

# 2024 Annual Report



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Office of Kane County State's Attorney  
Jamie L. Mosser

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# Kane County State's Attorney's Office



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# Message from State's Attorney Jamie L. Mosser

The end of 2024 served not only as the completion of my first term as the Kane County State's Attorney but also the beginning of my second term. In looking back over the last four years, we have made significant changes in our judicial system to ensure that we are doing justice for everyone in Kane County. This year-end report will show the continued great work of the men and women of this office.

When I first came into office, we reorganized all of the attorneys into specialty divisions based on the concept of vertical prosecution. Studies have shown that cases will move through the system quicker and more fairly if prosecutors are assigned to specific case types and not just to a courtroom. As a result, our cases are moving quicker towards disposition, which is better for all involved, and the offers that are being made to resolve the cases are more consistent.

My office continues to focus on justice by understanding that not every person needs to go to jail or prison. Every prosecutor looks at each case individually to see if we can provide resources towards rehabilitation. Our expansion of deferred prosecution programs and creation of Collaborative Diversion (pre-arrest diversion) has allowed us to hold people accountable while getting them the treatment and resources they need to stay out of the criminal justice system in the future.

Finally, my first term saw the creation of new initiatives to effectively investigate and prosecute those who purposely cause harm in our community. First, I created the Child Exploitation Unit in 2022 to investigate and arrest people who peddle in child pornography. Second, we launched the Kane County Human Exploitation Unit to investigate and prosecute offenders who manipulate and harm people through sex or labor trafficking.

The following pages will detail the amazing work every person in my office has accomplished this last year. I am excited and proud of all that we have accomplished and I look forward to another four years of continuing to bring justice for Kane County!



*Jamie L. Mosser*

**Jamie L. Mosser**  
**Kane County State's Attorney**

# About the Office

By Illinois statute, the state's attorney's office is the chief prosecuting authority and legal advisor for Kane County, its elected officers and, when requested, state officials.

In 2024, the Kane County State's Attorney's Office employed 179 staff members, which included 88 assistant state's attorneys and 91 support staff.

The office operates at the following locations throughout Kane County: Kane County Judicial Center in St. Charles Township, Kane County Courthouse in downtown Geneva, Juvenile Justice Center on the Judicial Center Campus in St. Charles Township, Aurora Branch Court at the Aurora Police Department, Elgin Branch Court at Elgin City Hall, and Kane County Branch Court on Randall Road in St. Charles. The Child Advocacy Center is located in downtown Geneva.





# Criminal Division

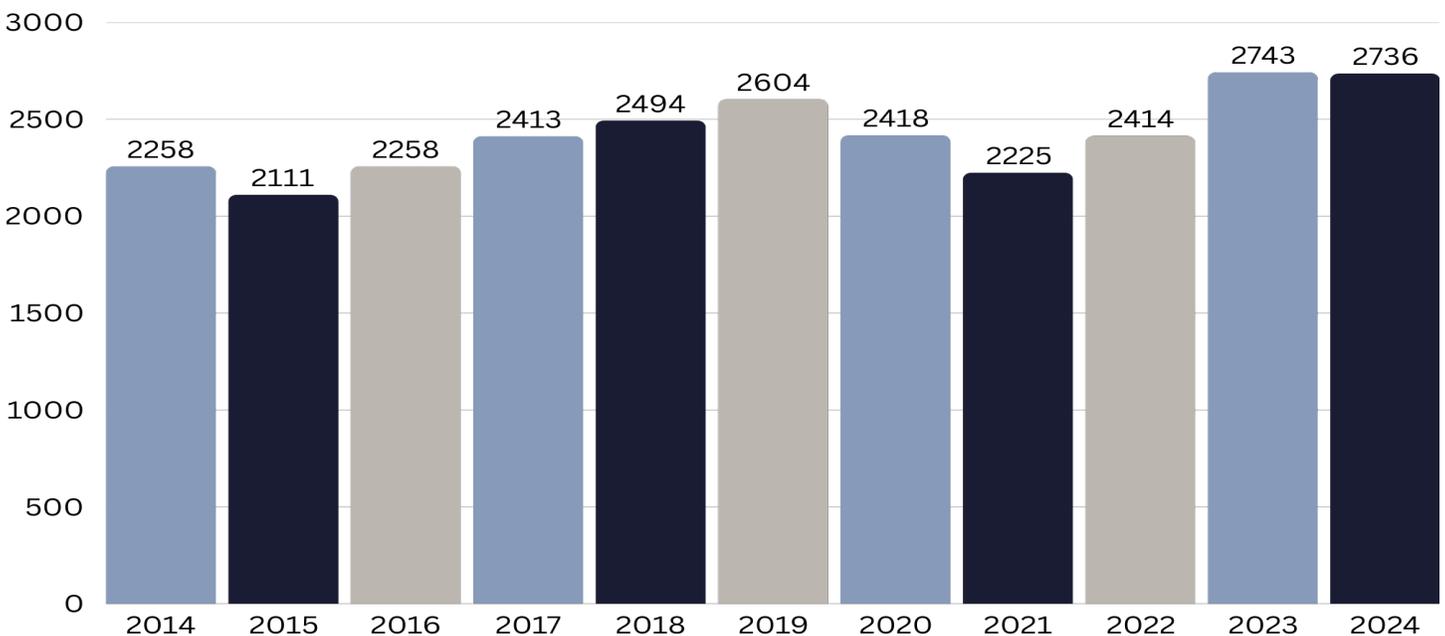
**Bob Dore**  
Division Chief

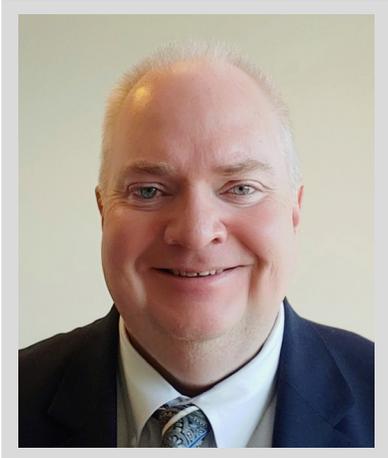
The Criminal Division comprises the following units: Human Exploitation, Major Crimes, Guns & Gangs, Narcotics, Special Victims, Child Advocacy Center, Domestic Violence, DUI & Major Traffic, Juvenile Delinquency, and Misdemeanor & Traffic.

Assistant State's Attorney Bob Dore is the Criminal Division Chief. He handles complex criminal cases and supervises the division's assistant state's attorneys (ASAs) and staff.

Assistant State's Attorney Dore supervises 40 ASAs.

## New Felony Filings





# Felony Screening

**Steve Sims**  
Supervisor

The Felony Screening Unit evaluates the facts and evidence of an investigation and determines whether felony charges are appropriate.

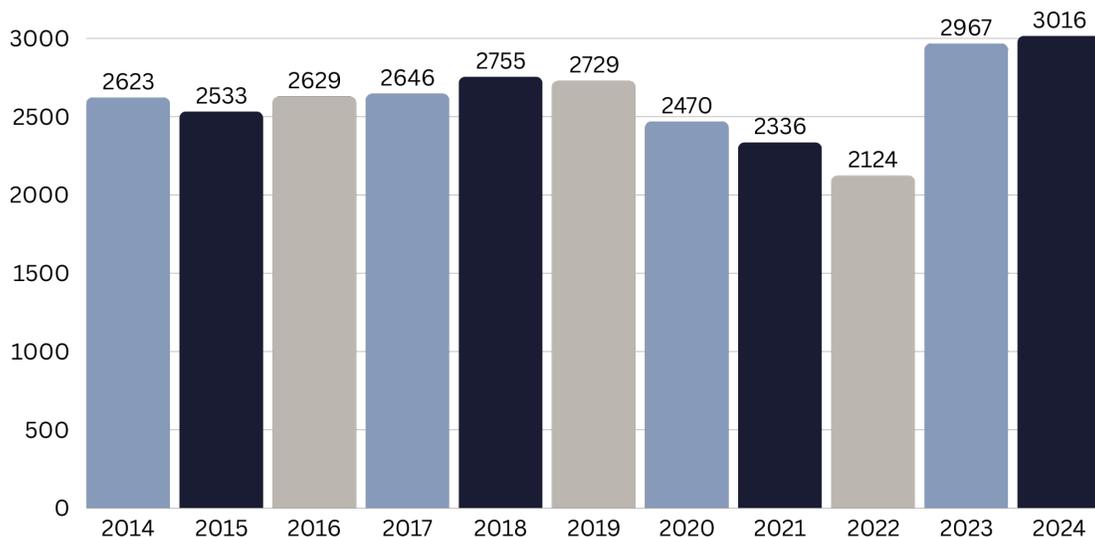
Criminal cases begin with a police investigation. Police have the discretion to authorize misdemeanor charges, but prosecutors must approve felony charges. When police believe they have sufficient evidence, they contact an on-call prosecutor.

Unit prosecutors are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to respond to officers, detectives and investigators, authorize charges when they conclude an investigation, and provide guidance during pending investigations.

Prosecutors must ensure that probable cause exists before authorizing an offense and determining appropriate charges. The prosecutor may suggest additional investigative steps be taken to build a stronger case. On more complex screenings, the prosecutor may go to the police station to review reports and evidence.

Assistant State's Attorney Sims supervises two ASAs.

## Cases Screened





# Human Exploitation

**Christine Bayer**  
First Assistant

In January 2025, the State's Attorney's Office officially launched the Human Exploitation Unit, a specialized team dedicated to investigating and prosecuting human trafficking offenses, including sex and labor trafficking. The unit operates within the office's Criminal Division and is overseen by First Assistant State's Attorney Christine Bayer.

The Human Exploitation Unit was established in response to the need for enhanced training and investigative resources to combat human trafficking in Kane County. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, human trafficking prosecutions nationwide have more than doubled from 2012 to 2022. Despite this increase, many cases remain unreported or improperly investigated. The new unit works closely with law enforcement agencies in Kane County, providing investigative assistance, specialized training, and resources to combat human trafficking and support survivors.

Although the unit was officially launched in 2025, the work for its creation began in 2024. The need for the unit was apparent after a series of investigations led to the arrest of five individuals in 2023 who had operated four brothels in the cities of Aurora, Elgin, St. Charles and South Elgin, all in Kane County. These individuals also established brothels in Cook County. After those arrests, more human trafficking cases were brought to the office's attention, and State's Attorney Jamie Mosser consulted local police chiefs about the need for specialized human trafficking training and investigators in Kane County. In 2024, State's Attorney Mosser began the process of forming the unit by securing a \$1 million grant from the State of Illinois thanks to the support of State Senator Linda Holmes. The State's Attorney's Office hired a former civil attorney with experience in human trafficking issues, and by late 2024, added two investigators, a resource advocate, and an additional attorney. Before the end of the year, the unit had begun training, identified resources, and took on cases.

A key focus of the unit is its trauma-informed, victim-centered approach. Historically, sex trafficking investigations have focused on charging victims with prostitution offenses. Now, instead of prosecuting victims, investigators focus on connecting them with resources to help them reintegrate into society. And, investigations focus on arresting and prosecuting traffickers, an approach that is more effective in disrupting trafficking networks and protecting survivors.

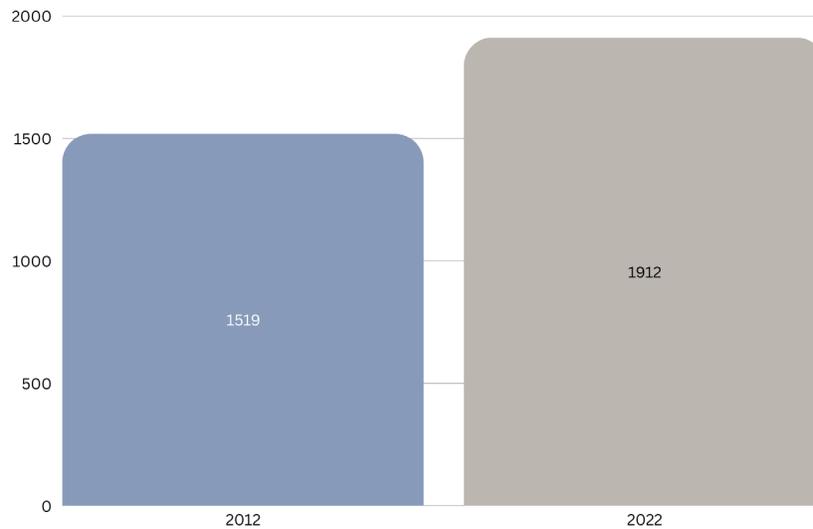
Police departments can ask the Human Exploitation Unit to either assist with or lead investigations. The unit also provides detailed trainings to those departments that seek more information on the proper investigation of human trafficking. This includes resources

for attorneys, investigators and advocates. Often the first to come in contact with trafficking survivors, officers from local police departments are being trained in how to best support individuals who have been the victims of such a heinous crime.

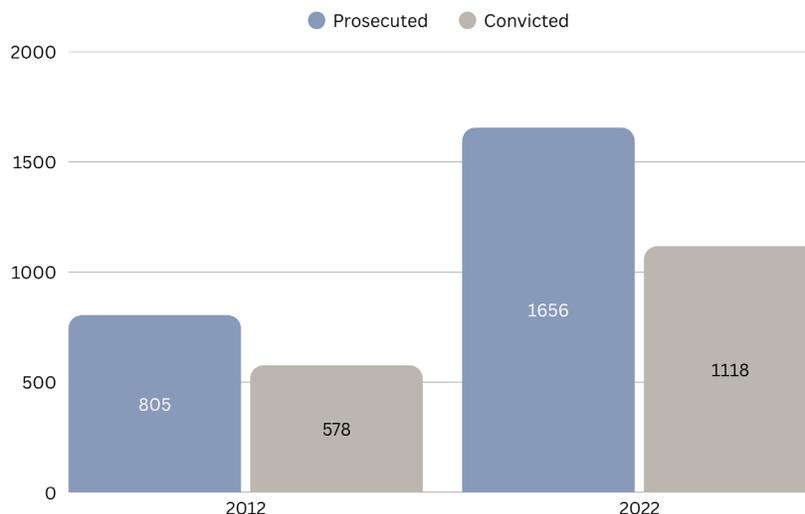
The Human Exploitation Unit’s mission is to protect survivors, hold traffickers accountable, and bring justice to those who have been exploited. The creation of this unit is crucial toward ensuring that human traffickers are identified, arrested, and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. This project will ultimately make the Kane County community and families safer as the crimes of sex and labor trafficking are identified, investigated and prosecuted.

First Assistant State’s Attorney Christine Bayer supervises three ASAs, three full-time investigators, one victim advocate, and one resource advocate.

Recent federal data shed light on the need for a comprehensive approach to combat human trafficking. This data is from Human Trafficking Data Collection Activities, 2024, a report by the U.S. Department of Justice’s Bureau of Justice Statistics.



A total of 1,912 persons were referred to U.S. attorneys for human trafficking offenses in fiscal year 2022, a 26% increase from the 1,519 persons referred in 2012



The number of persons prosecuted for human trafficking more than doubled from 2012 to 2022 (from 805 to 1,656 persons). The number of persons convicted of a human trafficking offense increased from 578 persons in 2012 to 1,118 persons in 2022.



# Major Crimes

**David Belshan**

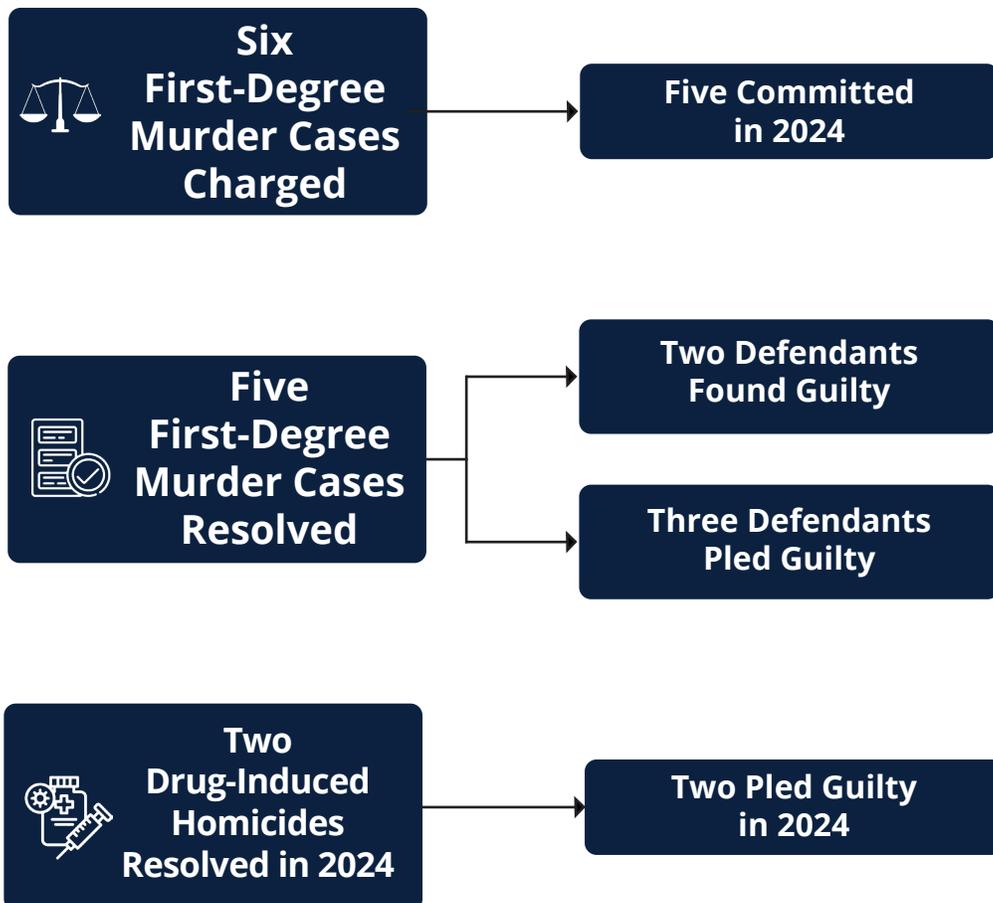
Deputy Chief of the Criminal Division  
and Major Crimes Supervisor



The Major Crimes Unit prosecutes the majority of the most serious and high-profile offenses committed in Kane County. These offenses include, but are not limited to, first-degree murder, attempt first-degree murder, aggravated kidnapping, aggravated vehicular hijacking, and select traffic fatalities.

