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2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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PROSECUTOR'S MESSAGE



I am honored to submit the 2022 Salem County Prosecutor's Office Annual Report. As it does each year, the report describes the many and diverse tasks performed by the men and women in the Salem County Prosecutor's Office in dedicated service to the residents of Salem County. This past year reflects new growth and movement as the nation, the State of New Jersey and Salem County emerge from the pandemic. While recent years focused on the unprecedented hurdles of backlogs, justice reform, diversion and addiction needs generated as a result of the pandemic, newfound partnerships this past year have allowed for remarkable gains. This past year at the Salem County Prosecutor's Office has been one filled with dramatic change, growth and strength.

I acknowledge and thank the many partners who assist the Salem County Prosecutor's Office in completing its mission. The Attorney General's Office, the Division of Criminal Justice, the Liberty Mid Atlantic HIDTA, Homeland Security Investigations, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Drug Enforcement Agency, the New Jersey State Police, the Salem County Sheriff's Office and the local police departments remain outstanding law enforcement partners. Volunteers of America, the Salem County Health Department and countless community health and service organizations are bringing invaluable resources to the residents of Salem County in newfound partnerships. Together we continue to grow and deliver critical resources to the County of Salem. I also extend my appreciation to the various community groups who have assisted this office, including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Puerto Rican Action Committee, the Salem County clergy leaders, the Salem County Coalition for a Safe Community, and the Salem County Commissioners.

It is a privilege to serve as the Salem County Prosecutor.

Kristin J. Telsey
Salem County Prosecutor

The Salem County Prosecutor's Office

As a constitutionally established law enforcement agency, the mission of the Salem County Prosecutor's Office is to use all reasonable and lawful diligence for the detection, arrest, indictment and conviction of offenders against the laws. The Salem County Prosecutor, as the chief law enforcement officer of the county, provides leadership and supervision over the chiefs of police and municipal prosecutors with a view to ensure effective, efficient and uniform enforcement of the criminal laws and administration of criminal justice throughout the county.

The Salem County Prosecutor's Office is committed to accomplishing this mission as well as improving the relations between law enforcement and the public, protecting the rights of victims and, ultimately, improving the public safety in Salem County to make it a better place to live, work and raise a family.

The mission of the Salem County Prosecutor's Office is to create and preserve an environment of safety and security for the citizens of the County. To accomplish this broad-based mission, traditional and non-traditional task-oriented goals have been adopted to provide a framework within which office business is conducted. Primary among these goals is the following:

1. To protect the life and property of the citizens by successfully investigating and prosecuting criminal offenses which occur in Salem County;
2. To promote and foster education of the public about the criminal justice system, crime prevention and victims' rights;
3. To identify the law enforcement and prosecutorial needs in a changing environment and to promulgate initiatives to meet those changing needs;
4. To promote and foster cooperation with other law enforcement, public service and prosecutorial entities having jurisdiction in Salem County; and
5. To fulfill a public-sector leadership role in the community by forming cooperative partnerships with other agencies, public officials, community leaders and business leaders in an effort to improve the quality of life for the people of Salem County.

OVERVIEW



First Assistant Prosecutor Jonathan M. Flynn, Chief of County Detectives James H. Gilliespie, IV, Executive Assistant Prosecutor Jeffrey J. Barile, Prosecutor Kristin J. Telsey, Office Manager Mary V. Fitton

Management

Kristin J. Telsey serves as the Salem County Prosecutor. For the first time in more than twenty-two years, the Salem County Prosecutor's Office welcomed a new First Assistant Prosecutor, Jonathan M. Flynn, as of November 1, 2022. First Assistant Prosecutor Flynn continues to handle trials for the most serious offenses charged in Salem County, while providing oversight to a team of Assistant Prosecutors and trial staff. As we welcomed First Assistant Flynn, we were forced to say a bittersweet goodbye to First Assistant Prosecutor William Brennan, who retired after twenty-six years with the Salem County Prosecutor's Office.

Also for the first time in more than twenty years, the Salem County Prosecutor's Office filled the position of Executive Assistant Prosecutor in December 2022. Executive Assistant Prosecutor Jeffrey J. Barile provides critical compliance and policy oversight to the office and provides primary support to innovative new community programming. With more than twenty years in law enforcement, James H. Gillespie, IV serves as Chief of County Detectives, responsible for oversight of the investigative staff. Mary V. Fitton is the Office Manager, with responsibility for overseeing the clerical staff.

Personnel

In 2022, the Salem County Prosecutor's Office had 12 attorneys on staff including Prosecutor Kristin J. Telsey, First Assistant Prosecutor Jonathan M. Flynn, and Executive Assistant Prosecutor Jeffrey J. Barile. The 2022 year presented significant personnel challenges, with the retirement of 11 key personnel. These challenges, however, allowed the office to streamline staffing, identify critical needs, redesign key departments and add an Executive Assistant Prosecutor.

Through October 2022, the Assistant Prosecutors were divided into three divisions, each with a Team Leader. In a complete reorganization of prosecution staff, as of November 2022, the Assistant Prosecutors have been divided into four divisions: (1) Pre-Indictment attorneys handle case screening, preliminary case management and grand jury; (2) Trial Team attorneys handle all post-grand jury proceedings through trial; (3) Appellate handles all appeals and related additional duties; and (4) Juvenile handles all juvenile charges, including waivers, diversionary programming and related. The Juvenile prosecutor also handles all Recovery Court duties. All Assistant Prosecutors handle on call and other duties, which rotate on a weekly basis. Through the end of October 2022, the Assistant Prosecutors were assigned as follows:

Team 1

Michael Mestern, Team Leader
Jonathan Flynn
William Holmes

Team 2

Michael Forte, Team Leader
Marianne Morroni
David Galemba
Brooke Harley

Team 3

Geoffrey Gleason, Team Leader
Paige Degli Obizzi
Marina Riley

Our attorney staff continues to handle bail reform responsibilities, trials, plea negotiations, motion practice, appellate issues, sentencings, municipal court issues, and restitution matters. They also review and approve search warrants, provide training when necessary to police officers, and communicate with victims in addition to various other responsibilities.

First Assistant Prosecutor Flynn is responsible for all case screenings, assisting with OPRA request issues, supervising expungements and acting as our DNA liaison with the

State Police. He also acts as a legal advisor to municipal police departments and handles Brady-Giglio cases and trials of major cases. First Assistant Flynn officially took office as First Assistant Prosecutor on November 1, 2022. Prior to November 1, the First Assistant Prosecutor duties were handled by First Assistant Prosecutor William Brennan. Prior to becoming First Assistant Prosecutor, Jonathan Flynn was an Assistant Prosecutor with primary major crime trial responsibilities in addition to the myriad other duties of all of our Assistant Prosecutors.

First Assistant Prosecutor William Brennan retired as of October 31, 2022 after twenty-six years of service with the Salem County Prosecutor's Office. First Assistant Brennan was responsible for all case screenings, assisting with OPRA request issues, supervising expungements and acting as our DNA liaison with the State Police. He also acted as a legal advisor to municipal police departments and handled Brady-Giglio cases and trials of major cases.

Executive Assistant Prosecutor Barile handles civil forfeitures, serves as our municipal prosecutor liaison, supervises internal affairs investigations, serves as liaison to the Attorney General's Office, provides compliance and policy oversight, and acts as the primary advisor for community programming in partnership with the Prosecutor.

David Galemba was our appellate attorney in 2022 and handled all appeals, including municipal court appeals and emergent motions. He was also responsible for responding to OPRA requests.

Marina Riley handles various prosecutions and other responsibilities involving domestic violence, Reproductive Rights Strike Force liaison, and also assists the First Assistant Prosecutor with expungements.

Michael Mestern served as a primary trial team member, team leader, animal cruelty prosecutor and handled civil forfeitures.

Geoffrey Gleason handles major crime trials, is our drug crime prosecutor, Gun Violence Task Force liaison, and reviews gun permit applications and appeals of gun permit denials.

Paige Degli Obizzi handles contempt prosecutions in addition to her Pre-Indictment responsibilities.

Brooke Harley handles juvenile prosecutions and recovery court.

Marianne Morroni is our sexual assault prosecutor.

Michael Forte was responsible for overseeing Megan's Law and handling death by auto prosecutions as well as the other responsibilities of an assistant prosecutor and acting as a team leader.

