



Office of Northwestern District Attorney
David E. Sullivan

2015 Annual Report



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Message from District Attorney David E. Sullivan

I am pleased to share the Office of the Northwestern District Attorney (NWDA) 2015 Annual Report. The hallmark of our success continues to be our emphasis on smart and fair prosecutions, progressive prevention initiatives, and outstanding victim assistance. Our dedicated prosecutors, victim advocates, and staff are committed to addressing the challenges of child abuse, substance abuse, domestic violence and other challenges impacting the safety and quality of life in our 47 Northwestern communities. Our 2015 Annual Report highlights the achievements of

NWDA and our many community partners.

Our commitment to preventing, prosecuting, and ending child abuse in the Northwestern District remains as strong as ever. The NWDA Child Abuse Unit, led by **ADA Linda Pisano**, handled allegations of physical or sexual abuse on behalf of over 450 children. In 2015, NWDA, Northwestern Children's Advocacy Center, and other community supporters helped establish the Children's Advocacy Center of Franklin County and North Quabbin Region. This new CAC provides a safe place for forensic interviews, medical examinations, and counseling referrals serving abused children and families. This beautifully renovated house, located in Greenfield, is a family-friendly place that will help many children start on their journey to safety, healing, and justice.

The NWDA handled over 1,200 domestic violence cases in 2015. We continue to achieve a high level of success in the prosecution of these cases through focused prosecutions, law enforcement trainings and community collaborations. Offender accountability and victim safety are at the core of our approach to domestic violence cases. The passage of a sweeping domestic violence bill in August 2014 has enhanced our office's ability to effectively prosecute these cases.

In 2015, there were many cases in which our prosecutors distinguished themselves in the courtroom seeking justice for victims of crime. The case of *Commonwealth v. Emmanuel Bile, Justin King, Adam Liccardi and Caleb Womack*, exemplifies the high level of skill, commitment and professionalism that is the hallmark of the work of our trial teams. All four defendants were charged with raping a UMass freshman in her dorm room in the fall of 2012. The cases were severed, which required the victim to testify in separate trials. All three defendants who went to trial were found guilty of rape and sentenced to state prison. The fourth defendant pled guilty and was sentenced to a term in the House of Correction. **Assistant District Attorney Jennifer Suhl** did an exceptional job in her role as lead trial counsel. **Appellate ADA Steve Greenbaum** was invaluable as co-counsel. The third member of the team, **Victim Advocate Karyn Miller**, worked tirelessly to support the victim and her family. Obtaining a measure of justice for the victim was the hard-earned outcome of their exceptional skills and team work in these cases.

The NWDA continues to help **build safe and healthy schools for all children**. Our Juvenile Justice Unit, led by **ADA Yvonne Pesce**, collaborates with schools, courts, prevention coalitions, and others to maintain safe schools while helping youth develop into healthy and productive members of society. NWDA continued its work with schools on substance abuse prevention and early intervention, addressing student mental health challenges, and improving school security and threat assessments.

Our 4th **Annual Safe & Healthy School Summit** was held on October 26, 2015. Our keynote speaker was Dr. Dewey Cornell, a nationally-recognized expert in effective evaluation of threats of violence in ways that deescalate and reduce the threats posed to everyone within a school community. The Summit also offered a panel on how to integrate restorative practices in schools as a tool for improving school discipline and creating a healthier school climate.

The Massachusetts Trial Court, NWDA and other partners established the **Western Massachusetts Veterans Treatment Court**. This Vet Court, based in Holyoke District Court, is dedicated to helping court-involved veterans in Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden counties. NWDA's **Director of Operations Martha Murphy Kane** and **ADA Michael Russo** worked to establish this court. **The Veterans Justice Partnership (VJP)** is a collaboration of NWDA and community partners that helps court-involved veterans. From October 2012 to December 2015, VJP has been able to help over 450 court-involved or incarcerated veterans receive benefits, services, housing, treatment, re-entry services, or court diversions.

The **Opioid Crisis**, fueled by easy access to prescription pain medications and cheap heroin, continues to have a devastating impact on families and communities. Since 2013, the Northwestern District has had over 100 fatal opioid overdoses. NWDA has been a leader in efforts to bring community and state resources together to reduce opioid and heroin use and abuse, as well as to promote better treatment and recovery services for addicted persons. As District Attorney, I co-chair the **Opioid Task Force of Franklin and North Quabbin** and **Hampshire HOPE (Heroin Opioid Prevention and Education) Coalition**.

Our **Northwestern Prescription Drug Abuse Task Force**, led by **Lynn Ferro** and funded through a Hal Rogers Rx Abuse Grant, has made an impact in addressing prescription and heroin drug abuse on local and statewide levels. Our **Safe Prescribing and Opioid Abuse Conference** held on September 25, 2015 featured keynote speaker Massachusetts **Attorney General Maura Healey**, a leader who is passionately fighting the statewide opioid epidemic.

I am proud of the many justice initiatives our dedicated prosecutors and staff have worked on in the past year. We appreciate our state and federal legislators, community partners, and law enforcement professionals that support our mission and efforts. I am deeply honored and grateful for the opportunity to serve as District Attorney for the people of the Northwestern District. I look forward to working with you and many other community members in the future.

Sincerely,



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 Jeremy Bucci
ADA Jayme Parent
ADA Linda Pisano
ADA Jennifer Suhl
ADA Matthew Thomas
ADA Anne Yereniuk
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
Jennifer Reid, Family Service Advocate
Linda Rogers, Family Service Advocate

Susan Loehn, CAC for Hampshire County
Executive Director
Irene Woods, CAC of Franklin and North
Quabbin, Executive Director

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
Carly Estrela, High Risk Team Coordinator
Elizabeth Finn, AWARE/DVIP Coordinator
Dilmira Liquori, 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 Stephen Abraham
ADA Nicholas Atallah
ADA Andrew Covington
ADA Stephen Jacobson
ADA Becky Michaels, (AIC/DV) Greenfield
ADA Robert Opsitnick (AIC/DV), Eastern
Hampshire
ADA Sarah Pascal
ADA Elizabeth Priest (AIC/DV), Orange
ADA Matt Russo
ADA Michael Russo, (AIC/DV) Northampton
ADA Joseph Webber, Franklin

*AIC=Attorney-In-Charge

*DV=Specialized Domestic Violence 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 Reid, Advocate
Sidney Reavey, Advocate

Consumer Protection Unit

Janice Garrett, Director
Caroline Smith, Case Coordinator

Outreach and Education Unit

Donald Gallagher, Director
Laurie Loisel, Director
Lynn Ferro, Project Coordinator – Northwestern
Prescription Drug Abuse Task Force

Civil Rights Review Team

Deputy DA Janice Healy - Co-Chair
ADA Rosemary Tarantino - Co-Chair
Laurie Loisel – 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
Detective Lt. John Cummings, Unit Commander
Sgt. Christopher Baran, Executive Officer
Sgt. Christopher Ray, Narcotics Unit
9 State Police Troopers

Support Staff

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

Fiscal

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

SUPERIOR COURT

Although the majority of criminal cases are handled in our four District Courts, the most serious felonies are presented to the Grand Jury for indictment, and then prosecuted in the Franklin and Hampshire Superior Courts. These are cases in which the charges are so egregious, or the offender's record so lengthy—or *both*—that a state prison sentence may be warranted. Examples include murder, manslaughter, robbery, rape, arson, drug trafficking, aggravated child abuse, and human trafficking. 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.

