



Office of Northwestern District Attorney
David E. Sullivan

2016 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 2016 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 serious matters impacting the safety and quality of life in our 47 Northwestern communities. Our 2016 Annual Report highlights the achievements of

NWDA and our many community partners.

In 2016, there were many cases in which our prosecutors distinguished themselves in the courtroom seeking justice for victims of crime. The case of Commonwealth v. Cara Rintala exemplifies the high level of skill, commitment and professionalism that is the hallmark of our trial teams. First Assistant Steve Gagne and Assistant District Attorney Jennifer Suhl did an exceptional job in their roles as joint -trial counsel in securing a first degree murder conviction. The third member of the team, Victim Advocate Jackie Gaw, worked tirelessly for the family of the victim. After 6 years and 3 jury trials, the prosecution team finally gained justice for the victim, Annamarie Cochrane Rintala and her family.

The Massachusetts Trial Court, NWDA and other partners established the Western Massachusetts Veterans Treatment Court in November, 2015. This Veterans Court, based in Holyoke District Court, is dedicated to helping court-involved veterans in Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden counties. The Veterans Court is assisted by the Veterans Justice Partnership (VJP). From October 2012 to December 2016, VJP has been able to help over 600 court-involved or incarcerated veterans receive benefits, housing, treatment, re-entry services, or court diversions.

The Opioid Crisis, fueled by easy access to prescription pain medications, cheap heroin, and fentanyl continues to have a devastating impact on families and communities. NWDA has been a leader in efforts to bring community and state resources together to address this epidemic. The NWDA, in collaboration with the Opioid Task Force of Franklin and North Quabbin and Hampshire HOPE Heroin Opioid Prevention and Education Coalition strongly advocated for improved treatment, recovery, and prevention services.

Funding awarded to the NWDA in 2016 through the Heroin and Opioid Crime Reduction State Initiative and a federal Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program enabled the NWDA to launch an innovative pre and post arraignment Drug Diversion and Treatment Program (DDTP). The DDTP provides eligible non-violent offenders with the opportunity to obtain comprehensive substance use disorder treatment and recovery support in lieu of being prosecuted through the criminal justice system.

Additionally, the Northwestern District Rx Drug Abuse Task Force, which is in its second year of federal funding through a Harold Rogers Prescription Drug Abuse Grant, continued to support several initiatives which have addressed the myriad components of the opioid epidemic in our district, including a highly successful campaign with the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA), to educate student athletes on the dangers of taking opioids for sports injuries; and an initiative to develop a comprehensive database to track opioid overdoses and fatalities in Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin counties.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David P. Sullivan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "S".

Northwestern District Attorney

STAFF AND ORGANIZATION 2016

Senior Management Team

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

Superior Court

First Assistant 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 Administrator

Economic Crimes Unit

Bob Harrison, Forensic Investigator/Fraud Examiner

Child Abuse Unit

ADA Linda Pisano, Chief
ADA Caleb Weiner
Kellie Beaulieu, CAC Coordinator/
Advocate/Forensic Interviewer
Kathy Bengtson, Family Service Advocate
Heather Hubbard, Unit Administrator
Deb Kierstead, Family Service Advocate
Suzanne Koch, Forensic Interviewer
Jennifer Reid, Family Service Advocate
Linda Rogers, Family Service Advocate
Jamie Foster, Paralegal

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

Richard Aucoin, AWARE/DVIP Coordinator
Dilmira Liquori, AWARE/DVIP Coordinator
Carly Estrela, High Risk Team Coordinator

Appellate Unit

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

District Court

ADA Rosemary Tarantino, Chief
ADA Stephen Abraham
ADA Marie Angers
ADA Nicholas Atallah
ADA Andrew Covington
ADA Stephen Jacobson
ADA Becky Michaels, (AIC/DV) Greenfield
ADA Lori Odierna
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

*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

Consumer Protection Unit

Janice Garrett, Director
Caroline Smith, Case Coordinator

Outreach and Education

Laurie Loisel, Director
Lynn Ferro, Project Coordinator, Northwestern
Prescription Drug Abuse Task Force
Dan Carey, Director, Drug Diversion &
Treatment Program

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. John Cummings, Unit Commander
Sgt. Christopher Baran, Executive Officer
Lt. Christopher Ray, Narcotics Unit
Sgt. Michael Andrews, Narcotics Unit
8 State Police Troopers

Administrative Staff

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

Fiscal

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

SUPERIOR COURT

Assistant District Attorneys assigned to the Superior Court Unit prosecute cases involving the most serious felonies, often times committed by persons with particularly lengthy criminal records

Cases prosecuted in Superior Court often carry the potential for lengthy state prison sentences, whereas cases prosecuted in District Court carry a maximum sentence of 2½ years in the House of Correction. However, not every case that is prosecuted in Superior Court automatically or necessarily calls for a lengthy prison sentence. Sometimes the interests of justice are served by a period of supervised probation, whereas other cases call for some period of incarceration in either the local county House of Correction or the state prison. Each case is considered individually, based upon the facts of the crime, the defendant's criminal record, the victim's input, any mitigating and/or aggravating circumstances, and sentences that were imposed in comparable cases. Most cases are resolved by way of guilty pleas, with the remaining cases proceeding to trial before either a judge ("bench trial") or a 12-person jury.

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



First Assistant District Attorney Steven E. Gagne

Photos by Dave Roback (The Republican)

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. "Probable cause" means reasonable grounds to believe that a particular person committed a crime, and is a lower standard of proof than that which is required to convict a defendant at trial (proof beyond a reasonable doubt).

Superior Court prosecutors are professionally and ethically obligated to uphold and preserve the integrity of the Grand Jury process. This means that when a case is presented to the Grand Jury, any significant exculpatory or mitigating evidence that might seriously affect the Grand Jury's decision whether to indict *must* be included. Although Grand Jury proceedings are confidential, a stenographic record is created of each presentation, and is capable of being reviewed by a Superior Court judge if a defendant later challenges the sufficiency or the integrity of the evidence presented to the Grand Jury.

At the conclusion of each presentation, at least 12 of the 23 Grand Jurors must conclude that probable cause exists before an indictment can

be issued. If an indictment is issued, the case proceeds to arraignment, where every defendant is entitled to representation by an attorney. If less than 12 Grand Jurors believe there is probable cause that a person committed a crime, no indictment issues, and the case ends.

Early Involvement

Superior Court prosecutors frequently become involved in cases long before they reach the courtroom. All Superior Court prosecutors participate in a 24/7 “on-call” rotation, where a prosecutor is available to assist local police departments in the event a major crime and/or suspicious death occurs, and to answer legal questions that may arise in the course of an investigation. In addition, two District Court prosecutors are specifically assigned to respond to the scene of all fatal and potentially-fatal motor vehicle crashes, where they offer legal guidance, review search warrants, and recommend certain investigative steps. This early collaboration between investigators and prosecutors is mutually beneficial, and leads to stronger prosecutions in those cases that proceed to court.



Massachusetts State Police Detectives work alongside Northwestern ADAs at a crime scene.

Photo by Greg Saulmon (The Republican)

In 2016, Superior Court prosecutors obtained indictments in 123 new cases in the Hampshire and Franklin Superior Courts. During the course of the year, 121 cases were resolved by way of trial, plea, or other disposition. Convictions or admissions of guilt were obtained in 88% of all cases resolved in 2016.

Among some of the more notable cases prosecuted in 2016 were:

Commonwealth v. Cara L. Rintala (Hampshire Superior Court) – Annamarie Cochrane Rintala was found strangled to death in her Granby home on the evening of March 29, 2010. Eighteen months of methodical investigation followed, culminating in the Hampshire Grand Jury returning a first-degree murder indictment against her wife, Cara L. Rintala. The case went to trial in 2013 and again in 2014, each time resulting in a hung jury. The defendant then appealed to the Supreme Judicial Court in an attempt to prevent a third trial from occurring. After the appeal was denied, the case proceeded to trial for a third time in September 2016.

Following a five-week trial that included nearly 30 hours of deliberations, the jury convicted the defendant of first-degree murder, which carries a mandatory sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole. The defendant later filed a motion asking the trial judge to reduce the jury’s verdict to either second-degree murder or manslaughter, which was denied. All first-degree murder convictions in Massachusetts are automatically appealed to the Supreme Judicial Court, which will likely take several more years.

The case was investigated by the Massachusetts State Police Detective Unit attached to the

Northwestern District Attorney's Office in collaboration with the Granby Police Department, with State Police Trooper Jamie Magarian leading the investigation. First Assistant District Attorney Steven Gagne and Assistant District Attorney Jennifer Suhl, Chief of the Domestic Violence and Adult Sexual Assault Unit, jointly prosecuted the case, together with Jackie Gaw, Chief of the Victim-Witness Unit.