William Holmes handled all PTI cases and was our municipal prosecutor liaison.

Crimes and Caseloads

Cases are dismissed or remanded at the earliest possible time. This enables our staff to focus their attention on the investigation and prosecution of more serious and violent offenders. For the year 2022, the Salem County Prosecutor's Office increased the intensity of the focus on case screening in an effort to reduce backlog, more effectively address immediate victim impact, and more efficiently utilize evidence and trial preparation staff resources.

In the year 2022, 669 cases were screened by the Salem County Prosecutor's Office. Three hundred sixteen cases were approved for and presented to Grand Jury. Five hundred forty-six defendants were presented to Grand Jury.

Competitive Grants

A number of programs and staff positions within the Prosecutor's Office are funded by State and Federal grants. Altogether, the Salem County Prosecutor's Office managed \$998,542 in grant funds during the 2022 calendar year. This figure includes funding for special police overtime details, such as those battling with narcotics addiction, full or partial funding for investigative staff positions, victim witness advocates and a support staff position for that unit as well. Grant funding was also expended for other activities and equipment purchases such as the purchase of body worn cameras, bullet proof vests, training and equipment for use by officers.

Grant funding continues to provide for the operation of the Salem County Sexual Assault Response Team and Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program. This funding allows specialized and immediate service for traumatic sexual assault victims and allows for proper preservation of critical evidence in Salem County, rather than forcing Salem County residents to rely upon service providers in neighboring counties as had been done prior to the implementation of this programming. In the first programming of its kind in the State, the Salem County Prosecutor's Office and the Cumberland County Prosecutor's Office entered into a Shared Services Agreement to maximize forensic nursing services while minimizing unnecessarily duplicative costs in light of the unique needs of each county and their geographic proximity to each other.

The Victim Witness Unit is funded by the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant which is a federal grant. The VOCA Grant allows victim advocates to provide direct services to the victims and witnesses of all crimes within Salem County. Through this funding, Victim Witness can provide financial assistance, support victims through the criminal justice process and provide training for advocates to better serve the victims in the community.

The Stop the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Grant is administered by the Department of Law and Public Safety through the Office of the Attorney General. The funding allowed for a part-time advocate to be hired to provide services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, harassment and human trafficking.

The Division of Children and Families awarded our county with continued funding for the ongoing development of the Child Advocacy Center (CAC). 2022 was the first full year Salem County's Child Advocacy Center was in operation. The CAC provides a child safe facility in which law enforcement, child protection, prosecution, mental health, medical and victim advocacy professionals work together to investigate abuse, help children heal from abuse and hold offenders accountable.

The County Prosecutors Office Insurance Fraud Reimbursement Grant award is awarded by the Division of Criminal Justice, Office of the Insurance Fraud Prosecutor. The funding covers salary and fringe benefits for three investigators for the detection, deterrence and prosecution of insurance fraud and related crimes that are committed in Salem County.

The Operation Helping Hand Grant provides opioid addiction related services, in direct partnership with law enforcement, to residents of Salem County. Although grant funding remained constant as in prior years, the Salem County Prosecutor's Office was able to provide significant expansion of its addiction programming. For the first time, the Salem County Prosecutor's Office partnered with the Salem County Department of Health to increase staffing of recovery coaches and streamline the complimentary services provided by the two agencies. Working together, the Prosecutor's Office and Department of Health were able to provide additional recovery services, distribute additional Narcan, and engage in additional community programming in a way that provided additional rather than overlapping benefit. The consolidation of resources also allowed the Salem County Prosecutor's Office to fund vocational training and recovery resources in partnership with the Salem County Vocational Technical School in an innovative program to break family addiction cycles and provide real-life skills and employment opportunities to youth directly impacted by opioid addiction.

TRIAL UNIT



Top Row: Paige Degli Obizzi, Brooke Harley, Michael Mestern & First Assistant Prosecutor William J. Brennan; **Middle Row:** Geoffrey Gleason, Jonathan Flynn, Prosecutor Kristin J. Telsey & David M. Galemba and **Bottom Row:** Michael J. Forte, William G. Holmes, Marina Riley and Marianne V. Morrone

In 2022, the Salem County Prosecutor's Office prosecuted five jury trials. Of those five trials, three resulted in guilty verdicts, one resulted in an acquittal, and one resulted in a mistrial.

The assistant prosecutors also conduct office-training programs on legal matters for all police officers in the County approximately every three months. Our assistant prosecutors also attend training programs in various locations around the State. Most trainings continue to be conducted virtually in the wake of the pandemic.

Sexual Abuse/Child Abuse Unit

The Salem County Prosecutor's Office Sexual Abuse/Child Abuse Unit integrates a vertical prosecution approach. The Unit works closely with the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program and the Office of Victim Witness Advocates for the efficient sharing of resources and information. Cases are investigated either solely by the Salem County Prosecutor's Office or through joint investigations with municipal detectives or members of the New Jersey State Police. The Unit has designated law enforcement personnel with the desire, training and experience to provide specialized service to abused children

and adults. Specifically, the Sexual Abuse/Child Abuse Unit is responsible for investigating or co-investigating cases including both adult and child victims of sexual abuse, physical abuse, child endangerment (abuse, neglect, cruelty and abandonment) and child pornography.

Assistant Prosecutor Marianne Morroni primarily handles these cases from the inception of the case through disposition. In 2022, the Sexual Abuse/Child Abuse Unit obtained guilty dispositions on three sexual offense charges. Two other defendants entered guilty pleas to crimes against children – endangering the welfare of a child.

Domestic Violence

Community education, comprehensive training and vigorous prosecution to prevent the occurrence or reoccurrence of domestic violence remains the top priority of the Salem County Prosecutor's Office. The initiation of Criminal Justice Reform in 2017 and subsequent implementation of ODARA has caused our office to focus even more on early intervention of domestic violence cases. In conjunction with the Victim/Witness Unit, assistant prosecutors seek to contact the victim soon after the alleged violation to demonstrate our presence in the case, learn their feelings about the alleged violation, discuss the criminal justice process and answer any questions they may have. This quick interaction is especially important when the person is known by our office to be someone who has been victimized in the past.

Furthermore, over the past few years our office has focused on the charging and prosecution of aggravated assault by strangulation crimes. Through this effort, law enforcement and domestic violence victims, hopefully, realized the extreme risk associated with the specific type of violent crime.

For calendar year 2022, Assistant Prosecutors Geoffrey Gleason, Paige Degli Obizzi and Marina Riley predominantly handle the aggravated assaults by domestic violence strangulation and other domestic violence related assault crimes. Assistant Prosecutor Paige Degli Obizzi was responsible for prosecuting criminal contempt cases involving acts of domestic violence. Assistant Prosecutors Marianne Morroni and Marina Riley are responsible for special victim cases that often are of a domestic violence nature.

The Prosecutor's Office works very closely with Salem County Women's Services, which has been providing services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault for over 25 years. The agency houses, counsels and provides other services to victims which allow them to get back on their feet. Advocates from Salem County Women's Services also accompany women to court and/or provide daycare while women attend court if that is required. Counseling services are also provided to perpetrators of domestic violence through the court mandated Alternatives to Violence Program.

Juvenile Delinquency

The Salem County Prosecutor's Office's Juvenile Delinquency Unit consists of a juvenile prosecutor, a trial secretary and an advocate from the Victim-Witness Unit who assists with case preparation. Brooke Harley serves as the Juvenile Prosecutor. Bonita Bell is the trial secretary and Ashley Vanaman serves as an advocate from the Victim Witness Unit.

All juvenile delinquency files that are placed on the formal calendar are maintained by the Juvenile Delinquency Unit and prosecuted by the Juvenile Unit prosecutor in Salem County Superior Court, Chancery Division-Family Part.

The Juvenile Delinquency Unit compiles witness lists, prepares witnesses for trial, provides discovery to defense counsel and sends subpoenas to witnesses for court appearances. The Juvenile Unit prosecutor represents the State at initial detention hearings, probable cause hearings, detention reviews, pretrial hearings, adjudication hearings, restitution hearings, disposition hearings and violation of probation hearings. Additionally, the Juvenile Unit prosecutor is responsible for preparing, submitting and filing waiver motions for the transfer of cases to the Superior Court, Law Division-Criminal Part.

