

2021 ANNUAL REPORT
DALLAS COUNTY
CRIMINAL DISTRICT
ATTORNEY'S OFFICE



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My Dallas County Community,

2021 was yet another year with unprecedented and unforeseen challenges brought on by the COVID-19 Pandemic. The uncertain nature of this time is all the more reason I lean on something I can rely on despite the ever-changing social and political climate, and that is data.

In my 40-year career, I have relied on data and expert criminologists in developing effective policy changes and decisions that positively impact our Dallas County community. As District Attorney, I continue this practice each and every day.

Since January 2019, this office has made significant policy changes. We also continue to adjust and adapt to a shifting work environment due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite these changes, or perhaps thanks to them, the violent crime rate in Dallas has dropped 9%. This is no accident.

Our goal is to ensure violent offenders are fully prosecuted under the law while also acknowledging that jailing people for low-level offenses does little to increase public safety in the community. People should not be jailed simply for being a nuisance. To that end, this office no longer prosecutes first-time misdemeanor possession of marijuana offenses and declines criminal trespass cases which do not involve a residence or physical intrusion into property, among others.

Just a couple of months ago I released a comprehensive report entitled, "The State of Justice in Dallas County" covering 2019 and 2020, but I wanted to make sure to highlight the work we continued to do in 2021.

I look forward to continuing leading this diverse office of over 500 talented, thoughtful and capable individuals, and continuing to make Dallas County a safer and more equitable community for all.

This report captures some of the important accomplishments achieved in 2021. There is still a lot of work to be done. Thank you for entrusting me with that responsibility.

Sincerely,

John C. Creuzot

Dallas County Criminal District Attorney

Our Mission

The mission of the Dallas County District Attorney's Office is to enhance public safety and community well-being by supporting victims, holding people who commit crimes accountable, and engaging the community to prevent harm. We strive to enhance the quality of life for all persons in Dallas County by promoting greater public safety and well-being through data-driven approaches to criminal justice that recognize the dignity of all persons with whom we interact. We further seek to reduce recidivism and to end mass incarceration by prosecuting crimes fairly, honorably, and without regard to societal biases.

**The primary duty of the prosecuting attorney is not to convict,
but to see that justice is done.**

-- Texas Code of Criminal Procedure 2.01

Our Guiding Principles:

- To utilize taxpayer money efficiently;
- To make evidence-based decisions about criminal cases;
- To strive for equality in the use of prosecutorial discretion;
- To treat all crime victims with dignity and fairness;
- To treat those accused of criminal offenses with dignity and fairness;
- To designate specialty court diversion prosecutors to cases in which defendants suffer from mental illness and/or substance use disorders, or in cases where the community and defendant may be best served by alternative approaches;
- To recognize mental illness and substance use disorder as public health concerns;
- To collaborate with law enforcement partners to prosecute crimes more effectively;
- To actively seek input and participation from the diverse communities of Dallas County;
- To utilize technology to improve case management, service to our community, and employee accountability;
- To inform the community about the work we do and the outcomes of our efforts;
- To act with professionalism in every situation.

Quick Facts About the Dallas County DA's Office

- 2nd largest DA's Office in Texas
- 9th largest DA's Office in the USA

Service Area



Cases at a Glimpse

While many effects from the COVID-19 pandemic were still felt for much of 2021, the office of Dallas County Criminal District Attorney John Creuzot was still working very hard prosecuting cases. Compared to 2020, we saw overall cases skyrocket, returning to near pre-pandemic levels.

2021	Felony	Misdemeanor
Trials	56 (69 cases)	32 (25 cases)
Pleas	13,830	11,418
Revocations	7,434	1,230
Dismissals	4,725	14,731

A total of 2,634 people were sentenced to prison in 2021, totaling 18,407 total years in time behind bars.

Changing The Criminal Justice System

The Dallas County District Attorney's Office remains a leader for DA's Offices around the state, pushing cutting-edge ideas to make our criminal laws fairer and just. In 2021, ADAs representing many of our office divisions testified for and against pending legislation.

Our office sponsored 17 office experts, including DA Creuzot, as witnesses in 32 hearings before the Texas House and Senate. By the last day to vote on bills, the Legislature had enrolled 13 of our priorities. Ultimately, the Governor signed all 13 into law.

The final priorities were:

-The Richard Miles Act

-Bo's Law

-Hybrid search warrants for cell phone apps and a clear requirement for probable cause for all cell phone records

-Requiring a statement of consent when Texas police officers read to Driving While Intoxicated suspects prior to requesting a breath or blood sample as required

-Allowing agencies an easier route to destroy unneeded toxicological evidence

-Adding "without effective consent" to the securing document by deception statute

-Changing the service and timeline for the State to answer in certain post-conviction writs

-Securing funding for specialty courts – thereby reducing recidivism

-Allowing therapy dogs in courts

-Giving the county clerk the ability to ID individuals filing deed records, thereby reducing fraudulent transactions that deny rightful owners the value and enjoyment of their property

Highlighting The Richard Miles Act

Conviction integrity starts at the time of the arrest. That's why this office drafted the Richard Miles Act and advocated for the passage of the bill. Miles is one of 41 people who have been exonerated in Dallas County.

The Richard Miles Act, which went into effect Sept. 1, 2021, for the first time in Texas history, requires law enforcement agencies to disclose all evidence to prosecutors at the time the case is filed. That obligation to disclose continues if additional evidence is discovered after filing. In Dallas County, each police agency must provide a form stating they have disclosed all evidence in a case. Those law enforcement agencies are now responsible to continue to turn over any new evidence, even if a detective has been reassigned or is no longer with the department.

We need law enforcement partners to be engaged in the criminal justice process. This law ensures police agencies are held accountable for turning over any and all evidence found during the course of an investigation. It is the duty of prosecutors to then turn over that evidence to defense attorneys. Sometimes that evidence can prevent the conviction of an innocent person.

