

# BIENNIAL REPORT

Highlights from the Riverside County District Attorney's Office

2018 - 2019



# CORE VALUES

## RIVERSIDE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

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***Integrity** - As professionals, members of the criminal justice system, officers of the court, and highly visible public employees, we hold ourselves to the highest standards of integrity and professional conduct. Ethics and integrity are not negotiable.*

***Respect** - We treat each other and all members of the public with dignity and respect. Because the people of this organization are its most valuable asset, each of us must nurture a working climate that is based on trust, courtesy, and mutual respect. We must also apply that attitude of consideration, dignity, and respect to the public we serve. We must remember that the personal dignity of each individual is inviolate.*

***Quality** - To earn and hold the trust and confidence of our community, we must perform our duties with uncompromising commitment to quality. Each of us is responsible for ensuring that our community receives the finest prosecution services possible, and we are committed to hiring and training the most qualified individuals to accomplish our mission.*

***Loyalty** - We recognize that the District Attorney's mission is a public trust, and we are loyal to that mission. We take seriously our obligations to the community, to law enforcement, and to the victims of crime.*

***Teamwork** - We work as a team, encouraging both diversity of thought and unity of action. Each of us plays an integral part, but we must work together to achieve our mission. "Teamwork divides the task and multiplies the success."*

***Partnership** - We are committed to building strong and viable partnerships with other law enforcement agencies, every component of the criminal justice system, and the community we serve. We recognize that a united and cohesive effort to prevent and punish crime allows us to achieve the highest level of public safety for our community.*

***Innovation** - We accept a shared responsibility to ensure the most effective use of resources and to identify and apply new methods and technology for increased efficiency. Each of us strives for continuous improvement, which allows the District Attorney's Office to deliver better prosecution services and further enhances public safety.*

***Fairness** - We are committed to treating people reasonably and consistently without personal bias, discrimination, favoritism, or animus. Each of us must act fairly toward our fellow employees and others within the criminal justice system. In addition, we are committed to developing leaders at all levels that communicate expectations and provide consistent feedback, who motivate and inspire others, and who understand the importance of equality, fairness, and diversity.*

***Service** - The core mission of our entire organization is to promote public safety by delivering quality prosecution services to the citizens of Riverside County. However, we recognize that we are also part of the Riverside County community and our effectiveness as an office is enhanced through our employees' community service. We value and encourage community involvement, volunteerism, and participation in community improvement efforts.*



## MISSION STATEMENT

### RIVERSIDE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

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*The District Attorney of Riverside County, as the public prosecutor acting on behalf of the People, vigorously enforces the law, pursues the truth, and safeguards the rights of all to ensure that justice is done on behalf of our community.*

*The District Attorney works with every component of the criminal justice system to protect the innocent, to convict and appropriately punish the guilty, and to protect the rights of victims.*

*The District Attorney also works within our community to prevent and deter crime and to promote public safety, now and for future generations.*

*The District Attorney fulfills these critical responsibilities through the efforts of the employees of the District Attorney's Office, and each employee is integral to achieving this mission. To that end, we, the employees of the Riverside County District Attorney's Office, will adopt the highest standards of ethical behavior and professionalism and proudly commit ourselves to the following core values in the performance of our duties: Integrity, Respect, Quality, Loyalty, Teamwork, Partnership, Innovation, Fairness, and Service.*



## TO THE CITIZENS OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY



*Michael A. Hestrin*

In the last two years the Riverside County District Attorney's Office has met the changing landscape of the criminal justice system with trend-setting innovation. We are at the forefront of crime prevention and post-conviction rehabilitation efforts that are proven to reduce recidivism, and continue to take a hardline in holding serious and violent criminals accountable for their conduct. We have focused on updating technology, re-imagining our approach to investigations, vigorous prosecution of serious and violent felons, crime prevention and rehabilitation efforts, and state-of-the-art victim support.

Because prosecution work requires the storage and use of voluminous records, we designed a custom case management system to streamline our business processes and maximize efficiency. We continue to modernize our technology to allow police agencies to electronically file cases with our office, which can then be processed immediately in a less paper system, saving time and taxpayer money.

Likewise, our Bureau of Investigation has re-envisioned the traditional task force model to create a first of its kind collaborative civil and criminal investigative team, for which they received the California District Attorney's Association's statewide Excellence in Innovation Award for the formation of the Cannabis Regulation Task Force (CRTF). CRTF has revolutionized the approach to regulating the legal cannabis industry through cooperative efforts across multiple law enforcement agencies, and state and county departments to address theft of utilities, environmental contamination, health and safety issues and consumer fraud in the cannabis industry.

Additionally, our District Attorney Gang Impact Team (GIT) had unprecedented success in the investigation, capture and prosecution at both the state and federal level of high-ranking members of violent criminal organizations.

Of course, the need for tough traditional prosecution of serious and violent felonies remains our core focus. For example, our hard working prosecutors have sought and obtained life sentences for the long-term child abuse suffered by the Turpin children, a significant prison sentence for the arsonist who set the Cranston fire, and a death verdict for the cold-blooded execution of Palm Springs Officers Leslie Zerebny and Gil Vega.

Our Crime Prevention and Collaborative Courts Units provide opportunities for juveniles to avoid the criminal justice system, and for the rehabilitation of low level offenders in our new Restoring Opportunities After Rehabilitation (RESTOAR) Initiative, that assists with post-conviction employment and record expungements.

Our Division of Victims Services has pioneered a service dog program, activated a mass casualty crisis response team, and expanded our Family Justice Centers to be one of the largest in the nation, serving victims and families throughout Riverside County.

In closing, I invite you to review the progress and accomplishments of the dedicated staff that make up your District Attorney's Office. It is an honor to share their accomplishments with you. I thank you for your continued support and I assure you that under my leadership this office will continue to relentlessly pursue justice for victims of crime and to use both an innovative and common-sense approach to protecting the public's safety and seeking equal justice under the law. Thank you.

Michael A. Hestrin  
Riverside County District Attorney







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# THE TURPIN CASE

## MORE THAN A DOZEN SIBLINGS ABUSED AND NEGLECTED BY PARENTS



**(Top)** Photo illustration: District Attorney Mike Hestrin speaks at press conference, surrounded by the Integrated Trial Team, comprised of Senior Investigator Wade Walswick, Victim Advocates Yadira Sanchez and Sherri Marcus, and Deputy District Attorneys Kevin Beecham and Kim DeGonia.

**(Left)** Deputy District Attorneys Kim DeGonia and Kevin Beecham.

**(Far Left)** Photo illustration: David and Louise Turpin with defense counsel during trial.

A case that garnered international media and public attention started on January 14, 2018, when a 17-year-old girl escaped from her house in Perris.

The girl crawled through her bedroom window and called 911 from a deactivated cell phone in order to report prolonged neglect and abuse to herself and her 12 siblings by her biological parents, David Allen Turpin and Louise Ann Turpin. The abuse included three siblings chained to their beds at the hands of their parents.

Riverside County Sheriff's deputies responded to the residence, arresting the parents and transporting the children, ranging from ages 2 to 29, for immediate care. All the children were severely malnourished.

Most of the children showed signs of muscle wasting as a result of prolonged protein calorie deprivation and were less than five percent of the average weight for their height. The children also had a foul odor and were extremely dirty. Each victim had a limited vocabulary for their age and presented with severe developmental and cognitive delays.

