



# Office of Northwestern District Attorney David E. Sullivan

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2014 Annual Report



**Our Team of Prosecutors**

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

DISTRICT ATTORNEY’S MESSAGE	3
STAFF AND ORGANIZATION	5
SUPERIOR COURT	7
CHILD ABUSE	9
ELDERS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND TRIAD	13
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT	17
APPELLATE	22
SEXUALLY DANGEROUS PERSONS	23
DISTRICT COURT	24
JUVENILE JUSTICE	25
VICTIM WITNESS ASSISTANCE	26
CONSUMER PROTECTION	29
COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND EDUCATION	30
CIVIL RIGHTS REVIEW TEAM	33
COMMUNICATIONS	33
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	34
MASSACHUSETTS STATE POLICE DETECTIVE AND NARCOTICS UNITS	35
ONGOING INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS	36
Veterans Justice Partnership, Restorative Justice Project, LEAP, Opioid Task Force of Franklin and North Quabbin Regions, Hal Rogers Rx Drug Abuse Task Force, Hampshire HOPE (Hampshire Heroin/Opioid Prevention and Education) School Safety and Security Task Force, Federal grants, NoFiRES, Internships	
FISCAL	42
CONTACT INFORMATION	44



### ***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. We have dedicated prosecutors, victim advocates, and staff who rise to the challenges of child abuse, substance abuse, domestic violence, drug trafficking, school security and other issues impacting the safety and quality of life in our 47 Northwestern communities.

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

The **Opioid Epidemic**, fueled by easy access to prescription pain medications and cheap heroin, has had a devastating impact on families and communities. In 2013 and 2014, the Northwestern District had over 70 suspected opioid overdoses, one of the highest fatality rates in the state. The solution to this problem is complex and requires a multi-disciplinary community approach. The NWDA has been a leader in efforts to bring community and state resources together to reduce opioid use and abuse, as well as to secure better treatment and recovery services for persons with substance abuse addiction. We helped establish the **Opioid Task Force of Franklin and North Quabbin** and the **Hampshire HOPE Collaborative**. We were also successful in securing a **Hal Rogers Prescription Drug Abuse** grant to further address prescription and heroin drug abuse on local and statewide levels.

- **The Northwestern District Anti-Crime Task Force**, established in March, 2013, has had a tremendous impact fighting crime in our Northwestern District. The Anti-Crime Task Force, led by Mass. State Police Sergeant Chris Ray and NWDA Chief Trial Counsel, Jeremy Bucci, is a collaborative effort between the NWDA, Massachusetts 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 21 months, the task force has increased law enforcement efforts to pool resources and target crimes in the Northwestern District.
- The Northwestern District Attorney's Office, Northwestern Children's Advocacy Center (CAC), and many community partners embarked on an initiative to bring a **Child Advocacy Center** to our Franklin and North Quabbin regions. A house was secured in Greenfield and a major renovation is underway to create a family-friendly place. The new CAC, opening in spring 2015,

will serve many 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. Our domestic violence **High-Risk Offender Program** and our **Campaign Against Sexual Assault on College Campuses** have been recognized locally and nationally for their positive impacts.
- The **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Conference** was held on October 8, 2014 with more than 200 middle school students, educators, and community partners in attendance. This year's conference theme was **Finding Your Voice**. The conference workshops and speakers were aimed at empowering youth to support, influence, and speak out on substance abuse and other issues impacting their lives.
- Our **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Safe School Summit** was held on November 18 and 19, 2014. Our two-day summit covered a range of topics on improving school safety, preventing targeted violence, helping at-risk students, and connecting kids with peers and trusted adults. Our keynote speakers came from the United States Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center, as well as Charles Appelstein, MSW, a noted specialist in responding to at-risk students using trauma-informed, strength-based principles. Our first summit day concentrated on the challenges confronting K-12 and the second day was focused on college campus and boarding school security.
- **The Veterans Justice Partnership (VJP)** is a collaboration of the NWDA and community partners to help court-involved veterans. From October 2012 to December 2014, VJP was able to help over 375 court-involved or incarcerated veterans receive benefits, services, housing, treatment, re-entry services, or court diversions. NWDA and VJP were successful in securing a commitment from the Massachusetts Trial Court to establish a Veterans Treatment Court in 2015 that will serve veterans in Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden counties.

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

I remain deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve as District Attorney for the people of the Northwestern District. I was honored to be re-elected November 2014 to another term and look forward to working with you and many other community members in the coming years.

Sincerely,



District Attorney

## **STAFF AND ORGANIZATION**

### **Senior Management Team**

District Attorney David E. Sullivan  
Deputy District Attorney Janice Healy  
First Assistant District Attorney Steven E. 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  
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  
Deb Kierstead, Family Service Advocate  
Suzanne Koch, Forensic Interviewer  
Heather Hubbard, Unit Administrator  
Sidney Reavey, Family Service Advocate  
Linda Rogers, Family Service Advocate

### **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  
Lynn Ferro, AWARE/DVIP 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 Nicholas Atallah  
ADA Andrew Covington  
ADA Stephen Jacobson, Hampshire  
ADA Becky Michaels, Hampshire  
ADA Robert Opsitnick (AIC/DV), Eastern  
Hampshire  
ADA Sarah Pascal  
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 Joseph Webber, Hampshire  
ADA Anne Yereniuk, Greenfield/Orange (AIC)

\*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  
Karyn Miller, Advocate  
Jennifer Pise, Advocate

**Consumer Protection Unit**

Janice Garrett, Director  
Caroline Smith, Case Coordinator

**Outreach and Education Unit**

Jana McClure, Director  
Donald Gallagher, 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 Systems Support Engineer

**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**

Mary Bates, District Court Administrator  
Michelle Candiano, Damion Administrator  
Dan Carey, Assistant District Court  
Administrator  
Luisa Cruz, Assistant District Court  
Jamie Foster, Litigation Support Specialist  
Administrator  
Donna Jackson, Franklin County Office  
Supervisor  
Debra Jacques, District Court Administrator  
Lizzie Jekanowski, Intern  
Cassie Jerome, Assistant District Court  
Administrator  
Kelley Mason, Paralegal  
Pat Matusiewicz, Administrative Assistant  
Vicky Novotny, Administrative Assistant  
Erin O'Brien, Administrative Assistant  
Lauren O'Roark, Assistant District Court  
Administrator  
Marygrace Patterson, Intern  
Roberta Reardon, Franklin Office Manager  
Michelle Richotte, Executive Assistant  
Rachel Senecal, Assistant District Court  
Administrator  
Karin Sheehy, Administrative Assistant  
Sue Snyder, Executive Assistant  
Tara Wilson, Administrative Assistant

**Fiscal**

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



## **SUPERIOR COURT**

The Superior Court is where some of the most serious cases in the Northwestern District are prosecuted, including murders, robberies, sexual and physical assaults, arsons, drug trafficking, embezzlement and vehicular homicide. Whereas the maximum sentence available in District Court is 2½ years in the House of Correction, a defendant convicted in Superior Court can be sentenced to anywhere from probation to life in prison, depending on the nature of the offense and the defendant's criminal history.

Assistant District Attorneys assigned to the Superior Court Unit prosecute cases in Hampshire Superior Court (located in Northampton) and Franklin Superior Court (located in Greenfield), and handle cases that arise throughout the 47 cities and towns within the Northwestern District.



**First Assistant District Attorney Steven E. Gagne**

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 Task Force. He is assisted in his supervisory responsibilities

by Chief Trial Counsel Jeremy Bucci, who specializes in narcotics prosecutions, homicides, search warrants, and asset forfeiture.



**Chief Trial Counsel Jeremy Bucci**

In 2014, Superior Court prosecutors indicted 176 new cases, while resolving a total of 115 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 2014.