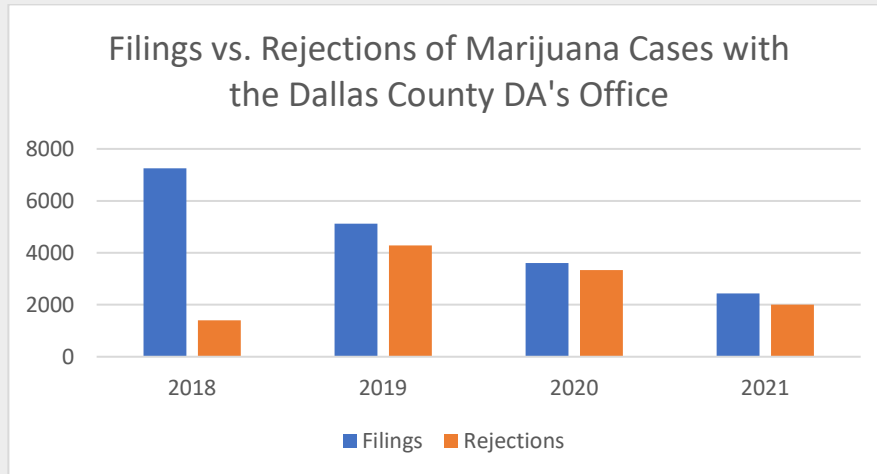
Richard Miles spent 15 years in prison for a crime he did not commit. He says that if police had turned over everything, he would not have been convicted.

Checking in on Policies

Misdemeanor Marijuana

Reducing racial disparity in Dallas County marijuana prosecutions was among District Attorney John Creuzot's early priorities. In February 2019, he announced his office would decline to prosecute most misdemeanor cases of first-time marijuana possessions.

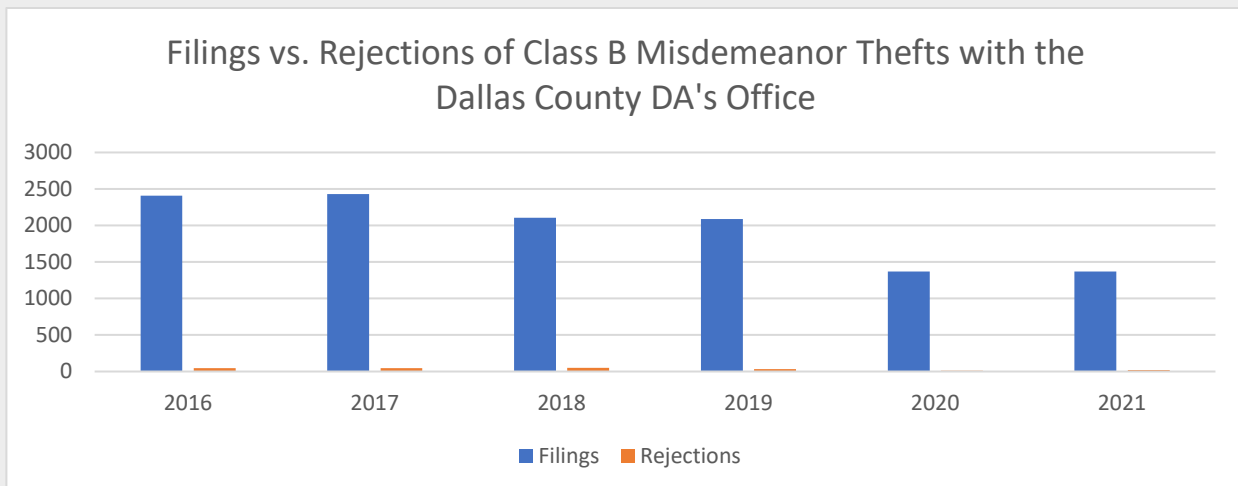
In 2021, our office received 2,442 misdemeanor possession of marijuana cases and rejected 2,005 of them or 82%.



Class B Misdemeanor Thefts

District Attorney John Creuzot's policy regarding Class B Misdemeanor Thefts was implemented in 2019 and continues to exercise grace by cutting down on the prosecution of individuals who commit thefts out of necessity based on hunger and poverty, which make up just a fraction of overall theft cases. For those who disagree with criminal justice reform, a narrative has begun and has been disseminated that this category of crime has or will encourage people to steal. Looking at year-to-year data, there is no evidence to prove that theory.

In 2021, the office received 1,369 cases and rejected 19 or 1% of them. Interestingly, since 2016 the number of cases of this class of theft filed with the Dallas County District Attorney's Office has continued to drop and has not caused an uptick in crime.



Restorative Justice

The Restorative Justice Division (RJD) is dedicated to changing the face of traditional prosecution. Assistant District Attorneys serve either in the **Mental Health Division** or in the various **Specialty Courts** and **Diversion Programs** in Dallas County.

Mental Health Division

2021 was quite a year for mental health. Dockets exploded due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Mental Health Division has risen to the occasion and worked tirelessly to handle the rising caseloads while still providing the needed support and linkage to services so that no defendant is turned away that could benefit from diversionary measures through proper treatment.

MOU for a Recidivism Study

Towards the end of 2021, a memorandum of understanding was signed by Dallas County, the Dallas County DA's Office, and Dr. Kristi Compton, Ph.D., for Dr. Compton to study the recidivism rates of the mentally ill population who the Mental Health Division places on Mental Health PTIs (pre-trial interventions). This study will inform the Mental Health Division about what is working and what can improve.

Tyler Software

To capture our data and help track the success of our programs, The Dallas County DA's Office obtained a grant and was able to implement new software designed for our specialty courts and mental health pre-trial diversion program within our office. This software is in addition to the normal documentation kept on each case. The separate platform also allows for confidential medical information to be housed in a secure manner.