David Turpin had previously filed affidavits with the State of California claiming that he and Louise were home schooling their children, however, the children had received little-to-no education. Instead, the defendants forced their children to sleep during the day and were only allowed out of their room to use the bathroom and for meals, which would be one at a time.

The children were emotionally and psychologically abused by their parents by not allowing them out of their designated bedroom or to socialize with anyone, including their own siblings. When the children disobeyed their parents, the abuse turned physical. The children were hit with belts, had their hair pulled, were choked, thrown, and struck with switches. If a child continued to misbehave, they were chained to their bed and only allowed out of the chains for restroom and meal breaks. The criminal investigation revealed that the abuse was continuous and spanned two decades in several residences in Texas and California.

David and Louise Turpin were charged by the Riverside County District Attorney's Office with 12 counts of torture, seven counts of dependent adult abuse/neglect, nine counts of child abuse/neglect, and 12 counts of false imprisonment. David Turpin was charged separately for one count of lewd act on a minor by force or fear, and eight counts of perjury. Louise Turpin was charged separately with one count of assault likely to commit great bodily injury.

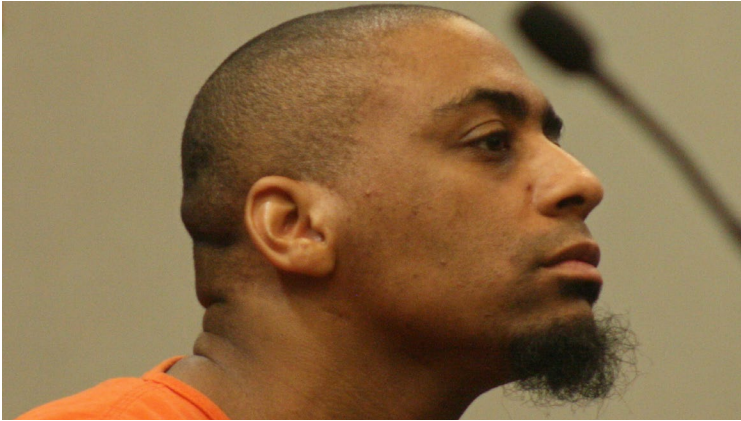
In lieu of jury trial that would have meant Turpin children having to testify about the abuse, the DA's Office and the defendants agreed to a plea agreement. In February 2019, the Turpins pled guilty to 18 felonies, including torture, child abuse/neglect, dependent adult abuse/neglect, and false imprisonment. In April 2019, David and Louise Turpin were each sentenced to serve 25 years to life in prison.



# THE CRANSTON FIRE

## BRANDON MCGLOVER PLEADS GUILTY

On the morning of July 25, 2018, Brandon McGlover drove around the areas of southwest Riverside County and northeast San Diego County in his white Honda sedan setting more than a dozen roadside fires. Most of the fires burned themselves out after consuming only a few dozen square feet of brush. However, one of the fires quickly exploded into what was called the Cranston Fire, consuming more than 13,000 acres, destroying seven homes, causing more than \$22 million in damage, and



(Above) Brandon McGlover

forever scarring the picturesque mountain community of Idyllwild.

Video cameras and citizens spotted McGlover's car close to several of the fires he set along his route of destruction. A trio of women photographed McGlover's car and followed him as he drove down Highway 74 after setting fires leading up to Idyllwild. As the Cranston Fire raged into the mountains, members of the Riverside County District Attorney's Arson Response Team (ART), led by Deputy District Attorneys Melanie Deutsch and Jon Jorgenson, joined with CalFire, federal, state and local fire authorities to build a case against Brandon McGlover. Because of their combined efforts and the key information provided by the community, McGlover was arrested and charged on the same day he set his fires.

Brandon McGlover pleaded guilty for his arsons and is now serving more than 12 years in prison, despite his having no prior criminal record.

The damage this arsonist caused to Idyllwild continued even after the fires were put out. The Valentine's Day rains of 2019 caused erosion in the fire zone and long-term destruction of Highway 74.

# THE PEOPLE V. JAMES FORTNEY

## FOR THE MURDER OF KEVIN RODRIGUEZ

On November 29, 2017, 19-year-old Kevin Rodriguez—a rising Instagram and YouTube star with a bright future—his girlfriend Jensen Carlton, and her sister, drove to a Temecula Walmart to purchase a gift for Kevin's father.

On their drive to Walmart, Kevin Rodriguez and his friends noticed an angry motorist honking at an elderly driver. Unfortunately, that motorist, 40-year-old James Fortney, a large six-foot, three-inch, 240-pound man who was a 20-year military veteran, was also going to Walmart.

Kevin Rodriguez and James Fortney ultimately had a verbal altercation in the Walmart parking lot. James Fortney did everything he could to provoke Kevin Rodriguez into a physical confrontation but, after he failed to do so, he grabbed Kevin Rodriguez by the throat and nearly lifted him off the ground. Kevin Rodriguez attempted to defend himself by striking James Fortney. James Fortney stumbled back, drew



(Above) Kevin Rodriguez's parents speak to reporters.

a folding knife, and stabbed Kevin Rodriguez in the heart. His girlfriend, Jensen Carlton, courageously tried to intervene. James Fortney turned toward Jensen Carlton and growled, "You're next" and she ran away.

Kevin Rodriguez stumbled toward Walmart, collapsed on the ground in the parking lot, and died. James Fortney walked up to Kevin Rodriguez and recorded his death with his cell phone. James Fortney was arrested at the scene and told police investigators he stabbed Kevin Rodriguez because he was

afraid Kevin Rodriguez was going to hurt or kill him. Kevin was 5-feet, 8-inches tall, weighed 150 pounds, and was unarmed.

At the subsequent trial, Jensen Carlton and several Walmart patrons who saw what happened came forward and testified. James Fortney also testified and tried to convince the jury he acted in reasonable self-defense. After hearing all the evidence, the jury convicted James Fortney of second-degree murder.

# KILLER RECEIVES DEATH PENALTY

## ON TOP OF A 368-YEAR SENTENCE AFTER KILLING TWO OFFICERS

On Oct. 8, 2016, Palm Springs police received a 911 call regarding a domestic disturbance at a residence on Cypress Avenue. Within minutes of arriving and contacting family members outside of the home, Palm Springs police officers were fired upon by John Hernandez Felix from inside the home. Felix wore a bulletproof vest while armed with an assault rifle as he fired upon the police officers.

Officer Jose Gilbert "Gil" Vega and Officer Lesley Zerebny were immediately killed by the defendant's gunfire. During the subsequent exchange of gunfire, six other police officers were injured or barely missed being shot by the defendant. For several hours, Felix barricaded himself inside of the home, only surrendering after a SWAT team forced him out of the house with tear gas.

The DA's Office filed two counts of murder with special circumstance allegations of the murder of a peace officer and multiple murders, six counts of attempted murder of a peace officer, and one count each of possession of an assault weapon, possession of a prohibited firearm, and being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm. The special circumstance allegations attached to the murder counts made Felix eligible for the death penalty, which DA Mike Hestrin sought in this case. The case was prosecuted by Assistant DA Michelle Paradise and Deputy DA Manny Bustamante.

On May 20, 2019, John Hernandez Felix was found guilty on all counts, including first-degree murder of the two officers and the attempted murders of six other officers. The seven-woman, five-man jury also found true special circumstances of multiple murders and the murder of two peace officers, which made Felix eligible for the death penalty.