1st ADA Gagne, ADA Suhl, District Attorney Sullivan, and VWA Jackie Gaw

Commonwealth v. Aaron Tarjick & Jamie Tarjick (Hampshire Superior Court) – This brotherly duo broke into well over 100 residences and buildings throughout Hampshire and Berkshire Counties, stealing almost anything they could get their hands on. Fortunately for investigators, Aaron Tarjick happened to be wearing a court-ordered GPS device at the time of the crimes, and the data obtained from the device provided a virtual roadmap of the breaks the brothers had committed together. Faced with considerable evidence against them, the brothers decided to plead guilty rather than proceed to trial. James Tarjick was sentenced to 12 years in state prison, and Aaron Tarjick was sentenced to 15-17 years in state prison. These cases were jointly investigated by the Northampton, Easthampton and Amherst Police Departments, and prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Matt Thomas and Linda Pisano, with assistance from Victim-Witness Advocate Kellie Beaulieu.

Commonwealth v. Wyatt Pease (Franklin Superior Court) – On the afternoon of October 2, 2015, the defendant (age 20) was speeding westbound on Route 2 in Shelburne when he collided into the rear-end of a Pontiac Grand Am, sending it spinning into the eastbound lane, where it was then struck by an oncoming minivan. The driver of the Pontiac died from the injuries she sustained in the crash. The defendant was arrested a short while later at his house in Buckland, where he fled following the crash. It was later discovered that he had been drinking at a nearby golf course prior to the crash. In June 2016, the defendant pleaded guilty in Franklin Superior Court to indictments charging him with manslaughter, motor vehicle homicide, leaving the scene of personal injury resulting in death, and leaving the scene of property damage. He was sentenced to serve five years in the Franklin County House of Correction, after which he will be on supervised probation for five years. This case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Becky Michaels, with assistance from First Assistant District Attorney Steven Gagne and Victim-Witness Advocate Bonnie Press.



ADA Matthew Thomas

ECONOMIC CRIMES UNIT

Since 2012, the Northwestern District Attorney's Office's Economic Crimes Unit has focused on investigating and prosecuting instances of "white collar crime" and elder

financial exploitation. The Unit is spearheaded by Forensic Investigator and Certified Fraud Examiner Bob Harrison, who assists prosecutors in identifying, obtaining, and interpreting the necessary financial records to prove these cases. 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 \$2,900,000 in documented losses.

Notable financial fraud cases prosecuted in 2016 include:

Commonwealth v. Leslieanne Garziano (Hampshire Superior Court) - The defendant was initially hired to maintain the gardens at the elderly victim's home, and was then retained as a part-time care provider to assist with meals and other daily living needs. Once in this position of trust, the defendant began using the victim's credit card to purchase items for herself without permission, and transferring money from the victim's bank account into her own without the victim's knowledge or consent. In total, the defendant stole over \$33,000 from the victim. The defendant pleaded guilty to indictments charging her with larceny over \$250 from a person age 60 or older, and misuse of a credit card. As a condition of the defendant's two-year probation, she was required to pay full restitution within the first 30 days. The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Jayme Parent, with assistance from Victim-Witness Advocate Jackie Gaw.



Commonwealth v. William Ryder (Hampshire Superior Court) – The defendant owned and operated the Ryder Funeral Home in South Hadley for many years before the Division of Professional Licensure shuttered the business in May 2014 after discovering several improperly-stored bodies on the premises. A subsequent investigation by the Massachusetts State Police Detectives Unit and the South Hadley Police Department revealed over \$400,000 missing from customers' "pre-need" funeral accounts, monies they had paid in advance for future funeral arrangements. Instead of placing the funds into trusts or interest-bearing accounts, the defendant siphoned the money for his own personal and business-related needs, harming more than 50 customers. The defendant was indicted and convicted of five counts of improper disposition of a human body, 65 counts of larceny over \$250, and one count of life insurance fraud. He was sentenced to serve one year in the House of Correction, to be followed by five years of supervised probation. Fortunately, due to the assistance of the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office and the Columbian Mutual Life Insurance Company, most of the defendant's defrauded customers will be made whole for their losses. The case was prosecuted by First Assistant District Attorney Steven Gagne, with assistance from Victim-Witness Advocate Janice Francis. Janice took on the herculean task of organizing and working with the dozens of victims and family members who were affected by the defendant's actions.

INSURANCE FRAUD

Since 2012, the Northwestern District Attorney's Office has worked collaboratively with the Insurance Fraud Bureau of Massachusetts (IFB), in a joint 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. However, the IFB also investigates prescription medication fraud, life insurance fraud and workers' compensation fraud.

The most notable case prosecuted in 2016 involving insurance fraud was ***Commonwealth v. Theresa Coe & Toni Lobdell (Hampshire Superior Court)***. In this case, the mother-daughter codefendants were indicted for committing large-scale prescription medication fraud. Beginning in June 2012, Coe wrote prescriptions for various drugs for herself and three other members of her family, primarily her daughter. She stole and utilized prescription pads from physicians or physicians' assistants at her place of employment in Deerfield. She also called in prescriptions to pharmacies allowing the drugs to be acquired without any written prescription being sent.

The case came to light in March 2015 following a pharmacist at CVS in Easthampton questioning a written prescription forged by Coe for hydrocodone in her mother's name. The Easthampton Police Department joined forces with the Northampton Police Department, prosecutors at the Northwestern District Attorney's Office, and investigators from the Insurance Fraud Bureau to thoroughly investigate the case and secure 259 indictments against the pair.

In January 2016, they both pleaded guilty in the Hampshire Superior Court to multiple counts of Fraudulent Use of a Registration Number, Forgery/Uttering a False Prescription to Acquire a Controlled Substance, Uttering a False Prescription, False Health Insurance Claims, Conspiracy to Violate the Drug Laws, Distribution of Hydrocodone and Misleading the Police. Lobdell was sentenced to 2½ years in the House of Correction with 90 days to serve and the balance suspended for seven years, during which time she will be on supervised probation. Coe was sentenced to five years of probation with two years of house arrest. The pair was also ordered to pay restitution to several health insurance providers who covered some or all of the cost of the fraudulent prescriptions. The case was prosecuted by Chief Trial Counsel Jeremy A. Bucci.



ADA Jeremy Bucci

CHILD ABUSE UNIT (CAU)

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.



CAU STAFF Back row (L-R): Kelley Mason, Suzanne Koch, Jamie Foster, Deb Kierstead, Linda Rogers and Heather Hubbard. Front row: Caleb Weiner, Kellie Beaulieu and Linda Pisano



**Kellie Beaulieu
CAU, Coordinator / Forensic Interviewer**

In 2016, **411 cases** were referred to the CAU for investigation, involving **535 victims**, which resulted in **97 offenders** being charged with offenses against children.

In 2016, there were **48 CAU cases resolved**. 25 of those 48 cases were resolved in the District Courts, 15 cases were resolved in the Superior and 8 cases were resolved in the Juvenile Courts.

In 2016, there were **97 CAU defendants** were arraigned, 15 of which were in the Superior Court.

2016 proved to be another busy year in the CAU. In addition to the more than 400 new cases that came into the Unit, the CAU successfully applied for a significant increase in the amount of their VOCA grant, which enabled the unit to hire another full-time CAU Advocate, part-time forensic interviewer and also provided funds to send staff to trainings. Sonia Serrazina, the newest addition to the CAU, filled the Child Abuse Center Family Service Advocate and part-time child forensic interviewer position. The CAU was also fortunate enough to add paralegal, Jamie Foster, to the CAU team in 2016.



Jamie Foster, Paralegal

Additionally, Kathy Bengtson returned to the CAU as a Family Service Advocate after several years away. Kathy works in Hampshire County and carries a caseload of active cases and investigations.

2016 CAU Case Highlights:

Commonwealth v. Stanley Michalski: (Hampshire Superior Court) The first of the defendant's two cases involved the sexual abuse of two children (ages 7 and 9) which occurred over a one- year time frame while the children lived at his home. In December 2015, a Hampshire Superior Court jury convicted the defendant of 4 counts of aggravated rape of a child and 2 counts of indecent assault and battery on a child. He was sentenced to 20 - 25 years in State prison. Prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Linda Pisano.

Commonwealth v. Derek LeCompt (Franklin Superior Court) – The defendant was originally charged with dissemination of obscene material in connection with his posting sexual images of a 10-year old boy. While held in custody awaiting trial, the defendant conspired with another person to destroy digital evidence connected to this case. This conspiracy led to additional charges against the defendant for conspiracy to tamper with evidence, tampering with evidence and posing a child in the nude. Subsequently, federal authorities working on an unrelated child sexual exploitation case discovered additional pictures of the 10-year-old subject of the original charge. This information provided a basis for bringing additional indictments for aggravated rape and abuse of a child, posing a child in the nude, and unnatural acts with a child. In December of 2016, the defendant pleaded guilty to all charges in an agreed-upon plea and was sentenced to 15-20 years in state prison, followed by probation. Prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Caleb Weiner.

Commonwealth v. Damon Dell (Franklin Superior Court) – The 9-year old victim disclosed that the defendant raped and abused her and then threatened to harm her if she told anyone. The defendant, who was the babysitter of the victim at the time of the offense, was charged with rape and abuse of a

child, indecent assault and battery on a child and intimidation of a witness. After a plea of guilty to all charges, the defendant was sentenced to 6 – 9 years in state prison. Prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Caleb Weiner.

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



CAC Directors Susan Loehn and Irene Woods

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 can 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 2016, 235 children were served by the Children's Advocacy Center for Hampshire County and the Children's Advocacy Center of Franklin County and North Quabbin Region.

