

2022 Annual Report

Accomplishments and Initiatives

U.S. Attorney's Office
Middle District of Pennsylvania

Gerard M. Karam
United States Attorney



Message from U.S. Attorney Gerard M. Karam



I'm pleased to present the 2022 Annual Report of the United States Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Pennsylvania. As public servants, we are accountable to the citizens we serve and our efforts at transparency include publicizing our work and accomplishments. The U.S. Attorney's Office, along with our partner agencies, had many successes in 2022. This Annual Report is a summary of those accomplishments and highlights the achievements in each major program of our office which seek to improve the safety and quality of life for the people of our district.

Over the past year, we successfully prosecuted numerous individuals engaged in drug trafficking, violent crimes, public corruption, fraud, human trafficking, child exploitation, civil rights violations, and various other federal crimes. Our office also successfully represented the interests of the federal government in various civil matters including representing numerous government agencies and officials in defensive litigation and obtaining significant monetary recoveries in affirmative civil litigation. We also supported various outreach programs designed to prevent violence and recidivism, and build community relations.

The accomplishments summarized in this report are due to the hard work of our 92 dedicated professionals, including the steady leadership of former United States Attorney John C. Gurganus and former First Assistant Bruce D. Brandler. Their devotion to the law and the citizens of the Middle District are evident and without their leadership, the accomplishments listed in this report would not have been possible.

It's an honor to work with the members of this office and with our federal, state, and local law enforcement partners to seek justice and make the Middle District of Pennsylvania safer.

I trust that the report will give you a fuller understanding of our mission. We invite you to read more and share your suggestions with us at <https://www.justice.gov/usao-mdpa>. Follow us on Twitter @MDPAnews.

Gerard M. Karam
United States Attorney

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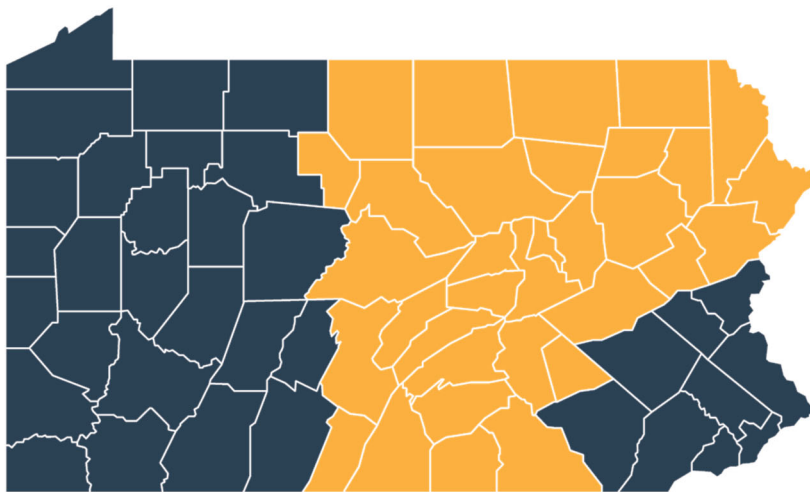
Our Mission & Geographical Area of Responsibility

The United States Attorney's Office represents the United States in the Middle District of Pennsylvania in the prosecution of criminal cases brought by the federal government, civil cases in which the United States is a party, and collection of debts owed to the federal government.

The Middle District of Pennsylvania extends over 21,907 square miles and contains 33 counties with over 3 million residents. The U.S. Attorney's Office is comprised of four offices located in Scranton, Harrisburg, Williamsport, and Wilkes-Barre.

The U.S. Attorney's Office represents the United States in legal proceedings for 14 federal institutions and enclaves within the Middle District of Pennsylvania. Federal institutions and enclaves within the district include: Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area; Steamtown National Recreation Center; Tobyhanna Army Depot; Wilkes-Barre Veterans Administration Medical Center; Tioga-Hammond Lakes Dams; U.S. Army War College and Carlisle Barracks; the Navy Inventory Control Point, in Mechanicsburg; the Defense Distribution Depot, Susquehanna (DDSP); Fort Indiantown Gap; Lebanon Veterans Administration Medical Center; Raystown National Recreation Area; Letterkenny Army Depot; and Gettysburg National Military Park.

