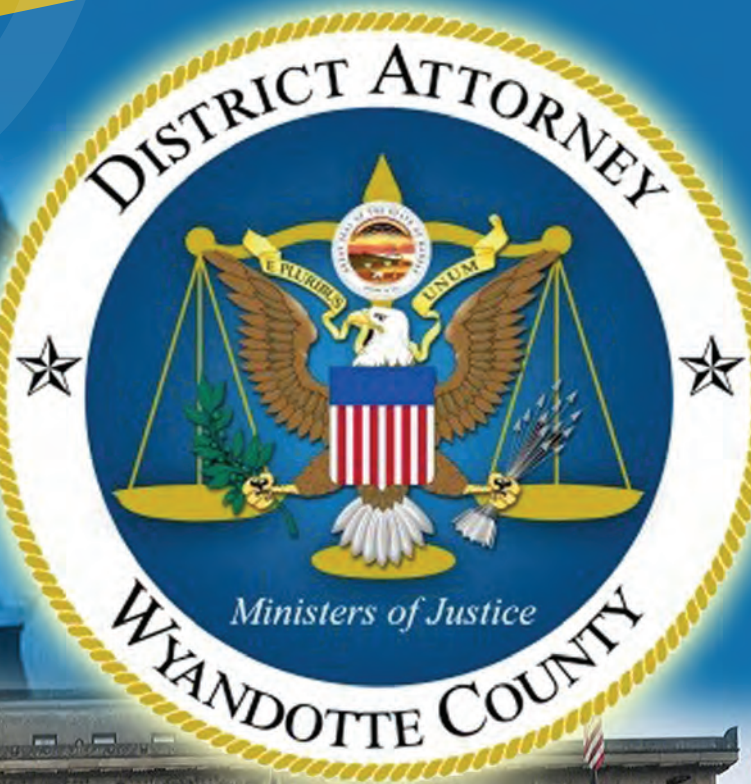


TWO THOUSAND NINETEEN

WYANDOTTE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

COMMUNITY Annual Report



2019 WYCO DISTRICT ATTORNEY COMMUNITY ANNUAL REPORT

District Attorney **MARK A. DUPREE, SR.**



It is with great pleasure and excitement that I introduce the Wyandotte County District Attorney's Office Community Annual Report. The WYCO DA's Community Annual Report is a tool designed for the citizens of Wyandotte County to understand the function and role of the District Attorney's Office in the justice system. As in years past, there will always be those that believe that justice should be done in darkness, behind closed doors, and with only the preferred being informed. I believe Justice should be done in the light, with total transparency, integrity, civility and respect for all. It is with this in mind we utilize every communication outlet we have to keep the community informed, from Facebook, twitter, website, press releases, and now the Community Annual Report. We hope this report informs, educates, and enlightens the reader about the diligent efforts we have made in pursuing a better and safer Wyandotte County. Over two years ago Wyandotte County embarked upon a journey by electing the vision I laid out for Wyandotte County. I have not taken your choice for granted and I am thankful. The Dupree Administration takes its duty to zealously pursue justice serious, and we are proud of that pursuit and the progressive programs we have enacted.

The U.S. Supreme Court and the American Bar Association are quoted saying prosecutors are "Ministers of Justice." "As such, [the Prosecutor] is in a peculiar and very definite sense the servant of the law, the twofold aim of which is that guilt shall not escape, nor innocence suffer. He may prosecute with earnestness and vigor—indeed, he should do so." *Berger v. U.S.*, 295 U.S. 78, 88 (1935). We take this mandate serious, an order to administer justice fairly, justly, and vigorously. It is with this mandate in mind we vigorously pursue those who commit violent crimes against our community. We fight to protect adults and children; simultaneously making certain low-level offenders receive proper punishment. None of this would be possible without the collaboration and dedication of all the Wyandotte County policing agencies and beyond. Through the tireless partnership with this office, Law Enforcement Officer's hard work and determination to keep the residents of Wyandotte County safe is respected and admired.