In 2011, District Attorney David Sullivan announced that one of his top priorities was a second Children's Advocacy Center in Franklin County to serve the children and families in the Franklin County and North Quabbin Region in the same way that the children and families were being served in Hampshire County. 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 was realized in February 2016.

The goals of the Children's Advocacy Centers are:

- To minimize the trauma experienced by children and adolescents who are victims of abuse;
- To improve the investigation and prosecution of sexual and physical abuse cases from the point of intervention through treatment;
- To promote interagency collaboration and effective management in sexual and physical abuse cases;
- To prevent further abuse of victims
- To provide quality training for professionals in the investigation, prosecution and provision of services for sexually and physically abused children and their non-offending caretakers.

Services Offered by the Children Advocacy Center 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 OF HAMPSHIRE COUNTY **Susan Loehn, Executive Director**

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.

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



NATIONAL
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ALLIANCE®
ACCREDITED
MEMBER



CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER OF FRANKLIN COUNTY AND NORTH QUABBIN REGION
Irene Woods, Executive Director

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. Shortly after District Attorney Sullivan first took Office, he announced that one of his top priorities was to establish a Children's Advocacy Center for the children of Franklin County and the North Quabbin region. Soon thereafter, a leadership team was assembled and a Board of Directors put in place. In February 2016, the doors to the Children's Advocacy Center of Franklin County and North Quabbin Region officially opened. The CAC is led by Executive Director Irene Woods. Thanks to its collaboration with NWDA and Baystate Health, it offers the same services that the CAC of Hampshire County provides.



Mural detail from CAC in Greenfield



AEIOU donates children's books to the Childrens Advocacy Centers

2016 Highlights for the Child Abuse Unit and the Children's Advocacy Centers

- On December 1, 2016, the Northwestern District Attorney's Office, along with the Children's Advocacy Center of Hampshire County and the Children's Advocacy Center for Franklin County and North Quabbin Region, hosted a Multi-Disciplinary Team Training put on by the North East Regional Children's Advocacy Center. The training was attended by members of local law enforcement, The Department of Children and Families and the Northwestern District Attorney's Office.
- The CAC for Hampshire County sponsored the 17th 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 monthly case review meetings in Hampshire and Franklin Counties 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 and Greenfield to commemorate April as National Child Abuse Awareness month;

- Comprehensive trainings for mandatory reporters of child abuse were held at the Hadley Farms Meeting House in Hadley and at Athol Memorial Hospital. The attendees included teachers, principals, nurses, doctors, mental health providers and an array of other “mandated reporters.”



CAC Breakfast Keynote Speaker Crystal Dufresne with CAU Chief Linda Pisano



Children's Memorial Flag-raising in Northampton



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 presents training to law enforcement members

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 2016, the Elders and Persons with Disabilities Protection Unit investigated and/or prosecuted 175 cases in which elders or persons with disabilities were victims.



EPDU Chief ADA Jayme Parent

2016 EPDU Case Highlights:

- ***Commonwealth v. Torin Traynor (Hampshire Superior Court)*** - The defendant, a tenant of the elder victim, entered her home without her consent. While within her apartment, he stole checks from her desk and thereafter, wrote numerous checks to himself from two separate accounts. The amount stolen was in excess of \$3,000. The defendant pleaded guilty to Breaking and Entering in the

Daytime with the Intent to Commit a Felony, Larceny Over \$250 from a Person 60 or over, Forgery and Uttering and was sentenced to 2 years in the Hampshire County House of Correction followed by 3 years of probation. Prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Jayme Parent.

- ***Commonwealth v. Kameron West (Hampshire Superior Court)*** - The Defendant robbed the elder victim of her purse in a downtown Northampton parking lot dragging her for a short distance as he escaped. The defendant pleaded guilty to Larceny from a Person, 65 or over and Assault and Battery on a Person, 60 or over and was sentenced to 2 years in the Hampshire County House of Correction followed by 3 years probation. Prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Jayme Parent.



EPDU Coordinator Chris Geffin

EPDU Special Initiatives 2016

2016 Drug Take Back Campaign

In 2016, the Northwestern District Attorney's Office assisted in the placement of additional permanent Drug Take Back kiosks, through the efforts of the Department of Public Health in the following towns: Ashfield, Bernardston, Cummington, Hatfield, Goshen, Leverett, Pelham and Whatley. More than two dozen

permanent drug boxes have been installed since February 2013 in the following police departments: Amherst, Ashfield, Athol, Belchertown, Bernardston, Buckland, Cummington, Deerfield, Easthampton, Erving, Goshen, Granby, Greenfield, Hadley, Hatfield, Northampton (2), Orange, Pelham, South Hadley, Southampton, Sunderland, Ware, Whatley and Williamsburg.

Through District Attorney Sullivan's advocacy 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, Walgreen's Pharmacies agreed to place drug kiosks in all of their pharmacies that offer a 24/7 service. Springfield is our closest one, with the hope that all Walgreen and Rite Aid pharmacies will have them in place in the coming years. 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.

Since April 2011, our Drug Take Back initiatives have collected and environmentally disposed of **34,217 pounds** of unwanted medication. This combines both the Drug Kiosks and the National Drug Take Back Days.

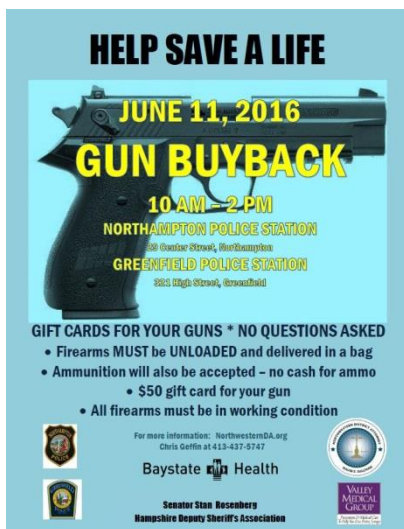
The total amount collected from our drug boxes in 2016 was **5,900 pounds** of unwanted medications.

Since the first collection in February 2013, our permanent boxes have collected a total of **16,237 pounds** of unused medications.

National Drug Take Back Day, held in October 2016 yielded **1,926 pounds** of unused medications.



Police chiefs whose communities recently added Drop Boxes, Chris Geffin and Dan Carey



Valley Gun Buy Back

The Valley Gun Buy Back held on June 11, 2016, at the Northampton and Greenfield Police Departments was a great success. **A total of 273 unwanted firearms were removed from homes.** While removing these unwanted guns, we also raised public awareness about the consequences of guns on our streets; the devastating effects of suicide by gun; accidental shootings, and other social problems associated with mental health and gun violence. This effort was driven by a group of dedicated medical and mental health professionals, suicide prevention specialists, and law enforcement. The success of the event was due to each person involved having a real passion for ensuring the safety of the community and

protecting people from harm. This group raised \$12,250 to fund the Gun Buy Back program.

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 and 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.

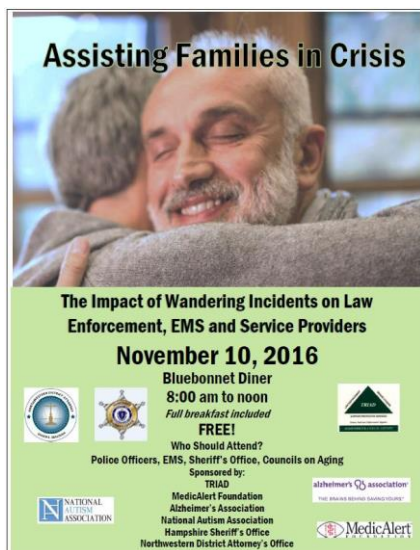
TRIAD Activities for 2016:

Numerous community education and outreach projects took place with our TRIAD program in 2016 including:

- 12 Educational programs on Elder Protection;
- 3 Health and Safety Fairs;
- 4 Community Shredding events;
- **Assisting Families in Crisis conference: *The Impact of Wandering Incidents on Law Enforcement, EMS and Service Providers***

As dementia and autism rates rise, the number of wandering incidents will continue to increase. It is estimated that 6 in 10 adults with Alzheimer's or related dementia will wander. 50% of individuals with autism spectrum disorders will elope. The National Autism Association reports that for children with autism who wander and are under the age of 10, 42% of the outcomes will result in death. Additional research states that if wandering residents are not located within 24 hours, 61% of those wandering individual are found dead.