Among some of the more notable cases resolved in 2014 were:

- ***Commonwealth v. Ryan Welch*** (Hampshire Superior Court) – The defendant was convicted by a Hampshire Superior Court jury of first degree murder in connection with the February 2012 killing of Jessica Ann Pripstein in Easthampton. Pripstein was just 39 years old at the time of her death, and the defendant will spend the remainder of his natural life behind bars, with no possibility for parole. The case was prosecuted by Chief Trial Counsel Jeremy Bucci.
- ***Commonwealth v. Jeremiah Longe*** (Franklin Superior Court) – The defendant pleaded guilty to burning down his estranged wife's house in Shelburne in April 2013. The defendant

poured approximately ten gallons of gasoline inside the residence before setting it on fire. Fortunately, no one was harmed during the ensuing conflagration, although the defendant's actions put first responders in harm's way. The Commonwealth requested a 5-7 year state prison sentence, and the Court imposed a sentence of 3-5 years in state prison. The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Jennifer H. Suhl.

- ***Commonwealth v. Mauricio Velasquez*** (Hampshire Superior Court) – The defendant pleaded guilty to two counts of motor vehicle manslaughter in connection with a horrific collision on Hendrick Street in Easthampton in December 2013. The defendant was under the influence of alcohol at the time of the crash, and was driving his van in excess of 70 miles per hour on the winding residential road. The crash claimed the lives of Charles Hoffman, age 71, of Easthampton, and the defendant's three-year-old daughter. The Court sentenced the defendant to serve 12-14 years in state prison. The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Matthew Thomas.
- ***Commonwealth v. Jeb Daly*** (Hampshire Superior Court) – The defendant pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in connection with the June 2012 killing of his girlfriend, Jessica Dana, age 30, in Huntington. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole after 15 years. The case was prosecuted by Chief Trial Counsel Jeremy Bucci.

## **ECONOMIC CRIMES UNIT**

In July 2012, District Attorney Sullivan established an Economic Crimes Unit to address

the significant need for the investigation and prosecution of "white collar crime" and elder financial exploitation. The Unit is comprised of First Assistant District Attorney Steve Gagne, Forensic Investigator and Certified Fraud Examiner Bob Harrison, and ADA Jayme Parent, with cases occasionally prosecuted by additional Superior and District Court prosecutors. The Economic Crimes Unit devotes its resources and expertise toward the investigation and prosecution of economic crimes committed by bookkeepers, bank tellers, cashiers, caretakers, and other offenders who misuse positions of trust to victimize elders, disabled persons, or employers. Since 2012, economic crimes exceeding \$1.5 million in losses have been prosecuted. Notable cases prosecuted in 2014 include:

- ***Commonwealth v. Meghan Porter*** (Franklin Superior Court) – The defendant exploited her position as a teller at Freedom Credit Union in Greenfield to steal nearly \$100,000.00 from a customer who held several personal and business accounts with the bank. The defendant pleaded guilty and was sentenced to two years in the House of Correction, one of which she must serve, with the balance suspended for ten years. The defendant will be required to make full restitution to the victim during her probationary period. The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Jayme Parent.
- ***Commonwealth v. Melissa Wright*** (Franklin Superior Court) – The defendant pleaded guilty to embezzling over \$400,000.00 from her long-time employer, an attorney. The thefts occurred over several years, during which time the defendant forged hundreds of checks made payable to herself and inflated her salary. The Court sentenced the defendant to serve 2½ years in the House of Correction, followed by five years of supervised



probation, during which time she must make full restitution. The case was prosecuted by First Assistant District Attorney Steven E. Gagne.

## **INSURANCE FRAUD**

Since 2012, the Northwestern District Attorney's Office has partnered with the Insurance Fraud Bureau of Massachusetts, (IFB), in a coordinated effort to identify and prosecute instances of automobile insurance fraud, and multiple other forms of insurance fraud, in the Northwestern District. Authorized by an Act of the Massachusetts Legislature and signed into law in 1990, the IFB conducts criminal investigations and refers appropriate cases for criminal prosecution.

In August 2014, Hampshire and Franklin Grand Juries returned over 300 indictments against a total of 46 individuals involved in what the IFB described as the largest insurance fraud ring in Western Massachusetts history. The scheme involved individuals primarily from the metropolitan New York City area who insured and registered their vehicles in Massachusetts by claiming to live at false or non-existent residential addresses in Northampton, Easthampton and Greenfield. By doing so, these individuals were alleged to have paid substantially lower premiums than they otherwise would have had they reported their true residential addresses in and around New York City. During the six years during which this scheme is alleged to have operated, hundreds of thousands of dollars in premium avoidance is alleged to have occurred.

### ***Commonwealth v. Lefen Chen & Others***

(Hampshire and Franklin Superior Courts) – Between August and December 2014, 13 defendants involved in this insurance fraud ring resolved their cases by agreeing to be placed on pretrial probation, which requires them to surrender any Massachusetts licenses and license plates, and make restitution to the

insurance companies for the premiums they avoided paying. To date, nearly \$25,000.00 in restitution has been recouped. The ringleader of the scheme, Lefen "Helen" Chen, pleaded guilty to multiple instances of insurance fraud, a felony in violation of G.L. c. 266, § 111B, and served just over four months in jail.



**First Assistant DA Steven E. Gagne with  
Insurance Fraud Bureau and  
Homeland Security officials**

## **CHILD ABUSE UNIT**

The mission of the Northwestern District Attorney's Child Abuse Unit (CAU) is to investigate and prosecute child abuse cases in order to protect and keep children safe. The CAU team, led by Unit Chief Linda Pisano, works closely with law enforcement, child protective services (DCF) staff and the Children's Advocacy Centers of Hampshire and Franklin Counties and North Quabbin Region (CACs) to provide a multi-disciplinary approach to responding to child abuse.



**Northwestern Child Abuse Team**

- In 2014, 368 cases were referred to the CAU for investigation involving 494 victims.
- In 2014, 130 CAU cases were resolved, 75 of which resulted in convictions.
- In 2014 there was a 20% increase in victims served and a 46 % increase in defendants charged.

This year proved to be another busy one for the CAU. There were 368 cases referred to the Child Abuse Unit for investigations involving 494 victims. In 2014 there were 174 offenders charged with CAU offenses and 130 CAU cases resolved. Of the 130 overall cases resolved, 75 cases resulted in convictions, 25 of which were resolved in Franklin or Hampshire Superior Court.

These numbers reflect a significant increase over 2013, very likely from the significant increase in community outreach and education provided by the CAU and CAC. Our child abuse awareness and prevention programs with schools and organizations in Hampshire and Franklin counties and the North Quabbin Region are having a real impact.



**Raising the Children's Memorial Flag in Northampton**

There were 25 child abuse cases resolved in the Superior Court in 2014.

### **CAU Significant Case Highlights:**

#### **Noteworthy Superior Court cases:**

- ***Commonwealth v. Amanda Wilson*** (Hampshire Superior Court) - The 23-year-old female defendant was having sexual relations with the 13-year-old son of a friend. The defendant was charged with four (4) counts of Rape and Abuse of a Child. In January 2014, there was an agreed plea to all four counts and the defendant received 2 years to the House of Correction with 5 years of probation. Prosecuted by CAU Chief Linda Pisano.
- ***Commonwealth v. Chad Houle*** (Hampshire Superior Court) - The defendant was indecently touching and orally raping the minor female victim. The defendant was charged with two (2) counts of Rape of a Child and in March 2014 pleaded guilty to the charges, receiving a sentence of 5 – 7 years in state prison. Prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Caleb Weiner.