A significant component of the office's civil workload arises from the presence in the district of four major federal correctional complexes: Allenwood, Canaan, Lewisburg, and Schuylkill. With a population of approximately 6,000 inmates, the facilities constitute one of the largest concentrations of federal inmate populations in the country. In addition, over two hundred immigration and customs enforcement detainees are presently housed in county facilities in our district.



U.S. Attorney's Office
Middle District of Pennsylvania

(717) 221-4482 Harrisburg
(570) 348-2800 Scranton
(570) 326-1935 Williamsport

U.S. Attorney's Office, Middle District of Pennsylvania — At a Glance

The District is comprised of four offices: Harrisburg, Scranton, Williamsport and Wilkes-Barre (unstaffed)

- 82 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) positions and 10 contractors
- 1 United States Attorney
- 39 Assistant United States Attorneys
- 52 Support Staff

Classified as a Medium Size Office by the Department of Justice

Federal Law Enforcement Agencies

The Middle District works closely with many Federal Investigative Agencies:

- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF)
- Department of Commerce
- Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA)
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
- Fish and Wildlife Services
- Health and Human Services
- Homeland Security Investigations (HSI)
- Internal Revenue Service (IRS)
- Department of Labor
- Marshals Service
- Postal Inspection Service
- Secret Service
- Social Security Administration
- Department of Transportation
- Department of Veterans Affairs

Criminal Assistant United States Attorneys

First Assistant U.S. Attorney:

John C. Gurganus

Chief:

Bruce D. Brandler

Deputy Chiefs:

Francis Sempa

Daryl Bloom

Chief, Appeals Unit:

Carlo D. Marchioli

Harrisburg:

John Baer

William Behe

Daryl Bloom

Michael Consiglio

Samuel Dalke

Scott Ford

Christian Haugsby

Jamie Keating

Carlo D. Marchioli

Paul Miovas

Ravi Sharma

Scranton:

James Buchanan

Sean Camoni

Phillip Caraballo

Brian Gallagher

Todd Hinkley

Robert O'Hara

Michelle Olshefski

Jenny Roberts

Francis Sempa

Jeffrey St John

Williamsport:

Geoffrey MacArthur

Alisan Martin

Criminal Division

The mission of the Criminal Division is to prosecute federal criminal cases. Within the Criminal Division are several specialized areas of concentration including:

- Terrorism and National Security
- Public Corruption
- Economic Crimes
- Government Program Fraud/Health Care Fraud
- Violent Crimes and Firearms Offenses
- Drug Trafficking
- Tax Fraud
- Environmental Crimes
- Computer Crimes
- Child Exploitation and Human Trafficking
- Immigration
- Civil Rights
- Appeals

Assistant United States Attorneys indicted approximately 385 cases involving 479 defendants, and handled 28 criminal trials in 2022, which is an increase from 22 criminal trials in 2021.

A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.



Enforcement

COVID-19. The U.S. Attorney's Office has prosecuted numerous fraud schemes targeting COVID-19 relief funds:

U.S. v. Alexis Figueroa. A 32-year-old Philadelphia woman was sentenced on November 22, 2022, to 18 months in prison for conspiring with five others to file false claims for unemployment assistance during the pandemic. These defendants gathered personal identification information from inmates housed within the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections system and filed unemployment claims. The payments were mailed to particular addresses in New Cumberland, PA, where the funds were accessed. The conspirators arranged for the payment of approximately \$94,000 in benefits which they were not entitled to obtain.

U.S. v. Julian J. Levons. A 64-year-old Henryville man pleaded guilty mid-trial on June 2, 2022, to perpetrating a scheme to obtain COVID-19 relief guaranteed by the Small Business Administration through the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program. Levons obtained two EIDL loans for approximately \$300,000, and attempted unsuccessfully to obtain a third EIDL loan for approximately \$150,000. In applying for the loans, Levons falsified revenue and expense figures for two supposed small businesses that he and his wife owned. The money was used to pay down a high interest rate line of credit for his personal expenses, and to pay off a high interest rate mortgage on a rental property. Investigators seized over \$210,000 in fraudulently obtained funds from bank accounts under his control. Levons was sentenced to 2 years of probation and ordered to pay \$89,993 in restitution.