Pre-trial Bond Docket for Mentally Ill Defendants

2021 brought about a new responsibility for the Mental Health Division. Pre-trial officers make recommendations for mentally ill defendants to be released on a personal bond who meet certain criteria. That list of people is then given to the Pre-trial Bond Division for bond hearings. If those bonds later get recommended for forfeiture, then they are brought to the Mental Health Division to be reviewed and evaluated to determine if a warrant is appropriate. Although an attorney does the evaluation and makes the final decision, the division's administrative assistant is invaluable as she not only processes each incoming case but also ensures that the attorneys have the paperwork needed to review, coordinates with defense counsel, and keeps statistics of all the forfeitures.

Addition of Care Coordinators

In 2020, MOUs were signed between Dallas County and North Texas Behavioral Health Authority (NTBHA), and another MOU was signed between Dallas County and Metrocare for the addition of care coordinators to be used by the Mental Health Division of the District Attorney's Office. Two care coordinators were added through the NTBHA and one through Metrocare.

2021 was the first complete year of having these care coordinators on board. Their assessments and exit planning for the defendants referred to the Mental Health Division's PTI program has allowed our attorneys to have invaluable information used to make evidence-based treatment decisions which leads to more successful and targeted mental health and substance abuse treatment than ever before.

Case Highlights

Defendant – A Teenager

Defendant was a teenager charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon against a younger sibling and misdemeanor Assault against an older sibling after two separate altercations. Through various interviews with family and community members, we learned that defendant struggled with aggression, poor communication skills and lack of attention in a household with numerous siblings. Defense counsel and our ADA worked together to find alternative housing and to convince the defendant to engage in consistent treatment. After much encouragement, the defendant began to take anger management, attended doctor's appointments and case management sessions regularly, and even graduated from high school! The defendant successfully completed the MH PTI program in November and is hoping to work in the criminal justice field. We are proud of the progress this defendant made!

SPECIALTY COURTS & DIVERSION PROGRAMS

New Pre-Trial Diversion Referral Process Launched

The biggest news on the Specialty Court/Diversion side of the Restorative Justice Division in 2021 was the implementation of a new Pre-Trial Diversion Referral Process. In August of 2021, the DA's Office in conjunction with the Dallas County Criminal Justice Department rolled out the new plan.

The key to the new referral process is the ability to assess potential defendants soon after their arrest and get them into programs. A validated risk/need tool is administered. After the assessment, appropriate treatment recommendations can be followed, allowing a defendant to sign a contract to enter a pre-trial specialty court, a pre-trial intervention agreement, or be referred to the mental health division for a mental health Pre-trial Intervention. All successful completions result in dismissal of the charge(s) and the opportunity to immediately file for an expunction.

Also, Restorative Justice received a Bureau of Justice Achievement Grant for a new computer system

which went online in July 2021. All Pre-Trial Diversion data is now inputted into the system. This software system allows the office to record information in a standardized format and generate automated reports. The system will allow the office to track referrals and intake, risk/needs assessment scores, drug testing, fees, mental health, phase completion, incentives and sanctions, treatment history, personal demographics, MAT services, housing, and transportation.

Specialty Courts Update

In 2021, COVID-19 continued to bring many unique challenges for Dallas County Specialty Courts. These courts incorporate treatment and ancillary services with judicial supervision to stop the cycle of addiction and defendants' continued involvement in the criminal justice system. These courts continued throughout the pandemic. Assessments, Intake, Court Staffing, and Court Sessions were held virtually at the beginning of 2021 with most courts returning to "in person" services or a hybrid model by the end of the year

Specialty Court Highlights

The Dallas County District Attorney's Office is pleased to confirm the publication of the Dallas County AIM Court Recidivism and Cost Benefit Analysis prepared by the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute.

Giving non-violent felony offenders a second chance at life, Achieve.Inspire.Motivate (AIM) Court helps to reduce the crisis of recidivism in Dallas County. AIM differs from traditional diversion programs by reaching young adults when they are initially charged with a felony. After successfully completing the program, the felony charge is dismissed and eligible for immediate expunction from the participant's record.

The Meadows report shows a 74% reduction in recidivism among AIM Court Participants when compared to similarly situated probationers. When models were limited to AIM graduates only, there is a 94% reduction in recidivism. The net benefit ratio of 6.86 over two years translated into a savings of \$6.86 for every \$1 invested into AIM Court. For those who completed the AIM program, the justice system and participant savings averaged \$25,336 over two years following the enrollment date. The completion rate for AIM Court participants is 70%, higher than the average for Dallas County Specialty Courts.

The Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute presented the AIM Analysis at the Dallas County Criminal Justice Advisory Board meeting on Monday, December 13, 2021, at 2pm via their virtual platform. Many of the suggested recommendations for more program improvement have already been implemented.

2022 and Beyond

The Dallas County District Attorney's Office continues to spearhead efforts to open the Dallas County Deflection Center (Dallas Deflects). This collaborative project between the DA's Office, The Dallas Police Department, Parkland Hospital, The North Texas Behavioral Health Authority (NTBHA), and Homeward Bound is an alternative to arresting individuals suffering from mental illness who have committed certain low-level, non-violent misdemeanor offenses. It will provide clients with a trauma-informed case management plan, where the client receives a wide range of community-based health and social services. We are excited to announce that the opening of the center will be in the 2nd Quarter of 2022.

Grand Jury/Intake

Law enforcement agencies file cases with the Intake/Grand Jury Division, which handles all Dallas County adult criminal offenses, from Class B misdemeanors to first-degree felonies and capital murder. The Intake/Grand Jury staff processes approximately 60,000 cases annually. Attorneys in the division examine each misdemeanor and felony case for both legal and factual sufficiency.

