

Union County Prosecutor's Office



Annual Report 2018

**Lyndsay V. Ruotolo
Acting Prosecutor**

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Annual Report Summary

The Union County Prosecutor is the chief law enforcement officer for Union County and maintains the Office of the County Prosecutor, located in the Andrew K. Ruotolo, Jr. Justice Center, at 32 Rahway Avenue in Elizabeth, New Jersey, as well as the Elizabeth-based Family Justice Center and Child Advocacy Center of Union County, the John H. Stamler Police Academy in Scotch Plains, the Forensics Laboratory in Westfield, and the Major Crimes Division (formerly known as the Narcotics Strike Force) at a confidential location.

The County Prosecutor is a constitutional officer who is responsible for the investigation and prosecution of all indictable offenses occurring within the county. The Prosecutor is also responsible for ensuring that policies and procedures mandated by the Office of the Attorney General of the State of New Jersey are disseminated and enforced among all law enforcement agencies within the county.

The County Prosecutor renders legal and investigative guidance to local police departments in the investigation, identification, apprehension, and prosecution of people accused of committing crimes within the county. In addition, the County Prosecutor performs an important public function in educating citizens about crime trends, disposition of criminal cases, preventive action to detect and prevent crimes, and policies and procedures to keep our families and vulnerable members of our community safe.

Union County is a jurisdiction of more than half a million residents living in approximately 100 square miles. Union County is bordered by Essex, Hudson, and Morris counties to the north; Richmond County, New York (Staten Island) to the east; Middlesex County to the south; and Somerset County to the west.

There are 21 municipalities in Union County, ranging in size from Winfield (population approximately 1,500) to the county seat, Elizabeth, which, at nearly 125,000 residents, is New Jersey's fourth-largest city. All 21 municipalities in the county maintain an independent police department. In addition to the 21 municipal departments, Union County is also home to the Union County Police Department, the Kean University Police Department, and the Union County Sheriff's Office, under the leadership of Sheriff Peter Corvelli.

The Union County Prosecutor's Office (UCPO) is staffed by approximately 250 people. In addition to the Acting Prosecutor, the staff currently consists of assistant prosecutors, sworn law enforcement officers who function as investigators, prosecutor's agents, victim/witness counselors, chemists and lab assistants, and clerical employees.

The UCPO is organized into various specialized units. What follows are brief descriptions of the functions and 2018 accomplishments of each unit. As you will see in the pages that follow, though 2018 marked another year of transition in leadership, such changes did not deter the day-to-day impact of the work of the UCPO.

The people of the Union County Prosecutor's Office remain steadfast in their service to the community and dedication to promoting justice in Union County. We appreciate your interest in our office and support of our work.

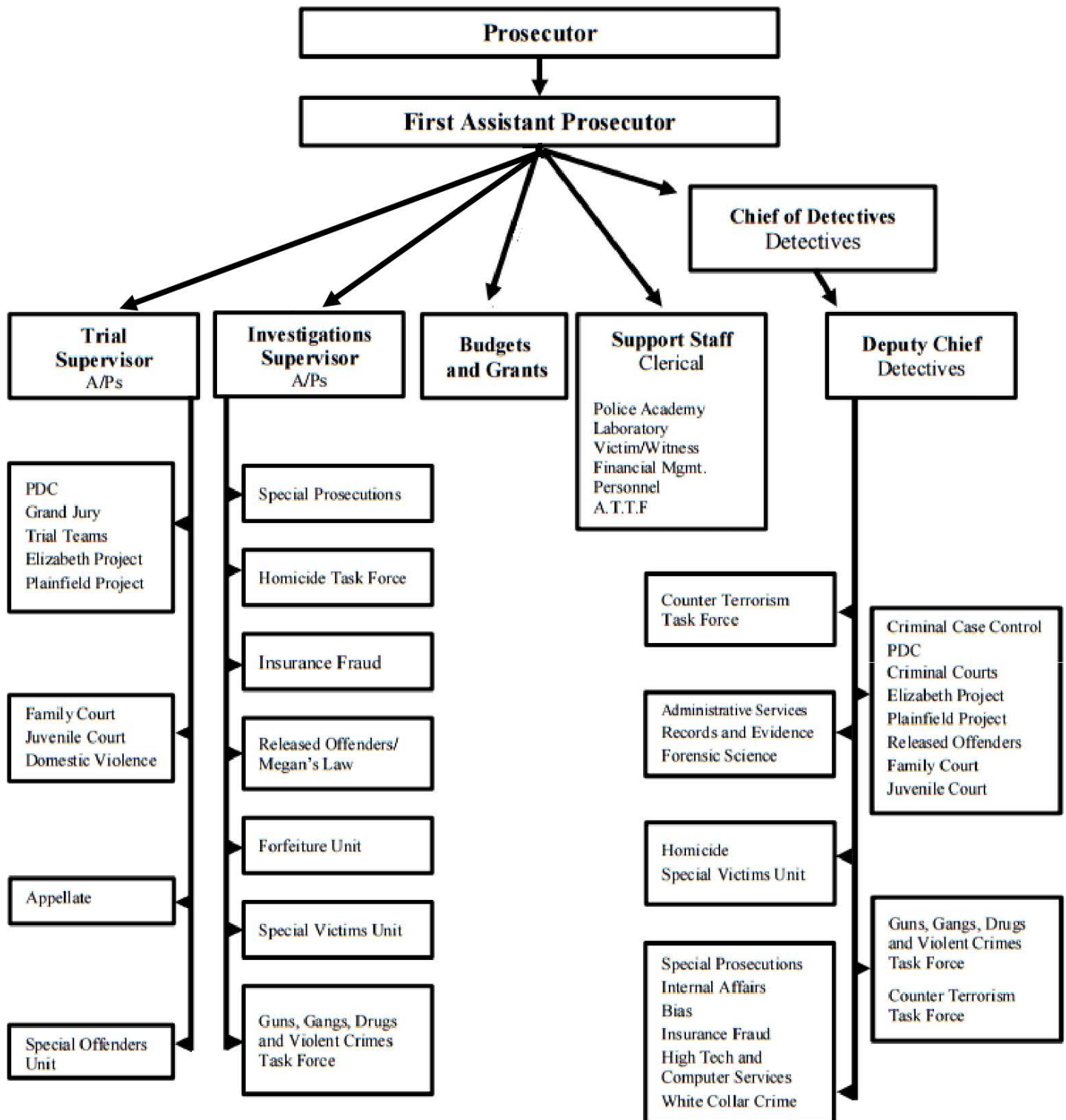
Lyndsay V. Ruotolo
Acting Prosecutor

Mission Statement of the Union County Prosecutor's Office

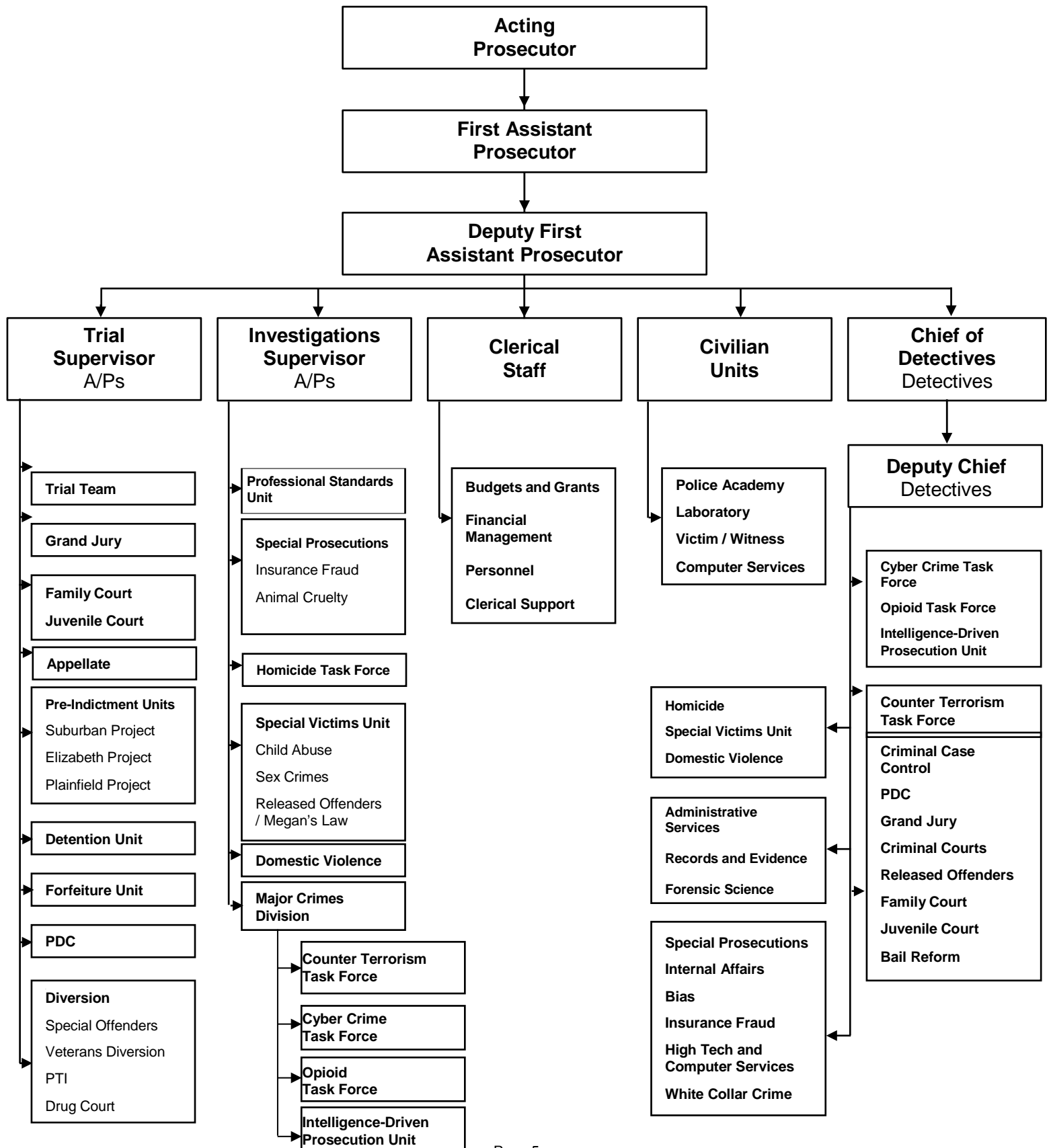
To the people of Union County: you have the right to live your lives without becoming a victim of violence; to have your liberty, as well as the liberty of your neighbors, safeguarded; to own possessions knowing they will not be taken from you; to rest your head at night with the knowledge that should another transgress and cause harm to you, your family, or your property, such persons will be swiftly apprehended and brought to justice. Ensuring these rights is the most fundamental duty entrusted to government by those it governs and serves.

It is the mission of the Union County Prosecutor's Office to allow the people of this County to live their lives without fear that those lives will be diminished by the acts of those who would betray the laws of a civilized society.

2018 Organizational Chart



Looking Ahead: 2019 Organizational Chart



Appellate Unit

Attorneys in the Appellate Unit represent the State of New Jersey in various proceedings in the Superior Court Law Division and Appellate Division, the New Jersey Supreme Court, and Federal Court. These proceedings include appeals of municipal court convictions, such as those for driving while intoxicated, as well as post-conviction relief proceedings, pretrial detention appeals, direct appeals, and habeas petitions. Unit members also conduct legal research and handle emergent motions for leave to appeal and interlocutory appeals.

In 2018, the New Jersey Supreme Court issued an opinion in three cases the Appellate Unit handled. In *State v. Rainlin Vasco*, the Court addressed whether a court can look to attendant circumstances to determine whether a defendant provided a sufficient factual basis. In *State in the Interest of D.M.*, the Court rejected the Appellate Division's interpretation of third-degree endangering the welfare of a child, holding that a juvenile defendant can be adjudicated delinquent for the offense absent a finding under N.J.S.A. 2C:14-2 or 2C:14-3 of penetration, coercion, or a four-year age difference between the juvenile defendant and victim. And in *Re: Application For a Permit to Carry a Handgun*, the Court upheld a decision to deny an application to carry a handgun filed by a petitioner in his capacity as a security guard.

Notably, the number of habeas petitions that the Appellate Unit handles in Federal District Court and the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit has increased in the last few years, and the trend continued in 2018. All answers to these petitions filed in the past year resulted in denial of relief to defendants.

Domestic Violence Unit

In 2018, the Domestic Violence Unit (“DV Unit”) of the Union County Prosecutor’s Office continued its vertically integrated investigative prosecution of a high volume of indictable offenses in the Criminal Division of the Superior Court, as well as violations of restraining orders and weapons forfeitures in the Family Division.