U.S. v. Nazim Hassam. A 70-year-old Bartonsville man was sentenced May 26, 2022, to 18 months in prison for applying for and receiving two loans under the federal Paycheck Protection Program ("PPP") while making false statements on the applications. In 2019, Hassam

was indicted along with two businesses he co-owns, the Pocono Plaza Inn and Om Sri Sai, Inc., on felony charges related to sex trafficking and drug trafficking. But when asked on the loan applications whether he or the companies applying for the loans were under indictment, he falsely answered, "No." Hassam fraudulently obtained one loan for each of the two corporate entities, together totaling \$89,308. Hassam then conducted unlawful monetary transactions with the bulk of those funds. Specifically related to the count to which Hassam pleaded guilty, Hassam obtained \$61,000 as a PPP loan for Om Sri Sai, Inc., a company that owns and operates a hotel in Bartonsville, and then transferred the funds from the corporation's bank account to pay down a personal line of credit. Hassam paid both loans back to the issuing banks, with interest, after he learned of the investigation.

U.S. v. Keith McConnell. A 43-year-old Carlisle man was sentenced on April 5, 2022, to 18 months in prison and ordered to pay \$312,200 in restitution for perpetrating a wire fraud and money laundering scheme which sought \$467,200 in COVID-19 relief funds guaranteed by the U.S. Small Business Administration through the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). McConnell submitted fraudulent PPP loan applications and forged documents on behalf of his trucking company, KB Transportation LLC. In both 2019 and 2020, KB Transportation LLC was not in business, had no employees, and had no payroll expenses. On June 5, 2020, however, McConnell falsely certified that KB Transportation LLC employed twenty-six employees and had monthly payroll expenses totaling \$124,800. As a result of the fraud, McConnell received \$312,000 in PPP loan proceeds. Within weeks, McConnell spent the PPP funds on unauthorized expenditures including the purchase of a residential property, two personal vehicles, cash withdrawals, and stock market investments. On January 20, 2021, McConnell used KB Transportation LLC to apply for a second PPP loan in the amount of \$155,200, and again submitted false and fraudulent loan applications and documents. The second PPP loan was never disbursed.

Public Corruption. Combating public corruption in federal, state, and local government remains a priority for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Pennsylvania. Corruption in federal, state, and local government directly damages our citizens. The people of the district deserve honest government at every level.

- *U.S. v. Christopher Collare.* A former veteran detective for the Carlisle Police Department and FBI Task Force member, was sentenced on March 10, 2022, to 75 months in prison for bribery, distribution of heroin, and making false statements. Collare used his official position to obtain sex from two women in exchange for agreeing to take actions in prosecutions. In 2015, Collare agreed to accept sex or money in exchange for not appearing at an evidentiary hearing so that a criminal charge would be dismissed. In 2018, Collare agreed to accept sexual favors in exchange for taking steps to help reduce a potential sentence. He also lied on a federal form he completed during the process of becoming an FBI Task Force Officer, and he made multiple false statements in an interview with federal agents in May 2018.
- *U.S. v. James Peperno.* A 58-year-old Old Forge man was convicted on September 9, 2022, of soliciting bribes from a local business owner to provide to Robert Semenza, Jr., the former President of the Old Forge Borough Council. Peperno also was convicted of providing and promising cash and future employment to Semenza, in exchange for Semenza performing and promising to perform official acts, in relation to a state court civil litigation between Old Forge Borough and the local business owner. Semenza advocated on behalf of the local business owner with the Old Forge Borough Council, the Old Forge Borough Solicitor, and Old Forge zoning officials, including by proposing a resolution to the civil litigation that had been prepared by Peperno. Semenza previously pleaded guilty to accepting the bribe payments from Peperno and on

January 9, 2023, was sentenced to 12 months of imprisonment. Peperno was sentenced to 72 months of imprisonment.