GRAND JURY PROCESS IN THE TIME OF COVID

Grand Jury sessions continued throughout 2021 despite COVID-19. In 2021, there were approximately 10 grand jury sessions per week. At times, some sessions had to be canceled due to the pandemic when there was not a quorum of 9 grand jurors. Everyone wore masks during the process and were spread out and distanced, full sanitization was done on all surfaces before each session, and PPE was provided to all grand jurors

CASE BACKLOG

When DA Cruzot took office in 2019, it was discovered there was a backlog of 10,000 cases awaiting processing. In May of 2020, the backlog had been reduced to just 929 cases, but due to issues caused by the pandemic, the backlog has once again increased to 3,627 as of January 2022.

The staff is working diligently every day to cut down on this number of cases and using all tools available to combat challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic.

	2019	2020	2021
Received from LEAS	60,072	55,387	56,499
Total Felony & Misdemeanor <i>Processed</i>	64,305	56,413	55,874
Total Felony & Misdemeanor Accepted	54,448	46,952	47,827
Total Felony & Misdemeanor Rejected	9,857	9,461	8,047
Total number cases presented to the grand juries	23,792	19,075	21,538
Indicted	22,062	17,605	19,950
No Billed	1,730	1,470	1,588
Waivers	1,563	1,677	1,395
Total for GJ + Waivers	25,355	20,752	22,933
	87,660	77,165	78,807 decisions

Case Statistics

- ⦿ Rejection of all first-time misdemeanor “first-time” possession of marijuana cases.
- ⦿ Decline of prosecution on cases in which the drug weight amount is below 0.01 grams.
- ⦿ Decline of prosecution on State Jail and 3rd Degree Felony THC cases for “first-time” THC offenses*

* This does not include arrests occurring in drug-free zones, manufacture and delivery of controlled substances cases, or offenses involving the use or exhibition of a deadly weapon

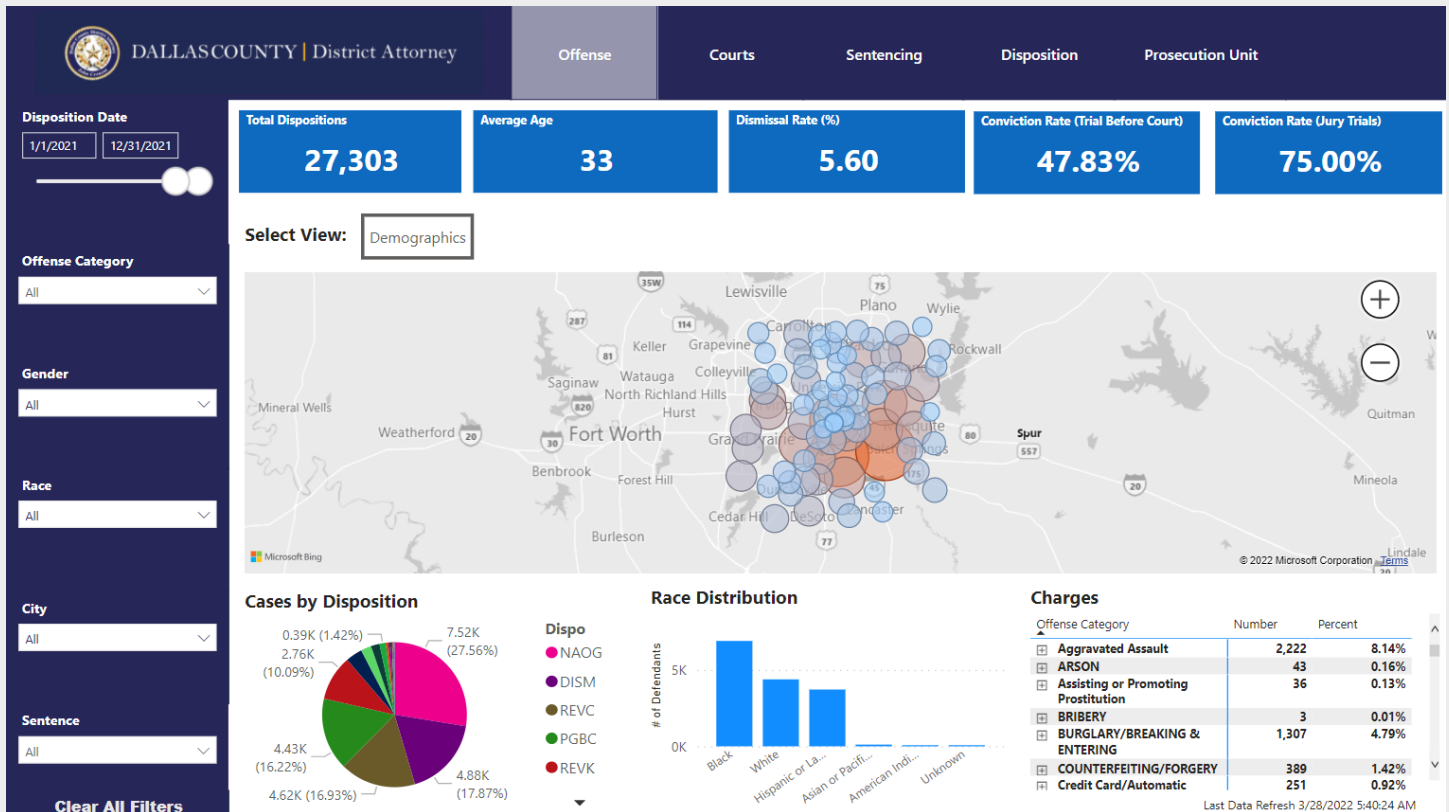
- ⦿ Starting in November 2020 and throughout 2021, the Intake Division assigned a weekly duty attorney to field all inquiries regarding case status.
- ⦿ Starting in Summer 2020 and throughout 2021, to assist with the increasing jail population, the DA’s Office began presenting motions to judges requesting the release from custody of those people arrested for a State Jail Felony or 3rd Degree Felony drug offense after they spent 5 days in jail if a lab report was not completed on the case.