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 –Springfield Republican photo

First Assistant District Attorney Steven E. Gagne oversees the prosecutors assigned to the Superior Court Unit. He designates cases for indictment, assigns indicted cases to particular prosecutors, and handles his own caseload of felonies. In addition, he oversees the work of Units specializing in Child Abuse, Elders and

Persons with Disabilities, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Appeals and Post-Conviction Proceedings, Economic Crimes, and Sexual Predators/Human Traffickers. 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

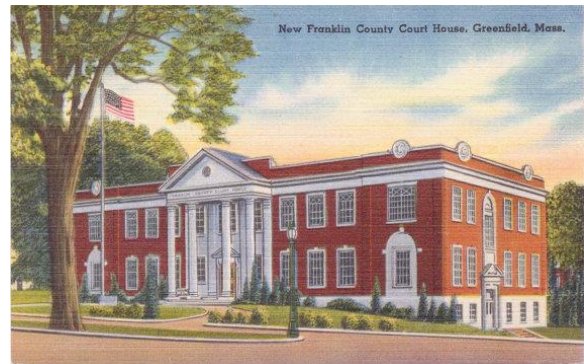
The Grand Jury

Cases that are prosecuted in the Superior Court must first be presented to the Grand Jury for indictment. The Grand Jury is comprised of 23 citizens who, during their three-month term of service, hear a variety of cases and determine whether there is *probable cause* to believe a crime has been committed by a particular person or persons. Superior Court prosecutors are sworn to uphold the integrity of the Grand Jury process, which means that when they present evidence to the Grand Jury, they must include any significant exculpatory or mitigating evidence that might seriously affect the Grand Jury's decision whether to indict. At the conclusion of each presentation, at least 12 Grand Jurors must conclude that probable cause exists before an indictment can issue.

In 2015, Superior Court prosecutors obtained indictments in 152 new cases involving 135 separate defendants. During the year, 124 cases were resolved by way of trial, plea, or other disposition. Convictions or admissions of guilt were obtained in **82%** of all cases resolved in 2015.

Among some of the more notable cases prosecuted in 2015 were:

- ***Commonwealth v. Katherine Stockdale (Franklin Superior Court)*** – the defendant pled guilty to manslaughter, motor vehicle homicide, and reckless assault and battery by means of a dangerous weapon, in connection with a fatal crash on Route 2 in Athol in August 2014. The defendant was traveling at an excessively high rate of speed when she rear-ended the victims' vehicle, sending it spinning into oncoming traffic, where it was struck by a truck. The driver of the vehicle survived, but his wife who was seated beside him in the front seat did not. The Court sentenced the defendant to 3 to 7 years in state prison. Prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Matthew Thomas.
- ***Commonwealth v. Heather Whitley (Hampshire Superior Court)*** – the defendant was convicted at trial of embezzling over \$100,000.00 in deposits in connection with a failed condominium project in Easthampton. The Court sentenced the defendant to serve six months in jail, followed by lengthy probation during which she is required to pay full restitution to the two victims. Prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Jayme Parent.
- ***Commonwealth v. David Johnstone (Franklin Superior Court)*** – in a case that started with a tip received through the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), the State Police executed a search warrant at the defendant's house, recovering unregistered firearms and child pornography. After pleading guilty, the defendant was sentenced to serve 3-5 years in state prison. Prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Anne Yereniuk.
- ***Commonwealth v. James Ainsworth (Hampshire Superior Court)*** – the defendant pled guilty to two counts of manslaughter and two counts of motor vehicle homicide in connection with the August 2014 deaths of a father and daughter, both of whom were killed when the defendant's SUV crossed into their lane of travel on Route 5 southbound in Easthampton. The defendant was under the influence of heroin at the time of the collision. The Court adopted the parties' joint sentencing recommendation and imposed a sentence of 15-20 years in state prison, after which the defendant will be on probation for 10 years. Prosecuted by First Assistant District Attorney Steven E. Gagne.



The Franklin County Courthouse continues to undergo renovations

ECONOMIC CRIMES UNIT



Forensic Investigator and Certified Fraud Examiner Bob Harrison

Since 2012, the Northwestern District Attorney's Office's Economic Crimes Unit has addressed the need for the investigation and prosecution of "white collar crime" and elder financial exploitation. The Unit consists of First Assistant District Attorney Steven Gagne, Assistant District Attorney Jayme Parent, and Forensic Investigator and Certified Fraud Examiner Bob Harrison, with cases occasionally prosecuted by additional Superior and District Court prosecutors. Most of the crimes investigated and prosecuted by the Economic Crimes Unit involve financial wrongdoings committed by bookkeepers, bank tellers, cashiers, caretakers, and other offenders who misuse positions of trust to victimize elders, disabled persons, or employers. Since its inception in 2012, the Economic Crimes Unit has investigated and prosecuted crimes involving nearly \$2,000,000 in losses.

Notable economic crimes cases prosecuted in 2015 include:

- ***Commonwealth v. Christopher Foley (Hampshire Superior Court)*** – the defendant pled guilty to embezzling nearly \$70,000 from his employer, an electric supply company. The Court sentenced the defendant to 2 years in the House of Correction, with 6 months

of the sentence to be served behind bars, with the remainder of the sentence suspended for 7 years, during which time the defendant will be on probation and must pay full restitution. Prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Matthew Thomas.

- ***Commonwealth v. Dwight Gaddis (Franklin Superior Court)*** – following the defendant's abrupt resignation as general manager of a Greenfield food cooperative, it was discovered that he had made upwards of \$50,000 in unauthorized personal purchases on the company's credit cards. The defendant was indicted for 5 counts of larceny by embezzlement, extradited back to Massachusetts from Minnesota, and pled guilty after spending 58 days in jail. He will be on probation until the year 2020, during which time he must pay full restitution. Prosecuted by First Assistant District Attorney Steven Gagne.
- ***Commonwealth v. Andrew Dufresne (Hampshire Superior Court)*** – while employed by an Easthampton construction company, the defendant charged approximately \$5,000 worth of personal expenses on the company's gas card. Based on the defendant's lengthy record, he was indicted as a "common and notorious thief" and sentenced to 4-6 years in state prison. Prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Jayme Parent.

INSURANCE FRAUD

Beginning in 2012, the Northwestern District Attorney's Office has partnered with the Insurance Fraud Bureau of Massachusetts (IFB) in a collaborative effort to identify and prosecute instances of insurance fraud. 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. The majority of insurance fraud prosecutions handled by the Northwestern District Attorney's Office involve automobile insurance fraud, in which people file fraudulent insurance claims or misrepresent where their vehicles are garaged in order to pay lower premiums than they should. Systematic insurance fraud is hardly a victimless crime, as it ultimately results in higher costs being paid by all law-abiding citizens.



District Attorney Sullivan with officials from the Insurance Fraud Bureau, Department of Homeland Security, and Massachusetts State Police

In the Fall of 2015, several members of the Northwestern District Attorney's Office received The International Association of Auto Theft Investigators' (IAATI) "Insurance Investigator of the Year" award. The award was created in 2014 by the IAATI, to recognize an individual or group for an "outstanding contribution in the area of vehicle theft investigation or insurance fraud investigation." This recognition stemmed from an 18-month investigation that helped dismantle an insurance fraud scheme believed to be the biggest car insurance fraud operation in Western Massachusetts history. In August 2014, Taiwan native Le Fen "Helen" Chen pleaded guilty to more than 100 insurance fraud charges. She admitted accompanying car owners from New York to insurance agencies in Western Massachusetts, where she vouched for

the insurance applications they filed with false addresses in Northampton, Greenfield and Easthampton. More than 40 others were also charged in the scheme.

Anthony M. DiPaolo, the Chief of Investigations for the IFB, characterized the investigation as "a benchmark insurance fraud investigation." He attributed the investigation's success to "the professionalism and dedication of the agencies involved." The IFB and the Northwestern District Attorney's Office were joined in the investigation by the Massachusetts State Police, the Department of Homeland Security and the New York City Police Department.



**Old Superior Court, Northampton
– photo by Richard Cowles**

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 CAU Chief Linda Pisano, works closely with law enforcement, child protective services (DCF) staff and the Children's Advocacy Centers for Hampshire County and of Franklin County and North Quabbin Region to provide a multi-disciplinary approach to responding to child abuse.



Some of the CAU team: Caleb Weiner, Deb Kierstead, Suzanne Koch, Linda Rogers, Unit Chief Linda Pisano, Kellie Beaulieu, Jennifer Reid, Heather Hubbard

- In 2015, 451 cases were referred to the CAU for investigation, involving nearly 619 victims, representing a 20% increase in cases and victims from 2014.
- In 2015, there were 58 CAU cases resolved. 45 of those 58 cases were resolved in the District Courts, 12 cases were resolved in the Superior and 1 case was resolved in the Juvenile Courts.
- In 2015, there were 64 CAU cases opened in the District Courts, 13 opened in the Juvenile Courts. Some 24 new Superior Court CAU cases were arraigned.