The DV Unit is responsible for the charging, indictment, and trial of indictable criminal offenses stemming from domestic violence, including first-degree crimes such as kidnapping and attempted murder, as well as investigation-intensive crimes such as interference with custody, stalking, cyber-harassment, and invasion of privacy. The DV Unit handles approximately 65 new indictable cases and/or restraining order violations each month. The DV Unit is staffed by four assistant prosecutors, three investigators, two victim/witness advocates, and one clerical staff member. The Unit maintains a 24-hour hotline, through which police departments can contact an on-call assistant prosecutor for legal advice, as well as for the approval of indictable charges.

The DV Unit experienced several successes in 2018, when it prosecuted hundreds of domestic violence cases. In the Family Division, DV Unit attorneys conducted three trials, handled 82 weapons forfeiture matters, and prosecuted 230 cases involving non-indictable violations of restraining orders. In the Criminal Division, DV Unit prosecutors filed motions for pretrial detention and motions to revoke release, obtained 30 indictments before the Grand Jury, sentenced numerous defendants for indictable crimes after guilty pleas, and conducted several noteworthy investigations involving incidents of domestic violence.

The success of the Union County Family Justice Center (FJC), a joint initiative of the County of Union, the Union County Prosecutor’s Office, and YWCA Union County, among other partner agencies, continued throughout 2018. The FJC provides a community-wide approach to delivering services to victims of domestic violence and their families through a coordinated effort among agencies, including those affiliated with county government, law enforcement, domestic violence response, social services, and the court, to enhance safety by ensuring that victims receive the maximum protections under the law and that perpetrators are held accountable. Domestic violence cases present several challenges that distinguish them from other matters typically handled by the Prosecutor’s Office. Victims of domestic violence are often emotionally, financially, and legally bound to their perpetrators, attachments that can significantly impact a criminal prosecution for a domestic violence crime. The FJC and the DV Unit therefore assist victims in their personal circumstances as they navigate through the criminal justice process by connecting victims with community-based resources designed to help them break the cycle of violence. By understanding the dynamics of each victim’s relationship with the defendant, and through empowering the victim to improve his or her personal circumstances as soon as a domestic violence incident occurs, the DV Unit improves its chances for a successful prosecution.

Members of the DV Unit also instruct at the John H. Stamler Police Academy on domestic violence law and specialized domestic violence evidence-gathering and investigative skills. The DV Unit also provides training for local Domestic Violence Response Teams, schools, community organizations, and civic groups.



Drug Court

In 2018, the Union County Prosecutor's Office Drug Court Unit was staffed by one full-time assistant prosecutor, who was responsible for the legal review of all applications and handled all court-related appearances.

The Drug Court Program, which began in Union County in 1999, offers non-violent, substance-abusing, and addicted offenders a treatment-based alternative to prison. By the end of 2018, approximately 246 individuals were participating in Drug Court, and were required to report to court on a weekly, bi-monthly, or monthly basis, depending on the length of time the participant had spent in the Program and their successful compliance of the rules. Participants are required to submit to random drug testing and unannounced home visits, report to probation on a weekly basis, obtain employment or education, and participate in either inpatient or outpatient treatment, as clinically determined. In 2018, a total of 43 Drug Court participants successfully completed their five-year term and graduated.

One hundred and forty-six applications were filed and reviewed for legal acceptance into Drug Court in 2018. Of that number, 65 were determined to be legally eligible and suitable for Drug Court, and letters of acceptance were submitted in each case. After clinical assessments were conducted, 39 defendants entered guilty pleas and were sentenced into Drug Court. Five additional defendants were sentenced to Drug Court on a violation of probation. Detailed letters of legal ineligibility were submitted in 75 cases.

In late October, the Drug Court assistant prosecutor began to proactively screen all pre-indictment cases that are listed for Pre-Disposition Court (PDC). This was done in an effort to avoid receipt of applications from people who are statutorily barred, and to encourage more appropriate candidates to apply for the Drug Court Program. Between October 24, 2018 and the end of the 2018 PDC calendar, the Drug Court assistant prosecutor recommended that 87 defendants apply to the program.

Elizabeth Project

Since 1994, the Union County Prosecutor's Office has assigned an assistant prosecutor to work full-time at the Elizabeth Police Department. Referred to as the "Elizabeth Project," the program aims to strengthen the relationship between the two agencies by providing the department legal advice and investigative support. The



Acting Prosecutor Ruotolo, with Elizabeth Mayor J. Christian Bollwage, speaking at a community outreach event in Carteret Park in Elizabeth.

assistant prosecutor also assists with investigations and complaint drafting and approval for numerous law enforcement agencies, including the New Jersey State Police, the Port Authority Police Department, and the NJ Transit Police. Additionally, the assistant prosecutor works with members of the United States Attorney's Office for purposes of facilitating the referral of appropriate cases to that Office for federal adoption, including, most notably, gun cases suitable for prosecution under the federal "Triggerlock" project.

The assistant prosecutor reviews evidence, police reports, and statements for complaint approval and determines when there is sufficient evidence for charges to be filed, and whether those charges rise to the level of indictable crimes or should be heard in municipal court.

In 2018 – from mid-May through December – 732 indictable charges were reviewed and issued, 37 disorderly persons offenses were charged, 260 cases were administratively dismissed or remanded to municipal court, and 31 cases were reviewed and determined to feature insufficient evidence to charge an offense or crime.

The assistant prosecutor's referral of appropriate cases to the Elizabeth Municipal Court, rather than to the Superior Court, allows detectives to spend more time on cases involving serious indictable charges. The referral of cases to the municipal court also eases the burden of the clerical, investigative, and legal staffs, of both the Elizabeth Police Department and the Union County Prosecutor's Office. Numerous armed robberies, sexual assaults, aggravated assaults, shootings, and burglaries, as well as a host of other serious crimes, were solved as a result of the cooperative effort between the many different investigative divisions within the Elizabeth Police Department and the Union County Prosecutor's Office. Both the Police Director and Police Chief lend full support to the assigned assistant prosecutor with respect to both investigative and legal issues.

One notable case in 2018 that demonstrated the exemplary efforts of the Elizabeth Police Department and its partnership with UCPO involved the sexual assault of a female in a motel in Elizabeth. A young woman from California, who was in the area on an extended layover, went into Manhattan to meet friends at a bar before her flight left in the morning. At the end of her night, the victim, who was intoxicated, ordered an Uber to take her to a hotel in Newark, where her father was staying during the layover. The defendant, a livery driver, encountered the victim outside of the bar and convinced her that he was her Uber driver. He took her to a motel in Elizabeth, where he committed sexual offenses against her. He fled when she left the room and approached the front desk.



Then Acting Union County Prosecutor Jennifer Davenport and other members of local law enforcement attending an iftar at the Muslim Community Center of Union County in Elizabeth.

The victim was subsequently taken to the airport by a good Samaritan, and she flew back to California, at which point she contacted the Elizabeth Police Department after obtaining a forensic sexual assault examination. During the exhaustive investigation that followed, Elizabeth Police Department detectives and UCPO, through the Elizabeth Project, worked together to obtain sources of evidence in both Elizabeth and Manhattan, including hours of video surveillance footage, to solve this complex case. They tracked down and spoke to witnesses from out of state, and also secured the return of physical biological evidence from the hospital in California where the victim was treated. The team also partnered with members of the New York City Police Department, and agents from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, to locate the defendant and secure his custody upon his eventual return to the United States. The prosecution of this case remains pending, and it is expected to be presented to the Grand Jury for indictment shortly.

Another example of the success of the Elizabeth Project was the team's work in a complex carjacking case. The investigation revealed that two males approached the victims and took their vehicle from them at gunpoint, after robbing them of their belongings. The actors then fled the area. The carjacked vehicle was later recovered abandoned in Newark. Through an in-depth investigation by the team, including the execution of search warrants and obtaining numerous surveillance videos, the suspects were identified and handguns and evidence were recovered. Two additional carjackings and a robbery in Newark were also solved when the Elizabeth Project team completed their investigation. The case has since been overtaken by the U.S. Attorney's Office in Newark for federal prosecution.

Forensics Laboratory

The Union County Prosecutor's Office Forensics Laboratory was established in 1972 to analyze physical evidence submitted by law enforcement agencies in Union County, and it was New Jersey's first county laboratory. The Forensics Laboratory today periodically extends services to the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office, the Newark Police Department, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the U.S. Attorney's Office, and the Port Authority Police Department.

The Forensics Laboratory is comprised of two analytical sections, Forensic Biology and Controlled Dangerous Substances. The Forensics Laboratory currently employs 16 technical and support staff, including a Director, DNA Technical Leader, Senior Forensic Chemist Supervisors, and many other staff members. The Forensics Laboratory achieved re-accreditation in the ISO 17025 standards promulgated by the American National Standards Institute's National Accreditation Board, demonstrating continual commitment to improvement of the delivery of forensic services.

In 2018, the Forensic Biology Section saw a significant increase in case submissions, with 405 submissions in total. Requests were received in the following types of cases: 18 assaults, 34 homicides, 189 sexual assaults, 228 property crimes, and others. The large increase in sexual assault and overall case submissions was due to a change in policy that brought 120 backlogged kits to the laboratory for analysis. There are currently 1,448 DNA profiles that have been uploaded to the Forensics Laboratory's local CODIS database. To date, the Forensics Laboratory has linked crime-scene DNA profiles to convicted offenders in 270 Union County cases, and to arrestees in 15 Union County cases. Another 41 case requests linked DNA profiles with other Union County investigations, or cases in other jurisdictions. Union County's shared-services agreement with the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office for the analysis of biological evidence and DNA also continued in 2018, with the completion of more than 100 Middlesex County cases.

The Controlled Substances Section saw an increase in case submissions for the fourth year in a row, with a total of 5,114 submissions. There were 9,775 items of controlled substances alone that were tested. Approximately 34.7 percent of the examined submissions were found to be marijuana, down from 35.4 percent in 2017. Marijuana continues to be the most frequently received submission at the Forensics Laboratory. Heroin mixture cases, including fentanyl and fentanyl-related drugs such as furanyl fentanyl, FIBF, acetyl fentanyl, and valeryl fentanyl, mark the next highest category, equaling 25.5 percent of cases, up from 17.5 percent in 2017. The third-most prevalent category is cocaine, at 19.8 percent. The three of these make up 80 percent of all controlled items tested.

In 2018, fentanyl cases totaled 1,889 grams (66.6 ounces). Heroin cases totaled 3,642 grams (128.4 ounces); cocaine totaled 9,117 grams (321.6 ounces); and marijuana totaled 62,355 grams (137.4 pounds). The Forensics Laboratory also

received 1,480 Oxycodone tablets, totaling 477 grams (16.8 ounces). Submissions of steroid items and synthetic cathinones (“bath salts”) also increased in 2018. There has also been an increase in food items containing THC/marijuana.

Shared-services testing with the Newark Police Department continues to bring narcotics submissions to the Forensics Laboratory. In 2018, the Department submitted 440 drug cases. The Laboratory will enter into a new shared-services agreement with the City of Newark in 2019, which will bring a City Chemist to the Forensics Laboratory.

Grants Management

During 2018, Grants Management supervised all federal and state grants awarded to the Union County Prosecutor's Office – over \$2 million in total grant funds.



Acting Prosecutor Ruotolo handing out UCPO "junior badges" at National Night Out festivities in Roselle.

In 2018, UCPO was awarded \$824,256 from the U.S. Department of Justice's ("DOJ's") Office for Victims of Crimes, or OVC (part of the DOJ's Office of Justice Programs), to establish Purpose Area 1: the Law Enforcement Direct Victim Services Program in Union County. The Office's proposal supports the OVC's objectives of developing direct victim assistance programs, coordinating partnerships with community-based initiatives, and serving the broader needs and rights of crime victims.

UCPO was awarded by the New Jersey Department of Health, through the federal U.S. Department of Health and Human Services ("HHS") Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC"), a total of \$58,824 for Operation Helping Hand, to involve coordination and collaboration between law enforcement officers, recovery specialists, mental health professionals, and other service providers to connect individuals suffering from the disease of addiction with treatment and/or recovery support services.

The Union County Prosecutor's Office Forensics Laboratory was awarded several grants offering federal and state funding, allowing it to reduce the backlog of untested cases and improve turnaround time. Throughout 2018, the Forensics Laboratory utilized \$322,654 in funds from the National Institute of Justice ("NIJ") DNA Backlog Reduction and Capacity Enhancement Program to support forensic biology testing, and \$24,034 from the New Jersey State Police ("NJSP") under the Coverdell Program to support controlled dangerous substances testing.

Through an agreement between the Trinitas Regional Medical Center Department of Behavioral Health and the Union County Prosecutor's Office, the Jail Diversion Program also continues to fund the salary of an assistant prosecutor in the Mental Health Unit from grant monies.

Grant funds from the New Jersey Office of the Insurance Fraud Prosecutor continued to fund the salaries of one investigator, one sergeant, and one assistant prosecutor in the Insurance Fraud Unit.