Data-Driven Office

A guiding principle of the Dallas County Criminal District Attorney's Office is transparency and remaining committed to data-driven and evidence-based policymaking.

To maintain that promise of transparency, we are in the midst of building our very own dashboard to map statistics across the office. By utilizing this technology, we hope to improve case management, service to our community, and employee accountability. The dashboard will also serve as a tool to aid in informing the community about the work we do and the outcomes of our efforts.

The dashboard will track everything from trials to dispositions to types of cases. It will show breakdowns by race, municipality, year, or court. Much of the dashboard will be utilized internally, but there will also be a public-facing component once the dashboard is launched.



Division Highlights

Appellate Division

The primary purpose of the Appellate Division is to respond to defendants' appeals after a finding of guilt. Sentenced cases can be appealed to determine if there was an error in a case that would determine a reversal or an acquittal. **In 2021, the attorneys in the Appellate Division responded to 124 Appellant's briefs**, in cases ranging from misdemeanor theft to capital murder.

After a case has gone through the appellate process, and if the defendant is unsuccessful in reversing or getting the case reversed or if the state is successful in maintaining the conviction, defendants may challenge their sentence in an application which is called a writ of habeas corpus, where they can allege that they are being held or confined illegally for reasons outside of those recognized on appeal. To respond to these writ applications, the prosecutors must investigate the claims, which many times includes pulling the file from storage, reading the appellate record, reviewing the trial file, and interviewing witnesses. **Seven ADAs work on our writ team, and they responded to 313 writ applications in 2021.**

Three members of the Appellate Division handle citizen requests for information under the Texas Public Information Act (PIA). This statute gives the public the right to request access to government information. Although the Act makes most government information available to the public, some exceptions exist. This team of attorneys must review the request, determine whether any information exists that is responsive to the request, and then decide if any of the information is confidential by law or falls into an exception to public disclosure. **In 2021, the Appellate Division processed 4,592 PIA requests.**

Community Prosecution Unit

The mission of the Community Prosecution Unit is to create partnerships between the prosecutor's office and law enforcement agencies, public and private organizations, and citizens to work together to improve public safety and enhance the quality of life in the Dallas County community. It consists of three units: The Nondisclosure Unit, the Animal Cruelty Unit, and the Satellite Offices Unit.

Community Satellite Offices

Part of seeking justice for the people of Dallas County includes being conveniently accessible to the community while providing services to victims, witnesses, and those affected by violence. **In 2021, advocates with the Community Resource Satellite Offices provided services to over 375 people interested in applying for a protective order.**

Non-Disclosure Unit

In August 2020, the Nondisclosure Unit was created to improve the District Attorney's Office's nondisclosure process by assigning all Petitions for Nondisclosure to one unit. The goal of the unit is to ensure that petitions are processed more accurately and efficiently resulting in the records of those eligible being nondisclosed.

Since its inception, the Nondisclosure Unit has handled over 700 petitions and conducted numerous hearings. **In 2021, the unit filed 405 total responses.**

Crimes Against Children

The mission of the Dallas County District Attorney's Crimes Against Children Unit (CAC) is to seek justice for victims of all crimes against children while utilizing a trauma-informed, victim-focused approach and employing nationally recognized best practices while holding offenders accountable.

Outside of the courtroom, the CAC Unit participates in many initiatives and programs, including The North Texas Human Trafficking Task Force (NTTTF), which is committed to eradicating Human Trafficking by proactively investigating and prosecuting perpetrators and those individuals and entities that facilitate their illicit activity. Numerous operations were conducted by this Taskforce in 2021, and to date, the Taskforce is responsible for the arrest of 62 perpetrators, the recovery of 31 missing children, and the engagement of 28 victims with services.

State of Texas vs. Roderick Nelson

Mr. Nelson was charged with Aggravated Sexual Assault with a Deadly Weapon and sentenced to Life in prison. Mr. Nelson kidnapped a 16-year-old walking to her summer job and raped her at gunpoint in a dumpster bay. The defendant was identified after a sex worker, whom he had also raped at gunpoint and shot, recognized his sketch in a media release. His identity was later confirmed with DNA testing. Mr. Nelson was also charged with Continuous Sexual Abuse of a Child, Trafficking, and two indecency cases which were presented in punishment. The victim of the additional charges included one of his stepdaughters and two young girls who were living at the same CPS group home as his other stepdaughter. The defendant helped that stepdaughter and the two victims run away from that group home on two separate occasions, sexually abusing the victims while hiding them from law enforcement for several days at a time. The defendant's wife was also charged with Trafficking and testified against him in the guilt/innocence phase of the trial.

Conviction Integrity Unit

The Conviction Integrity Unit (CIU) is primarily dedicated to reviewing cases involving allegations of actual innocence, but it also reviews cases involving instances of wrongful conviction when related to an innocence claim as well as a result of systematic errors. The CIU has been responsible for exonerations in Dallas County since its establishment.

State of Texas vs. Mallory Nicholson

In 1982, Mallory Nicholson was convicted of burglary of a habitation and 2 counts of aggravated sexual assault. Some 40 years later, the Dallas County Conviction Integrity Unit discovered that material evidence was withheld by prosecutors at the time of trial, and as a result, Mr. Nicholson was denied the right to a fair trial. After a lengthy investigation, the CIU asked the court to grant relief in Mr. Nicholson's cases, and on December 8, 2021, the Criminal Court of Appeals set aside the convictions for all 3 of Mr. Nicholson's related cases.

Family Violence

The Family Violence Unit focuses on intimate partner violence. Offenses range from Assaults, Stalking, and Robberies, to Aggravated Assaults, Aggravated Robbery, Murder, and Capital Murder.

The Family Violence Division works to prosecute abusers and support survivors of domestic violence. The Division will continue working with our Community Partners in a Coordinated Community Response to Domestic

Violence. The High-Risk Domestic Violence Program, Fatality Review, Dallas Domestic Violence Task Force, and Family Violence Prevention Council all look to return to normal operations after a year of the Covid Pandemic. 2022 will also see an increase in jury trials for the most serious and violent intimate partner crimes. The Protective Order Unit will continually find ways to reach out to the community so that everyone can feel safe.