- *U.S. v. Jeffrey J. Vaughn.* A Scranton Police Sergeant was charged on August 25, 2022, and pleaded guilty on January 26, 2023, to theft concerning programs receiving federal funds. The information alleged that Vaughn, while working as a sergeant in the Scranton Police Department, which is an entity that receives over \$10,000 a year in federal funding, knowingly obtained by fraud over \$5,000 in compensation that was paid to him for certain extra duty patrol shifts at local, lower-income housing complexes that Vaughn claimed to work but did not in fact work. Vaughn is awaiting sentencing.

Clean Air Act. The Clean Air Act (CAA) is the comprehensive federal law that regulates air emissions from stationary and mobile sources. This law allows the U.S. Attorney's Office to help protect public health and the public welfare from hazardous air pollutants.

- *U.S. v. Lobar, Inc.* A Dillsburg company was sentenced on July 20, 2022, to three years' probation for the improper handling and removal of regulated asbestos containing material as required by federal law. Lobar was the general contractor on the Berwick Area School District project to safely remove environmentally hazardous materials from the site, demolish the former weaving mill building, and construct a new elementary school. The existence of asbestos was confirmed by an environmental consultant, which was shared with Lobar, Inc., and its subcontractors responsible for asbestos removal and demolition. Despite this, the demolition went forward before the asbestos was properly removed until stopped by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Ty Allen Barnett was the project supervisor for the asbestos abatement contractor, First Capital Insulation, Inc., and was sentenced to two years' probation.



Project Safe Childhood (PSC) Prosecutions.

Project Safe Childhood is a nationwide initiative to combat the epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Middle District embraces its commitment to the protection of our children. Advances in technology over the past two decades have brought about new obstacles for parents, educators, and law enforcement. Our district is committed to aggressively targeting those who would harm children. The Office aims to investigate and prosecute those criminals vigorously, and protect and assist victimized children.

- *U.S. v. Jaime Ryan Chorba.* A former physical education teacher with Valley View School District, Archbald, was sentenced on October 26, 2022, to 180 months in prison for using his cell phone to produce a video of a minor child engaging in sexually explicit conduct.
- *U.S. v. Lorenz Quiambao.* A 41-year-old Easton man was sentenced on August 9, 2022, to 120 months in prison for using the internet to attempt to entice a 12-year-old minor female to engage in prohibited sex acts. During an on-line communication with a law enforcement officer posing as the mother of a minor female, Quiambao agreed to pay money to the mother in exchange for receiving oral sex from the minor and having other sexual contact with the minor and then traveled to a location in Tannersville, PA for the purpose of meeting the mother and minor and paying for sex.
- *U.S. v. Joel Kiessler.* A 55-year-old Williamsport man was sentenced on June 16, 2022, to 16 years in prison for attempting to entice multiple underage females to travel to Pennsylvania from out of state to have sex with him.
- *U.S. v. David Serrano-Munoz.* A 43-year-old Philadelphia man was sentenced on June 1, 2022, to 25 years in prison for coercing a minor living in York County, PA, to take sexually explicit photos of herself and to send those images to him over the internet.
- *U.S. v. Jason Michael Herman.* A 39-year-old Pine Grove man was sentenced to 10 years in prison on May 5, 2022, for uploading 9 videos (or approximately 675 images) of child pornographic content onto an internet-based social media application, including images showing the abuse of minors under the age of 12, and sent the videos to other users.
- *U.S. v. James Tyler Murphy.* A 25-year-old Missouri man was sentenced to 180 months in prison on March 15, 2022, for producing pornographic videos of a 12-year-old York County child.
- *U.S. v. Jerald Ungerer.* A 34-year-old Milford man was sentenced to 20 years in prison on March 11, 2022, for producing multiple videos and images of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct. In March 2020, investigators served a search warrant at Ungerer's residence in Pike County and seized multiple computer hard drives and other electronic devices containing child pornography, much of which was produced by Ungerer.



Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN). Project Safe Neighborhoods Program is the centerpiece of the Department of Justice’s violent crime reduction efforts. PSN is an evidence-based program proven to be effective at reducing violent crime. Through PSN, a broad spectrum of stakeholders work together to identify the most pressing violent crime problems in the community and develop comprehensive solutions to address them. As part of this strategy, PSN focuses enforcement efforts on the most violent offenders and partners with locally based prevention and reentry programs for lasting reductions in crime. The United States Attorney’s Office for the Middle District of PA has in place a multi-faceted program to reduce violent crime within the district. Gun violence, driven mostly by drug trafficking or by neighborhood rivalries and gangs, is identified as the main problem in many of the larger, more populated counties within the district. The U.S. Attorney’s Office endeavors to disrupt violent crime by pursuing appropriate prison sentences and seeking forfeitures of crime-derived assets to deter dangerous individuals from continuing to harm our communities. Through enforcement actions, prosecutions, and community partnerships, the U.S. Attorney’s Office works to lower violent crime and make neighborhoods safer.

PSN Target Areas:

**Harrisburg, York, Wilkes-Barre,
and Williamsport.**

Enforcement Actions —Violent Crime Initiative.

The MDPA adopted a renewed strategy for reducing and preventing violent crime in the Middle District focusing on the Harrisburg, York, Wilkes-Barre, and Williamsport areas. Federal, state, and local law enforcement officers joined forces to coordinate their activities in high-crime areas and vigorously enforce the laws, which punish gun offenses, gang activity, drug-related crimes, and other acts of violence. Since 2014, federal, state, and local officials have partnered and operated a program based in Harrisburg focusing on firearms offenses committed by recidivists or individuals using firearms in connection with drug offenses, or other violent crimes. Due to the success of that program, it was expanded to include firearms offenses in York, Williamsport, and Wilkes-Barre. Violent crime damages and destabilizes our neighborhoods, challenging our citizens as they strive to raise their families and be productive members of society. By coordinating efforts with our state and local law enforcement partners, we can ensure that limited law enforcement resources are being brought to bear in the most effective way possible to protect the people we serve.

Prosecution Activity. The U.S. Attorney’s Office remains active in the fight against violent crime through various enforcement actions, prosecutions, and sentencings, as demonstrated by the examples below:

- *U.S. v. Tashan Layton.* A 32-year-old Harrisburg man was sentenced on August 24, 2022, to 256 months’ imprisonment for robbing the Santander Bank in Oakhurst Plaza, Dauphin County, stealing more than \$67,000 during these robberies. Layton also attempted to rob the MidPenn Bank on North Second Street in Harrisburg, and the Americhoice Credit Union in Camp Hill. Layton possessed and brandished a Ruger .45 caliber semi-automatic handgun during and in relation to the robbery offenses.



- *U.S. v. Michael Muse.* A 44-year-old New York man was sentenced on October 26, 2022, to five years in prison for committing the armed robbery of the ESSA Bank, located in Middle Smithfield Township, PA. During the robbery, Muse pointed what appeared to be a firearm (later discovered to be an air pistol) at the bank tellers. Muse stole approximately \$9,031.
- *U.S. v. Lakeem Hunter-Knight.* A 21-year-old Tobyhanna man was sentenced on January 24, 2022, to 7 years of imprisonment for pointing a firearm at two victims during a robbery of the Pickerel Inn General Store, in Dingmans Ferry, PA. During the robbery, he made the victims lie on the ground face down and threatened to shoot them if they moved. He stole six firearms from the store before fleeing the scene. He was later apprehended after investigators found two of the stolen firearms in an abandoned vehicle. The remaining firearms, along with other evidence, were found when investigators executed a search warrant at his residence.
- *U.S. v. Brandon Harris, et. al.* A 29-year-old Harrisburg man was sentenced on January 31, 2022, to 192 months in prison for conspiring with four other individuals to commit a total of four armed robberies. Harris and his co-conspirators wore masks and brandished guns, including an assault rifle, to rob five establishments in Harrisburg. Co-conspirators received sentences ranging from 111 to 181 months in prison.
- *U.S. v. Damar Coad.* A 20-year-old Reading man was sentenced to 7 years in prison on July 18, 2022, for robbing a federal agent, who was acting in an undercover capacity, at gunpoint during an operation in Schuylkill County.
- *U.S. v. Kevin Coles, et. al.* Coles was convicted on April 28, 2022, of murder for hire, robbery, and drug trafficking. The charges against Coles were the result of a six-year investigation into three brutal murders on a property in Mercersburg, Franklin County. The evidence presented at trial established that Wendy Chaney was in a relationship with Coles and had been previously assisting him with his drug distribution operation. Coles learned that Chaney was cooperating with federal authorities and contracted for her to be murdered. Intermediaries recruited members of a Baltimore based gang known as the Black Guerilla Family and others from Baltimore to travel to the Jackson property to kill Wendy Chaney. The killers were promised that they could take as payment \$20,000 that was to be in a safe in the barn and any drugs and firearms that they could locate on the Jackson property. Once there, the killers encountered not only Wendy Chaney but also Brandon Cole and Phillip Jackson. All were murdered to prevent them from cooperating and from being witnesses to the crimes of violence that were committed at that time. The killers never found any money on the property. The evidence also established that Coles was involved in trafficking significant amounts of heroin and crack cocaine in Chambersburg, PA, Hagerstown, MD and elsewhere. Two individuals to whom Coles distributed heroin suffered serious bodily injury when they overdosed on the heroin Coles supplied and had to be resuscitated by the administration of Narcan. Coles is awaiting sentencing.