In 2018, the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners/Forensic Nurse Examiner Grant Program continued to fund equipment and supply costs, as well as all on-call and examination fees, for nurse examiners who are part of the Union County Sexual Assault Response Team (“SART”).

The Victim Assistance Project continues to fund the salaries of victim advocates and victim notification clerks, and has allowed also for an increase of staff in the UCPO Office of Victim/Witness Advocacy. The funds also support community awareness/violence prevention initiatives and improvement of quality services to victims in Union County.

The Union County Prosecutor’s Office continues to participate in the State of New Jersey’s Violence Against Women Act Grant Program, as these funds have enabled training of law enforcement officers, advocates, and prosecutors, to more effectively identify and respond to violent crimes against women, including the crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

The Law Enforcement Officers Training and Equipment Program, awarded by the New Jersey Police Training Commission to the John H. Stamler Police Academy, provided new equipment for recruits and funding for in-service training for Union County law enforcement personnel.

UCPO also continues to receive funds from the Body Armor Replacement Program. These funds allow UCPO to upgrade body armor for current investigative staff, and purchase body armor for new investigative staff.

Grant funding allows the Union County Prosecutor’s Office to continue existing programs and pursue new initiatives. Grants Management will continue to complete fiscal reporting and explore new funding that corresponds to UCPO’s key initiatives.

Homicide Task Force

The Homicide Task Force (“HTF”) is responsible for the investigation of all homicide cases, including vehicular homicides, occurring within Union County. The Unit is also responsible for the investigation of all suspicious deaths, infant or baby deaths, and murder-suicides. HTF works collaboratively with municipal police departments when such an incident occurs in their jurisdiction.

HTF maintains a 24-hour-a-day legal and investigative on-call service to all law enforcement agencies in Union County. In 2018, HTF was comprised of several assistant prosecutors, investigative supervisors, and detectives whose work is supported by prosecutors’ agents and clerical personnel.

In 2018, there were eight homicides in the County of Union, with nine homicide victims (one case was a fatal double shooting), marking the lowest single-year total recorded since 1970. In total, six of those eight homicides were solved. Among these cases, there were six fatal shootings, one fatal stabbing, and one blunt-force trauma death. In addition, there were 29 motor vehicle deaths and seven tragic deaths of children.



Assistant Prosecutor Armando Suarez, of the Homicide Task Force, speaking to Union County Vocational-Technical High School students about the criminal justice system.

In total, 14 homicide complaints were signed in 2018. There were also three complaints signed in connection with vehicular homicides. During the course of the year, there were 12 homicide trials prosecuted by HTF, 10 of which resulted in convictions. Guilty pleas were secured by 26 additional defendants.

One HTF investigation of particular note was initiated on Sunday, January 14, 2018, when 30-year-old Tyrone Osorio of East Brunswick was shot to death outside a restaurant in Elizabeth. A joint investigation by HTF

and members of the Elizabeth Police Department, Union County Sheriff’s Office Crime Scene Unit, Union County Police Department Ballistics Unit, and New Brunswick Police Department, resulted in four arrests being made within a matter of days, as 26-year-old Tyquan Fuqua and 27-year-old Almalik Fuqua, both of New Brunswick, as well as 29-year-old Allan Blackburn and 40-year-old Derek Fuqua, both of Milltown, were apprehended and charged with murder and related weapons offenses. The case against the defendants is currently post-indictment, and a trial has been scheduled for January 2020.

On five occasions in 2018, Superior Court judges sentenced defendants convicted of murder and related offenses to 50 years or more in state prison for their crimes, including: 35-year-old Arturo Alomas, sentenced to 75 years for the murder of his 26-year-old girlfriend, Trenice Johnson; and Nathaniel Young Jr., 23, sentenced to 58 years for the robbery and fatal shooting of 57-year-old taxi driver Imad Alasmar.

Intelligence Unit

The Union County Prosecutor's Office Intelligence Unit was established in December 2002. The mission of this unit is to gather information, in a manner consistent with the law, from all sources, in order to provide tactical and strategic assessments on the existence, identities, and capabilities of criminal suspects and criminal enterprises, and to further the crime prevention and law enforcement objects/priorities identified by the Union County Prosecutor's Office.

One key area of responsibility for the Intelligence Unit is collecting, analyzing, and disseminating gang member intelligence/information into the InfoShare intelligence database. This includes the verification of gang members and identifying information regarding photographs, addresses, vehicles, and involvement in criminal activity.

The Intelligence Unit is often tasked with mapping a variety of criminal activity throughout the county and state; identifying crimes that have similar methods of operation; and offering assistance to units within the Union County Prosecutor's Office as well as municipal police departments.

The unit routinely focuses on analyzing a series of crimes, most notably homicides, assaults, robberies, burglaries, and auto thefts, with the intent of apprehending the offenders and deterring continued criminal acts.



UCPO Risk Mitigation Planner Michael Boyle, right, presenting on crisis preparedness.

In 2018, this unit gave assistance in the form of intelligence to hundreds of different municipal, county, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, as well as law enforcement officers and legal personnel within the Union County Prosecutor's Office.

In 2018, the unit continued to monitor the 24-hour Union County Crime Stoppers "Tip-Line," and reviewed and forwarded tips received to the appropriate agencies. In 2018, there were 175 tips received through Crime Stoppers, resulting in \$5,700 in rewards being paid. The unit also maintained countywide statistics associated with incidents of non-lethal shootings (34), police-administered naloxone deployments (316), and overdose deaths (133).

In 2018, the unit handled 140 deconflictions in order to ensure officer safety. This system is used to determine whether multiple agencies are investigating the same person or crime, and promote both efficiency and officer safety.

In 2018, the tracking of stamps found on glassine folds at the scene of police-administered naloxone deployments and fatal overdoses was kept by this unit. This information is shared with other agencies, as well as the Drug Monitoring Initiative.

The unit also generates a map distributed via the Union County Prosecutor's Office Twitter account (@UCPONJ) on a weekly basis, illustrating data regarding police-administered naloxone deployments and fatal overdoses occurring within the county.

Lastly, the bi-monthly Intelligence Brief continues to be compiled and disseminated to more than 300 law enforcement professionals, identifying potential criminal activity that is typically trans-jurisdictional in nature.

Internal Affairs / Professional Standards

The Union County Prosecutor's Office is responsible for conducting investigations of police misconduct, encompassing criminal and administrative violations committed by law enforcement personnel. It is also charged with the responsibility of overseeing internal affairs criminal investigations for all police jurisdictions within Union County. Under certain conditions, UCPO may conduct investigations of Union County police personnel at the executive level of law enforcement, and may conduct independent or joint investigations of any criminal or administrative incident involving municipal and county law enforcement.

At times, UCPO provides legal and investigative support to municipal and county law enforcement for internal affairs investigations. UCPO requires all Union County law enforcement agencies to report statistical information on a quarterly basis, summarizing each department's internal affairs unit's activity. Union County internal affairs reporting statistics are derived from each of the county's police departments' Professional Standards Summary Reports.

UCPO's Professional Standards Summary Reports provide a summarized yearly analysis for the entire county. During 2018, UCPO provided training to all new police recruits regarding internal affairs policy requirements, as well as training to superior officers newly assigned to internal affairs of three municipalities.

The Professional Standards Summary Reports, Tables 1, 2, and 3, are for the 2018 calendar year. For the most part, complaints reported this year occurred during the reporting year. However, it is understood that not all complaints filed during a given year will have had a disposition during the same year, and as such, the number of all dispositions may not equal the number of complaints filed. In order to better understand the Professional Standards Summary Reports, a "complaint" is defined as a single incident and the officer involved. If an officer commits more than one act under the complaint types, only the most serious complaint type is reported. If there are multiple officers involved in an incident, each officer who had a complaint filed against him or her is a separate case. The reports from each department's quarterly reporting, and a summarized yearly analysis, are consolidated into a countywide annual report using the sample format provided by the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General Internal Affairs Guidelines.

In 2018, one officer forfeited his public office and his family's health benefits, on the 24th year, 11th month of service, due to theft of time, substantiated by police department cameras. Another officer is facing trial in municipal court, following Grand Jury review, for simple assault.

The following report contains statistical summaries for all law enforcement departments in Union County for 2018.

Complaints Filed & Source

Anonymous Complaint – 17
Citizen Complaint – 365
Agency Complaint – 320
Total Complaints – 702

Types of Complaints	Sustained
Excessive Force – 29	0
Improper Arrest – 16	1
Improper Entry – 0	0
Improper Search – 4	1
Other Criminal Violation – 21	2
Differential Treatment – 55	0
Demeanor – 168	11
Domestic Violence – 4	0
Other Rule Violation – 399	233

Agency Dispositions

Sustained – 248
Exonerated – 152
Not Sustained – 88
Unfounded – 61
Administratively Closed – 40
Total Agency Dispositions – 589

Court Dispositions

Cases Dismissed – 4
Cases Diverted – 0
Acquittals – 0
Convictions – 4
Total Court Dispositions – 4

By December 2018, UCPO and all police departments worked collaboratively to ensure that all municipal and county police agencies had active body-worn cameras on every patrol officer. In total, 1,092 body-worn cameras were available, active, and in full use by all departments by the end of the year. Body-worn camera footage provides a reliable record of all police interactions with citizens.

Juvenile Unit

The Juvenile Unit is responsible for prosecuting juveniles for acts of delinquency, which can range from violations of township ordinances to murder. The unit is comprised of a supervising assistant prosecutor, three or four full-time assistant prosecutors, two detectives, a victim/witness advocate, and two secretaries. The goals of the Juvenile Unit are to promote swift and certain punishment for repeat and violent offenders, to divert minor offenders away from delinquency and further court action, and to bring appropriate rehabilitative services to all juvenile offenders.

During 2018, there were 844 juvenile cases filed and 69 violations of probation filed. Staff members from the unit handled five juvenile delinquency hearings.

Ten motions were filed to have juveniles treated as adults for purposes of the criminal justice system last year. Of those motions, three of the juveniles were charged with murder, one was charged with attempted murder, and the remaining juveniles were charged with armed robberies, carjackings, or aggravated assault.

The statistics show a slight decrease in the number of complaints filed, with 844 in 2018, compared with 967 filed in 2017. The number of juveniles charged with acts of delinquency has decreased from 761 juveniles in 2017 to 648 in 2018, and 300 cases were diverted from the formal calendar.

The number of serious and complex cases remains high. Specifically, in 2018, the unit handled approximately 14 cases involving juveniles charged with sexual assault. This number is consistent with an increasing trend that we have seen in the past several years. There is a great deal of time and preparation required in prosecuting these types of cases. The assistant prosecutor must review extensive discovery and meet with the victim and the victim's family regarding the plea offer. The assistant prosecutor must answer numerous defense motions and prepare the State's motions and briefs for the admission of certain evidence unique to these cases. The State must retain experts and prepare the witness for testimony. Most importantly, the assistant prosecutor spends weeks preparing the victim for their testimony.

The past year has also seen the steady reporting of gang-related or gang-affiliated crimes and violent offenses. Approximately 40 robbery cases were handled by the Juvenile Unit in 2018. In addition, the unit handled one murder/attempted murder case, five carjacking cases, 51 weapons-related offenses, 84 assault cases, and 122 theft-related cases.

The unit provides daily legal advice to the 22 Juvenile Bureaus within Union County. The supervising assistant prosecutor is a member and officer of numerous county initiatives regarding juveniles, including but not limited to: the Juvenile Officers Association, the local and statewide Council on Juvenile Justice Systems Improvement, and the Executive Planning Committee of the Youth Services Commission.

Narcotics Strike Force

The Narcotics Strike Force works with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies to investigate illegal drug trafficking and gang activity in Union County. The Strike Force, established in 1971, is the oldest countywide, multi-jurisdictional narcotics task force in New Jersey. It is comprised of four assistant prosecutors, 12 detectives, and three clericals.

The Strike Force's daily activities include: narcotics interdiction; search warrant preparation; speaking engagements before civic groups; presentation of training



Acting Prosecutor (then an assistant prosecutor) Ruotolo, with New Jersey Attorney General Gurbir S. Grewal, presenting on the success of Operation Helping Hand 2018 and the "transformative power of unexpected kindness."

courses at the John H. Stamler Police Academy regarding narcotics, gang enforcement, and search and seizure issues; technical and surveillance assistance to local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies; and maintenance of an extensive inventory of sophisticated surveillance equipment. Detectives assigned to the Strike Force also contribute their expertise by reviewing cases in Union County for which a defendant is charged with possession with the intent to distribute controlled dangerous substances, and are responsible for testifying as expert witnesses in such cases.

The narcotics interdiction efforts of the Strike Force are two-pronged, in that the priority is to identify and arrest mid- and upper-level drug dealers and gang members, while also assisting municipal police departments with disrupting street-level drug distribution and gang activities. This effort is accomplished by employing the full spectrum of techniques, including surveillance, undercover operations, search warrant execution, and electronic surveillance.