State of Texas vs. Curtis Bullock

“You know what the last sensation she felt inside, right before her body shut down from all the trauma that was being inflicted on her, was a broken heart.”

These were the words used by the lead prosecutor in closing arguments. 37-year-old Yvonne Nicole Perkins was beaten and stabbed to death by her husband, Curtis Bullock (46), in August of 2019. Family members had not seen anything to hint at the fatal violence that would end their 20-year relationship. The jury would hear about new stressors that had entered the marriage. In July of 2021, prosecutors were able to convince the jury to find Mr. Bullock guilty of murder in just 15 minutes, and the judge sentenced him to 50 years in prison.

Bureau A – Felony Court Divisions 1 & 2

Bureau A consists of two felony divisions, one misdemeanor division, and an investigator division. It is the largest prosecuting division. Bureau A is responsible for the professional development of all attorneys and investigators in the office and is the backbone of the Dallas County Criminal District Attorney’s Office.

In 2021, Bureau A hosted close to 30 hours of in-house continuing legal education on topics ranging from search warrant education to a series of case studies, including one with CNN Hero and exoneree Richard Miles and his attorney, Professor Cheryl Wattley.

State of Texas vs. Royneco Harris

On October 18, 2021, the prosecutors in the 265th Judicial District Court tried the defendant for the charge of Murder. The victim sold a car to the defendant. After failing to pay off the car, the victim repossessed the car from the defendant. Shortly after the car was repossessed, the defendant shot at the victim and his 8-year-old son, who were both sitting inside their car, killing the victim and wounding his 8-year-old son. Finding the defendant guilty, the jury then assessed punishment at 99 years in the Institutional Division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice on October 22, 2021.

Fraud Division

Crimes of fraud involve many different schemes and types of victims. Examples of fraud cases prosecuted by the unit include employee theft, forgery, securities fraud, swindles and scams, organized retail theft, tampering with governmental records, and credit card abuse. The unit also specializes in handling mortgage fraud, insurance fraud, environmental crimes, trademark and copyright violations, and benefits fraud at Parkland Hospital.

Total money collected for restitution in 2021: \$1,343,773.61

State of Texas v. Ruben Morenomuriel

The defendant is serving a 10-year prison sentence for two second-degree Motor Fuel Tax Violations. These cases are commonly referred to as “gas-skimming” cases. The defendant was convicted of using stolen credit card numbers to purchase diesel gas and fill up auxiliary gas tanks. From there, the defendant transported diesel fuel without a license and sold it by filling up gas tanks into three semi-trucks.

Gang Unit

The Gang Unit’s mission is to see that justice is done for citizens of Dallas County affected by gang violence.

Despite the unique challenges that the pandemic has caused, the Dallas County District Attorney’s Gang Unit has persisted and continued to be engaged in community service and training throughout the region. The Gang Unit has found creative ways to implement and successfully execute gang education and training for the citizens whom we serve. From school events to participating in the national program called Project Safe Neighborhood, the Gang Unit continues to serve the people of Dallas County both inside the courtroom and out.

State of Texas vs. Datrail Clayton

The prosecutors tried a member of YNB, a violent criminal street gang, for the murder of an innocent 13-year-old victim. The defendant engaged in a shootout in broad daylight where multiple children and civilians shopped at a local food mart. The innocent child victim, and others, were caught in the crossfire. After a hard-fought trial, the jury found the defendant guilty of murder. During the punishment phase, an extensive timeline was presented of the defendant’s prior criminal history. Gang evidence, including social media posts, gang tattoos, and several YouTube videos were also presented where the defendant depicted gang activity and gun violence. The jury sentenced the defendant to life in prison.

Investigators

The Investigator Division follows the mission of the DA’s Office to enhance public safety and community well-being by supporting victims, holding people who commit crimes accountable, and engaging the community to prevent harm. The office maintains an environment that supports and encourages teamwork, employee growth, initiative, and outstanding performance. In 2021, despite challenges still presented by the pandemic, the Investigators continued to assist on all cases assigned

Homeland Security Investigators lead the North Texas Trafficking Task Force, a Dallas-led task force created for the purpose of rescuing trafficking victims and combating human trafficking. As part of this Task Force, the Dallas District Attorney's Office has embedded criminal investigators from the office to support Dallas – Fort Worth federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies investigating trafficking violations with the support of the United States Attorney's Office, Northern District of Texas. These are some of the significant arrest and enforcement actions related to the rescue of victims for FY 2021:

- 14 Sex Trafficking Arrests/177 Criminal Arrests/115 DemandSuppressions
- 31 Recovered Missing Children
- 62 Other Significant Arrests
- 28 Victim Rescues
- Seizures totaling \$2,500,000.00

Juvenile

The Juvenile Division of the Dallas County District Attorney's Office prosecutes cases of offenders who are at least 10-years-old but less than 17-years-old at the time they are alleged to have committed a crime of at least a class B misdemeanor, such as shoplifting or higher-level offenses such as robbery, burglary, murder, and capital murder. Additionally, we also represent The Texas Department of Family Protective Service (CPS) in cases in which suspected abuse or neglect of a child leads to legal action that could result in a child's removal from their home.

In 2021 the Juvenile Division disposed of 2,579 juvenile delinquency cases and 1,001 cases in our representation of the Texas Department of Family Protective Services (CPS). The CPS cases affected the lives of 1599 children who had been directly impacted by allegations of abuse and neglect.

Case Highlight

A 14-year-old was charged and convicted of murder in connection to a police chase that ended in a deadly crash, killing an innocent victim. Although the death was unintentional, because it was caused during the commission of a felony, a murder charge was pursued and the defendant was ultimately sentenced to 20 years. This youth was sent to the Texas Juvenile Justice Department. The Office did not seek to have this youth certified as an adult. The hope is that he will be rehabilitated in the juvenile system and become a productive member of society.