The Court further states, "but, while he may strike hard blows, he is not at liberty to strike foul ones. It is as much his duty to refrain from improper methods calculated to produce a wrongful conviction as it is to use every legitimate means to bring about a just one." *Berger v. U.S.*, 295 U.S. 78, 88 (1935). Thus, we find in the same mandate pursuing and convicting the correct person is of the utmost importance to the integrity of our county and Country. We are proud, with the help and support of the citizens of Wyandotte County and its Commissioners, to have created and funded the Conviction Integrity Unit (CIU). This forward-thinking unit is the first ever in the state of Kansas. We believe every conviction that comes out of this office must hold integrity, both now and in the decades to come. The justice system has been around long enough for us to begin learning from its history. If nothing else, we have learned that mistakes will be made in any system that involves humans. In our role as "Ministers of Justice," we as prosecutors have a unique ethical obligation to seek justice in every case, including past cases where injustices and mistakes may have occurred. This is why CIU was created.

This office is dedicated to Smart Prosecution. We are focused on prevention through connecting with youth and removing barriers to employment for those rejoining society after serving time in prison. Additionally, this has allowed us to address underlying issues that cause many to enter into the criminal justice system —i.e. mental health, drug addiction and others. We have reengaged with drug court and collaborated with the District Court to create the Behavioral Health Court. Both courts address the underlying issues that led individuals to commit their crime and assist the individual in getting the help/treatment they need to stay out of the system permanently.

Our office strives to protect the rights of all victims, which is why through grants we have hired an additional victim advocate and a VAWA (Violence Against Women Act) Prosecutor. All our advocates in the Victim Assistance Program and our attorneys treat all victims of crime with compassion and respect. We honor their bravery as we journey through the criminal justice system together.

The WYCO DA's office strives to enhance the quality of life through innovative community programs and by engaging the youth. The office culture has shifted to community prosecution. Wyandotte County Assistant District Attorneys are expected to give back to the community by becoming authentically involved. We visit elementary, middle, and high schools. We created the Brilliant Outstanding Leaders Determined to be the Difference (BOLDD) youth initiative to mentor and mold our young people into the next leaders, instead of waiting to see if they will become the next criminal. Additionally, we began the process of purging ourselves of over 60 years of paper files and digitizing over three thousand boxes of old files.

It is my hope this report allows you to become more educated and informed regarding the Wyandotte County District Attorney's Office initiatives, programs, and pursuits of justice. Wyandotte has a team of dedicated and experienced staff and attorneys who come to work every day with the same goals of making our community a better place to live and holding the guilty accountable.

Manager of Office & Community Affairs **BRANDY WELLS**

The US in jUstice

(The Support Staff Makes the Difference)

Many times, when one thinks about a District Attorney's Office, the first and sometimes only thing that comes to mind are the prosecutors, also referred to as Assistant District Attorneys (ADAs). Well, why wouldn't you? It cannot be denied that these hard-working attorneys are in the courtroom and community seeking jUstice and helping to build a safer community. But behind the search for jUstice is "Us" the support staff. Often overlooked, but nonetheless ancillary in fulfilling the responsibility of the District Attorney's Office.

The "Us" in jUstice provides efficiency and effectiveness in the judicial process. A majority of the support staff within this office provide support for two to three ADAs. The caseload for an ADA in the Wyandotte County District Attorney's Office is voluminous; therefore, doubling or tripling for the support staff. With such a caseload, I can understand how we may get overlooked. Hidden behind the stacks of case files, computer screens and paperwork, we work tirelessly to ensure the accuracy and timeliness of legal filings, subpoenas, and case documentations. Not to mention; well actually, let's do mention – the coordination of internal and external agencies, managing the discovery process, meeting with victims, interviewing witnesses and a vast amount of other administrative details and procedural requirements.

Our overall goal is to instill a level of confidence in the attorneys that allow them to focus their time and energy on the details of the case and specifics of the law. So, how do we do it? Through continuous cross training and working in an environment that is built on mutual respect. We have come to love what we do. The "US" in jUstice for Wyandotte County is a group of dedicated and loyal employees believing in the mission to "Make A Difference" in our community.

So rather you call "US", legal secretaries, legal assistants, support staff, victims' advocates, paralegals or investigators; when you stop by, call, send a written correspondence or from a courtroom you see an ADA send a quick text and magically in walks the document; just know that it's "US", doing our part to make sure the process continues to flow so that jUstice will continue to be served.