In 2018, through the cooperation of the Union County Chiefs of Police, the Strike Force continued a program in which municipal detectives are detailed to the Strike Force for six months to a year, during which time they are trained in all aspects of narcotics and gang investigations. The benefits are threefold: departments are given a cash



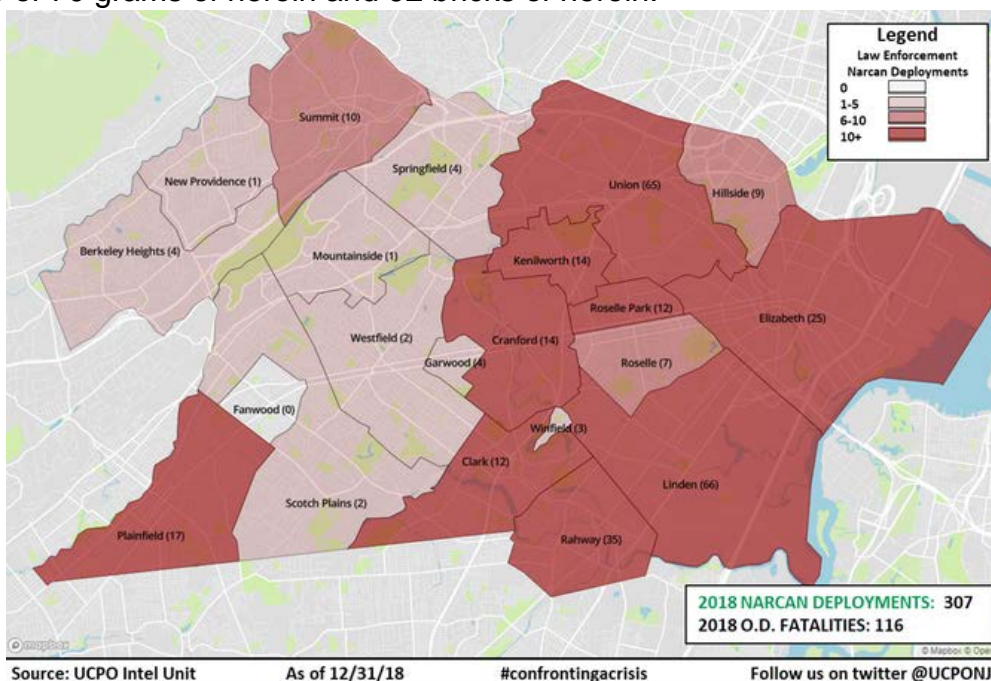
UCPO Lt. Gary V. Webb notes during public remarks that for the officers who participated in Operation Helping Hand 2018, it "changed perspectives ... very rarely do we get a picture into their (those struggling with substance abuse) personal life."

stipend for each detective assigned; the Strike Force has additional staffing; and the detectives return to their departments better equipped to handle narcotics and gang investigations.

In 2018, the Strike Force initiated 34 investigations, executed 23 search warrants, made 153 arrests, and made substantial seizures of heroin, with more than 10,712 grams seized. After testing by the Union County Forensics Laboratory and the Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA"), results showed that of the heroin seized, approximately 3,534 grams contained a mix of fentanyl or fentanyl analog. Other drugs seized included cocaine (941grams), marijuana (16,122 grams), one handgun, \$81,968 in United States currency representing drug proceeds, and one vehicle. Additionally, two separate wiretap investigations and 11 pen registers were conducted.

During the second week of June 2018, a sergeant and assistant prosecutor spearheaded Operation Helping Hand for the first time in Union County. During this week, Strike Force detectives and officers from 16 departments made 100 arrests and seized 644 folds of heroin and 86 bags of cocaine/crack. A total of 83 of the people arrested elected to go into some form of addiction treatment or to continue a relationship with their recovery coach. This effort led the state, touching more lives than all of the other participating counties combined.

Some other notable 2018 Strike Force investigations are as follows: in May, detectives conducted an investigation in Elizabeth that resulted in two arrests and the seizure of six kilograms of heroin. In August, detectives conducted an investigation in Union, which resulted in one arrest and the seizure of two kilograms of heroin. In September, detectives conducted an investigation in Linden and Elizabeth, making one arrest and seizing more than 2.5 kilograms of heroin and 30 pounds of marijuana. In September, the Strike Force, along with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, conducted a wiretap investigation that successfully led to the arrests of 19 individuals and the seizure of 70 grams of heroin and 92 bricks of heroin.



The 2018 year-end police-administered naloxone tracking map, updated on a weekly basis by the Intelligence Unit.

Plainfield Project

The Plainfield Project is a fully staffed satellite office established in the City of Plainfield. Its mission is to work closely with the Plainfield Police Division to advance the shared goal of reducing crime in the “Queen City.”

The assistant prosecutor assigned to the Plainfield Project provides legal advice and investigative support to the Plainfield Police Division on a daily basis. The legal advice and investigative support consists of preparation and review of affidavits for search warrants, as well as the obtaining of court orders, communication data warrants, and other legal documents required to appropriately investigate and prosecute criminal matters arising in the City of Plainfield. The Plainfield Project also serves to provide in-service training to Plainfield Police Division personnel, and it participates in crafting strategies to address emergent and chronic crime problems. In addition to providing daily legal advice and investigative support to the Plainfield Police Division, the assistant prosecutor also provides legal assistance to the Westfield, Scotch Plains, and Fanwood police departments.



UCPO joining with law enforcement partners from around the county at a community outreach event in Plainfield.

All criminal matters arising within Plainfield, Westfield, Scotch Plains, and Fanwood, are initially screened to determine whether there is sufficient evidence for indictable charges to be filed. Upon a determination that indictable charges are appropriate, all cases are further screened for accuracy and completeness before being forwarded to the Trial Unit for disposition. This screening process improves the quality of cases originating from these four municipalities.

From June 2018 through the end of 2018, the assistant prosecutor reviewed a total of 312 cases. The assistant prosecutor referred 97 of the cases to the municipal court, as there was only sufficient evidence of disorderly person's offenses having been committed. Additionally, the assistant prosecutor determined that no charges should be filed in 12 matters, since there was insufficient evidence of any criminal offenses having been committed.

In that same time period, the assistant prosecutor reviewed 12 affidavits for search warrants and assisted the Police Division's Narcotics and Criminal Investigations bureaus in obtaining those warrants. In addition to obtaining search warrants and Grand Jury subpoenas, the assistant prosecutor also obtained court orders for

telephone call records. The assistant prosecutor also assisted investigative units in the aforementioned police departments in obtaining and preparing 114 Grand Jury subpoenas for medical, telephone, and banking records, as well as other essential documents to assist the police departments in the investigations.

The Plainfield Project continued to be a successful joint venture in 2018, as evidenced by their arrests of defendants Kayla Martinez and Jamar Hutcheson for first-degree robbery. In that matter, the Plainfield Project team investigated an armed robbery wherein the victim met a woman (Martinez) who posed as a potential date on a dating application. When the victim arrived at the pre-arranged location to meet Martinez, Hutcheson lured, and then robbed, the victim at gunpoint. Hutcheson is now serving state prison time in that matter, and Martinez's matter is pending a final disposition conference.

In another matter, detectives arrested Jose Paulino-Lopez on a charge of first-degree possession of a controlled dangerous substance after executing a search warrant based on a thorough investigation supervised by the Plainfield Project assistant prosecutor. Paulino-Lopez is currently serving a state prison term.

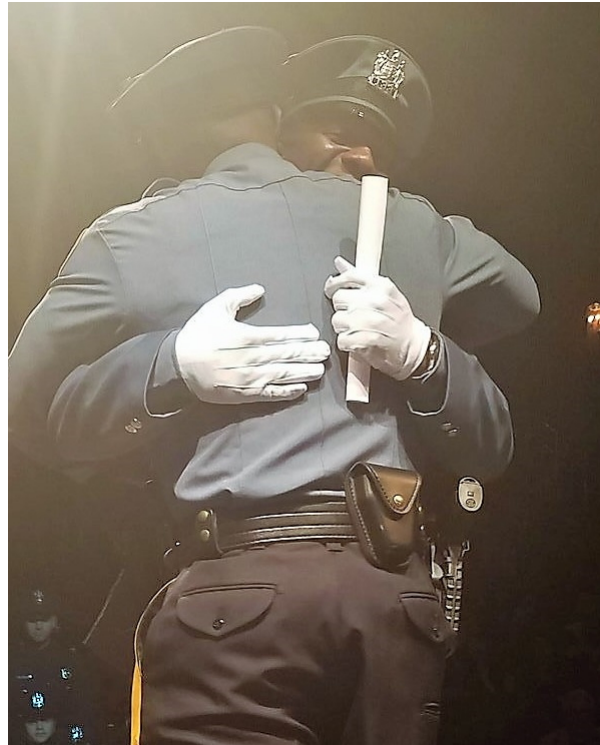
John H. Stamler Police Academy

Union County is home to one of New Jersey's premier police training facilities: the John H. Stamler Police Academy in Scotch Plains, named for the late Prosecutor Stamler. The Academy has two primary functions: to provide basic police training to recruits to produce qualified law enforcement officers for municipal, county and state agencies; and to provide advanced (in-service) training for police officers.

The Basic Training Police Curriculum meets the strict requirements of the New Jersey Police Training Commission. The instructional staff is comprised of experts in various areas of law enforcement, thus assuring that Academy graduates have the desire, ability, and judgment, to serve the public and honor their oaths of office.

In 2018, the John H. Stamler Police Academy conducted two 21-week sessions of the Basic Course for Police Officers. Class No. 118 consisted of 91 graduating recruits, and Class No. 119 consisted of 82 graduating recruits.

In addition to training police recruits, the Academy strives to provide continuing education to law enforcement professionals in Union County and throughout the state. In 2018, approximately 5,043 law enforcement professionals attended 192 in-service training course offerings.



A graduate at the 119th commencement of the John H. Stamler Police Academy, sharing an embrace with a loved one who also serves in law enforcement.

The Academy courses represent a diverse offering focused on expanding the core Police Training Commission's Basic Police Training Curriculum, and new courses are often created to respond to forecasted and identified needs in the field.

Among our accomplishments in 2018 were:

- Class No. 22 graduation of 15 auxiliary recruits from our three-month Basic Auxiliary Police Training Program, in cooperation with the New Jersey State Police and New Jersey Office of Emergency Management;
- A wide array of special in-service course offerings from such esteemed institutions as Penn State University, Northwestern University, and law enforcement agencies including the New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice,

New Jersey State Police, New Jersey Department of Homeland Security and Preparedness, and U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement, as well as federal agencies and other regional and specialized law enforcement organizations and training agencies, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, MAGLOCLIN, Connell Consulting, Marin Consulting, and Renahan Consulting. Their courses focused on enhanced investigation and prosecution techniques, particularly with regard to gang, narcotics, and cyber investigations; specialized Crisis Intervention Training to enhance police response to individuals with mental illness and to assist returning veterans in crisis; enhanced professional standards and performance; increased patrol efficiency and safety; leadership, supervision, and agency management enhancement; and special training for educators and law enforcement officers in partnership with the Office of the Union County Superintendent of Schools.

The unique partnership between the Police Academy, the Union County Police Chiefs Association, and the Union County Prosecutor's Office, forged in July 1986, continues to ensure broader opportunities for the basic and in-service training programs, as well as the highest standards of training, competence, and professionalism, to assist our law enforcement officers to successfully and safely protect and serve our citizens.



The 119th commencement of the John H. Stamler Police Academy, held at the Union County Performing Arts Center in Rahway.

Released Offenders Unit

The Released Offenders Unit, better known as the Megan's Law Unit, is staffed by one supervisory assistant prosecutor, one legal analyst, one investigator, one prosecutor's agent, and two clericals.

The unit is responsible for ensuring that all convicted sex offenders residing in the county have properly registered their residence, employment, and/or school attendance with the police department in the municipality in which they live. This includes verifying that the registrant does in fact reside at their given address and the monitoring of offenders with local law enforcement to ensure compliance with the quarterly and annual address verification. As a result of intense monitoring and tracking of sex offenders, this unit, working with local law enforcement and the New Jersey State Parole Board, uncovered instances in which sex offenders failed to register their employment, failed to notify the police of their intent to move, failed to re-register a new addresses, and provided false address information to law enforcement. In 2018, approximately eight criminal complaints were signed against sex offenders for violating the registration requirements of Megan's Law.

The unit also works closely with the State Parole Board Sex Offender Management Unit and the GPS Monitoring Unit, investigating and prosecuting offenders who violate community supervision for life, parole supervision for life, or GPS monitoring conditions. In 2018, a total of 24 criminal complaints were signed against sex offenders who violated parole supervision/community supervision for life conditions.