In 2015, there was more than a 20% increase in the number of cases coming into the CAU for the second year in a row. Some 451 cases were referred to the Child Abuse Unit for investigations involving 619 victims. A total of 229 forensic interviews of child victims were done at the two Children's Advocacy Centers in Hampshire and Franklin Counties.

In 2015, there were 101 offenders charged with CAU offenses, with 24 offenders charged in the Superior Court.

The dramatic increase in child abuse cases reflects a 40% increase in cases referred to the CAU over a two-year period, very likely due to the substantial community outreach and education provided by the CAU and CAC. These efforts include child abuse awareness and prevention to schools, health care organizations, child care facilities, and social service and numerous agencies in Hampshire and Franklin counties and North Quabbin region.

CAU Significant Case Highlights:

There were 24 child abuse cases charged and 12 resolved in the Superior Court in 2015.



**CAU Chief ADA Linda Pisano,
Daily Hampshire Gazette photo**

Noteworthy Superior Court cases that were charged/resolved in 2015

Significant Cases Resolved:

- ***Commonwealth v. Leo Fugler: (Hampshire Superior Court)***- This case involved the sexual and physical abuse of three children over several years. At the time that the victims came forward, they were adults reporting abuse that occurred almost 15 years earlier. The defendant was charged with 8 counts of forcible rape of a child and 7 counts of indecent assault and battery on a child. In May 2015, a Hampshire County Superior Court jury found the defendant guilty of most of the counts.

Saying that it was one of the worst child abuse cases he has ever presided over, the Honorable Judge Agostini sentenced the **defendant to 30 – 45 years** in State prison. Prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Linda Pisano.

- ***Commonwealth v. Michael Williams: (Franklin Superior Court)*** This case came to the attention of the Child Abuse Unit when the Department of Children and Families contacted the CAU indicating that the defendant, along with the children's mother, had fled the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth with his children once he was notified that DCF was going to take emergency custody of his children. The defendant was charged with kidnapping his minor children and bringing them over state lines. After a plea of guilty, the defendant was sentenced 3 years in state prison. Prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Linda Pisano.
- ***Commonwealth vs. James Parks: (Hampshire Superior Court)*** The CAU became involved in this case in June 2013 when the defendant admitted to police that he had been having sexual relations for many years with the minor victim. After a forensic interview with the victim, she disclosed numerous incidents of rape of a child and indecent assault and battery on a child. In **February 2015**, a Hampshire County Superior Court jury found the defendant guilty of most of the 18 counts of sexual abuse of the victim. The defendant was sentenced to 15-18 years in state prison followed by 10 years of probation. Prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Linda Pisano.

The Children's Advocacy Center for Hampshire County *and* Children's Advocacy Center of Franklin and North Quabbin Region

The Northwestern District Attorney's Child Abuse Unit works collaboratively with The Children's Advocacy Centers of Hampshire County and Franklin Counties and the North Quabbin Region. The CACs are non-profit organizations that provide a child-friendly, safe place in which law enforcement, district attorney personnel, DCF and Child Protective Services investigators may conduct and observe forensic interviews with children who are alleged victims of crimes. The CACs give children and non-offending family members support, crisis intervention and referrals for mental health and medical treatment.



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

To better serve children and families in the Franklin and North Quabbin regions a second CAC was established in Greenfield. 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 second CAC has come true.

Together, these two advocacy centers provide vital assistance to the children in Hampshire and Franklin Counties and the North Quabbin Region.

In 2015, 229 children were served by the Hampshire CAC and NWDA Greenfield office.

These services include:

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



**Children's Advocacy Center for
Hampshire County
Children's Advocacy Centers**

The Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) of Hampshire County, located in Northampton, is the non-profit organization which serves all of Hampshire County. In collaboration with the Northwestern District Attorney's Office and the Cooley Dickinson Hospital, it provides a child-friendly house where physically and sexually abused children and their families can receive the support and services that they need through a coordinated, multi-disciplinary response.



**CAC Directors Irene Woods and Susan Loehn
with Bill Benson**



**Children's Advocacy Center of Franklin County
& North Quabbin Region**

The Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) of Franklin County and the North Quabbin Region, located in Greenfield, is a non-profit organization that serves Franklin County and the North Quabbin Region. In 2011, one of the first priorities of District Attorney was to establish a Children's Advocacy Center for the children of Franklin County and the North Quabbin region. A leadership team was assembled and all work on the CAC has been completed. The CAC will be open and accepting child referrals in February 2016. The CAC will be led by Executive Director Irene Woods. In collaboration with NWDA and Baystate Health, it will offer the same services that the CAC of Hampshire County provides.



Some of the generous volunteers who helped transform the CAC house in Greenfield



Forensic interviewer Suzanne Koch in Franklin and North Quabbin CAC

2015 Highlights for both the Child Abuse Unit and the Children's Advocacy Center

- The CAC for Hampshire County sponsored the 15th Annual Child Abuse Awareness Month breakfast which was attended by law enforcement, child advocates, and community members;
- CAU hosted Northwestern District Child Fatality Review Team meetings, reviewing child deaths and making recommendations to the State for improved child safety;
- CAU held case review meeting involving representatives from the Department of Children and Families, medical professionals, law

enforcement and a mental health professional;

- District Attorney Sullivan and NWDA staff participated in the Children's Memorial Flag-raising and Mayoral Proclamations in Northampton, Amherst and Greenfield to commemorate April as National Child Abuse Awareness month;
- A comprehensive training for over 130 51A mandatory reporters was held at Greenfield Community College.



Kellie Beaulieu and Child Abuse Breakfast Keynote Speaker

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 work of this task force continues under the leadership of ADA Anne Yereniuk 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.



Superior Court ADA Anne Yereniuk

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

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 2015, the Elders and Persons with Disabilities Protection Unit investigated and/or prosecuted over 164 cases in which elders or persons with disabilities were victims.



EPDU Chief ADA Jayme Parent

2015 EPDU Case Highlights:

- ***Commonwealth v. David Kratt and Codie Kratt (Franklin Superior Court)*** - The defendant, David Kratt, broke into the home of an elder in a remote area of a small Franklin county town. The elder discovered him coming down her stairs and interacted with him briefly. After he exited the home, she realized that he had stolen her wallet. The defendant pled guilty to Breaking and Entering in the Nighttime with the Intent to Commit a Felony and Misleading the Police and was sentenced to 2-4 years in State Prison. The Co-Defendant, Codie Kratt, was charged with Misleading the Police by attempting to create a false alibi for his father and was sentenced to 1 year in the Franklin County House of Correction. Prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Jayme Parent.

- ***Commonwealth v. Richard Orozco (Hampshire Superior Court)*** - The Defendant, Richard Orozco, broke into the home of an elder who was related to his girlfriend. He was observed running from the home by neighbors carrying stolen items. The defendant pled guilty to Breaking and Entering in the Daytime with the Intent to Commit a Felony and Larceny Over \$250 from a person 60 or older and was sentenced to 3-5 years in State Prison. Prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Jayme Parent.



EPDU Coordinator Chris Geffin

EPDU Special Initiatives

2015 Drug Take Back Campaign

In 2015, the Northwestern District Attorney's Office placed an additional three permanent Drug Take Back kiosks. The Northampton Police Department installed its second permanent box and the towns of Buckland and Southamptton installed drop boxes for their communities. Nineteen permanent drug boxes have been installed since February 2013 in the following police departments: Amherst, Athol, Belchertown, Buckland, Deerfield,

Easthampton, Erving, Granby, Greenfield, Hadley, Montague, Northampton (2), Orange, South Hadley, Southamptton, Sunderland, Williamsburg and Ware.

District Attorney Sullivan is advocating with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to require that all pharmacies have permanent drop boxes at their locations to eliminate all unwanted medicines from home cabinets. Over 70 percent of abused prescription drugs come from family and friends. Eliminating these medications from homes is the easiest and most effective way to reduce prescription pain and medicine abuse.