The office's most experienced prosecutors are assigned to these cases due to their serious nature which allows little margin for error.

Assistant State's Attorney Belshan supervises three ASAs.



# Notable Case Resolutions

## ASAs Hillary Sadler and David Belshan

In March, the SAO secured a sentence of 22 years in prison for **Marco Arenas**, 49, of Aurora, after a judge found him guilty of armed violence and other offenses for breaking into a residence while armed with a firearm and causing severe property damage.

## SA Jamie Mosser, ASAs Brandon Raney, Sarah Norkus, and Katherine London

In April, the SAO secured a sentence of 120 days in jail for sisters **Jennifer Taylor**, 26, and **Sheba Taylor**, 29, of Chicago, after a jury found them guilty of aggravated battery and assault against an Aurora police officer who conducted a lawful traffic stop on their vehicle. The SAO also secured a sentence of three years in prison for their brother, **Paul Sherrod Taylor**, 32, of Aurora, for the same incident where he was the instigator of the incident. A judge found him guilty of threatening a public official, resisting a peace officer and assault of a peace officer.

## ASAs Mark Stajdohar and Jilian Burns

In May, the SAO secured a sentence of 17 years in prison for **Panagiotis Koutroumbis**, 28, of Wonder Lake, after he pled guilty to home invasion. In July, the SAO secured a sentence of 18 years in prison for **Jose Melendez**, 34, of Elgin, after he pled guilty to armed robbery. In January 2023, the two broke into a St. Charles apartment while armed to rob the victim.

## SA Jamie Mosser and ASA Greg Sams

In May, the SAO secured a sentence of 29 years in prison for **Getzuri Arellano**, 24, of Aurora, after a judge found him guilty of first-degree murder. Arellano strangled to death his then 20-year-old girlfriend and mother of his child during an argument.

## ASA Jake Matekaitis

In May, the SAO secured a sentence of 20 years in prison for **Jamar Robinson**, 33, of Chicago, after he pled guilty to first-degree murder for the shooting of a man in an apartment building hallway in July 2021.

In July, the SAO secured a sentence of 21 years and a concurrent term of 15 years in prison for **Juan Haro-Beltran**, 45, of Aurora, after he pled guilty to attempt first-degree murder and unlawful possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver. Haro-Beltran drove to a McDonald's in Aurora and shot a man while possessing more than 1,000 grams of cocaine in the trunk of the vehicle.

## SA Jamie Mosser and ASA Jessica Michaels

In June, the SAO secured a sentence of 36 years in prison for **Victor H. Ayllon**, 38, of Elgin, after he pled guilty to first-degree murder. Ayllon strangled his wife to death during an argument and then fled the scene, leaving her body with their two minor children.

## ASAs Jilian Burns and Eric Leafblad

In June, the SAO secured a sentence of 19 years in prison for **Jason M. Ostrego**, 30, of Bartlett, after he pled guilty to attempt first-degree murder and armed violence. Ostrego was escorted out of a bar in Elgin for using racially charged language. In the parking lot, Ostrego directed racial epithets towards a bystander, who is African American, and severely stabbed him and injured the bar manager, before being arrested.

## ASA Lori Anderson

In December, the SAO secured a sentence of 60 years in prison for **Edgar Lara Giron**, 35, of Aurora, after he pled guilty to the offense of first-degree murder. In 2022, Giron used a blunt object to strike and kill a 68-year-old Aurora resident.

## ASAs Greg Sams and Sarah Norkus

In July, the SAO secured a sentence of 50 years plus life in prison for **Timothy Gordon**, 48, of Montgomery, after he pled guilty to first-degree murder for the shooting and killing of his wife, who had recently filed for divorce. The victim was seated at her desk in her home with four other people in the room, including two young children, when Gordon came upstairs and, at close range, shot her in the temple, killing her.

## ASA Mark Stajdohar

In July, the SAO secured a sentence of 27 years in prison for **Travon Duffie**, 21, of Chicago, after he pled guilty to aggravated battery with a firearm for the shooting of a friend that he was trying to steal cannabis from.

In August, the SAO secured a sentence of 18 years in prison for **Julian Zamudio**, 20, of Elgin, after he pled guilty to attempt first-degree murder for the October 2021 shooting of a person that he thought was a rival gang member.

In August, the SAO secured a sentence of 15 years in prison for **Jesus Canales**, 21, of Elgin, after he pled guilty to attempt first-degree murder for the shooting of a person that he was involved in a physical altercation with.

## ASA Kelly Orland

In October, the SAO secured a sentence of 12 years in prison for **Wanya Carter Watkins**, 23, of Chicago, after he pled guilty to vehicular hijacking for taking a vehicle by force from his ride share driver while armed with a firearm in May 2022.

In November, the SAO secured a sentence of six years in prison for **Daniel R. Carmody**, 48, of Island Lake, after he pled guilty to drug-induced homicide. Carmody unlawfully delivered heroin and cocaine to the victim who ingested the substances and died from fentanyl and cocaine intoxication.

In November, the SAO secured a sentence of six years in prison for **Samuel M. Nesnidal**, 27, of Naperville, after he pled guilty to drug-induced homicide. Nesnidal unlawfully delivered ketamine to the victim who ingested the substance and died from fentanyl and ketamine intoxication.





# Guns & Gangs

**Lori Anderson**  
Supervisor



The Guns & Gangs Unit prosecutes the illegal use and possession of firearms, as well as gang-related offenses.

The Criminal Code contains dozens of felony offenses related to the unlawful possession and use of firearms, many of which have enhanced sentencing provisions. Armed Violence and Armed Habitual Criminal are examples in which the classification and penalty are enhanced by the weapon element. Gang membership is also charged with a higher felony classification.

Assistant State’s Attorney Anderson supervises three ASAs and one administrative assistant.

 **166 New Files Assigned**

**42**  
**Aggravated Unlawful Use of a Weapon Cases**

**23**  
**No FOID Cases**

**18**  
**Unlawful use of a Weapon Cases**

**16**  
**Armed Violence Cases**

**14**  
**Gang-Related Cases**

**13**  
**Armed Habitual Criminal Cases**

**13**  
**Reckless Discharge of a Firearm Cases**

**9**  
**Aggravated Discharge of a Firearm Cases**

Lead charge only.

# Notable Case Resolutions

## ASA Brandon Raney

In March, the SAO secured a sentence of 20 years in prison for **Francisco Garcia**, 33, of Carpentersville, after he pled guilty to the offense of armed violence. Garcia, a documented Latin King, was home when officers executed a search warrant on his house. They found four handguns, AR-15 and AK-47 style rifles, cannabis, pills, and cocaine. Garcia admitted that he sold cocaine and the firearms were his, which, being a convicted felon, were illegal to possess. One of the rifles was flagged by the ATF as being involved in other crimes. It is believed that he was holding firearms for his gang.

In September, the SAO secured a sentence of 10 years in prison for **Kamrean Prater**, 20, of Aurora, after he pled guilty to the offense of unlawful possession of a machine gun. Prater, a documented Gangster Disciple, was the sole passenger of an Uber that was pulled over for traffic violations. Based on the defendant's parole status, and with the consent of the Uber driver, the defendant and the vehicle were searched. A loaded Glock with an auto-sear, or "Glock switch," and 50-round drum magazine were found where Prater was sitting.

## ASAs Brandon Raney and Eric Leafblad

In October, the SAO secured a sentence of nine years in prison for **Francisco Lechuga**, 31, of Elgin, after he cold pled guilty to unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon. Lechuga threatened homeless individuals at J.J. Peppers Food Store with his loaded firearm and demanded that they provide him with a bottle of liquor. Lechuga had previously served four years in prison for selling cocaine.

## ASAs Tyler Cox and Katy Flannagan

In July, the SAO secured a sentence of 42 months in prison for **Jesus Garcia**, 20, of Elgin, after a judge found him guilty of possessing a firearm without a FOID card. The illegal firearm was found in Garcia's vehicle during a traffic stop by the Elgin Police Department.

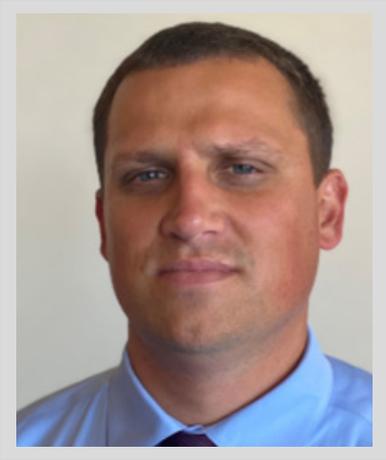
## ASA Elizabeth McKinley

In April, the SAO secured the following sentences: 31 years in prison for **Taviris Paul**, 32, of Aurora, after a jury found him guilty of armed robbery involving the discharge of a firearm causing great bodily harm; 24 years in prison for **Damarques Enochs**, 27, of Aurora, after he pled guilty to armed robbery with a firearm; six years in prison for **Desiree Kurtz**, 22, of Elgin, after she pled guilty to residential burglary; and eight years in prison for **Faith Kurtz**, 24, of Chicago, after she pled guilty to residential burglary. The four defendants had, together, entered the victim's residence under the guise of friendship, robbed him, and shot him at point blank range.

In August, the SAO secured a sentence of 27 years in prison for **Averell Williams**, 52, of Elgin, after he pled guilty to armed violence. Williams fired a gun above his head when officers arrived at his residence to investigate a fight. He did not have a FOID card and was found to be illegally growing marijuana. He also sold a 9mm firearm, ammunition and pills containing fentanyl to an undercover officer.

## ASAs Brandon Raney and Tyler Cox

In April, the SAO secured concurrent sentences of four, three, and three years in prison for **Deshaun Davis**, 21, of Plano, after he pled guilty to aggravated discharge, reckless discharge, and aggravated unlawful use of a weapon. Davis, a documented Gangster Disciple, was found to be the driver in a drive-by shooting of a home in Aurora. Video showed him firing a handgun multiple times in an Aurora apartment complex courtyard, and he was arrested after being caught in a vehicle with a loaded firearm.



# Narcotics

**Jake Matekaitis**  
Supervisor

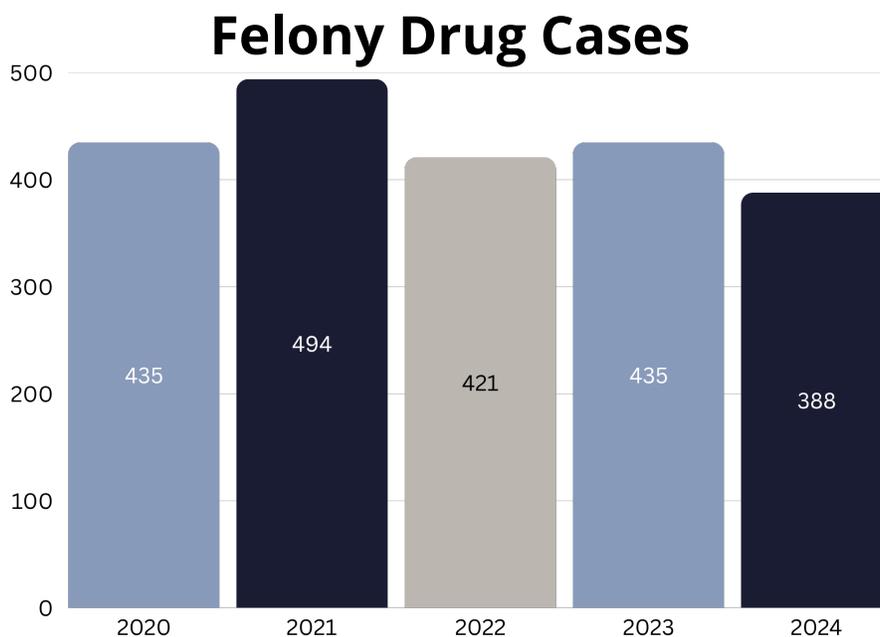
The Narcotics Unit is comprised of five prosecutors. The unit prosecutes violations of the Controlled Substances Act, Methamphetamine Control and Community Protection Act, and the Cannabis Control Act. The Narcotics Unit prosecutors handle all of the felony narcotics cases ranging from the most serious trafficking cases to the lowest level possession cases.

The State's Attorney's Office works hard to identify and separate defendants whose charges are the product of addiction versus those whose charges are the result of illegal drug sales. The unit identifies those who have addiction issues and steers those individuals toward treatment programs in an effort to break the addiction cycle.

However, those who continue to make our communities unsafe by selling and trafficking dangerous drugs are prosecuted to the fullest extent permitted by law. When authorities interrupt the supply chain, they are able to reduce drug-related crime and promote community safety.

The Narcotics Unit prosecutors work in cooperation with agencies at all levels of government, including: the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the Drug Enforcement Administration; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; Homeland Security Investigations; the Illinois Attorney General's Office; and the Illinois State Police's North Central Narcotics Task Force; as well as local law enforcement agencies and police departments.

Assistant State's Attorney Matekaitis supervises four ASAs.



# Notable Case Resolutions

## ASA Ryan Merkel

In April, the SAO secured a sentence of 17 years in prison for **Emilio Valencia**, 23, of Streamwood, after he pled guilty to armed violence. The defendant was arrested after a traffic stop in Elgin while in possession of one kilogram of cocaine, approximately 90 grams of methamphetamine, a pistol and an AR style rifle.

In December, the SAO secured two concurrent sentences of eight years in prison for **Erek Drew**, 31, of Yorkville, after he pled guilty in two cases to unlawful possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver. In one case, the defendant was arrested with 19 grams of cocaine hidden in his pants. In the other case, the defendant possessed 15 grams of cocaine.

## ASA Jake Matekaitis

In April, the SAO secured a sentence of 15 years in prison for **David Barbosa**, 40, of Aurora, after he pled guilty to unlawful possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver. The defendant was arrested after a traffic stop while in possession of 48 grams of cocaine.

In September, the SAO secured a sentence of 17 years in prison for **Valentine Rodriguez**, 34, of Chicago, after he pled guilty to unlawful possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver. Homeland Security agents received information that an airplane loaded with illegal drugs would be landing at the Lansing, Illinois airport. Agents observed a meeting between the defendant and the plane's pilot. The defendant was arrested after he received one kilogram of cocaine from the pilot.

In October, the SAO secured a sentence of 20 years in prison for **Dante Howse**, 31, of Chicago, after he pled guilty to unlawful possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver. The defendant was arrested after United States Postal Inspectors intercepted a package sent through the mail. Defendant retrieved the package after it was delivered. The defendant was arrested after a traffic stop and the package contained 1,365 grams of methamphetamine.

## ASAs Jake Matekaitis and Hillary Sadler

In May, the SAO secured a sentence of 29 years in prison for **Socorro Lopez**, 52, of Aurora, after a judge found him guilty of methamphetamine trafficking. Lopez was arrested after receiving 889 grams of methamphetamine through the mail.

## ASAs Jake Matekaitis, Kelly Orland and Hillary Sadler

In July, the SAO secured a sentence of 20 years in prison for **Andre White**, 43, of Dixmoor, after a judge found him guilty of unlawful possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver. The defendant was arrested after a traffic stop while in possession of 103 grams of heroin mixed with fentanyl and 26 grams of cocaine.

## ASA Jae Kwon

In July, the SAO secured a sentence of seven years in prison for **Gary Paladino**, 34, of Hanover Park, after a judge found him guilty of unlawful delivery of a controlled substance. The defendant was arrested after delivering cocaine to a police officer within 500 feet of a park.

## ASA Jacqueline Kliment

In December, the SAO secured a sentence of three years in prison for **Keshawn Smith**, 22, of Carpentersville, after he pled guilty to unlawful possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver and possession of a firearm without a FOID card. Police executed a search warrant on the defendants house where the defendant was in possession of two loaded firearms, 46 grams of psilocybin mushrooms, and 344 grams of cannabis.

# Child Advocacy Center



**Lori Schmidt**  
Executive Director



**Julie Pohlman**  
Deputy Director

The Child Advocacy Center (CAC) was established in 1994 to serve children who have been sexually or severely physically abused. The center is intentionally set up as a house in the residential area of downtown Geneva, creating confidentiality, security, and a child-friendly environment for families that come to the center. The CAC is accredited by The National Children's Alliance. The National Children's Alliance awards Accredited Membership based on the CAC's compliance with 10 national standards of accreditation to ensure effective, efficient, and consistent delivery of services to child abuse victims.