A directive was issued from the Attorney General's office in December of 2020 outlining five mechanisms available to police officers and prosecutors to divert youth from the juvenile justice system and to limit the likelihood of unnecessary detention. These five mechanisms are: curbside warnings, stationhouse adjustments, use of a complaint-summons in lieu of complaint-warrants, presumption against pretrial juvenile detention and post-charge diversion by prosecutors. The Juvenile Unit prosecutor has been trained in these five mechanisms and utilizes them when possible and applicable.

The Juvenile Delinquency Unit coordinates with the Juvenile Probation Department to ensure that recommendations provide balanced attention to protecting the victim and community, impose accountability for offenses committed, preserving the family unit whenever possible and provide the offenders with services to enable them to become responsible and productive members of the community. The Unit also works closely with the Victim Witness Unit to ensure that victims understand court proceedings and that input from victims is considered when recommendations are made.

Grand Jury

In Salem County, members of the Grand Jury are selected from a jury pool that consists of all citizens of Salem County. Each panel consists of 23 people. Selected jurors sit for the Grand Jury for approximately four months hearing cases presented by the Salem County Prosecutor's Office.

In Salem County, the Grand Jury procedure was historically unique in that Salem County followed a vertical prosecution model. The assistant prosecutor that presented a case to the Grand Jury handled the case through indictment all the way to final resolution, whether by plea or trial. When an assistant prosecutor receives a file, he or she is responsible to make sure that all police reports and scientific evidence are in the file and that any additional investigation is conducted prior to the Grand Jury presentment. During that Grand Jury presentment, it is the assistant prosecutor's responsibility to assure that any exculpatory evidence or any evidence that may exonerate a defendant is presented. In addition, the assistant prosecutor must show that probable cause exists for the grand jurors to return an indictment.

As of November 2022, the Salem County Prosecutor's Office has changed its prosecution model to a Pre-Indictment Unit and a Trial Team Unit. Two prosecutors are now responsible for a case from screening through indictment. Following indictment by the Grand Jury, a case is turned over to a Trial Team prosecutor to be handled through plea agreement or trial. This change was made in response to assistant prosecutor staffing concerns in the face of the resignation of three assistant prosecutors at the end of 2022 and in response to the demands of the unprecedented post-COVID backlog. The Pre-Indictment and Trial Team units continue to handle all evidence, witness and case management with the highest professional standards.

Once the assistant prosecutor has presented all the evidence to the grand jurors, it is then the grand jurors' responsibility to either return an indictment, no bill a case or remand the case to municipal court under a disorderly person's offense. During deliberations, assistant prosecutors are prohibited from influencing the grand jurors' decision. The assistant prosecutor's only role at that time is to answer any legal questions that the grand jurors may have; for example, if the grand jurors would like to remand a case - what their options are for doing so. Moreover, any discussions between the grand jurors and the assistant prosecutor must be recorded and preserved as part of the case record.

In 2022, there were 546 defendants presented to the Grand Jury. Of these, 530 defendants were indicted, 12 defendants were no billed and 4 defendants were remanded to municipal court as disorderly person's offenses.

Pre-Indictment Screening

During 2022, the Salem County Prosecutor's Office continued its Pre-Indictment Screening Program. Prior to indictment, cases where pre-indictment resolutions are possible are diverted to Criminal Case Management where defendants are contacted and given the opportunity to accept a plea offer in court. During the year, 9 cases were diverted to PTI pre-indictment and 48 cases were granted PTI post-indictment.

Recovery Court

Recovery Court, formerly known as Drug Court, is a statutorily enacted measure under 2C:35-14, which permits a defendant to apply for specialized probation. That defendant must meet certain criteria, be prison bound and suffering from an addiction.

Under 2C:35-14, the defendant makes application before the Criminal Court and the application is then forwarded to the Recovery Court judge, wherein the Prosecutor's Office makes a legal determination as to whether the defendant is legally eligible to participate in Recovery Court. There are certain statutory bars to a person's participation in Recovery Court, particularly if there is a weapon involved and if the charge is of the first degree. The Prosecutor's Office can object to an individual's participation in the Recovery Court Program, although they may not be statutorily barred. For example, an objection might be raised if the person is a danger to the community and/or a dealer for profit. In that instance it is, ultimately, the Recovery Court judge who decides whether or not an individual is permitted into the Recovery Court Program. In those particular cases, the Recovery Court judge, in all likelihood, would permit the defendant to have a Treatment Assessment Service for the Courts (TASC) Evaluation to determine their level of addiction and whether or not they are an appropriate candidate for special probation. In the event that the court rejects an individual for non-participation due to the fact that they are a danger to the community, a dealer for profit or have psychiatric needs that exceed the scope of Recovery Court, the defendant can appeal the judge's decision.

Once the person has completed the TASC Evaluation and receives the recommended treatment, the person then pleads guilty and is sentenced into Recovery Court with an alternate sentence already having been negotiated. A person is either a Track 1 or Track 2 participant. Track 1 participants are those who have pled to a sentence which, typically, results in incarceration and usually includes first and second-degree charges. Track 2 participants are those pleading to charges that do not carry a presumption for incarceration, usually third- or fourth-degree crimes. If the person successfully completes Recovery Court, they graduate and their alternate sentence is not served. However, if an individual fails to comply with the conditions of special probation or they are sanctioned throughout their probationary period they can, ultimately, be subjected to the alternate sentence.

Criminal judges can now mandate certain individuals to enter the Recovery Court Program. Again, the defendant would have to meet certain criteria and not be statutorily barred from participation in Recovery Court.

In Salem County, the Prosecutor's Office has taken the position that an individual that applies for and is accepted into the Recovery Court Program will have as their alternate sentence, what was offered by the assistant prosecutor in the criminal court. In addition, if an individual comes in on a violation of probation, their alternate sentence will be what probation recommended for them for the violation of probation. For example, an individual can apply for Recovery Court on certain second-degree offenses and also

under drug offenses which would require a mandatory extended term. The alternative sentence will take into consideration those factors. The goal is, ultimately, to have non-violent drug addicted individuals who are not dealers, given an opportunity to avoid a prison sentence and to address their addiction. By keeping the alternate sentence, the same as the Criminal Division, it prevents forum shopping for sentencing purposes and permits the truly committed individual the opportunity to participate in Recovery Court.

Once a participant is sentenced into Recovery Court, the participant must follow all rules of Recovery Court. These rules include, but are not limited to, weekly reporting, NA meetings, attending treatment and informing their probation officers of any changes in their lives such as moving, getting a new job or changing their telephone number.

Asset Forfeiture

The Salem County Prosecutor's Office files civil lawsuits seeking to divest private owners of property that was used or intended to be used to commit crimes or that represent proceeds of criminal activity. Examples of forfeitable property are motor vehicles used to transport illicit drugs, cash proceeds from the sale of illicit drugs and stolen property. A forfeiture lawsuit is commenced by filing a complaint in the Law Division, Civil Part, of the Superior Court. A copy of the filed complaint, along with a summons, is then served on each person who has an ownership claim to the seized property. If a claimant does not answer the complaint, the property is forfeited through default. If the claimant does file an answer the case is mediated. The case will then either settle or a bench trial will result.

Forfeiture lawsuits promote a major public policy objective. The lawsuits encourage property owners to be more responsible with their property and deters them from using or allowing their property to be used for criminal activity. A corollary benefit is that forfeited property is distributed to the law enforcement agencies that participated in the seizure and related investigations for use in crime fighting work.

Again, because of office size, Salem County lacks a distinct forfeiture unit. Forfeiture lawsuits in 2022 were handled by Assistant Prosecutor Michael Mestern. As of December 2022, civil forfeiture duties were taken over by Executive Assistant Prosecutor Jeffrey Barile. In 2022, the Salem County Prosecutor's Office filed eight forfeiture matters. We seized a total of \$102,717.25 in forfeited funds. No vehicles were forfeited in 2022.

Appellate Matters

Assistant Prosecutor David Galemba handles appellate duties for the Salem County Prosecutor's Office. The workload includes direct and interlocutory appeals to the Appellate Division, petitions for certification and appeals to the Supreme Court as well as municipal court appeals, motions for post-conviction relief (PCR) and other post-conviction motions in the Law Division. The appellate assistant prosecutor additionally responds to *habeas corpus* petitions in federal court. With the introduction of Criminal Justice Reform, the appellate assistant prosecutor is part of the "on call" rotation, assisting police officers with charging decisions in individual cases as well as handling pretrial detention motions and first appearances. The appellate assistant prosecutor additionally responds to pretrial detention appeals and files motions for leave to appeal in appropriate cases when a detention motion is denied. The appellate assistant prosecutor also serves as the records custodian and responds to requests under the

Open Public Records Act. In addition, the appellate assistant prosecutor provides research support to the trial prosecutors.