During the penalty phase of the trial, there was heart-wrenching testimony by fellow police officers, some who were forced into medical retirement, as well as family members who are forced to live with the aftermath of defendant's killing spree.

On May 30, 2019, the same jurors who determined John Hernandez Felix's guilt decided he deserved a death sentence.

"We are gratified with the jury's verdict and this represents a step toward justice for these two fallen officers," District Attorney Mike Hestrin said after the jury's decision.

In a packed Larson Justice Center courtroom, the sentence was rendered by Judge Anthony Villalobos after about a dozen victim impact statements were heard from loved ones of the two fallen officers. Among those in the courtroom to hear the sentence were several members of the jury that convicted John Hernandez Felix. Prior to his rendering the death sentence Judge Villalobos also sentenced Felix to 368 years to life.

(Below) Assistant District Attorney Michelle Paradise and Palm Springs Police Chief Bryan Reyes talk to media outside the courthouse after the sentencing of John Hernandez Felix for the murders of Palm Springs police Officers Jose Gilbert "Gil" Vega and Leslie Zerebny.



(Below) Officers Lesley Zerebny and Jose "Gil" Vega.



(Above) John Hernandez Felix was sentenced to death in 2019.



# C.H.P. SGT. STEVE LICON

## FATALLY STRUCK BY D.U.I. DRIVER IN SPEEDING VEHICLE

Riverside County's Lake Elsinore area was sunny and beautiful on Saturday, April 6, 2019. Bright orange California poppies were concentrated on hills near the Interstate 15 and had become a local attraction.

Veteran California Highway Patrol Sgt. Steve Licon was among a team of CHP officers who volunteered to work extra patrols that day in order assist the crowds of motorists flocking to the community to enjoy the "super bloom."

As Sgt. Licon stood on the shoulder of the freeway during in a routine traffic stop, he was fatally struck by a speeding vehicle. The driver, Michael Joseph Callahan, was traveling partially on the dirt shoulder well off the designated freeway lanes. Sgt. Licon was transported by medical helicopter to a nearby hospital but died from his injuries.

The subsequent investigation revealed that Callahan was driving under the influence of alcohol and his blood alcohol content was almost twice the legal limit.

This was not Callahan's first time driving under the influence. In 2004, he was convicted of a misdemeanor DUI violation and was sentenced to three years of summary probation. As a condition of that DUI probation, he was required to attend MADD classes, during which he was educated about the dangers of drinking and driving.

The District Attorney's Office charged Callahan with one count of murder in the death of Sgt. Licon.

The case is being prosecuted by Chief Deputy District Attorney Carlos Monagas and Deputy District Attorney Allison Pace and is scheduled for jury trial in the fall of 2020.



(Above) California Highway Patrol Sergeant Steve Licon.

# C.H.P. OFFICER ANDRE MOYE JR.

## HOMETOWN C.H.P. OFFICER SHOT AND KILLED IN ROUTINE STOP

On a late Monday afternoon in August 2019, California Highway Patrol Officer Andre Moya Jr. was on patrol in Riverside when he pulled over a pickup truck for a carpool lane violation at Box Springs Boulevard and Eastridge/Eucalyptus Avenue, west of Interstate 215. He permitted the suspect to retrieve some personal items from the pickup while they waited for a tow truck to arrive.

When the tow truck driver arrived, he saw a long rifle in the truck, and he alerted Officer Moya. The suspect saw this interaction and grabbed his high-powered rifle out of the truck and opened fire. He shot Officer Moya, killing him. The man who murdered Officer Moya was killed during a subsequent gun battle involving officers and deputies from several law enforcement agencies.

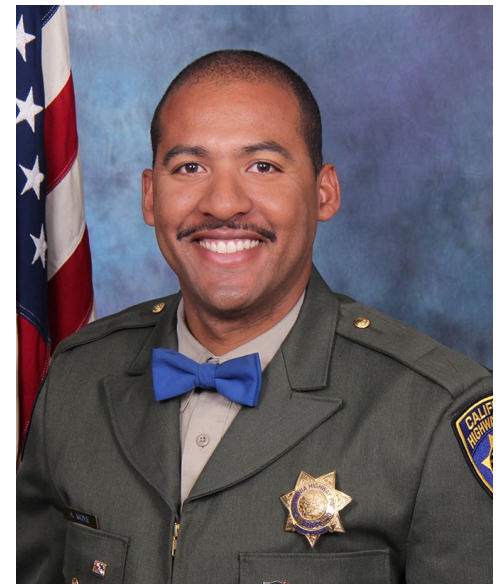
Officer Moya graduated from the CHP Academy on March 3, 2017, and was assigned to the CHP's Riverside Area Office. His passion was motocross, so he loved being a motorcycle officer -- his assignment at the time of his murder.

He was born at March Air Force Base, which is across Interstate 215 from where we died. He grew up in Moreno Valley and graduated from Valley View High School in 2003. He became an electrician and started a business with his father. After doing that for a decade, he applied to be a CHP officer and was accepted. He became a motor officer within a year after graduating the CHP Academy, which is a rare achievement.

Sadly, Officer Moya was the lead investigator in an April 2018 DUI collision that killed CHP Sgt. Steve Licon, who worked at the same CHP Area Office as Officer Moya.



(Above, Right) California Highway Patrol Officer Andre Moya Jr.





# DIVISION OF VICTIM SERVICES

## A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

I am proud to be able to lead the Division of Victim Services and the amazing victim advocates and DVS staff here at the Riverside County District Attorney's Office.

The Division of Victim Services began serving victims of crime in our county in 1980. Over the last 40 years, this division has been committed to serving victims of crime by responding to the needs of victims, advocating to ensure that victims' rights are protected, and providing education and support for crime victims navigating the criminal justice system. When someone becomes a victim of a crime, the impact can be life-changing to that individual and their entire family, neighborhood and, sometimes, the community.

Our victim advocates are part of the prosecution team and are specially trained to provide trauma informed care before, during and after a criminal prosecution. They serve as a criminal justice system guide to the victims and/or their families. Advocates can provide a variety of services to help victims during all phases of the court case. They provide resources and referrals to help mitigate the damage that the impact of that crime

has on the victim and their family while also keeping them informed of case status and their rights during each phase.

The definition of "justice" can be different for each individual victim. While the District Attorney's Office seeks justice within the judicial system, victim advocates also seek justice that victims define for themselves enabling the victim to move forward and heal long after the case has been resolved. The role of the Division of Victim Services in the District Attorney's Office is critical to the success of the trial and to ensuring the rights of the victims are maintained throughout the life of the case.



**Melissa Donaldson**  
Division of Victim Services Director

Melissa Donaldson has been the Director of the Division of Victim Services since October of 2015.

## WHAT IS A VICTIM ADVOCATE?

"A VICTIM'S VOICE WILL BE HEARD"

A victim advocate is a professional, serves as an educator, an ear to listen, a shoulder to cry on, a justice system guide, and is a passionate, committed public servant dedicated to serving victims of crime.

Victim advocates perform a myriad of functions that may include speaking or acting on a victim's behalf and serving as a liaison between the victim and the criminal justice court system seeking to help minimize the physical, psychological, emotional, and financial effects of the crime that victims experience.