Assistant District Attorney **CANDICE ALCARAZ**

Juvenile Services

The juvenile department of the Wyandotte County DA's Office is working closely with the District Court and Juvenile Court Services in adopting the many legislative changes to the Kansas Juvenile Code. These changes have altered the way in which we handle juvenile offender cases for diversion, probation, etc. For instance, we have been able to afford more juveniles with the opportunity to successfully complete the diversion program. We consider a juvenile's familial, educational, economic, behavioral, and social background. We also review the crime, its effect on the victim, and its effect on society as a whole in deciding whether to offer diversion or a plea for probation.

Furthermore, advocating for diversion and probation as opposed to the more serious punishments gives us more options that allow juveniles to remain in the community. There are many programs to help rehabilitate a juvenile and help them lead a better life into their adulthood. It is only when a crime has been committed in a violent, sexually explicit, or deadly manner that we consider the juvenile correctional facility or waiver to adult status. Every case is different and the options we seek in settling cases reflects a hard fought effort to balance the need to keep more juveniles in the community and keeping the community at large safe.

MISSION STATEMENT

*"We are **MINISTERS OF JUSTICE**. We strive to protect the rights of all victims and witnesses by holding the guilty accountable. We enhance the quality of life through innovative community programs. Our office believes in cohesiveness, by engaging the youth and community.*

Our office stands for fair and just prosecution, it is not just about a conviction it's about justice for the community."



Assistant District Attorney **THOMAS PENLAND**



BOLDD/COMMUNITY AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT



Community involvement doesn't start, or stop, with those 18 years and over in the eyes of Mark Dupree, Sr., and the Wyandotte County District Attorney's Office. Youth engagement has been a cornerstone of focus for the DA's Office since the beginning of this new administration that took over in January 2017. From school visits to the new initiative "BOLDD" program, and everything in-between, our office makes it a priority to invest in our Wyandotte County youths.

School visits are a great success in connecting our attorneys with students across the county. Our attorneys, each and every one of them, regularly visit schools elementary, middle, and high schools on a rotating basis, ensuring that each attorney enjoys the same wonderful opportunity. Typically, our attorneys visit a school on a scheduled career day. We love the chance to share our experiences as attorneys, as well as counseling the students on what it takes to become an assistant district attorney. Our favorite part is hearing back from the students and answering their questions. We have had some great conversations with some really bright kids!

BOLDD stands for "Brilliant Outstanding Leaders Determined to be the Difference." A more outcome-specific program, BOLDD is aimed towards high school students with the goal of giving them help and advice to stay on the right path. It is our mission to do everything we can to assist them in moving positively through life. On a monthly basis we present them with speakers, including attorneys from our office, community leaders, or others we feel will have a positive impact.

Our youth engagement programs have yielded great dividends as students seem to really respond positively. If you need more convincing, just ask District Attorney Mark Dupree, Sr., himself. It was at the age of 14 in which he was introduced to Judge Cordell Meeks, Jr. through a high school shadow program. That was the moment that spurred Mr. Dupree to consider a career in law. Maybe one day one of the students we have met with through a school visit or BOLDD will be the next District Attorney. Stay tuned!



Deputy District Attorney **CRYSTALYN OSWALD**



VICTIM ADVOCATE

The Wyandotte County District Attorney's Office employs three Victim Advocates. These advocates work with victims and witnesses of crimes through the entirety of a case as it moves through the criminal justice system. Their interaction with a victim often begins before a crime has been officially charged, working with victim advocacy agencies through MOCSA, Sunflower House, Friends of Yates and law enforcement. These women ensure that victims of crime have a voice, and are up-to-date with their case. They inform victims of court dates, changes in scheduling, and work with the prosecutors to ensure a victim is prepared for court. The advocates often go to court with the victim when he or she is called to testify, to provide support through this difficult process.

In 2017, the DA's Office pursued and received grant funding for the third Victim Advocate in our office. This advocate works exclusively with victims of sexual and domestic violence. This grant-funded position allows the office to provide training and services that are trauma-informed, and to make sure victims of these offenses have access to every resource available. Frequently these victims know and/or live with the perpetrator, so there are often higher needs in these cases. Having a dedicated advocate for the majority of the sexual and domestic violence cases benefits victims of those crimes, as well as the caseloads of the two other victim advocates.

NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP MEETINGS

One of DA Dupree's priorities for the Wyandotte County DA's Office is community involvement. Mr. Dupree revitalized the District Attorney's Office by reengaging the people of Wyandotte. One method by which the District Attorney's Office does this is by attending Neighborhood Group Meetings. Primarily attended by District Attorney Dupree, these meetings provide citizens who are concerned about the safety and well-being of their respective communities with a direct, informal forum in which to discuss those concerns with the top law enforcement official in Wyandotte County. There are over 80 neighborhood groups in Wyandotte and attending several of the meetings each month not only keeps Mr. Dupree up-to-speed with what's going on at a micro level, it also affords him the opportunity to provide office updates directly to the people.

Additionally, District Attorney Dupree and his Chief Deputy District Attorney, Damon Mitchell, attend the Livable Neighborhood Task Force meeting at the Neighborhood Resource Center once a month. At the monthly meeting, an update is given by representatives from the Mayor's Office, Wyandotte County Sheriff's Office, the Kansas City, Kansas Police Department, USD-500 school district, and others. The Task Force meets with neighborhood groups each month to provide them with updates and assist them in executing strategies to improve the quality of life in their respective neighborhoods.



Assistant District Attorney **MARK BRINKWORTH**

COMMUNITY LIAISON BOARD

Since taking office, District Attorney Mark Dupree has made it his mission to educate and engage the people of Wyandotte County. He has worked to accomplish this mission by implementing innovative, cutting-edge programs, as well as adopting programs that have shown great promise in other jurisdictions around the country. One such example is the Community Liaison Board ("CLB").

Meeting quarterly, the CLB works in partnership with the District Attorney's Office in pursuit of two straightforward goals: (1) make Wyandotte County a safer place to live and work, and (2) educate the community about matters of law. The CLB is comprised of 30 Wyandotte County residents, from all walks of life, who serve on a multi-year, rotating basis; this is done to ensure that the group constantly has fresh eyes and minds available to look at issues.

In the time since its implementation, the CLB has helped the District Attorney's Office develop a more community-friendly website, increase youth engagement, and foster a greater rapport with the community.

Assistant District Attorney **KAYLA ROEHLER** DRUG COURT



The District Attorney's Office is currently engaged in two specialty court initiatives, with the prospect of adding a third. Specialty courts are designed to help reduce recidivism by focusing efforts on barriers hindering a person's ability to remain law abiding. Instead of punishing the individual's circumstance, trauma, addiction, or health issues, specialty courts look to solve the root of the problems and provide tools to help them cope. Examples of specialty courts are drug court, DUI court, mental health court, veterans courts, truancy courts, and re-entry courts. The most common specialty court is Drug Court which is the "gold standard" of specialty courts. Drug courts have been in use for over 20 years, and have developed best practices for specialty courts in efforts to reduce recidivism.

Wyandotte County has two active specialty courts: Drug Court and Behavioral Health Court (Mental Health). We are proud to be the first felony only Behavioral Health Court in Kansas. We look forward to more specialty courts to come. Stay tuned.

The Wyandotte County Adult Drug Program is a collaborative effort between the Probation Department, Treatment Providers, The Wyandot Center, Defense Bar, the Courts and the District Attorney's Office. We team up to help those in our community battling addiction while on probation. We praise the number of days they have remained sober every court hearing. When our participants slip, we work as a team to devise a sanction that is appropriate for the offending behavior. Sanctions could include: community service, writing letters of apology, writing a thinking report about their actions, earlier curfew, and jail time.

Drug Court embraces a holistic approach that includes family therapy, classes for expectant mothers, mental health services, cognitive behavior sessions, parenting classes, and any other resource that can help a probationer and their family stay drug and crime free long term. In 2017, the District Attorney's Office took the step to re-engage with our Drug Court because the research shows when there is a full team, including the DA, participants are more successful.

Deputy District Attorney **KAREN WITTMAN** DIVERSION



Diversion is a program sanctioned by Kansas statutes allowing a District Attorney to give a 2nd chance to an individual that has committed a crime. These diversion programs are a contract between the District Attorney and the offender. The contract requires the offender to complete certain things over the period of diversion. Diversion periods can last anywhere from three (3) months to two (2) years. If the contract is fulfilled by the offender the case is dismissed and the offender has no criminal conviction.

The Wyandotte County District Attorney's Office offers a number of different diversion programs. Certain guidelines are required to be eligible for diversion. The type of charge and offender's criminal history are two main considerations. Certain criminal cases, 1st offender DUI, possession of drugs, and traffic infractions are the programs offered to offenders with little or no criminal history.