- Commonwealth v. Richard Meyer***  
(Hampshire Superior Court) – The 10-year-old victim reported that her mother’s boyfriend had been touching and raping her over an extended period of time. The defendant was charged with two (2) counts of Rape of a Child and numerous counts of indecently assaulting a child and found guilty in March 2014 after a trial. The defendant was sentenced to 15 - 18 years in state prison. Prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Carrie Russell.
- Commonwealth v. Matthew Rivera***  
(Hampshire Superior Court) - The defendant was charged with two (2) counts of Aggravated Rape of a Child, five (5) counts of Rape and Abuse of a Child and three (3) Counts of Indecent Assault and Battery as a result of repeatedly raping and indecently touching the then- 12-year-old victim over an extended period of time. The defendant pleaded guilty in June 2014 and received a sentence of 8 - 10 years in State Prison followed by 10 years of probation. Prosecuted by CAU Chief Linda Pisano.
- Commonwealth v. William Kaczor***  
(Franklin Superior Court)  
The 31 year-old defendant was sexually assaulting the 11-year-old victim. The defendant was charged with two (2) counts of Aggravated Rape of a Child and three (3) counts of Indecent Assault and Battery. In September 2014 the defendant pleaded guilty to the charges and received a sentence of 6 -8 years in state prison followed by 10 years of probation. Prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Caleb Weiner.



**DA Sullivan and CAU Coordinator/Advocate Kellie Beaulieu at the Franklin County Fair**

## **The Children’s Advocacy Center for Hampshire, Franklin and the North Quabbin Region**

The Northwestern District Attorney’s Child Abuse Unit works collaboratively with the Children’s Advocacy Center for Hampshire, Franklin and the North Quabbin Region. The CAC is a non-profit organization which provides a child-friendly, safe and neutral location in which law enforcement, the District Attorney’s Office and Child Protective Services investigators conduct and observe forensic interviews with children who are alleged victims of crimes. The child and non-offending family members also receive support, crisis intervention and referrals for mental health and medical treatment.

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







**Future Children's Advocacy Center to serve Franklin County and North Quabbin region**

In order to serve children and families in the Franklin and North Quabbin regions, a second Children's Advocacy Center will be opening in Greenfield in 2015. Thanks to the hard work of the CAC Board of Directors, Franklin County CAC Advisory Board, District Attorney David Sullivan and the generosity of businesses and community members the dream of a CAC is finally coming true. Together, these two child advocacy centers will provide greatly needed services to the children and families in Hampshire and Franklin counties and the North Quabbin Region.

In 2014, 131 children were served at the CAC house in Northampton.

The CAC team served an additional 69 children through the NWDA Greenfield Office.

CAC 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.



**Annual Northwestern CAC Breakfast**



**Children's Advocacy Center in Northampton**



**Wright Builders work on Children's Advocacy Center on Wisdom Way in Greenfield**



**Franklin and North Quabbin CAC June Breakfast Benefit**

### **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; and
- training local law enforcement officers in the latest techniques for detecting child pornography on computers, cell phones and other digital media.

### **Child Sexual Predator Task Force**

In 2012, the NWDA formed a Child Sexual Predator Task Force with the help of a Department of Justice COPS Grant. The Task Force was led by ADA Christine Tetreault and

Massachusetts State Police Detective Sgt. Tom Bakey.

The protection of children has been the core mission of this Task Force which works to hold child sexual predators accountable through investigations, prosecutions, probation and parole home audits. Members include 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.

### **ELDERS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES UNIT**



**EPDU Chief ADA Jayme Parent  
and 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 2014, the Elders and Persons with Disabilities Protection Unit investigated and/or prosecuted over 160 cases in which elders or persons with disabilities were victims.

#### 2014 EPDU Case Highlights:

##### ***Commonwealth v. Miguel Huertas***

(Hampshire Superior Court) -The defendant attacked and injured a disabled amputee. After pleading guilty to Assault and Battery on a Person with a Disability and Assault and Battery with a Dangerous Weapon, he was sentenced to 3½ years in the Hampshire County House of Correction. Prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Jayme Parent.

##### ***Commonwealth v. Tanya Redick***

(Northampton District Court) – The defendant, hired as a personal care attendant for an 85 year old woman, stole her ATM card and used it to make unauthorized purchases and withdrawals from her bank account over a several month period. The defendant pled guilty to Larceny Over \$250 from a Person 60 or over and Larceny Over \$250 by Single Scheme and was sentence to a 2 years suspended House of Correction sentence. She was also ordered to pay restitution of \$8,000 and to not be employed caring for elders or persons with disabilities. Prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Jayme Parent.

## EPDU Special Initiatives

### 2014 Drug Take Back Campaign

In March, 2014, the Northwestern District Attorney's Office along with the Williamsburg Police Department installed its 16<sup>th</sup> permanent drug take back box. Sixteen permanent drug boxes have been installed since February 2013 in the following police departments: Amherst, Athol, Belchertown, Deerfield, Easthampton, Erving, Granby, Greenfield, Hadley, Montague, Northampton, Orange, South Hadley, Sunderland, Williamsburg and Ware.



**Permanent Drug Take Back Box at  
Williamsburg PD**

The total amount collected from our drug boxes in 2014 was 2,769 lbs. of unwanted medications.

Since the first collection in February 2013, our permanent boxes have collected a total of 5,925 pounds of unused medications.





**A large jar of pills turned in at South Hadley PD on Prescription Drug Take Back Day**

Since 2011, our Drug Take Back initiatives have collected and environmentally disposed of over 20,000 lbs. of unwanted medication.

The April 27, 2014 Drug Take Back Day collection yielded 1,966 pounds of unwanted medications.

The September 27, 2014 collection day yielded 1,772 pounds for a total of 3,378.



**Drug Take Back Day with Ware TRIAD**

## **Senior Outreach and Education**

### **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 Sullivan, Hampshire County Sheriff Robert Garvey, and Franklin County Sheriff Christopher Donelan. Chris Geffin serves as the NWDA TRIAD Coordinator.



**Amherst Community Shred Day  
with Amherst TRIAD**



**Loomis Village Health and Safety Fair**



#### **TRIAD Activities for 2014:**

Numerous community education and outreach projects took place with our TRIAD program in 2014 including:

- 15 Educational programs on Elder Protection;
- 3 Health and Safety Fairs;

- South Hadley Community Safety Day event ;
- House Numbering program which has numbered over 10,000 homes in the NWDA jurisdiction;
- Presentation at 2 conferences on the Elder Protection: Jericho Bureau for Exceptional Children and Adults and Department of Fire Services annual conference;
- 3 Community Shredding Events;
- Continued collaboration with the following communities to implement the TRIAD Program: Amherst, Belchertown, Hadley, Deerfield, Granby, South Hadley, Westhampton, Ware, Greenfield, Whatley, Williamsburg, Montague, and Northampton;
- Initiation of the Safe Entry Program in Amherst which provides seniors with lock boxes for their home keys.



**South Hadley TRIAD Community Safety Day**

## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT UNIT**

The Chief of the Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Unit (DVSAU) is ADA Jennifer Suhl. The Unit also includes highly trained and experienced staff members: Mary Kociela, Director of DV Projects; Cassie Carter, High Risk Team Coordinator; and Karin Sheehy, Administrative Assistant.



**Unit Chief Jennifer Suhl and Advocate Karen Fitzpatrick – *Greenfield Recorder* photo**

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 2014 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/Orange, Michael Russo in Northampton and Robert Opsitnick in Belchertown.

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

- Approximately 9 percent of total cases prosecuted in District Court were domestic violence cases for a total of 1,586 cases.
- There were 60 adult sexual assault cases, 11 in Superior Court and 49 in District Court.

### **DVSAU Initiatives**

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.



