



Office of Northwestern District Attorney
David E. Sullivan

2017 Annual Report



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Message from District Attorney David E. Sullivan

I am pleased to share the Office of the Northwestern District Attorney (NWDA) 2017 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 2017 Annual Report highlights the achievements of

NWDA and our many community partners.

In 2017, there were many cases in which our prosecutors distinguished themselves in the courtroom seeking justice for victims of crime. Our victim advocates provided outstanding assistance to our victims and survivors. We have highlighted some of these cases in this report.

Although the Opioid Crisis continues to have a devastating impact on families and communities in our region, the NWDA has been able to strengthen its role in bringing community and state resources together to address this epidemic. We take a leadership role in the Opioid Task Force of Franklin and North Quabbin and in the Hampshire Heroin Opioid Prevention and Education Coalition (Hampshire HOPE). **In 2017, our collective efforts resulted in a 38% decrease in opioid fatalities in the Northwestern District.** We also continued to strongly advocate for improved treatment, recovery, and prevention services.

During 2017, the NWDA was awarded a second year of federal grant funding to expand our successful Drug Diversion and Treatment Program (DDTP), an innovative court diversion program which offers drug treatment in lieu of prosecution to non-violent adult offenders who have a substance use disorder and are charged with certain drug-related crimes. Additionally, Lynn Ferro, our Director of Opioid Research & Recovery Services, was instrumental in establishing the **Northampton Recovery Center**, a peer recovery center that provides support and services to fill the needs of people in recovery in Hampshire County.

Consumer protection education about telephone and internet scams; addressing teen dating violence and college sexual assault; our annual Safe & Healthy School Summit; and strengthening partnerships with local substance abuse prevention coalitions; are just some of the prevention and public safety efforts our DA Office was engaged with in 2017.

We were pleased to bring a nationally recognized **Fair and Impartial Training** to many of our police departments and prosecutors. This training was vital in helping law enforcement and prosecutors understand and address unconscious bias that may impact their fair and just handling of criminal matters.

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 that reads "David E. Sullivan". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

STAFF AND ORGANIZATION 2017

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

Child Abuse Unit

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

Elders & Persons with Disabilities Unit

ADA Jayme Parent, Chief
Chris Geffin, EPD Unit & TRIAD Coordinator
(*Retired*)
Rachel Senecal, EPD Unit & TRIAD Coordinator

Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Unit

ADA Jennifer Suhl, Chief
Mary Kociela, Director of DV Projects
Richard Aucoin, AWARE/DVIP Coordinator
Carly Estrela, High Risk Team Coordinator *
Katie Rosewarne, High Risk Team Coordinator
*Formerly held position

Appellate Unit

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

District Court

ADA Rosemary Tarantino, Chief (*Retired*)
ADA Michael Russo, Chief
ADA Marie Angers, (AIC/DV) Northampton
ADA Nicholas Atallah
ADA Andrew Covington
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 Ryan Scott
ADA Joseph Webber (AIC/DV) Greenfield
*AIC=Attorney-In-Charge
*DV=Specialized Domestic Violence ADA
*Formerly held position

Juvenile Justice Unit

ADA Yvonne Pesce, Chief (*Retired*)
ADA Elizabeth Mulcahy, Chief
ADA Bruce Patryn
ADA Caitlyn Rock
Luisa Cruz, Juvenile Court Administrator

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
Carly Estrela, Advocate
Janice Francis, Advocate
Karyn Miller, Advocate
Jennifer Reid, Advocate

Consumer Protection Unit

Janice Garrett, Director
Caroline Smith, Case Coordinator *(Retired)*
Anita Wilson, Case Coordinator

Outreach and Education

Laurie Loisel, Director
Dan Carey, Director, Drug Diversion & Treatment Program
Lynn Ferro, Director of Opioid Research & Recovery Support Services

Civil Rights Review Team

Deputy DA Janice Healy, Co-Chair
ADA Rosemary Tarantino, Co-Chair *(Retired)*
ADA Elizabeth Mulcahy
ADA Michael Russo
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 *(Retired)*
Lt. Mike Habel, Unit Commander*
Detective Lt. Jeff Cahill, Unit Commander
Lt. Joe Ballou, Executive Officer
Lt. Christopher Ray, Narcotics Unit *(Retired)*
Sgt. Michael Andrews, Narcotics Unit*
Sgt. Christopher Baran, Narcotics Unit
8 State Police Troopers

*Formerly held position

Administrative Staff

Donna Jackson, Franklin County Office Supervisor
Mary Bates, District Court Administrator
Luisa Cruz, Juvenile Court Administrator
Jamie Foster, Paralegal
Debra Jacques, District Court Administrator
Cameron Jerome, District Court Administrator
Casandra 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 *(Retired)*
Sue Snyder, Executive Assistant
Maria Sotolongo, District Court Administrator
Alyssa Stankowski, District Court Administrator
Tara Wilson, Administrative Assistant
Megan Zoglio, District Court Administrator*

*Formerly held position

Fiscal

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



NWDA Senior Management Team left to right, Donna Dudkiewicz, Deputy DA Janice Healy, Director of Operations Martie Murphy Kane, DA Sullivan, First ADA Steve Gagne

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

The District Attorney relies on his senior management team to help him administer the Office and implement the goals, objectives and priorities of his administration. His senior managers- Deputy District Attorney Jan Healy, First Assistant Steve Gagne, Director of Operations Martie Murphy Kane and Chief Financial Officer Donna Dudkiewicz, ensure that the underlying policies, infrastructure and finances of the Northwestern District Attorney's Office fully support the DA's vision and the critical work that the Office does on behalf of the residents of the 47 communities in our District.

SUPERIOR COURT

Some of the most serious and/or complex criminal cases are prosecuted in the Hampshire and Franklin Superior Courts, where those convicted of crimes can receive sentences ranging from lengthy probation to periods of incarceration in either the House of Correction or state prison. There are eight Assistant District Attorneys who primarily prosecute cases in Superior Court, covering crimes that occur in all 47 cities and towns within the Northwestern District.

Often times, a case *must* be prosecuted in Superior Court because, due to the nature of the crime, the District Court lacks jurisdiction over it; examples include murder, rape, robbery, extortion and drug trafficking. But many times, a case that *could* be prosecuted in District Court is instead indicted and prosecuted in Superior Court, where lengthier state prison sentences are available. The decision to indict a case is based on many factors, including the nature of the crime, the defendant's criminal record, and any aggravating factors that may exist. Once indicted, a case is resolved either through a jury trial (with a 12-person jury), a "jury-waived" trial (in which the judge hears the evidence and renders a verdict), or a guilty plea.



The Hampshire County Courthouse, Northampton Republican/MassLive photo

Grand Jury

In order for a case to reach Superior Court, it 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 is required to convict a defendant at trial.

When an Assistant District Attorney presents a case to the Grand Jury, he or she must include any significant exculpatory or mitigating evidence that might seriously affect the Grand Jury's decision to indict. This requirement ensures that the integrity of the Grand Jury process is preserved, and that indictments are based on sufficiently trustworthy evidence.

Although Grand Jury proceedings are confidential, a stenographic record of each presentation is created, 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. A recent development in Massachusetts case law also requires that any legal instructions provided to the Grand Jury be recorded as well, to ensure the Grand Jury was properly and sufficiently instructed on the law that applies to the cases they hear.

At the conclusion of each presentation, at least 12 of the 23 Grand Jurors must find that probable cause exists for an indictment to issue. Indicted cases then proceed to arraignment in Superior Court, where every defendant is entitled to legal representation by an attorney. Once indicted, a case must be proven beyond a reasonable doubt for a conviction to result.



Superior Court ADA Matt Thomas

Early Involvement

Police and prosecutors often work together from the very earliest stages of an investigation, which ultimately leads to stronger cases and better outcomes. Superior Court Assistant District Attorneys participate in a 24/7 "on-call" rotation, ensuring that a prosecutor is available at all hours of the day (or night) to assist local police departments when a major crime and/or suspicious death occurs. This assistance can consist of answering any legal questions that may arise, reviewing search warrant applications, and weighing in on the appropriate charges to file. Once involved in a case from its earliest stages, the prosecutor will then keep the case as it makes its way through the court system.