LGBTQ+ Task Force

Coming to the courthouse is stressful enough without having to worry about being taken seriously or treated with dignity. Recognizing the challenges faced by members of the LGBTQ+ community, DA Creuzot appointed a liaison between the community and the DA's Office. The Community Liaison leads a Task Force of 25 DA staff drawn from all areas and roles within the office. Together, they are working to make sure a person's LGBTQ+ status does not diminish their experience in the criminal justice system. They are conducting research and presenting trainings to bring ADAs, advocates, and investigators up to speed on LGBTQ+ cultural competency and legal issues.

State of Texas vs. Ruben Alvarado

This DA's Office successfully prosecuted Ruben Alvarado for the Murder of Jason "Chynal Lindsey" Haslett, a transgender woman residing in Dallas County. In June of 2019, Ms. Lindsey met the defendant for a date. The

defendant subsequently beat and strangled Ms. Lindsey to death and disposed of her body at White Rock Lake. Ms. Lindsey was subsequently discovered floating in the lake by a man feeding ducks with his children. This Office put in countless hours in collaboration with the Dallas Police Department and various other entities to prepare and present DNA, cellphone data, and video evidence at trial. Central to the case presented by this office was a belief that Ms. Lindsey deserved justice and our prosecutors worked to achieve a guilty verdict in this matter. We are grateful to the jurors who returned a 37-year TDCJ sentence.

Organized Crime

The Organized Crime Division's mission is to see that justice is done for citizens of Dallas County by enhancing public safety through just prosecution of high-level drug trafficking offenses, gun offenses, and repeat violent offenders as well as addressing the full spectrum of defendants' needs, including drug addiction and criminogenic thinking, in order to help stop the cycle of recidivism and mass incarceration.

In 2021, prosecutors led a pilot project to streamline gambling seizures to ensure strict and transparent due process for the persons involved, while also allowing the police to make seizures without filing unnecessary criminal cases with the county. Funds seized through this process allowed the Grand Prairie Police Department to partner with a local non-profit to take 60 local foster children shopping, as well as form a collaboration with Grand Prairie ISD to sponsor their first youth summer sports camp.

State of Texas vs. Aaron Wells

Prosecutors successfully prosecuted the ringleader of a group of three defendants who traveled from Mississippi to Texas where they committed Capital Murder by robbing and executing the victim. A Dallas County jury found the defendant guilty of Capital Murder and the defendant was sentenced to Life in Prison.

Public Integrity

The Public Integrity Division (PID) handles cases involving individuals and organizations that violate the law while operating within the public's trust. Cases prosecuted by the PID entail individuals who hold certain licenses, certifications, or offices including, but not limited to police officers, jailers, doctors, nurses, lawyers, and public officials that commit criminal offenses during the performance of their job duties. The PID also investigates all officer-involved shootings, including security officers and deaths occurring while in law enforcement custody cases that occur within Dallas County.

The Prosecution of Former Glenn Heights City Councilman Sidney Davis

On October 7, 2021, former Glenn Heights City Councilman Sidney Davis plead guilty to the offense of Sexual Assault of a Child. After a day of testimony, Mr. Davis was sentenced by the judge to four years in a Texas Department of Criminal Justice prison. The victim in the case was the minor daughter of Mr. Davis' best friend. The investigation was led by The Texas Rangers and prosecuted by the PID.

Sexual Assault Unit

The mission of the Dallas County District Attorney's Sexual Assault Unit is to seek justice for adult survivors of sexual violence and human trafficking while utilizing a victim-centered approach and employing nationally recognized best practices while holding offenders accountable.

In March 2021, the Sexual Assault Unit was chosen to participate as a pilot site for the Just Exits for Survivors of Exploitation (Just Exits) Initiative. Our jurisdiction was one of three chosen to receive intensive, targeted training and technical assistance from AEquitas, the Just Exits Survivor Advisory Council, and other experts to enhance the criminal justice response to survivors of sexual exploitation.

In October 2021, the Dallas County DA's Office was granted a renewal of its Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI) grant to the tune of \$2,443,081. This award will continue to support the project as well as provide additional funds for the testing of sexual assault kits. Since 2015, there have been 107 various indictments resulting from this initiative. The cases prosecuted to final disposition have totaled 432 years in prison in addition to 13 life sentences. 79 serial sexual offenders have been identified, accounting for 325 victims.

State of Texas vs. David Hawkins

Mr. Hawkins was charged with four charges of Aggravated Sexual Assault and was sentenced to Life in Prison in each case. This case was the first case in Dallas County to be solved using FGG testing (forensic genetic genealogy) which is the same DNA testing that helped crack the decades-old Golden State Killer case in California. Authorities believe DNA evidence links Mr. Hawkins to three other aggravated sexual assaults in Dallas, Texas, and two aggravated sexual assaults in Shreveport, Louisiana. This case was solved under the DA's Office SAKI project.

Victim Witness Division

The Victim Witness Division plays a key part in helping the Dallas County District Attorney's Office distribute vital information to the victims of crime. The Texas State Legislature mandates that victims be given facts related to their pending criminal cases. This Victim's Rights legislation is in place to assist and inform victims of crime of what is available for them, and their next of kin.

On a daily basis, the Victim Witness Division mails packets of helpful information to victims, who have pending cases awaiting prosecution. These include a letter from the District Attorney, instructions on how to fill out a victim impact statement, and instructions on how to apply for Crime Victims' Compensation. In addition, the packet gives the victim their DA case number and the court assignment. Also listed in the packet is the defendant's information on how the victim can receive notice through the **V.I.N.E.** (Victim Information and Notification Everyday) service. **V.I.N.E.** is a service that offers the victim notification and offender custody status and court event information. www.vinelink.com.

