



# Department of Justice

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Middle District of Florida

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## **UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE REACHES OVER 15,000 STUDENTS**

Jacksonville, FL- United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill today announces his office's proactive efforts to curb gun crimes in the Middle District of Florida. For the past seven years, Assistant United States Attorneys from Jacksonville have been speaking to high school and middle school students across Northeast Florida about gun crime. Their presentations about gun crime and its impact on our society have been repeated more than 100 times to high school and middle school students across the region. The total number of students reached, to date, exceeds 15,000.

This year's schedule concluded on May 25, when Assistant United States Attorney Frank Talbot spoke to students in Hamilton County Middle School and High School about the dangers of gun crime. AUSA Talbot's presentation included facts about these specific types of crimes, penalties, and examples of cases prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office.

Currently (2011), the Middle District of Florida ranks third in the nation for federal prosecution of firearms related cases, numbering 137 cases so far. Since 2008, the Middle District of Florida has prosecuted 755 firearms cases.

This month the United States Attorneys' Briefing Room website

([www.usdoj.gov/usao/briefing\\_room/index.html](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/briefing_room/index.html)) features the Attorney General's Anti-Violence Strategy. The site provides convenient access to resources and information on the topic in focus and on what the U.S. Attorneys' offices are doing regarding Departmental priorities and initiatives.

"We must take a proactive approach in addressing crime," said U.S. Attorney O'Neill. "Public safety involves a combination of things. Enforcement and prosecution are just some of the tools that we utilize in keeping our communities safe. Education and awareness are key components in preventing them from ever happening in the first place."

The school outreach program is part of Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN), a nationwide program aimed at reducing gun and gang crime in America. PSN specifically seeks to deter juvenile gun crime. Anyone interested in scheduling a presentation should contact the United States Attorneys Office at (904) 301-6301.