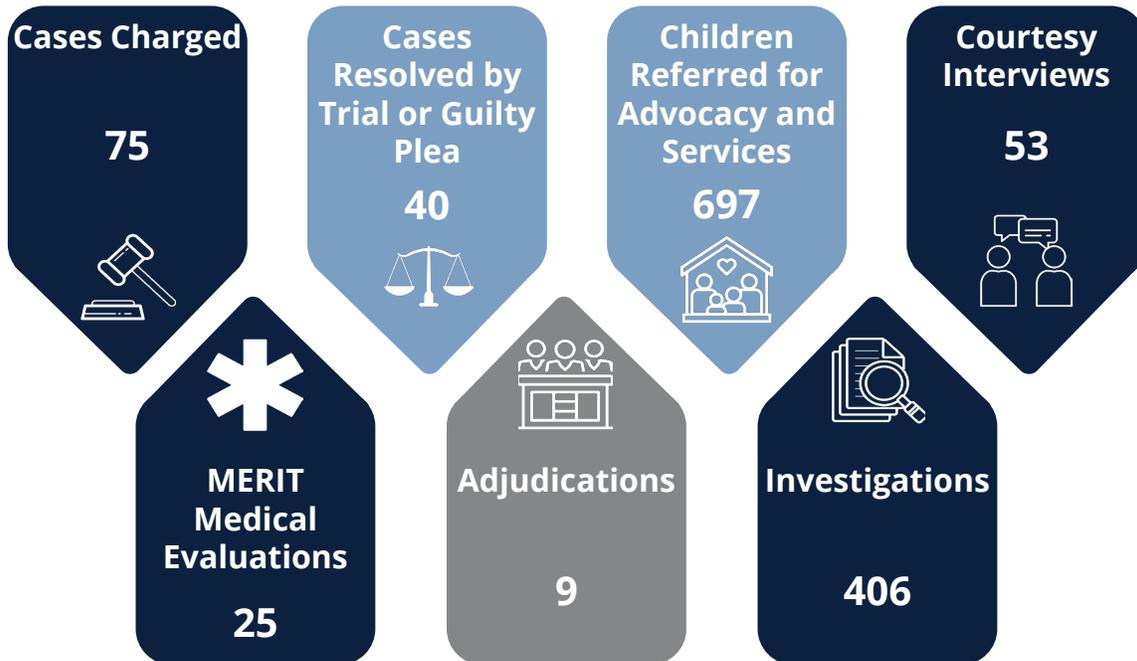
The CAC conducts investigations using a multi-disciplinary team (MDT) of professionals. This makes it possible for the CAC to provide a coordinated effort on the child's behalf from start to finish. The MDT includes an assistant state's attorney, a law enforcement investigator, a DCFS investigator, a case manager or family victim advocate, an MDT coordinator, medical professionals and mental health professionals. A MDT is comprised of bilingual, bicultural professionals with fluent Spanish language skills.

The CAC is one of 939 CACs nationwide and one of 41 in Illinois.

The Aurora and Elgin police departments assign officers to the CAC to assist with investigations.

The CAC has working partnerships with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, medical providers from the University of Illinois College of Medicine, its Medical Evaluation Response Initiative Team (MERIT) in Rockford, and community mental health professionals.

The CAC is managed by Executive Director ASA Lori Schmidt and Deputy Executive Director Julie Pohlman. They supervise five ASAs, five victim advocates, five investigators, two forensic interviewers, two administrative assistants, the operations manager, and two MDT coordinators.



# Outreach Events



**Algonquin  
Police  
Department**



**Aurora African  
American  
Health  
Coalition**



**Aurora Area  
Interfaith Food  
Pantry**



**Aurora  
Housing  
Authority**



**Aurora Public  
Library District**



**Boys and Girls  
Club of Elgin**



**deLacey Family  
Education  
Center  
Carpentersville**



**Elgin Hispanic  
Network**



**Family Focus  
Aurora**



**Family Service  
Association  
of Greater Elgin**



**Gail Borden  
Library Hispanic  
Services**



**Meadowdale  
Elementary  
School  
Carpentersville**



**National Night  
Out**



**Padres Con  
Poder - Elgin**

# Notable Case Resolutions

In addition to serving a prison sentence, everyone convicted of predatory criminal sexual assault of a child or aggravated criminal sexual assault must register for life as a sexual offender in accordance with the Illinois Sexual Offender Registration Act.

## ASA Stacey Wittman

In May, the SAO secured a sentence of 18 years in prison for **Jose F. Reyna**, 64, of Rockford, after he pled guilty to predatory criminal sexual assault of a child and aggravated criminal sexual abuse. Between 2017 and 2022, Reyna abused two victims, both of whom were under the age of 13.

In June, the SAO secured a sentence of eight years in prison for **Magdiel Perez**, 27, of Elgin after a judge found him guilty of criminal sexual assault. Perez assaulted a student at Tefft Middle School in Streamwood, where Perez was employed as a hall monitor. The assaults were committed when Perez drove the victim to his home in Elgin on multiple occasions.

## ASA Morgan Wilkinson

In May, the SAO secured a sentence of five years in prison for **Michael McCarron**, 63, of Maple Park, after he pled guilty to aggravated criminal sexual abuse of a child.

In December, the SAO secured a sentence of five years in prison for **Matthew Jones**, 54, of Elgin, after he pled guilty to criminal sexual assault of a minor.

## ASAs Bob Dore and Morgan Wilkinson

In September, the SAO secured a sentence of six years in prison for **Michael Monteleone**, 33, of Elgin, after a judge found him guilty of predatory criminal sexual assault of a child.

## ASAs Lori Schmidt and Morgan Wilkinson

In October, the SAO secured a sentence of six years in prison for **Maricela Garcia**, 37, after a judge found her guilty of predatory criminal sexual assault of a child. Garcia used an object to sexually assault the victim, who was under the age of 13 at the time.

## ASAs Alexandra Storto and Stacey Wittman

In October, the SAO secured a sentence of 32 years in prison for **Francisco Moreno-Hernandez**, 39, of Bolingbrook, after he pled guilty to predatory criminal sexual assault of a child and two counts of aggravated criminal sexual abuse.

## ASAs Morgan Wilkinson and Joe Gay

In December, the SAO secured a sentence of 49 years in prison for **Ernesto Velasquez-Jimenez**, 36, of Elgin, after a jury found him guilty of predatory criminal sexual assault of a child.





# Special Victims

**Matt Rodgers**  
Supervisor

The Special Victims Unit is tasked with prosecuting criminal cases with victims that require special attention. The unit prosecutes cases of criminal sexual assault and abuse, sex offender registration violations, child pornography offenses, elderly and disabled exploitation offenses, arson offenses, and a variety of aggravated battery offenses.

Many of these cases involve sophisticated investigations that require assistant state's attorneys to work closely with local, state, and federal authorities for the duration of the case, along with specialized technology.

## Trainings

The unit conducted training seminars for police and firefighters, including training provided to the Kane County Arson Task Force and the Elgin Police Department. Assistant state's attorneys also engage in community outreach, including providing training to various community groups regarding financial exploitation of the elderly and elder abuse.

Assistant State's Attorney Rodgers supervises three ASAs.



# Notable Case Resolutions

## ASA Ken Hudson

In May, the SAO secured a sentence of nine years in prison for **Daniel P. Janavich**, 56, of Elgin, after he pled guilty to disseminating child sexual abuse materials of a victim under the age of 13.

## ASAs Katy Flannagan and Brandon Raney

In April, the SAO secured a sentence of eight years in prison for **Tylor Hyde**, 28, of Sycamore, after a judge found him guilty of aggravated battery and aggravated assault of a peace officer committed against West Dundee police who were responding to a domestic disturbance call at his place of residence. Hyde resisted and assaulted law enforcement, causing great bodily harm to an officer.

## ASA Christine Bayer

In April, the SAO secured a sentence of 30 months of probation and 180 days in jail for **Joseph J. Charron**, 68, after he pled guilty to aggravated battery. Charron is a former teacher at Marmion Academy and monk at Marmion Abbey. He made contact of an insulting and provoking nature with his victims, who were at the time students of the Academy.

## ASA Matthew Rodgers

In April, the SAO secured a sentence of 20 years in prison for **Steven Grimmitt**, 58, of Woodstock, after a jury found him guilty of predatory criminal sexual assault of a child and aggravated criminal sexual abuse.

In June, the SAO secured a sentence of 10 years in prison for **Victor Alvarez**, 50, of Aurora, after he pled guilty to the offenses of residential arson, unlawful possession of a stolen motor vehicle and aggravated battery. Alvarez entered a home where he had previously lived, threatened individuals there, and started a fire in the home. A few days later, he struck a woman multiple times in the face while on a public sidewalk, stole an intervening man's car, and fled the scene.

In September, the SAO secured a sentence of eight years in prison for **Eric Torres**, 26, of East Dundee after he pled guilty to the offense of child pornography. Torres disseminated a child sexual abuse material video depicting a very young child being brutally abused in a sexual manner.

## ASAs Amanda Busljeta and Katy Flannagan

In July, the SAO secured a sentence of 36 months of probation for **Greg Algrim**, 57, of Elburn after a judge found him guilty of multiple counts of felony and misdemeanor theft from the Elburn & Countryside Fire Protection District. As a lieutenant firefighter, Algrim stole \$17,211.52 by falsifying overtime hours. Algrim must pay restitution on the full amount stolen.

## ASAs Amanda Busljeta, Matt Rodgers, and Bill Engerman

In June, the SAO secured a sentence of 50 years in prison for **Zanzibah T. Stewart**, 45, of Elgin, after a jury found him guilty to the offenses of aggravated criminal sexual assault, criminal sexual assault and aggravated unlawful restraint. Stewart threatened with a knife and sexually assaulted the victim.

## ASA Amanda Busljeta

In August, the SAO secured a sentence of six years in prison followed by four years of probation for **Rebecca Pappas**, 23, of St. Charles, after she pled guilty to disseminating and possessing child pornography.

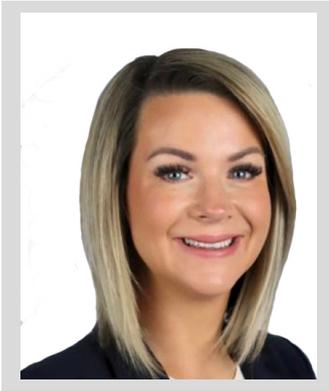
## ASA Hillary Sadler

In October, the SAO secured a sentence of 10 years in prison for **Christopher Hinman**, 45, of St. Charles, after he pled guilty to the offense of child pornography. Hinman disseminated a child sexual abuse material video depicting a child under 13 being abused.

## ASAs Matthew Rodgers and Jacqueline Kliment

In October, the SAO secured a sentence of 24 years in prison for **Darryl Holman**, 51, of Aurora, after a jury found him guilty of aggravated criminal sexual assault. Holman used force to sexually assault and cause injury to the victim.

# Domestic Violence



**Bridget Carlson**  
Supervisor



**Tyler Cox**  
Deputy Supervisor

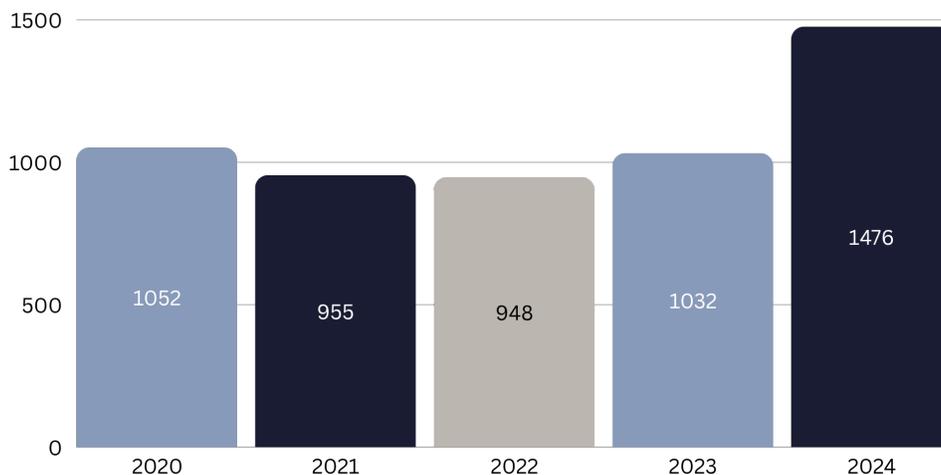
The Domestic Violence Unit is tasked with prosecuting cases of abuse and violence between intimate partners, family members, and household members.

At the center of every domestic violence case is a focus on the best interest of the victim. The unit's attorneys work closely with victim advocates to ensure that the victim's voice is heard throughout the prosecution of the case. The unit seeks resolutions that balance the interest and desires of the victim with the need for justice.

The Domestic Violence Unit attorneys understand that best addressing cases of domestic violence requires getting to the root of the problem. To do so, they look at every case individually, knowing that each one requires something different. They focus their efforts on treatment to ensure healthy relationships for everyone in the community. The attorneys are strong problem solvers and fierce advocates for survivors of domestic violence.

Assistant State's Attorney Carlson supervises six felony assistant state's attorneys and four misdemeanor assistant state's attorneys with the assistance of Deputy Supervisor ASA Tyler Cox.

## Domestic Violence Misdemeanor Offenses



# Notable Case Resolutions

## ASAs Michael Pettet and Matthew Picton

In June, the SAO secured a sentence of 120 days in jail and 24 months of probation for **Juan Mazcote Maya**, 35, of Elgin, at a bench trial where he was found guilty of two counts of aggravated domestic battery by strangulation, one count of unlawful restraint, and two counts of misdemeanor domestic battery. The defendant held the victim down on the floor of their apartment two separate times, putting his hands over her nose and mouth causing her to have difficulty breathing. This occurred in the presence of their three-year-old child.

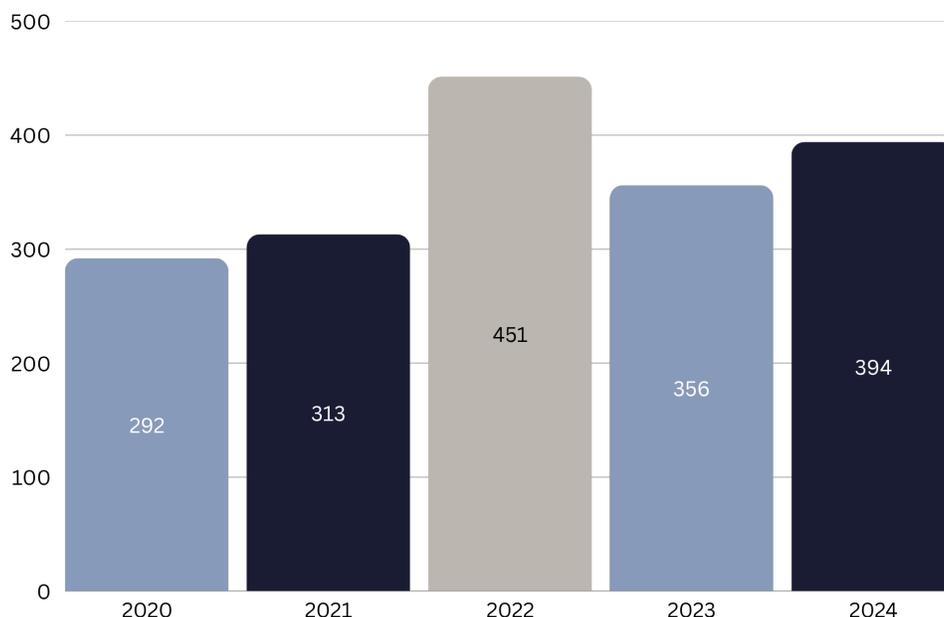
## ASAs Sean Thompson and Austin McNaul

In December, the SAO secured a sentence of 18 months in prison for **Keith Isaac**, 60, of Aurora, after a jury found him guilty of domestic battery. During an argument, Isaac grabbed his girlfriend by the arms and neck, pushed her into the wall, and chased her around the apartment. The jury trial required the use of six interpreters (American Sign Language (ASL) and Certified Deaf Interpreter (CDI)).

## ASAs Nick Sciarrino and Eric Walliser

In July, the SAO secured a sentence of 21 days in jail and 12 months of probation for **Marcus Donahou**, 47, of Sycamore, after a judge found him guilty of domestic battery bodily harm, domestic battery physical contact, battery bodily harm, battery physical contact and reckless driving. The defendant was driving the victim to Walmart to meet her mom. During the car ride, the defendant and the victim were in an argument over child custody. The defendant grabbed the victim by the hair and punched her in the face. The mother of the victim opened the door and got her daughter out. The defendant then drove off fast while the mother was still holding onto the door. The mother fell out of the car and sustained numerous injuries.

## Domestic Violence Felony Offenses





# Courtroom Anchors

**Ryan Ahern**  
Supervisor

The Courtroom Anchors Unit prosecutes felony offenses that do not fall within Major Crimes, Guns & Gangs, Narcotics, Special Victims, Child Advocacy, DUI & Major Traffic, or Domestic Violence. The Anchor Unit specializes in a wide range of felony offenses that include aggravated assault, aggravated battery, burglary, criminal damage to property, forgery, home invasion, mob action, residential burglary, retail theft, robbery, theft, and unlawful possession of stolen motor vehicle.

The role of an anchor ASA is to prosecute felony cases and to provide support and coverage for the entire Felony Criminal Division. The Courtroom Anchors Unit attorneys are assigned to courtrooms 211, 305, 311, 313, and 319.