Permanent Drug Take Back Box in Southamptton

Since 2011, our Drug Take Back initiatives have collected and environmentally disposed of over 25,000 lbs. of unwanted medication.



Buckland PD Permanent Drug Take Back Box

The total amount collected from our drug boxes in 2015 was 4,412 lbs. of unwanted medications.

Since the first collection in February 2013, our permanent boxes have collected a total of 10,337 pounds of unused medications.

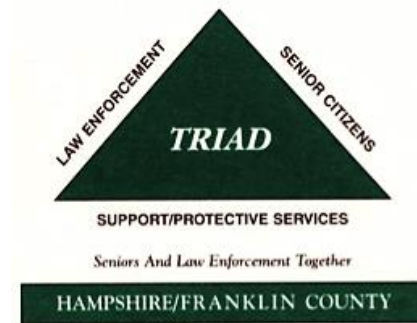
Senior Outreach and Education

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.



TRIAD Activities for 2015:

Numerous community education and outreach projects took place with our TRIAD program in 2015 including:

- 20 Educational programs on Elder Protection;
- 3 Health and Safety Fairs;
- 3 Community Shredding events;
- One Elder Economic Summit

The Elder Economic Summit held on September 11, 2015 focused on empowering older adults to protect themselves from situations that can make them vulnerable to financial exploitation. Financial crime is the number one crime perpetrated against older adults, losing thousands of dollars each year to telephone scams, mail fraud, caretaker theft and family members using their loved ones money for their own use.

Presenters at the Elder Economic Summit discussed: Why Scams Work; Investigating and Prosecuting Financial Crimes; How Banks Work to Prevent Loss and Safeguard Consumer's Accounts and How Tellers Spot Fraud; and Implementing the AARP Fraud Watch Network.



Sheriff Christopher Donelan, Liz Whynott, Marisa Hebble and DA Sullivan at GCTV to promote September 2015 Drug Take Back 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; Carly Estrela, High Risk Team Coordinator; Delia Liquori, DVIP Coordinator; and Karin Sheehy, Administrative Assistant.



Carly Estrela, Jennifer Suhl, Karin Sheehy, Delia Liquori and Mary Kociela

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 2015 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: Becky Michaels in Greenfield, Liz Priest in Orange, Sarah Pascale in Northampton and Bob Opsitnick in Belchertown.

The DVSAU collaborates with numerous community and law enforcement partners to deliver coordinated, best-practice prosecution of all domestic and sexual violence cases. These collaborations, as well as effective training and consistent prosecution, have led to highly successful results in the prosecution of domestic violence and sexual assault in our district. The NWDA office's prosecution of domestic violence cases was assisted by the passing of a sweeping domestic violence bill in August 2014 which created a felony offense of strangulation, eliminated private civil settlements in domestic violence cases, created a repeat offender provision increasing the potential penalty for serial abusers, fashioned more stringent bail and detention provisions for individuals charged with abusing their partners, and designed a system for better tracking of domestic violence offenders.

In August 2015, pursuant to the new domestic violence law, a statewide report from all of the District Attorney's in the Commonwealth was produced regarding the results of prosecutions under the new provisions of the law. This report revealed that the NWDA had a higher rate of conviction for the new crimes of strangulation/suffocation and assault and battery on a family or household member than any other District Attorney's Office in the Commonwealth.



ADA Jennifer Suhl
Daily Hampshire Gazette photo

- **The office handled over 1,200 domestic violence cases in 2015: 27 in Superior Court, 73 in Juvenile Court, and 1,125 in District Court.**
- **There were over 60 adult sexual assault cases, a third of which were prosecuted in the Superior Court.**

2015 Superior Court Case Highlights:

Commonwealth v. Emmanuel T. Bile, Jr., Justin A. King, Adam T. Liccardi, and Caleb Womack (Hampshire Superior Court) – Four men from Pittsfield were charged with raping a UMass freshman in her dormitory in October 2012. A judge ordered that all four men were to be tried separately. In March, a jury convicted Bile of two counts of Aggravated Rape and he was sentenced to 8-10 years in state prison. In June, a jury convicted King of three counts of Aggravated Rape and he was sentenced to 8-12 years in state prison. In August, a jury convicted Liccardi of two counts of Aggravated Rape and a separate count of Rape and he was sentenced to 8-12 years in state prison. In October, Womack pled guilty to one count of Rape and two counts of Indecent Assault and Battery on a person over 14 and he was sentenced to five years in the House of Correction. Prosecuted by ADA Jennifer Suhl.

Commonwealth v. Charles Marques (Franklin Superior Court) – In June, the defendant pled guilty to nine charges related to the significant emotional, verbal, and physical abuse of his girlfriend in February and June 2014 in Erving including two counts of Assault and Battery by Means of a Dangerous Weapon, three counts of Intimidation of a Witness, and Kidnapping. The defendant was sentenced to 6-7 years in state prison to be followed by three years of probation. Prosecuted by ADA Jennifer Suhl.

DVSAU Initiatives

The DVSAU coordinates numerous prevention and intervention initiatives aimed at strengthening victim safety and offender accountability.

District Attorney's Task Force on Domestic and Sexual Violence

The District Attorney's Task Force on Domestic and Sexual Violence is made up of over 100 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 2015, meetings included current information and trainings on topics such as Men's Engagement, Substance Abuse and Relationship Violence Prevention in Indigenous Communities. The Task Force viewed a segment of the video "Flirting with Danger-Power and Choice in Heterosexual Relationships" and welcomed visitors from area programs such as The Watershed Women's Recover Project and The Eastern District Court Womanhood Program. We were also excited to welcome African Fellows Ritha Kamugisha and Agnes Umutesi from Rwanda and Reverend Fr. David Okullu from Kitgum. The fellows were hosted by Safe Passage and each shared the violence prevention work they are doing and heard about initiatives here in the United States.



DA's Task Force on Domestic Violence



African Fellows Agnes Umutesi from Rwanda and Reverend Fr. David Okullu from Kitgum and Director of DV Projects Mary Kociela

Domestic Violence Intervention Project (DVIP)

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.

DVIP Partnership meetings are held for police, dispatchers and advocates. In 2015, training topics included reducing youth violence and responding to teen relationship violence. A DV law enforcement newsletter was also published and distributed to law enforcement and first responders. Featured articles included the stalking law, confidentiality for DVIP Advocates, review of ongoing police trainings on the new DV law and project updates regarding the high risk project and our local white ribbon campaign.

The DVIP grant also includes a small amount of funds for lock changes and to monitor AWARE in-home alarms for survivors in need. In 2015, the program provided new locks for 5 survivors of abuse. Although we are no longer able to provide new alarms, there are 12 ongoing alarms that we continue to monitor with ADT Security.

In an effort to increase calls from police officers to an on-call DVIP Advocate a short 4-minute video was produced describing the Domestic Violence Intervention Project (DVIP) program and protocol for contacting an advocate. The video was distributed to all police departments and designated DV Officers



Greenfield Police Deputy Chief Mark Williams and a DVIP Advocate

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 2015, the federal grant that funds the project was successfully renewed for three more years. 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 continues to be used as a guide when interviewing victims and can then be attached to the police report. In 2015, a pocket resource card was created for survivors of strangulation. Cards include information on how non-fatal strangulation is used by batterer's as a means of power and control and outlines signs and symptoms, the importance of seeking medical attention and available local resources.

A new brochure was also created entitled, "Understanding Pre-Release Conditions: A

Guide for Victims/Survivors of Domestic & Sexual Violence." Victims of domestic and sexual violence often feel afraid when the offender is arrested, brought to court and then released from custody, sometimes just hours after the incident. When an offender is released, he/she may be placed on pre-trial release conditions which can help to protect intimate partners. The brochure was created to help survivors to better understand this process. It can be easily viewed and uploaded from the DA's website.