Victim advocates are entrusted with and are committed to protecting the rights of crime victims. The criminal justice system can be complex and challenging to under-

stand and navigate, but certainly more challenging when you are the victim of a crime, have lost a loved one to crime, and/or are experiencing incredible hardships due to the crime itself. As deputy district attorneys seek justice in the courts, victim advocates are working alongside them every step of the way as part of the prosecution team to keep crime victims and their families updated and informed about what to expect during each process and event in a criminal case.

Victim advocates are trauma-informed professionals that provide a large array of services and care in a manner to help mitigate the impact of trauma and stress to assist crime victims in moving forward.



# CANDLELIGHT VIGILS

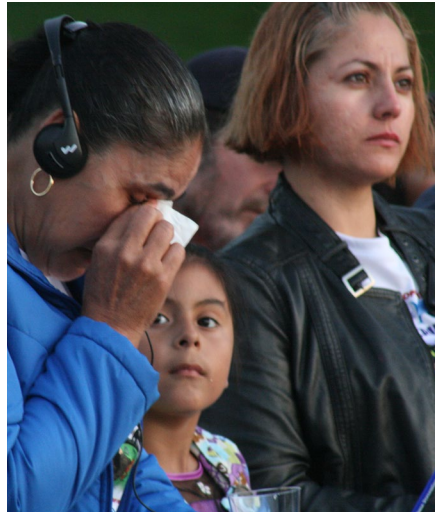
PART OF VICTIM ADVOCACY IS HELPING A COMMUNITY GRIEVE

Our Division of Victim Services holds annual events to increase community awareness about the impact of crime, to provide a sense of community to those who have been affected, and to remember crime victims who were killed.

Victim advocacy not only involves working directly with victims and the prosecution team, it includes helping victims and their families move through grief and honor those they have lost. We take that duty seriously and with great care demonstrated through our annual National Victims' Rights Week Vigils. Vigils are held in our Western, Mid-County, and Eastern regions and are events that are thoughtfully curated to provide beautiful ceremonies for crime survivors and family members who have lost loved ones to crime.

A Domestic Violence Awareness Month Vigil in October brings attention to the epidemic of violence in homes across Riverside County. Our Domestic Violence Unit is one of the busiest for victim advocates. In October 2019, the Division of Victim Services hosted its first domestic violence vigil in Indio to acknowledge those victims who lost their lives at the hands of their significant others and to celebrate the survivors of domestic violence.

Crisis Response Team advocacy is a special type of advocacy. On October 1, 2017, the Route 91 Mass shooting happened in Las Vegas. This horrific mass shooting put our Crisis Response Team (CRT) to the test. Sadly, 58 people were killed, 489 others wounded, and thousands were witnesses to the mass shooting. Our CRT advocates deployed to Las Vegas and are still working with some of the victims who are from Riverside County. In 2018, on the first anniversary of the mass shooting, our office honored those victims and survivors with a vigil at our Victims' Memorial Wall at our Riverside office.





## A BRIEF MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF ABOUT THE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

The Bureau of Investigation is the law enforcement arm of the Riverside County District Attorney's Office, committed to protecting victims and their rights while seeking truth and justice through innovation and investigative excellence. The Bureau is comprised of more than 110 sworn senior DA investigators, and more than 70 non-sworn support team members which includes investigative technicians, forensic accountants and technicians, computer forensic specialists, audio-video technicians, dispatchers, and clerical support. We provide a full range of professional law enforcement investigative services in our effort to support the mission of the District Attorney's Office.

The Bureau prepares and serves warrants, collects additional evidence for prosecution, generates cases, and arrests suspects while developing and locating witnesses, conducting interviews, and serving subpoenas within Riverside County, throughout California, and out of state.

The Bureau operates across Riverside County in four different regional divisions: Riverside (Western County), Murrieta (Southwest County), Banning (Mid-County), and Indio (Eastern County). Our management structure is comprised of a Chief Investigator, three Assistant Chief Investigators, five Commanders, and 16 Supervising Investigators. There are more than 50 different investigative assignments, including innovative law enforcement task forces and specialized units, all making us among the most successful and progressive DA bureaus in the state.

The following examples illustrate, in part, the results of Bureau partnerships with allied law enforcement agencies and demonstrates how we serve the public trust throughout Riverside County while upholding the law and protecting the innocent.



**Joe DelGuidice**  
Chief Investigator

Joe DelGuidice has been the Chief Investigator since February of 2015.

## 1998 MURDER OF TERRY CHEEK CONVICTION REVIEW COLLABORATION

On Friday, Oct. 12, 2018, the Riverside County District Attorney's Office dismissed all charges against 60-year-old Horace Roberts for the 1998 murder of Terry Yvette Cheek. An extensive investigation by the DA's Office Bureau of Investigation ultimately led to the office dismissing the case against Horace Roberts and agreeing to request a finding of factual innocence.

In April 1998, the body of Terry Cheek was found along Temescal Canyon Road, near Corona Lake. Following an extensive investigation, Horace Roberts, the victim's boyfriend and co-worker, was arrested and later charged by the DA's Office with her murder. In July 1999, he was convicted by a Riverside County jury of second-degree murder and sentenced to 15 years to life in prison.

After the conviction, the California Innocence Project took on Mr. Roberts' case and began investigating. Recent advances in DNA technology resulted in the California Innocence Project obtaining additional DNA testing that was not available during the original investigation. The DNA testing provided additional evidence which the California Innocence Project brought to the attention of DA Mike Hestrin's Conviction Review Committee. The Conviction Review Committee closely examined the newly discovered evidence and a decision was made by DA Hestrin to reopen the investigation into the murder of Terry Cheek.

As a result of the new DNA evidence, the DA's Bureau of Investigation reopened the investigation into the murder of Terry Cheek. A team of investigators from the Major Crimes Unit within the Bureau of Investigation was assembled and tasked with conducting the reopened murder investigation. After a review of all records, multiple witnesses from the nearly 20-year-old case had to be located and interviewed. Investigators conducted several out-of-state interviews and numerous hours of surveillance in order to establish enough evidence to warrant the arrest of the true suspects. The hard work of 20 investigators and more than 900 hours contributed to the confirmation of Horace Roberts' innocence.

On Oct. 12, 2018, DA Investigators arrested Joaquin Latee Leal and Googie Rene Harris Senior. Harris was married to Terry Cheek and Leal was the victim's nephew. The DA's Office on Oct. 15, 2018, filed murder charges against Harris and Leal. The continuing investigation then led to the Dec. 13, 2019, arrest of a third suspect, Googie Rene Harris Junior, who is also charged in the murder. All three defendants are awaiting trial in this case.



# BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

## PARTNERS WITH OTHER AGENCIES AND TASK FORCES

During the evening hours of Feb. 3, 2019, the Palm Springs Police Department responded to a shooting call and a traffic collision a short distance from each other. At the shooting scene, a 25-year-old man was found deceased. Nearby, three additional gunshot victims, ages 17-19 and all deceased, were found inside a vehicle at the scene of the collision.

Based on the close proximity of the two separate incidents and all four victims having sustained gunshot wounds, the events were believed to be related. A subject later identified as Jose Larin Garcia was sought as a possible witness and investigative lead. The Palm Springs Police Department requested that the Riverside County Gang Impact Team (GIT) assist them with the investigation, and asked GIT to locate Garcia in order to establish his involvement in the incident.

The GIT task force members conducted surveillance at a location related to Garcia and, during the hours that followed, they developed information leading them to believe that Garcia was a possible suspect in the quadruple-homicide. Information was also discovered which showed Garcia was in the process of fleeing the state, and possibly the country.