Prosecutors and State Police assigned to the Northwestern DA's Office assist at a crime scene. Republican/MassLive photo

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 assist with the investigation from the very outset. Most serious or fatal crashes are investigated by the Massachusetts State Police Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Section ("CARS"), providing a technical analysis of the factors that contributed to the crash.

Among some of the more notable Superior Court cases prosecuted in 2017 were:

Commonwealth v. Jesse Carrillo (Hampshire Superior Court) – the defendant, a graduate student at UMass-Amherst, was charged with involuntary manslaughter for selling a fatal dose of heroin to an undergraduate student, on the theory that heroin is an inherently dangerous drug whose risks are widely known. The case was tried before a jury in May 2017, resulting in the defendant’s conviction for involuntary manslaughter and distribution of heroin. The defendant was sentenced to serve one year in the Hampshire County House of Correction, followed by a period of probation. The case was prosecuted by Chief Trial Counsel Jeremy Bucci, with assistance from Chief Victim Witness Advocate Jackie Gaw.

Commonwealth v. Edward Fleury (Hampshire Superior Court) – the defendant, a former Pelham police chief, was charged with numerous counts of improper storage of firearms, many of which were high-capacity weapons, which police discovered strewn throughout his residence. The defendant was convicted of several felonies after a jury trial, for which the Court placed him on probation for two years and fined him \$7500. As a result of his felony convictions, the defendant can no longer possess firearms of any kind. The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Matthew Thomas.

Commonwealth v. Ryan Brunelle (Hampshire Superior Court) – the defendant’s vehicle crossed over the center line on Route 116 in South Hadley and collided with an oncoming car, claiming the life of a 29-year-old father of two young children. The defendant claimed he had fallen asleep behind the wheel, but toxicology testing on his blood revealed both prescription and non-prescription medications in his system. He pled guilty to felony motor vehicle homicide, for which he was sentenced to one year in the Hampshire County House of Correction, accompanied by a 15-year loss of license. The case was prosecuted by First

Assistant District Attorney Steven E. Gagne, together with Victim-Witness Advocate Wendy Adams.

In 2017, Superior Court prosecutors obtained indictments in 150 new cases in the Hampshire and Franklin Superior Courts. During the year, 108 cases were resolved by way of trial, plea, or other disposition. Convictions or admissions of guilt were obtained in 82% of all cases resolved in 2017.

Commonwealth v. Jovan Robinson (Franklin Superior Court) – the defendant, an interstate truck driver, pled guilty to solicitation and threatening to commit a crime, after he held a woman against her will and transported her over state lines. The victim was able to escape from the defendant at a truck stop in Whately, where she called 911. The prosecution of this case became much more difficult once the victim tragically died of an overdose. Notwithstanding that, the prosecutor pursued other avenues of introducing enough circumstantial evidence to sustain a conviction, which resulted in a plea agreement that sent the defendant to jail for 18 months. The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Anne Yereniuk, with assistance from Victim-Witness Advocate Lori Roy.

Commonwealth v. Eric Legare & Brian Welvaert (Franklin Superior Court) – these codefendants were charged with involuntary manslaughter and distribution of heroin in connection with the fatal overdose of a 21-year-old man in Athol. Legare was indicted as the actual dealer, whereas Welvaert was charged as a joint venture for driving Legare from location to location. Both men ultimately pled guilty, with Legare receiving a five-year state prison sentence and Welvaert being placed on probation. These cases were prosecuted by Chief Trial Counsel Jeremy Bucci, with assistance from Victim-Witness Advocate Heather Darling.



ECONOMIC CRIMES UNIT

The Northwestern District Attorney's Office's Economic Crimes Unit investigates and prosecutes cases involving financial fraud and exploitation. The majority of these crimes are committed by bookkeepers, bank tellers, cashiers, caretakers, and other offenders who misuse positions of trust to victimize elders, disabled persons, and/or employers. Since its inception in 2012, the Economic Crimes Unit has investigated and prosecuted crimes involving nearly \$3 million in documented losses. Unfortunately, in many cases, those convicted of financial crimes no longer have the means of making full restitution to their victims, having long-since squandered the money. Victims must often pursue civil remedies to hold the offenders financially accountable.

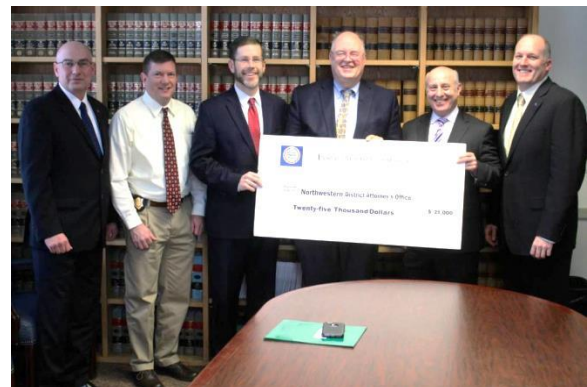
Some of the more notable financial fraud cases prosecuted in 2017 include:

Commonwealth v. Jennifer Fox (Franklin Superior Court) - The defendant was the long-time office manager for an eye doctor's office in Franklin County, which enabled her to siphon cash from the daily receipts before depositing them at the bank. Due to the complexity of her scheme, and the long-term scope of her crime, this case took years to investigate and prosecute, culminating in her guilty plea in March 2017. She was placed on probation for five years, during which time she must pay \$30,000 in restitution. The case was jointly prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Janice Healy and Assistant District Attorney Rosemary

Tarantino, together with Victim-Witness Advocate Bonnie Press.

Commonwealth v. Christopher Estes (Hampshire Superior Court) – during his tenure as the treasurer of the Alpha Tau Gamma fraternity at UMass-Amherst, the defendant embezzled \$130,000 for his own personal use. When the fraternity noticed some financial irregularities, the defendant resigned as treasurer and admitted that he had stolen the funds. He pled guilty to larceny over \$250, for which he was sentenced to one year in the Hampshire County House of Correction, followed by five years of probation. The case was prosecuted by First Assistant District Attorney Steven E. Gagne, together with Chief Victim-Witness Advocate Jackie Gaw.

Commonwealth v. Kenneth Pontz (Hampshire Superior Court) – the defendant embezzled \$46,000 in homeowner association funds from a mobile home park in Belchertown. He admitted his crimes to the police, and pled guilty to two counts of larceny over \$250. The Court sentenced the defendant to seven years of supervised probation, during which time he must pay restitution. The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Jayme Parent, with assistance from Victim-Witness Advocate Kate Clogston.



District Attorney Sullivan with members of the Insurance Fraud Bureau.

INSURANCE FRAUD

2017 marked the fifth year that the Northwestern District Attorney's Office has partnered with the Insurance Fraud Bureau of Massachusetts (IFB), to identify and prosecute instances of insurance fraud. The IFB was authorized by an Act of the Massachusetts Legislature and signed into law in 1990, and conducts criminal investigations and refers appropriate cases for criminal prosecution. Although most insurance fraud prosecutions handled by the Northwestern District Attorney's Office involve automobile insurance fraud, recent years have seen an uptick of cases involving large-scale health insurance fraud.

The most recent example involved a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW) based in Easthampton who is alleged to have billed a health insurance company for \$130,000.00 in counseling sessions that never took place. Upon discovering the billing irregularities, the company referred the matter to the IFB for further investigation. The IFB identified 38 individuals whose health insurance information was fraudulently used to bill the company for hundreds of supposed counseling sessions that never happened. Working together with the Northwestern District Attorney's Office, indictments were obtained against the LICSW, and her license to practice was suspended. The case remains pending in the Hampshire Superior Court.

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 Chief, ADA Linda Pisano
Daily Hampshire Gazette photo



Some CAU Team members
Back Row, left-to-right: Kelley Mason, Suzanne Koch, Jamie Foster, Deb Kierstead, Linda Rogers and Heather Hubbard. Front row: Caleb Weiner, Kellie Beaulieu and Linda Pisano



ADA Caleb Weiner



**CAU Coordinator / Forensic Interviewer
Kellie Beaulieu**



CAU Paralegal Jamie Foster

- In 2017, 407 cases were referred to the CAU for investigation, involving 551 victims, which resulted in 204 offenders being charged with offenses against children.
- 201 child victims were interviewed at the Children Advocacy Centers in Hampshire and Franklin Counties.
- 148 CAU cases were resolved; 119 of those cases were resolved in the District Courts, 24 cases were resolved in the Superior and 5 cases were resolved in the Juvenile Courts.
- 204 CAU defendants were arraigned, 15 of whom were in the Superior Court.