The unit also ensures immediate notification is made to the GPS Unit of a Tier Three (High Risk) offender determination to coordinate the mandatory placement of the offender on GPS monitoring. Moreover, due to the thorough investigation and tracking of missing sex offenders, numerous arrests were made by the unit detective in 2018 for offenders who violated the registration provisions of Megan's Law.

The primary focus of the Released Offenders Unit is the tiering of registered offenders to determine the level of risk of re-offense to be assigned to each individual, and the subsequent scope of community notification. This requires an assessment of many factors, including each individual's criminal history, the facts of the sex offense, institutional progress, response to treatment, employment and residential stability, and whether publication on the Sex Offender Internet Registry is applicable. Registrants must also be re-tiered whenever their address, employment, or school status changes. During 2018, there were approximately 750 registered sex offenders residing in Union County. In 2018, approximately 62 new sex offenders registered their addresses, and a total of 62 cases were tiered by the unit. A total of approximately 41 notifications were made to law enforcement regarding Tier One offenders, and 21 offenders were personally served with notice of their Tier Two status (there were also two Tier Three status notifications). In excess of 218 schools, community organizations, and civic groups received notification regarding a sex offender. Close to 4,900 door-to-door

notifications to residences and businesses also occurred in connection with the Tier Three notifications.

This unit is also responsible for entering all sex offender data in the new Offender Watch Registry and Megan's Law Promis/Gavel. The Offender Watch database was implemented this year by the New Jersey State Police and serves as the basis for the information that is listed on the Internet Sex Offender Registry. Data entry is an important and continuous function to track sex offenders, as they tend to move and change employment frequently. Up-to-date data entry significantly improves notification procedures to schools and community organizations and the public, thereby enhancing public safety.

This unit continues to assist U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to identify convicted sex offenders residing in the county who are subject to deportation. The unit also reviewed and objected to clemency/pardon applications submitted to this Office by the New Jersey State Parole Board. The Unit also handled numerous motions to be relieved of Megan's Law obligations, with a substantial increase from years prior noted in 2018. Pursuant to the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General Guidelines, the Released Offenders Unit also conducted numerous training sessions for school personnel, community organizations, and civic groups.

Seized Asset Forfeiture Unit

The Seized Asset Forfeiture Unit files civil lawsuits seeking the forfeiture of property that has been, or is intended to be, utilized in the furtherance of illegal activity; has been, or is intended to become, an integral part of illegal activity; or constitutes the proceeds of illegal activity.

A forfeiture action is commenced by the filing of a verified complaint in the Law Division of Superior Court. A copy of the filed complaint and summons are then served upon each claimant and/or potential property claimant; a claimant is an individual who has an ownership and/or possessory interest in the seized property. If the claimant fails to file an answer to the complaint, the Court or the Clerk of the Superior Court may enter default against the claimant. Upon the entry of a default, the State then applies to the Court for the entry of an Order for Judgment by default. Once an order is entered, title in the property is transferred to the State. Where an answer is filed, the matter ultimately will be resolved either by way of a negotiated settlement, trial, or court order.

Forfeiture actions promote major public policy objectives by encouraging property owners to be more responsible with their property, and deterring them from using or allowing their property to be used for, or in furtherance of, illegal activity. A corollary benefit is that the forfeited property is distributed to the law enforcement agency or agencies that participated in the investigation and seizure of the property. The forfeited property is to be utilized by the seizing agency or agencies solely in furtherance of law enforcement purposes.

In 2018, the Seized Asset Forfeiture Unit opened 395 files, seized \$594,817.16 in United States currency, 17 motor vehicles valued at \$72,200, and other forfeited property valued at \$6,450 totaling \$673,467.16 in the total value of property forfeited.



A joint effort by the Union County Prosecutor's Office, Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, Union County Sheriff's Office, Elizabeth Police Department, and Plainfield Police Division yielded an impactful Union County Gun Buyback in October 2018.

Special Offenders Unit

The Special Offenders Unit was created in March 2005 to address a marked increase in criminal prosecutions against individuals with mental illness. The unit is comprised of two assistant prosecutors who handle any Trial Unit case for which the defendant's competency to stand trial is questioned, or when defenses of insanity or diminished capacity are raised.

The Special Offenders Unit also partners with Trinitas Regional Medical Center and Bridgeway Rehabilitation Services to operate the Union County Jail Diversion Program. This program attempts to divert mentally ill criminal defendants from traditional prosecution when the underlying offense is related to the defendant's mental illness.

In 2018, the Special Offenders Unit reviewed approximately 250 referrals for the Jail Diversion Program. Referrals of individuals who present or self-identify as suffering from mental illness were received from local law enforcement, the Union County Jail, the defense bar, and the Court. Each referral is screened to determine if the individual is a Union County resident; whether the case is assigned to the Criminal Division; if the case has already been disposed of via plea, sentence, dismissal, or alternate avenue of diversion; and whether the case or individual is legally appropriate for diversion, based on the nature of the current charge and/or past criminal history. If the individual is deemed legally appropriate, a clinical assessment is completed to determine a diagnosis and level of recommended treatment, and a case management assessment is conducted to determine whether appropriate treatment is available, the individual's amenability to treatment, willingness to participate in the program, and willingness to follow the program rules. A treatment plan formulated by mental health professionals from Trinitas and Bridgeway is issued, and progress with the treatment plan is ordered and monitored by the court. Successful completion of the program could result in diversion from conviction or incarceration. It can also result in pre-trial release, with the program an agreed-upon condition. Thirteen individuals were accepted into the program in 2018.

The Special Offenders Unit also provides training for law enforcement in the recognition of mental illness and techniques for de-escalation of crisis situations. The unit, in conjunction with local law enforcement and various mental health service providers and agencies, began the process of establishing a Crisis Intervention Team ("CIT") Training Program in Union County in 2010. This process resulted in three 40-hour CIT training sessions conducted annually for law enforcement and mental health providers. The unit also continued to provide a two-day practical training curriculum at the John H. Stamler Police Academy for all recruits. In 2018, the unit conducted state-mandated training on Law Enforcement Response to Individuals with Special Needs and De-escalation for every law enforcement officer in Union County.

The Special Offenders Unit is further responsible for the New Jersey Veterans Diversion Program, as well as the continued legal monitoring of individuals who were found not guilty by reason of insanity, and those found not competent to stand trial.

Special Prosecutions Unit

The Special Prosecutions Unit's core function remains the investigation and prosecution of complex financial matters, internal affairs complaints, identity theft, and official misconduct by public officials. The unit also takes on intricate investigations into matters such as officer-involved shootings, insurance fraud, bribery, public integrity crimes, election law violations, bias crimes, Open Public Meeting Act ("OPMA") violations, and cybercrimes. The Special Prosecutions Unit ("SPU") includes the Insurance Fraud Unit ("IFU"), Cyber Crime Task Force, and Animal Cruelty Unit, under the umbrella of its operations. The unit in sum is staffed by four assistant prosecutors, one lieutenant, three sergeants (one assigned to SPU, IFU, and the Cyber Crimes Task Force, respectively), seven detectives, and two clerical support staff. In total, the combined units signed 124 criminal complaints in 2018.



Then Acting Prosecutor/New Jersey First Assistant Attorney General Jennifer Davenport presenting to the community on bias crime awareness and prevention.

The Special Prosecutions Unit in 2018 signed nine criminal complaints involving financial crimes and/or public employees, and made nine arrests. The unit also handled more than 220 citizen contacts/inquiries and conducted four police-involved shooting investigations. Criminal charges were signed against six defendants for theft by deception, two defendants for unauthorized practice of medicine, two defendants for unauthorized practice of law, and one defendant for identity theft. Among these cases, one defendant was charged for defrauding an estate of over \$400,000, and two defendants were charged for defrauding an elderly woman of close to \$500,000. By year's end, 16 defendants pleaded guilty to some form of theft, identity theft, forgery, or fraud.

In 2018, the Special Prosecutions Unit responded to four separate officer-involved shootings in Union County. One involved a defendant who attempted to rob an off-duty officer in the New York National Guard at gunpoint. During the course of the robbery, the defendant fired twice upon the officer, and the officer returned fire. No one was injured. The defendant was later arrested and charged with first-degree robbery and weapons offenses. He has since pleaded guilty and is awaiting sentencing.

A second event involved Plainfield Police Division detectives responding to a "shots fired" call. When the detectives arrived in the area, they came upon a suspect in the street who fired upon them. The suspect was later identified as Junus I. Ellison. A chase ensued between Ellison and one of the detectives, during which Ellison continued to fire

upon the detective. The detective returned fire, but did not strike Ellison. Ellison was ultimately apprehended and charged with seven counts, including attempted murder and various weapons offenses. On June 19, 2018, Ellison pleaded guilty to all seven counts. On August 12, 2018, Ellison was sentenced to an aggregate 20 years in New Jersey State Prison, subject to an 85 percent parole disqualifier under the *No Early Release Act*.

A third event involved a shootout between two groups in a parking lot outside an Elizabeth nightclub at 2:45 a.m. on Easter Sunday. As two Elizabeth Police Department officers responded to the location of the shootout, two of the suspects fired upon the officers. The officers returned fire, wounding each suspect. Four defendants were arrested and indicted for various charges, including murder and attempted murder. Three of the four defendants have pleaded guilty in connection with this matter, and the fourth is scheduled to stand trial.

Finally, the fourth event involved Elizabeth police officers responding to a domestic violence call. While on scene, a suspect approached one officer carrying an object and claiming to have a gun. As the suspect continued to approach with this object, ignoring commands to stop, officers fired upon the suspect, wounding him. The investigation was turned over to Essex County Prosecutor's Office due to the fact that one of the officers on scene had been recently hired by the Union County Prosecutor's Office. All officer-involved shooting investigations scrupulously honor the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General's Law Enforcement Directive 2006-5 regarding prosecution and investigation of police use of force.



Since the 2018 launch of a unit dedicated to prosecuting crimes committed against animals, countless future adoptees have been rescued and helped by UCPO.

Bias Crimes

A total of 30 bias-related incidents were referred to the Prosecutor's Office for review in 2018, five of which resulted in criminal charges. Two of those charged were also charged with bias intimidation.

Defendant Steven Bodner was charged with bias intimidation, harassment, interference with transportation, and disorderly conduct, as a result of an incident which occurred on July 24, 2018 on an NJ Transit train, wherein Bodner made racial slurs and harassed a victim of perceived Middle Eastern decent. Subsequently, Steven Bodner pleaded guilty to a disorderly persons offense.

Defendant Ryan Thomas was charged with bias intimidation, burglary, harassment, and criminal mischief as a result of an incident that occurred on August 15, 2018, wherein Thomas harassed a group of construction workers using racially derogatory terminology and unlawfully entered a structure, causing damage. Subsequently, Thomas pleaded guilty to a disorderly persons offense.

The majority of bias incidents, 16 of 30, involved bias graffiti, 14 of which occurred in schools. All graffiti incidents were of an anti-Semitic and/or racially derogatory, anti-African American nature.

The unit's Bias Crimes Officer serves as the Acting Secretary of the New Jersey Bias Crime Officers Association ("NJBCOA"), and members of the unit continue to serve as Commissioners to the Union County Human Relations Commission, whereby they regularly apprise community stakeholders of recent bias incidents.

Cyber Crimes

On October 7, 2015, the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General, the New Jersey State Police, and the Union County Prosecutor's Office, signed a memorandum of understanding and agreed to work collaboratively with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children ("NCMEC") regarding Internet crimes against children. In 2018, the New Jersey State Police forwarded 191 cyber tips preliminarily qualifying as sexually exploitative images of minors.

Upon receipt of each NCMEC cyber tip, legal and investigative staff utilized multiple confidential legal tools to identify the subscriber. Once the subscriber was identified, a search warrant and/or communication data warrant was drafted. Fourteen referrals led to search warrants and arrest warrants for child endangerment via distribution of sexually exploitative images of children in 2018; 23 referrals were made to other police jurisdictions in and out of state; and 92 referrals were closed.

Insurance Fraud

The Insurance Fraud Section is state-mandated and is run under a grant provided by the Office of Insurance Fraud Prosecutor ("OIFP"). In 2018, the Insurance Fraud Unit issued complaints against 30 defendants, made 29 arrests, and secured seven guilty pleas.

Animal Cruelty Unit

In January 2018, a law passed that placed the responsibility for the investigation of animal cruelty and neglect complaints to each County Prosecutor's Office. Since March 2018, more than 50 complaints of animal cruelty were lodged and investigated by local and county humane law enforcement officers, with the designated assistant prosecutor's assistance.

During these investigations, more than 200 animals were either seized or surrendered by owners, and the animals have been safely placed in adoptive homes by

local rescues and St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center. Thirteen people were charged with animal cruelty in 2018, and lifetime animal bans were imposed in seven of those cases. In 11 cases, warnings with education were provided by the local humane law enforcement officers.

Some cases remain unsolved because the animals were abandoned and an owner could not be identified and charged. Another case involving a rescue and shelter remains open pending further investigation.