Drug diversions were not available until 2018 when it was apparent these individuals needed treatment rather than jail. As such, in 2018 the WyCo DA's Office created the Drug Diversion Program. The goal of these programs is to change the behavior of the defendant, pay restitution if owed, and complete various programs specific to the offenders needs without creating a criminal conviction. The chart below shows the various diversions offered, how many individuals applied and were accepted into the plan.

Diversion Programs Offered

	2017		2018		2019	
	APPLIED	APPROVED	APPLIED	APPROVED	APPLIED	APPROVED
TRAFFIC			483	441	49	43
DUI	78	61	53	48	3	3
CRIM FEL	56	46	62	44	7	6
CRIM MISD	14	12	5	6*	1	1
DRUG			85	64	9	5

Assistant District
Attorney

**DANIEL
OBERMEIER**

CONSUMER INVESTIGATIONS



The DA's Office is authorized by the Kansas Consumer Protection Act (KCPA; K.S.A. 50-623 et seq.) to pursue cases involving violations of the KCPA in Wyandotte County. In doing so, we act on behalf of the people of the State of Kansas to protect consumers against unconscionable acts and deceptive practices. Consumer complaints are investigated by this Office. Instances of consumer fraud include: warranty disclaimers, door-to-door sales, contest or prize scams, charitable solicitations, home repairs or remodeling, debt collection practices, internet scams involving bank accounts, car purchases or repairs, telemarketing fraud, unordered merchandise, work at home offers, appliance repairs and defective merchandise, and mail order items. When a violation has occurred, this Office works to obtain various remedies, including restitution for the consumer.

If you believe you have been the victim of a worthless check, contact the DA's Office and request a worthless check packet. Before submitting a worthless check case, you will be required to give the person who passed the check seven days' notice that they have to pay by certified mail. If by that time they have not, then you may submit your request to prosecute the worthless check to the DA's Office.



Kent Maple, Consumer Investigator

Assistant District
Attorney

**ADAM
SOKOLOFF**



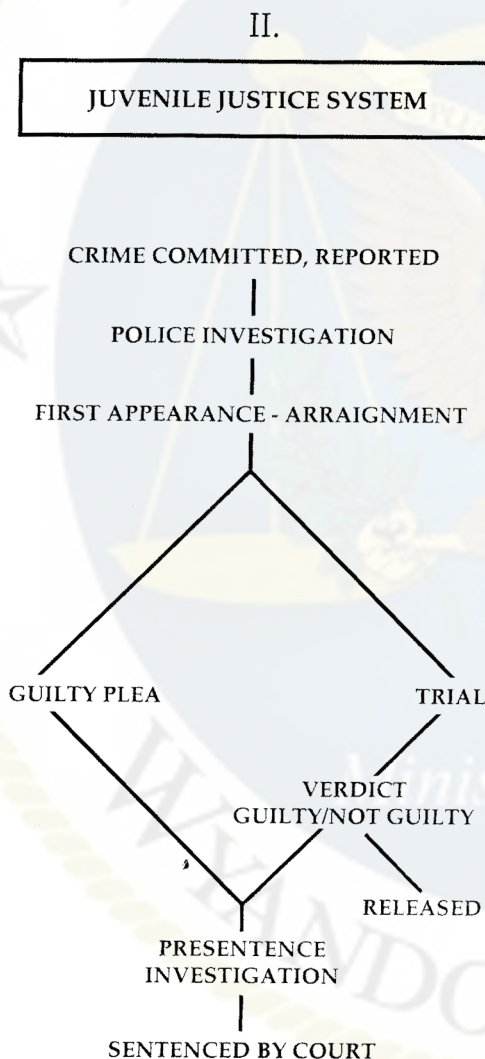
CONVICTION INTEGRITY UNIT

The Wyandotte County District Attorney's Office is proud to be the first in Kansas to create an independent review process to correct wrongful convictions. We join the ranks of nationally revered offices in cities such as New York, Chicago and Dallas in creating a Conviction Integrity Unit focused on bringing the truly guilty to justice, and developing greater faith in the criminal justice system within our community. Wrongful convictions threaten the relationship between law enforcement professionals and the citizens they serve, and worse, allow dangerous criminals to escape justice and remain threats to the community – the Conviction Integrity Unit (CIU) has been created to resolve this problem, and to work to honor the deeply American values of fairness and justice.