The **Assisting Families in Crisis** training, held on Nov. 10, 2016, discussed how to interact/communicate with residents affected by dementia and autism, how to use medical ID products to obtain critical information about wandering residents and how to partner with MedicAlert Foundation via its L.E.A.P. program to provide at-risk community members free medical alert ID's and 24/7 wandering support services. Presenters included: Chief Jodi Kasper, Northampton PD; Justin Noland, Program Director, MedicAlert Foundation; Ronda Randazzo, Education Programs Director, Alzheimer's Association, MA/NH Chapters; Lt. David Callahan, Northampton PD ALEC Instructor; David Leslie, President/CEO MedicAlert Foundation.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT UNIT

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



Mary Kociela, Karin Sheehy, Carla Estrela, Rich Aucoin, Jennifer Suhl

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 2016 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, Marie Angers in Northampton and Sarah Pascale 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 office handled 1,187 domestic violence cases in 2016: 27 in Superior Court, 80 in Juvenile Court, and 1,080 in District Court.**
- **There were 50 adult sexual assault cases, 40% of which were prosecuted in the Superior Court.**

2016 Superior Court Case Highlights:

Commonwealth v. Patrick J. Durocher (Hampshire Superior Court) – In January, a Hampshire County jury convicted the defendant of attacking and raping a fellow University of Massachusetts student who was walking back to her residence hall from a party on the open campus lawn in September 2013. The incident occurred just days after the eighteen-year-old defendant had arrived on campus as a freshman student. Durocher was sentenced to 3-5 years in state prison followed by four years of probation. Prosecuted by ADA Jennifer Suhl.

Commonwealth v. Gary Palazzo (Franklin Superior Court) – In May, Palazzo pleaded guilty to thirteen different charges arising out of a June 2015 break into his ex-girlfriend's home during which he strangled her and prevented her from calling the police. After he was arrested and incarcerated, he sent numerous letters to the witnesses in the case in attempts to interfere with the prosecution. He was sentenced to four years in the House of Correction followed by three years of probation. Prosecuted by ADA Jennifer Suhl.

Commonwealth v. Christopher J. Kennedy (Hampshire Superior Court) – In May, the defendant was convicted by a Hampshire County jury of Indecent Assault and Battery, Assault and Battery, and Indecent Exposure. The convictions arose from a July 2014 incident

during which Kennedy, a Massachusetts State Trooper at the time, exposed and forced himself on a woman he had met just days earlier online. He was sentenced to six months in the House of Correction and two years of probation and must register as a sex offender. Prosecuted by ADA Jennifer Suhl.

Commonwealth v. Dylan C. Swearingen (Hampshire Superior Court) – In October, Swearingen was sentenced to four years in state prison following a February incident at the Huntington Liquor Store during which he forcibly threw his girlfriend to the floor and kicked her repeatedly while she lay unconscious. When state police troopers attempted to arrest him, he violently struggled and kicked the troopers, causing injury to one. He pled guilty to charges including Assault and Battery by Means of a Dangerous Weapon and Resisting Arrest. Prosecuted by ADA Jennifer Suhl.



DV Unit Chief ADA Jennifer Suhl

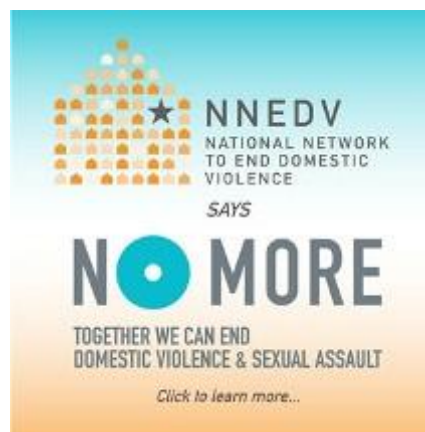
Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Unit Initiatives

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 representing law enforcement, victim services and community programs. The task force meets monthly and offers training and networking opportunities for people working to end domestic and sexual violence. In 2016, meetings included current information and training on topics such as reporting abuse of individuals with disabilities and mental illness and updates on DV and SA laws. The Task Force also heard from childhood incest survivor and author, Robin Lynn Brooks and from staff with the Stavros Center for Independent Living who gave an update on their programs and how to make referrals.

Task force members also received information on DV and cyber stalking in a session entitled, The Intersection of Technology and Intimate Partner Violence. The training was presented by national trainer, Erica Olsen, Deputy Director of the Safety Net Project at the National Network to End Domestic Violence. Perpetrators of stalking and domestic violence frequently misuse technology to abuse and harm survivors. They misuse and manipulate technology devices and online spaces to track a victim's location, monitor their computer and phone activity, and relentlessly harass them and their families. Understanding how technology is misused is crucial to both supporting victims and holding offenders accountable. The training focused on how service providers can help victims assess the abuse that's happening, how to document or investigate technology-facilitated abuse, and how survivors can strategically use technology to increase privacy and maintain their safety.



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 for victims of DV designed to coordinate the efforts of police and community advocates. 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 Counties 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.

In May 2016, the DV/SA Unit welcomed new DVIP Coordinator, Richard Aucoin. Rich is recently retired after serving 20 years as a police sergeant in the Athol Police Department. During his time in Athol, Sgt. Aucoin was the designated DV officer and department liaison to the DVIP Project and served as a member of the District Attorney's DV High Risk Team.

DVIP Partnership meetings are held twice per year for police, dispatchers, advocates and all project partners. In 2016, training topics included a review of the connection between

PTSD and DV and an understanding of DV and stalking.

A DV law enforcement newsletter was also published and distributed to law enforcement and first responders in March and in August. Featured articles included non-fatal strangulation in DV cases, review of the strangulation worksheet for police officers, stalking law and project updates regarding the high risk project and the DVIP.

The DVIP grant also includes a small amount of funds for lock changes. In 2016, the program provided new locks for three survivors of abuse.

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 are comprised of representatives from Probation Departments, Houses of Correction, Parole Board, Police Departments, 911 dispatchers, District Attorney's office, Department of Children and Families and community victim advocates. Once an offender is identified as high risk, detailed information regarding that offender, as well as his/her victim(s), is distributed to all partners to ensure a coordinated, comprehensive, and consistent response to any future incidents involving the offender.

Prior to 2010, when the High Risk Team Project first began, there were 15 DV homicides over a 12 year period. Even in the early stages of the project there were five more homicides, three

in 2010 and two in 2012. However, the district has now seen a decline with zero DV homicides in nearly five years. We attribute this decline, in part, to the success of the high risk team model and the increased monitoring and containment of high risk offenders.

Last year, pocket resource cards were created for survivors of strangulation. Cards include information on how non-fatal strangulation is used by batterers as a means of power and control and outlines signs and symptoms, the importance of seeking medical attention and available local resources. A worksheet was also developed to assist police officers in documenting non-fatal strangulation cases. The worksheet and resource cards continue to be distributed to all of our law enforcement and community advocacy partners.

Northwestern District Attorney David E. Sullivan Presents:
Identifying, Investigating, and Prosecuting Domestic Violence Non-Fatal Strangulation Cases

Date: September 22, 2016 Time: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Location: Hadley Farms Meeting House, Rte. 9, Hadley, MA

District Attorney David E. Sullivan is pleased to welcome Casey Gwin and Gael Strack, from the Strangulation Training Institute in San Diego, CA, who are nationally recognized experts in the identification, investigation, and documentation of strangulation in intimate partner violence cases.

Strangulation has been identified as one of the most lethal forms of domestic violence: unconsciousness may occur within seconds and death within minutes. When domestic violence perpetrators choke (strangle) their victims, not only is this a felonious assault, but it may be an attempted homicide. Strangulation is the ultimate form of power and control, where the batterer can demonstrate control over the victim's next breath with devastating psychological effects and a potentially fatal outcome.

You will learn: understanding the lethality of strangulation; signs and symptoms; anatomy and medical aspects; best practices, investigating, prosecuting and documenting a case; advocacy with survivors and available resources from the Strangulation Training Institute.

Registration Information
\$35.00 Registration Fee - includes continental breakfast, lunch and free on-site parking
To Register On-Line: <https://www.eventbrite.com/us/identifying-investigating-domestic-violence-strangulation-cases/september-22nd-2016>
or send the registration form (attached) with a check, payable to **Safe Passage**, to: NWDA, Attn: Karen Shewby, 13 Conway Street, Greenfield, MA 01301
Please include: your name, organization, email and phone #
If you are deaf or hard of hearing or a person with a disability who would like an accommodation, please contact Mary Kodala at mary.kodala@state.ma.us

Deadline to Register: September 9th

This project is supported by Grant No. Grant # 2014-MU-44-0040 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions and recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

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WHO SHOULD ATTEND:
• Law Enforcement Officers
• Dispatchers
• EMTs
• Prosecutors
• Advocates
• Judges
• Civil Legal Attorneys
• Medical Providers

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
About this Training:
Contact Mary Kodala at 413-515-5904
mary.kodala@state.ma.us
About the Family Justice Center Alliance Strangulation Training Institute:
www.familyjusticecenteralliance.org

A highlight of 2016 was the day long DV Conference held on September 22nd entitled, **"Identifying, Investigating, and Prosecuting Domestic Violence Non-Fatal Strangulation Cases."**

The conference provided an opportunity for our law enforcement and community partners to come together and learn about non-fatal strangulation, a terrifying and potentially lethal tactic used by domestic violence batterers to

control and threaten their victims. The seminar was funded by a federal grant and was taught by nationally renowned speakers, Gael Strack and Casey Gwinn, co-founders of the Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention in San Diego, CA. The event attracted 172 police officers, advocates, prosecutors, court personnel, dispatchers and emergency medical staff both locally and statewide.