**Ware student Domestic Violence Task Force and DA's Task Force members**

### **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 2014, meetings included updated information and trainings on topics such as child abuse, outreach through social media, services provided by the Department of Transitional Assistance DV Unit and a new survivor economic security initiative.



The Task Force helped to successfully lobby for changes in DV laws including the new designation of strangulation as a felony crime and the elimination of accord and satisfaction agreements in DV cases. Once enacted in August 2014, Task Force members received training in the new law and its implementation.

### **DVIP/AWARE Project**

The Domestic Violence Intervention Project (DVIP) 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. Offenders are provided with information about their responsibilities under the law and available batterer's intervention groups.

Quarterly DVIP partnership meetings are held for police, dispatchers and advocates. In 2014, training topics included implementation of the new DV laws, reporting child abuse & neglect and the connection between substance abuse and sexual assault. The DV law enforcement newsletter was also published and distributed to law enforcement in the NWDA's district. Featured articles included FAQ's, overview of new DV law and links to trainings on the DVIP and non-fatal strangulation.

The DVIP was highlighted in a news series by The Recorder, along with other DV programs in Franklin County. The series discussed challenges faced by survivors in abusive situations and resources available to assist them.

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. Recipients of these alarms receive ongoing support by the Project Coordinator.

### **New Domestic Violence Law Trainings**



**ADA Jennifer Suhl training police on the new Domestic Violence Law**

Chief of the DVSAU, ADA Jennifer Suhl, facilitated two law enforcement trainings on the implementation of the new DV law which went into effect August 8, 2014. Trainings were held in each county and were very well attended by police officers, dispatchers and advocates throughout the district. The Unit also created a brochure and distributed it to all police departments to assist officers in meeting the new requirement of providing information to defendants being served with a 209A order. The Unit continues to provide ongoing support to law enforcement and court staff working to implement the new law.

### **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 response to a growing number of strangulation cases, a checklist was created and distributed in 2013 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. In 2014, we saw an increase in the use of the checklist and identification of strangulation cases. We continue to train all first responders in the signs and dangers of non-fatal strangulation and the importance of assessing for this on all DV calls.



**DV survivor Betty Guetti talks to Franklin County Technical School students**

## **High Risk Team Offers Best Practice Trainings in MA and VA**



**Anthia Elliott, ADA Jennifer Suhl, Mary Kociela, Cassie Carter, and Amherst PD Det. Janet Lopez present in Virginia on our Domestic Violence Intervention Program**

In March, members of the NWDA's High Risk Team participated on a panel discussion in Marlborough, Massachusetts. The panel was part of a statewide conference focused on promising practices in high risk assessment and effective team models. The team was also asked to present our district's high risk model at a three- day Homicide Reduction Conference for Law Enforcement in Williamsburg, VA. Cassie Carter, Anthia Elliott, Mary Kociela, Janet Lopez and Jen Suhl traveled to Virginia on September 18th. They trained over 200 attendees from the state of VA including law enforcement, court staff and advocates on how to develop an effective, multi-disciplinary high risk team and how to sustain it over time.

## **DVSAU Community Outreach and Education**

Each year, the DVSAU sponsors and participates in several training and outreach programs. In 2014, this included programs for middle school and high school students, first responders, police officers, employers and participation on a panel at the statewide Victim Rights Conference. Staff also participated in the recreation of the Mayor of Greenfield's Domestic Violence Task Force which included a public

forum held in the fall and a reading of a town proclamation by Mayor Martin at the event.

### **White Ribbon Campaign**



**DA Sullivan, Mary Kociela, domestic violence survivor Betty Guetti and others visit Franklin County Technical School to talk about the White Ribbon Campaign with students**

In 2014, the Task Force organized the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual White Ribbon Campaign to involve men in the movement to end violence against women. Events were held in our local schools and the pledge was taken at several community events throughout the year. Several thousand white ribbons were distributed and hundreds of students and staff took an official pledge to end violence against women. The winners of the video contest promoting the anti-violence message were Franklin County Technical School and University of Massachusetts.



**The DA and UMass students take The White Ribbon Pledge**

### **Domestic Violence Seminars for Employers**

Employers and human resource staff from over 20 local businesses in Franklin and Hampshire counties attended seminars in April and May. The seminars entitled, “Domestic Violence Affects Us All: What Employers Can Do to Protect Your Business and Your Employees” were co-sponsored by the Franklin County and Greater Northampton Chambers of Commerce with the Amherst Area, Greater Easthampton, North Quabbin, Quaboag Hills, South Hadley & Granby Chambers of Commerce and The North Quabbin Community Coalition. Speakers included District Attorney David E. Sullivan, Director of DV Projects, Mary Kociela, a former employer of a DV homicide victim, Kate Van Cort French and Employers Against Domestic Violence Board President, Courtney Cahill. The program offered employers best practices and protocols for responding to DV in the workplace.



**Presenters at Domestic Violence and the Workplace seminar**

### **Sexual Assault Prevention Campaign**







With funding from 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. Products, posters and PSA's entitled "Bystander," "Asserts," and "Guy Talk" can be viewed at our website: [northwesternnda.org](http://northwesternnda.org).

A priority of the campaign is to work with Title IX Coordinators and Deans to incorporate the PSA's into freshman orientation. Over the past year, UMass worked with our office in creating new PSAs incorporating their theme "U Matter at UMass" and implemented a program for freshman in the Fall. UMass allocated funds to display posters as exterior bus ads throughout the year.

The campaign has received national attention including articles in the Huffington Post and New York Times along with requests from local colleges to use the PSA's for their own campus outreach. NWDA has also granted permission to Swank Motion Pictures (Residence Life Cinema) to use the 3 PSA's as content to be played between movies on campus closed circuit television and on their streaming service reaching over 200 colleges and universities across the country.



**New York Times photo of  
Campus Sexual Assault Prevention poster**

### **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 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.



**SART team members Becky Lockwood, Mary Walz-Watson, ADA Jennifer Suhl and Amherst PD Det. Lt. Ron Young**

In 2014, the SART implemented 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. Two trainings were held in 2014, in April at the University of Massachusetts Police Department and in November at the Northampton Police Department. The first training focused on investigating sexual assault cases involving alcohol and/or drug use by the victim, perpetrator, or both. The training, which was led by ADA Jennifer Suhl, was very well attended; nearly every sexual assault investigator in Hampshire County was in attendance. This interactive training allowed less-seasoned investigators to learn from the successes and failures of more experienced detectives. In November, ADA Jayme Parent, Chief of the Elder and Persons with Disabilities Unit, and Chris Geffin, Coordinator of the Unit, led a training on best practices of investigating sexual assaults against persons with disabilities, including mental health concerns. The numerous attendees were able to increase their arsenal of tools on how to properly investigate these highly complex cases. The team continues to develop more roundtable trainings as part of the series for 2015.

In addition to the trainings, the SART met monthly at the District Attorney's Office in Northampton, to discuss continuing efforts to responses to sexual assault reports. In 2015, the team will be working to increase collaboration with health care providers in order to more fully support victim/survivors and also increase reporting to law enforcement.

## **APPELLATE DIVISION**



**ADAs Cynthia Von Flatern, Thomas Townsend and Steven Greenbaum**

The Appellate Division is comprised of ADAs Thomas Townsend (Chief), Cynthia Von Flatern, and Steven Greenbaum. The three members of the Appellate Division 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 Appellate Division also supports all ADAs through legal updates and advice.

In 2014, the Appellate Division filed a total of 34 briefs, which was slightly lower than the record-breaking years of 2012 (38 briefs) and 2013 (42 briefs).