Heroin and Opioid Policy. The MDPA continues a policy to prosecute heroin and opioid cases and request substantial sentences for individuals who traffic in these deadly drugs. Some cases that emphasize those efforts include:

- *U.S. v. Jonathan Orlando Fontanez.* A 37-year-old Wilkes-Barre man was sentenced on October 26, 2022, to 40 months in prison for his part in a drug trafficking organization distributing large quantities of cocaine, and fentanyl tablets disguised as 30 milligram oxycodone pills. On September 22, 2021, a federal search warrant executed on Fontanez's residence, as well as search warrants served on other locations related to the drug trafficking organization, resulted in the seizure of nearly \$100,000 in cash, about 1,000 fentanyl pills and more than 10 kilograms of cocaine.
- *U.S. v. Miguel Renteria-Gomez.* A 38-year-old California man was sentenced on September 16, 2022, to 135 months in prison for his supervisory role in a nationwide drug trafficking organization that moved large quantities of heroin, fentanyl, cocaine and methamphetamine from his ranch in California to various major Midwest and East Coast cities, including through locations in Northeastern Pennsylvania. They packaged drugs in suitcases and then transported the drugs via commercial flights.
- *U.S. v. Todd Houghtlin.* Former Luzerne County police officer pleaded guilty on August 2, 2022, stemming from an incident in which law enforcement investigators conducted a stop of Houghtlin's vehicle and found him in possession of 50 packets containing fentanyl, as well as a .380 caliber pistol loaded with four rounds of ammunition. Further investigation revealed that Houghtlin purchased fentanyl on

multiple occasions which he sold to others. Houghtlin was sentenced to a 2-year probationary term.

- *U.S. v. Matthew J. Acevedo.* A 31-year-old York man was sentenced on June 7, 2022, to 235 months in prison for trafficking over five kilograms of methamphetamines, trafficking fentanyl, and being in possession of firearms as a convicted felon. Seventeen ounces of crystal methamphetamine, fentanyl pills, firearms, and other drug trafficking materials were seized during a search warrant at his home.

Drug traffickers who are responsible for overdose deaths and non-fatal overdoses resulting in serious bodily harm caused by their product are aggressively prosecuted as demonstrated below:

- *U.S. v. Jeremy Edward Johnson, et. al.* A 31-year-old Stroudsburg man was sentenced on January 6, 2023, to 25 years in prison for engaging in a conspiracy to obtain and distribute controlled substances, heroin and fentanyl, for the time beginning January 2020 through March 2021, which resulted in a death.
- *U.S. v. Michael Bogdon.* Bogon was sentenced on March 25, 2022, to 14 years in prison for providing fentanyl to an 18-year old female in Kingston, PA, causing her death.
- *U.S. v. James Garris, Jr., et al.* A 52-year-old Wilkes-Barre drug dealer in a drug trafficking organization was sentenced on April 1, 2022, to 14 years in prison for distributing fentanyl to James Tindol, Jr., who subsequently distributed the fentanyl to an individual identified as A.V. Shortly after ingesting the fentanyl, A.V. overdosed and died. The conspiracy distributed between 400 grams and 1.2 kilograms of fentanyl, which is equivalent to approximately 200,000 to 600,000 potentially lethal individual doses of fentanyl. Coconspirators received sentences ranging from 57 to 120 months in prison. Others are awaiting sentencing.