Casey Gwinn, Gael Strack and Dr. Ralph Riviello, presenters at the Non-Fatal Strangulation Conference

DVSAU Community Outreach and Education

Each year, the DVSAU sponsors and participates in various training and outreach programs. In 2016, this included programs for middle school and high school students, first responders and police officers. The Unit also provided training specifically for campus police on stalking on college campuses and for new SAFEPLAN court advocates on risk assessment in DV cases.

Jennifer Suhl and Mary Kociela presented at the 34th Annual Social Work Conference on May 25, 2016 at Western New England University. The workshop was entitled, “Screening for Risk Assessment and Lethality in Domestic Violence Cases” and was designed to raise awareness of social workers to know the risk factors in potentially lethal cases of domestic violence and how to respond in a way so as not to jeopardize victim safety.

The DA’s office also collaborates with the Mayor of Greenfield and The Mayor’s Task Force on Domestic Violence. In October, in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, a community forum was held in the Greenfield Community College downtown center featuring Dr. Lisa Aronson Fontes. Dr. Fontes is the author of “Invisible Chains: Overcoming Coercive Control in your Intimate Relationship.” The event was open to the public and drew attention to controlling behaviors in intimate relationships.



DA Sullivan leading the White Ribbon Pledge at Greenfield Community College

White Ribbon Campaign

The White Ribbon Campaign (WRC) was founded and launched in Canada, two years after the Montréal Massacre in which 14 women students at the École Polytechnique were systematically killed, and 13 other students wounded, by a lone gunman on December 6, 1989. Some 100,000 men wore white ribbons across Canada that first year. Today, the WRC is a worldwide campaign in 60 countries and growing.

White Ribbon Pledge

From this day forward I pledge to be part of the solution in ending gender based violence and to never commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women and girls.

In 2016, District Attorney Sullivan continued to serve on the Honorary Committee of the statewide White Ribbon Campaign. The DA's Task Force organized the 9th Annual White Ribbon Campaign (WRC) 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 including NELCWIT's Power of Women event with DA Sullivan and public officials leading attendees in taking the pledge.

The campaign's online art exhibit continued to offer opportunities for students to 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. School events included tabling at lunch, taking the pledge during athletic events, the creation of videos focused on dating violence and healthy relationships and raising funds for local community programs serving victims of abuse.

New to the campaign this year was the opportunity for students to apply to become a **Student White Ribbon Ambassador**. Student White Ribbon Ambassadors are students who recognize the importance of taking responsibility and playing a leadership role in preventing violence against women. In 2016, there were four students from three high schools selected as ambassadors. They were then paired with a mentor from the DA's Domestic Violence Task Force who worked with them to organize an event in their school and raise awareness around healthy relationships and gender violence. Student ambassadors receive a certificate from the District Attorney in appreciation of their leadership. We hope to build on this success in 2017.

Sexual Assault Prevention Media Campaign



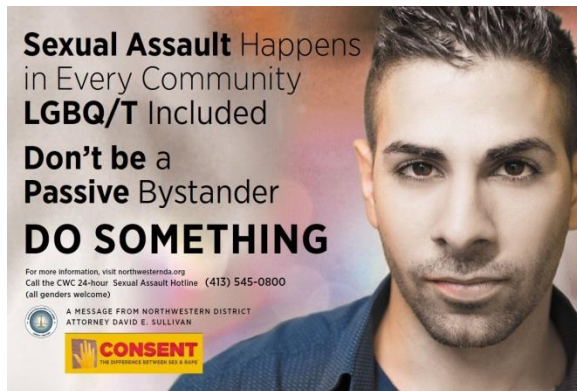
With funding from an Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant, the NWDA launched a Sexual Assault Prevention Media Campaign in 2012. The focus of the campaign is to increase college students' understanding of consent in cases of sexual assault and to illustrate ways students can be active bystanders to protect themselves and others on campus. Products, posters and PSA's entitled "Bystander," "Asserts," and "Guy Talk" can be viewed at our website: northwesternda.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.

In 2016, one of the campaign posters was featured in the book "Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies" by Melissa J. Gillis and Andrew T. Jacobs.

During the original campaign in 2012, input was solicited from students from area five colleges and GCC regarding campaign messaging and the PSA scripts. Some of the ideas for moving forward included the need for a PSA that addressed sexual assault in same sex relationships. In 2016, with funds acquired by the Five College Consortium, a new PSA was created focusing on sexual assault in the LGBTQ/T community. Over fifty students representing LGBTQ/T student focus groups on

the local five college campuses and GCC, reviewed the script and gave feedback and ideas for improvements. Each college received the posters in an editable format allowing them to add their own logo and messaging. The new posters and PSA are now available on our website and Facebook page.



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 assaults 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.



2016 Highlights

In January, the SART assisted in hosting a full day law enforcement training focused on taking a trauma-informed approach to sexual assault investigations. The training was presented by nationally-recognized expert Chief (Retired) Tom Tremblay and was held at the University of Massachusetts Police Department.

In May, several members of the SART including ADA Jennifer Suhl, UMass Police Detective Derek Napoli, and Western Massachusetts SANE Coordinator Mary Walz-Watson were honored to present at the annual statewide Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Conference. The team presented a full case highlight regarding an aggravated rape case that went to trial in 2015 involving four co-defendants. The presentation was well-received and demonstrated how, with collaboration, a sexual assault case can be successful in court.

In June, the SART was pleased to host Joan Tabachnick, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Adolescent *Sex Offender* Coalition, for a training regarding resource and treatment options for juvenile sex offenders. The training room was filled to capacity and the attendees gained valuable insight into the

process of treating and rehabilitating sexually abusive youth.

In November, the SART presented a panel discussion to doctors, nurses, and clinicians at the Cooley Dickinson Hospital Grand Rounds entitled “Response to Sexual Assault: Clinicians Partnering with SART.” The training provided information about the process for a survivor who wished to report a sexual assault to law enforcement so that medical personnel who came into contact with survivors would feel more comfortable encouraging a survivor to make such a report. The panel also discussed appropriate medical treatment, documentation, and resource referrals.



A clinician with SART team members at the November CDH training, CWC Associate Director Becky Lockwood, Detective Luann Caputo of the Northampton Police Department, ADA Jennifer Suhl, and SANE Western Mass. Coordinator Mary Walz-Watson

In addition to these trainings and outreach efforts, the SART met monthly at the District Attorney’s Office in Northampton, to discuss continuing efforts regarding best practice responses to sexual assault. Topics included a sexual assault survivor’s bill of rights pending in the legislature, medical treatment follow up for sexual assault survivors, appropriate scripts for

dispatchers taking in reports sexual assaults, as well as trauma-informed approaches to police responses to sexual assault.

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 alleged 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 Steven Greenbaum during oral argument in the Supreme Judicial Court

There were 26 new cases entered in the Massachusetts Appeals Court in 2016, most of which will be briefed and argued this year.

The NWDA also has several cases pending in the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, including four 1st-degree murder convictions.



Appellate ADA Cynthia Von Flatern

The NWDA Appellate Unit is the most experienced Appeals Unit in the Commonwealth. Each member has at least 19 years of experience in appellate prosecution.

Notable appellate decisions from 2016

Commonwealth v. James Parks, in which the Appeals Court affirmed the numerous child-rape and other convictions of a middle-school science teacher who victimized his foster daughter. The defendant received a sentence of 15-18 years in state prison.

Commonwealth v. Ardell Innis, in which the Appeals Court agreed with the NWDA that the defendant, convicted of home invasion in Superior Court, should not receive a new trial due to the alleged ineffective assistance of his trial attorney.

Commonwealth v. Aaron Caldwell, in which the Appeals Court affirmed the defendant's convictions (strangulation, assault, and violation of a abuse-prevention order) which arose out of a harrowing domestic-violence attack.

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 2016, the NWDA responded to 18 motions for a new trial.

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



Appellate Chief Thomas Townsend

SEXUALLY DANGEROUS PERSONS UNIT

The Sexually Dangerous Person (SDP) Unit is responsible for reviewing cases in which an individual who has been convicted of a sexual offense is due to be released from incarceration. The purpose of the review is to determine whether or not the individual meets the criteria for civil commitment as a Sexually Dangerous Person, as outlined in the statute, G.L. c. 123A. If those criteria are met, a petition for commitment is filed and a trial is conducted to decide whether that person will be committed. Two seasoned prosecutors, Jayme Parent and Steve Greenbaum, handle all of the SDP cases for the Office. Sue Snyder and Luisa Cruz support the Unit as SDP Coordinators.

SDP Cases handled in 2016

In Fiscal Year 2016, the Northwestern District Attorney's Office reviewed the histories of 44 inmates who were due for release. The Office determined that 33 did not meet the criteria for SDP commitment; the remaining 11 were sent

to experts for review. After review by the experts, 10 of these inmates were determined to have not met the criteria of the SDP statute. A petition for commitment was filed for the remaining inmate and two independent court-appointed Qualified Examiners found that the inmate met the SDP criteria. This case likely will go to trial in 2017. One case from a 2015 petition is scheduled to be tried in March of 2017.

DISTRICT COURT 2016

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.

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



Orange District Court team

A senior ADA is designated as the "Attorney in Charge" (AIC) in each of the four District Courts. The AICs are: Michael Russo (Northampton District Court); Robert Opsitnick (Eastern Hampshire District Court); Elizabeth Priest (Orange District Court); and Becky Michaels (Greenfield District Court). In addition, experienced ADAs in each of these courts are designated as "Domestic Violence" (DV) prosecutors and/or as Child Abuse (CAU) prosecutors.