There were 33 new cases entered in the Massachusetts Appeals Court in 2014, most of which will be briefed and argued this year. The NWDA also has several cases pending in the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, including three 1<sup>st</sup>-degree murder convictions.



**Appellate Chief ADA Tom Townsend**

### **Notable appellate decisions from 2014**

Certain appellate decisions are published to serve as precedent in future cases. Among the NWDA's published decisions from 2014 are:

***Commonwealth v. Bryan Johnston***, in which the Supreme Judicial Court affirmed the defendant's 1<sup>st</sup>-degree murder conviction for the shooting death of David Sullivan, who was killed in his Amherst home in 2004.

***Commonwealth v. Robin Anthony Hoose***, in which the Supreme Judicial Court upheld two counts of 1<sup>st</sup>-degree murder in the stabbing deaths of Irene Pierce and Frank Blanchard in Greenfield in 2007.

***Commonwealth v. David Fried Oppenheim***, in which the Appeals Court affirmed the convictions of the former executive director of the Pioneer Arts Center of Easthampton, who repeatedly raped a 14-year-old student under the guise of giving her acting lessons.

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

In 2014, the NWDA responded to 15 motions for a new trial.

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

### **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/her sex offense, but to determine if he/she 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.

#### **SDP Cases handled in 2014**

In calendar year 2014, the Northwestern District Attorney's Office reviewed 33 inmates under G.L. c. 123A, the Sexually Dangerous Persons (SDP) statute. Of the 33 inmates reviewed, eight 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. Two new SDP petitions were filed during 2014. Both of these inmates were then reviewed by independent qualified examiners and both were found to meet the criteria of the SDP statute. Their civil SDP trials will likely be held in early 2015.

## **DISTRICT COURT**

The District Court is the gateway for most cases in the criminal justice system. The vast majority of criminal cases are prosecuted there. 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. In 2014, several District Court ADAs left in order to accept employment elsewhere; Sarah Pascale and Andrew Covington were hired to replace them.



**ADAs Matthew Russo, Joseph Webber and Andrew Covington**



**Eastern Hampshire District Court**

A senior ADA is designated as the "Attorney in Charge" (AIC) in each of the four District Courts. In addition, ADAs in each of these courts have been designated as "Domestic Violence" (DV) prosecutors. ADAs in the Belchertown and Greenfield District Courts have also been designated as Child Abuse (CAU) prosecutors.



**Northampton District Court ADA Sarah Pascale**

Assistant District Attorneys in District Court managed 14,015 cases. Of these cases, 6,568 were new arraignments.

### **Staff and Prosecutor Training**

The Training Committee sponsored, hosted or conducted twenty-eight internal trainings on a variety of topics including competency hearings, handling drug cases, juvenile court procedures, and the new Domestic Violence statute.

Prosecutors and staff attended, or were involved in, numerous advanced trainings and conferences in addition to NWDA trainings. A training was also offered to police officers throughout the district on Report Writing and Testifying in Court.



## **JUVENILE JUSTICE**

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.



**Juvenile Justice Chief ADA Yvonne Pesce, ADA Caitlyn Rock and ADA Liz Mulcahy**

The 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. In addition, as needed, the Juvenile Unit prosecutes cases in Superior Court and District Court and handles its own Grand Jury presentations.

### **Delinquency Cases**

During 2014, the Juvenile Unit handled a total of 295 cases. In Hampshire County, there were a total of 191 cases. In Franklin County and the

town of Athol, the Juvenile Unit handled 104 delinquency cases. Another 70 cases were Diversion cases.

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

For serious crimes, 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 2014, two juveniles were indicted as Youthful Offenders for violent crimes including an armed masked robbery.

- 2014 delinquency cases: **295**
- Franklin County Juvenile delinquency cases: **104**
- Hampshire County Juvenile delinquency cases: **191**
- Hampshire Superior Court cases: **4**

In order to further enhance their knowledge and skills, the Juvenile Justice prosecutors attended trainings and conferences. Trainings included the prosecution of child sex offenses; cell phone and child pornography investigations, and trial advocacy.

### **Safe Schools Response Team**

District Attorney Sullivan established a Safe School's Response Team to enable the Northwestern District Attorney's Office to promptly review and 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, and Administrative Assistant Sue Snyder.

Issues reviewed and investigated in 2014 included complaints alleging civil rights violations, assaults, threats, cyber-bullying, sexting, harassment and bullying.

### **Juvenile Justice Unit Outreach and Education**

During 2014, the Juvenile Justice Unit was actively involved in the development of numerous conferences and outreach programs aimed at youth, parents, and school personnel.

### **Juvenile Diversion Program**

In 2014, 70 juvenile cases were handled through our 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.

### **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.

### **VICTIM WITNESS ASSISTANCE UNIT**



**Victim Witness Advocates**

The purpose of the Victim/Witness Assistance Unit 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 M.G.L Chapter 258B. The advocates work with the Assistant District Attorneys throughout the case to provide the best teamwork approach to a successful



resolution of their cases. The advocates strive to prevent secondary victimization within the court system by trying to ensure a victim's safety and to make sure each victim has a voice in the process.

In Hampshire County, our advocates were assigned to 1,201 cases. They assisted 1,602 victims, 1,017 witnesses and 23 family members.

In Franklin County, our advocates were assigned to 1,068 cases. They assisted 1,371 victims, 768 witnesses and 15 family members.

Advocates from both counties assisted prosecutors with open investigations of reported domestic 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 2014, our staff filed 322 approved applications to the Victim Notification Registry for either Offender Release Information or CORI certification for access to documents and offender Board of Probation records. This reflects an increase of 8% from 2013. 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.



**Advocate Linda Rogers and Franklin-Quabbin Children's Advocacy Center breakfast speaker Kate Vear**

### **Training and Outreach**

In 2014, our advocates participated in and attended a number of professional development opportunities. They attended conferences and seminars on Domestic Violence in the Workplace, Technology Safety in a Digital World, Sexual Assault on Campus Awareness, New Advocate Training, Safe Schools, GPS Tracking of Domestic Violence Offenders, Heroin Community Response and a Massachusetts Office of Victim Assistance Public Hearing on Victim Needs.

Most notably, the Director and Deputy Director attended the National Organization of Victim Assistance annual conference. This conference brings together service providers from around the world who provide insights and highlight innovations being made in investigations, prosecution, forensics, trauma therapies, treatment, crisis response and a whole host of other victim oriented efforts.

### **Recognition**

We marked the celebration of the 30-year anniversary of the Victim Bill of Rights in Massachusetts. In April, at the Massachusetts

Office of Victim Assistance Victim Rights Conference, two staff members received Length of Service Awards. Bonnie Press, the Deputy Director, was recognized for her 30 years of service and Heather Darling was recognized for her 15 years of service.



**VW Advocate Bonnie Press**



**VW Advocate Heather Darling**

Both of these outstanding advocates have dedicated themselves to serving the citizens of the Northwestern District and the town of Athol. Each are well deserving of such recognition and are outstanding representatives of the Northwestern District Attorney's Office. At this same Victim Rights Conference, Bonnie Press and Mary Kociela, the Northwestern District Attorney's Office Director of Domestic Violence Projects, were part of a workshop panel which focused on the journey of victim rights over the 30 year time span. The panel was comprised of advocates with decades of experience in victim services.

### **Cases of Note**

In 2014, two Domestic Violence-related homicides were prosecuted in Hampshire County.

***The Commonwealth v. Jeb Daly*** was a murder in the town of Huntington in which a young mother was killed by her husband. The case resulted in a guilty plea to 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Murder in May. Unit Chief Jackie Gaw was the advocate on this case.