Special Victims Unit

For three decades, the Union County Prosecutor's Office has consistently dedicated every available resource to protecting survivors of sexual abuse and holding perpetrators fully accountable for the bodily and psychological harm of children, teens, and adults. Referrals come from all 21 municipalities.

In February 2013, the Child Advocacy Center of Union County staff and the Sex Crimes Unit of the Office merged to form a single Special Victims Unit ("SVU"). At that same time, the unit assumed responsibility for interviewing all children, from infants to the age of 17, who disclose sexual penetration. The SVU staff includes: 10 detectives; six assistant prosecutors; two clerical support staff members; a multidisciplinary team coordinator; a victim advocate; two part-time, on-site bilingual therapists from Trinitas Regional Medical Center; five intake workers from the New Jersey Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P); and a forensic sexual assault nurse examiner ("SANE") coordinator.

SVU members are jointly involved with municipal police detectives in the initial stages of investigations into the sexual abuse of adults. The SVU staff supervises the investigations and reviews witness interviews, suspect statements, and evidence analysis, and obtains search warrants, court orders for phone records, and biological evidence. The unit investigators work with municipal officers in providing field support. Assistant prosecutors direct each investigation and provide legal advice at each critical stage of the proceedings. The assistant prosecutor will make a determination of probable cause, or close the investigation due to insufficient credible evidence. After the signing of complaints and arrest of a suspect, the assistant prosecutor will build a rapport with the victim, present the matter to a Grand Jury, negotiate a plea, or prepare for trial.

SVU works closely with the Sexual Assault Response Team ("SART"), the Union County Prosecutor's Office Forensics Laboratory, and the New Jersey State Police Laboratory. In June 2001, the Prosecutor's Office, following two years of collaborative efforts with Runnells Hospital, the Rape Crisis Center, and emergency room staffs at Trinitas, Muhlenberg, and Overlook hospitals, established a special team to address the



Special Victims Unit Supervisor Caroline Lawlor, presenting on incidents of sexual harassment and assault – and suggesting that the NYPD's mantra of "if you see something, say something" applies with equal force to such crimes.

needs of survivors of sexual assault. If a survivor is over the age of 13 and the sexual assault occurred within the last five days, the survivor is offered special medical and therapeutic services. If the survivor is under the age of 13, a pediatrician or a SANE trained in pediatrics will provide the necessary special medical services. The Prosecutor's Office, in close collaboration with the Rape Crisis Center and local hospital emergency rooms, meet every eight weeks as the Sexual Assault Response Team Advisory Board to review and improve patient care at the point of first disclosure.

The Child Advocacy Center is an integral part of the SVU team. Since 1995, the Center's detectives have interviewed more than 4,500 children age 12 and under regarding sexual abuse. From initial disclosure to continued investigation, complaint authorization, Grand Jury presentation, plea or trial and sentence, the unit's various members shepherd each child's case through the criminal justice system. Essential to the investigatory process is the building of rapport with the child, respecting the child's evolving capacity to both disclose and heal, and stabilizing parents in acute crisis. Detectives who are trained as forensic child interviewers then seek to interview the child in an open-ended format. Often, sexual abuse disclosure is an event that is painful for a child to endure. The digitally recorded interview process eases disclosure and prevents multiple re-interviews. The Union County Multi-Disciplinary Team meets monthly to assess the needs of all families with open cases and take all necessary and appropriate investigative, legal, therapeutic, and medical services steps to improve each client's well-being



Then Acting Prosecutor Michael Monahan and then Assistant Prosecutor Lyndsay Ruotolo with other community leaders supporting the efforts of UCPO's Child Advocacy Center by participating in the annual "Race 4 the Children," a run annually held in memory of the late Union County Prosecutor Andrew K. Ruotolo, Jr., who pioneered the Child Advocacy Center concept in the county.

2018 marked the sixth year of operation for the new "wraparound" service model at the new Child Advocacy Center, located at 240 West Jersey Street in Elizabeth. Co-location has allowed total investigative, prosecutorial, and therapeutic review time of all new sexual abuse referrals to be reduced from five business days to one business day.

In 2018, the Misery Index for local children was high. More than 611 referrals were received regarding child abuse involving children under the age of 17, as well as adult sex crimes cases. Five hundred and seventy-five criminal investigations were opened, and 484 were closed with no charges, 77 criminal complaints were signed, 76 defendants were arrested, and one remains a fugitive. Of the aforementioned 77 criminal complaints, 15 complaints were signed against adult defendants for sexual crimes. Regardless of the opening of a criminal investigation, all families were offered community-based resources for follow-up. The vast majority of complaints were signed for first- and second-degree sexual assaults. SVU detectives completed 691 interviews of sexually abused children and teens, and fresh complaint/witnesses, as well as 30 off-site statements from related victims and/or witnesses. One hundred suspect interviews were also conducted by SVU investigative staff. The child sexual abuse clearance rate in 2018, *i.e.*, those formal investigations that resulted in a criminal charge, was 100 percent, as was the teen sexual abuse clearance rate.

Also under the umbrella of SVU, is the Child Abduction Response Team ("CART"); legal and investigative staff assigned to CART assisted in locating seven children and teens that were reported missing and/or endangered in 2018.

In June 2018, the Special Victims Unit prosecuted a 34-year-old man who met his 12-year-old victim when he lived with her mother in the City of Rahway. The investigation revealed that the defendant, who the victim thought of as her "stepfather," sexually assaulted the victim on multiple occasions, beginning when she was approximately 10 years old. Following a thorough investigation, this defendant pleaded guilty. He is pending sentencing to a lengthy state prison term, and will be subject to Megan's Law, Parole Supervision for Life ("PSL"), and Nicole's Law.

Also in 2018, SVU detectives investigated the sexual assault of a 16-year-old female brought to a local hospital after reporting being sexually assaulted by her stepfather. The preliminary investigation conducted by the Elizabeth Police Department revealed that the victim was last sexually assaulted the day before, in the family home while her mother was asleep.

Detectives obtained six statements from numerous witnesses that corroborated the details provided by the victim. During the course of the investigation, SVU detectives requested that the Union County Sheriff's Office Crime Scene Unit process the victim's bedroom, where multiple pieces of evidence were obtained. In addition, a note, written by the defendant, was provided by the victim's mother, which she found on the bedside table of her bedroom. The note indicated that the defendant touched the victim sexually, "crossed the line," and did not know why he did it, but apologized.

Complaints were signed against the defendant and he was arrested and charged with sexual assault, criminal sexual contact, and endangering the welfare of a child. As a result of the thorough investigation, the defendant pleaded guilty and was sentenced to seven years in state prison, Megan's Law, PSL, and Nicole's law. The sentencing hearing was very emotional, with the victim's father speaking for his daughter while the victim's mother was present – seemingly supporting the defendant.

Trial Unit

The Trial Unit is comprised of one trial supervisor, three deputy trial supervisors, and 18 assistant prosecutors who are assigned, in teams of three, to six criminal courts that handle first-, second-, third-, and fourth-degree criminal charges that are not being handled by a specialized unit. The Trial Unit is grounded in a vertical prosecution model; that is, the trial team assistant prosecutors handle all aspects of a criminal case, from post-complaint to sentencing.

Assistant prosecutors assigned to the Trial Unit conduct case review and issue complaint approval on a rotating, on-call basis. Once complaint approval is given, assistant prosecutors will screen the cases to determine which are suitable for prosecution in Superior Court and which should be remanded to municipal court for disposition. All indictable cases are referred for a pre-disposition conference, wherein assistant prosecutors will attempt to resolve the case through a plea. Cases that do not resolve at the pre-disposition conference are referred to Grand Jury, where the vertically assigned assistant prosecutors will present the case for indictment. After an indictment is returned, the assistant prosecutors handle the arraignments, initial case disposition conferences, status conferences, pretrial motions, post-indictment pleas, trials, and sentences.

The Trial Unit is the backbone of any prosecutor's office, as reflected in the volume of cases, which the assistant prosecutors must review, prepare, and dispose of during the course of a year. In 2018, the Trial Unit handled cases against approximately 1,573 criminal defendants charged with crimes of attempted murder, kidnapping, carjacking, burglary, robbery, aggravated assault, weapons possession, eluding, and narcotics possession and distribution. Approximately 1,299 defendants entered pleas of guilty in 2018. The assistant prosecutors assigned to the Trial Unit conducted 28 trials in 2018, many with multiple defendants. Of the 28 trials, Unit assistant prosecutors tried three homicides as first chairs and several homicides as second chairs. The assistant prosecutors also served as second chairs on several aggravated sexual assault trials during 2018. Some of the cases that proceeded to trial include defendants who were subject to significant penal exposure due to the nature of the charges and/or a significant prior record.

In 2018, after a full year of Criminal Justice Reform being in effect, UCPO continued to realize significant changes to infrastructure and case processing. In particular, the Trial Unit assistant prosecutors routinely assist the Office's Pre-Indictment Unit in covering Central Judicial Processing ("CJP") Court, and assist in covering violations of monitoring hearings, motions to reopen detention decisions, review hearings, modification hearings, and detention hearings of defendants upon whom pretrial detention motions had been filed in Trial Unit and Domestic Violence Unit cases. In 2018, the Pre-Indictment Unit filed 646 pretrial detention motions on Trial Unit cases. The Trial Unit assistant prosecutors assisted in covering 780 detention hearings and motions to revoke pretrial release in 2018.

While the Trial Unit assistant prosecutors have been on-call for over 20 years, issuing complaint approval after hours, Criminal Justice Reform increased on-call complaint-warrant approval responsibilities. To handle the volume of after-hours complaint-warrant requests through the eCDR system, two Trial Unit assistant prosecutors are on-call simultaneously, each handling requests from half of the county's municipal police departments and state agencies. The Trial Unit assistant prosecutors, on a rotating basis, are also responsible for representing the State at CJP Court every Saturday.



Acting Prosecutor Lyndsay V. Ruotolo with Assistant Prosecutor Sarah Turk of the Trial Unit, as the U.S. Postal Inspection Service presents A.P. Turk with an award for her tireless work in the quest for justice.

Notable cases adjudicated by the Trial Unit in 2018 include a first-degree robbery that also involved charges including second-degree aggravated assault (with serious bodily injury), second-degree unlawful possession of a weapon, second-degree possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose, fourth-degree aggravated assault (pointing), third-degree resisting arrest, fourth-degree obstruction, and second-degree certain persons. The charges stemmed from an incident in which a customer of a liquor store in Elizabeth was robbed at gunpoint upon exiting the establishment following a purchase. When the customer did not comply with the defendant's demand for money, the defendant shot the victim in the leg. As the victim attempted to flee the area, the defendant followed him with the gun in hand. Police officers who were on routine patrol in the area heard the gunshot and observed the victim stumbling in their direction. Officers further observed the defendant flee the scene upon seeing the patrol car. The officers gave chase and ultimately apprehended the defendant and disarmed him. Following a three-week jury trial, the defendant was found guilty and sentenced to an extended term of 50 years in state prison with 85 percent parole ineligibility.

In another trial, three defendants were charged with first-degree robbery, second-degree conspiracy to commit robbery, third-degree possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose, and fourth-degree unlawful possession of a weapon. The charges arose from an incident wherein police officers responded to a gas station due to a panic

alarm activation. The victim, a gas station employee, advised officers that two males, one armed with a knife, had threatened him and demanded money. After handing the money over, the actors fled in a direction observed by the victim. Additional responding officers observed a parked car with its engine running in the area with three male occupants, two of whom matched the description provided by the victim. Once the officers had the occupants exit the vehicle, a knife and a large amount of cash in various denominations were recovered from inside the vehicle. An on-scene identification process was conducted, and the victim positively identified one of the occupants as the actor who was armed with the knife. Further investigation revealed surveillance video corroborating that the occupants of the vehicle had acted in concert in committing the robbery. Following a three-week jury trial, the defendant, identified as the armed assailant, was found guilty on all counts. The two co-defendants were found guilty of lesser included crimes. The main defendant was subsequently sentenced to a term of 15 years in state prison with 85 percent parole ineligibility.

In another trial, following a lawful motor vehicle stop, with officers acting on information provided by a reliable confidential informant, a search warrant for the vehicle resulted in the seizure of a loaded firearm. The defendant was indicted on one count of second-degree unlawful possession of a weapon and one count of second-degree certain persons. Defendant had earlier in the year been convicted of the same two charges for an unrelated incident. The defendant committed the instant offense while on bail awaiting trial on the unrelated matter. Following a two-week trial, the defendant was convicted of the latter offense. With these convictions constituting the defendant's eighth and ninth indictable convictions, the State sought an extended-term *Graves* sentence. The defendant was sentenced to a 12-year term of imprisonment with a six-year period of parole ineligibility, consecutive to a 10-year term with a five-year parole disqualifier.