There were several staff-related changes in 2016. ADA Stephen Jacobson accepted a new position and relocated to Boston. ADAs Marie Angers and Lori Odierna, both with extensive prior prosecutorial experience, joined the Northampton District Court staff.

Assistant District Attorneys in the 4 District Courts handled 15,712 cases in 2016. Some 6,496 were new arraignments.



District Court ADA Lori Odierna



District Court ADA Marie Angers

NWDA Training Committee

The Training Committee sponsored, hosted or conducted sixteen trainings for staff members on a variety of topics including License Suspensions, Hearsay, OUI Prosecutions, Motions to Suppress and the Rules of Professional Responsibility. Senior prosecutors also participated as faculty members in advanced trainings sponsored by Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education, Inc. (MCLE).



Eastern Hampshire District Court ADA Matt Russo – Photo by Larry Kelley



Administrative Assistant Tara Wilson and District Court Administrator Megan Zoglio

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 2016, the Juvenile Justice Unit handled **391 delinquency cases** in Hampshire and Franklin counties **and 6 Youth Offender cases**.
- In **Hampshire County**, there were a total of **265 cases**. In **Franklin County and the town of Athol**, the Juvenile Unit handled **118 delinquency cases**.

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.

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.

Juvenile Justice Unit Outreach and Education

During 2016, the Juvenile Justice Unit was actively involved in the development of numerous conferences and outreach programs aimed at youth, parents, and school personnel. Additionally, as part of the NWDA's Law Day program, Juvenile Unit ADAs gave presentations at area high schools.



ADA Yvonne speaking to students at Smith Vocational High School on Law Day

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.

During 2016, 74 juvenile cases were handled by the diversion program. Of these, 6 were handled in Belchertown Juvenile Court, 13 in Greenfield Juvenile Court, 38 in Hampshire County Juvenile Court and 17 in Orange Juvenile Court.

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.



Juvenile Justice ADA Caitlyn Rock in Greenfield

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.



NWDA members at NELCWIT Power of Women Celebration



Victim Witness Unit Director Jackie Gaw

- In **Hampshire County**, our advocates were assigned to **1,089** cases in 2016.
- They assisted **1,354** victims and **785** witnesses.
- In **Franklin County**, our advocates were assigned to **856** cases.
- They assisted **985** victims and **550** witnesses .

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, the Center for Community Resilience after Trauma (formerly the Community Crisis Response Team) and the Homicide Bereavement Program.

Over the course of 2016, our staff filed 217 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. 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.



NWDA ADAs and VW Advocates at non-fatal strangulation training

Training and Outreach

In 2016, our advocates participated in and attended a number of professional development opportunities on topics such as Non- Fatal Strangulation in Domestic Violence Cases, Economic Justice for Survivors, School Safety and Youth Empowerment, How to Recognize Work Related Stress, Trauma Stewardship and Post -Conviction Services for Victims.

Of special note are two national conferences that members of our staff were fortunate to attend. Karyn Miller was sent to the 42nd Annual National Organization for Victim Assistance Training in Atlanta. This conference is the national gathering of victim service providers who specialize in all facets of investigation, prosecution, therapies, and innovative thinking as how to best serve the victim populations encountered all over the country.

Also, the Director and Deputy Director participated in the National District Attorney's Association National Victim Rights Summit. This conference brought together elected District Attorneys and their staffs from across the country to discuss strategies of prosecuting victim based cases, discuss any legal trends that are producing obstacles or that are proving as an asset in successful outcomes.

Recognition

The year 2016 saw one staff member receive a Length of Service Award at the MOVA Annual Victim Rights Conference. Linda Rogers, a Family Service Advocate in the Child Abuse Unit, was recognized for her 10 years of service to children and families. Linda's commitment to providing justice and safety to those families she works with is to be congratulated.



VW Advocate Linda Rogers

The year also marked the retirement of one of our outstanding and longest serving advocates. Karen Fitzpatrick, who has served the citizens of Franklin County for 20 years, will be sorely missed. Karen is a shining example of a dedicated, compassionate and ardent advocate is. She never hesitated to stand up for those she was working for and we are all the better for it. With Karen's departure, Lori Roy assumed the position of the designated Domestic and Sexual Violence advocate for Franklin County. Her advocacy abilities will be of great service to this vulnerable population.

In 2016, we welcomed one new advocate and one former advocate to the staff. We were pleased to gain Sonia Serrazina, who joined the Child Abuse Unit as a Family Service Advocate and Forensic Interviewer. Sonia focuses on the Child Advocacy Centers and assists families at the CAC. She also brings an expertise in forensic interviewing which adds yet another skilled interviewer for the CAU.



VW Advocate Karen Fitzpatrick



Sonia Serrazina

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 Shelburne Falls Senior Center

2016 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.



Caroline Smith at the Northampton Safety Fair

During 2016, CPU staffed informational tables at community events and made numerous consumer presentations throughout the district. We teamed up with the Western Massachusetts Attorney General's Office to inform consumers about their consumer rights and how to avoid scams that are targeting our area.

The Consumer unit produced 2017 Calendars with monthly consumer protection tips. The calendars were distributed to all Hampshire and Franklin County senior centers.

Three new public service announcements were produced this year, including one on the IRS Scam which has targeted our area. In addition, the local community access television stations continue to air our nine locally produced public service announcements on consumer protection topics, which are also available on the NWDA website. The Unit has produced and updated outreach materials on additional consumer topics, including Buying a Used Car, Tenants Rights and Shopping Rights.

As part of the NWDA's comprehensive response to the opioid crisis in our district, the CPU partnered with the NWDA's Prescription Drug Abuse Task Force to develop a presentation on how to protect your financial future when a family member is struggling with a substance abuse disorder.

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. The CPU is 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 2016, the Consumer Protection Unit received **1,708 calls**, opened **318 cases** and recovered **\$177,970** for consumers.
In the past 5 years, CPU has recovered **\$1,256,861**.



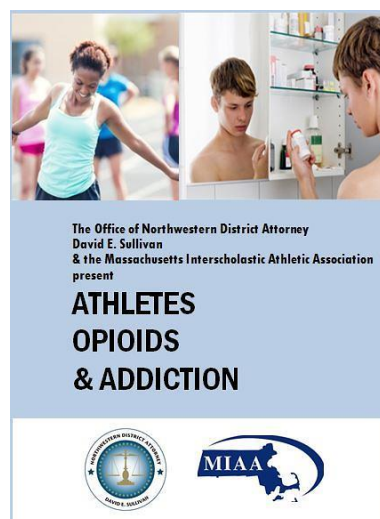
State Rep. Steve Kulik, Franklin Register of Probate John Merrigan and DA Sullivan giving out Thanksgiving turkeys

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

The Community Outreach and Education Unit joined other NWDA units, drug prevention coalitions and the wider community to focus squarely on the opioid crisis in 2016. A team of local people returned from the National RX Drug Abuse and Heroin Summit with ideas for best practices in effective community responses to the opioid epidemic.

In April, the Unit helped coordinate training sessions for nurses and others from more than two dozen schools in western Massachusetts as they prepared to launch the **Screening Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment** program known as **SBIRT**. Now mandated by the state, SBIRT is a brief screening that aims to help identify students at risk for alcohol and other substance misuse and then guide them to make healthier choices.

Aware that athletes are among those at risk for opioid misuse, the NWDA teamed up with local physician Dr. Ruth Potee to produce the **"Athletes, Opioids and Addiction"** video presented at high school preseason sports meetings for parents and student athletes all over the Northwestern District.



The NWDA worked on other evidence-based initiatives, including Narcan trainings and safe drug storage and drug disposal campaigns, promoting educational efforts designed to eliminate the stigma associated with drug misuse disorders and addiction in our society. The NWDA believes it is essential to educate the community about brain science and addiction to remove barriers to intervention and treatment.

Throughout the year, the NWDA continued working with more than a dozen prevention

coalitions, task forces and committees on projects that address social problems that, without intervention, can lead to crime.

The NWDA helped organize a suicide prevention training attended by local guidance counselors, teachers and school administrators. We educated our own NWDA staff on Mental Health First Aid and treatment options for young people struggling with substance use disorders and other mental health issues.

Law Day 2016

Working with bar associations in Hampshire and Franklin counties, the NWDA educated community members and high school students about key legal concepts enshrined in the landmark U.S. Supreme Court Miranda decision. That was the topic for the American Bar Association's 2016 Law Day and the law day teams responded to the ABA call with creativity and energy. DA Sullivan and Assistant Northwestern District Attorneys, as well as members of the criminal defense bar gave presentations to a dozen classes at seven area high schools. A Law Day assembly at Greenfield Community College drew about 60 people who heard from retired Judge Bertha D. Josephson and DA Sullivan, who encouraged students, many of whom were high school seniors -- to answer the call when tapped for jury duty.