GIT began to actively search for Garcia and, by using technology and modern investigative techniques, were able to track him to the eastern Coachella Valley. The team soon discovered that a second subject had purchased a ticket to Florida for Garcia to use, under an alias. GIT task force members were able to locate the second subject, and additional evidence against Garcia was developed. During the ensuing hours of surveillance Garcia, who had shaved his head, was taken into custody as he was preparing to board a bus for Florida. He was booked into Riverside County jail and homicide charges were filed against him by the DA's Office with special allegations including multiple murders, making him eligible for the death penalty.

The Gang Impact Team is staffed with investigators and agents from the District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation, the Department of Homeland Security, United States Border Patrol, the California Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation's Special Services Unit, the Riverside County Sheriff's Department, and detectives from the Palm Springs, Cathedral City, Desert Hot Springs, Beaumont, Banning, Hemet, and Corona Police Departments.



# COURT FACILITY DOGS

## K9 RAIDER INCREASES OVERALL WELL-BEING OF ABUSED CHILDREN

When children and vulnerable adults become victims of crime, the Division of Victim Services can enlist the help of a very special and different kind of victim advocate -- a facility or court dog.

For those who have experienced or witnessed violence, coming to court to testify and recount their traumatic experiences can be terrifying and last a lifetime. Facility dogs are highly trained and can provide a sense of calm, security, and non-judgmental support for children and vulnerable adults during their dealings in the criminal justice system.

In 2018, the Riverside County District Attorney's Office's Division of Victim Services partnered with the Corona Police Department for their facility dog, K9 Raider, a 65-pound yellow Labrador, to assist children affected by crime. K9 Raider and his handlers came to meetings, interviews, and court hearings with children who had experienced horrific abuse. During his visits with children, K9 Raider helped reduce their fears, build stronger rapport with the victim advocates and deputy district attorneys working on their cases, and helped to promote their overall well-being.

K9 Raider's handlers, Erin Roulston and Corona police Lt. Adam Roulston said this: Raider had the honor of becoming the first dog in Riverside County to assist a victim in court during testimony. Raider has assisted in several court cases and gently laid at the feet of brave victims. Many times, we have watched in pride as victim advocates of your office quietly sat on the floor with Raider and a small crime victim to make them feel more comfortable. We have watched advocates play silly games, or quietly color with action focused on providing support through a traumatic process. We have watched them hold terrified shaking, little hands. We have watched as they advocated for the rights and needs of their victims no matter how daunting the task. We have watched them hold gentle space for victims after completing their testimony and allowing them the time to bury their face in Raider's fur and cry. With silent support at their feet on the witness stand and offers of comforting doggie hugs in the hallway, these vulnerable victims can then tell their stories and the professionals involved in their case are then able to ensure a trauma-informed approach in seeking justice.



(Above) Corona Police Department's courthouse facility dog, Raider, with Riverside County District Attorney Mike Hestrin.



# OPERATION FIDO

## CREATING OUR OWN COURTHOUSE FACILITY DOG PROGRAM

**D**ivision of Victim Services Director Melissa Donaldson launched “Operation Fido” in 2018.

“The use of facility dogs over the years from partner agencies in our day-to-day work has set forth momentum in implementing our very own facility/court dog program to help support more victims of abuse and violence,” she said.

The state Penal Code currently allows for the use of facility dogs in court and the Riverside County District Attorney’s Office wants to have these specialized canine advocates working with their partner human advocates in all our offices over the next few years.

The scientific evidence supporting the physical and mental calming effects facility dogs bring to victims is overwhelming. Victims and witnesses having to be in

the courtroom, meetings with our prosecutors, or involved in forensic interviews and other legal proceedings are arguable some of the most stressful events that anyone can experience. The presence of a facility dog can and does significantly reduce the anxiety that is associated with these experiences.

Two facility dogs are currently in training as are two of our victim advocates so we can enhance the amazing work our advocates already provide victims. The presence of facility dogs will also provide morale boosting experiences for victim advocates, deputy DAs, and all those staff in our office who deal with the often-horrible consequences of crime.

We are looking forward to introducing the community to our new four-legged furry staff additions in 2020.



**(Above)** A courthouse facility dog is a professionally trained dog whose calming presence provides comfort and support to children and other vulnerable people in a variety of settings to help them participate in stressful criminal justice proceedings such as defense interviews, testifying in court, SAFE exams, forensic interviews, and other settings. Judges, lawyers, victim advocates and other criminal justice staff who deal with the often horrible consequences of crime can find their morale boosted through the presence of courthouse facility dogs. The physical and mental benefits that victims and witnesses experience with the dogs is the same for the professionals helping others. These benefits help to reduce the vicarious trauma criminal justice professionals sometimes experience in their daily exposure to the work.



# CITIZENS' ACADEMY

## WHERE OUR CITIZENS CAN GET TO KNOW US

In the fall each year, the Riverside County District Attorney's Office conducts a community engagement program called the Citizens' Academy. The 10-week program immerses participants in the work of the DA's Office, from learning about the life of a criminal case to details about various DA's Bureau of Investigation task forces. Participants learn the process of a trial from the perspective of a judge, a prosecutor, and a defense attorney in a hands-on tutorial right inside the courtroom.

The community members also have the unique opportunity to hear from experts in various units within the DA's Office and for open dialog with public safety officials in the criminal justice system. Goals of the program include providing participants a chance to learn more about the criminal justice system and raising awareness of the role the District Attorney's Office has within our community.



## COLLEGE ACADEMY SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The Riverside County District Attorney's Office College Academy serves as both a recruiting mechanism and a resource for community outreach. The College Academy is a summer internship program that provides a hand-on experience at the DA's Office for college students interested in law. Students get to witness court proceedings, research cases side-by-side with their staff member mentors and witness first-hand what goes into creating a successful case.

Our college internship program is similar in many respects to the law clerk program. It gives students not yet in law school the chance to decide whether the law—and the District Attorney's Office—is something that may be in their future. Several former interns are now proud to call themselves employees of the Riverside County District Attorney's Office! Deputy District Attorneys Sanja Stark, Lindsey McDowell, and Jimmy Applegate are a few of our very first interns who have returned home to Riverside County as DDAs.





# EXTERNSHIP PROGRAM

“PEOPLE ARE NOT YOUR MOST IMPORTANT ASSET.  
THE RIGHT PEOPLE ARE.” -JIM COLLINS, GOOD TO GREAT

## Recruitment and Training

The aggressive marketing and recruitment strategy of the Riverside County District Attorney's Office includes targeting all 20 accredited law schools in California and Arizona, inviting applicants from schools across the nation, and ensuring interviews are conducted by a select team of experienced recruiters. This has resulted in a dramatic increase in selectivity and more elite entering classes.

The summer program starts with a seven-day training “academy” designed to provide the fundamentals necessary for their success throughout the summer – the training they will need because the next nine weeks are designed to push their limits.

## The First Year (1L) Program

The 1L program is designed to develop and test externs’ legal research, writing, and analytical skills by assisting prosecutors with true attorney work. Externs perform true attorney work, each deliberately assigned to challenge the extern’s skill in new and different ways. The process exposes the extern to different legal procedures and areas of criminal law, while also allowing at least 10 different prosecutors to review and evaluate their performance. An oral advocacy training track helps 1Ls learn the finer points of courtroom advocacy, while also allowing their coachability and potential for future excellence

to be evaluated. The top performing 1Ls are invited to return to be a part of the 2L program.