DVSAU Community Outreach and Education

Each year, the DVSAU sponsors and participates in several training and outreach programs. In 2015, this included programs for middle school and high school students, first responders and police officers including teaching new recruits about domestic violence and high risk assessment at the police academy and training for campus police on stalking on college campuses. The DA's task force also coordinates a white ribbon campaign each year to draw attention to gender violence issues.

White Ribbon Campaign



Town officials, legislators and students from FCTS on Greenfield Town Common

In 2015, District Attorney Sullivan served as Co-Chair of the statewide White Ribbon Campaign and attended the event at the statehouse in March to commemorate the event. The DA's

Task Force organized the 8th Annual White Ribbon Campaign to involve men in the movement to end violence against women. The pledge was taken in local high schools and 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.



DA Sullivan, Mary Kociela and Tom Schiff at the White Ribbon Campaign Statehouse event

New to the campaign was the creation of an online art exhibit where students could post photographs and art work related to the campaign on a Tumblr page: [WRC tumblr page](#). Students from local high schools contributed beautiful art work and photos of events in their schools. The exhibit will be ongoing so students can continue to add to it each year.



Franklin County Technical School student-created White Ribbon mannequin

There were also two legislative White Ribbon events. One was held on April 10th on the Greenfield Town Common and the other on May 1st on the steps of City Hall in Northampton. Speakers included local legislators, town officials, police chiefs, city counselors and mayors from Greenfield and Northampton. UMass Professor Stephen Jefferson and student representatives from Franklin County Technical School and Northampton High School also attended. District Attorney Sullivan led each group in taking the white ribbon pledge. DA Sullivan participated in the NELCWIT Power of Women Celebration in leading the pledge.



Town officials, state legislators and community members take White Ribbon pledge on steps of City Hall in Northampton



DA Sullivan and Mary Kociela, Franklin County Technical School National Honors Society Chapter President Cheyenne Edwards, NHS Advisor Chris Kusek, School Resources Officer Michael Sevene



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.

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.



Sexual Assault Prevention Media Campaign

In 2015, we continued the work with the translation of campaign posters into Spanish and the development of a fourth PSA. In the initial campaign there was a great deal of interest on the part of students to create a PSA to focus on sexual assault in same gender partner relationships. The DA's office has retained Natalia Munoz, Director of Verdant Multicultural Media, to assist in the development of this new PSA. A script was written and reviewed by LGBTQ and peer leader groups at UMass and Mt. Holyoke College.



**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 CWC Associate Director
Becky Lockwood, SANE Western Mass.
Coordinator Mary Walz-Watson, ADA Jennifer
Suhl and Amherst PD Det. Lt. Ron Young**

In 2015, the SART continued with its law enforcement roundtable training series, originally developed in 2014. The series is 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 2015, both of which were designed to assist sexual assault investigators with forensic evidence. In January, Erica Nadeau, a Forensic Scientist in the Criminalistics Unit of the Massachusetts State Police Crime Laboratory, provided a training regarding protocols within the laboratory for testing of evidence collected as part of a sexual assault evidence collection kit, understanding laboratory notes and reports, and toxicology testing and results in sexual assault cases. In November, this training was followed up with another by Stefany Harman, a supervisor in the DNA Unit at the Crime Laboratory, and ADA Jennifer Suhl. This program focused on training investigators in various matters relating to DNA testing of sexual assault evidence collection kits and other evidence regularly collected in sexual assault cases.

In addition to the trainings, the SART met monthly at the District Attorney's Office in Northampton, to discuss best practice responses to sexual assault. Topics included collaboration between law enforcement and college/university administrations due in part to Title IV and Clery Act requirements and

increased coverage of the issue of campus sexual assault, as well as trauma-informed approaches to police responses to sexual assault. Additionally, the SART began work on its next major goal of increasing collaboration with health care providers outside of the SANE Program in order to more fully support victim/survivors and also increase reporting to law enforcement. The SART plans to hold trainings at local hospitals as well as individual service providers in the coming year.

APPELLATE UNIT

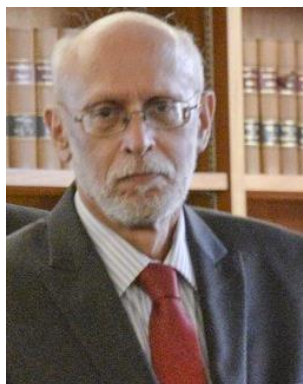
The Appellate Unit is comprised of ADAs Thomas Townsend (Chief), Cynthia Von Flatern, and Steven Greenbaum. The three members of the Appellate Unit represent the NWDA before the Massachusetts appellate courts. When a defendant is convicted of a crime, he or she may challenge that conviction by filing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



**ADA Cynthia Von Flatern during oral argument
in the Supreme Judicial Court**

There were 27 new cases entered in the Massachusetts Appeals Court in 2015, 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 1st-degree murder convictions.



Appellate ADA Steven Greenbaum

The NWDA Appellate Unit is the most experienced Appeals Unit in the Commonwealth. Each member has at least 18 years of experience in appellate prosecution.

Notable appellate decisions from 2015

Certain appellate decisions are published to serve as precedent in future cases. Among the NWDA's published decisions from 2015 are:

Commonwealth v. Enez Kolenovic, in which the Supreme Judicial Court sided with the NWDA and reversed the trial judge's allowance of a new trial in a 1st-degree murder case, holding that the defendant received the effective assistance of counsel at his 1999 trial.

Commonwealth v. Matthew Mogelinski, in which the Supreme Judicial Court agreed with the NWDA and reinstated rape charges that had been dismissed by the trial judge.

Commonwealth v. Timothy Zabek, in which the Appeals Court affirmed the defendant's convictions for child rape

and other sexual offenses in which the defendant received a 15-year State prison sentence .

The Appellate Unit also responds to motions for a new trial, which can be filed at the trial level before or after an appeal. In 2015, the NWDA responded to 28 motions for a new trial (nearly twice as many as in the previous year).

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



Appellate Chief Thomas Townsend argues a motion in Hampshire Superior Court

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. 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 2015

In Fiscal Year 2015, the Northwestern District Attorney's Office reviewed 40 inmates under G.L. c. 123A, the Sexually Dangerous Persons (SDP) statute. Of the 40 inmates reviewed, eight were sent to experts for review after an initial review by members of the SDP Unit. After review by experts, these inmates were determined to have not met the criteria of the SDP statute. One case from 2014 went to Bench Trial in 2015 with the result that the inmate was determined to be a Sexually Dangerous Person and committed for a day to life.

DISTRICT COURT



Belchertown District Court ADAs and staff

The District Court serves as the gateway to 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, public order 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, which include, but are not limited to, certain weapon-related offenses and property crimes.



ADAs Liz Priest, Anne Yereniuk, Joseph Webber and Steve Jacobson are sworn-in in Greenfield

Rosemary Tarantino is the Chief of the District Court Unit. She supervises the eleven ADAs who are assigned to the four District Courts.

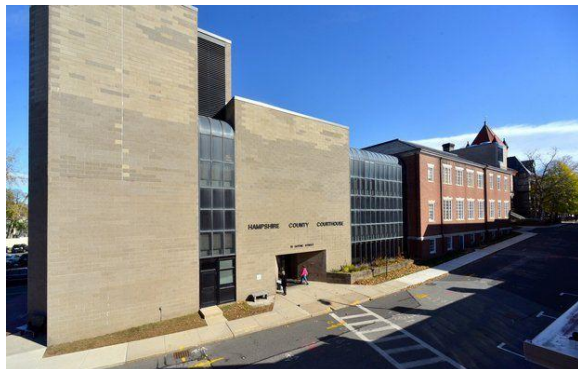


ADAs Steve Jacobson, Andy Covington, Joe Webber and Liz Mulcahy

A senior ADA is designated as the "Attorney in Charge" (AIC) in each of the four District Courts. In addition, experienced ADAs in each of these courts are designated as "Domestic Violence" (DV) prosecutors and/or as Child Abuse (CAU) prosecutors.

Assistant District Attorneys in the 4 District Courts handled 15, 201 cases in 2015. Some 6,240 were new arraignments.