CAU TRAININGS OFFERED BY THE CAU:

- 02/02/17: Introduction to the CAC Model for Child Abuse Investigations
- 6/20/17: Recognizing and Responding to Child Abuse

- 10/7/17: Recognizing and Responding to Child Abuse

CAU TRAININGS ATTENDED:

- 03/15/2017: Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Training
- 04/19/17: Victims' Rights Conference
- 05/2/2017: Annual Massachusetts Children's Alliance Conference
- 10/08/17: Cultural Competency

In 2017 more than 400 new cases came into the Unit, involving 551 victims and resulted in 204 offenders being charged with child abuse related offenses. The CAU successfully applied for a significant increase in the amount of their Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) grant, which allowed sufficient funds to hire another full-time CAU Advocate, part-time forensic interviewer and substantial funds to send staff to trainings. Sonia Serrazina, the newest addition to the CAU, thanks to the additional VOCA funds, filled the role of Child Abuse Center Family Service Advocate and part-time child forensic interviewer. The CAU was also fortunate enough to add a paralegal, Jamie Foster, to the CAU team in 2016.

Significant Cases Resolved:

Commonwealth v. Stanley Michalski (#2): (Hampshire Superior Court)- This is the second of Michalski's two cases. The first case, which was tried in December 2016, involved the sexual abuse of two children (ages 7 and 9) over a one year time frame while the children lived at his home. In February 2017 the defendant resolved his case by way of a plea. The second case involved the sexual abuse of a young child years earlier. The defendant received 10 – 15 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 matter in connection with his posting sexual images of a 10-year-old boy. While being held in custody awaiting trial, LeCompt conspired with another person to destroy digital evidence connected to this case. This conspiracy led to additional charges against the defendant of conspiracy to tamper with evidence, tampering with evidence and posing a child in the nude. Subsequent to this, federal authorities working on an unrelated child sexual exploitation case, discovered additional pictures of the 10-year-old boy who was the original victim whose exploitation was the basis 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. The defendant pled guilty to all charges, and accepted an agreed-upon plea that resulted in a of 15-20 years in state prison, followed by probation. Prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Caleb Weiner.



Forensic Interviewer Suzanne Koch



Forensic Interviewer & CAC Family Service Advocate Sonia Serrazina

**The Children’s Advocacy Center
 (“CAC”) for Hampshire County *and*
 Children’s Advocacy Center (“CAC”)
 of Franklin and
 North Quabbin Region**



The Northwestern District Attorney’s Child Abuse Unit works collaboratively with The Children’s Advocacy Centers (CACs) 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, the Department of Children and Families and medical personnel can provide a host of services to include: conducting and observing forensic interviews with children and providing medical services and mental health referrals and support to children who are victims of crimes and their non-offending family members. Together, these two advocacy centers provide vital assistance to the children in Hampshire and Franklin Counties and the North Quabbin Region.

In 2017, 201 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.



**Children’s Advocacy Center
for Hampshire County
Susan Loehn, Executive Director**

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’s Advocacy Centers 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.

The Children’s Advocacy Center (CAC) for 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.



**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. The Greenfield-based 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.



CAC Directors Susan Loehn and Irene Woods

- 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 various locations. The attendees included teachers, principals, nurses, doctors, mental health providers and an array of other “Mandated Reporters.”



Massachusetts Children’s Alliance Director Tom King, Irene Woods and DA Sullivan



Dr. Stephen Boos and ADA Linda Pisano

2017 Highlights for the Child Abuse Unit and the Children’s Advocacy Centers

- The CAC for Hampshire County sponsored the 16th 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;



NWDA members at the 2017 Kentucky Derby fundraiser to benefit the CAC for Hampshire County



Mandated Reporter Training

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.

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 had a transition this year with the retirement of long time Unit Coordinator Chris Geffin. Chris was integral to the development of the Unit as well as the development of our strong relationships with the many civil agencies who work with the Unit. The Unit continues to be led by Assistant District Attorney Jayme Parent with the addition of a new Unit Coordinator, Rachel Senecal.

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 2017, the Elders and Persons with Disabilities Protection Unit investigated and/or prosecuted 153 cases in which elders or persons with disabilities were victims.



EPDU Chief ADA Jayme Parent

2017 EPDU Case Highlights:

- ***Commonwealth v. Joseph Dziadek (Hampshire Superior Court)*** - The defendant, a relative of the elder victims, entered their homes without their consent. While inside one of the homes, he stole a bank card and thereafter used the card on numerous occasions taking more than \$9,000 without the consent of the elder. From the second home, he took car keys which he used to steal the elder's motor vehicle which he used to facilitate a robbery in a separate jurisdiction. The defendant pled guilty to breaking and entering in the daytime with the intent to commit a felony, larceny over \$250 from a person 60 or over, larceny of a controlled substance and larceny of a motor vehicle. He was sentenced to 6 years in state prison.
- ***Commonwealth v. Jacob Jarvenpaa (Franklin Superior Court)*** - The defendant stole wallets and pocketbooks and their contents from multiple elders while they were at local libraries and, in one case, a business. 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 18 months in the Franklin County House of Correction followed by 3 years of probation.



EPDU and TRIAD Coordinator Rachel Senecal

Outreach and Education

The EPDU collaborates with counsels on aging, senior center representatives, media outlets, local businesses and organizations, police departments, the NWDA Consumer Protection Unit, and the senior population to form community alliances. The goals of the alliances are:

- Reduce the occurrence of all types of abuse of elders and persons with disabilities through education.
- Raise awareness about common circumstances surrounding criminal abuse of vulnerable adults.
- Ensure that instances of possible abuse are identified, reported, and responded to quickly and correctly.

An advertisement for a medication drop box. At the top, it says "GOT DRUGS?" in large red letters, followed by "DO YOU OR YOUR RELATIVES HAVE A MEDICINE CABINET FULL OF OLD MEDICATIONS?". Below this is a photo of a spilled pill bottle. The main text reads: "At any time, you can bring medications to a PERMANENT FREE DROP BOX LOCATION." It lists accepted items: "Prescription and non-prescription drugs, vitamins and veterinary meds are accepted. Medicines can remain in original containers with labels." and prohibited items: "NO liquids, syringes, IV equipment or chemotherapy drugs." It lists police stations where drop boxes are located: Amherst, Ashfield, Athol, Belchertown, Bernardston, Buckland, Cummington, Deerfield, Easthampton, Erving, Goshen, Granby, Greenfield, Hadley, Hatfield, Leverett, Montague, Northampton, Orange, Pelham, South Hadley, Southampton, Sunderland, Ware, Whately, Williamsburg. At the bottom, it says "Simply bring them to your local police station and drop them in the MEDRETURN BOX." and "SPONSORED BY: Northwestern District Attorney's Office, Hampshire & Franklin County Sheriffs, Local Police Departments".

Seniors have been instrumental in collecting unwanted drugs for safe disposal

2017 Outreach



Amherst SALT Council member with Amherst Officers at National Prescription Drug Take Back Day



South Hadley officer on Oct. 28 National Prescription Drug Take Back Day

In 2017, The EPDU collaborated with the NWDA Consumer Protection Unit and offered various educational programs on elder protection at senior centers, banks, assisted living facilities, and non-profit organizations throughout Hampshire and Franklin Counties. The programs covered a wide range of topics including financial exploitation, physical abuse, caretaker neglect, signs of abuse, offender/victim profiles, avoiding victimization, and proper reporting of suspected abuse. The EPDU participated in 5 health and safety fairs and helped organize the October 28, 2017 National Prescription Drug Take Back Day.



Retired NWDA members Caroline Smith and Chris Geffin at the Northampton Senior Center

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 Patrick Cahillane, and Franklin County Sheriff Christopher Donelan. Rachel Senecal serves as the NWDA TRIAD Coordinator.