## The Second Year (2L) Program

2L externs are already proven high performers. As such, they hit the ground sprinting. They each are assigned a full “caseload.” They conduct preliminary hearings, argue legal motions, negotiate cases, and conduct misdemeanor jury trials. Over the summer, they are supervised and evaluated by experienced prosecutors. The summer concludes with externs participating in a week-long closing argument competition. District Attorney Mike Hestrin and his management team are joined by Public Defender Steve Harmon and Appellate Justice Richard T. Fields in the final round to render a verdict on who the competition’s winning extern is.

## Pipeline to Employment

At the conclusion of this multi-month “on the job interview,” 2Ls have been evaluated by dozens of experienced prosecutors and the District Attorney knows which externs have the integrity, work ethic, dedication to public service, intellect, and skill in research, writing, and oral advocacy to be outstanding future career Riverside County public servant prosecutors. Those select few are then given the opportunity to serve as Riverside County Deputy District Attorneys.



# CRIME PREVENTION UNIT

THE UNIQUE AND INNOVATIVE UNIT WAS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND

The top priority of the District Attorney's Office is public safety for the people that live in and visit Riverside County. The DA's Office recognizes that to successfully achieve this goal, traditional crime suppression methods must be bolstered by effective and meaningful prevention and intervention strategies.

After he was first elected in 2015, DA Hestrin, for the first time in the history of the DA's Office, created the Crime Prevention Unit (CPU). The unit is a team of attorneys that continue to work full-time to significantly and positively impact the lives of at-risk youth, enhance public safety, and prevent youth from becoming involved in the criminal justice system.

As a result of CPU's unique and impressive body of work in youth crime prevention by a prosecuting agency, the Riverside County Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission bestowed its first-ever Innovation Award to CPU in 2019.

The creation of CPU is cutting-edge and visionary by the DA's Office. At the time of its creation, CPU was an innovative approach to prevent at-risk youth from entering the criminal justice system. The DA's Office has paved a unique way for prosecutorial agencies to be engaged in juvenile crime prevention and significant criminal justice reform.



(Above) Deputy District Attorney Hunter Taylor speaks to new Riverside County DDAs about the Crime Prevention Unit and its role in the community.



(Right) Deputy District Attorney Kacey Sutton speaks to Moreno Valley high school students after giving a presentation about how to mitigate and avoid cyberbullying.

## IMPROVING ATTENDANCE WITH STUDENT ATTENDANCE REVIEW BOARD

Irregular school attendance directly affects public safety, crime rates, and a student's prospects for future success. Studies show that 82 percent of those incarcerated in California are high school dropouts. Dropouts are eight times more likely to be incarcerated than high school graduates, and dropouts are far more likely to be victims of crime. Keenly aware of the correlation between school attendance, academic success, and crime, we have what is perhaps the most robust Student Attendance Review Board program in the state.

The primary purpose of our SARB

program is to collaborate with school districts to implement best strategies and interventions to reduce truancy and chronic absenteeism. The goal is to mobilize school and community resources in an effort to engage students, improve graduation rates, and divert students from the justice system. In 2018 and 2019, our SARB program provided superior training and support to our local school districts helping contribute to 14 Riverside County school districts receiving California Model SARB program designation. This set a state record for Model SARB award winners from a single county.



(Above) District Attorney Mike Hestrin speaks at a conference about improving attendance at local schools.







## G.A.M.E. PROGRAM INCREASES GANG AWARENESS, MENTORSHIP, EDUCATION

The District Attorney's Office is fully committed to reducing youth gang violence and delinquency in our communities. Our GAME program provides parenting presentations and gang and drug awareness presentations. In 2018 and 2019, the GAME program provided an astounding 500 presentations to more than 47,000 youth, parents, and community stakeholders. Also, 84 percent of elementary school students surveyed indicated they are less likely to become involved with gangs because of the GAME presentation. Additionally, the GAME presentation was the highest rated presentation at the 2018 National Innovative Communities Conference.

## MOTIVATIONAL READING PROGRAMS FOR AT-RISK AND INCARCERATED YOUTHS

The programs Real Men Read, Women Who Read, and Women Read and Parlance are motivational, educational, and literacy-building programs for at-risk and incarcerated youth. Recognizing the direct correlation between poor literacy and incarceration rates, these programs were designed by CPU prosecutors to create an interest in reading among its participants while also providing them with guest speakers such as best-selling authors and inspiring local community members that serve as positive role models and mentors. Impressively, in 2018 youth participants in these programs read more than 423,000 pages. In 2019, youth participants read a staggering 670,000 pages.

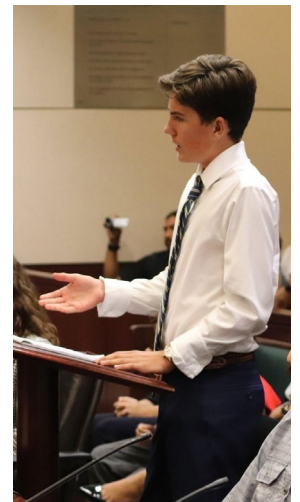


## POP-UP SHOP INCREASES ATTENDANCE FOR AT-RISK STUDENTS BY FIVE-HUNDRED PERCENT

This special project was created by a CPU attorney to motivate at-risk students to succeed in school. Students are given "pseudo" dollars, or "buck\$" when they earn credits toward graduation, improve their attendance, or improve their behavior on campus. The students spend their "buck\$" on a vast array of merchandise available in a school gym, which is converted into a virtual department store. To stock the Pop-Up Shop in 2018, CPU collected more than \$150,000 worth of merchandise from about 800 donors. This first-time project was a resounding success as participating schools reported improvement in school behavior and attendance, and one school reported a stunning 500 percent increase in the graduation rate. Because of that amazing success, the Pop-Up Shop was held in 2019 at another school.

## LAW AND LEADERSHIP SUMMER YOUTH ACADEMY TEACHES LAW TO YOUTHS

This is a one-week community outreach program that provides Riverside County youth an opportunity to hone their leadership skills while also learning about the criminal justice system. Students in 8th and 9th grade learn about college and careers and meet experts in a variety of criminal justice fields including attorneys, victim advocates, investigators, canine officers, forensic technicians, probation officers, and judges to understand their roles in the justice system. Participants also gain valuable hands-on experience by practicing forensic techniques including fingerprinting and crime scene investigation. The week includes a tour of a criminal courthouse and concludes with an activity where students step into the shoes of an attorney and participate in a "mock trial". The students' family and friends attend the mock trial and a graduation ceremony that celebrates the students' achievements for the week.



## EXCELLENCE IN INNOVATION AWARDED TO CANNABIS REGULATION

The Cannabis Regulation Task Force (CRTF) was created in 2018 with the goal of using a multi-disciplinary approach to address cannabis dispensaries that are illegally operating in Riverside County. The team utilizes the resources of the District Attorney's Office, the DA's Bureau of Investigation, and contributing allied agencies -- all of which makes this collaborative process more effective.

The purpose of CRTF, which is led by the DA's Bureau of Investigation, is to protect properly licensed legal cannabis businesses and enforce regulatory requirements which protect the environment and consumers.