Assistant State's Attorney Ahern supervises five ASAs.

## Notable Case Resolution

### **ASAs Ryan Ahern and Sarah Norkus**

In May, the SAO secured a sentence of three years in prison for **Jesse J. Christian**, 29, of Des Plaines, after he pled guilty to disorderly conduct for telephone voicemail threats left at the DeKalb County State's Attorney's Office. The Kane County State's Attorney's Office was appointed as a special prosecutor and the case was handled in DeKalb County.

# DUI & Major Traffic



**Katy Flannagan**  
Supervisor



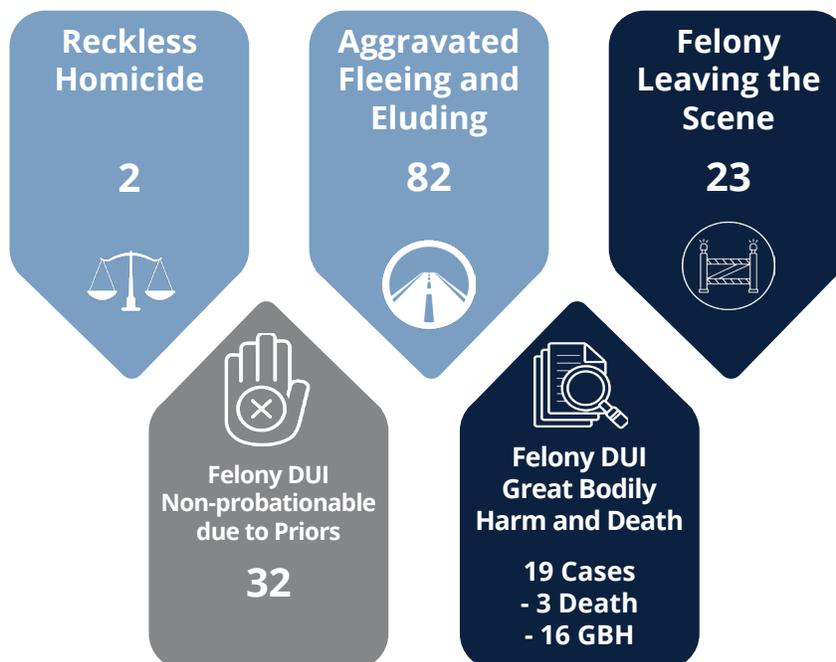
**Tyler Cox**  
Deputy Supervisor

The DUI & Major Traffic Unit prosecutes misdemeanor DUI offenders, felony DUI offenders and traffic offenders who are involved in crashes that cause fatalities or serious injury. The unit also prosecutes cases involving aggravated fleeing and eluding the police.

For the second year in a row, the office saw a rise in both DUI and serious injury-related cases. In 2023, the office charged 18 cases that involved a fatality or great bodily harm. That is up from 12 cases charged in 2023. In 2024, the office charged 22 cases where offenders were involved in traffic crashes involving personal injury and fleeing the scene of the crash without rendering aid. That is up from 13 cases charged in 2023.

In 2024, the office charged seven new cases of Aggravated DUI causing death and 11 new cases of Aggravated DUI causing great bodily harm. There were 27 total victims impacted by those 18 charged defendants. Of the 18 defendants, eight of them were under the age of 30 and five of them were under the age of 21 at the time of the offense. Seven defendants were under the influence of one or more drugs, or a combination of alcohol and drugs, while 11 defendants were under the influence of alcohol only.

Assistant State's Attorneys Flannagan and Tyler Cox supervise two ASAs who prosecute misdemeanor DUI cases. ASA Flannagan also supervises six ASAs who prosecute felony DUI and major traffic cases and felony domestic violence cases.



# Notable Case Resolutions

## ASAs Katy Flannagan and Brandon Raney

In July, the SAO secured a sentence of nine years in prison for **Pedro A. Vilchis**, 24, of Aurora, after a judge found him guilty of attempt murder and criminal damage to government property. Vilchis led Kane County Sheriff's deputies on a dangerous high-speed chase after they attempted to pull him over. He swerved three times into oncoming traffic at speeds of 80 to 100 mph, directing his vehicle at police officers driving marked squad vehicles, and forcing one vehicle to drive off the road to avoid a collision.

## ASAs Katy Flannagan and Tyler Cox

In August, the SAO secured a sentence of 10 days in jail and 24 months of probation for **Samuel J. Kramer**, 60, of Batavia, after a jury found him guilty of aggravated DUI, violating Scott's Law, and leaving the scene of a crash. Kramer, while impaired by alcohol and without a valid driver's license, crashed into a police vehicle and nearly hit an officer at the scene of a traffic investigation, then fled and was apprehended shortly after. His BAC was .211.

## ASAs Katy Flannagan and Kelly Orland

In September, the SAO secured a sentence of eight years in prison for **Luis Aca Osorio**, 40, of North Aurora, after he pled guilty to the offense of aggravated DUI causing death. Aca Osorio was driving under the influence of alcohol when he rearended and killed a motorcyclist who was driving in front of him.

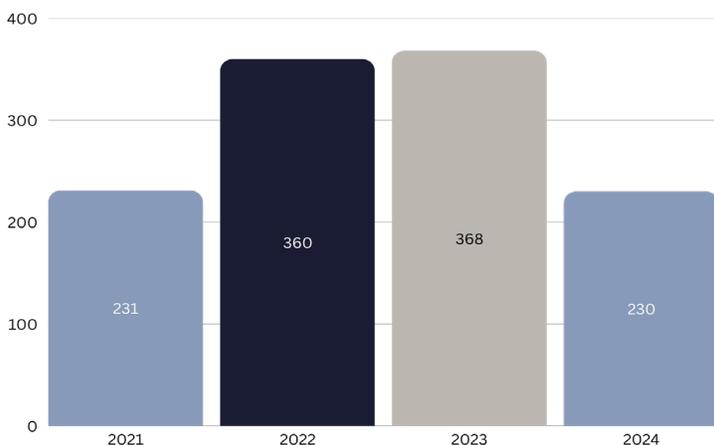
## ASA Katy Flannagan

In April, the SAO secured a sentence of five years in prison for **Anthony Curtin**, 21, of Lake in the Hills, after he pled guilty to aggravated DUI causing death. Curtin was driving at speeds exceeding 120 miles per hour when he lost control of the vehicle. The resulting rollover crash killed his passenger, 19-year-old Jacob J. Martinez.

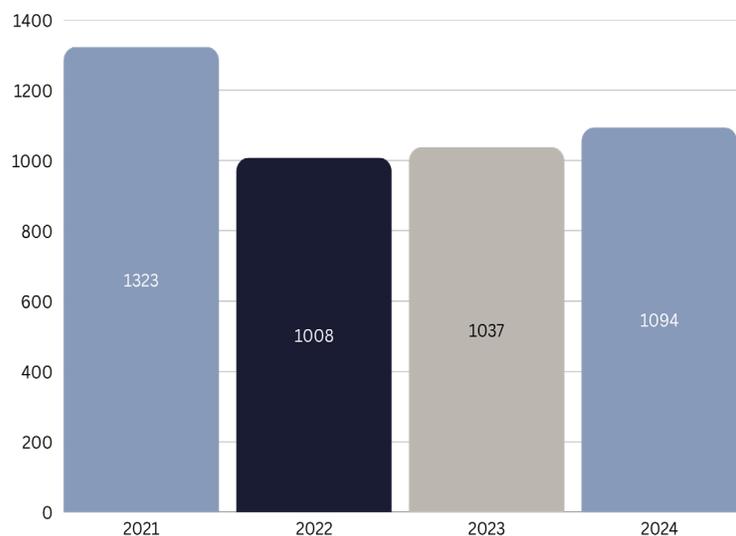
In June, the SAO secured a sentence of eight years in prison for **Melvin Holland**, 52, of Naperville, after he pled guilty to aggravated driving under the influence (6th or more DUI). Holland crashed into a ditch. After refusing Standardized Field Sobriety Tests (SFSTs) and a DUI kit, the officers on scene obtained a DUI kit which several hours later showed Holland's BAC was .105.

In September, the SAO secured a sentence of four years in prison for **Jeremy Brannon**, 49, of Aurora, after he pled guilty to aggravated fleeing a police officer. Brannon fled from officers at a high rate of speed, was involved in two crashes, and continued to flee on foot until he was caught. The four years was an extended term sentence.

## New Felony DUI Cases



## New Misdemeanor DUI Cases





# Juvenile Delinquency

**Dana Fortunato**  
Supervisor

The Juvenile Delinquency Unit prosecutes crimes committed by individuals who were under the age of 18 at the time of the offense. These prosecutions are governed by the Illinois Juvenile Court Act, which requires the Court to balance the need for public safety with the child's best interest, working to rehabilitate the child and prevent them from engaging in future criminal behaviors.

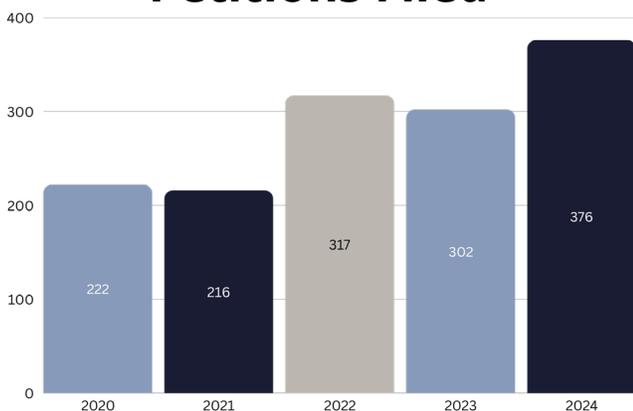
In practice, the Court, State, and defense collaborate with several stakeholders including the following: parents, mental health professionals, substance use providers, probation officers, educators, and mentors. Their common goal is to work together to identify and address areas that may contribute to future criminal behaviors, to provide essential services to the child to implement positive changes, and ultimately reduce crime. If community-based services fail to curb delinquent behavior, or if probation is otherwise not appropriate, a child may be sentenced to juvenile prison for offenses that would be felonies if committed by an adult.

By law, offenders aged 16 or older who are charged with first-degree murder, aggravated criminal sexual assault, or aggravated battery with a firearm involving injury, are automatically prosecuted as adults. If a child is at least 13 years of age at the time of an offense, the Court may also order a transfer if, in its discretion, following a hearing regarding the seriousness of the crime and the minor's circumstances, prosecution in adult court would be in the best interest of the public.

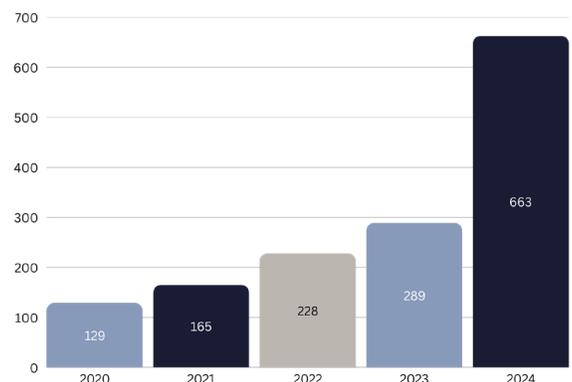
In recent years, the state's attorney's office has seen a disturbing increase in the number of children committing extremely serious, violent crimes including: first-degree murder, attempt murder, drug induced homicide, aggravated discharge of firearms, and aggravated batteries resulting in serious bodily harm. In these cases, the state's attorney's office will continue to prosecute to the fullest extent of the law, prioritizing public safety and the concerns of victims.

Assistant State's Attorney Fortunato supervises three ASAs and one administrative assistant.

### Petitions Filed



### Petitions Closed





## Juvenile Legal Proceedings

376 Petitions Filed  
663 Petitions Closed

199 Detention Hearings

One minor was transferred to adult court and sentenced as an adult to a term of eight years' imprisonment in the Illinois Department of Corrections.

Fourteen cases filed related to the possession or dissemination of child pornography.

Thirty-five cases filed for discharge or use of a firearm, armed robbery, armed violence, aggravated gun possession, or possession of a firearm by a street gang member.

# Notable Case Resolutions

One minor was transferred to adult court for prosecution. **Sebastian Kegebein** 17, of West Chicago, was found guilty of attempt first-degree murder and sentenced to eight years in the Illinois Department of Corrections.

Ten juveniles were committed to the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice (youth prison) for a period of time not to exceed their 21st birthdays.

Seven juveniles received Extended Jurisdiction Juvenile Prosecution (EJJP) sentences to adult prison, which would be lifted in the event of a violation. Of those, one juvenile already had his stay lifted before the end of the year and was sent to the Illinois Department of Corrections for three years. Three minors' EJJP sentences were lifted resulting in their being imprisoned in the IDOC as adults.



# Misdemeanor & Traffic

**Robert Kinsella**  
Supervisor

Prosecutors in traffic and misdemeanor courtrooms hold offenders accountable for misdemeanor offenses, advocating for victims and for traffic safety in Kane County.

In 2024, six prosecutors and three administrative personnel addressed these offenses at the County's three branch courts: Aurora Branch Court, Elgin Branch Court and Kane County Branch Court. These courtrooms see the greatest overall number of cases, and are where the public most often accesses the criminal justice system.

Offenders in these courtrooms face many sentencing options in addition to fines and jail, including mental health counseling, victim impact panels, substance use counseling, chemical testing, deferred prosecution, traffic safety courses and community service. In addition, these courtrooms are where new prosecutors gain experience and develop litigation skills with guidance and supervision from veteran prosecutors.

## Misdemeanors

The office charged 2,244 misdemeanor cases, an increase of 10 percent from the 2,040 misdemeanor cases charged in 2023. Prior to 2024, misdemeanor cases had been on a steady decline for more than a decade.

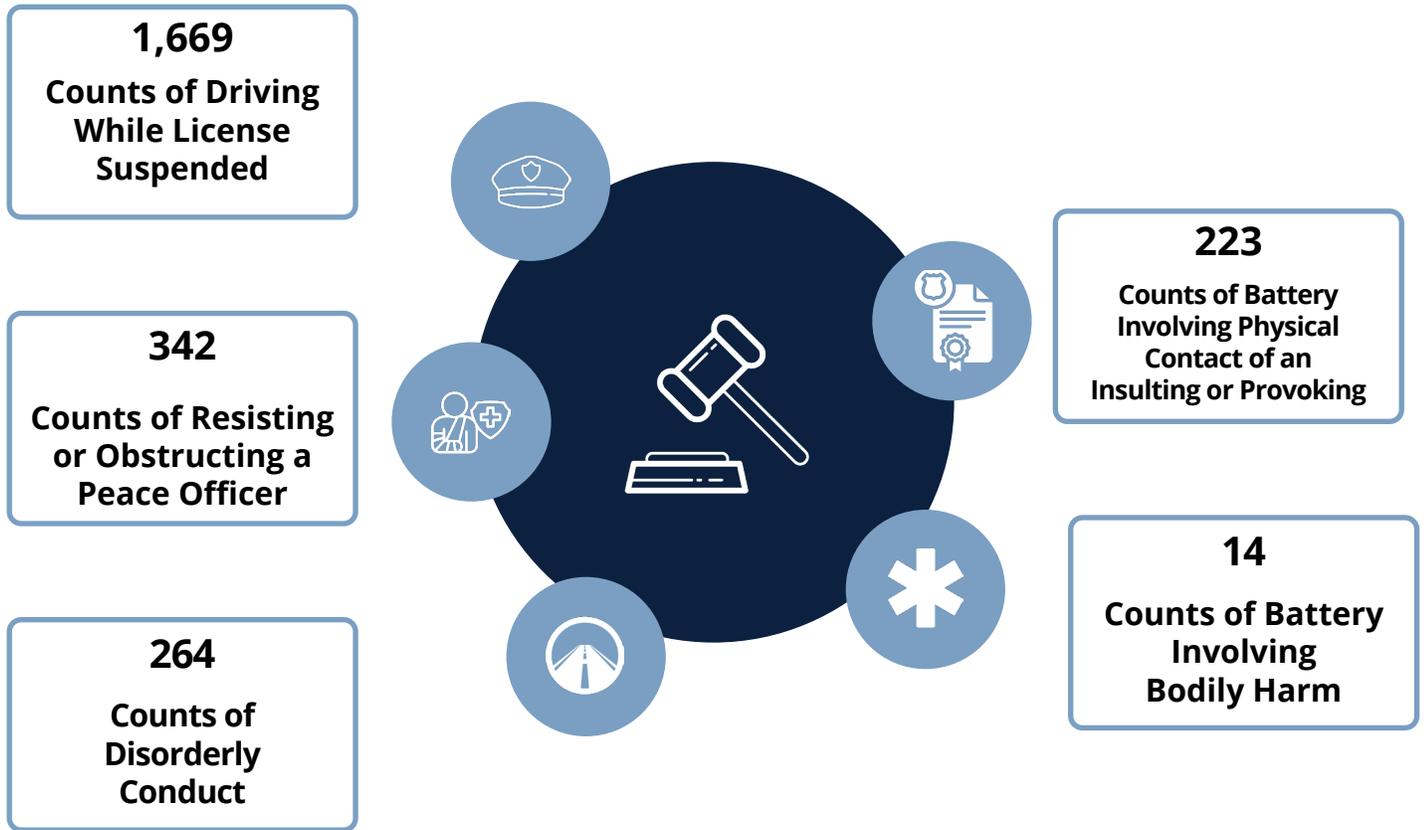
## Most Common Offenses

The most common misdemeanor offenses not involving DUIs or domestic batteries were the following: resisting or obstructing a peace officer (342 counts), disorderly conduct (264 counts), battery involving physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature (223 counts), driving while license suspended (1,669) and battery involving bodily harm (124 counts).