TRIAD Activities for 2017:

4 Community Shredding Events: TRIAD groups in both Hampshire and Franklin Counties held community shredding events, free of charge, to seniors in an effort to prevent identify theft.

Lock Box Program: Many Hampshire/Franklin County TRIAD groups participate in the lock box program. A small secure lock box is installed directly on a senior’s home. The box contains a spare house key and is accessed by a 4-digit code. When an emergency call comes in, the responding fire fighter or paramedic can open the lock box and gain quick and safe access to the home to offer assistance.

Sand for Seniors: TRIAD groups in Southampton and Belchertown delivered sand directly to the homes of seniors. The sand was used to spread over slick ice to help prevent life-threatening falls and to increase winter safety for seniors with mobility issues.



Filling buckets for the Belchertown Sand for Seniors Project

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT UNIT



DVSAU members Richard Aucoin, Katie Rosewarn, Mary Kociela, Samantha Johnson and ADA Jennifer Suhl

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

The DVSAU is responsible for overseeing the prosecution of all domestic violence and adult sexual assault cases in the Northwestern District. The year 2017 saw some significant staff changes within the Unit. In June, Karin Sheehy retired after 20 years of service.



Karin Sheehy

Karin had been our "go to" person for years assisting Unit staff with countless workshops, meetings, program statistics, brochures, conferences, billing procedures and grants. Many had come to rely on her steadfast knowledge and skill and she will surely be missed. We were pleased to welcome Samantha Johnson in October who has taken over as our new Administrative Assistant. There was also a change in the High Risk Team Coordinator position with Carly Estrela moving to a new position within the DA's Office. Carly is now a Victim Witness Advocate in the Victim Witness Unit and Katie Rosewarne was welcomed as our new High Risk Team Coordinator.

The majority of domestic violence (DV) cases in 2017 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: Joe Webber 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, continue to result in successful prosecution of domestic violence and sexual assault in our district.

- **The office handled 1158 domestic violence cases in 2017: 18 in Superior Court, 55 in Juvenile Court, and 1085 in District Court.**
- **There were 61 adult sexual assault cases, 30% of which were prosecuted in the Superior Court.**

2017 Superior Court Case Highlights:

Commonwealth v. Kevin E. Pardee – In January, Pardee pled guilty to eleven charges related to a prolonged assault on his then-girlfriend at his home in Easthampton and in a vehicle in Holyoke during which he held her against her will, struck her repeatedly, stabbed her in the leg, pointed a gun at her, and threatened to kill her and her family if she called the police. Pardee was sentenced to 4 to 5 ½ years in state prison followed by two years of probation. Prosecuted by ADA Sarah Pascale.

Commonwealth v. Jeffrey Laffond – In March, Laffond pled guilty to attempted murder by strangulation and related charges for repeatedly strangling his wife during an argument in their home in Wendell to the point of unconsciousness while simultaneously trying to break her neck, in the presence of their 3-year-old child. Laffond was sentenced to 5 to 7 years in state prison followed by three years of probation. Prosecuted by ADA Jennifer Suhl.

Commonwealth v. Steven Deblois – In April, Deblois pled guilty to stalking in violation of a restraining order, breaking and entering, assault and battery, and intimidation of a witness. The convictions arose from numerous incidents that occurred in the summer of 2015 in Athol and Orange during which Deblois stalked and intimidated his ex-girlfriend and the mother of

his children while on release on a GPS monitoring bracelet from a prior case involving the same parties in Worcester County. Deblois was sentenced to four years in the House of Correction to be followed by three years of probation. Prosecuted by ADA Jennifer Suhl.

Commonwealth v. Jason D. Coons – In November, Coons pled guilty to two counts of aggravated rape, intimidation of a witness, and conspiracy to commit murder. These convictions arose from conduct that began in November 2014, when Coons kidnapped and raped a young female acquaintance at night on a secluded road in South Hadley. While that case was pending in court and Coons was held in jail, he conspired with his wife and another individual to kill the woman that he had raped so that she would not be able to testify at trial. Coons was sentenced to 15 to 17 years in state prison. Prosecuted by ADA Jennifer Suhl.

Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Unit Initiatives

The number one goal of the DVSAU is to provide best practice intervention strategies, in collaboration with our community and law enforcement partners, aimed at holding offenders accountable and keeping victims safe. The Unit coordinates numerous prevention and intervention initiatives designed to meet this goal.

District Attorney’s Task Force on Domestic and Sexual Violence

The District Attorney’s Task Force on Domestic and Sexual Violence is comprised of 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 2017, meetings included current information and training on many topics with presenters from Visioning B.E.A.R. Circle Intertribal Coalition, the Start Strong Initiative through the Boston Public

Health Commission, The Northampton Recovery Center and the MA Trial Court Probation Services.

Task Force members also received information on legislation pertaining to tracking sexual assault kits, economic security resources for survivors and consumer and financial tips for survivors of domestic violence.

A new brochure was created focusing on violence and abuse in teen dating relationships. The brochure entitled, “Dating Relationships-A Guide for Teens” offers specific information on defining abuse, signs of an unhealthy and healthy relationship and available local resources. The brochure, along with our other domestic violence and sexual assault brochures, is available on our website under the prevention-domestic violence tab.

Domestic Violence Intervention Project (DVIP)

The Domestic Violence Intervention Project (DVIP) is funded through a Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security S.T.O.P. 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.

DVIP Partnership meetings are held twice per year for police, dispatchers, advocates and all project partners. A highlight of 2017 was a presentation by UMass Associate Professor, Donna Sabella, who provided training on “Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking.” The presentation included how to recognize

signs of human trafficking and a review of available local resources.

A DV law enforcement newsletter was also published and distributed to law enforcement and first responders in May and June. Articles included information on non-fatal strangulation, how utilizing the strangulation worksheet can positively affect prosecution and help victims, the Governor's Task Force risk assessment pilot program and human trafficking. The newsletter also features an "Advocate Spotlight" to help familiarize officers with DVIP Advocates.

The year 2017 was an open bid year for funding under the Violence Against Women S.T.O.P. Grant Program. The Northwestern District Attorney's Office was awarded full funding to continue the DVIP for another year, with the option to re-apply for three additional years. The funds will allow us to reinstate evening visits by DVIP Advocates to police departments. This provides a great opportunity for advocates to meet patrol officers face to face and to build a stronger understanding of the advocate's role. The grant also includes funds to update police DV Charging Booklets originally distributed in 2006. Updated booklets will be electronic and will incorporate the "Act Relative to Domestic Violence" signed into law in 2014.

Domestic Violence High Risk Team Project

High risk teams in each county were established in 2010 in an effort to reduce domestic violence homicides and to identify the most serious, repeat offenders. 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 HRT 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 over a five year period from June 2102-June 2017. 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.

In 2017, the High Risk Project continued to build on the lessons learned at the non-fatal strangulation conference held in September 2016. The strangulation worksheet for police officers was expanded and improved to include questions recommended by our national trainers. In addition, two new risk assessment tools, one focused on offender behavior and one for victims, were created and distributed to all project partners and police report writing pocket cards were updated to include information on strangulation and referral to the high risk team.

An application was submitted to renew funding of the High Risk Team Project. The office was awarded the full amount allowed of \$450,000 over three years to continue the project. The funds will allow us to reinstate the Coordinator position to full time, increase support and follow-up for victims of strangulation and provide training for EMS responders and dispatchers.

District Attorney Sullivan is a member of the Governor's Council to Address Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence. The council has been actively involved in the development of a statewide risk assessment tool for police officers and the creation of a statewide model for high risk teams. The Greenfield Police Department was selected as one of five pilot departments to utilize the risk assessment tool and give feedback to the Governor's Council. In April, Mary Kociela and Greenfield Police Deputy Chief Mark Williams trained officers from the five pilot police departments at the MA Police Training Academy on risk assessment in DV cases, use of the new assessment tool and non-fatal strangulation.

In October 2017, the DVSAU was recognized by Governor Baker and Lt. Governor Polito for our DVIP and High Risk Team programs. We were invited to a meeting at the statehouse, held in Governor Baker's office, to present our DV model and discuss how it might be implemented statewide in relation to the new risk assessment pilot. The meeting was attended by DA Sullivan and Mary Kociela from the DA's office, Police Chief Robert Haigh, Deputy Chief Mark Williams of the Greenfield Police Department and Anthia Elliott from Safe Passage. In addition to having our programs recognized, the state has also adopted our strangulation worksheet and has distributed it to all police departments in the state.