The aim of the task force is not to shut down legally operating facilities, but rather to ensure fair business practices and keep criminal activity out of the legal cannabis industry and out of our communities. When dispensaries operate without following the law or regulations, their unfair business practices impact those dispensaries which are obeying the law. Illegal or unlicensed dispensaries also may be providing customers with untested and potentially harmful products.

CRTF began its work by systematically serving numerous search warrants and conducting an intensive investigation into the organized crime aspect of the illegal cannabis industry. To date, CRTF has executed search warrants at more than 65 illegal storefront dispensaries and associated residences throughout Riverside County. Those operations have yielded a seizure of:

- More than a thousand pounds of hazardous cannabis
- More than three tons of untested edibles
- Numerous illegal firearms

The investigations related to these operations also include the seizure and forensic analysis of electronic evidence. This is how CRTF has been able to identify the high-value contributors who are the driving force behind these criminal organizations.

CRTF has identified an organized connection to indoor cannabis cultivation in Riverside County. This aspect of their investigations has resulted in the discovery of more than 40 clandestine residential cannabis cultivation sites. These investigations have also uncovered fraudulent real estate transactions and more than \$500,000 in utility theft.

CRTF is now one of the most effective and innovative programs for cannabis regulation and enforcement in the state. The hard work of CRTF Supervising Investigator Brian Danskin and his entire CRTF team was recently recognized by the California District Attorneys Association, as they were the 2019 recipients of the Innovation Award.

## SPECIAL PROSECUTIONS SECTION RECEIVES TEAM AWARD

In 2018, DA Mike Hestrin recognized the Workers' Compensation Provider Fraud Unit for their 2017 work prosecuting large-scale organized insurance fraud.

Deputy District Attorneys W. Matthew Murray and Erika Mulhere received the Special Prosecution Section (SPS) Prosecutors of the Year Award, and Investigators Matt Borden and Dave Jones received the SPS Team Award.



This unit investigates and prosecutes attorneys, doctors, chiropractors, and others who engage in massive conspiracies to defraud the insurance industry, all while taking advantage of innocent patients.

The team is currently prosecuting more than \$200 million in suspected fraud. These prosecutions are some of the most complex in the state, requiring DDAs and investigators to understand medical practice and standards, civil and administrative law, business operations, data analytics, banking, and finance. As a result, cases prosecuted by the Provider Fraud Unit often take years to investigate and litigate, with hundreds of witnesses, thousands of exhibits, dozens of search warrants, and multiple motions and appeals. Over the last four years, the Riverside County District Attorney's Office has become a statewide leader in the prosecution of these cases, developing new legal theories and winning consequential victories at the trial and appellate courts.

DDAs Mulhere and Murray each regularly teach about provider fraud and have been recognized locally and nationally for their work.



# THE PRIDE OF THE OFFICE

## OUR IN-HOUSE AWARD WINNERS

The outstanding work done by employees at the Riverside County District Attorney's Office is recognized at our PRIDE Awards ceremony and banquet.

PRIDE, the Program Rewarding Incentive of District attorney Employees, honors attorney and non-attorney staff

for demonstrating extraordinary responsibility, professional development, productivity, dedication, initiative, a positive attitude, quality of work, dependability, cooperation, attendance, and public demeanor.

The ceremony was started more than 30 years ago by then-District Attorney Grover Trask to recognize the above-and-beyond work done by our prosecutors, investigators, victim advocates, and support staff. We also recognize the outstanding work by those in our community.

The 2019 PRIDE Awards banquet was held the evening of Feb. 28, 2020, at the Hyatt Regency Indian Wells Resort & Spa in Indian Wells.

The 2018 PRIDE Awards banquet was held the evening of March 1, 2019, at the Morongo Casino, Resort & Spa.

The cost of the awards and the banquet was entirely covered by money raised through fundraisers held within the office and at no cost to taxpayers.

The lists below recognize the recipients of the 2018 and 2019 awards.



### AWARD WINNERS FROM 2018

Prosecutor of the Year	Anthony Orlando
Crime Prevention Prosecutor of the Year	Sharon Shuster
Misdemeanor Prosecutor of the Year	Jessica Roundy
Misdemeanor Prosecutor of the Year	Sara Beller
SPS Prosecutor of the Year	Lauren Martineau
Paralegal of the Year	Soledad Gomez
Paralegal of the Year	Sophia Contreras
Investigator of the Year	Wade Walsvick
Technician of the Year	Andriana Pohja
Advocate of the Year	Hollie Simkins
Clerical Employee of the Year	Eula Plaza
Administration Employee of the Year	Jennifer Johnson
Community Hero of the Year	James Campos
Community Hero of the Year	Andre Spencer
DA Achievement/Leadership Award	Sam Kaloustian
Group/Unit	Domestic Violence Unit
Group/Unit	Misdemeanor Prosecution Unit
Group/Unit	Southwest Felony Prosecution & GTA Units

### AWARD WINNERS FROM 2019

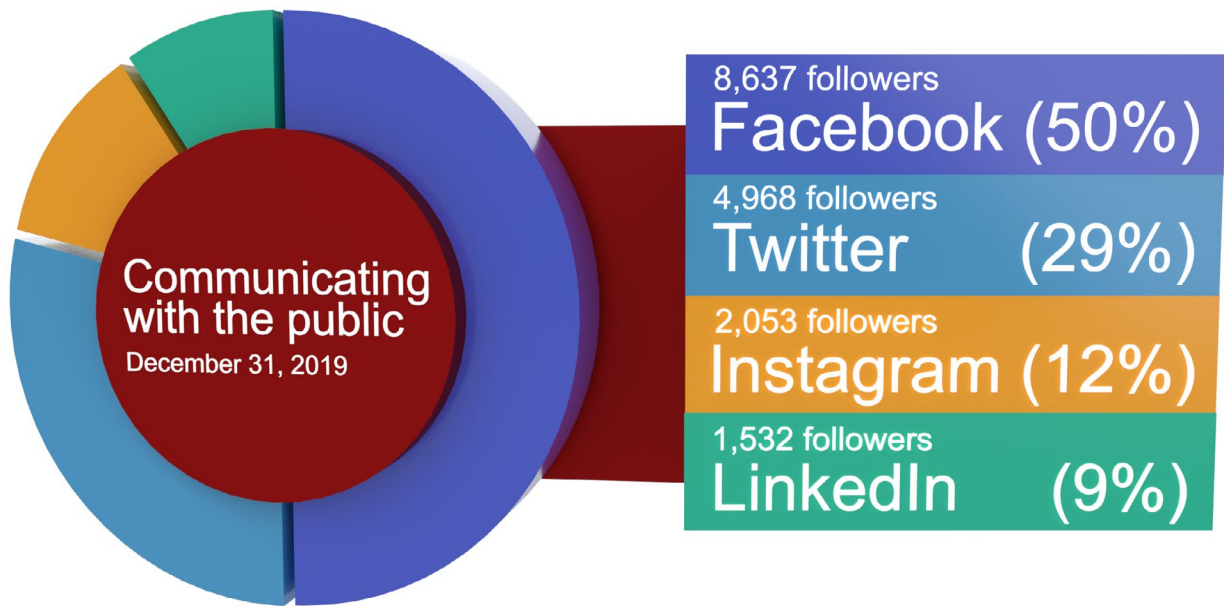
Prosecutor of the Year	Kimberly Degonia
Prosecutor of the Year	Joshua Hill
Appellate Prosecutor of the Year	Alan Tate
Misdemeanor Prosecutor of the Year	Monica Dobson
Misdemeanor Prosecutor of the Year	Chris Paynter
SPS Award of the Year	Cannabis Regulation Task Force
Paralegal of the Year	Jasmine Marquez
Paralegal of the Year	Jessica Ramirez
Investigator of the Year	Kelly Nava
Technician of the Year	Amanda Lumba
Advocate of the Year	Donna Carper
Clerical Employee of the Year	Lydia Balland
Administration Employee of the Year	Sireen O'Mari
Volunteer of the Year	Dan Bernstein
Community Hero of the Year	Sergio Avina
Group/Unit	Accounting/Training/Travel Units
Group/Unit	Investigative Technicians
Group/Unit	Mid-County Clerical
Group/Unit	Domestic Violence Unit Support Staff

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## HIGHLIGHTS AND STORIES

In a time of ever-evolving technology, we have made a concentrated effort to use social media as an effective means to connect with our community and sharing the mission of the Riverside County District Attorney's Office.