***The Commonwealth v. Ryan Welch*** was a murder in Easthampton which involved the murder of a young woman by her boyfriend. This case was a trial in September and resulted in a conviction for 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Murder. Unit Chief Jackie Gaw and VW Advocate Lori Roy worked together on this complex case which had a multitude of legal and representation issues and continuances.



**Temporary Franklin County Courthouse**

We also saw the opening of a temporary courthouse in Greenfield while the new courthouse is being built at its original site. The Franklin Victim Witness staff provided a great deal of help in the effort to relocate the office to this new space. The staff were an integral part of setting up and designing the Safe and Secure Waiting Area for victims and witnesses.

## **CONSUMER PROTECTION UNIT**

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. They provide education and outreach programs throughout both counties, giving 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 17 programs throughout the state which receives a grant from the AGO to provide a local consumer protection program.



**Janice Garrett talking to consumers**

### **2014 CPU Highlights**

In addition to the coverage area of Hampshire and Franklin Counties and the town of Athol, the Consumer Protection Unit's coverage area was increased to include 16 Worcester County communities. The CPU rose to this challenge providing needed consumer protection services to these additional communities.

This year we joined the Hampshire County Home Care program for a Financial Literacy Series for Council on Aging members in

Easthampton, Westfield, Amherst, and Huntington. We focused on consumer scams targeting your savings.



**Caroline Smith at the Northampton Safety Fair**

CPU staffed informational tables at community events and made numerous consumer presentations throughout the district.

The unit was interviewed by the local media on consumer issues including scams, National Consumer Protection Week, home improvement contractors, the IRS scam, and door-to-door solicitations. Local community access television stations continue to air our locally produced public service announcements, which are also available on the NWDA website.

In an effort to help our community fight Identity Theft, we have provided all of our area banks with the Federal Trade Commission's *"Taking Charge, What to do if your identity is stolen."* We plan to expand our outreach on this issue in 2015.

The Consumer Protection Unit is a member of the Hampshire and Franklin County Money Management Advisory Boards. CPU staff regularly participates in professional development in order to enhance the unit's expertise and ability to help consumers. We have recently joined the Consumer Federation of America, an association of non-profit consumer organizations to advance the consumer interest through research, advocacy, and education.



In 2014, the Consumer Protection Unit received 1,806 calls, opened 361 cases and recovered \$182,885.60 for consumers. In the past 5 years, we have recovered \$1,199,968.

## **COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND EDUCATION UNIT**

Following the departure of Jana McClure in February 2014, Don Gallagher joined the NWDA as Director of the Community Outreach and Education Unit (COE). The COE collaborates with other NWDA units, local schools, youth coalitions and task forces in order to create safer and more inclusive communities.

Working with the Juvenile Justice, Communications, Domestic Violence, Elders and Disabilities and Consumer Education Units, the COE helped raise awareness of initiatives including the Prescription Drug Take Back Program, White Ribbon Campaign to End Violence Against Women, Preventing Sexual Assault on College Campuses and Responding to Child Abuse in Our Communities as well as other initiatives.



**ADAs Becky Michaels and Matt Russo at the Amherst Block Party**

## **2014 Community Outreach and Education Unit Programs & Projects**

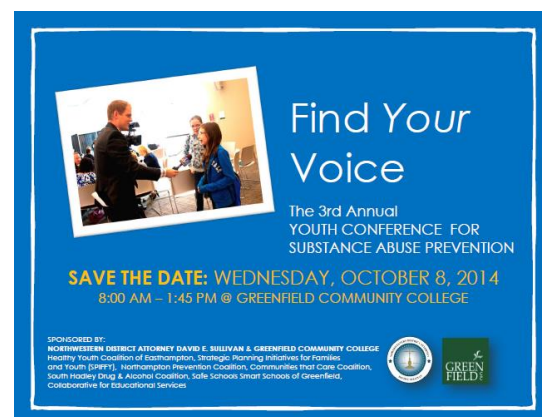


**Citizen Advisory Board**

The Citizen Advisory Board (CAB) was very active in 2014, participating in Hampshire and Franklin County Law Day events, the "Find Your Voice" 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Youth Conference on Substance Abuse Prevention and the "Safe Schools – Connected Kids" 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Safe Schools Summit. Members of the CAB also supported "National Night Out" events, Restorative Practices in Schools training and the development of a Children's Advocacy Center to serve Franklin County and the North Quabbin Region.

### **Conferences**

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Youth Conference for Substance Abuse Prevention**



**"Find Your Voice" the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Youth Conference on Substance Abuse Prevention**

The Outreach and Education Unit worked with the Juvenile Justice, Communications Unit, administrative staff and community partners to develop our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Youth Conference on Substance Abuse Prevention for middle and high school students held on October 8th at Greenfield Community College. Some 220 students representing 21 schools attended. High School seniors Bryan Delaney and Theresa Martinez gave keynote speeches. Bryan shared how he became a leader in the Students Against Destructive Decisions at Easthampton High School. Theresa shared her experience in leading Active Bystanders at Ralph C. Mahar Regional School.



**2014 Youth Conference registration**

### **“Safe Schools – Connected Kids” the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Safe School Summit**



**Keynote speakers Bryan Delaney and Theresa Martinez with DA Sullivan**

Students participated in workshops, ranging from interactive theatre to video PSA-making and leadership development. The workshops were aimed at giving students the tools they need to promote anti-substance abuse messages to their peers.



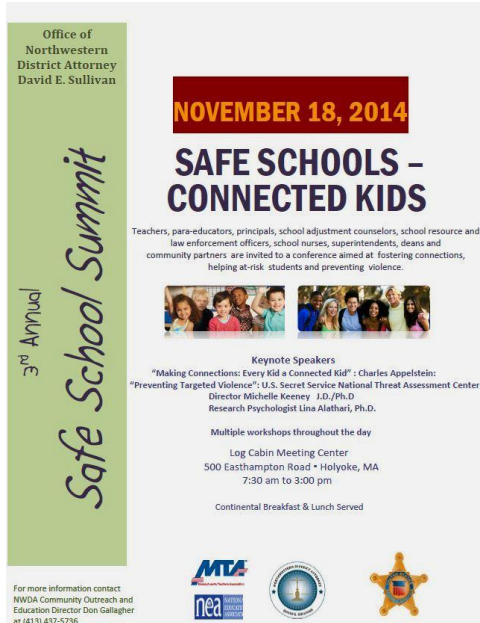
**Safe School Summit Keynote Speaker Charlie Appelstein**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Safe School Summit was expanded to a two-day event in 2014 and was co-sponsored by the NWDA, the Massachusetts Teachers Association, The National Education Association, UMass Amherst Police Department and the United States Secret Service.

The first day of the Summit was attended by 250 teachers, administrators, school staff, community members, mental health professionals and representatives from local law enforcement agencies. Nationally acclaimed adolescent social worker Charlie Appelstein gave the keynote address, titled “No Such Thing as a Bad Kid,” and Special Agents from the U.S. Secret Service addressed “Threat Assessment and the Prevention of Targeted Violence in Schools K – 12.”



**Youth Conference PSA-making workshop**



Massachusetts State Police, educators and psychologists led workshops in Risk Assessment, Safe School Planning and School Visitor Awareness.

The second day of the summit addressed campus security. Some 60 representatives from colleges and residential boarding schools in western Massachusetts attended. Presenters included representatives from the University of Massachusetts- Amherst Assessment and Care Team (ACT) Team who described the “UMatter at UMass” Active Bystander Program.