DVIP and High Risk Projects Receive Statewide Recognition by Governor Baker and Lt. Governor Polito

DVSAU Community Outreach and Education

Each year, the DVSAU sponsors and participates in various training and outreach programs. In 2017, this included programs for middle school and high school students, first responders and police officers. The Unit provided training for community advocates and social workers on DV response and risk assessment and non-fatal strangulation. Staff also worked with the Mayor of Greenfield's DV Task Force and the Franklin County Child Advocacy Center to coordinate flag raising events commemorating April as Child Abuse Awareness Month.



DA Sullivan and NWDA members at Take Back the Night, held in Athol and Orange

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 2017, the DA's Task Force organized the 10th Annual White Ribbon Campaign (WRC) to involve men in the movement to end violence against women. An estimated 1500 students and community members took the pledge 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](#). Events included a food drive and fundraiser to benefit Safe Passage, student role plays, video discussions and writing prompts about healthy relationships.

In 2017 we also continued the opportunity for students to apply to become a Student White Ribbon Ambassador. Student ambassadors are students who recognize the importance of taking responsibility and playing a leadership role in preventing violence against women. Student ambassadors successfully led

campaigns at Belchertown, Gateway, Northampton and Ware High Schools.



The Sentinel photo by Aimee M. Henderson Lily Stowe-Alekman, president of the Social Justice Book Club, and Hichul Chung, president of Students Against Destruction Decisions, hold a banner students have signed promising not to commit, condone or remain silent about violence.

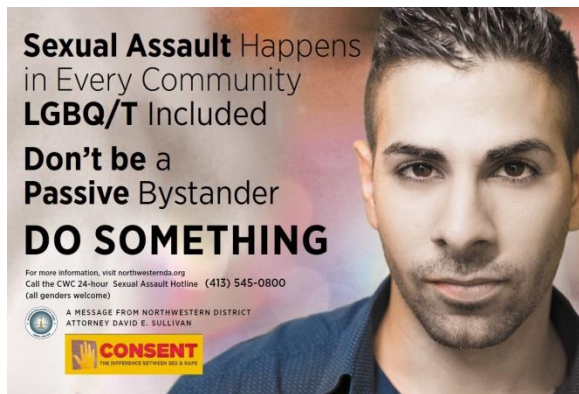


Sexual Assault Prevention Media Campaign



The sexual assault media campaign originally started in 2012 with funding from an Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Grant. Then, 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 Greenfield Community College (GCC), reviewed the script and gave feedback and ideas for improvements. Each college media

department received the posters in a format allowing them to add their own logo and messaging. The new posters and PSA are now available on our website and Facebook page. In 2017, the PSA and posters were distributed to LGBQ/T student groups on the five college campuses and GCC. The response was very positive, with the PSA and posters being utilized as training tools for dormitory Resident Assistant's and student peer leaders.



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 (CWC) coordinates the SART, which includes representatives of Law Enforcement, Health Care, Forensic Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners, Prosecutors, and

Victim/Survivor Advocates. The SART reviews best practice models in responding to sexual assault that are victim centered and increase the chances of effective prosecution. SART members share these models within their own department and develop and implement cross training opportunities. The team meets monthly at the District Attorney's Office.

In 2017, the SART worked on educating the team and our local agencies on a number of developments and initiatives regarding the system's response to sexual assault. These included newly developed Adult Sexual Assault Law Enforcement Guidelines published by the Commonwealth's Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, a change in the law regarding retention of sexual assault evidence collection kits to mirror the applicable statute of limitations, a proposed sexual assault victim's bill of rights in the legislature, and changes made by the United States Secretary of Education to Title IX regulations relating to colleges and universities responses to sexual assault cases on campuses.

Additionally, the team reviewed and analyzed demographical data created by the Department of Public Health for Hampshire County regarding sexual assault evidence collection kits to identify trends in our area, and conducted outreach with our area police departments on the availability of CWC advocates around the clock to assist sexual assault survivors making reports to the police. The SART was also honored to serve as a model for another community near Boston which was in the process of beginning their own SART and looking for ways to be successful.



NWDA staff members in Northampton



Appellate Chief Thomas Townsend welcomes appellate prosecutors to Northampton

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 Supreme Judicial Court and the Massachusetts Appeals Court.

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 responds to motions for a new trial and supports all ADAs through legal updates and advice.

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

Highlights from 2017:

In June, the Appellate Unit hosted a meeting of the Commonwealth Attorneys Appellate Action Project (CAAAP), a statewide group of appellate prosecutors.

In October, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court conducted a special sitting in Greenfield, the first time the court has sat there since 1999. The NWDA had three cases on the docket.



Appellate ADA Cynthia Von Flatern argues before the SJC in a special sitting in Greenfield

ADA Steven Greenbaum announced his retirement from full-time employment after two decades of distinguished legal service with the Commonwealth. He will remain with the office on a part-time basis.



Appellate ADA Steven Greenbaum

The NWDA Appellate Unit is the most experienced Appeals Unit in the Commonwealth. Each member has at least 20 years of experience in appellate prosecution.

There were 28 new cases entered in the Massachusetts Appeals Court in 2017, most of which will be briefed and argued this year.

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

In 2017, the NWDA responded to 24 motions for a new trial, a sharp increase over 2016.

Notable appellate decisions from 2017

Commonwealth v. Enez Kolenovic, in which the Supreme Judicial Court affirmed the defendant’s 1st-degree murder conviction in the 1996 stabbing death of David Walker.

Commonwealth v. Justin King, in which the Appeals Court affirmed the aggravated rape convictions of the defendant for his role in a gang rape of a first-year student at UMass.

Commonwealth v. Jesse Carrillo, in which the Appeals Court refused to stay the sentence of a defendant who received a manslaughter conviction for providing heroin to a UMass student who overdosed on the drug.

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.



ADAs Thomas Townsend and Cindy Von Flatern at a hearing of the SJC at the Franklin Justice Center

SDP Cases handled in 2017

In Fiscal Year 2017, the Northwestern District Attorney’s Office reviewed the histories of 46 inmates who were due for release. The Office determined that 27 did not meet the criteria for SDP commitment; the remaining 19 were sent to experts for review. After review by the experts, all of these inmates were determined to have not met the criteria of the SDP statute.

Therefore, no SDP petitions for commitment were filed in 2017. In 2017, a petition filed in 2016 was tried. The Respondent was found SDP by a Jury and was committed to DOC for 1 day to life. One case (Petition filed in 2015) is scheduled for trial in January 2018.

DISTRICT COURT

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.



District Court Unit Chief Mike Russo

Mike Russo is the Chief of the District Court Unit. He supervises the ten ADAs who are assigned to the four District Courts.

A senior ADA is designated as the "Attorney in Charge" (AIC) in each of the four District Courts. The AICs are: Marie Angers (Northampton District Court); Matthew Russo (Eastern Hampshire District Court); Elizabeth Priest (Orange District Court); and Joseph Webber

(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 2017. The former Chief of the District Court Unit, Rosemary Tarantino retired. ADA Michael Russo was selected to take her place as Chief. ADA Becky Michaels accepted a new position with the Attorney General's Office. ADA Ryan Scott joined the Orange District Court staff as a new hire.

Assistant District Attorneys in the 4 District Courts handled 15,421 cases in 2017. Some 6,195 were new arraignments.



District Court ADA Ryan Scott

NWDA Training Committee

The Training Committee hosted twenty two trainings for staff members on a variety of topics including strangulation, marijuana dispensaries, and cell phone technology. The office also launched a new partnership with the Western New England University School of Law's Criminal Law Clinic by hosting two law school student interns. Under Massachusetts Student Practice Rule 3:03 these students were able to develop their skills by handling arraignments, motions to suppress and trials.