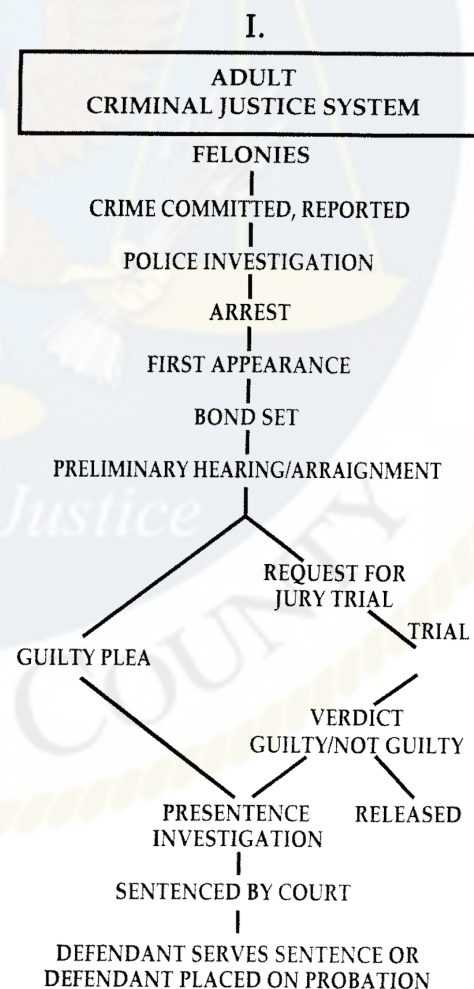
The CIU will function outside of the traditional District Attorney's Office's daily operations. It will independently and thoroughly review claims made by or on behalf of individuals claiming to be wrongfully convicted in order to verify justified requests for relief. The CIU will have the resources to independently investigate verifiable claims of wrongful convictions, and will recommend remedial action when appropriate. The CIU will also serve to confirm the validity of previous convictions that are called into question. The creation of the Conviction Integrity Unit will be important and impactful not only to the individual cases it investigates, but on the orientation and processes of the prosecutors in this office and law enforcement generally. It is our sincere hope that the CIU is another step in building meaningful bonds with the community we serve through transparency, accountability, and a commitment to the ideals of justice.

CRIMINAL/JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM CHARTS

BASIC STEPS OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM



BASIC STEPS OF THE ADULT CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM



Assistant District Attorney **MICHELLE MCFARLANE** ATTORNEY RAISES



Upon taking office in January 2017, Mr. Dupree recognized the pay discrepancy between his assistant district attorneys and their counterparts in the city and other local jurisdictions. The pay discrepancy had existed for quite some time. He knew the best way to keep experienced, hard-working and talented attorneys is to make sure they are compensated fairly. He petitioned the Unified Government Board of Commissioners in 2017 to increase pay for Wyandotte County Assistant District Attorneys. They understood the issue and graciously approved raises that, on average, raised attorney pay 11-percent. The men and women who serve as ADA's work extremely hard for the residents of Wyandotte County, and we want them to feel valued and compensated fairly.

Assistant District Attorney **CHRIS SCHNEIDER** BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COURT



In October, 2017, the District Attorney's office joined with the Wyandotte County District Court, the Wyandot Center, and Community Corrections in creating a Behavioral Health Court (BHC) to serve people living with Severe and Persistent Mental Illnesses who are convicted of felonies and placed on probation. BHC is what is known as an alternative court, which is a non-traditional approach to imposing consequences for criminal behavior.

The Wyandotte County BHC aids felons who would have difficulty completing traditional probation because of their chronic mental illness. Not only do these probationers meet at least weekly with a community corrections intensive supervision officer, they also meet with mental health professionals, substance abuse treatment providers, individuals providing peer support, and other professionals in an effort to provide them with life-skills that will enable them to not only successfully complete probation, but also function as stable and productive members of society.



Assistant District Attorney **SHERI COURTNEY** CHARGING PROCESS



The District Attorney's Office receives affidavits, police reports and investigative material from law enforcement agencies for consideration of charges. The investigative files are reviewed by an Assistant District Attorney to determine if sufficient evidence exists to file charges. If a decision is made to file charges, an Assistant District Attorney prepares the charging documents. The warrant and the affidavit from law enforcement are reviewed by a Judge, who sets a bond. The documents are then filed with the Court. In 2018, the Kansas Supreme Court mandated e-filing for all cases. This has enabled our office to electronically file cases and documents with the Court, improving efficiency.