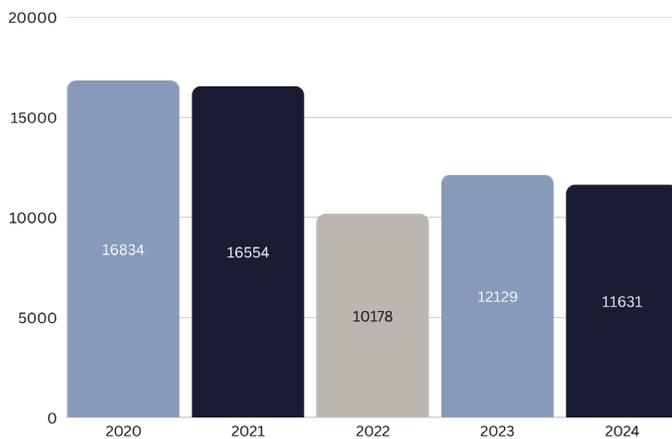
## Traffic Court

The unit prosecuted 11,631 new traffic citations. This does not include 25,452 traffic citations that were prosecuted by the municipality in which they occurred. Our office allows individual municipalities to prosecute traffic and misdemeanor cases upon request. This past year saw a slight decrease in the number of traffic cases prosecuted by the state's attorney's office as more traffic citations are managed by local prosecutors.

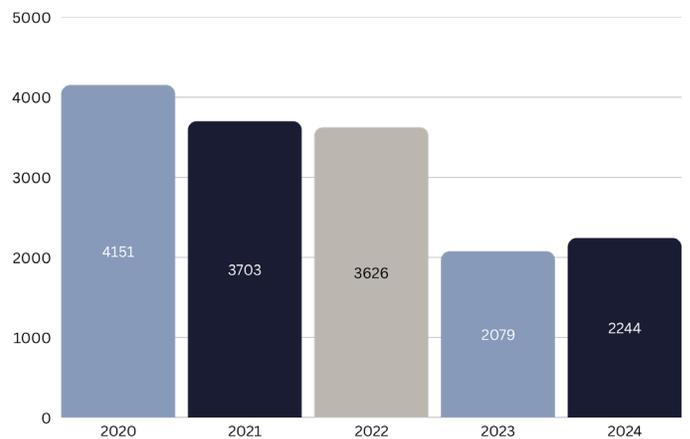
## The Most Common Misdemeanor Offenses not Involving DUIs or Domestic Batteries:



### New Traffic Citations



### New Misdemeanor Filings





# Post Conviction/Appeals

**Greg Sams**  
Division Chief

ASA Greg Sams is chief of the Post-Conviction Unit (PCU). Individuals who have been sentenced to prison and who believe their constitutional rights have been violated may challenge elements of their conviction or sentence under the Post-Conviction Act. When the SAO receives a post-conviction petition, it researches the case and reviews transcripts. The SAO then files a response to the petition or a motion to dismiss the petition. In both cases, the petition is set for hearing in front of a judge. The burden is on the defendant to prove the alleged constitutional violation. The unit addressed approximately 50 post-conviction matters.

The Post-Conviction Unit handles petitions filed by defendants who have previously been convicted of major crimes and, usually, remain in prison. These filings take the forms of two different types of petitions: either what are termed Post-Conviction Petitions (PCPs) or Petitions for Relief from Judgment (commonly referred to as 2-1401 petitions based on the statute that authorizes the petitions). PCPs raise issues of alleged deprivations of constitutional rights which a petitioner could not raise on his direct appeal, such as ineffective assistance of his trial attorney. The 2-1401 petitions, on the other hand, raise factual issues unknown to the petitioner at the time of trial that would allegedly, if known at the time, would have changed the outcome. Almost all PCPs and 2-1401 petitions filed by defendants concern major crimes that have been prosecuted – either murder, attempt murder, or other crimes of physical violence such as sex crimes against both children and adults or other weapons offenses.

The three attorneys in this unit spend much of their day reviewing pertinent case law regarding issues raised and reading transcripts of the defendant's trial and other hearings in an effort to analyze the issues. These transcripts often number in the thousands of pages. The PCU attorneys then must fashion a written response to a defendant's petition, which is usually in the form of very extensive and detailed Motion to Dismiss the petitions. Therefore, unlike other ASAs in the office, the PCU attorneys must use their writing skills quite extensively. However, the PCU attorneys also must make oral arguments on the motions, which means that their persuasive speaking skills must also be honed. Often times, the hearings they participate in are evidentiary hearings, so the PCU attorneys must also be proficient in evidentiary presentation skills.

The PCU was successful in getting more than 30 petitions for new trials or new sentencing hearings dismissed. At least a dozen of those were first-degree murder convictions, while the rest involved criminal sexual assaults, home invasions, armed robbery and armed habitual criminal charges, or other similar high-profile crimes.

The PCU attorneys also act as the state's attorney's office liaison with the State's Appellate Prosecutor's Office, whose task it is to defend appeals filed by defendants or to argue in favor of appeals brought by the SAO.

Assistant State's Attorney Sams supervises two ASAs and one administrative assistant.



# Abuse & Neglect

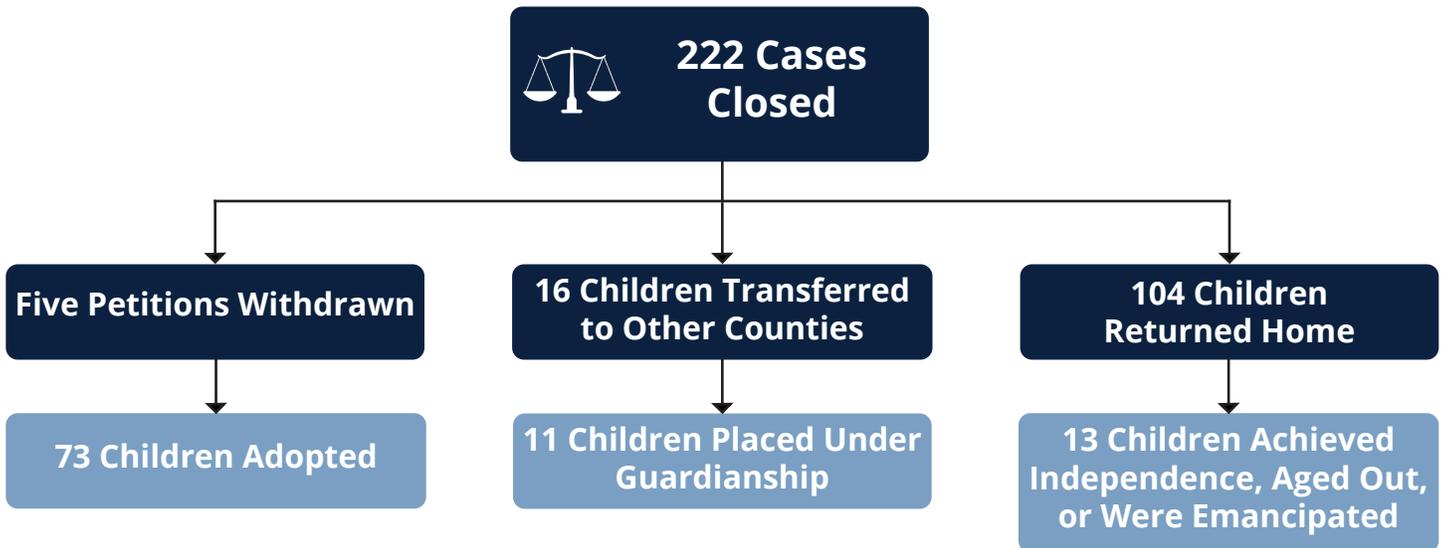
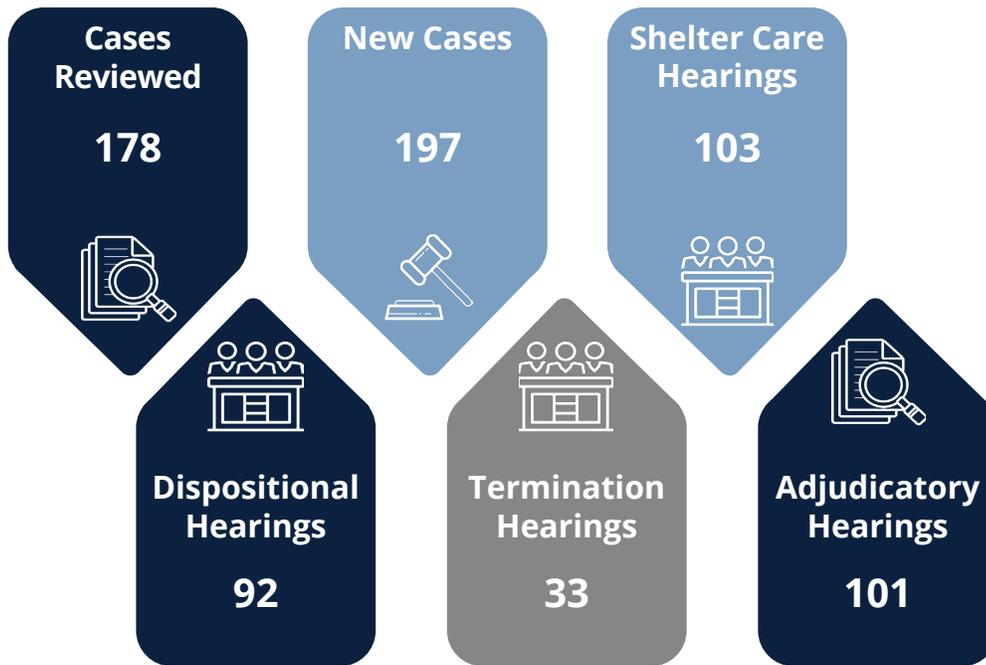
**Jessica Michels**  
Supervisor

The Abuse & Neglect Unit works to protect abused and neglected children in Kane County. Abuse & Neglect cases usually result from an Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) investigation that determines a child to be abused, neglected or dependent. Upon that determination, DCFS contacts the state's attorney's office (SAO) to screen the case for further action or to inform the office that it has taken protective custody of the child. The SAO also receives case referrals from law enforcement, social service providers, probate court, and juvenile delinquency court.

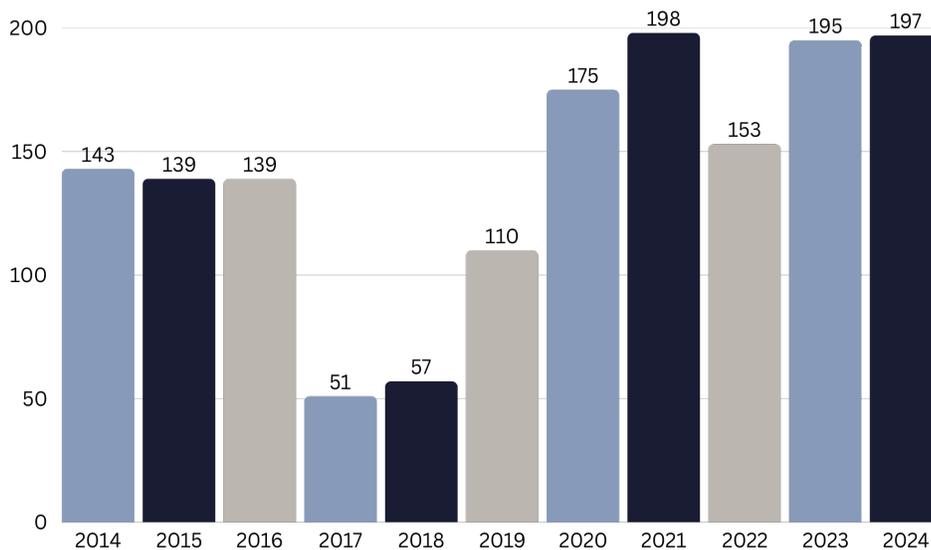
When a case is opened, the first step is a shelter care hearing in which the judge determines whether a child should be placed in the temporary custody of a relative or foster family. The child remains in foster care until the parents can rectify the issues that brought the child into care. Next is an adjudicatory hearing — which is comparable to a trial — in which the SAO must prove the children named in the petition have been abused, neglected or are dependent. At the dispositional hearing, the judge determines what issues must be addressed for the child to be returned to their parents safely.

Abuse & Neglect court works to help the child's family improve conditions so the child can return to a safe and healthy home environment. All parties have a primary goal of keeping families together. If a child cannot safely return to their parents, the court seeks to provide permanency for the child through alternative means by either guardianship, adoption or helping the child achieve independence on their own.

In 2024, the unit gained an additional assistant state's attorney due to rising case numbers and screenings completed with DCFS. Assistant State's Attorney Michels supervises the unit, which consists of four assistant state's attorneys and two administrative assistants.



## New Cases





# Specialty Courts

**Kim Klein**  
Supervisor

The Specialty Courts Unit oversees four problem-solving courts — Drug Rehabilitation Court, Veterans Court, Treatment Alternative Court, DUI Court — and three courts that focus on specialized areas of the law — Mental Health Court, Forfeiture Court and Expungement/Sealing Court.

Assistant State’s Attorney Klein supervises four ASAs and two administrative assistants.

## Problem-Solving Courts

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, almost 60% of individuals charged with a crime test positive for one or more illegal drugs at the time of arrest, 80% of incarcerated offenders abused alcohol or other drugs before their arrest, and 50% of all inmates are clinically addicted to substances. Additionally, the National Alliance on Mental Illness reports that nearly 15% of men and 30% of women booked into jails have a serious mental health condition.

The 16th Judicial Circuit offers problem-solving courts to individuals to address these concerns as an alternative to incarceration. These courts must meet specific standards and obtain certifications as required by the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts (AOIC) and the Special Supreme Court Advisory Committee for Justice and Mental Health Planning. Participation time varies based on each individual, and can exceed two years.

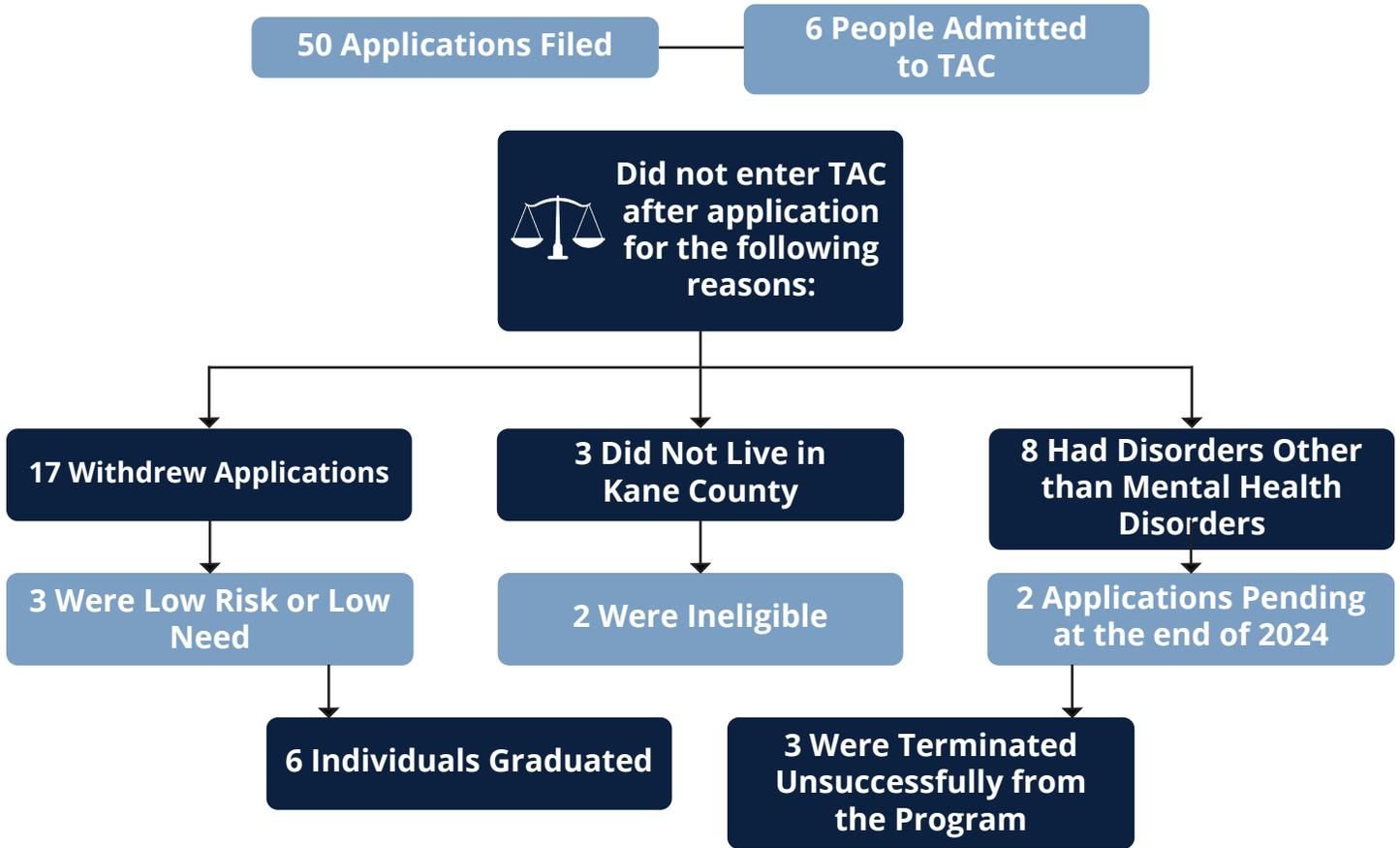
## Drug Rehabilitation Court

This court is designed to reduce recidivism and substance use among nonviolent offenders and to promote rehabilitation through intense treatment, mandatory drug testing, community supervision and appropriate sanctions and rehabilitation services. Participants work with a team of substance use professionals, local service providers, attorneys, the judge, and court staff in an intensive non-adversarial program designed to address their substance use concerns and the criminal case. This approach requires frequent court appearances, treatment and testing.