WNEU 3:03 Certified Legal Interns Jacob Winniman and Alexa Pascucci

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

Following the retirement of Yvonne Pesce as Chief of the Juvenile Unit in December, 2017, ADA Liz Mulcahy was appointed by the District Attorney to head the Unit. In addition to her new role as Chief, Liz will continue to serve as the Program Coordinator for the Unit's Juvenile Diversion Program. ADA Caitlyn Rock is responsible for handling all juvenile matters in Franklin County. ADA Bruce Patryn joined the Juvenile Justice Unit in November, 2017 and will serve as a senior litigation counsel. Two victim witness advocates, Janice Francis and Heather Darling, as well as Administrative Assistant Luisa Cruz, are also assigned to the Juvenile Justice Unit.

The 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.

In 2017, the Juvenile Unit handled **258 delinquency cases in Hampshire County**, out of both the Hadley and Belchertown Juvenile sessions. In Franklin County and the Town of Athol, the Juvenile Unit handled **124 delinquency cases out of the Greenfield and Orange Juvenile Courts.**

The types of delinquency cases prosecuted by the Juvenile Unit in 2017 ranged from lower level offenses such as disorderly conduct up to extremely serious cases involving sexual assault and armed robbery.

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.



ADA Caitlyn Rock and Juvenile Justice Unit Chief Liz Mulcahy at the 2017 Youth Conference

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.



Juvenile Justice ADA Bruce Patryn

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 Liz Mulcahy, Assistant District Attorneys Caitlyn Rock and Bruce Patryn, and Administrative Assistant Sue Snyder.

Juvenile Justice Unit Outreach and Education

During 2017, the Juvenile Justice Unit collaborated with the NWDA’s Community Outreach & Education Unit and community partners on the development of numerous conferences and outreach programs aimed at youth, parents, and school personnel.



Students attending 2017 Youth Conference

Juvenile Diversion Program

The Northwestern District Attorney's Office's Juvenile Diversion Program (NWD-JDP) 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’ diversion plans may include counseling and educational programs, community service and, when applicable, the payment of restitution. An important goal of the NWDA-JDP 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.



2017 Youth Conference

Safe Schools Response Team

District Attorney Sullivan established a Safe Schools Response Team (SSRT) to enable the Northwestern District Attorney's Office to promptly review and respond to complaints and referrals involving threats, harassment, bullying, and civil rights violations occurring in schools. Additional goals of the SSRT are to assist local

Community-Based Justice Meetings

The Community Based Justice Program (CBJ) is a statutorily mandated school-based initiative designed to establish and coordinate a partnership between schools, police, and state

agencies to address school violence and violence prevention. CBJ meetings are convened regularly by a Juvenile Unit ADA in each county throughout the school year and provide a forum to share information regarding violent and at-risk youth, as well as individual students whose conduct has raised concerns about their health, safety or well-being. These meetings also serve to provide a means to build relationships and foster communication between the NWDA, local law enforcement agencies, schools, and state service agencies.



Victim Witness Unit Director Jackie Gaw

VICTIM WITNESS ASSISTANCE UNIT



Our Victim Witness Advocates

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.

- In Hampshire County, our advocates were assigned to 1,127 cases.
- They assisted 1,392 victims, 916 witnesses and 2 family members.
- In Franklin County, our advocates were assigned to 829 cases.
- They assisted 978 victims, 482 witnesses and 8 family members.

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

Over the course of 2017, our staff filed 235 approved applications to the Victim Notification Registry for either Offender Release Information or CORI certification for access to documents and offender Board of Probation

records. This is an 8% increase from 2016. 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.



Victim Witness Advocate Janice Francis and Executive Assistant Sue Snyder at the 2017 Safe & Healthy School Summit

Training and Outreach

In 2017, our advocates participated in and attended a number of professional development opportunities. Our juvenile court based advocates attended several conferences and trainings devoted to the youth of our area. These gatherings all focused on the themes of respect, civility and being a leader in your community.

Other advocates attended specialized trainings aimed at the vulnerable disabled population, and a second one which focused on the Attorney General's Office's efforts to combat human trafficking.

Victim Advocates also took part in a MOVA sponsored presentation from a homicide survivor and his family. This presentation

focused on their journey through the Criminal Justice System and the positive and negative aspects of their experiences.

In addition, advocates attended two Domestic Violence related trainings. One was sponsored by the Secretary of State's Office and focused on the Address Confidentiality program. The second was a view from the bench in which several local judges discussed their experiences and viewpoints on DV matters that they see before them. They spoke to what factors they take into account as to lethality and risk assessment in the decisions they have to make.

Lastly, Carly Estrela was a member of the MOVA New Advocate Training class in the spring of 2017. This 3 day training is designed for advocates with less than 2 years of experience to give them a broad base of exposure to all aspects of their statutory obligations and the realities of advocate work.

The Director of the Victim/Witness Program participated in this New Advocate training as a member of the Roundtable discussion. This exercise brought together attendees and seasoned advocates in small groups to discuss the everyday realities and challenges they will face as advocates.

The Director also presented at the Massachusetts Trial Court Academy. This consisted of speaking to the class of Court Officer candidates about Victim Rights and the Safe and Secure Waiting Areas in each courthouse.

CONSUMER PROTECTION UNIT



Consumer Specialist Anita Wilson hosting computerized Financial Literacy game at Greenfield Community College



Director Janice Garrett speaking at a Senior Center

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, Anita Wilson, are trained to work to resolve consumer complaints through an informal process and also provide resources and referrals to the public. Caroline Smith, a longtime member of the Unit, retired in 2017. The Consumer Protection Unit (CPU) delivers 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 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. In addition to the coverage area of Hampshire and Franklin Counties, the Consumer Protection Unit's coverage area includes 17 Worcester County communities. The CPU provides needed consumer protection services to all of our communities.



Anita Wilson at a TRIAD Picnic

2017 CPU Highlights

CPU focused much of our outreach in 2017 on Financial Literacy. We participated in the Greenfield Community College Reality Fair for over 400 high school students from various communities; 32% come from low-income families. This 2 day, 4-hour event was a thoroughly interactive, hands-on experience in the basics of budgeting. Our goal was to teach students to maintain a budget while developing practical money management habits.

CPU developed a computerized game board to teach Financial Literacy to high school students. Our “Financial Literacy Throw Down” game contained questions in 4 categories: *Credit Reporting, Building Credit, Student Loans and Financial Aid Myths*. Our goal was to teach students about financial literacy in a fun, competitive, pressure free situation. The game has been adapted for seniors and scouting groups.

The Unit has reached out to consumers who have been homeless, recovering from addiction or have been incarcerated. We have given presentations on how to protect your financial future when there is substance abuse in your family and participated in several sessions at the Franklin County House of Correction on financial literacy. In an effort to continue supporting our underserved and vulnerable populations, the CPU spoke with the NWDA’s task force on domestic and sexual violence about how we may be able to help victims as they work to rebuild their lives.

Northwestern District Attorney
David E. Sullivan
 Hampshire County Sheriff
Patrick Cahillane and
 Franklin County Sheriff
Chris Donelan's



2018 CONSUMER CALENDAR



Consumer Protection Unit
 (413) 586-9225 in
 Hampshire County or
 (413) 774-3186 in
 Franklin or Worcester Counties
 NorthwesternDA.org/consumer-protection
 Working in cooperation with the
 Office of Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey

The CPU has done numerous presentations about the Equifax Data breach and how consumers can protect themselves against identity theft as well as presentations on scams. For the second year, our Consumer Protection Unit produced a 2018 calendar with monthly consumer protection tips. They were given out to all Hampshire and Franklin County senior centers.

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

In 2017, the Consumer Protection Unit received 1,486 calls, opened 367 cases and recovered \$181,868 for consumers. In the past 5 years, CPU has recovered \$1,500,285.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

The Community Outreach and Education Unit worked with schools and community groups this year on initiatives aimed at preventing some of the root causes of crime: substance misuse, the effects of stigma and misunderstanding and adverse childhood experiences. We were also at the table for collaborations that seek to introduce more trauma-informed approaches in a variety of settings that help mitigate those experiences. We worked with the SPIFFY and Hampshire HOPE coalitions and the Amherst Cinema in presenting a screening of the film “Resilience.”

The documentary chronicles the medical studies that make the scientific link between early trauma and negative health outcomes later in life and also looks at initiatives that tap into the innate resilience of human beings.