The Training Committee sponsored, hosted or conducted nineteen trainings for staff members on a variety of topics including jury voir dire, restorative justice, prior inconsistent statements, evidence, and dangerousness hearings. Prosecutors and staff attended, or were involved with, numerous advanced trainings in addition to internal NWDA trainings.



**Hampshire County Courthouse, Springfield
Republican photo**

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) matters; and adult criminal complaints of contributing to the delinquency of a minor. With the exception of Youthful Offender cases, juvenile court proceedings are closed to the public.

The 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.



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

Delinquency Cases

During 2015, the Juvenile Justice Unit handled 294 delinquency cases, with several more Youthful Offender cases than in 2014. There were a total of 294 managed cases. In Hampshire County, there were a total of 194 cases. In Franklin County and the town of Athol, the Juvenile Unit handled 100 delinquency cases.

Another 102 cases were designated as diversion cases, a marked increase from 2014. These diversion cases are primarily handled by ADA Elizabeth Mulcahy and are vital to keeping youth out of the criminal justice system while giving them an opportunity to be held accountable and rehabilitated.

Many of the delinquency cases, in both counties, required additional investigative assistance, which involves 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 2015, there were 9 youthful offender indictments in Hampshire County and one in Franklin County.

- 2015 delinquency cases: **294**
- Franklin County Juvenile delinquency cases: **100**
- Hampshire County Juvenile delinquency cases: **194**
- Hampshire Superior Court cases: 9
- Franklin Superior Court cases: 1



DA Sullivan and students at 4th Annual Healthy Youth Conference

Safe Schools Response Team

District Attorney Sullivan established a Safe Schools 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 SSRT 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 Schools 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 2015 included complaints alleging firearms, assaults, threats, cyber-bullying, sexting, harassment and bullying.

Juvenile Justice Unit Outreach and Education

During 2015, 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 2015, 102 juvenile cases were handled through our Juvenile Diversion Program.

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

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

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 regularly by a Juvenile Unit ADA in each county 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

The purpose of the Victim/Witness Assistance Unit within the Northwestern District Attorney's Office is to provide information, support and advocacy services for victims, witnesses and survivors throughout the criminal justice process by ensuring the delivery of mandated rights enumerated in M.G.L Chapter 258B. The advocates work with the Assistant District Attorneys throughout the case in an effort 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.



**Victim Witness Unit Director Jackie Gaw
30 years of service**

- In Hampshire County, our advocates were assigned to 1,057 cases.
- They assisted 1,307 victims, 707 witnesses and 3 family members.
- In Franklin County, our advocates were assigned to 981 cases.
- They assisted 1,208 victims, 722 witnesses and 12 family members.

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

Over the course of 2015, our staff filed 333 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. The number of applications filed with

the Victim Notification Registry by the advocates from the Northwestern District Attorney's Office has increased by 154 % since 2010. Statewide, in comparison with other larger, more urban 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 incarceration of offenders for victim-centered crimes, but also reveals the attention of the advocates to providing post-conviction services to victims, witnesses and family members.

Training and Outreach

In 2015, our advocates participated in and attended a number of professional development opportunities on topics such as GPS Monitoring of Offenders, Victim Compensation, Economic Security of Domestic Violence Victims, School Safety and Youth Empowerment.

Director Jackie Gaw was invited to instruct at the Court Officer Academy of the Massachusetts Trial Court with representatives from the Massachusetts Office of Victim Assistance. This presentation focused on what Victim/Witness Programs are about, the mandates that advocates have under the Victim Bill of Rights and how advocates and court officers can work together for their common goals.

Jackie Gaw also instructed at the Municipal Police Training Academy in Greenfield. This academy is comprised of students training to become officers in a number of municipal police departments. The focus of this presentation, conducted along with Assistant District Attorney Jen Suhl and Director of Domestic Violence Programs Mary Kociela, was the dynamics of domestic violence, the current statutes related to domestic violence and an overall discussion of police response.

Recognition

2015 saw a number of advocates reach milestones in their public service to victims and witnesses. At the statewide Victim Rights Conference in April, awards and recognition were given to the following advocates: Jackie Gaw for 30 years of service, Karen Fitzpatrick and Janice Francis for 20 years of service and Wendy Adams for 15 years of service. All of these advocates have demonstrated their commitment to serving the citizens of the Northwestern District. These advocates are a testament to the unsung work that goes on behind the scenes to provide victims and witnesses with the rights and safety they deserve.



**VW Advocate Wendy Adams
15 years of service**



**Juvenile VW Advocate Janice Francis
20 years of service**



**VW Advocate Karen Fitzpatrick
20 years of service**

Cases of Note

One of the more complex sexual assault cases seen in years was prosecuted in 2015. This case involved the sexual assault of a UMass student by four assailants. All four defendants were tried separately over the course of 2015 starting in March. Three were convicted after trial and the fourth pleaded guilty on the eve of jury selection.

Assistant District Attorney Jen Suhl and Advocate Karyn Miller worked tirelessly to prepare these cases, each of which presented different, unique challenges. Karyn spent countless hours with the victim and her family over the pendency of this case and especially as trials approached.

Karyn's compassion, professionalism and empathy with the victim were a driving force in getting the victim prepared to testify in each and every instance. Karyn advocated for special accommodations for the victim to give her the comfort and strength to carry on through his ordeal. Advocating for permission to allow the victim's dog to stay with her in the courthouse while she waited to testify is one example of Karyn's outstanding advocacy. This creative idea was monumental in the victim's ability to remain calm and focused.



VW Advocate Karyn Miller

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 deliver 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 program.



Janice Garrett at the Elder Conference

2015 CPU Highlights

In addition to the coverage area of Hampshire and Franklin Counties, the Consumer Protection Unit's coverage area includes 17 Worcester County communities. The CPU provides needed consumer protection services to all of our communities.



Caroline Smith at the Northampton Safety Fair

CPU staffed informational tables at community events and made numerous consumer presentations throughout the district. This year we teamed up with the Western MA Attorney General's Office to inform consumers on "Electricity: understand your choices, know your rights." We spoke to senior centers, were interviewed by the FCHCC for their newspaper in three separate articles and were interviewed on WGBY on the topic. We also were on two panels for the Office of the Attorney General's conference, speaking on purchasing a used car and scams in our area.

The Unit was also interviewed by the local media on consumer issues including the IRS scam, money wiring scams and robo-calling. 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 police departments with the Federal Trade Commission's *"Taking Charge, What to do if*

your identity is stolen." We also participated at the Greenfield Community College conference as a panelist on ID theft and we held a Franklin County Law Enforcement Identity Theft program.

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

In 2015, the Consumer Protection Unit received 1902 calls, opened 384 cases and recovered \$192,085.96 for consumers. In the past 5 years, CPU has recovered \$2,082,050.45.

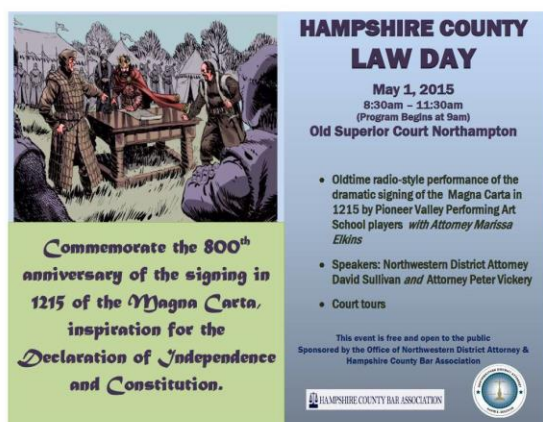


Young safety officers at the 2015 Amherst Block Party

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

The Community Outreach and Education Unit (COE) worked this year to further the District Attorney's goals of deepening connections to cities and towns in the Northwestern District and the people who live in them. We did this through collaboration with more than a dozen prevention coalitions and task forces in Hampshire and Franklin counties and the town of Athol.

COE helped organize and promote progressive prevention initiatives and educational events to respond to social problems that can lead to crime and also help build healthier, more resilient, communities. We collaborated with schools, community groups, local elected leaders, people of faith and institutions of higher learning to raise awareness about the risks that arise when young people use alcohol and other drugs. At every turn, we sought to reinforce the crucial role caring adults can play in decisions by young people to pursue healthy choices rather than engage in risky behavior. In May, we worked with the Hampshire and Franklin Bar Associations, to mark Law Day 2015 with events in both counties. This year's Law Day commemorated the signing in 1215 of the Magna Carta, the inspiration for the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution.