## Treatment Alternative Court

Treatment Alternative Court (TAC) is for defendants with serious mental health issues. Participants work with a team of mental health professionals, local service providers, attorneys, the judge and court staff in an intensive, non-adversarial program to address their concerns and the criminal case.



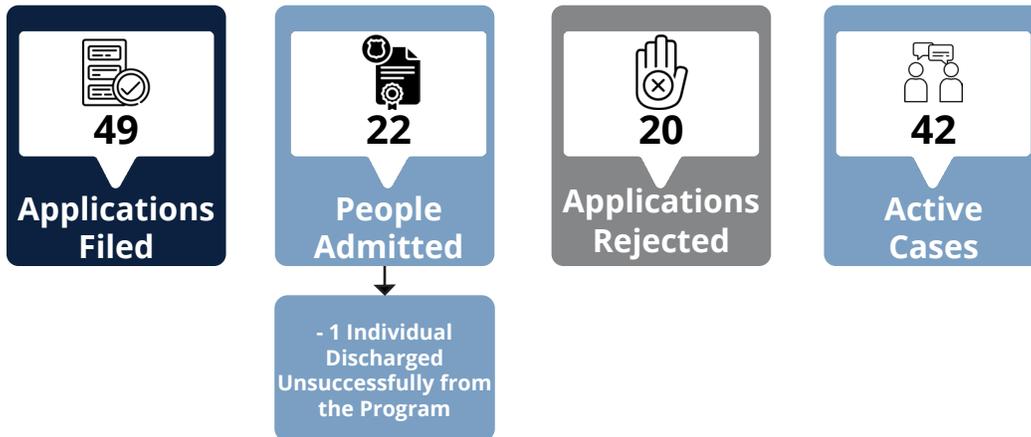
## Veterans Treatment Court

Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) is for defendants who have been on active military duty and who have serious mental health or substance use concerns. Participants work with a team of mental health professionals, local service providers, attorneys, the judge, and court staff in an intensive non-adversarial program designed to address these concerns.



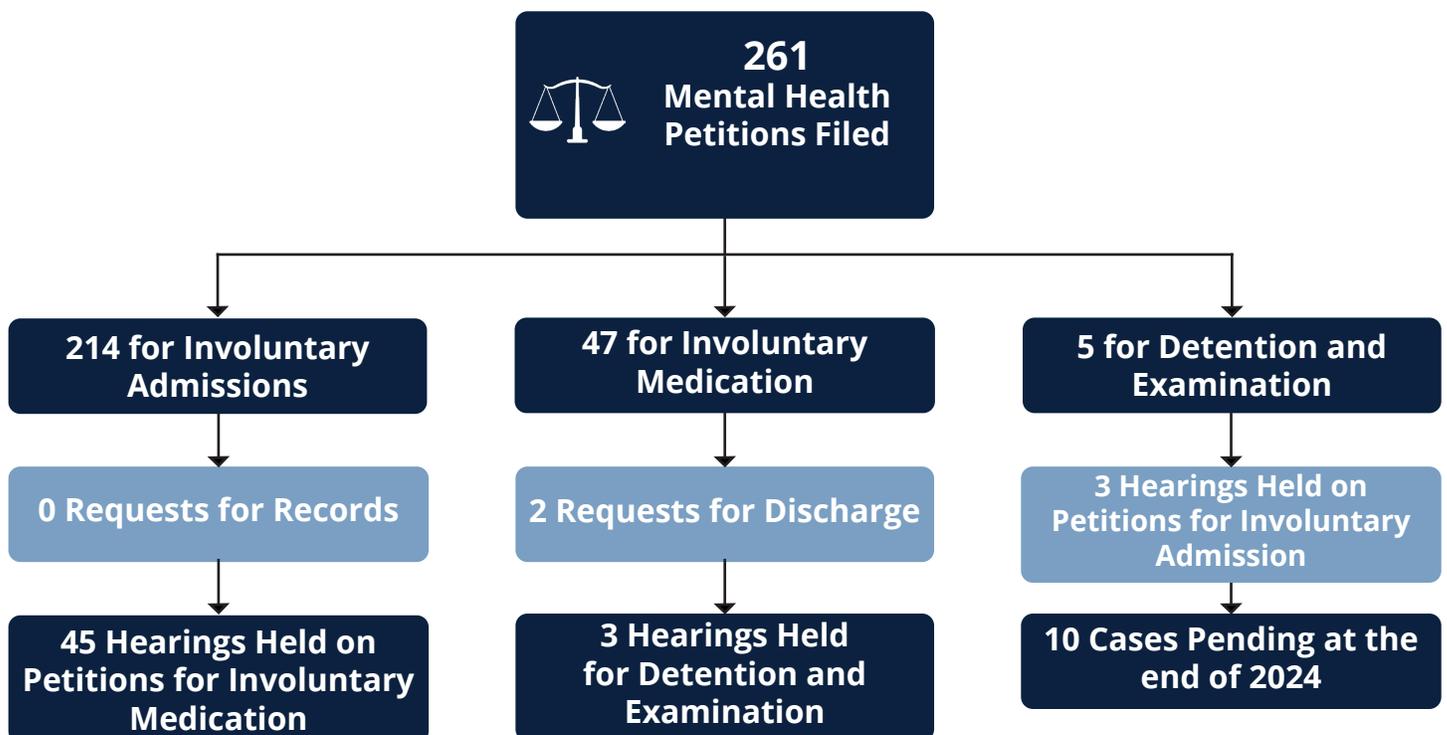
## DUI Court

This court is designed to reduce recidivism and alcohol use among nonviolent offenders and to promote rehabilitation through intense treatment, mandatory alcohol testing, community supervision and appropriate sanctions and rehabilitation services. Participants work with a team of substance use professionals, local service providers, attorneys, the judge and court staff in an intensive non-adversarial program designed to address their alcohol use concerns and their criminal case. This approach requires frequent court appearances, treatment and testing.



## Mental Health Court

Attorneys in this courtroom assist psychiatrists with the preparation of State Petitions for Involuntary Admission and Petitions for Administration of Psychotropic Medication and conduct weekly hearings on those petitions. Most respondents are patients at Elgin Mental Health Center, Ascension Mercy Hospital in Aurora, or Ascension St. Joseph Hospital in Elgin. This division also assists family members and social workers in the community with the preparation of State Petitions for Involuntary Admission and subsequent hearings for detention and examination at a mental health facility.

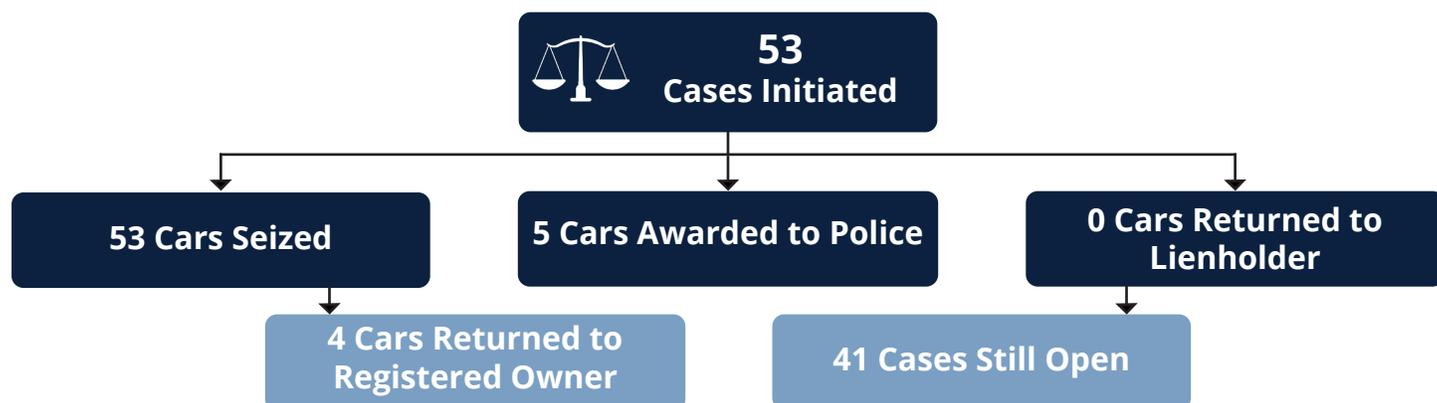


## Forfeiture Court

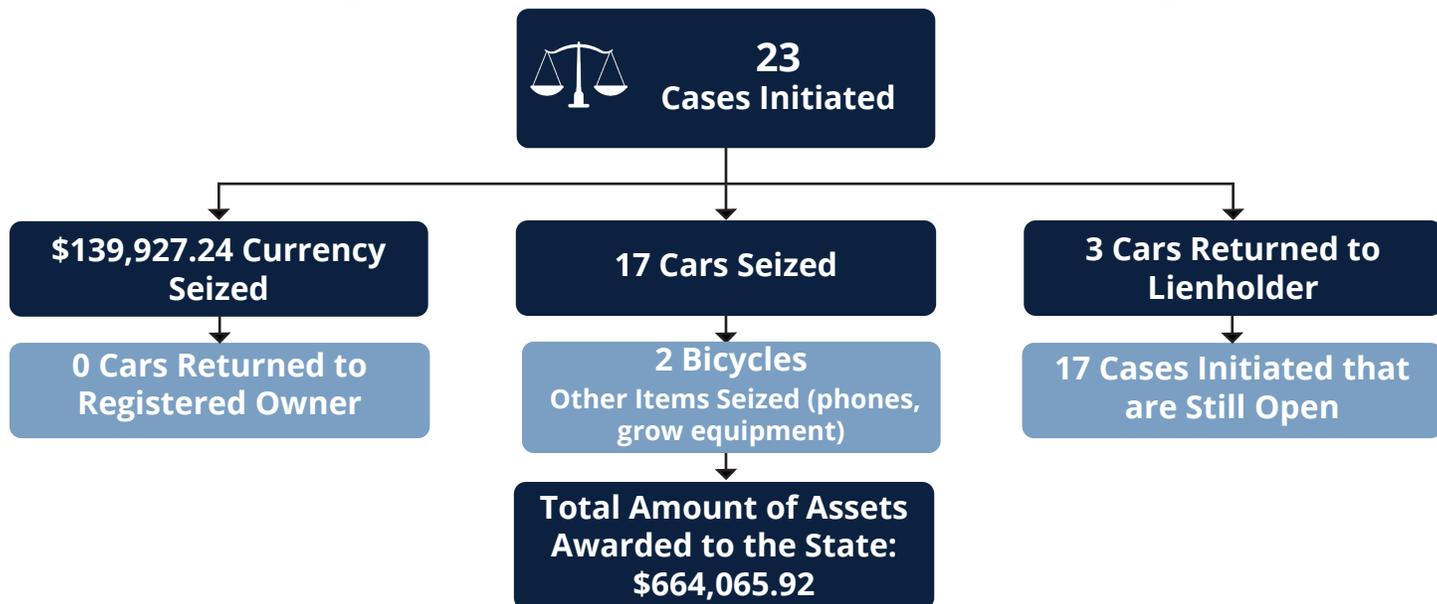
Article 36 forfeitures – Illinois law allows state’s attorneys to seek forfeiture of assets, including cash involved in felony drug transactions, as well as the forfeiture of vehicles used to commit certain crimes. Our office works in conjunction with police agencies on forfeiture proceedings under 720 ILCS 5/36-1 or Article 36. This law allows police to seize vehicles that were used with the knowledge and consent of the owner in the commission of certain crimes. These include: DUI while driving on a suspended or revoked license, felony DUI, aggravated fleeing and eluding, reckless homicide, stalking, and burglary. This law is used in conjunction with the criminal courts and criminal charges. Seized property may be returned upon the presentation of evidence to the court of innocent ownership.

Drug asset forfeitures – The Drug Asset Forfeiture Procedure Act (725 ILCS 150) allows for the civil forfeiture of property used to facilitate, or that was acquired from, a violation of felony drug laws. Under this statute, police may seize assets that were profits from drug deals or that were used in the commission of certain drug offenses.

### Article 36



### Drug Asset Forfeitures and Money Laundering



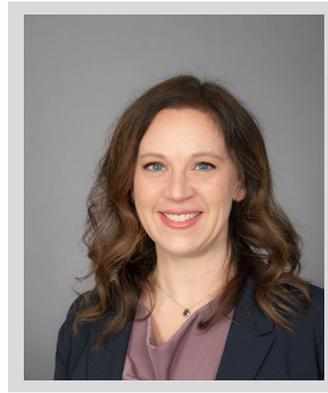
### Expungement/Sealing

Illinois law allows individuals with a criminal record the opportunity to have their records cleared or sealed. Expungement removes all records related to the criminal offense, while sealing makes the record inaccessible to the public. In order to have a charge expunged from a criminal record or sealed, an individual must petition the court in the county where the offense occurred. The state’s attorney’s office is responsible for reviewing those petitions for expungement or sealing and for determining whether the petitioner meets the legal requirements for expungement or sealing.

# Civil Division



**John Frank**  
Chief



**Erin Brady**  
Deputy Chief

The Civil Division serves as the legal counsel for the County of Kane, as well as its elected and appointed officials. This includes the County Board and its county departments, State's Attorney, Sheriff, Public Defender, Judiciary, Court Services, Circuit Clerk, County Clerk, Coroner, Treasurer, Auditor, Recorder, Supervisor of Assessments, and the Regional Office of Education. The Civil Division does not represent private interests nor individual residents of the county.

As legal counsel for the county, the Civil Division represents and advises officials and staff in all legal aspects of government operations. This includes litigation and risk management, statutory authority and governance, constitutional and statutory requirements, sunshine laws, ethics, parliamentary rules, intergovernmental cooperation, budgets, audits, taxes, federal and state grants, labor and employment, civil rights, First Amendment, Due Process, contracts, procurement, bond financings, zoning and development, landfill operations and compliance, emergency planning and response, public health, and elections. The Civil Division even routinely litigates in state and federal court, as well as various state and federal agencies, on all of the topics above. Given the breadth of the clients and practices that the Civil Division handles, it utilizes 11 attorneys, two paralegals, and an office manager.

- One of the primary responsibilities of the Civil Division is providing legal support for the County Board on an endless number of issues that arise throughout the year. Some of the better known issues in 2024 were ones that continued over from 2023, which were conflicts over internal control with elected officials, special use petitions for solar fields, and the passing of the annual budget.
- On the litigation front, the Civil Division continued with an ever growing number of ongoing cases in both state and federal court. The Civil Division also won or received favorable judgments recently in a number of cases, including a series of solar fields actions where the developers sued the County to force its hand in zoning petitions.
- The Civil Division continues to negotiate labor contracts annually, review and draft contracts and resolutions, and respond to the large volume of Freedom of Information Act requests. In 2024 alone, the Civil Division processed well over 100 requests to the SAO and County, many of which were political in nature and required significant resources to process, given the time constraints on such requests.



# Child Support

**Heidi Baxter**  
Supervisor

The Child Support Unit helps families by establishing paternity, child support, medical support, and modifying child support judgments, as well as collecting delinquent child support payments. We partner with the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services, Division of Child Support Services HFS/DCSS in these endeavors.

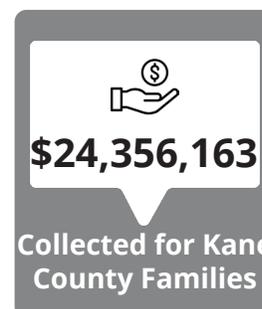
The unit began in 1975 when the Kane County State's Attorney's Office entered into its first contract to provide legal services to the State of Illinois, Illinois Department of Public Aid, now known as HFS/DCSS. This collaboration is authorized by Title IV-D of the Social Security Act of 1975, a federal law that requires all states to provide child support enforcement services to families with dependent children regardless of income. Each state has a Title IV-D agency that operates its child support enforcement program. HFS/DCSS is the official Title IV-D Agency in Illinois and administers the child support enforcement program here.

This office is one of only 13 county prosecutor's offices throughout Illinois that contracts with HFS/DCSS to provide local judicial enforcement of parentage and child support obligations. The Illinois Attorney General's Office provides judicial enforcement in the remaining 89 counties.

Kane County taxpayers do not bear the direct burden of paying for the Child Support Unit. The Social Security Act requires that the federal government pay matching funds and incentive payments to the states in order to fund their Title IV-D child support programs. The federal government provides the majority of the unit's operating budget via contractual payments through the State of Illinois.

The Child Support Unit consists of four assistant state's attorneys, four paralegals, and one administrative assistant. On October 21, 2024 the unit was honored by the Illinois Family Support Enforcement Association, a statewide non-profit organization of child support professionals, by presenting ASA Heidi Baxter with the 2024 award for Outstanding Legal Contributions to the Illinois child support program.