5th Annual Safe School Summit

In November, teachers, administrators and other school staff attended **the 5th Annual Safe and Healthy School Summit** in partnership with the Massachusetts Teachers Association. On the topic of Healthy Relationships and Teen Dating Violence, the conference included a theater presentation on healthy masculinity and six breakout workshops on matters such as promoting healthy LGBTQ/T relationships and creating vibrant healthy dating initiatives within school settings. Keynote speakers included

Marty Harding, a senior trainer for Hazelden's Safe Dates curriculum and Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey.



5th Annual Safe School Summit



Healthy Masculinity skit presented at 5th Annual Safe & Healthy School Summit

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.



National Night Out 2016

Additional Community Outreach

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 the NWDA's tradition, 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 resource books 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 Narcan into the hands of the region's first responders.

In Franklin County, NWDA members marched in the Franklin County Fair Parade in support of the Not in Our Town group in Greenfield, which is mobilizing in the community in response to acts of racial intolerance.



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, District Court Chief Rosemary Tarantino and Director of Community Education and Outreach Laurie Loisel. 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.

COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

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

In 2016, 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. The Unit produced seven new Law Enforcement training videos in 2016 on topics ranging from transgender rights to protective custody for animals.



Communications Director Mary Carey



NWDA- Northampton front office staff

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 2016 Accomplishments

In 2016, the IT Unit continued ongoing efforts to improve the technical 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. The NWDA began to update its workstations to the latest Windows operating system.

Two new servers went online in 2016. A new case management database server was purchased and deployed, which will provide staff with efficient access to all case data for a number of years. A new server to store digital case files was purchased, which will increase the NWDA's capacity for storage of digital case files. This significant addition of case file storage capacity will allow for long term storage of digital documents and multimedia files gathered during investigations and utilized in trials.

The IT Unit continued its ongoing effort to develop tools to increase the efficiency of day-to-day staff activities. To this end, IT staff worked with various units to improve on existing databases and design new databases for development in 2017.

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. The NorthwesternDA.org website was updated in 2016 to a more modern technology to ensure continued fast and uninterrupted presentation of webpages into the future.

In coordination with the Trial Court, the IT Unit designed, purchased and deployed a state-of-the-art multimedia system for Hampshire County grand jury presentations. This new system significantly improves the quality of presentations of multimedia evidence by prosecutors to grand juries.

Working closely with the Massachusetts District Attorney's Association, the IT Unit began the process to identify a highly secure means for the transfer of digital documents between the NWDA and outside agencies and defense attorneys. This new system for utilizing a secure cloud platform for external document transfer is expected to be deployed during 2017.



IT System Support Engineer Nathan Foote

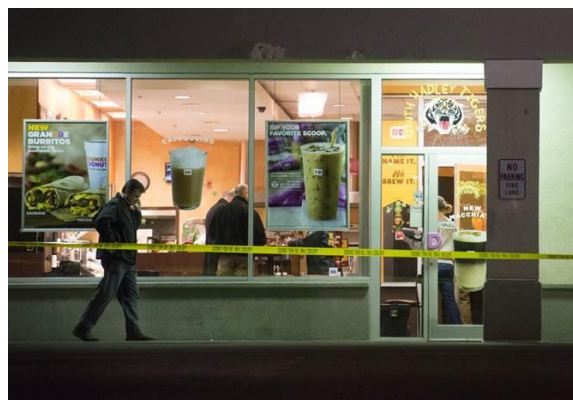


It Director Bruce Fieldman and IT System Support Engineer Nathan Foote in the field

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 are an additional 2 Sergeants and 8 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.



Crime scene photo by MassLive

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.

In 2016, the SPDU handled **542** cases and responded to **254** unattended deaths.



Detective Lt. John Cummings

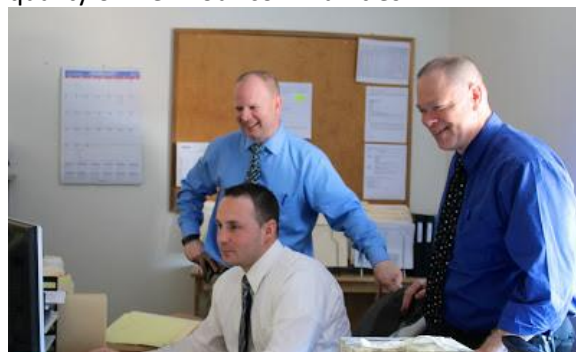
In 2016, the Commander of SPDU, Detective Lt. John Cummings, retired after 29 years of service to our community as a state police officer.

Lt. Chris Ray retired after 27 years of service. They 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 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.



MSP Troopers assigned to the NWDA's Greenfield Office

ONGOING INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS

The Veterans Justice Partnership

The Veterans Justice Partnership (VJP) was founded in 2011 by District Attorney David 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 138 veterans in 2016.

- **10 Vets worked with both the Veterans Administration and Soldier On.**
- **66 worked with Soldier On**
- **62 worked with the Veterans Administration**

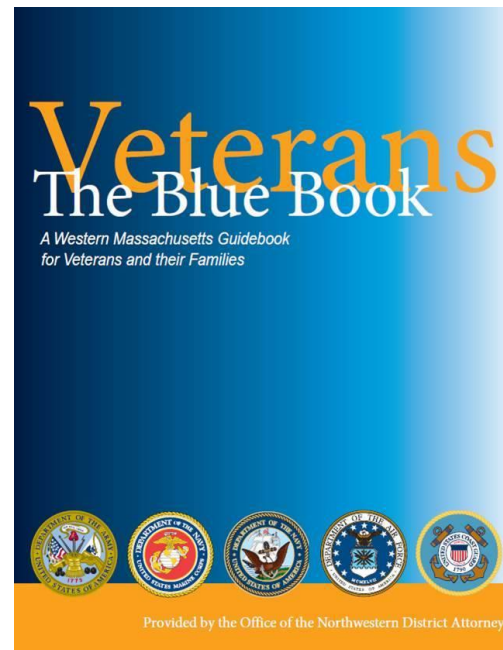
VJP is working to help veterans before and after case disposition. A Department of Mental Health initiative, Mission Direct Vet, is working collaboratively with VJP to help veterans get the necessary mental health services to address and prevent criminal conduct. For incarcerated veterans, VJP has the 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 2016, VJP staff worked with 138 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 2016, 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.



**Veterans Treatment Court team
WMAss Veterans Treatment Court**

Established in 2015, the Western Massachusetts Veterans Treatment Court works specifically with court-involved veterans and is centrally located at Holyoke District Court to serve veterans from Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden counties. The Office of Northwestern District Attorney plays an integral role in the vision and operation of this court. Currently, the court services 29 Veterans from all branches of the United States Armed Forces. Some 14 of those participants are from Franklin and Hampshire County. The participants in the Vets

Court program commit to a long-term, intensive probation during which they receive services for their mental health and substance abuse needs. They also receive assistance in locating stable, long-term housing and employment.

In 2016, the Vets Court celebrated its first full year of operations. Justice Laurie McLeod is the presiding justice of the court. She leads the Veteran Court team which is comprised of a cross section of the district court community. The team includes representatives from the Northwestern and Hampden County District Attorney's Offices, the probation department, the Holyoke Police Department, defense attorneys and clinical support from Soldier On and the VA Hospital in Leeds. 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.

ADA Mike Russo is the coordinator for the NWDA.

Restorative Justice Programs

Restorative Justice programs serve Orange and Greenfield District Courts, Eastern Hampshire District Court and Franklin/ Hampshire Juvenile 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, Lucinda Brown, and Steve Linsky who have spearheaded these initiatives. In 2016, we expanded the reach of restorative justice panels to those juvenile offenders in Hampshire County. Many thanks to the community members who volunteer their time to serve on restorative boards.

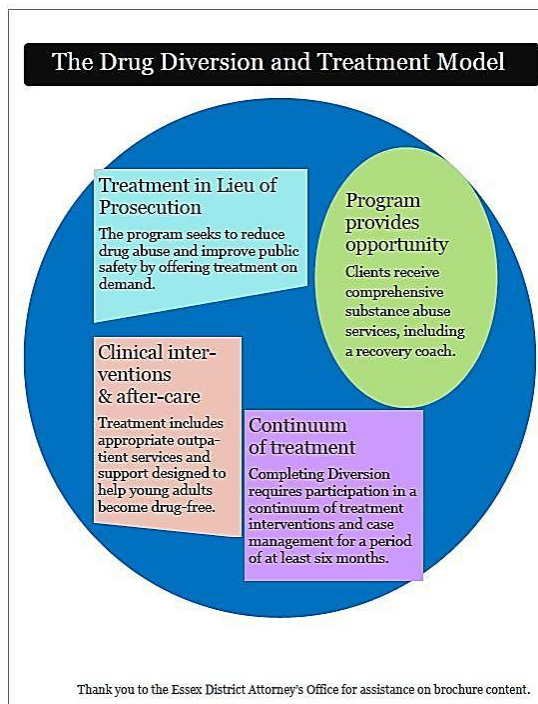


Some NWDA staff and Restorative Justice Program panelists



DA Sullivan, AG Maura Healey and Judge Beth Crawford at Opening Ceremony for the Franklin Family Drug Court Drug Diversion & Treatment Program (DDTP)

Funding awarded in 2016 through the Heroin and Opioid Crime Reduction State Initiative and a federal Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program enabled the NWDAO to develop and implement an innovative pre and post arraignment diversion program for non-violent offenders who have a substance use disorder and are charged with specific drug and drug-related offenses.



