 47 Northwestern District communities by allowing law enforcement agencies to pool resources

and operate beyond a single town's jurisdiction. Major drug trafficking, weapons cases, and theft rings have been investigated and indicted in Superior Court as a result of these joint law enforcement efforts. This Task Force is making a significant impact on major crime and the quality of life in our communities.



Members of State Police Detective Unit

ONGOING INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS

The Veterans Justice Partnership



The Veterans Justice Partnership (VJP) was founded in 2011 by District Attorney Dave Sullivan and other community leaders. VJP's mission is to help court-involved and incarcerated veterans. VJP is a collaboration of the Office of Northwestern District Attorney, veteran's organizations, mental health providers, local, state and federal veteran agencies, and numerous criminal justice and community partners. From October 2012 to

October 2013, **VJP was able to help 168 court-involved or incarcerated veterans** receive benefits, services, housing, treatment, or diversion. The partnership has worked together to help change veterans' futures for the better.

VJP is working to help veterans before and after case disposition. A Department of Mental Health initiative, Mission Direct Vet, is working collaboratively with VJP to help veterans get the necessary mental health services to address and prevent criminal conduct. For incarcerated veterans, VJP has the benefit of the direct involvement of Sheriffs Robert Garvey (Hampshire), Chris Donelan (Franklin), and Michael Ashe (Hampden) to help with both treatment and re-entry options.



DA Sullivan and Dominic Sondrini, Soldier On and VJP Program Coordinator

VJP is led by District Attorney Sullivan; Dominic Sondrini, Soldier On and VJP Program Coordinator; and Marie Demarey, VA-Veterans Justice Outreach and VJP Assistant Program Coordinator. Martha Murphy Kane, the NWDA Director of Operations, has been an integral part of coordinating VJP and moving it forward in a significant way. Dominic Sondrini and Marie Demarey have been the driving forces in identifying and screening court-involved veterans in order to address and reduce their criminal behavior and improve the quality of their lives.

At the end of 2013, VJP set an ambitious goal - to establish a **Western Massachusetts Veterans**

Treatment Court. This Vet Court will be established to work specifically with court-involved veterans. The goal is to have this Vet Court centrally located at Holyoke District Court to serve veterans from **Hampshire, Franklin, and Hampden counties**. It is only appropriate that we have a Vet Court devoted to saving the lives of those who were willing to give up their lives for their country.

Valley Gun Buy Back Initiative



Valley Gun Buy Back planners

In May of 2013, the Northwestern District Attorney's Office collaborated with Northampton and Greenfield police departments, along with Mass. State Police, Baystate Health Systems, Northampton Area Pediatrics, Mothers Demand Action for Safe Gun Control, local therapists and mental health providers to launch the first ever Valley Gun Buy Back. \$16,000 was raised to purchase guns from community members who no longer wished to have unused guns in their homes. On October 5, 2013, 301 guns were collected at the Northampton and Greenfield police departments. In November those guns were destroyed at WTE Recycling in Greenfield.



Gun part -- more than 300 guns were ground up and recycled

Restorative Justice Program

The Restorative Justice Program is now established in the Eastern Hampshire District Court. The principles of restorative justice recognize that criminal behavior harms both individuals and the community as a whole. Restorative justice principles also hold that offenders have an obligation to understand the harm that they have caused, accept responsibility for their actions and actively participate in making amends.



Panels of community members meet once a month to hear new criminal cases and to review probationers' progress in open cases. The boards give the community members a forum to uphold the values of the community, to support and involve those victimized and to build avenues for offenders to make amends. We are very grateful for the leadership of Probation Officer Kristy Paciorek, and Lucinda Brown, who spearheaded this initiative.

Northwestern Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP)



John Scheft presenting to law enforcement officials

Our Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP) has conducted numerous professional development trainings and provided assistance to law enforcement agencies throughout the Northwestern District since it was launched in 2011. The monthly LEAP Newsletter gives valuable legal updates to all of our law enforcement partners. Our LEAP website portal is available on the NWDA website and provides 24/7 access to training videos and materials. This training portal is accessible only to law enforcement agencies. In 2013, training programs offered to our law enforcement partners included eyewitness identification, search and seizure law, cellphone technology and investigation and digital forensics.