Office of Victim / Witness Advocacy

The mission of the Office of Victim/Witness Advocacy (“OVWA”) is to support victims and witnesses of crimes in Union County through information, advocacy, and community outreach in order to help make their participation in the criminal justice system less difficult and burdensome. The goal of victim/witness advocates is to empower and support survivors of crime and the families of crime victims to ensure that they are treated with dignity, compassion, and respect.

The approach of the OVWA is collaborative, as well as supportive. Advocates work with community members and agencies to promote awareness and advocacy for victims and survivors of crime. The goal of the OVWA is to help empower survivors of crime through supportive efforts to ensure that they are treated with dignity, compassion, and respect, in the aftermath of a crime. The OVWA is comprised of dedicated, competent, and caring staff trained to address and support various needs of survivors of crime.

The OVWA is comprised of a Victim/Witness Coordinator, an MDT Coordinator, Assistant Coordinator, six victim/witness advocates, and two clericals/victim notification clerks. The Victim/Witness Coordinator oversees victim services program development, supervises staff, develops community engagement initiatives, and manages the functions of the Unit as needed to support victims, witnesses, and the staff of the Union County Prosecutor's Office. A dedicated victim/witness advocate is assigned to the Homicide Task Force, Domestic Violence Unit, Family Justice Center, Child Advocacy Center, and Juvenile Unit. Two dedicated victim advocates are assigned to the CJP and Trial units.

Victims of Crimes Act (“VOCA”) grant funds have allowed for the development of program services, capacity, competence, and staff of the Unit. With the enhanced grant funding, this Unit was able to significantly improve the quality of service provided to the community, as well as address the ability to respond to Criminal Justice Reform, community engagement needs, and the ability to respond to the volume of cases within the various units in the Office. In the fall of 2018, the OVWA also received a federal grant to support direct services for municipal cases and collaboration with our police departments.

The cases worked on in the last calendar year involved domestic violence, homicides, sexual assaults, crimes against children, victims of impaired drivers, and victims brutalized by gang- and drug-related violence.

A specific case of note was the work our team provided in the homicide of a local taxi driver and father of 10, Imad Alasmar, who was fatally shot during an attempted robbery by Nathaniel Young. The trial lasted several emotional and intense weeks. Our team worked to support the family of the decedent, as well as the young woman who was severely injured during the commission of the crime.

Each victim/witness advocate has caseloads that range from simple phone calls and restitution requests to intense services, including crisis counseling. Utilizing their resources, training, communication, teamwork, care, and compassion, the OVWA is continuing to make positive impacts within the Prosecutor's Office and the Union County community. The OVWA continues to strive to competently, effectively, and comprehensively, meet the diverse needs of all the victims, witnesses, and survivors we serve in Union County.

Appellate Unit

Post-Conviction Activities and Miscellaneous Court Activities by Type and Outcome

POST-CONVICTION ACTIVITY AND OUTCOME	NUMBER
1. <i>Krol</i> hearings involving UCPO	27
2. Total post-conviction relief applications/briefs filed involving UCPO	56
a. Defendants granted relief	5
b. Defendants denied relief	38
c. Defendants granted relief in part/Denied relief in part	0
d. Defendants dismissed/Withdrawn	17
3. Total habeas corpus petitions/briefs filed involving UCPO	6
a. Defendants granted relief	0
b. Defendants denied relief	10
c. Defendants granted relief in part/Denied relief in part	0
d. Defendants dismissed/Withdrawn	2

Rev. 2015

Appellate Unit Workload and Dispositions

Appellate Division and Other Appellate Courts

APPELLATE WORKLOAD AND DISPOSITION/OUTCOMES	Appellate Division Appeals						NJ Supreme Court Appeals	US and Other Court Appeals (specify Court)	Total
	Criminal Referral Cases	Other Criminal Appeals	Criminal Interlocutory	Juvenile	Law Division (de novo)	Civil			
1. Appeals pending at beginning of the year	185	2	3	6	12	0	21	40	269
2. Notices of appeal received/filed	112	58	9	1	3	0	62	5	272
3. Appellate motions, motion responses filed	9	0	9	0	0	0	58	0	76
4. Appellate briefs filed	81	28	9	3	1	0	4	4	154
5. State Appeals and - Total Disposed Cross Appeals	1	0	6	0	0	0	2	0	12
a. Conviction or order affirmed	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	4
b. Conviction or order reversed	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
c. Remanded or judgment modified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
d. Withdrawn or dismissed	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
e. Affirmed in part/Reversed and/or remanded in part	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6. Defense Appeals - Total Disposed	114	60	2	5	1	0	60	5	249
a. Conviction or order affirmed	77	47	2	4	2	0	44	10	183
b. Conviction or order reversed	1	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	4
c. Remanded or judgment modified	18	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	22
d. Withdrawn or dismissed	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
e. Affirmed in part/Reversed and/or remanded in part	18	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	19
7. Appeals pending at the end of the year	183	0	5	6	4	0	21	35	262

Rev. 2015

Appellate Unit Workload and Dispositions

Law Division

APPELLATE WORKLOAD AND DISPOSITIONS/OUTCOMES	MUNICIPAL COURT APPEALS -- BY TYPE OF VIOLATION					Total
	Criminal	Disorderly Persons	Motor Vehicle	Municipal Ordinances	Other	
1. Appeals pending at beginning of year	0	0	12	0	0	12
2. Notices of appeal received/filed	0	0	25	0	0	25
3. Appellate motions, motion responses filed	0	0	0	0	0	0
4. Appellate briefs filed	0	0	25	0	0	25
5. TOTAL APPEALS DISPOSED	0	0	12	0	0	10
a. Conviction or order affirmed	0	0	6	0	0	6
b. Conviction or order reversed	0	0	1	0	0	1
c. Remanded or judgment modified	0	0	3	0	0	3
d. Withdrawn or dismissed	0	0	2	0	0	2
6. Appeals pending at the end of the year	0	0	27	0	0	27

Rev. 1995

Budgets and Expenditures

ACTIVITY	YEAR	Total Operating Budget (excluding Grants)	Total Grants Funding
1. Total actual expenditures, prior report year (include all County, State and Federal funding)	2017	\$22,000,033.00	\$1,158,957.00
a. Salaries and Wages		\$21,247,585.00	\$674,016.00
b. Other Expenses		\$752,448.00	\$484,941.00
2. Total Budgeted Appropriations, current report year (include all County, State and Federal funding)	2018	\$23,975,010.00	\$1,779,627.00
a. Salaries and Wages		\$23,125,010.00	\$992,769.00
b. Other Expenses		\$850,000.00	\$786,858.00

Rev. 2007

Elizabeth Project

May-December 2018

Indictable cases screened and/or approved - 772

Indictable complaints remanded - 223

Complaints approved DP only - 37

Complaint approval denied - 31

Search Warrants/CDWs - 14

Subpoenas - 79

Trigger lock - 11

DNA approval/Court Orders - 58

Homicide Task Force

Investigative Workload and Dispositions

INVESTIGATIVE WORKLOAD AND DISPOSITIONS	NUMBER OF INVESTIGATIONS BY TYPE — Original and Post-complaint investigations						
	Original Investigations Conducted Jointly With:				Original Exclusive Investigations	Total Original Investigations	Total Post-complaint Investigations
	Local Police	State Agency	Other County Prosecutor	Other Agency			
1. Investigations pending or inactive at the beginning of the year	132	0	0	0	0	132	0
2. Investigations opened during the year	40	0	0	0	0	40	0
3. Total Investigative workload for the year (add nos. 1 - 2)	172	0	0	0	0	172	0
4. Total Investigations completed during this year (add a. - d.)	42	0	0	0	0	42	0
a. Resulting in criminal charges	11	0	0	0	0	0	
b. Referred to other agency for criminal prosecution	0	0	0	0	0	0	
c. Referred to other agency for civil or administrative action	0	0	0	0	0	0	
d. Closed - No further action	33	0	0	0	0	33	
5. Investigations pending or inactive at the end of the year	130	0	0	0	0	0	

Rev. 1995

Homicide Task Force

Dispositions of Original Investigations Resulting in Criminal Charges

DISPOSITION OF ORIGINAL INVESTIGATIONS RESULTING IN CRIMINAL CHARGES	NUMBER OF DEFENDANTS
1. Total number of defendants charged by complaint	19
a. Defendants with complaints administratively dismissed	0
b. Defendants with complaints downgraded to disorderly persons offenses	0
c. Defendants with complaints referred to Family Court	0
d. Defendants with complaints presented to grand jury	23
2. Defendants with original charges presented to grand jury on direct presentment	0
3. Defendants charged through accusation	0
4. Total number of defendants completing grand jury process on direct presentment and complaint presentation	23
a. Defendants indicted	23
b. Defendants not billed and remanded to municipal court	0
c. Defendants not billed/no action	0

Rev. 1995

Internal Affairs Complaints Filed

Type of Complaint	Anonymous Complaints	Citizen Complaints	Agency Complaints	Total Complaints
Excessive Force	0	27	2	29
Improper Arrest	0	14	2	16
Improper Entry	0	0	0	0
Improper Search	0	10	0	10
Other Criminal Violation	0	13	8	21
Differential Treatment	0	55	0	55
Demeanor	1	151	16	168
Domestic Violence	0	1	3	4
Other Rule Violation	16	94	289	399
TOTAL	17	365	320	702

Internal Affairs Agency Dispositions

	Sustained	Exonerated	Not Sustained	Unfounded	Administratively Closed	Total Dispositions
Excessive Force	0	14	5	4	2	25
Improper Arrest	1	8	4	0	0	13
Improper Entry	0	0	0	0	0	0
Improper Search	1	3	1	4	0	9
Other Criminal Violation	2	3	4	5	2	16
Differential Treatment	0	26	12	12	1	51
Demeanor	11	63	35	23	4	135
Domestic Violence	0	1	1	0	3	5
Other Rule Violation	233	34	27	13	28	335
TOTAL	248	152	88	61	40	589

Internal Affairs Court Dispositions

Court	Cases Dismissed	Cases Diverted	Acquittals	Convictions
Municipal Court	4	0	0	1
Superior Court	0	0	0	3
TOTAL	4	0	0	4

Juvenile

Section/Unit
(completing report)
Section IV. 9.a.

County: Union

Year...: 2018

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY INTAKE

Filings/New Cases	Number of Juveniles	Number of Cases	Number of Offenses
1. Total New Filings During the Calendar Year	648	844	1,582
VOP Filings			
2. Total Violations of Probation During the Calendar Year	64	69	69
Returned to Court			
3a. Cases Reactivated	59	82	154
3b. Cases Reopened	143	155	215
3c. Cases Successfully Appealed	0	0	0
3. Total Cases Returned to Court	202	237	369
Transfers			
4a. Entering this county	107	125	292
4b. Leaving this county	87	101	179
4. (Net Change)	20	24	113

5. County Screening Procedures.....: Check the box that most accurately describes the procedure in your county. Do not check more than one box.

- a. Prosecutor's office reviews all new delinquency complaints either before or after diversion.
- b. Prosecutor's office reviews selected delinquency complaints either before or after diversion based on offense charged or other criteria
- c. Prosecutor's office does not screen new delinquency complaints.

✓

6. Violations of Probation Procedures: Check the box that most accurately describes the procedure in your county. Do not check more than one box.

- a. An Assistant Prosecutor appears at all V.O.P. hearings.
- b. An Assistant Prosecutor appears at selected V.O.P. hearings based on offense charged or other criteria.
- c. Assistant Prosecutor's do not at V.O.P. hearings.

✓

Revised for 2018 data

Juvenile

Section/Unit
(completing report)
Section IV. 9.b.

County: Union

Year...: 2018

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY DISPOSED CASES

Dismissed/Consolidated/Withdrawn	Number of Juveniles	Number of Cases	Number of Offenses
1. Total Dismissed/Consolidated/Withdrawn during Calendar Year	132	157	209
Diverted Cases			
2. Total Diversions during Calendar Year	287	300	372
Inactivated Cases			
3a. VOP Cases Inactivated	30	30	30
3b. Non-VOP Cases Inactivated	78	105	213
3. Total Inactivations during Calendar Year	108	135	243
Non-VOP Decisions (Mandatory Calendar)			
4a. Adjudicated Delinquent	158	233	602
4b. Adjudicated Not Delinquent	0	0	0
4c. Not Adjudicated Dismissed	0	0	0
4d. Case Returned/Post Adjudication Decision	3	3	11
4. Total Non-VOP Decisions (Mandatory Calendar)	161	236	613
Non-VOP Decisions (Non-Mandatory Calendar)			
5a. Adjudicated Delinquent	1	1	1
5b. Adjudicated Not Delinquent	0	0	0
5c. Not Adjudicated Dismissed	0	0	0
5d. Case Returned/Post Adjudication Decision	72	77	99
5. Total Non-VOP Decisions (Non-Mandatory Calendar)	73	78	100
Non-VOP Decisions (Juvenile Referee)			
6a. Adjudicated Delinquent	8	9	27
6b. Adjudicated Not Delinquent	95	106	149
6c. Not Adjudicated Dismissed	6	6	8
6d. Case Returned/Post Adjudication Decision	8	10	22
6. Total Non-VOP Decisions (Juvenile Referee)	117	131	206
VOP Decisions (1:1)			
	Mandatory Calendar	Non-Mandatory Calendar	Juvenile Referee
7a. Adjudicated Delinquent	38	0	0
7b. Adjudicated Not Delinquent	0	0	0
7c. Not Adjudicated Dismissed	0	0	0
7d. Case Returned/Post Adjudication Decision	1	0	0
7. Total VOP Decisions	39	0	0

Trials

8a. Total Number of Trials Where the Assistant Prosecutor Appeared.	5
8b. Total Number of Juveniles Adjudicated Delinquent on One or More Charges at Trial.	4
8c. Total Number of Juveniles Adjudicated Not Delinquent at Trial.	1

Juvenile

Section/Unit,
completing report
Section IV. 9.c.