COE Director Laurie Loisel

In August, Laurie Loisel joined the NWDA's office as Director of Community Outreach and Education.

Citizens Advisory Board

Our Citizens Advisory Board, made up of a diverse group of residents from the Northwestern District, continued its key role as adviser to the District Attorney and participant in outreach initiatives that promote social justice, crime prevention and civic engagement. In the fall, Lynn Ferro, Project Coordinator for the NWDA's RX Drug Abuse Task Force, briefed CAB members on efforts launched by the NWDA office and collaborations underway to address the scope of the opioid problem and mitigate its impact on the community.



Some Community Advisory Board members

On the community outreach front, we participated in National Night Out events in August in Athol and Orange, which embody our

philosophy that partnerships between law enforcement and community residents build stronger neighborhoods that make communities safer and healthier. As is our tradition, NWDA staff worked a popcorn booth and a resource table at the Amherst Block Party in September, welcoming students back to town and encouraging them to pursue healthy choices. In September, we worked with Hampshire HOPE, the Opioid Task Force for Hampshire County, in distributing resources and walking with residents of the Quaboag Hills region in the Ware Candlelight Walk for Recovery. This event raised awareness of the threat opioids pose to our communities and also raised funds to put the life-saving, opiate antidote into the hands of the region's first responders.

2015 Safe and Healthy School Summit



DA Sullivan and Forensic Psychologist Dr. Dewey Cornell at the 4th Annual Safe and Healthy School Summit

Building on a track record of offering evidence-based educational opportunities to educators in the region, we organized the **4th Annual Safe and Healthy School Summit** in partnership with the Massachusetts Teachers Association in October. With its theme of "Building Safe and Healthy Schools," the summit presented Dr. Dewey Cornell, a nationally-recognized expert in effective evaluation of threats of violence in ways that deescalate and reduce the threat posed to everyone within a school community. The Summit also offered a panel on how to

integrate restorative practices in schools as a tool for improving school discipline and creating a healthier school climate.

2015 Youth Conference

Our **Healthy Youth Conference** in October drew more than 100 students from 10 schools in Hampshire and Franklin counties who engaged in activities on the theme of "Be True to You," aimed at building leadership skills and preparing youth who will be confronted with risky behavior. Keynote speaker Tyanna Normandin, a staff member at Community Action, talked about how to make healthy choices in the face of traumas that can impact the lives of adolescents. In a group exercise on the idea of building resilience, students identified where they find strength when confronting trying life circumstances. Their top four sources were *Family, Music, Friends and Pets*, in that order.

Campus Community Coalition in Amherst



DA Sullivan at the Annual Community Breakfast at University of Massachusetts

All year long, the COE Unit has a seat at the table of the Campus Community Coalition in Amherst and prevention coalitions in Northampton, Easthampton, South Hadley, Greenfield, Turners Falls, Athol and Ware. We are proud of our steadfast commitment to the people of the Northwestern District as we work to enhance the safety of everyone who lives and visits here.



DA Sullivan in the Distractology van, demonstrating that texting and driving don't mix

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.



UMass Executive director of Equal Opportunity and Diversity Director Debora Ferreira, DA Sullivan and UMass Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Enku Gelaye



DA Sullivan and Northampton Police Chief Jody Kasper gearing up for a Northampton PD vs. NWDA softball game to promote awareness of domestic violence and breast cancer

COMMUNICATONS 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 2015, 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.

The Communications Unit also worked closely with all of the NWDA Units to plan, promote and document in print, photos and video a wide range of events, trainings and educational programs.



Mary Carey, NWDA Communications Director

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. IT Director Bruce Fieldman and IT System Support Engineer Nathan Foote 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 Unit's 2015 Accomplishments



IT Director Bruce Fieldman

In 2015, the IT Unit continued ongoing efforts to improve the infrastructure and IT practices of the NWDA to ensure continued smooth and efficient operations. New computer workstations, laptops, printers and other equipment were purchased and deployed. New software and software upgrades were acquired.

A new system was developed and deployed to store digital forensics data. IT staff worked closely with a local tech business to design, purchase and deploy a network attached storage system to safely store large amounts of forensics data for up to 10 years or longer. This system includes a fast network infrastructure to allow specialized forensics software to analyze large digital images, and a backup server with data encryption to ensure secure long term storage of data used as evidence in trials.

The IT Unit worked closely with the Massachusetts District Attorney's Association to upgrade NWDA server and network infrastructures. New server equipment was purchased and deployed, and data connections were upgraded in court offices in both Hampshire and Franklin counties. A state-of-the-art backup system was deployed providing hourly automated onsite and encrypted offsite backups of all critical NWDA data.

New database and scanning applications were developed, and a number of existing database applications were expanded upon providing improved office efficiencies. The IT Unit continued to oversee the NWDA website, NorthwesternDA.org, and work with the Communications Director to update the site to provide the community with current information on NWDA operations and events.

Ongoing efforts continued to improve regular maintenance and general oversight of NWDA technologies to ensure the highest levels of security and efficient operations. An internal review of security policies was undertaken which resulted in numerous changes to existing policies designed to provide the best possible

protection of case files and operational data. To that end, development of new training programs were begun to provide NWDA staff with up-to-date awareness of security issues and an understanding of best practices in the safe use and storage of confidential data.

New capabilities were utilized to allow remote participation in local court proceedings. In one case a member of the armed services was able to give a videotaped deposition while being stationed overseas. In another, a crime victim was able to watch a court proceeding and testify from her new home in another area of the country.



IT System Support Engineer Nathan Foote

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 Lieutenant John Cummings and the Executive Officer is Sergeant Christopher Baran. There is an additional Sergeant and 9 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.



SPDU recognized for investigating insurance fraud

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 2015 SPDU cases was 553 and the total number of unattended deaths was 264.



Retired Detective Lt. Robin Whitney

In 2015, the Commander of SPDU, Detective Lt. Robin Whitney, retired after 33 years of service to our community as a state police officer. She served 9 years as the SPDU Commander. She helped build one of the finest detective bureaus in the state. She was known for being tough but compassionate and always making the welfare of children her top priority. She will be missed.

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 Lieutenant Christopher 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. 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.



Troopers arriving at the Northwestern District Attorney's Office in Northampton



Inaugural Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts' Man of the Year award presented by Waleska Lugo-Dejesus, Director of Healing Racism Institute of Pioneer Valley.

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.

The VJP served 153 veterans in 2015.

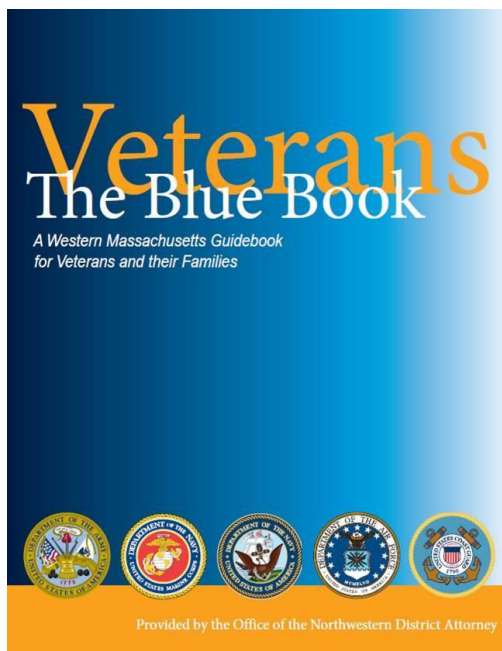
- **5 worked with both the Veterans Administration and Soldier On.**
- **68 worked with Soldier On**
- **80 worked with the Veterans Administration**

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.