**UMass ACT team members Enku Gelaye, Ian Cyr and Elaine Brigham**

## LIFELINES



**Lifelines: A Comprehensive Whole-School Suicide Prevention Program presenters Barry Feldman and Anne Gilligan with DA Sullivan**

The NWDA hosted a suicide prevention, intervention and postvention training attended by 85 representatives from 12 school districts. Dr. Barry Feldman from UMass Medical School in Worcester and Anne Gilligan from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education presented a “train the trainers” program designed to assist schools in developing and implementing policies, procedures and strategies to identify, intervene and prevent potential threats by suicidal adolescents. The training also outlined strategies for creating appropriate responses in the aftermath of a suicide or other traumatic and sudden deaths in their school and community.

Co-sponsors included Baystate Health Systems, the Massachusetts Teachers Association and the National Society for the Prevention of Teen Suicide.





**Franklin County Law Day essay contest winner Noah Jacobson-Carroll and Law Day partners**

### **Law Day Events**

The NWDA collaborated with the Hampshire County and Franklin County Bar Associations to produce an event in each county to celebrate National Law Day.

The Franklin County Law Day at Greenfield Community College on April 10<sup>th</sup> addressed the issue of **“Social Media and the Decline of Privacy Rights.”** Awards were given to the student winners of an essay contest on the subject. Students from a dozen schools in Franklin County and the North Quabbin region engaged in lively discussion about privacy and the internet following a panel discussion by experts

Our theme for Hampshire Law Day 2014 was **“Why Every Vote Matters – American Democracy and the Rule of Law.”** On May 2, in the Old Superior Court of Northampton, John Bonifaz, founder of the National Voting Rights Institute, addressed a full courtroom of middle and high school students. Later, students toured the court with prosecutors, defense attorneys and court officials.

## **CIVIL RIGHTS REVIEW TEAM**

The protection of citizens’ civil rights is a core 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 and District Court Chief Rosemary Tarantino. 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.



**Radio personality Monte Belmonte, DA Sullivan and Congressman Jim McGovern walked 26 miles to support the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts**

## **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 2014, the Communications Unit continued to enhance 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.



**Mary Carey making popcorn at the NWDA's information table at the Amherst Block Party**

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

The Communications Unit also worked closely with all of the NWDA Units to plan, promote and document a wide range of events, trainings and educational programs. It also coordinated programming for the 2014 Youth Conference for Substance Abuse Prevention.



**Deputy DA Janice Healy and Chris Geffin at WHMP radio forum on Identity Theft**

## **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY UNIT**

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 Director Bruce Fieldman and IT Specialist Nathan Foote**

### **IT Unit's 2014 Accomplishments**

In 2014, the IT Unit developed and unveiled a new intranet accessible from the offices of the Northwestern District Attorney to provide staff with advanced tools to assist them in all areas of their daily responsibilities.

The Unit purchased new workstations and laptops to ensure that the office staff is able to carry out their daily tasks in an efficient manner and continued ongoing efforts to improve internal systems for storing and retrieving data. Numerous existing databases were expanded upon, allowing for the storage of new forms of data, and providing staff increased flexibility in how data is extracted and reported on.

We finalized implementation of our new reporting software which allows prosecutors and administrative staff to have flexible access to data in the NWDA case management system. This new system allows for automatically generated regular reports targeted to specific staff, significantly improving the availability of information on current cases for the District Attorney, assistant district attorneys and administrative staff. Also finalized was the implementation of a new modern enterprise level backup system which provides secure off-site backup of all critical NWDA data.

The Unit worked closely with the Massachusetts District Attorney's Association to identify data and system requirements and for a new case management system that will be implemented for all district attorney offices statewide. Potential case management products and vendors were rated relative to the specified requirements.

We continued ongoing efforts to improve regular maintenance and general oversight of NWDA technologies to ensure high levels of security and efficient operations.

The Unit also put into place a network, communication infrastructure, computer and AV equipment in the offices and courtrooms of the temporary Franklin County court building during construction of the new Greenfield courthouse.



**Franklin County Office Supervisor  
Donna Jackson**

## **MASSACHUSETTS STATE POLICE DETECTIVE AND NARCOTICS UNIT**



**The State Police Detective 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.

All unattended deaths in Franklin and Hampshire counties and the town of Athol are investigated by the State Police Detective Unit. 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 and death investigations.

The total number of 2014 SPDU cases was 508 and the total number of unattended deaths was 204.



**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. This regional task force helps identify, investigate and prosecute illegal narcotics offenses, unlawful firearms offenses, major crimes, and other organized criminal activities. In the first 21 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.



**MSP Detective Gary Darling testifying in court**  
– *Daily Hampshire Gazette photo*

## **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 December 2014, **VJP helped over 375 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.

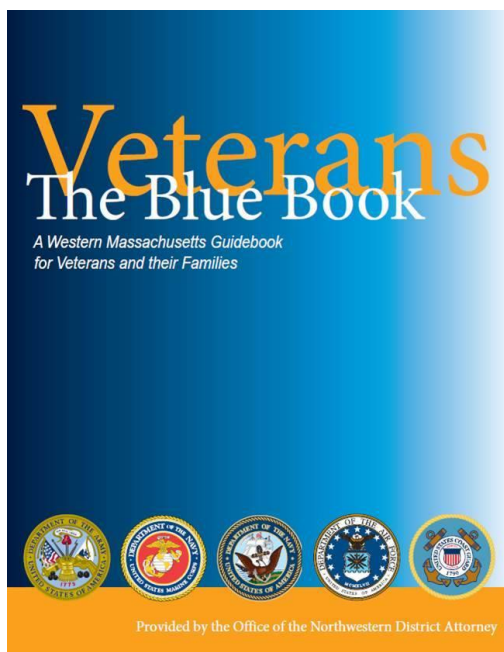
In 2014, VJP staff worked with 170 court-involved or incarcerated veterans, helping them to receive benefits, services, housing, treatment, or diversion.

VJP is led by District Attorney Sullivan; Dominic Sondrini, Soldier On and Marie Demarey, VA-Veterans Justice Outreach. 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.

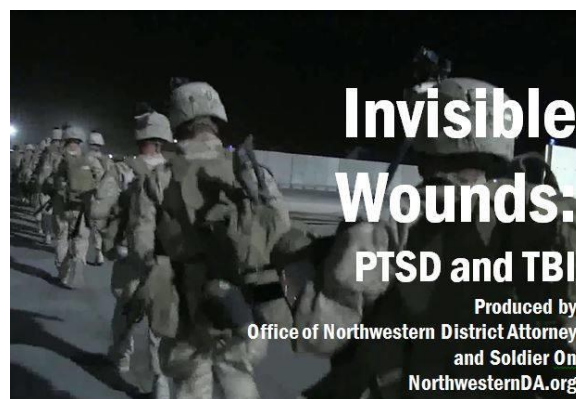
In 2014, the NWDA produced The Veterans Blue Book, a comprehensive guide to resources and services for veterans. This popular resource guide have been distributed throughout western Massachusetts. Marygrace Patterson and DA Sullivan were instrumental in creating it.



**DA Sullivan and Margaret Ogelsby, Chief Probation Officer and a veteran**

The NWDA, Soldier On, VA officials, veterans and others worked together to create an

educational film about the impact on veterans from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury. Titled "Invisible Wounds," it was produced for the Massachusetts Trial Court Valor Act education project. As a part of the Valor Act, court personnel, prosecutors, criminal defense attorneys, and others will view the film and educational materials to increase their awareness and understanding of mental health and medical challenges which may impact a veteran's life and contribute to court involvement.



At the end of 2014, the VJP was well on its way to establishing a Western Massachusetts Veterans Treatment Court. This Vet Court will be established to work specifically with court-involved veterans and will be centrally located at Holyoke District Court to serve veterans from Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden counties. Martha Murphy Kane is the project coordinator and ADA Michael Russo is the designated prosecutor. 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.

### **Restorative Justice Program**

The Restorative Justice Program serves 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 spearheads this initiative.