Much of the appellate work involves the preparation of lengthy written legal arguments that involve extensive legal research and meticulous review of transcripts. In addition to filing interlocutory appeals, appeals referred by the Division of Criminal Justice and pretrial detention appeals before the Appellate Division, New Jersey Supreme Court, and United States District Court for the District of New Jersey, including. In the Law Division, the SCPO filed approximately four briefs in PCRs and two briefs in municipal court appeals. The SCPO also responded to motions for resentencing based on the new youthful offender mitigating factor. The SCPO participated in several oral arguments in post-conviction matters and PCR evidentiary hearings in the Law Division.

Environmental Crimes

The Salem County Prosecutor's Office is charged with the primary responsibility of enforcing the criminal provisions of the entire spectrum of the environmental statutes, rules and regulations involving hazardous waste, toxic pollutants, air pollution and solid waste activity. Again because of its size, unlike other larger offices, the Salem County Prosecutor's Office lacks a distinct full-time unit. Office prosecutorial and investigative staff, in addition to their other responsibilities, coordinates environmental enforcement with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Salem County Health Department and the Salem County Utilities Authority. In addition, the Salem County Prosecutor's Office continues a protocol agreement with the State of New Jersey Attorney General's Office regarding the management of priority investigations of environmental criminal offenses. Most environmental investigations are ultimately handled either administratively through the enforcement section of the DEP or heard in municipal court for violations of the solid waste statute. The Salem County Prosecutor's Office continues to actively investigate incidents that adversely affect our natural environment.

ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

In 2022, the Administration Division was subject to ongoing change as in all other departments within the Salem County Prosecutor's Office. The Administration Division is comprised of one Lieutenant, one sergeant, two investigators, six part time employees and two support staff members. The responsibilities of the Administration Division consist of the following:

- **Grand Jury** -- The members of the Administration Division are tasked with ensuring that all information regarding a case is contained within the prosecution file prior to presentation to the Grand Jury. They are also responsible for preparation of the indictment and scheduling of witnesses to testify in Grand Jury proceedings. In 2022, the SCPO held Grand Jury sessions once per week.
- **Trial Preparation** -- The Administration Division assists the assistant prosecutors with the scheduling and conducting of interviews with defendants, witnesses, victims, etc., and ensures that all evidence is ready for trial.
 1. Once a case is scheduled for trial, the Administration Division is tasked with making sure that all reports, evidence, victims, witnesses, etc., have been located and are ready for trial. This follow-up is initiated when a case is added to the trial list.
 2. The Administration Division also prepares cases for bail motions, Family Court, Juvenile Court, Drug Court, etc., and most recently, the newly created Veterans' Diversion Program.
- **Criminal Justice Reform** - The Administration Division continues to operate under the guidelines of New Jersey's Criminal Justice Reform Act (the "Act", N.J.S.A. 2A:162-15 to -26), which took effect on January 1, 2017. The Act, which is commonly referred to as "Bail Reform", radically changed how cases are initiated and processed through our criminal courts. Most significantly, the Act sets strict time limits for each stage of a defendant's case. Since the implementation of the Act, assistant prosecutors have worked in an "on-call" capacity, weekends and holidays included, assisting police officers with charging decisions in individual cases. The assistant prosecutor may also help the officer submit the charges to a judge, who will then issue those charges on a warrant or summons. The Act has drastically changed the way the Administration Division and the assistant prosecutors operate on a day-to-day basis. The Act has affected the timing of every stage of a criminal case, from charging and arrest, through trial. For example, the Act requires an expedited first appearance before a judge (within 48 hours after arrest), presentation of the charges to a grand jury (within 90 days of a defendant's arrest), a limited number of pre-trial proceedings after arraignment (with the

arraignment occurring no later than 14 days after the grand jury returns the indictment), and trial, if necessary (no later than 180 days after the return of the indictment). The Act also introduced “pretrial detention” to New Jersey’s criminal procedure. In cases where the State believes that a defendant’s pre-trial release poses too great a risk, the assistant prosecutor files a motion for pretrial detention. The Act requires that the assistant prosecutor file the motion before the defendant’s first appearance. The Act also requires that the assistant prosecutor provide discovery to the defendant before the motion, which is held three days after the first appearance. The Act’s expedited time requirements have impacted the Administration Division perhaps more than any other unit in the Prosecutor’s Office. As such, the Administration Division has been reorganized to accommodate the immediate and persistent need to obtain case discovery from police departments and react to court scheduling. The Administration Division responded to over 1,600 requests to obtain case discovery such as police reports, recorded statements, video surveillance, lab reports and criminal history records, so that assistant prosecutors could continue to meet the Act’s requirements in a timely fashion.

- **Evidence** -- Members of the Administration Division are tasked with custodial responsibilities of all evidence recovered by investigators during criminal investigations. This evidence is not limited to the evidence recovered by the Prosecutor’s Office staff members but, also, includes all evidence recovered by every police agency in Salem County. The assigned detectives are required to travel to the various law enforcement agencies throughout the County, and sometimes outside of the County, to pick up various types of evidence and reports to accomplish this task. The Administration Division also coordinates the destruction of evidence after determining that a case has been adjudicated and that the lawful period of time for retention of evidence has expired.
 1. In 2022, 992 new cases were entered into evidence, generating 3,162 separate pieces of evidence. Administration Division members are responsible for ensuring that evidence is transported to the laboratory for analysis and returned. In the majority of cases, evidence needs to be copied and delivered to defense attorneys for discovery purposes.
 2. The Administration Division also is tasked with safeguarding all weapons seized by local police departments and the New Jersey State Police in connection with domestic violence incidents. In 2022, 163 weapons confiscated in connection with domestic violence incidents were turned over to this office for safekeeping.
 3. On August 30, 2022, an Evidence Destruction Detail was performed after each case had been researched and approved as ‘closed and eligible for destruction’. One thousand, six hundred and seventy-six individual evidence items were destroyed (primarily concentrated on closed cases from 2002 through 2015).

Warrants Division – The Administration Division enters and removes all warrants into and from N.C.I.C. as ordered by the Salem County Superior Court, Family Court, Drug Court, etc. At the present time, the warrant list for Salem County contains 686 warrants.

1. The Administration Division requests criminal histories via N.C.I.C. for every adult file opened by the Prosecutor's Office. Criminal histories are also requested for various other reasons such as background checks for grand jurors, criminal investigations, victims, witnesses for trial, etc. The Administration Division processed over 1,326 criminal histories in 2022. There were also 1,754 Master Name Index (MNI) checks for individuals to ascertain if they had a criminal history for criminal case purposes.
 2. The Administration Division also processes Governor's Warrants, Executive Agreements and Interstate Agreements on Detainers. The Governor's Warrants are executed when a fugitive is arrested in another state and refuses to waive extradition. There were four Governor's Warrants completed in 2022. There are also states that do not accept out of state warrants for a wanted person to be returned to New Jersey, however, Executive Agreements are recognized by those states. There were no Executive Agreements completed in 2022. The Interstate Agreement on Detainers applies when a person is serving time in another jurisdiction and has charges pending in Salem County. The Agreement is filed, which allows the defendant to answer his/her charges in Salem County while servicing time in another jurisdiction. There was one such agreement completed in 2022.
 3. The Administration Division also processes the return of wanted persons to Salem County from other jurisdictions and to other jurisdictions from Salem County. Extraditions within a 300-mile radius of Salem County are conducted by the Salem County Prosecutor's Office investigative staff, assisted by a member of the Salem County Sheriff's Department. Extraditions beyond 300-miles are conducted by Inmate Services and Prisoner Transport. The Prosecutor's Office, Inmate Services and Prisoner Transport completed the successful return of 8 wanted persons back to Salem County in 2022. The Division also processed the return of 13 wanted persons back to other jurisdictions from Salem County in 2022.
- **Internal Affairs/Public Integrity Cases – Internal Affairs/Public Integrity Cases** – The Special Investigations Division (SID) is responsible for investigating accusations of official misconduct and for performing the internal affairs function of the Salem County Prosecutor's Office. During 2022, thirty-five internal affairs complaints were filed. Of the thirty-five total, six involved accusations against Salem County Prosecutor's Office Detectives, nine involved accusations against

Salem City Police Officers, four involved accusations against Pennsville Officers, six involved accusations against Penns Grove Officers, two involved accusations against Lower Alloways Creek Officers, three involved accusations against Delaware River & Bay Authority Officers, and one involved accusations against Carneys Point Officers.