County, Union
Year 2018

JUVENILE WAIVER DECISIONS

1. Voluntary Waivers at Juvenile's Request	0
2. Juvenile Waiver Motions by Prosecutor	
a. Pending at Beginning of Year	9
b. Motions Filed by Prosecutor this Year	10
3. Juvenile Waiver Decisions (Prosecutor's Motions)	
a. Waived on Prosecutor's Motion with Juvenile's Consent	0
b. Waived on Prosecutor's Motion without Juvenile Consent and after a Hearing	8
c. Motion Voluntarily Withdrawn by Prosecutor	4
d. Waivers Denied	0
e. Total Decisions (sum of 3a through 3d)	12
4. Juvenile Waiver Motions filed by Prosecutor Pending at Year's End (2.a. + 2.b. - 3.e.)	7

Rev. 2017

Narcotics Strike Force

Investigative Workload and Dispositions

INVESTIGATIVE WORKLOAD AND DISPOSITIONS	NUMBER OF INVESTIGATIONS BY TYPE -- Original and Post-complaint investigations						
	Original Investigations Conducted Jointly With:				Original Exclusive Investigations	Total Original Investigations	Total Post-complaint Investigations
	Local Police	State Agency	Other County Prosecutor	Other Agency			
1. Investigations pending or inactive at the beginning of the year	0	0	0	0	6	6	0
2. Investigations opened during the year	1	0	0	2	124	127	0
3. Total Investigative workload for the year (add nos. 1 - 2)	1	0	0	2	130	133	0
4. Total Investigations completed during this year (add a. - d.)	1	0	0	2	124	127	0
a. Resulting in criminal charges	0	0	0	1	81	82	
b. Referred to other agency for criminal prosecution	1	0	0	0	13	14	
c. Referred to other agency for civil or administrative action	0	0	0	0	0	0	
d. Closed - No further action	0	0	0	1	30	31	
5. Investigations pending or inactive at the end of the year	0	0	0	0	6	6	0

Rev. 1995

Narcotics Strike Force

Dispositions of Original Investigations Resulting in Criminal Charges

DISPOSITION OF ORIGINAL INVESTIGATIONS RESULTING IN CRIMINAL CHARGES	NUMBER OF DEFENDANTS
1. Total number of defendants charged by complaint	150
a. Defendants with complaints administratively dismissed	2
b. Defendants with complaints downgraded to disorderly persons offenses	6
c. Defendants with complaints referred to Family Court	0
d. Defendants with complaints presented to grand jury	35
2. Defendants with original charges presented to grand jury on direct presentment	2
3. Defendants charged through accusation	15
4. Total number of defendants completing grand jury process on direct presentment and complaint presentation	37
a. Defendants indicted	35
b. Defendants not billed and remanded to municipal court	0
c. Defendants not billed/no action	2

Rev. 1995

Plainfield Project Statistics

June-November 2018

Cases screened for indictment - 181 Cases
screened for remand - 65 Indictable
complaint approvals - 84
DP complaint approvals – 45
Denials of complaint approval - 12
Matters reviewed for municipal court - 3
Grand jury subpoenas issued - 118
Court orders reviewed - 12
Search warrants reviewed – 11

Police Pursuit Summary Report

Agency: Union County Prosecutor's Office		County: Union	
Reporting Period: January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018			
Person Completing Report: Acting Chief Gagliardi		Date: April 10, 2019	
Phone Number: (908) 527-4500			
1. Number of pursuits initiated		203	
2. Number of pursuits resulting in accidents		52	
3. Number of pursuits resulting in injuries (NO DEATHS)		27	
4. Number of pursuits resulting in death		0	
5. Number of pursuits resulting in arrest		69	
6. Number of vehicles in accidents			
a. Pursued vehicles		50	
b. Police vehicles		14	
c. Third party vehicles		47	
7. Number of people injured			
a. Pursued vehicles		21	
b. Police vehicles		10	
c. Third party vehicles		21	
d. Pedestrians		0	
8. Number of people killed			
a. Pursued vehicles		0	
b. Police vehicles		0	
c. Third party vehicles		0	
d. Pedestrians		0	
9. Number of people arrested		88	
10. Number of pursuits in which a tire deflation device was used		0	

(DCJ 10/2001)

Seized Asset Forfeiture Unit

Miscellaneous Activities

ACTIVITY	NUMBER	VALUE
1. Notice of intention to solicit funds received		
2. Expungement applications received	750	
2. Total number of forfeiture actions	395	
3. Number of motor vehicles obtained through forfeiture actions	17	
4. Total value of property forfeited (add a. - c.)		673,467.16
a. Cash forfeited		594,817.16
b. Value of forfeited motor vehicles		72,200.00
c. Value of other forfeited property		6,450.00
(Specify property)		
Laptop		
Dental Equipment		

Rev. 1995

Special Victims Unit Investigative Workload and Dispositions

INVESTIGATIVE WORKLOAD AND DISPOSITIONS	NUMBER OF INVESTIGATIONS BY TYPE -- Original and Post-complaint investigations						
	Original Investigations Conducted Jointly With:				Original Exclusive Investigations	Total Original Investigations	Total Post-complaint Investigations
	Local Police	State Agency	Other County Prosecutor	Other Agency			
1. Investigations pending or inactive at the beginning of the year	23				16	39	
2. Investigations opened during the year	7				568	575	
3. Total Investigative workload for the year (add nos. 1 - 2)	30				584	614	
4. Total Investigations completed during this year (add a. - d.)	118				546		
a. Resulting in criminal charges	15				62	77	
b. Referred to other agency for criminal prosecution							
c. Referred to other agency for civil or administrative action							
d. Closed - No further action	41				525		
5. Investigations pending or inactive at the end of the year					84		

Rev. 1995

Special Victims Unit

Dispositions of Original Investigations Resulting in Criminal Charges

DISPOSITION OF ORIGINAL INVESTIGATIONS RESULTING IN CRIMINAL CHARGES	NUMBER OF DEFENDANTS
1. Defendants charged by complaint, TOTAL	77
a. Defendants with complaints administratively dismissed	4
b. Defendants with complaints downgraded to disorderly persons offenses	2
c. Defendants with complaints referred to Family Court	10
d. Defendants with complaints presented to grand jury	51
2. Defendants with original charges presented to grand jury on direct presentment	0
3. Defendants charged through accusation	5
4. Total number of Defendants completing grand jury process on direct presentment and complaint presentation	51
a. Defendants indicted	49
b. Defendants not billed and remanded to municipal court	0
c. Defendants not billed/no action	2

Rev. 1995

Adult Defendants with Bias Crime Related Charges Disposed

	TOTAL	NUMBER CONVICTED		ACQUITTED	DISMISSED	DOWNGRADE/ REMAND
		PLEA	TRIAL			
Number of defendants disposed	2	2	0	0	0	2
Number of defendants for whom application for extended term of imprisonment made	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of defendants for whom application was granted	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of defendants for whom application was denied	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of defendants for whom simple assault was upgraded to 4th degree crime	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of defendants for whom harassment was upgraded to 4th degree crime	1	0	0	0	0	1
Number of defendants who had both an upgrade to a 4th degree crime and an application for extended terms	0	0	0	0	0	0

Rev. 1992

Defendants Pending Disposition of Charges by Age of Indictment or Accusation

AGES OF POST-INDICTMENT DEFENDANT CASES FROM DATE OF INDICTMENT OF ACCUSATION	NUMBER OF DEFENDANTS		
	ACTIVE	INACTIVE / FUGITIVE	DIVERSIONARY
1. 0 to 3 months	199	0 / 25	4
2. 3+ to 6 months	131	0 / 30	0
3. 6+ to 9 months	89	0 / 28	0
4. 9+ to 12 months	45	2 / 20	0
5. 12+ to 24 months	108	0 / 71	0
6. 24+ months	87	51 / 1296	0
7. Total post-indictment/accusation defendant cases pending	659	53 / 1470	4

Rev. 1995

Defendants with Indictments/Accusations Disposed by Offense Category and Manner of Disposition

Key on next page

MANNER OF DISPOSITION	HOM	KID	SXA	ROB	ARS	AAS	BUR	BRI	NAR	MIO	PER	TUT	FOR	WOF	CAE	GAM	WIR	OGO	FTR	OTH	
1. Guilty plea to most serious offense	18	15	27	46	22	110	119	2	396	0	12	133	42	68	8	0	0	51	3	41	1113
2. Guilty plea to lesser indictable offense	7	1	9	17	4	7	9	0	9	0	0	17	0	1	2	0	0	2	0	4	89
3. Ind. dism., plea to dis. person offense	0	1	4	1	6	12	8	1	41	0	1	14	0	5	1	0	0	1	0	1	97
4. Guilty at trial, most serious offense																					
a. Jury	14	1	2	5	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	35
b. Non-Jury	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
5. Guilty at trial, lesser indictable offense																					
a. Jury	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
b. Non-Jury	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6. Guilty at trial, dis. person offense																					
a. Jury	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
b. Non-Jury	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7. Not guilty at trial																					
a. Jury	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
b. Non-Jury	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8. Acceptance into diversion program	0	0	4	0	5	27	15	0	67	0	2	62	31	17	2	1	0	9	0	4	246
9. Dismissed over objection of pros.	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
10. Dismissed on motion of pros.	1	1	4	17	6	8	14	0	59	0	3	26	1	83	2	0	0	3	0	2	230
11. Total dispositions	42	20	51	89	43	166	165	3	579	0	18	252	74	179	17	1	0	66	3	53	

Defendants with Indictments/Accusations Disposed by Offense Category and Manner of Disposition Abbreviations Key

HOM Homicide

KID Kidnapping

SXA Sexual Assault

ROB Robbery

ARS Arson

AAS Aggravated Assault

BUR Burglary

BRI Bribery

NAR Narcotics

MIO Misconduct in Office

PER Perjury

TUT Theft by Unlawful Taking

FOR Forgery

WOF Weapons Offenses

CAE Child Endangerment

GAM Gambling

WIR Wiretap

OGO Obstruction of Government Operations

FTR Failure to Register

OTH Other

Victim/Witness Notification Services

NOTIFICATION SERVICES	NOTIFICATION PROVIDED TO					
	VICTIMS		Lay WITNESSES		Law Enforcement WITNESSES	
	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
Initial contact	X			X		X
Administrative dismissal	X			X		X
Remand to municipal court	X			X		X
Indictment returned	X			X		X
No bill	X			X		X
Acceptance into pre-trial intervention	X			X		X
Guilty plea	X			X		X
Not guilty at trial	X			X		X
Guilty at trial	X			X		X
Indictment dismissed	X			X		X
Sentence	X			X		X
Parole	X			X		X
Disposition of juvenile cases	X			X		X
Other (specify)						

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Victim/Witness Assistance Services Provided

VICTIM/WITNESS ASSISTANCE SERVICES	SERVICE PROVIDED TO			
	VICTIMS		WITNESSES	
	Juvenile Cases	Adult Cases	Juvenile Cases	Adult Cases
INFORMATION AND REFERRAL SERVICES				
Introductory brochure	X	X		
Criminal Justice system orientation	X	X		
Case information	X	X		
VCCB referral	X	X	X	X
Social service information/referral	X	X	X	X
Crime prevention information/referral	X	X	X	X
Property return information	X	X		
Witness fee information				
Public education, community awareness	X	X		
LOGISTIC SERVICES				
Stand-by subpoena and call	X	X	X	X
Witness waiting area	X	X	X	X
Response to witness intimidation, harassment	X	X	X	X
Restitution recommendation at sentencing	X	X		
VCCB claim assistance	X	X	X	X
Social service intervention	X	X	X	X
Employer/student intervention	X	X	X	X
Travel, lodging assistance	X	X	X	X
Transportation assistance	X	X	X	X
Child care assistance	X	X	X	X
Property return assistance	X	X		
Witness fee assistance				
Victim impact statement assistance	X	X		
Counseling	X	X		
Other (specify)				

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