Opioid Education and Awareness Task Force of Franklin, Hampshire, and North Quabbin

Addiction to pain prescription medications and heroin has impacted our region in an unprecedented way. In 2013, hundreds of opioid overdoses were reported with 33 fatal overdoses in the Northwestern District. The rise in overdose deaths from 15 in 2012 to 33 in 2013 represents a 120% increase. Families and communities are being devastated by this public health epidemic. The Opioid Education and Awareness Task Force was formed to tackle opioid abuse in a multi-pronged way. The Task Force is focused on increasing treatment and

recovery options; expanding community outreach and education; coordinating the law enforcement response and supporting health care solutions. The Task Force is Co-Chaired by District Attorney Dave Sullivan, Franklin Register of Probate John Merrigan, and Franklin County Sheriff Chris Donelan. The Task Force will be developing an action plan and events to enhance community awareness of the opioid problem and solutions to this epidemic. The Office of Northwestern District Attorney has taken early leadership on these issues through its prescription abuse education, permanent drug take back program, youth substance abuse prevention conferences, and the Northwestern District Anti-Crime Task Force.

Safe School Security Task Force

In the tragic wake of the shooting massacre of 20 students and 6 staff members at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, District Attorney Sullivan, Massachusetts State Police, Sheriff's Departments, and local law enforcement formed a Western Massachusetts Task Force to improve the safety of schools. The Task Force has helped to coordinate law enforcement and first responder trainings, school safety audits, school lockdown and emergency protocols, active shooter trainings, improved building designs, and safe school climate initiatives. This Safe School Security Task Force was spearheaded by Massachusetts State Police Lt. Andrew Bzdel and District Attorney Sullivan.

FEDERAL GRANTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR PUBLIC SAFETY 2013

Every year critical federal grants make a difference in fighting crime and helping vulnerable victims. Listed are some of the federal grants which have been awarded to the Northwestern District Attorney's Office with details as to how they assist prevention programs and victims of child abuse, domestic

violence, sexual assaults and other major crimes. These are essential grants for safer communities and are not available from any other funding sources.

VOCA – Victims of Crime Act Child Abuse Unit

The Child Abuse Unit (CAU) provides support services and advocacy to child victims of physical and sexual abuse and to their families. Family service advocates within the CAU provide information and advocacy regarding the criminal justice process, crisis intervention, social service intervention and social service referrals. The VOCA grant funds are being used to support one family service advocate's position for the CAU.

Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) S.T.O.P. Grant The DVIP/AWARE Project

The Domestic Violence Intervention Project (DVIP) is funded by the Office on Violence Against Women, The S.T.O.P. (Services Training Officers Prosecutors) Grant. DVIP is an early intervention, collaborative program that combines the services of forty-five police departments, five state police barracks, two dispatch centers, three courts, two victim service providers and our local certified batterer's intervention program. This regional approach to domestic violence spans two counties and forty-seven towns. Advocates hired by the New England Learning Center for Women in Transition (NELCWIT) in Franklin County, and Safe Passage in Hampshire County, are available by cell phone to assist police in providing an immediate response to victims of domestic abuse.

Office on Violence Against Women-Grants to Encourage Arrest Program The Domestic Violence High Risk Team Project

This project, funded by the Office on Violence Against Women, Grants to Encourage Arrest, began in 2009. The primary goal of the High Risk Team Project is to identify, closely monitor and hold accountable high risk offenders of domestic violence. There are two high risk teams, one in each county. The coordinator screens referrals from the courts and non-profit agencies, gathers information and presents cases to the team. Each team has county representation from police, the NWDA, probation, parole, sheriff's departments, batterer's intervention, victim service providers and the courts. Teams meet monthly to identify new high risk offenders, review and update the current list of offenders, and address any new offenses and/or safety concerns for victims. Recommendations are made for each high risk offender and communicated to police, probation and prosecutors. Recommendations can include priority prosecution, police drive-by's and improved safety plan for victims.

Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Adult Sexual Assault Prosecutor and Sexual Assault Prevention Campaign

The intent of this project is to provide a highly focused, coordinated response for victims of domestic violence (DV) and sexual assault (SA), with a trained prosecutor handling court cases from start to finish. A specialized Assistant District Attorney prosecutes cases in Franklin and Hampshire counties and initiates outreach in the community in order to further strengthen our prevention and intervention approaches to domestic violence and sexual assault. Victims of domestic violence and sexual assault benefit from a coordinated response, utilizing highly trained staff who see their case through from start to finish. With a dedicated prosecutor

working exclusively with victims of abuse, the capacity to provide much needed safety planning and support services is increased.

Funds from this grant were also used to hire a victim witness advocate and a media consultant to launch a sexual assault awareness media campaign targeting college students and the larger community. The consultant assists in developing public service announcements, video clips, posters and other outreach materials. A conference was held in April 2013 to launch the campaign and distribute outreach materials and videos. The project's awareness and prevention component, targeted at the college population in the District, further solidifies the DA Office's presence in the community and encourages better reporting and prevention.



2013 Summer Interns with Martie Murphy Kane and Jackie Gaw

2013 Internship Program

The NWDA offers summer and academic year internships to college and law school students in the following areas: legal, administrative, communications, outreach, victim/witness services and consumer protection.

College internships provide students with valuable insight into the workings of the criminal justice system.

Law students selected to participate in the Northwestern District Attorney's Office Legal Internship Program assist prosecutors in the Juvenile, District, Superior, and Appellate

courts, gaining experience in legal research, writing, case preparation and trial practice.

Interns assigned to the Victim Witness Unit work directly with Advocates who serve as liaisons between the prosecutors, victims and witnesses as developments occur in cases. They also assist victims with compensation forms and referrals to community services and promote awareness of victim's rights in the community. In the Consumer Protection Unit, interns are directly involved in consumer casework, fielding consumer calls, assessing problems, conveying information, sending correspondence, referring consumers to other agencies, and working on special projects. Consumer Protection interns also mediate cases between businesses and consumers.



Several members of the NWDA Staff

FISCAL UNIT / CALENDAR YEAR 2013

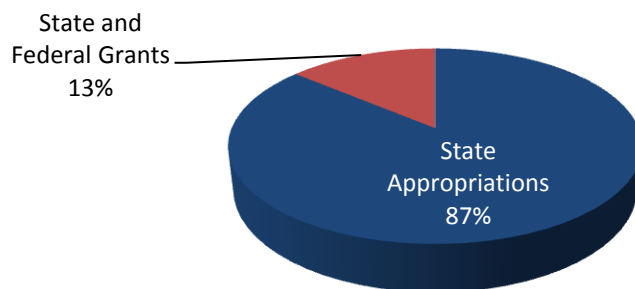


Higgy Chan, Chief Donna Dudkiewicz, Jess Diemand

The Fiscal Unit is led by Chief Financial Officer Donna Dudkiewicz with the assistance of Fiscal Assistant Higgy Chan, and Fiscal Administrative Assistant Jess Diemand. The Fiscal Unit oversees the 2013 Northwestern DA's Office budget which includes all grants awarded to the office from federal and state sources. The Unit is responsible for the management and allocation of state and federal funds received by the office and ensures that all our funds are expended in a fiscally responsible manner. In addition, the Unit coordinates the tracking of forfeiture funds recovered by the office through successful prosecution of narcotics cases with Chief Trial Counsel Jeremy Bucci. The Fiscal Unit also plays an integral role in the writing and administration of state and federal grants.

CY13 Total Appropriation Funding.....	\$5,549,650.00
CY13 Total Grant Funding.....	\$ 816,888.18
Grand Total.....	\$6,366,538.18

District Attorney's Calendar Year 2013 Funding Sources



NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION

Northwestern District Attorney's Website: NorthwesternDA.org



NWDA End of the year all-staff meeting



Several Members of the Greenfield Office staff

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NorthwesternDA.org

at NorthwesternDADaveSullivan

Thank you to artist Caleb Colon for permission to reproduce his painting "Post-harvest,"
for our 2013 Annual Report cover.

Special thanks to Mary Carey, Janice Healy, and Sue Snyder for their dedicated time and talent
in producing our 2013 Annual Report.



Our Mission

To seek justice for all. The Office of 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 prosecutions, and progressive prevention initiatives.

The Northwestern District Attorney's Office wishes to thank
the Franklin County Sheriff's Department for the printing of this report.