- **Use of Force** – Salem County police agencies reported 58 use of force incidents in 2022. In 2022, no officer was involved in more than 10 use of force incidents. There were 53 use of force incidents where an officer used physical force, 4 use of force incidents where an officer used mechanical force, and 1 incident where an officer used deadly force.
- **Forfeiture** – The Administration Division is responsible for tracking all seized funds, vehicles and property from all the local police departments and the Salem County Prosecutor's Office. The Division also completes the quarterly reports for forfeiture.
- **Assisting Other SCPO Units** – The Criminal Investigations Division was tasked with assisting other divisions in the Prosecutor's Office with investigations that occurred during the year. In 2022, the Criminal Investigations Division assisted the Administration Division and completed 5 expert opinion reports associated with possession of narcotics with the intent to distribute same.
- **Community Partnership Unit (CPU)** –The Salem County Prosecutor's Office Administration Division Sergeant plans and schedules various community partnership events and programs throughout the year. Many of the Salem County Prosecutor's Office Detectives, along with some of the Assistant Prosecutors and Administrative Staff, participate in various community partnership events and programs throughout the year.

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP UNIT

Office of Professional Standards

*Civilian Agent Michael Colletti
conducts all duties of the Office of
Professional Standards.*



The Office of Professional Standards (OPS) maintains compliance with and directs all facets of the re-accreditation phase of the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police (NJSACOP) Law Enforcement Accreditation Program. The re-accreditation process includes continuous and voluntary internal and independent reviews to ensure compliance with the accepted best practices in law enforcement. Through the continued dedication and professional work product of agency personnel, the accreditation manager assembles and maintains “proofs” for all 117 NJSACOP standards over a 3 year period. All NJSACOP Standards are broken down into five volumes of Standard Operating Procedures: General (Volume 1), Administration and Personnel (Volume 2), Routine Operations (Volume 3), Emergency Operations (Volume 4) and Support (Volume 5).

The Salem County Prosecutor’s Office initially obtained accreditation under the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) on November 17, 2012. The Prosecutor’s Agent assigned to OPS is the accreditation manager and was responsible for the preparation and compliance for the re-accreditation assessment conducted in 2015.

On September 21 and 22, 2015, a team of assessors from the NJSACOP Law Enforcement Accreditation Team conducted the triennial inspection of all aspects of the accreditation process. On October 8, 2015, the Salem County Prosecutor’s Office obtained the reaccreditation certification.

On October 1 and 2, 2018, a team of assessors from the NJSACOP Law Enforcement Accreditation Team conducted the triennial inspection of all aspects of the accreditation process. The actual accreditation certification for 2018 was formally completed through a hearing before a panel of NJSACOPS Assessors on March 14, 2019. Agent Richard Norbuts led the re-accreditation assessment prior to his retirement from the Salem County Prosecutor's Office in November 2018.

On September 14 and 15, 2021, a team of assessors from the NJSACOP Law Enforcement Accreditation Team conducted the triennial inspection of all aspects of the accreditation process. The actual accreditation certification for 2021 was formally completed through a hearing before a panel of NJSACOPS Assessors on October 28, 2021. Agent Michael Colletti led the re-accreditation assessment.

The accreditation cycle continues as proofs are collected and maintained in preparation for the next inspection scheduled for the Fall of 2024. Electronic Media & Accreditation Specialist Brian Hogan will lead the re-accreditation assessment with assistance from Agent Michael Colletti.

In addition to the NJSACOP re-accreditation project, the Office of Professional Standards tracked all countywide use of force incidents and internal affairs complaints in 2021. Prosecutor Telsey continues to mandate countywide supervisory oversight procedures as outlined in several promulgated Countywide Directives. These directives require each law enforcement agency to initiate a supervisory meaningful review if a member incurs 2 use of force incidents within a 30-day period or 2 internal complaints within a 90-day period. The directive requiring each law enforcement agency to initiate a supervisory meaningful review if a member incurs 2 use of force incidents within a 30- day period will change in 2022.

New Jersey Attorney General Directive 2020-13 (Directive Revising Use of Force Policy and Procedures) became effective on December 31, 2021. New Jersey Attorney General Directive 2020-13 requires a command level review, including a review by the law enforcement executive from the respective agency, for every use of force incident involving a law enforcement officer.

In 2022, the Office of Professional Standards assigned ten use of force supervisory meaningful reviews and seven internal affairs supervisory meaningful reviews under Countywide Directives 2011-04 (Use of Force Reporting) and 2014-04 (Internal Affairs Reporting). No Salem County County Law Enforcement Officers activated the Early Warning System, enumerated under New Jersey Attorney General Directive 2018-03, in 2022.

The Office of Professional Standards also issued 6 countywide directives, revised and reissued 8 internal standard operating procedures and began providing oversight and monitoring for 14 newly implemented New Jersey Attorney General Directives for all law enforcement agencies in Salem County.

The Office of Professional Standards will continue to liaison with the Internal Affairs Officers at each municipal police department. By maintaining these relationships, the Salem County Prosecutor's Office has built a foundation of trust and transparency, while monitoring all use of force incidents and internal affairs complaints.

Consistent strengthening of mandates from Attorney General Platkin, in conjunction with additional procedures set forth by the Salem County Prosecutor, continue to increase police professionalism, transparency and public trust of law enforcement in Salem County.

Daily interaction between local police departments and the Office of Professional Standards provides notable supervisory oversight and accountability of law enforcement agencies in Salem County.

Accreditation

On September 14 and 15, 2021, a team of assessors from the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police (NJSACOP) arrived and examined all aspects of the Salem County Prosecutor's Office policies and procedures, management, operations, and support services. The assessors verified that the Salem County Prosecutor's Office met the commission's "best practice" standards. This is a highly prized recognition of law enforcement professional excellence. The Salem County Prosecutor's Office complied with 117 standards in order to achieve accredited status. Accreditation results in greater accountability within the agency, reduced risk and liability exposure, stronger defense against civil lawsuits, increased community advocacy and more confidence in the agency's ability to operate efficiently and respond to community needs. The Accreditation Program Director for the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police is Harry J Delgado, Ed.S.

Accreditation is valid for a three-year period. During that three-year period the agency must submit annual reports attesting to their continued compliance with those standards under which it was initially accredited. The New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police through its New Jersey Law Enforcement Accreditation

Commission is the legitimate authority and accreditation agency in the State of New Jersey. Agent Michael Colletti was responsible for the Prosecutor's Office, once again, receiving accreditation status in 2021.

After receiving accreditation in 2021, the Prosecutor's Office immediately began its fourth re-accreditation process. The Prosecutor's Office is currently in the second year of its fourth re-accreditation process, which should be completed in October of 2024. The fourth re-accreditation process is being led by Electronic Media & Accreditation Specialist Brian Hogan with assistance from Agent Michael Colletti.



Community Partnership Unit

The Salem County Prosecutor's Office Community Partnership Unit (CPU) was developed as part of the Administration Unit in 2003 and has continued as an important part of the operation of the Prosecutor's Office. The CPU encourages community interaction as a means to enhance relations between the Salem County Prosecutor's Office and the community it serves.

The CPU has and continues to promote awareness of the needs and issues facing our community regarding law and justice. The CPU will continue to stimulate and support community organizations and encourage partnerships in an effort to create positive change and relationships within Salem County.

Our Community Partnership Unit requires and has the commitment of every Salem County Prosecutor's Office employee to build and maintain positive relationships with the citizens of Salem County. The Community Partnership Unit diligently reaches out and respectfully responds to the community with education and preventive programs throughout the year.

The unit provides programs suited for the vast needs of the citizens of Salem County. By successfully creating, developing and implementing the programs listed below, a reduction of crime and violence has been and will continue be achieved.