Join SPIFFY Coalition, the Office of Northwestern District Attorney, Hampshire HOPE and partners for "Resilience," a documentary about childhood trauma's adverse effects on health across a lifetime - and the role that everyone in the community can play in reversing them.

Amherst Cinema
 Wednesday, May 10, 2017
 7 p.m. screening, 8-9 p.m. panel discussion

RESILIENCE chronicles a new movement among pediatricians, therapists, educators and communities, who are using cutting-edge brain science to disrupt cycles of violence, addiction and disease.

RESILIENCE
 THE BIOLOGY OF STRESS & THE SCIENCE OF HOPE
"The child may not remember, but the body remembers."

Moderator: Northwestern District Attorney David E. Sullivan
Panelists: Maya Rege-Colt, Kristal Cleaver, Dr. Ruth Potee

Tickets are sold out at this time.

We supported community efforts to combat the role stigma plays in erecting barriers to intervention and treatment for people who struggle with drug misuse disorders. We waged our annual drug collection efforts to get drugs safely disposed of so they won't be misused. We promoted harm reduction efforts that are the cornerstone of compassionate approaches to addiction disorders. And we continued a steadfast collaboration with more than a dozen prevention coalitions, task forces and committees on projects whose purpose is to address social problems that lead to unhealthy communities.



Citizen Advisory Board (CAB)

Our Citizens Advisory Board, which draws from residents and professionals from around our region, continued to serve as a sounding board for the District Attorney. CAB members also served as ambassadors for the office by learning about NWDA initiatives and sharing information about them within their communities. Among the projects CAB members heard about this year were the Northampton Recovery Center and the Fair and Impartial Policing Training offered to police personnel from departments throughout our region. In all of these outreach efforts, the NWDA is committed to working with the people who live and work in our regions by focusing on civic engagement and building long-lasting relationships that promote a just and safe community for all.

Law Day 2017



Defense Attorney Alan Rubin and ADA Matt Thomas present on the 14th Amendment at South Hadley High School

The 14th Amendment: Transforming American Democracy was the theme for our 2017 Law Day projects. The NWDA teamed up with bar associations in Hampshire and Franklin counties to offer educational presentations in area high schools and a panel discussion at the Franklin Justice Center on the 14th Amendment and its guarantee of citizenship, due process and equal protection under the law. These sessions focused on how that important addition to our U.S. Constitution advanced the rights of Americans while serving as a cornerstone for landmark civil rights legislation and court decisions that seek to protect citizens by ensuring fairness and equality.



PVPA students in a scene from a student video illustrating 14th Amendment issues

6th Annual Safe School Summit

In the fall, educators from around the district joined us for **the 6th Annual Safe and Healthy School Summit**, this year titled **Promoting Respect, Civility and Dignity**. In arriving at topics for this annual summit, NWDA staff took cues from the many people we work with in the community, especially our school communities. School climate is always an important topic, because a healthy school climate is vital to learning and growing, but we began hearing from school leaders concerned that school climates seemed to be taking a turn for the worse.

As schools do not exist in a vacuum, it falls to the entire community to help ensure students learn in an environment where they feel safe and valued. Presenters at the Summit included attorney Michael Joyce, who discussed the legal framework for ensuring safe and supportive school environments and Dr. Sara Whitcomb, who talked about social and emotional issues and how to develop strategies for a whole school approach. NWDA wants to support schools in their efforts to build a solid foundation based on dignity and respect for all.



DA Sullivan with Not in Our Town members

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 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 Mike Russo, Juvenile Justice Unit Chief Liz Mulcahy 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.



ADAs Matthew Russo and Andrew Covington, Mary Carey and Laurie Loisel at the 2017 Amherst Block Party



2017 Amherst Block Party

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 2017, 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.



NWDA Staff at Franklin Justice Center Grand Opening

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 2017 Accomplishments

In 2017, the IT Unit continued ongoing efforts to improve the technical infrastructure and IT practices of the NWDA to ensure continued

smooth, efficient and secure operations. New computer workstations, laptops, printers and other equipment were purchased and deployed. New software and software upgrades were acquired. All NWDA workstations were upgraded to the latest version of the Windows operating system, and new procedures were put in place to accommodate Microsoft's new approaches to ongoing OS maintenance. New encryption methods were deployed to protect information on NWDA laptops.

Working closely with the Massachusetts District Attorney's Association ("MDAA"), the IT Unit oversaw the installation of expanded server capacity in both the Hampshire and Franklin County main offices. These upgrades included the installation of two new virtual server hosts that will provide space to run larger and faster servers for years to come, and a new server providing significantly increased capacity for storage of the NWDA's growing digital case file system.

Communications were improved in 2017 with the migration of the NWDA to a new Commonwealth of Massachusetts email server platform. The IT Unit also worked closely with the MDAA to deploy a new cloud-based system to provide secure document transmission to and from outside agencies, which also provides a secure and efficient method of transmission of discovery documents to defense attorneys. 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 IT Unit continued to develop tools to increase the efficiency of day- to-day staff activities, working with various units to continue upgrading NWDA databases to improve storage and access to data, and improved reporting capabilities.

The IT Unit played a critical role setting up the NWDA office in the newly opened Franklin

County Justice Center, and worked closely with the administration to develop technical requirements for the new NWDA Greenfield office to be occupied in 2018.

Supporting prosecutors in the preparation and presentation of cases in the courtroom continues to be a major focus of the IT Unit. IT staff works closely with prosecutors to prepare multimedia courtroom presentations, and assists them in working with case management data. Assistance was provided for numerous remote depositions. IT played a major role assisting the NWDA in querying its case management system to identify Amherst Drug Lab cases for review. The IT Unit also continued to provide technical assistance in court, and assisted prosecutors in the utilization of the new modern multimedia systems deployed in the new Franklin County building.

With the IT Unit's support, the NWDA continued to improve its ability to extract evidence from seized mobile devices and computers. The IT Unit upgraded the NWDA's Digital Evidence Center's equipment, including an expansion of its NAS's storage capacity, and the purchase and deployment of a powerful new workstation tower computer.



IT Director Bruce Fieldman and IT System Support Engineer Nathan Foote

MASSACHUSETTS STATE POLICE DETECTIVE AND NARCOTICS UNIT



The Hampshire/Franklin State Police Detective Unit (SPDU) is comprised of 14 officers from the Massachusetts State Police with Detective Lieutenant Jeffrey Cahill as the SPDU Commander, and Lieutenant Joseph Ballou as the Executive Officer. The SPDU is responsible for investigating homicides, major felonies, digital crimes, and special investigations.

In 2017 the SPDU handled 581 cases, investigated one homicide, and 281 unattended deaths. The SPDU investigates all unattended deaths in Hampshire and Franklin Counties and the Town of Athol.



MSP State Troopers assigned to the NWDA

Sergeant Christopher Baran from the Massachusetts State Police and NWDA Chief

Trial Counsel Jeremy Bucci lead the Northwestern District Anti-Crime Task Force which has an additional 10 officers from local police departments and the Hampshire and Franklin County Sheriff's Offices. These officers investigate illegal narcotics offenses, firearms offenses, and other organized criminal activities.

In 2017 the Task Force conducted 79 investigations including one of the largest opioid trafficking cases in the history of Franklin County.

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.

ONGOING INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS



**DA Sullivan, Judge Laurie McLeod
and Martie Murphy Kane**

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 221 veterans in 2017.

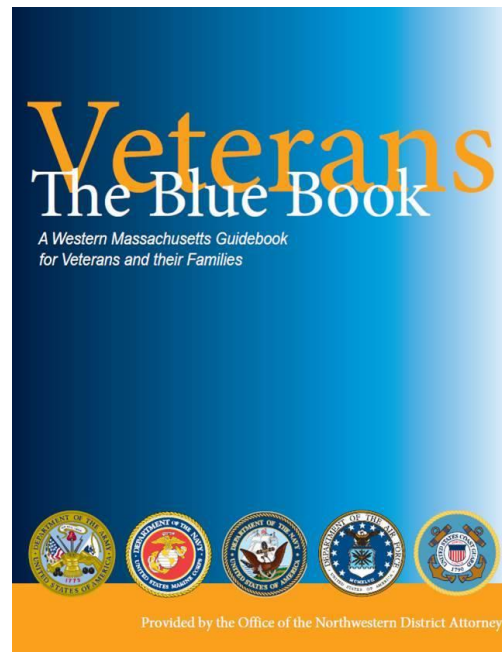
- **154 Vets worked with both the Veterans Administration and Veterans Affairs.**
- **67 worked with Soldier On**

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 Patrick Cahillane (Hampshire), Chris Donelan (Franklin), and Michael Ashe (Hampden) to help with both treatment and re-entry options.