**Restorative Justice Program participants**

### **Northwestern Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP)**

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 2014, training programs offered to our law enforcement partners included domestic violence legal updates, best practices for eyewitness identification, search and seizure law, cellphone technology and investigation and digital forensics.



**Law Enforcement Assistance Program  
Trainer Attorney John Scheft**

### **Opioid Task Force of Franklin & North Quabbin/ Hampshire HOPE**

Addiction to pain prescription medications and heroin has impacted our region in an unprecedented way. Families and communities are being devastated by this public health epidemic. Criminal activity has spiked as a result of people committing thefts and robberies to feed their addictions. In 2014, hundreds of opioid overdoses were reported with over 30 fatal overdoses in the Northwestern District. In 2013 we experienced 41 fatal opioid overdoses, one of the highest fatality rates in the state. Over 70 fatal opioid overdoses over the past two years has demanded a comprehensive and sustained community effort.



of Franklin County and the North Quabbin Region

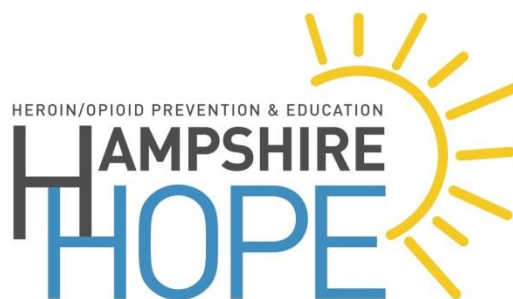
The **Opioid Task Force of Franklin and North Quabbin Region** was formed in October 2013 to tackle opioid use and abuse. The Task Force is focused on increasing treatment and recovery options; expanding community outreach and education; coordinating a law enforcement response and supporting health care solutions. The Task Force is co-chaired by District Attorney Dave Sullivan, Franklin Register of Probate John Merrigan, and Franklin Sheriff Christopher Donelan. The Task Force has implemented an action plan to enhance community awareness of the opioid problem and solutions to this epidemic. Our Task Force coordinator is Marisa Hebble, M.P.H., who has helped make our Task Force a model one for Massachusetts.



**Anthony Bourdain, host of "Parts Unknown," featured Task Force members in an episode about the rural heroin epidemic**

NWDA also helped create the **Hampshire Heroin Opioid Prevention Education (HOPE) Collaborative** to tackle this epidemic in Hampshire County communities. NWDA has taken early leadership on these issues through

its prescription drug abuse education, permanent drug take back program, youth substance abuse prevention conferences, and the Northwestern District Anti-Crime Task Force. Our office led the efforts to train and supply all first responders with Naloxone to save the lives of overdose victims. Through the assistance of our federal legislators, we secured a **Hal Rogers Prescription Drug Abuse Grant** to further efforts in the Northwestern District and statewide to address prescription drug and heroin abuse.



### **School Safety and Security**

In the tragic wake of the shooting massacre of 20 students and 6 staff members at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Ct. , District Attorney Sullivan, Massachusetts State Police, Sheriff's Departments, and local law enforcement formed a Western Massachusetts Safe School Security Task Force. 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 is spearheaded by Massachusetts State Police Trooper Rick Gawron and District Attorney Sullivan.

In 2014, our DA office co-sponsored two trainings to improve school safety and threat assessment capabilities. Our two-day 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Safe School Summit brought together national experts on school safety, threat assessments, school climate, and helping at-risk

youth. We also co-sponsored, with the Amherst Regional Schools, full-day training by Dr. Dewey Cornell on assessing and responding to student threats of violence. Creating safe and healthy school climates takes a sustained effort by schools, law enforcement and communities. Our office is committed to these efforts and reducing the threat of violence in and outside of our schools.

## **FEDERAL GRANTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR PUBLIC SAFETY**

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.



## **Northwestern District Rx Drug Abuse Task – Harold Rogers Grant**

In October 2014, the Office of Northwestern District Attorney was awarded a competitive Harold Rogers Prescription Drug Abuse Grant. We are grateful to Senators Warren and Markey, and Congressmen Neal and McGovern, who advocated for this grant to be awarded.



**Northwestern Prescription Drug Abuse  
Prevention Program Director Lynn Ferro**

The Project Coordinator for our Hal Rogers Grant is Lynn Ferro, with the Northwestern District Rx Drug Abuse Task Force being led by District Attorney Dave Sullivan. This grant compliments the crime and opioid abuse prevention efforts being undertaken by the NWDA to identify and to significantly reduce prescription and heroin drug abuse. Pursuant to the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Bureau of Justice Assistance goal, we plan to analyze and respond to data collected as it pertains to addiction and crime problems of the over-prescribing, theft and distribution of prescription drugs. Our ultimate goal is to use the data to create improved prescriber practices, fight addiction and crime-related activity, and improve the quality of life in the forty-seven communities in the Northwestern District. Our Task Force will utilize data to identify prescription drug abuse trends in the district and target interventions effectively by creating data-driven responses to include education, outreach, and enforcement.

## **NoFIRES**



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.

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

Loren Davine is the Executive Director of NoFIRES.



**NoFIRES Executive Director Loren Davine**



**DA Sullivan, Martie Murphy Kane, Loren Davine, MSP Lt. Paul Zipper and ADA Yvonne Pesce at a NoFIRES training**

In 2014, NoFIRES received more than 60 referrals to the program. Almost 150 families have been served by NoFIRES since it was developed in 2012.

At this time, NoFIRES is one of the few programs available for juveniles who 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.

Over the past 3 years, the NoFIRES Partnership received two Commonwealth of Massachusetts Community Incentive Challenge (CIC) grants to formally launch and develop this program.

Additionally, NoFIRES has received two local grants and held several fundraisers.



**Loren Davine and Granby Fire Chief Russ Anderson accept \$5,000 from Columbia Gas of Massachusetts**

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 2014, NoFIRES sponsored several trainings including Interviewing the Juvenile Firesetter and The Second Annual Arson Investigation and Prosecution Conference. Both events were attended by prosecutors, police and fire investigators from around the state.

## **2014 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.

## **FISCAL UNIT / CALENDAR YEAR 2014**



Higy 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 2014 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.



Donna Dudkiewicz at the end of the Fiscal Year

**CY14 Total Appropriation Funding**  
**\$5,747,601.00**

**CY14 Total Grant Funding**  
**\$632,548.17**

**Grand Total**  
**\$6,380,149.17**

**Appropriation Funding Percentage**  
**90%**

**Grant Funding Percentage**  
**10%**





**Deb Jacques with Bobbi Reardon  
who retired in 2014**



**Longtime NWDA employee  
Pat Matusiewicz**



**Noreen Grogan, Bobbie Reardon  
and Robin Whitney**

## **NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Northwestern District Attorney's  
Website: [NorthwesternDA.org](http://NorthwesternDA.org)**

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**Fax:** (413) 584-3635

### **EASTERN HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT COURT OFFICE**

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**Phone:** (413) 323-5275  
**Fax:** (413) 323-5379

### **FRANKLIN COUNTY OFFICE**

13 Conway Street  
Greenfield, MA 01301  
**Phone:** (413) 774-3186  
**Fax:** (413) 773-3278

### **ORANGE DISTRICT COURT OFFICE**

One Court Square  
Orange, MA 01364

[NorthwesternDA.org](http://NorthwesternDA.org)

find us on  
facebook



at [NorthwesternDADaveSullivan](https://www.facebook.com/NorthwesternDADaveSullivan)

Thank you to Richard Cowles for permission  
to use his photograph of the Old  
Courthouse in Northampton

Special thanks to Mary Carey, Janice Healy,  
and Sue Snyder for their dedicated time and  
talent in producing our 2014 Annual Report.





### **Our Mission**

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

### **Our Vision**

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