The following Community Partnership presentations, programs participation/involvement and camps were developed, have been and are deployed by investigators, assistant prosecutors, agents and administrative colleagues:

- Overview of the Criminal Justice System Presentation
- Identifying Human Trafficking Presentation
- Bias/Hate Crimes Presentation
- Identity Theft Prevention Presentation
- Child Abduction Response Team (CART) Presentation
- Overview of the Megan's Law/Sexual Assault Unit Presentation
- Crime Prevention Presentation
- Prevention of Sexual Assault/Dating Violence Presentation
- Domestic Violence Presentation
- Overview of Careers in the Criminal Justice System Presentation
- Various Drug Prevention Presentations
- Crimes Against the Elderly Presentation
- Bullying/Cyber Bullying Presentation
- Overview of Crime Scene Investigations Presentation
- Overview of Insurance Fraud Investigations/Identifying Insurance Fraud Presentations
- School Violence/Conflict Resolution Presentation
- Career Day Presentations – Participation throughout the schools in the County
- Gang Awareness Presentation
- Distracted Driving/Impairment Presentation
- Internet Crimes Against Children/Internet Safety Presentation
- Weapons Safety Presentation
- Safety Awareness – Safety overview for youth to include some basic self-defense tactics
- General Narcotics Presentation
- Participation/Interaction/Presence at various municipal community themed days and nights – National Nights Out in Penns Grove/Carneys Point and Lower Alloways Creek Township
- Homeland Security Presentation
- ID/Fingerprint Presentation – Can involve and has involved Child Safety Kits
- Diversity in Law Enforcement Academy (DILEA) – A one-week youth day academy
- Prom Tragedy Presentation
- Salem County RESCUE – Recovery, Encouragement, Support, Community, Understanding, Empowerment – a multi-disciplined team comprised of law enforcement officers, EMTs and recovery coaches, who participate in several community outreach efforts to help Salem County community members affected by drug and alcohol addiction.

Members of the Salem County Prosecutor's Office staff have been and continue to be eager to utilize their creativity coupled with their experience, to consistently develop presentations as crime trends and technology change.

Members of the Salem County Prosecutor's Office staff also generously contribute to the Toys for Tots Drive and Thanksgiving food deliveries to families in need.

In addition to the above, many members of the Salem County Prosecutor's Office are active volunteer members of the community and many volunteer throughout Salem County in a multitude of ways, including coaching, officiating and coordinating youth sports.

Salem County Coalition for a Safe Community

The Salem County Prosecutor's Office continued to support the Salem County Coalition for a Safe Community. Beginning in 2020 and continuing to the present, an ever-strengthening partnership has developed between the Salem County Coalition for a Safe Community to offer support to residents of Salem County in partnership with law enforcement. A multitude of community events and awareness opportunities were in development in 2022 as a result of this partnership.

SALEM COUNTY RESCUE

Operation Helping Hand Grant Funds =
Salem County RESCUE

A poster for Salem County RESCUE. On the left, a life preserver logo with "SALEM COUNTY RESCUE" text. Below it, a list of services: RECOVERY, ENCOURAGEMENT, SUPPORT, COMMUNITY, UNDERSTANDING, EMPOWERMENT. In the center, bold text reads "STRUGGLING? YOU ARE NOT ALONE". Below this, it says "TO SPEAK TO A RECOVERY COACH" and "OR EMAIL". To the right, a red box contains "24/7 City Of Angels" and the phone number "609-910-4942". Below the phone number is the email "SalemCountyRESCUE@salemcountynj.gov". At the bottom, it says "YOU CAN ACHIEVE RECOVERY" and includes a small "Operation Helping Hand" logo and a Facebook link.

Recovery, Encouragement, Support, Community, Understanding, Empowerment
Starting in early 2018, a small task force of individuals from the Salem County Prosecutor's

Office, the Salem County Sheriff's Office and the Salem County Department of Health and Human Services developed a plan to address the ever-worsening opioid crisis in Salem County. In April 2018, Salem County RESCUE: **R**ecovery, **E**ncouragement, **S**upport, **C**ommunity, **U**nderstanding and **E**mpowerment (RESCUE) was created. With critical funding from the Office of Attorney General's Operation Helping Hand Program, together with key partnerships, RESCUE was able to provide community outreach, recovery coaches, and information on available treatment services and resources.

As part of that initial programming, EMTs became integral members of the RESCUE team by providing brief on-site and interactive NARCAN demonstrations, in addition to sharing their daily real life experiences and expertise in reference to actually rescuing individuals with NARCAN every day, throughout Salem County. Roving/mobile teams were developed and rotated through all of the jurisdictions in Salem County on a weekly basis. A stationary RESCUE Team had a consistent Saturday presence at Cowtown Market, which is the only location in Salem County that sees well over 1,000 customers every Saturday. The market is also open all year long.

2022 provided the opportunity to even further impact Salem County recovery efforts. Through new partnership with the Salem County Department of Health, dedicated recovery coaches continue to provide immediate and meaningful access to treatment resources, coordinating initial response and placement in treatment centers. Using complimentary services and the support of county and local law enforcement, NARCAN demonstrations and distributions also have increased, along with additional mobile outreach efforts. In addition to the brick and mortar location at Cowtown, mobile efforts have increased to bring regular services directly to local municipalities for service to residents without transportation to the Cowtown location.

In the first of its kind effort, the Salem County Prosecutor's Office, through the Operation Helping Hand and RESCUE efforts has been able to fund an expansion of existing vocational training through the Salem County Vocational Technical School. This programming is intended to break the cycle of addiction in families by providing meaningful and lucrative vocational training and recovery resources to Salem County's most vulnerable residents impacted by addiction.



LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING

Integrated Communications and Tactics (ICAT)

During 2022, the Salem County Prosecutor's Office was responsible for continuing coordination of the Integrated Communications and Tactics (ICAT) Training Class. During 2021, Salem County Police Officers were trained. During 2022, an additional 113 Salem County Officers, including officers from the Delaware River & Bay Authority, were trained. ICAT is a police training program to diffuse critical incidents with proven de-escalation tactics. The ICAT cycle of critical decision-making is viewed through the lens of the sanctity of human life and considers police ethics, values and proportionality. ICAT focuses on officers attempting to avoid the point where their lives or the lives of others become endangered and the officers have no choice but to use lethal force.

Taser Re-Certification



An officer practices TASER deployment.



Investigator Fritz McIntosh has donned the padded assault suit and awaits incoming practice deployments from his fellow officers

Crises Intervention Training (CIT)



In September 2022, the Salem County Prosecutor's Office in partnership with the Salem County Department of Health held third fourth five-day Crises Intervention Team (CIT) Class. Police officers, together with mental health workers and other first responders, attended the training held at the 911 Training Facility. More than half of the sworn officers in Salem County have attended the CIT training class. The Crisis Intervention Team program is an innovative international model of police-based crisis intervention training with community mental health care and advocacy partnerships. Police officers and mental health professionals receive intensive training to respond to citizens experiencing a behavioral crisis. The emphasis is on mental health knowledge, crisis resolution skills and access to community-based services. The Salem County Prosecutor's Office seeks to have all of the sworn officers in Salem County receive this important training.

Active Bystandardship For Law Enforcement (ABLE)



During September 2022, the Salem County Prosecutor Office was responsible for coordinating additional training for the Active Bystandardship for Law Enforcement (ABLE) Training Class. Active bystandership authorizes and empowers law enforcement to intervene in another officer's actions, regardless of his or her rank. By teaching officers to strategically intervene, as well as receive intervention, ABLE empowers officers to protect their own and their colleagues' mental and physical well-being.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION



Criminal Investigations Division Members

From left to right: Inv. Anzola, Inv. Cummings, Inv. Mulford, Inv. McIntosh, Inv. Seidel, Inv. Williams, Inv. Cummings, Sgt. Ware, Inv. Simmermon, Sgt. Vengonock, Lt. Donelson
(Not Pictured – Sgt. Clarke)

In 2022, the Salem County Prosecutor's Office Criminal Investigations Division was comprised of eight investigators, split into two squads, each under the command of one sergeant. One Lieutenant supervises the Criminal Investigations Division. In addition to personnel assigned directly to the unit, one sergeant is assigned to the Real Time Crime Center to facilitate intelligence sharing throughout Salem County and with state and federal partners.