ASA Baxter supervises three ASAs, four paralegals, and one part-time administrative assistant.





# Victim Services

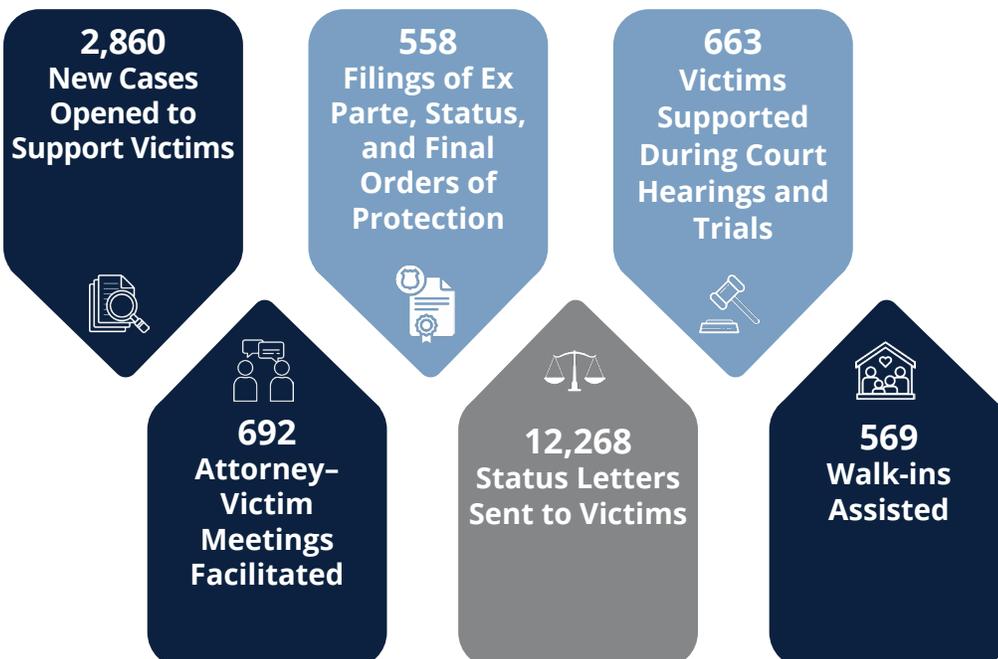
**Sheila Gray**  
Supervisor

The Victim Services Unit advocates provide the critical link between victims and the assistant state's attorneys (ASAs) prosecuting their cases. Advocates have the responsibility of ensuring that crime victims are made aware of their rights as outlined under the Illinois Crime Victims Bill of Rights, and providing referrals and information about programs and services in the community. The unit assists victims in filling out restitution forms and completing Illinois Crime Victims Compensation Program applications. The unit's goal is to make a victim financially whole to the greatest extent possible.

Advocates also help victims petition for Orders of Protection, Stalking No Contact Orders and Civil No Contact Orders. Advocates work with ASAs to schedule and attend case reviews and trial preparation meetings with victims and are present in court to support victims through trials, hearings and sentencings. Consistently sharing updates via status letters and other means, the unit's focus on communication ensures a crime victim's continued participation in what can feel like a long and protracted process.

Finally, the Victim Services Unit maintains connections with community partners to remain current on services available for victims. Community partners include Mutual Ground, Community Crisis Center, Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists, Mothers Against Drunk Driving and Association for Individual Development. Victim Services advocates are committed to supporting victims and ensuring their voices are heard.

The Victim Services Unit is staffed with six full-time advocates and a supervisor.





# Investigations Division

**Chris Merritt**  
Chief

The Investigations Division consists of four units: the General Investigations Unit, the Child Advocacy Center, the Child Exploitation Unit, and the Courtroom Support Specialist Unit. There are three investigators assigned to General Investigations, five investigators assigned to the Child Advocacy Center, three investigators assigned to the Child Exploitation Unit, and one investigator assigned to the Courtroom Support Specialist Unit. There is also a chief investigator who is responsible for supporting and performing supervisory duties to ensure the efficient operations of the division. The chief investigator also oversees the administrative and daily operations of the division. The division's main function is to support the assistant state's attorneys in the prosecution of cases.

## **General Investigations Unit**

The General Investigations Unit supports the successful prosecution of criminal defendants by serving subjects with subpoenas and conducting follow-up investigations. These tasks are critical to ensure that defendants are prosecuted and convicted of the crimes they committed.

In 2024, the unit served over 550 subpoenas. Each subpoena requires research to obtain the most accurate information as to the subject's whereabouts. The follow-up investigations help the assistant state's attorneys prepare for trial. In 2024, the unit conducted more than 40 follow-up investigations. Most of the investigations involve locating and interviewing victims or witnesses to a crime. Investigators are responsible for retrieving evidence from law enforcement agencies and assisting police agencies with investigations when requested.

## **Child Advocacy Center**

The Child Advocacy Center is responsible for investigating cases involving child victims of sexual assault or abuse and ensuring thorough, victim-sensitive investigations and prosecutions. A team that includes a prosecutor, investigator, DCFS child protection investigator, social workers, and a victim advocate collaborate on each case to minimize the stress on the child and the child's family and to ensure that effective medical treatment and counseling are available to every child who experiences abuse.

## Child Exploitation Unit

The Kane County Child Exploitation Unit (CEU) was created in 2022 to investigate cases of child exploitation, or “sextortion,” and cases of child sexual abuse material (CSAM)—known in legal terms as child pornography. Comprised of an investigative group of three investigators and a forensic examiner team of two digital forensic examiners, the unit has grown over time to handle an increasing number of investigations. Most recently, in April 2025, the unit added Kane County’s first female digital forensic examiner.

Many CEU investigations originate through CyberTips from the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC). Every week, NCMEC receives approximately 420,000 CyberTips.

Since 2022, the CEU forensic examiner team has previewed or examined approximately 500 digital devices. The examiners provide expert testimony in court and assist with other types of investigations. In 2024, examiners worked with the Kane County Major Crimes Task Force on a Geneva murder investigation into the deadly stabbing of a mother and son. Examiners also assist the North Central Narcotics Task Force and have examined 11 devices in regard to complex narcotics investigations and drug induced homicide. They have also analyzed mobile devices for investigations by the Human Exploitation Unit.

Because of the CEU’s highly desired expertise in forensics and investigations, the unit has had a statewide, national, and even international impact in the fight against child exploitation.

The CEU assists DeKalb County, Kendall County, and other agencies within Kane County with child exploitation investigations. It recently assisted the Carol Stream Police Department establish a Child Exploitation Team in DuPage County. The CEU has also partnered with the Illinois Department of Corrections Sex Offender Services Unit to return to prison parolees who re-offend or otherwise violate their parole. The unit supports even more agencies across the state through the Illinois Attorney General’s Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. In total, the CEU has assisted over 30 agencies with child exploitation investigations.

On the national and international level, the CEU has partnerships with Homeland Security Investigations, the FBI, the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS), and Interpol. Investigators recently worked with the NCIS to identify and arrest a service member stationed in North Carolina who disseminated child sexual abuse material and sexually assaulted several victims in Kane County.

Sextortion cases often uncover international criminals. These cases involve adults posing online as children to lure minors into sharing compromising photos. The perpetrators then coerce the victim into sharing more photos or paying a ransom. These images are usually shared online, which further proliferates the exploitation of the victim. Recently, many of these offenders have been located in Africa and Russia.

As artificial intelligence becomes more advanced and accessible, it enables the creation and spread of even more CSAM, making it easier for criminals to victimize and exploit children. The CEU is adapting to address this evolving technology, and Illinois law has been updated to clearly make AI-generated CSAM illegal, regardless of whether it depicts a real or purported child.

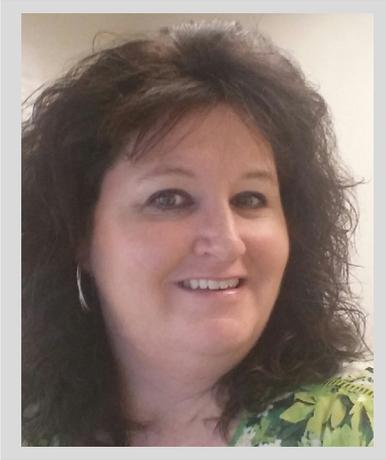
## CEU Statistics from 2022 through 2024



### **Courtroom Support Specialist**

The Courtroom Specialist Unit was formed in 2024 to directly support assistant state's attorneys. The investigator assigned to this unit is responsible for creating digital and physical displays to decisively communicate evidence to a jury and ensure the successful prosecution of a case. The investigator is also responsible for maintaining original evidence held in the vault, generating paperwork and creating a procedure to maintain the chain of evidence between police departments and the state's attorney's office.





# Deferred Prosecution

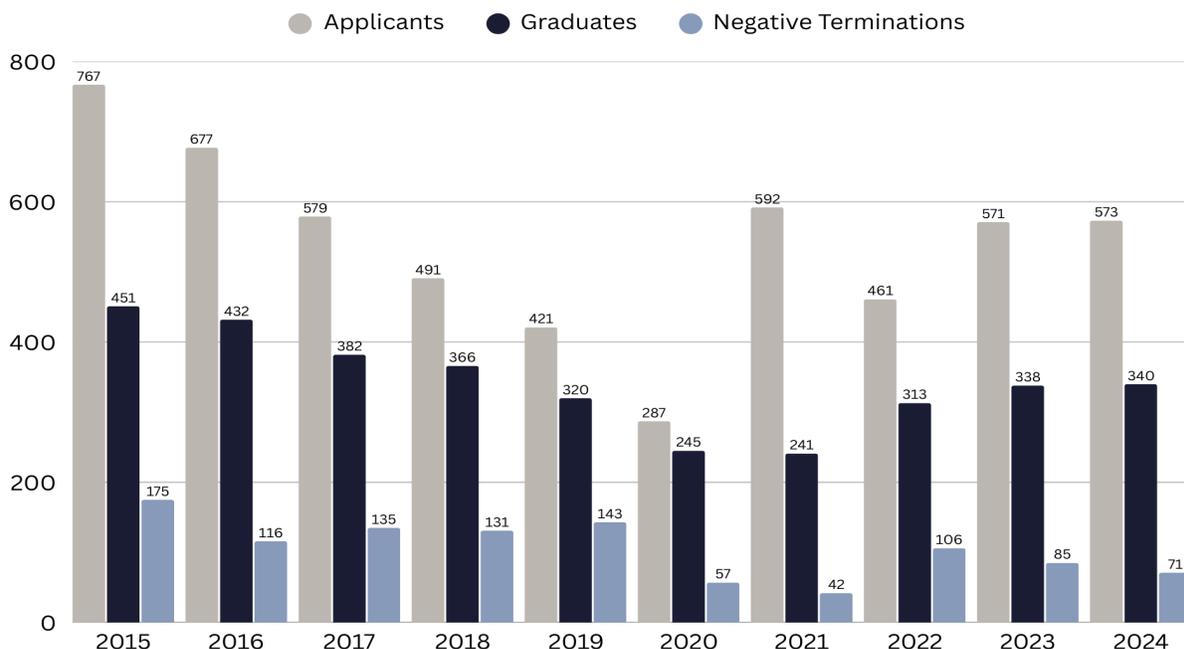
**Michelle Halbesma**  
Supervisor

Established in 1995, Deferred Prosecution, also known as diversion, has proven beneficial to offenders by allowing them to keep a conviction off their records. The program relieves jail overcrowding and courtroom caseloads. The continued success of the program relies on support from the criminal justice system and the community. Deferred Prosecution provides an opportunity for offenders to avoid a permanent conviction from being entered on their record while still holding them accountable.

All programs provide appropriate access to mental health, substance use, and medical treatment, as well as case management, education, housing, and job training. Participants are evaluated to determine the risk of recidivism, appropriate levels of supervision, and need for services. Requirements vary, but typically include: community service, fees, drug testing and restitution, and may include substance use or mental health treatment, employment, and education. Charges are dismissed upon successful completion of the program. Overall, the completion rate averages above 75 percent.

The unit consists of the supervisor, six case managers and two administrative assistants.

## Deferred Prosecution by the Numbers



## Felony/Misdemeanor

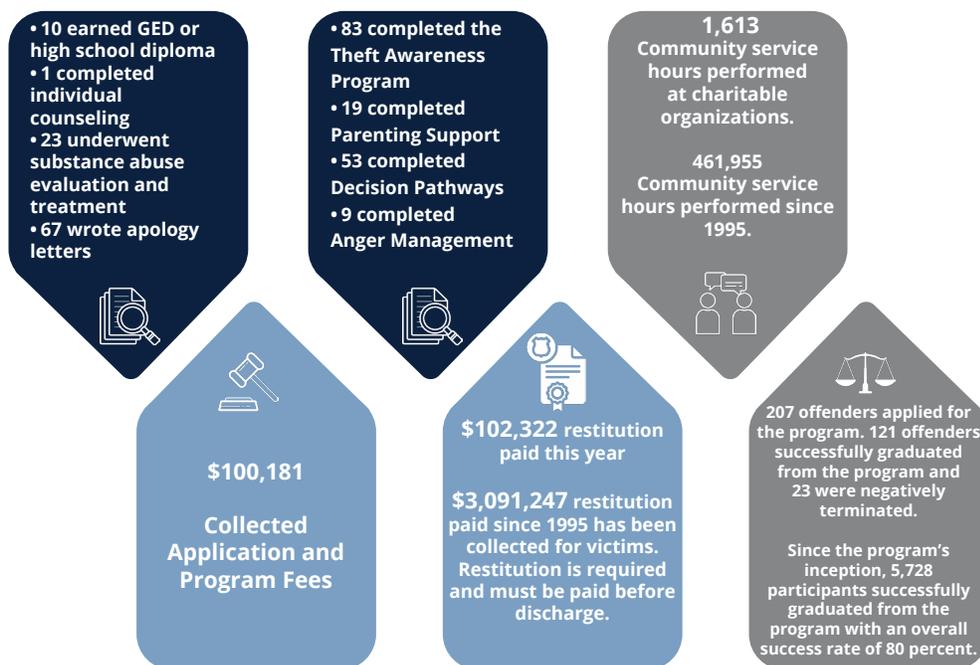
**Individuals Diverted per Year: 150-250\***

**Average Participant Age: 29**

**Year Established: 1995**

For first-time, nonviolent offenders who have not been previously convicted. Application and program fees are assessed on a sliding scale up to \$1,500 and collected in monthly installments.

Average participation time is six to 12 months.



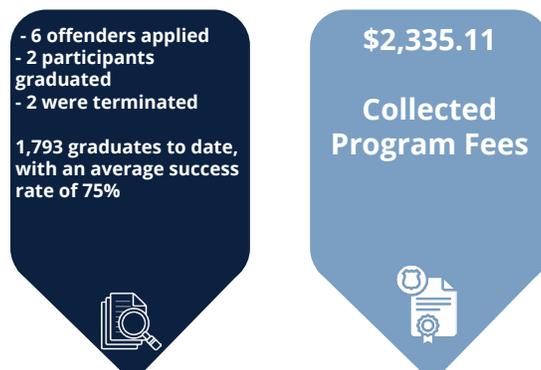
## Misdemeanor Drug/Alcohol

**Individuals Diverted per Year: 5-10\***

**Average Participant Age: 20**

**Year Established: 2004**

This program is for first-time, nonviolent misdemeanor drug and alcohol offenders. Application and program fees are assessed on a sliding scale up to \$1,000 and are collected in monthly installments. Participation averages six to 12 months.



\* The Misdemeanor Drug/Alcohol program has seen a sharp drop in applications due to laws decriminalizing certain amounts of marijuana possession.

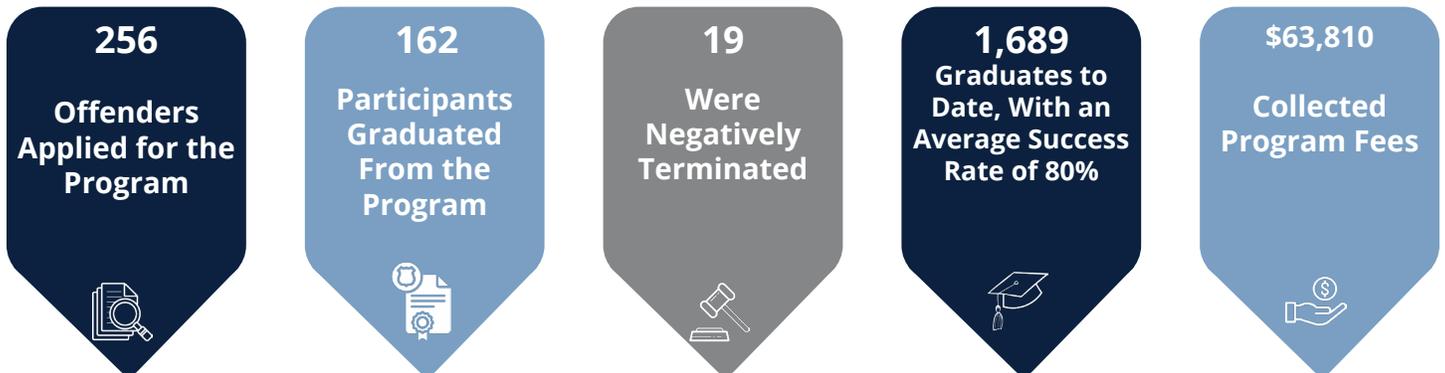
## Domestic Violence

**Individuals Diverted per Year: 200-300**

**Average Participant Age: 34**

**Year Established: 2010**

This program is for first-time, misdemeanor domestic battery offenses. Application and program fees are assessed on a sliding scale up to \$400 and are collected monthly. Average participation time is 12 months.