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.

The NWDA continues to update *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. 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.

Judge 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. Many thanks to the community members who volunteer their time to serve on restorative boards.

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.



DA Sullivan, UMass Deputy Police Chief Ian Cyr, NWDA Director of Community Outreach and Education Laurie Loisel and Northampton Police Chief Jody Kasper at a Fair and Impartial Police training

Battling Drug Addiction

NWDA staff continued working closely with **Hampshire HOPE and the Opioid Task Force of Franklin County & North Quabbin Region**, the regional opioid prevention coalitions engaged in the fight to end the opioid epidemic.

District Attorney Sullivan supports the coalitions with his time on their executive teams and working groups and his advocacy on Beacon Hill and elsewhere, fighting for resources to support prevention and intervention as well as treatment and recovery services for people dealing with opioid misuse disorders.

Both coalitions are models of how to harness community energy to introduce harm reduction initiatives, public education and evidence-based practices to reverse the tide of this deadly epidemic. They work within the cities and towns they serve to address the rise in prescription opioid misuse, heroin use, addiction, and overdose death in the region through policy, practice, and systems change.

In 2017, they offered Narcan trainings, promoted safe drug storage practices and worked with the District Attorney's office to promote drug collection days to keep drugs from being misused.

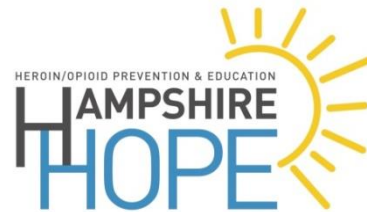


of Franklin County and the North Quabbin Region

The Opioid Task Force, created in 2013, operates out of the Franklin Justice Center, and works with medical and public health professionals, community coalitions and law enforcement to promote evidence-based practices and policy change that will save lives and mitigate the devastation caused by the opioid crisis. The Task Force organized events to support people in recovery, worked with Franklin County-based prevention coalitions

and continued educating the public in its effort to reduce stigma and remove other barriers that get in the way of people receiving the help they need.

Among other key initiatives, Hampshire HOPE, formed in 2015 and operating out of the Northampton Health Department, hosted a forum featuring former national drug czar Michael Botticelli as keynote speaker in June. The forum featured a wall of remembrance and hope, on which members of the community posted words and pictures to honor loved ones lost and tributes to those in recovery and distributed Narcan to first responders.



Hampshire HOPE collaborated with faith communities and worked with other coalitions to organize overdose awareness vigils and launched a partnership with police departments to send out intervention teams to people who have overdosed, making important connections and offering support and information about resources to get help.



The **Northampton Recovery Center** continued growing in participant numbers and hours open, providing a supportive community for people at all stages of recovery to ensure the Northwestern District is a recovery-friendly region. Housed in the Edwards Church in Northampton there were about 80 regular

attenders and nearly 500 people who attended some of NRC's offerings at some point over the course of 2017.

The Center offers all-recovery support meetings, wellness activities such as yoga, meditation and writing groups, safety trainings, meals and social events, to name a few. Peer members conceive of, plan and design the center's wellness activities, ensuring that the offerings are of interest to people engaged in the recovery process.

Lynn Ferro. The NWDA's Director of Opioid Research and Recovery Services, continued to play an integral role in expanding the services and support offered by the Recovery Center.



Northampton Recovery Center workshop



Northampton Recovery Center members thank Lynn Ferro

School Safety and Security Task Force

In the tragic wake of the shooting at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown,

Connecticut, District Attorney Sullivan, Massachusetts State Police, Sheriff's Departments, and local law enforcement formed a Western Massachusetts 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.

NoFIRES



The Northwestern District Attorney's Office continues to work with the Northwestern Youth 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 youth fire setters.



NoFIRES Executive Director Loren Davine

In 2017, NoFIRES received **58 referrals** to the program and held 17 fire education classes. More than **300 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 8th and 9th, 2017, the NoFIRES Partnership and NWDA proudly presented the **5th Annual Arson Investigation Conference: Investigating Fatal Fires** at the Hadley Farms Meeting House in Hadley, MA. More than 130 police, firefighters, prosecutors, investigators, and mental health providers attended. The Department of Fire Services and State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey shared current data on fatal fires in Massachusetts. Legal expert Attorney John Scheft presented on the Law of Interviewing, MSP Trooper Joseph Gura discussed a recent fatal fire case that involved hoarding, and K9 Handlers shared the role & capabilities of accelerant dogs. Lastly, the Massachusetts State Police Fire Investigation Team conducted a memorable live burn demonstration to depict how quickly fire spreads.





Controlled burn demonstration
photos by Public Safety Multimedia

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.



Litigation Support Specialist Administrator Jamie Foster and Intern Tommy Townsend at Statewide meeting of Appellate attorneys

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.

FEDERAL GRANTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR PUBLIC SAFETY

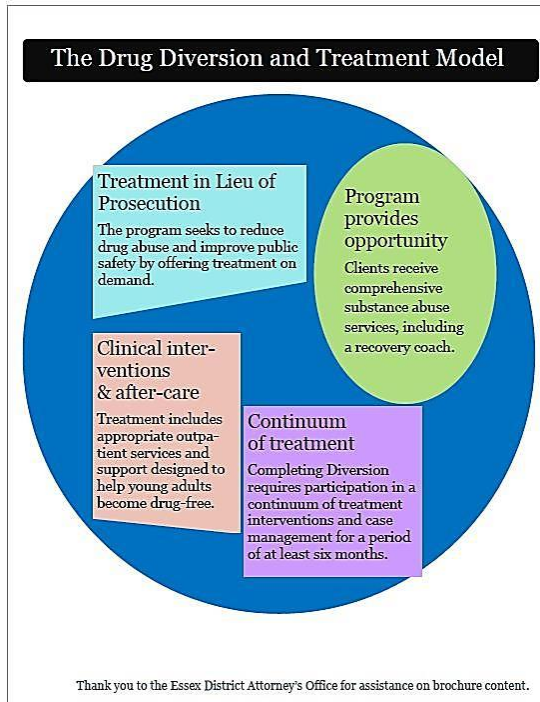
Every year, critical federal grants make a difference in fighting crime and helping vulnerable victims. Listed are some of the federal grants which have been awarded to the Northwestern District Attorney's Office with details as to how they assist prevention programs and victims of child abuse, domestic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

Drug Diversion & Treatment Program (DDTP)

Funding awarded in 2016 and renewed in 2017 through the Heroin and Opioid Crime Reduction State Initiative and the federal Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program enabled the development and continued implementation of 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.



Deputy DA Jan Healy, Drug Diversion and Treatment Coordinators Maria Sotolongo and Dan Carey; Victim Witness Advocate Wendy Adams and ADA Marie Angers at Northampton Recovery Center



The NWDA’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.

In 2017, District Court Administrator Maria Sotolongo joined the program as a coordinator.

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.

**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.



DA Sullivan and friends on Monte's Walk to benefit the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts



LEAP trainer John Scheft and retired Juvenile Justice Chief Yvonne Pesce



State Representatives Paul Mark and Steve Kulik with DA Sullivan at Greenfield Community College

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 2017 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.



**The Fiscal team: Chief Donna Dudkiewicz,
Jess Diemand and Higy Chan**

CY17 Total Appropriation Funding
\$6,614,497

CY17 Total Grant Funding
\$536,620

Grand Total
\$7,151,117

Appropriation Funding Percentage
92.5%

Grant Funding Percentage
7.5%



DA Sullivan and Assistant District Attorneys at the Franklin Justice Center in Greenfield

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**Northwestern District Attorney’s Website:
NorthwesternDA.org**

NorthwesternDA.org

find us on
facebook



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



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.