Division personnel consists of 11 individuals with an average experience of 12 years. The Division includes individuals trained in various specialized disciplines including expertise in drug recognition and legally qualified as experts having received training in Forensic Interviewing of Children – three members, Crime Scene Processing – two members, Active Shooter Response Instructor – two members, Firearms Instructor, Basic, Sub Gun, Police Service Rifle – three members, Advanced Tactical Techniques – three members, Tactical Command and Supervision – one member, ICAT/ABLE – four members,

Resiliency – two members. Division personnel have varying levels of secondary education or military background with all having a college education.

The Criminal Investigations Division is primarily responsible for investigation of the following types of crime: homicide, armed robbery, aggravated assault, suspicious and/or unattended deaths, suicide, fatal motor vehicle crash, animal cruelty, arson and narcotics related investigations. The Division continued to work cooperatively with federal, state, county and municipal police departments on these investigations.

CID personnel conducted numerous Violent Crime Task Force initiatives in partnership with federal, state, county and municipal law enforcement agencies. Targeted initiatives specifically addressed gun violence in Salem City and across the Salem County and Gloucester County borders. In addition to Salem County Prosecutor's Office personnel, task forces included New Jersey State Police, Salem County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit, the United States Marshals Service Fugitive Task Force, Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

CID Detectives are assigned as Task Force Officers (TFOs) with the United States Marshals (USM) Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), and Homeland Security Investigations (HSI).

In an effort to curb the distribution of narcotics and associated violent crime, the Salem County Prosecutor's Office was designated a part of the Liberty Mid-Atlantic High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (LMA HIDTA). The LMA HIDTA works to reduce drug trafficking and related violent crime in southeastern Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey and northern Delaware. With designations awarded to just six applicants nationwide in 2022, the Salem County Prosecutor's Office is proud to be an emerging leader in addressing the transport and distribution of narcotics in our tri-state area and as a primary point of entry into New Jersey and the Northeast Corridor from points south. As a part of the LMA HIDTA, the Salem County Prosecutor's Office is proud to partner with Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), which has been able to provide unique and unprecedented support to Salem County.

In addition to the proactive enforcement of laws, Division members participated in community partnership events.

Division members either solely or cooperatively conducted three homicide investigations, three vehicular homicide investigations, and multiple death investigations with state and local police departments, which included overdose and suspicious death cases.

Members of the Criminal Investigations Division also instructed all firearms training, Conducted Energy Device Training, with some CID colleagues also instructing ICAT, ABLE and Resiliency Training sessions.

As a continuation of their training as instructors in 2021, in 2022 CID personnel became instructors in ABLE, ICAT, and Resiliency training sessions for other officers within the

county.

The SCPO CID is also staffed with one certified Crime Scene Investigation Detective. Detective Tim Williams successfully completed the New Jersey State Police Crime Scene Investigation School in 2019 and quickly became a highly respected CSI throughout Salem County. In 2022, Detective Williams was the lead CSI for all crime scenes in Salem County.

Chief Humane Law Enforcement Officer

The Salem County Prosecutor's Office established a Chief Humane Law Enforcement Officer (Chief HLEO) in accordance with the 2017 Revised Title 4 – Agriculture and Domestic Animals legislation assigning the criminal investigation of violations of animal cruelty to the county Prosecutor's Office and municipal law enforcement entities. Subsequently, each municipal police agency and state police jurisdictional station established a Municipal Humane Law Enforcement Officer (Municipal HLEO).

There are six municipal HLEO officers in Salem County, one in each municipal police department, with the remaining jurisdictions covered by the Woodstown and Bridgeton New Jersey State Police Station HLEOs.

The Chief HLEO oversees and assists the municipal and state police HLEOs enforcement of animal cruelty laws and investigations. Statistics are reported by each municipality and forwarded to the New Jersey Attorney General's Office for each fiscal year. During 2022, all summonses were issued for disorderly persons offenses; primarily for sheltering/tethering offenses, animal cruelty/neglect and domestic animal abandonment. There were no indictable offenses charged. Assistant Prosecutor Michael Mestern oversees the prosecution of indicatable offenses and legal advice for animal cruelty investigations

INSURANCE FRAUD UNIT

During the course of the year, the Insurance Fraud Unit continued its established proactive approaches to aggressively investigate cases of suspected insurance fraud during the project cycle. The insurance fraud detectives continued to provide assistance and guidance to local law enforcement with regard to insurance fraud related investigations.

The position of Insurance Fraud Investigator is assigned within the Criminal Investigations Division of the Salem County Prosecutor's Office. This position enhances the

investigative functions of the Prosecutor's Office by establishing links between the activities of suspects attempting to further their criminal enterprises and the activities of those who are suspected of defrauding the insurance industry. This is accomplished through validity checks on driver licenses, vehicle registrations and automobile insurance policies. During the year, ride alongs with the local police departments were conducted. Also in this calendar year, the continued partnership between the Salem County Prosecutor's Office and the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission Security and Investigations Unit allowed for case referrals to be streamlined and followed up on when individuals were filling out vehicle registration cards.

These partnerships have allowed for information sharing and case development resulting in strengthening the detection and investigation of insurance application fraud. Specifically, the number of indictable charges per defendant and restitution amounts have continued to significantly increase. In addition to performing these tasks in support of other criminal investigations, the Insurance Fraud Investigators are assigned primary responsibility for the lead or follow-up investigation of all reports and referrals to the Prosecutor's Office alleging any of the following: falsified property loss by an owner, falsified motor vehicle insurance identification cards, forged or altered certificates of insurance, fraudulent or inflated claims submitted as a result of a property crime, staged motor vehicle accidents, health care claims fraud, false workers' compensation or disability claims and forged prescriptions paid for by insurance. The Insurance Fraud Investigators provide subject-matter expertise, conduct public and private sector outreach activities and serve as a liaison between the Office of Insurance Fraud Prosecutor and local law enforcement.

MEGAN'S LAW UNIT



Michael Forte, Assistant Prosecutor, Megan's Law
Amy Hill, Senior Investigator, Megan's Law

On October 31, 1994, the New Jersey State Legislature enacted the Registration and Community Notification Laws (RCNL), also known as Megan's Law (N.J.S.A. 2C:7-1, et seq.). Megan's Law requires sex offenders who have been convicted, adjudicated delinquent or acquitted by reason of insanity of certain enumerated crimes to register with their local police department. It also provides for various degrees of community notification about sex offenders depending on the risk of re-offense.

Megan's Law applies to those offenders serving a sentence for an enumerated offense on or after October 31, 1994, or whose behavior was found to be repetitive and compulsive regardless of the sentence date for certain crimes.

The Megan's Law Unit of the Salem County Prosecutor's Office administers and enforces all legal requirements regarding the administration and enforcement of Megan's Law in Salem County. These statutes include N.J.S.A. 2C: 7-1 et seq. (The Registration and Notification of Release of Certain Offenders) and N.J.S.A. 2C: 43-6.4 (Special Sentence of Community Supervision for Life), as well as the statutes requiring DNA testing, Internet Publication and Civil Commitment of Sexually Violent Predators.

Salem County averaged 230 registered offenders per month in 2022.

The Unit:

- Identifies individuals subject to Megan's Law;
- Tracks their registration process;
- Investigates the background of registrants;
- Classifies the individuals as low, moderate or high risk;

- Obtains necessary court approvals of tier classifications and notifications;
- Notifies the organizations or areas authorized by the court; and
- Prosecutes those who violate various parts of Megan's Law.

Regarding the classification of the offenders, the County Prosecutor's Office makes an initial tier designation; however, a Superior Court Judge's determination is required for Tier Two and Tier Three findings.

Under Tier One (low risk) all law enforcement agencies likely to encounter the offender are notified. In 2022, 97 Tier One registrants resided in Salem County.

Tier Two (moderate risk) applies where the risk of reoffending is moderate. Under Tier Two, in addition to law enforcement agencies likely to encounter the offender, schools, licensed day care centers, community and women's organizations in the judicially designated area(s) are considered for inclusion on the registrant's final notification order. Tier Two offenders who are deemed to have a moderate risk of reoffending are placed on the official New Jersey Sex Offender Internet Registry which is accessible to the public. In 2022, 110 Tier Two registrants resided in Salem County.