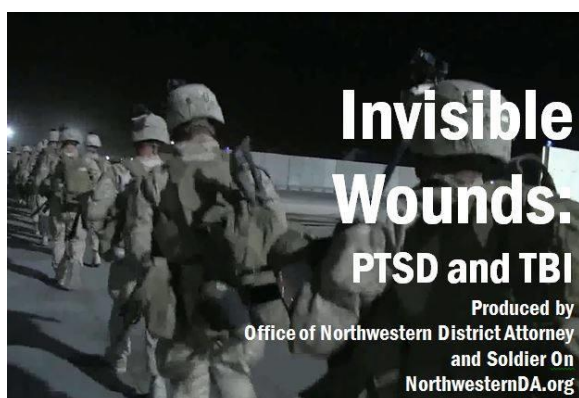
In 2015, VJP staff worked with 153 court-involved or incarcerated veterans, helping them to receive benefits, services, housing, treatment or diversion.

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. 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 2015, the NWDA updated The Veterans Blue Book, a comprehensive guide to resources and services for veterans. This popular resource guide has been distributed throughout Western Massachusetts and has been noted as one of the best veterans guidebooks in the United States.



The NWDA, Soldier On, VA officials and veterans 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.



In 2015, the Western Massachusetts Veterans Treatment Court was established. This Vets Court works specifically with court-involved veterans and is 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. The Office of Northwestern District Attorney played a pivotal role in the vision and creation of this court. 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.



Veterans Treatment Court team

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 have spearheaded 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 2015, monthly newsletters addressed subjects such as detaining suspects during search warrant execution, "hot pursuit" for jailable misdemeanors, marijuana, headlights, DV entry and carrying a firearm.



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

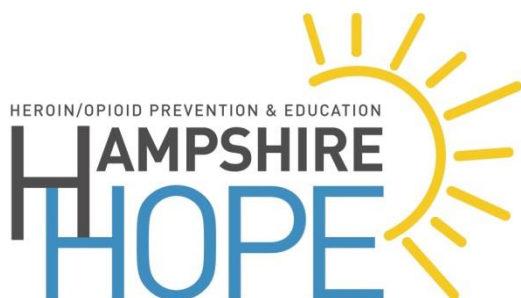
Opioid Task Force of Franklin & North Quabbin/ Hampshire HOPE (Heroin Opioid Prevention and Education Coalition)

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 2015, over 1,250 persons died of opioid overdoses in Massachusetts. There were 30 suspected fatal overdoses in the Northwestern District. From 2013 to 2015, we have experienced 105 fatal opioid overdoses, one of the highest fatality rates in the state. These fatal and non-fatal opioid overdoses over the past three years have demanded a comprehensive and sustained community effort. We are proud to recognize that these efforts have been led and supported in many ways by the talents and commitment of numerous people in NWDA.



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.



NWDA also helped create the **Hampshire Heroin Opioid Prevention Education (HOPE) Coalition** 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.



DA Sullivan, Attorney General Maura Healey and Dr. Ruth Potee at Sept. 25 Safe Prescribing and Opioid Abuse Conference

NWDA is leading the effort to have every high school establish substance abuse screenings as a part of their overall healthy students initiative. NWDA has promoted orientations and trainings for Screening Brief Intervention Referral and Treatment (SBIRT). In 2015, over 14 school districts signed on for training and implementation of SBIRT for their 8th or 9th grade students. SBIRT will play a key role in early intervention and treatment for student substance 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 2015, NWDA co-sponsored trainings to improve school safety and threat assessment capabilities. Our **4th Annual Safe School Summit** brought to the area 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.



**2015 Safe Passage Hot Chocolate run to
benefit victims of domestic violence**

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-bys and improved safety plan for victims.

Northwestern District Rx Drug Abuse Task Force – Hal 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.



Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey and Northwestern Prescription Drug Abuse Program Director Lynn Ferro at Sept. 25 conference

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.

Several goals were accomplished during the first 25 months of this grant including providing several physician education training events thereby improving provider prescribing practices; the creation of the Hampshire HOPE coalition: a model Heroin and Opioid Prevention and Education coalition; hosting a very successful Safe Prescribing and Opioid Abuse Conference; hosting a much needed conference for School Nurses exploring the role of the schools in substance abuse prevention; implementing data collection and analysis systems which have helped us understand where our local "hot spots" are and inform our targeted interventions. We have supported several community efforts involving substance abuse awareness, prevention, treatment and recovery and support for families of those facing the challenge of the disease of substance abuse. We have provided Narcan administration training and Narcan to first responders and supported community agencies that provide training for community members in the use of Narcan. Finally, we have mounted an anti-stigma campaign along with creating awareness about the Good Samaritan law so that no one is afraid to call 911 when they are witness to an overdose.

In March 2016, NWDA will be co-hosting a conference to train delegates for physicians to utilize the Massachusetts Prescription Monitoring Program. During the late summer and early fall, NWDA will be providing education to student athletes, their parents and coaches regarding the dangers surrounding taking opioids for sports injuries as well as curriculum around concussion prevention, treatment and recovery.

By responding intelligently to this public health crisis, we are simultaneously responding to the diversion of prescription opioids and the crime

and theft that often accompanies high rates of substance abuse, thereby improving the quality of life in our forty-seven communities.

This project was supported by Grant No. 2014-PM-BX-0004 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

NoFIRES



The Northwestern District Attorney's Office continues to work with the Northwestern Juvenile Fire Intervention Response, Education and Safety Partnership (NoFIRES) and community partners 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. The NoFIRES program has quickly become a national model program for helping juvenile fire setters. Loren Davine is the Executive Director of NoFIRES.



NoFIRES Executive Director Loren Davine

In 2015, NoFIRES received more than 43 referrals to the program and held 16 fire education classes. Nearly 200 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.

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, prosecutors, fire investigators and law enforcement

In February, we sponsored The Company Officer Leadership Academy for more than 150 future, new, and current Chief Fire Officers. Chief John Salka and Chief Rick Lasky presented a dynamic multi-day program that addressed the many skills and abilities that company officers need to have to be effective in the firehouse and on the fireground.



NoFIREs conference photo by **Public Safety Multimedia**

In October, we held our Annual Arson Investigation and Prosecution Conference for police and fire investigators from around New England. During this two-day conference, the Massachusetts State Police, FBI and Department of Fire Services presented on bombing investigations, mass casualty incident crime scenes, evidence collection, crime lab capabilities, and an overview of the Massachusetts statute on explosives. The response to the Boston Marathon Bombing was used as a case study and served as a tool for other investigators to learn from.

2015 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.



NWDA Summer 2015 interns

FISCAL UNIT / CALENDAR YEAR 2015



**Higy Chan, Chief Donna Dudkiewicz,
Jess Diemand**

The Fiscal Unit is led by Chief Financial Officer Donna Dudkiewicz with the assistance of Fiscal Assistant Higy Chan, and Fiscal Administrative Assistant Jess Diemand. The Fiscal Unit oversees the 2015 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.

**CY15 Total Appropriation
Funding
\$6,069,736.77**

**CY15 Total Grant Funding
\$419,700.89**

**Grand Total
\$6,489,437.66**

**Appropriation Funding
Percentage
94 percent**

**Grant Funding Percentage
6 percent**

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NorthwesternDA.org

NorthwesternDA.org

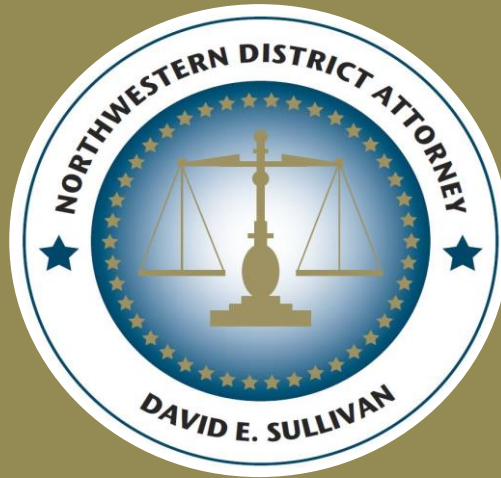
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at NorthwesternDADaveSullivan

Thank you to Richard Cowles for permission to
use his photograph of the Bridge of Flowers
in Shelburne Falls on our 2015
Annual Report cover.





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.