We work with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies including: Kansas City Kansas Police Department, Wyandotte County Sheriff's Department, Bonner Springs Police Department, Edwardsville Police Department, University of Kansas Police Department, Kansas City Kansas Public Schools Police Department, Kansas City Kansas Fire Department, Lake Quivira Police Department, Kansas City Kansas Community College Police Department, Kansas Highway Patrol, Kansas Bureau of Investigation, Kansas Racing and Gaming Commission, State Fire Marshall, Alcoholic Beverage Control, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Union Pacific Railroad Police Department, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Police Department and others. In 2018, we filed 1347 criminal cases.

Chief Deputy District Attorney **DAMON MITCHELL**



NEW OFFICER-INVOLVED SHOOTING POLICY

It is vitally important that the citizens of Wyandotte County have faith in the process used to review officer-involved shootings that result in the death of a suspect. This administration, with the cooperation of forward-thinking law enforcement, implemented a new policy that requires all law enforcement agencies in Wyandotte County to use an outside law enforcement agency to jointly investigate officer-involved shootings that result in the death of a suspect. Until August of 2018, this was not the case. Some agencies conducted their own officer-involved shooting fatality investigations, while others did not. We are pleased to report, however, that every law enforcement agency in Wyandotte county has joined its neighboring counties and most jurisdictions in the nation in embracing this policy of outside agency review of officer-involved shootings that result in death of a suspect.

Although every major law enforcement agency has individuals fully capable of investigating fellow officers involved in fatal shootings, it is accepted best practice to have an outside agency perform the investigation and present the case for review. Officers from agencies within Wyandotte County are experts in this area and conduct officer-involved shooting investigations for other departments. It would not be hyperbole to say the Kansas City, Kansas Police Department employs some of the best detectives in the nation who are experts in this specialized field of investigation. They are routinely called on to conduct officer-involved shooting investigations for other law enforcement agencies. Nevertheless, the mere appearance of a conflict of interest can undermine the best investigative work and erode public trust in the outcome of the investigation. Outside agency review helps to maintain public trust in the integrity of these investigations.

When law enforcement agencies investigate themselves in officer-involved shootings resulting in the death of a suspect, there is an appearance of a conflict of interest. Naturally, it is hard for most people to understand how a law enforcement agency can investigate itself in such a serious matter. The outside agency review model eliminates the appearance of a conflict of interest and provides a sure-footed path to move communities past these tragedies together. The outside agency review model is widely utilized throughout Kansas and is the model most widely employed in major jurisdictions in the United States. Wyandotte County is now onboard with this model and we are moving ahead together.

Assistant District Attorney **NJERI MWANGI** GRANT PROSECUTOR



Our office is the recipient of the STOP Formula Grant Program awarded to states and territories. This grant program enhances the capacity of local communities to develop and strengthen effective law enforcement and prosecution strategies to combat violent crimes against women and to develop and strengthen victim services in cases involving violent crimes against women. The grant program is funded through the violence against Women Act (VAWA). VAWA is a landmark piece of legislation that sought to improve criminal justice and community-based responses to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking in the United States. The VAWA act was passed in 1994 and reauthorized in 2000, 2005, 2013 and 2019. VAWA provides funding for vital programs to protect victims and survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.

This prosecutor handles, specifically, domestic violence and sexual assault cases working with a grant-funded victim advocate who is dedicated fully to responding to and providing resources for victims of sexual and domestic violence and this assists with prosecution of those cases. With a full time, prosecutor and victim advocate dedicated to handling domestic violence and sexual assault cases, we can provide services and related assistance to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault crimes. Additionally, because of the grant funded prosecutor position, the office can provide a dedicated liaison among law enforcement, medical professionals and the community to work for better coordination in the prosecution of domestic violence and sexual assault crimes.

Assistant District Attorney **DAVID GREENWALD** DIGITAL UPGRADES



When we took office in January 2017, discovery was provided to the defense by putting it into a folder and sending it to Kinkos to be photocopied at a per page cost. Sometimes discovery was very cheap and sometimes it was very expensive, but the money all went to Kinkos for their labor and resources. Moreover, the privacy and confidentiality of the individuals involved in the case was virtually non-existent by sending otherwise confidential information to be copied outside the office. In early 2017 we changed our process. Now, the file is scanned and burned onto a CD that costs \$10 for the defense. Our process has sped up considerably because everything is handled in house. Our assistants scan, stamp the file with page numbers, and process payment all from the District Attorney's office and at a much faster pace than the old process.