Tier Three (high risk) applies where the risk of re-offense is high. All Tier Three offenders are included on the Internet Registry. In addition to the law enforcement agencies, schools and relevant organizations included in the Tier Two notifications, door to door notifications of all residents in a judicially designated area(s) occurs. In 2022, 2 Tier Three registrants resided in Salem County.

The Unit also provides education concerning the functioning of Megan's Law to law enforcement, members of the public and professional groups including PTAs, day care providers, public school faculty and service organizations.

Five people make up the Unit: an assistant prosecutor, a Lieutenant, a Sergeant, a detective and a secretary.

OFFICE OF VICTIM WITNESS ADVOCACY



Victim Advocate Leslie Witcher, Secretary Michelle Ottaviano, Victim Witness Coordinator Sharmin Harvey, Victim Advocate Ashley Vanaman and Victim Advocate Nathaly Almonte



Victims and witnesses are individuals who are involuntarily placed in the criminal justice system; they are the ones who ultimately are the justification for the prosecution of such cases and are often the key component in an offender's apprehension. Victims are inconvenienced when they are placed into the criminal justice system. They encounter overwhelming issues and inequities when being thrust into an unknown system. The Salem County Prosecutor's Office, Office of Victim Witness Advocacy, works to decrease the trauma and to ensure that victims' and witnesses' questions and concerns are

answered. Each advocate works diligently and collectively to ensure all who enter the criminal justice system are treated justly and with value; while offering input on the emotional, psychological and, often, the physical impact a crime has caused in their lives. In a continual effort to assist victims of crime, the Victim Witness Unit continues to work in accordance with the New Jersey Crime Victims' Bill of Rights as well as the Attorney General's Standards.

The Victim Witness Unit was able to increase the staff by hiring an additional advocate through grant funding. The unit is staffed by a coordinator, three advocates and a secretary. Assistance is provided to the victims of Salem County through continuous notification of case status throughout the prosecution process. In 2022, the Victim Witness Unit sent over 1,000 initial contact letters, as well as instigated more than 10,000 contacts via phone, text, email, in-person or via mail to victims and witnesses. The mail communication system includes VINE (Victim Notification Information Everyday) letters, notifications regarding parole publications and parole notifications, as well as return of weapons letters as they relate to domestic violence cases.

Throughout the years, the Victim Witness Unit has participated in several community events to raise awareness of crime and the impact it has on the residents of Salem County. In 2022, the Victim Witness Unit participated in several community events. We attended Pedricktown Day, Woodstown Harvest Festival, Septemberfest, National Night Out in Lower Alloways Creek and Carneys Point/Penns Grove, Attorney General's Community Walk and our Vocational School for Law Enforcement Day. In September 2022, we held the first Salem County event commemorating murder victims and surviving family members for the National Day of Remembrance for Homicide Victims.

Victim Witness personnel continued to attend virtual trainings in 2022 to receive the most up to date information to continue providing services to victims. Leslie Witcher, Ashley Vanaman and Sharmin Harvey attended and completed several trainings throughout the year. The Victim Witness unit also welcomed bilingual advocate Nathaly Almonte to the Victim Witness staff.

While crime can happen to anyone, being victimized can be overwhelming. The Victim Witness Unit continues to be tasked with encouraging and assisting victims of various crimes in Salem County, as well as victims transferred from other counties. Being a victim of a crime is involuntary, however; participation in the criminal justice system can help victims rebuild and regain control over their lives with support from the dedicated staff of the Salem County Victim Witness Unit.

Multi-Disciplinary Team

The Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) consists of agencies in and outside of Salem County. The agencies include The Salem County Prosecutor's Office, Department of Child Protection and Permanency, Rowan University Cares Institute and Salem County Women's Services. Members of the MDT team are professionals who work together in a coordinated and collaborative manner to ensure an effective response to reports of child abuse and neglect.

The team meets each month to discuss each case and provide the best service for each child who has fallen victim to sexual assault, physical abuse and/ or endangering the welfare of a child cases. Medical treatment and counseling for victims and their families are also discussed and provided. In 2022, the team reviewed 54 cases.

The Salem County Child Advocacy Center (CAC) opened in October of this year. The National Children's Alliance defines a CAC as a child friendly facility in which law enforcement, child protection, prosecution, mental health, medical and victim advocacy professionals work together to investigate abuse, help children heal from abuse and hold offenders accountable. Establishment of the CAC has provided victims with a place to feel safe and comfortable to report abuse in Salem County since its accreditation in December of 2021.

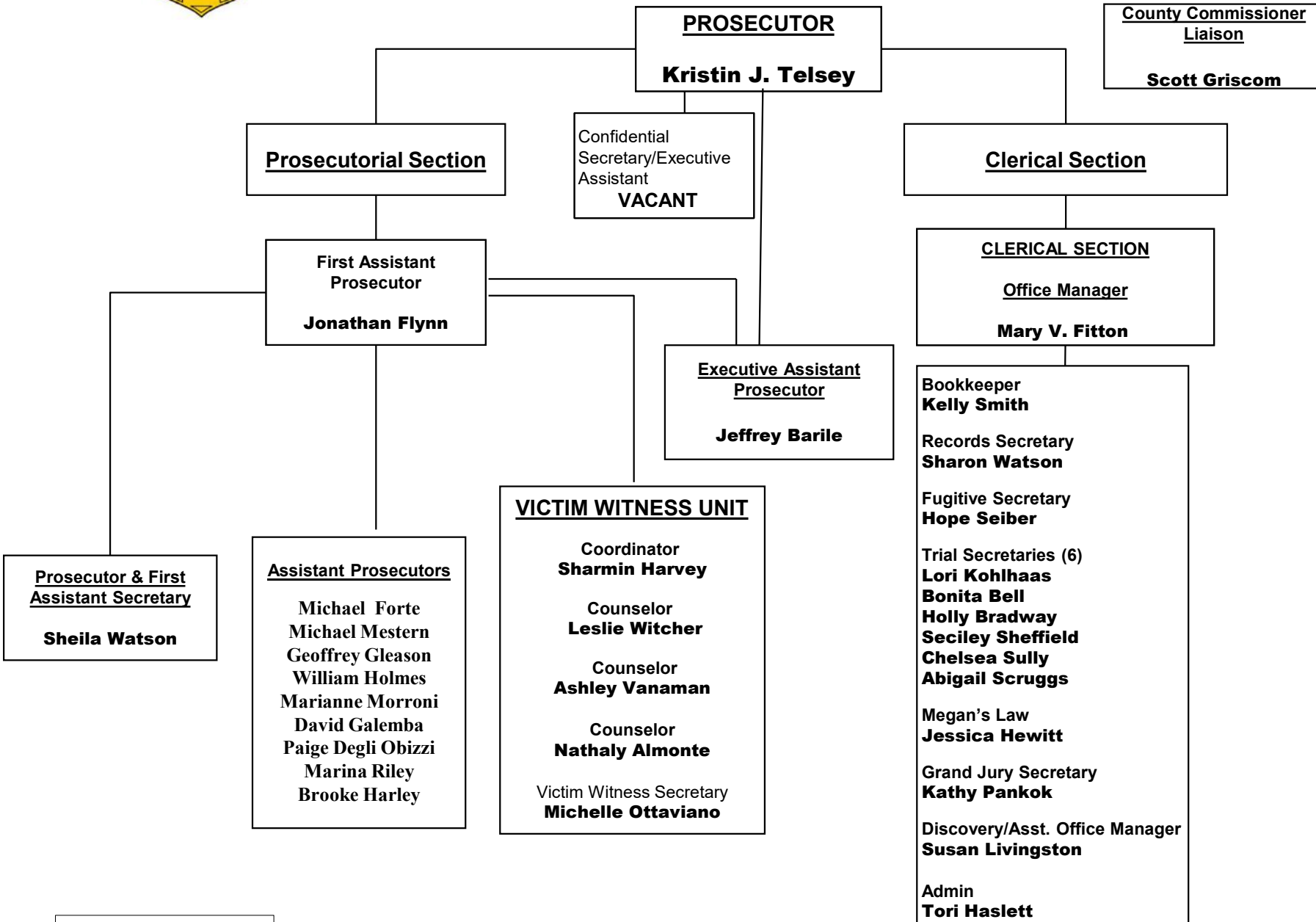


SALEM COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

County Prosecutor Kristin J. Telsey



Table of Organization – Clerical Staff



Revised: 11-2-22

Salem County Prosecutor's Office

Assignment Flow Chart