The NWDAO's Drug Diversion & Treatment Program (DDTP) provides eligible candidates with the opportunity to obtain comprehensive substance use disorder treatment and recovery support in lieu of being prosecuted through the criminal justice system. By offering comprehensive treatment and recovery support, DDTP seeks to improve overall public safety by reducing substance use and criminal recidivism in our district.

Program Director Dan Carey launched the pilot DDTP program in February of 2016 in the Greenfield District Court. DDTP is now fully functioning in all four of the district courts in the Northwestern District.

At the heart of the successful implementation of the NWDA's Drug Diversion & Treatment Program are the strong partnerships which we have developed with our two treatment providers, Clinical Support Options (CSO) and the Center for Human Development (CHD); the MA Department of Public Health, local law enforcement; Trial Court Department staff in each of our district courts; the Recovery Support Center in each county; and our two Western Massachusetts regional drug task forces/coalitions.

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 2016, monthly newsletters addressed subjects such as open containers of marijuana, carrying a firearm,

OUI, larceny by false pretense, misleading a police officer and strip searches.



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

Opioid Addiction Prevention

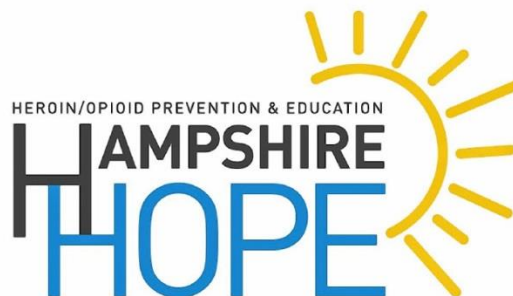
Addiction to pain prescription medications and heroin continues to significantly impact our region. Families and communities are devastated by this public health crisis that has only worsened with the advent of the synthetic opioid Fentanyl being added to nearly 80 percent of the heroin. In 2016, the State of Massachusetts projected 1,979 deaths due to opioids, 45 within our district. This number has continued to grow yearly without any sign of leveling off.

From 2014 – 2016, our district has experienced **120** fatal opioid overdoses. Non-fatal overdoses and treatment admissions due to opioid use have grown along with the number of fatal overdoses. We continue our comprehensive and multi-faceted community effort supported by the talents and commitment of numerous people in the NWDA Office.



of Franklin County and the North Quabbin Region

The **Opioid Task Force of Franklin County & North Quabbin Region** was formed in 2013 to tackle opioid use and abuse. Effective leadership by co-chairs District Attorney Dave Sullivan, Franklin Register of Probate John Merrigan, and Franklin Sheriff Christopher Donelan quickly established the Task Force as a model for other communities in the state. Deb McLaughlin is the new coordinator whose previous experience and skill in program management ensures the continuation of the OTF's excellent track record in prevention, intervention, recovery, collaborating with nearly every agency in Franklin County. This year will bring a much needed focus on housing and workforce development.



Hampshire HOPE, a multi-sector coalition initially established by the NWDA, was funded by the state in 2015 to tackle this epidemic in our communities by addressing the rise in prescription opioid misuse, heroin use, addiction, and overdose death in the Hampshire County region, through policy, practice, and systems change. Over the past two years, Hampshire HOPE has worked diligently to build its network and collaboration through community outreach and through collaborative assessment, planning, and intervention. The coalition has a broad reach and active working groups composed of partner agencies and

community members that have been vital for supporting this project. Much attention is being paid to policy that addresses prevention, intervention, and treatment. Yet, fear and stigma fuel silence and shame surrounding this epidemic and impact recovery. It is vital to continue to reach the community with messages of hope and resiliency.

Housed in the Health Department of the City of Northampton, their mission is to help people and families struggling with opioids — like heroin and prescription medicines. Goals include preventing heroin and prescription drug misuse and addiction as well as working hard to prevent non-fatal and fatal overdose. Another goal includes helping more people get treatment and recover from heroin and prescription drug addiction.



The new **Northampton Recovery Center** was a result of visioning sessions held with members of the local recovery community initiated by Hampshire HOPE. Lynn Ferro, the Hal Rogers grant coordinator for the NWDA had a significant role in the coordination of the new center which is modeled upon the successful peer-driven model adopted across the state. The Recovery Center will continue its efforts to find funding, permanent space and expand hours, programs and services. Programs are added daily in order to support the continued recovery of those who have successfully navigated their personal journeys away from addiction.

Northwestern District Rx Drug Abuse Task Force – Hal Rogers Grant In its second year, the federally funded Harold Rogers grant supported several initiatives representing the multi-faceted approach necessary to address the

myriad components of the opioid epidemic. As new state legislation was enacted, staff undertook numerous educational presentations to physicians and health care providers, not only within our district, but in surrounding counties as well.

The video **Athletes, Opioids & Addiction**, on the dangers of taking opioids for sports injuries as well as dental procedures for student athletes, was produced by our office with Dr. Ruth Potee. It was presented at 18 schools in the district in the late summer of 2016 with great success. Prominent in the film was the science behind how vulnerable the teenage brain is to addiction and how easily it can begin. The video was adopted by the MIAA and distributed state wide for all middle and high school athletic departments.

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)**, which will play a key role in early intervention and treatment for student substance abuse. School nurses received training in SBIRT and motivational interviewing, which led to all but one school district incorporating SBIRT into their healthcare screening programs.

Community Narcan training and distribution events were held and the development of a joint database between Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin counties is nearing completion. The primary aim of the new database is to identify temporal, geographic patterns of drug overdoses, including the location of specific clusters for city, county and community agencies in order to enhance service delivery to specific communities immediately affected. A secondary aim will establish a centralized surveillance system for healthcare organizations, emergency responders, and police to improve efficiency in understanding

the scope of the opioid problem in Western Massachusetts.

Community Narcan training events will continue as well as healthcare provider training and the establishment of procedures to bridge gaps in treatment. The NWDA is committed to continue responding intelligently to this public health crisis, thereby enhancing the health, safety and quality of life in our 47 communities.



SBIRT training for nurses

School Safety and Security Task Force

In the tragic wake of the shooting 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 Sergeant Rick Gawron.

FEDERAL GRANTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR PUBLIC SAFETY

Every year, critical federal grants make a difference in fighting crime and helping vulnerable victims. Listed are some of the federal grants which have been awarded to the Northwestern District Attorney's Office with details as to how they assist prevention programs and victims of child abuse, domestic violence, sexual assaults, and other major crimes. These are essential grants for safer communities and are not available from any other funding sources.

VOCA – Victims of Crime Act Child Abuse Unit

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

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

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

providing an immediate response to victims of domestic abuse.

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

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

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 youth under the age of 18, who set fires or engage in fire-related behavior. The NoFIRES program has quickly become a national model program for helping juvenile fire setters.



NoFIRES Executive Director Loren Davine

In 2016, NoFIRES received more than **65 referrals** to the program and held 16 fire education classes. Nearly **275 families** have been served by NoFIRES since it was developed in 2012.

At this time, NoFIRES is one of the few programs available for youth that have engaged in fire-related behavior. Our unique model of utilizing licensed clinical social workers for

screenings and specialized fire educators for classes makes this program an invaluable asset to the 51 communities it serves.

In addition to providing fire safety education to youth who 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.



NoFIRES conference - photo by **Public Safety Multimedia**

On November 1st and 2nd, 2016, the NoFIRES Partnership and NWDA proudly presented the **4th Annual Arson Investigation and Prosecution Conference: Investigating the Youth Firesetter** at the Hadley Farms Meeting House in Hadley, MA. The conference was designed for police, firefighters, prosecutors, mental health providers, school personnel, and probation officers. Attorney John Scheft, a leading expert and author of the Field Manual For Massachusetts Police on Juvenile Law & Procedure, was the keynote speaker. In addition, Undersecretary for Public Safety Jennifer Queally and Det. Lt. Paul Zipper from the Massachusetts State Police presented a memorable case that involved a youth-set fire. Interviewing techniques, typology of a youth firesetter, legal considerations, and solutions were also presented to more than 100 participants. Additionally, the Massachusetts State Police Fire Investigation Team conducted a live burn demonstration to depict how quickly fire spreads.



Controlled burn demonstration

2016 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.



2016 Communications intern Maggie Douglass with Dan Carey, Chris Geffin and DA Sullivan

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 victims' rights in the community.

In the Consumer Protection Unit, interns are directly involved in consumer casework, fielding consumer calls, assessing problems, conveying information, sending correspondence, referring consumers to other agencies, and working on special projects. Consumer Protection interns also mediate cases between businesses and consumers.

FISCAL UNIT

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 2016 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.



2016 Total Appropriation Funding
\$6,436,988

2016 Total Grant Funding
\$472,049

Grand Total
\$6,909,038

Appropriation Funding Percentage
93 percent

Grant Funding Percentage
6.8 percent



NWDA Victim Witness Advocates

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facebook



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Thank you to Richard Cowles for his generous permission to use his photograph of Ashfield on our 2016 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.