The Victim Witness Division also helps to arrange travel accommodations for victims and key witnesses needed for trial that no longer live in the county or state. The Victim Witness Division also assists witnesses in receiving reimbursements for specific travel expenses, such as food and transportation.

The Victim Witness Division is always available for questions or court accompaniment as needed to any victim. If someone has questions regarding any of the above, please feel free to call us. They can be reached at 214-653-5895, Monday through Friday, from 8 am to 4:30 pm.

White-Collar Crime Unit

State of Texas v. Hector Enriquez

The defendant and his co-defendant, Danielle Lozano, robbed and beat a 97-year-old man. Mr. Lozano gained entry into the elderly man's home under the ruse of having car troubles. Once inside, Mr. Enriquez hit the

elderly man in the head with the butt of a gun and took his wallet. During the investigation, it was discovered that the pair had also robbed a woman earlier that day outside of her apartment. Mr. Enriquez demanded her purse while Mr. Lozano served as a lookout. When the victim refused, Mr. Enriquez hit her with the butt of the gun causing her to bleed. Mr. Enriquez grabbed her purse and took off with Mr. Lozano as the driver. Prior to committing these aggravated robberies, Mr. Enriquez attempted to steal a vehicle from yet another victim. Mr. Enriquez pointed his gun at the victim and demanded that he give him his vehicle, but the victim was able to flee in his vehicle. Mr. Enriquez chased after him and rammed his vehicle into the victim. Defendant pleaded guilty to 25 years in prison.

In the Community

The Dallas County District Attorney's Office does more than what is seen in the courtroom. Through outreaches, organizations, school programs, and community events, the Dallas County DA's Office is actively engaged with the Dallas County Community. Even through challenges posed by the pandemic, members of the office logged hundreds of hours volunteering, meeting, and mentoring others to help make Dallas County a more informed and just community. Below is just a small snapshot of some of the events the office was involved in during 2021.

Expunction Expo



In the third and fourth quarters of 2021, the Dallas County District Attorney's Office hosted the 5th Annual Dallas County Expunction Expo, a community outreach initiative held in partnership with the Dallas County District Clerk's Office, the Dallas County Public Defender's Office, and various community partners including UNT Dallas College of Law, SMU Dedman School of Law, the City of Dallas City Attorney's Office/Community Courts, the Dallas Bar Association, T.O.R.I. (Texas Offenders' Reentry Initiative), and Unlocking Doors. This project is spearheaded annually by our office's Appellate Division/Expunction Unit with assistance from the Community Prosecution Division as well as other prosecutors and staff who enjoy helping the community.

The Expunction Expo consists of a Pre-Qualification Clinic, where individuals identified as being potentially eligible for expunction meet with attorneys who volunteer their time to help these individuals prepare and file the documents needed to receive an expunction. Our lawyers reviewed 2,077 applications in 2021. The Expo culminates with a graduation-style ceremony celebrating those Expo participants who will be granted expunctions. The 2021 event, the most successful to date, was held at Concord Church and was attended by more than 400 people. The event resulted in 870 people having their criminal records expunged.

Project Safe Neighborhood

Project Safe Neighborhood is a nationwide initiative that brings together federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement officials, prosecutors, and community leaders to identify the most pressing violent crime problems in a community and develop comprehensive solutions to address them. There are several PSN efforts across the Northern District of Texas and each is committed to a strategic effort to reduce violent crime across the District. Dallas Division's PSN operation, known locally as "Operation Badge # 10934", in honor of Officer Rogelio Santander, is contoured to fit the specific violent crime problem in Dallas. Multiple divisions from the DA's Office



including the Gang, Organized Crime, Community Prosecution, and Juvenile Divisions participated throughout 2021 providing support, resources, and involvement at events and meetings.

Citizen Prosecutors Academy



The Community Prosecution Unit launched its 2nd Virtual Citizen’s Prosecution Academy (CPA) for residents interested in learning about the day-to-day operations of the District Attorney’s Office. The mission of CPA was to expose the community to the various divisions within the office while providing them an opportunity to engage in dialogue with prosecutors, investigators, and other community members.

Breaking Down Barriers

Members of the Gang Unit taught an extensive curriculum to students at Tasby Middle School that spanned a school semester. The prosecutors educated the students about the importance of making good decisions. Topics covered ranged from legal principles such as the law of parties, to juvenile and adult prosecution, and imprisonment for crimes. Guest speakers from multiple other divisions participated as well. At the conclusion of the semester the students received graduation certificates of completion.



Shield Our Seniors App Project



The Elder Abuse Unit of the Dallas County District Attorney's Office is one of the collaborators on the Shield Our Seniors (SOS) mobile app. The SOS app is a mobile app tool that will allow users to learn how to identify, report, and protect older adults from abuse. The app is being designed primarily for law enforcement, first responders, and financial institution staff. The SOS app project is a collaborative effort that began in 2021 involving the Dallas County District Attorney's Office, Elder Financial Safety Center at the Senior Source, UNT Dallas College of Law, UNT Dallas School of Human Services, and law enforcement officers.

Christmas Toy Drive

During Christmas, the Investigator Division was able to raise \$2,000, to help 41 Life Skills students at MacArthur High School in Irving. The Investigators Division, working with the Irving Police and Fire Blue Christmas (IPFBC) Toy drive, was able to provide toys for these 41 children. The money raised went towards the children's request for their favorite food, drinks, restaurants, candy, chips, or toys not provided by IPFBC.



Contact The Dallas County Criminal District Attorney's Office

**Frank Crowley Courthouse
133 North Riverfront Boulevard**

**Henry Wade Juvenile Division Justice Center
2600 Lone Star Drive**

**Dallas County Administration DA Civil Division Building
411 Elm Steet**

**George Allen Courthouse CPS cases and Protective Orders when connected to family law case
600 Commerce Street**