We do that by providing timely information to our community about criminal cases, crime prevention, awareness campaigns, events, and other relevant information pertaining to the Riverside County District Attorney's Office (RivCoDA). At RivCoDA, we are dedicated to posting on various social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube. As we have continued our efforts to inform the community, our audience has grown. We started 2018 with less than 3,000 followers on Facebook and we closed 2019 with more than 9,000 followers.



**Riverside County District Attorney's Office**  
March 20, 2019

Reaching out to our young people, DA Mike Hestrin joined with Riverside Police Chief Sergio Diaz to speak to youth and their parents at Allen Chapel AME Church in Riverside. Pastor Barry Settle, center, invited the law enforcement leaders to come speak and to answer questions from members of his congregation. Thank you, Pastor Settle for the invite and the opportunity!

**Riverside County District Attorney's Office**  
October 10, 2018

Our office recently took part in the Riverside Area Veterans Expo, providing information to veterans about services we have available to them. The annual Expo and Stand Down bring veterans together with government and community organizations in an effort to help provide them with services they may need. A Veterans Court was also held on site. The event was held at March Air Reserve Base. Managing Deputy District Attorney Deborah Lucky and Deputy District Attorney Sylvia Choi are pictured here.

**Riverside County District Attorney's Office**  
March 22, 2018

Girl Scout cadettes Marissa, Alicia, and Emily from Troop 953 in Jurupa Valley and parents meet with our Director of Victim Services Melissa Donaldson, center, about an idea they have. The girls want to make comfort kits they call "No More Tears" to give to child victims of crime. Once they complete their project, they will be recognized by the Girl Scout Council and receive a Silver Award Project button for their vest or sash. Thank you Marissa, Alicia, and Emily for coming to us with such a great idea!

**Riverside County District Attorney's Office**  
December 28, 2018

Being in the right place at the right time can make all the difference. DA Investigator Sean Freeman came upon a suicidal woman who climbed over a fence on an overpass to Interstate 15 in the Wildomar area. Freeman was able to make a verbal connection with the woman and convinced her to safely come back over the fence to get help. According to the Centers for Disease Control, the 2017 suicide rate was 14 deaths per 100,000 people – the highest since 1975. If you or someone you know are having suicidal thoughts, please call 951-686-HELP (4357) or 800-273-TALK (8255).



# HONORARY INVESTIGATOR

ABRAHAM BENJAMIN RAINBOW

One of the stories we were most honored to share with our community was the unique opportunity to make a young boy's dream come true. On March 27, 2019, DA Senior Investigator Raul Sandoval arranged to bring on the newest addition to our Bureau of Investigation family, 6-year-old Abraham Benjamin Rainbow.

Honorary Investigator Rainbow was born with VACTERL Association. His aunt, Sandi Sosa, works in our office and shared his love for law enforcement with us. Because of his health condition, it is difficult for him to leave his home very often.

Honorary Investigator Rainbow loves horseback riding, basketball, Pokémon cards, Spider-Man, Disneyland, and everything about SWAT teams. Abraham was sworn in as an Honorary Senior Investigator with our Bureau of Investigation, receiving his own badge and uniform, a tour of our office, and he got to check out an Investigator's car and equipment. Thanks to our employees and the Riverside Sheriffs' Association, Abraham also received some special

gifts including an autographed photo and basketball from his favorite basketball player, Steph Curry. Honorary Investigator Rainbow is one of the most amazing young men the office has had the pleasure of bringing on.

Follow us on our various social media platforms; Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube to see other videos, photos, and posts about the Riverside County District Attorney's Office's community involvement.



(Above) Honorary Investigator Abraham Benjamin Rainbow.

(Below) Hon. Inv. Rainbow poses with Sen. Inv. Raul Sandoval, holding up a ball and photo signed by Steph Curry.



# TOTAL ADULT CASE FILINGS

2018 - 2019

121,945

## CRIMINAL CASES PRESENTED TO THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Law enforcement agencies investigate crimes and present evidence to the District Attorney's Office to determine (1) if the crime has been committed and (2) if there is sufficient evidence to persuade a jury of 12 people that the defendant is guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

### FELONY CASES FILED

28,388

A felony is a serious crime punishable by a sentence of more than one year served in county jail or state prison. In the most extreme cases, the sentence may be life in prison or death.

### MISDEMEANOR CASES FILED

70,344

A misdemeanor is a crime punishable by no more than one year in county jail.

20,762

## CASES DECLINED FOR CRIMINAL PROSECUTION

Reasons for declination include:

### INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE

18,741

Deputy District Attorneys must rely on credible evidence to support the filing of a criminal case. Without sufficient evidence to prove a case beyond a reasonable doubt, a criminal charge will not be filed against any person.

### FURTHER INVESTIGATION SOUGHT

1,787

When there is insufficient evidence to file a criminal case, Deputy District Attorneys may ask the submitting law enforcement agency to continue their investigation and collect more evidence to meet the Office's filing standards.

90.7 %

## CONVICTION RATE

The conviction rate is based on the percentage of cases in which the defendant was found guilty by a jury or pled guilty to any criminal charge.

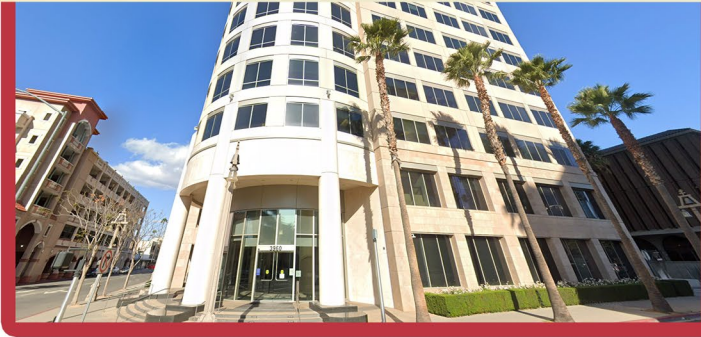
*The disposition of some criminal cases presented for filing are not applicable under these categories and have not been listed.*





# OFFICE LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT RIVERSIDE COUNTY

3960 Orange Street, Riverside, CA 92501



82-995 Highway 111, Suite 101, Indio, CA 92201



30755-D Auld Road, 3rd Floor, Murrieta, CA 92563



135 North Alessandro Street, Banning, CA 92220



220 North Broadway, Blythe, CA 92225