## Felony Drug

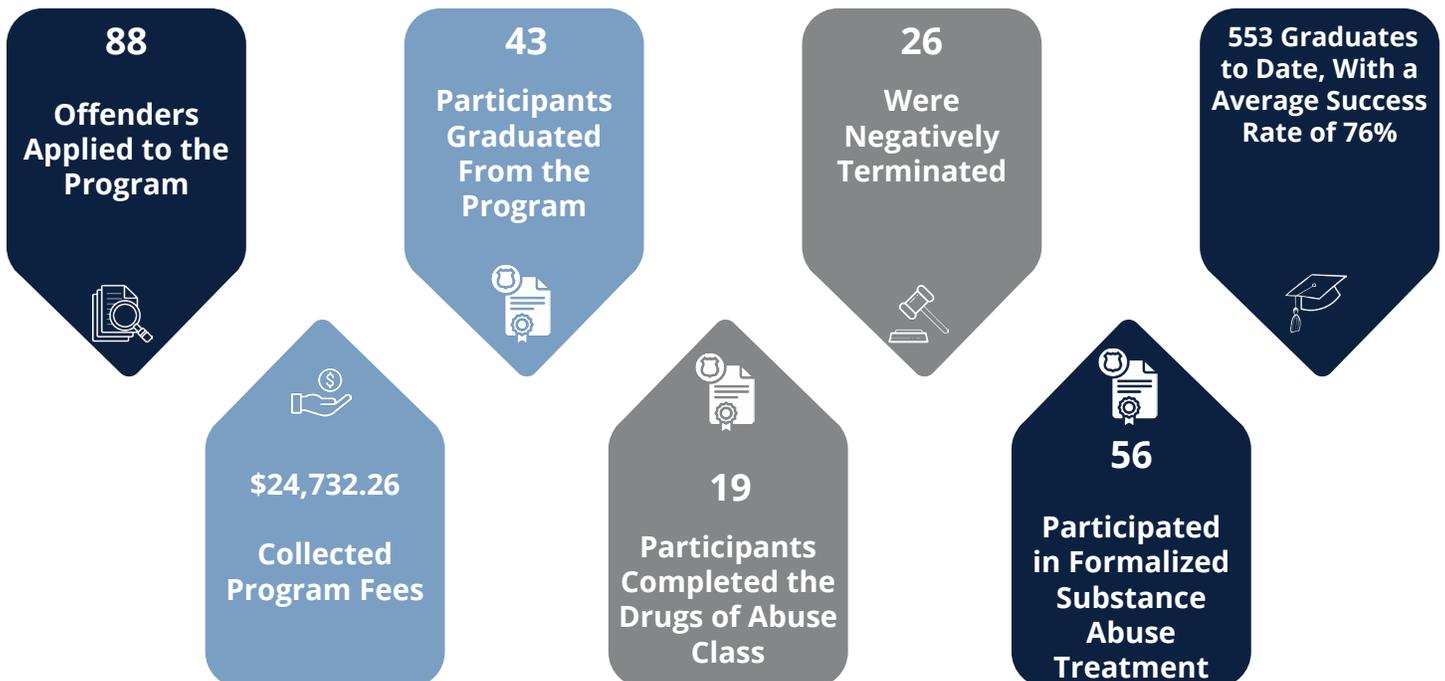
**Individuals Diverted per Year: 50-100**

**Average Participant Age: 26**

**Year Established: 2012**

This program is for first-time, nonviolent drug offenses. Application and program fees are assessed on a sliding scale up to \$1,500 and collected in monthly installments throughout the participant's agreement.

Average participation time is 12 months.



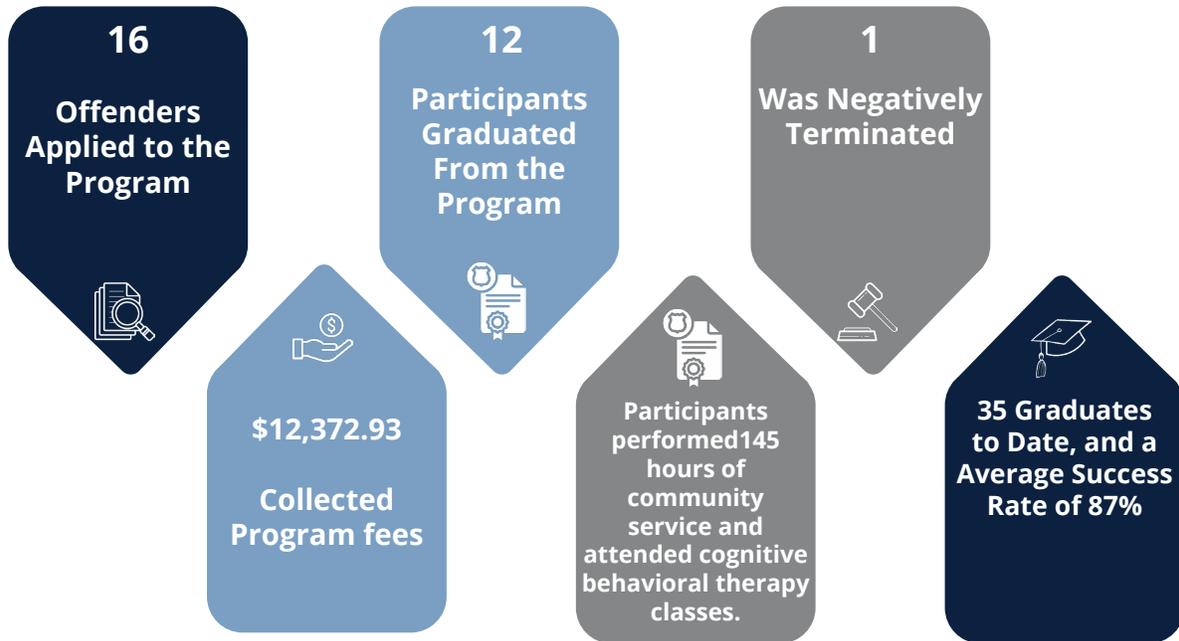
# First-Time Offenders Weapon Possession

**Individuals Diverted per Year: 25-50**

**Average Participant Age: 25**

**Year Established: 2021**

This program is for first-time gun offenders who may have experienced trauma that may have contributed to poor decision-making skills. Application and program fees are assessed on a sliding scale up to \$1,500 and collected in monthly installments throughout the participant's agreement. Average participation is 12 months.





# Collaborative Diversion

**Michelle Halbesma**  
Supervisor

The Kane County Collaborative Diversion (KCCD) initiative, launched in 2021 by the Kane County State's Attorney's Office and the Kane County Sheriff's Office, focuses on assisting low-level, nonviolent offenders with untreated mental health issues, substance use disorders, or a lack of resources. The program aims to increase public safety and reduce recidivism by connecting participants to essential community services, including mental health and substance use treatment, medical care, and housing.

KCCD is modeled after the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program, which emphasizes harm reduction and supports individuals outside the criminal justice system. Intensive case management is a key component, helping participants access necessary services while avoiding arrest and prosecution.

State's Attorney Jamie Mosser initiated the program after hearing from families who wished their loved ones could receive help without being arrested. This led to the exploration of the LEAD model, which facilitates access to services without the need for criminal charges. KCCD continues to expand its partnerships with law enforcement and community service providers to enhance its impact.

KCCD's mission is to offer an alternative to the legal system, empowering individuals and connecting them to resources that address their needs. By focusing on prevention and rehabilitation, the program aims to reduce recidivism and strengthen communities. It offers a holistic approach that helps individuals rebuild their lives while also reducing the strain on the criminal justice system.

The program consists of a project manager, community engagement coordinator, three full-time case managers and a case manager supervisor.

For more information about the program, contact Community Engagement Coordinator Lovi Fields at [FieldsLovianna@kanecountyil.gov](mailto:FieldsLovianna@kanecountyil.gov) or call (224) 239-2243.

Referrals can be made by scanning the QR code below or the 24-hour phone line at (224) 239-5303.



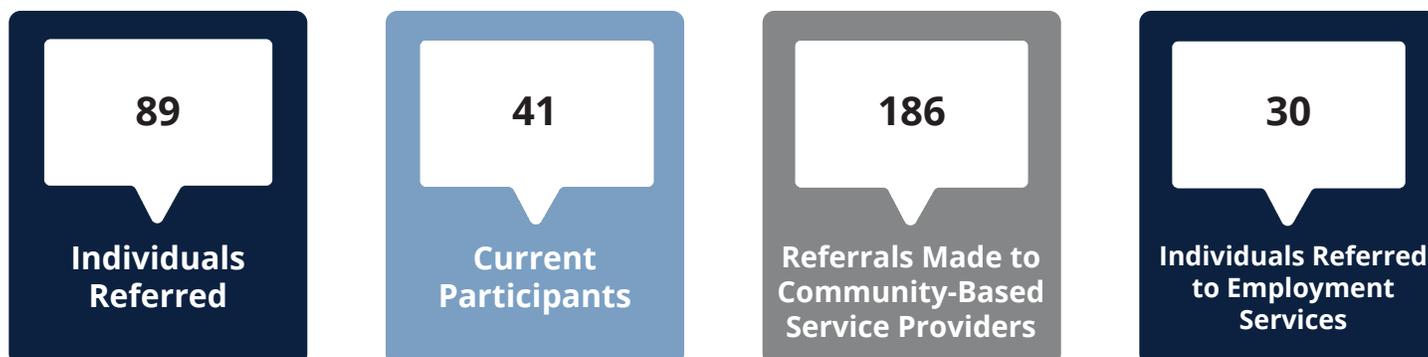
# Program Highlights

- Ambitiously expanded its service providers network within Kane County paying special attention to the areas of concern that were client specific needs.
- Implemented a strategy to ensure participant court activity in order to assist the program participants to find resolutions to the interactions with the court system of Kane County. The services that were provided were providing transportation to/from court hearings, supportive presence while in court and assistance for completion of court requirements to close open cases with the court.
- Utilized supportive federal and local funding to provide materials to assist the program participants in achieving set case management goals.
- Cultivated new relationships within the community in order to provide the program participants the greatest chance of success.
- Provided material, emotional and supportive assistance to the community when there were large public safety incidents in Kane County.
- Implemented a process for support for program participants that experience a change in their recovery journey that includes applying for recovery housing, transportation to/from recovery services and assisting in ensuring recovery program admittance.

## Community Engagement and Education



## Program Statistics



# Participant Highlights

A young woman struggling with addiction and facing custody challenges with her children was referred to the program by multiple social service agencies. Despite her ongoing struggles, including positive drug tests, she was consistently supported through a harm reduction model without judgment. Over time, trust was built, and she began sharing her legal and family issues. In December, she gave birth to a healthy baby girl, was reunited with her son, and is now living in stable housing, choosing sobriety, and asking for help as she navigates young motherhood.

A young man who had been living on the streets due to a lack of family support was referred to the program by a local police department. He had experienced bullying throughout school, compounded by cancer and developmental delays, which led to difficulties in maintaining employment. He eventually shared that he had a wife and child, and their family was facing homelessness. Through collaboration with other social service agencies, the family secured temporary shelter, and the man found full-time employment, expressing hope for stability in the future.

A participant facing legal issues, homelessness, and challenges with psychotropic medication made significant progress after more than a year of case management support. Initially, the individual was frequently arrested and had a difficult history with service providers. Through consistent support from KCCD and other social service agencies, the client has shown substantial improvement. He now attends weekly meetings with his case manager and receives his psychotropic medication via monthly injection. The individual began attending his court hearings, a task he previously avoided, and as a result, has stayed out of trouble. He is on the verge of securing stable housing and has significantly improved his social interactions, becoming more social and happier. His proactive approach in reaching out for support demonstrates his strong commitment to succeeding, despite past challenges such as family rejection and homelessness.

An individual faced financial difficulties and emotional struggles after losing his job and being kicked out of his friend's home. Without income or medical insurance, he was unable to see his children, which further impacted his emotional well-being. Through the building of trust with his case manager, the client was able to secure medical insurance and access much needed services. He also contacted his previous housing complex, eventually finding a new apartment. Now living in a residence closer to a pharmacy where he can access his psychotropic medication, the client has made great strides in managing his anxiety. With ongoing support from his case manager, he has found an IT job that allows him to work from home and is rebuilding trust with his ex-wife, which will eventually allow him to spend time with his children.



# Community Awareness & Prevention

**Pam Bradley**  
Director

The Community Awareness & Prevention (CAP) Unit, formerly known as Community Prosecution, proactively engages the community to build and strengthen relationships among community groups, elected officials, churches, law enforcement, and the residents of Kane County. The unit is a liaison that helps the Kane County State's Attorney's Office listen to the needs of the community. The CAP Unit's events spread prevention awareness to help reduce crime and build community trust.

The unit oversees the Aurora Law Enforcement Youth Academy in partnership with the Aurora Police Department, Kane County Sheriff's Office, Kane County Coroner's Office, Drug Enforcement Administration, FBI and the City of Aurora.

The Law Enforcement Youth Academy is a seven-week program that provides youth with an overview of the law while gaining trust with their local law enforcement agencies. The youth academy is comprised of community police officers who engage the youth with physical activities and various presentations.

The Law Enforcement Youth Academy has many partners who continue to make a difference in the lives of the youth in Kane County. These include the Kane County State's Attorney's Office, Kane County Sheriff's Office, Drug Enforcement Agency, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Kane County Coroner's Office, and the City of Aurora. These partners provide the youth with their professional background and expertise, encouraging and motivating youth to follow their dreams and become successful adults.

In 2024, the Law Enforcement Youth Academy celebrated its milestone 20th year, with 26 new graduates and a total of 566 graduates since 2004. The program comes under the umbrella of the Kane County State's Attorney's Office Community Awareness and Prevention Unit that oversees the program.

The overall goals of the CAP Unit are crime reduction, long-term relationships with stakeholders, community ownership and pride, and increased SAO recognition in the community. Additionally, the CAP Unit aims to increase crime prevention awareness and youth involvement in Kane County.

The CAP Unit partnered with the Aurora faith-based community to host Social Media Safety Awareness, Child Abuse Prevention; Mental Health, and the Court System in partnership with State's Attorney Jamie Mosser, CASA Kane County, Investigator Kevin Reynolds, Kane County Health Department, and Association for Individual Development. The unit arranged meet and greets, a child safety expo, and attended career fairs. The unit partnered with the Child Advocacy Center and the Aurora Housing Authority to host a child abuse prevention event. They also organized senior citizen scam and fraud prevention events led by State's Attorney Mosser in Aurora and Elgin. The unit prepared 100 bags of school supplies, donated by SAO staff, and distributed the bags to Mutual Ground, Hesed House, Lazarus House, and at a community ice cream social.

The unit includes a full-time director and volunteer support staff, assistant state's attorneys and investigators.

**26**  
Graduates From  
the Aurora Law  
Enforcement  
Youth Academy

**31**  
Community  
Resident  
Meetings

**21**  
Community  
Events

**169**  
Staff Volunteer  
Hours



# Events



**2024 Law  
Enforcement  
Youth  
Academy**



**Aurora  
University  
Career Fair**



**Child Abuse  
Prevention  
Awareness  
AHA**



**Child Abuse  
Prevention**



**Elgin Senior  
Scam/Fraud  
Lunch & Learn**



**Ice Cream  
Social**



**Meet & Greet  
Jakes Bagels**



**Meet & Greet  
Java Plus**



**Mental Health  
& The Justice  
System**



**Montgomery  
Fest**



**National Night  
Out**



**School Supply  
Distribution -  
Hesed House**



**School Supply  
Distribution -  
Lazarus House**



**School Supply  
Distribution -  
Mutual Ground**



**St. Charles  
Child Safety  
Expo**



**Youth & Social  
Media Event**



# Juvenile Justice Council

**Julia Schick**  
Supervisor

The Juvenile Justice Council (JJC) is the local governing body charged with improving juvenile justice issues in Kane County at a system level. By reviewing data and utilizing input from stakeholders, priorities are identified and addressed through action plans. The council consists of stakeholders from inside and outside the juvenile court system. Public Defender Rachele Conant chairs the group. The board of directors meets monthly and the full council meets quarterly.

Over the past year, the JJC engaged in a project with a national organization, the Council of State Governments (CSG), to take a deeper look at what our local juvenile justice system does well and where there may be opportunities to improve. Local data and policies were reviewed and listening sessions with key stakeholders who work in the system were facilitated to gather information. Based on the findings, the JJC has prioritized the following: expanding the use of diversion at the police department level and once cases are referred to Court Services, refining procedures that improve how cases are processed once they are involved in court, and developing more individualized approaches once youth are placed on probation. The JJC has already begun work around expanding diversion by forming a workgroup to explore how station adjustments are used by departments in Kane County and collaborating to develop forms that can be used by officers to implement station adjustments with youth.

In addition to implementing plans around the identified priorities from the project with CSG, the JJC is also in the process of exploring how to expand family involvement within the JJC, particularly to ensure that the voices of youth and family members impacted by system involvement can be integrated in discussions where policies and procedures are being updated.



# Kane County State's Attorney's Office

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