The second part of our discovery process is how we utilize digital evidence. Photos, videos, and audio files are given to the prosecutors who can upload the discs into our computer system and create copies for the defense attorneys. Under our old system, there was a 2-3 month backlog of work but it has been cut down by a substantial margin. We are continuing to look for new and innovative ways to use technology in our office to become more efficient in our day to day business, as well as more effective in the courtroom. We are in the process of scanning and archiving old files that are currently being stored in our office and in the old jail. These files go back sixty years. Instead of paying thousands of dollars for private storage, these files will now be digitally accessible at a substantial savings to the taxpayers.

Finally, we have upgraded the computers in the office. Each attorney now has a laptop that allows them to access court records, jail records, and our internal records from the courtroom. They can more effectively inform the court with access to information at their fingertips.

Assistant District Attorney **MICHELLE MCFARLANE** RELEVANT IN TECHNOLOGY AGE



The Wyandotte County District Attorney's Office has its own page on the Unified Government's website. The District Attorney's Office page has recently undergone a complete overhaul, with additions and changes making it more easily accessible for community members. The process to revamp the page occurred in 2017 and continues today as we examine new ways to best bring information to anyone who seeks it. A very big thank you goes to the Unified Government Technology Team for all of their hard work in making it happen!

On the website, you will find information about the different divisions of the District Attorney's Office and the different services the District Attorney's Office offers. The website contains specific information about our consumer protection, criminal and juvenile divisions, including resources for victims of crimes, information on how to report a crime and information on what to do if you receive a subpoena from our office. Our Diversion page contains information about our traffic, criminal, DUI and drug diversion programs. Diversion programs provide an alternative to prosecution for qualifying defendants and assure prompt repayment of restitution to victims. Information on qualifying for diversion and how to apply for diversion can be found under the "Diversion" tab. On our Expungement page, you will find not only information about eligibility for an expungement, but also a workable online form you can fill out in order to apply for expungement. For many individuals, this saves a great deal of time in going through the process of expungement. Our victim assistance page provides a wealth of information available on the District Attorney's Office Victim Assistance Program.

The District Attorney's Office has made it a priority to keep victims informed on the court process, as well as treat all victims of crime with compassion and respect. The website helps achieve that mission by providing valuable information to victims of crime and giving victims easy access to victim assistance resources. On our Media page, you will find print and broadcast news stories as well as links to our Facebook and Twitter pages. You will also be able to track the many places we've gone in Wyandotte County, and beyond, through our endless community engagement.

Our Vision Statement

The Wyandotte County District Attorney's office seeks fair and just prosecution to promote a safer community for all members, visitors and generations to come.

To continue to make Wyandotte County a choice to live, grow and respect.

Kansas Legal Services
(913) 621-0200

WYCO Victim Assistance
(913) 573-2851

Department for Children and Families (DCF)
-Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting
(913) 279-7000

-Adult Protective Services
(913) 279-7000

-Child Adult Hotline
1 (800) 922-5330

-Child Abuse/Adult Sexual Assault
Call 9-1-1 or (913) 279-7000

-Child/Adult Hotline
1 (800) 922-5330

Counseling Information for Victim/Survivors of Sexual Abuse

-Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault (MOCSA)
(913) 642-0233 or (816) 531-0233

Wyandot Center
(913) 328-4600

KCKPD Victim Services
(913) 573-5616

Shelter Information

Domestic Violence
(913) 573-8190

Joyce Williams Haven
(913) 321-0951

Friends of Yates, Inc.
(913) 321-1566

Safehome (Johnson County)
(913) 262-2868

Leavenworth Alliance (Leavenworth County)
1 (888) 682-9131

Survivors of Homicide Victims/Support Groups

County Victims of Homicide
(913) 573-2851

Compassionate Friends
(816) 531-6464

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)
1 (800) 443-6233

Parents of Murdered Children (POMC)
(816) 850-4200

Suicide Prevention

National Suicide Prevention Hotline
1 (800) 273-TALK (8255)

"Making A Difference"

Mark A. Dupree