The following are opioid cases relating to medical professionals, traffickers, and others who committed serious drug crimes in the District:

Medical Professionals

- *U.S. v. Kurt Moran.* A 70-year-old Scranton doctor was sentenced to 140 months in prison on August 31, 2022. Moran intentionally distributed oxycodone and fentanyl not for legitimate medical purposes, which resulted in the death of one of his patients. In addition, Moran was convicted of health care fraud in connection with receiving approximately \$140,000 to prescribe Subsys (sublingual fentanyl) to his patients for pain not associated with cancer.
- *U.S. v. Raymond Kraynak.* A 65-year-old Mt. Carmel doctor was sentenced on August 3, 2022, to 15 years in prison for dispensing 9.5 million units of oxycodone, hydrocodone, oxycontin and fentanyl to patients between January 2014 and July 31, 2017, outside the usual course of professional practice and not for legitimate medical purpose. Kraynak also admitted that the Schedule II narcotic opioid drugs that he prescribed resulted in the deaths of five of his patients.
- *U.S. v. Martin Evers.* A 64-year-old Pike County doctor was convicted on December 5, 2022, on 71 counts of unlawful distribution of controlled substances. One of the counts of which Evers was convicted involved the unlawful distribution of oxycodone and fentanyl that resulted in the death of a 48-year-old Monroe County woman on February 11, 2019. Evers repeatedly prescribed oxycodone and other opioids outside the usual course of professional practice and not for legitimate medical purposes and as a result, addiction and death occurred. Evers

was an employee of the Bon Secours Charity Health System and practiced as a primary care physician in Milford. Evers is awaiting sentencing.

Methamphetamines

- *U.S. v. William Showers.* A 37-year-old Reading man was sentenced on October 18, 2022, to 100 months in prison for conspiring with others to distribute over 200 grams of a substance containing methamphetamine, including over 50 grams of actual or pure methamphetamine. During the course of the investigation, an undercover agent purchased methamphetamine directly from the defendant at locations in Berks and Schuylkill Counties.
- *U.S. v. Tyrone Smith.* A 31-year-old Chester man was sentenced on August 31, 2022, to 235 months' imprisonment for his role in conspiring and distributing approximately 16 pounds of methamphetamines from June of 2017 until December 19, 2020, in Dauphin, Cumberland, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lancaster, Bucks, Montgomery, Chester, and Philadelphia counties.
- *U.S. v. James E. King, III, et al.* A 45-year-old Danville man was sentenced on December 1, 2022, to 210 months in prison for having a large quantity of methamphetamine delivered through UPS to Union County, Pennsylvania, for distribution. The Pennsylvania State Police intercepted the shipment and arrested both King and his coconspirator, Christopher L. Brown. Brown pleaded guilty and is awaiting sentencing.



Cocaine

- *U.S. v. Saqueena Williams a/k/a “Queenie.”* A 46-year-old Harrisburg woman was sentenced on October 27, 2022, to 20 years in prison following her conviction of drug trafficking and possession of guns in furtherance of drug trafficking. On February 1, 2018, law enforcement officers seized drugs and guns during a court authorized search of her home and other properties associated with Williams and her coconspirator, Nyree Letterlough, age 51, of Harrisburg. Williams, the operator of Queenies Café, was convicted after a week-long jury trial of running a drug trafficking conspiracy from 2012 to 2018. The jury found that Williams trafficked in excess of five kilograms of cocaine, and that she possessed guns in furtherance of her drug trafficking operation. Williams also surrendered her interests in Queenies Café, located in Harrisburg, as well as the liquor license and other properties. Her coconspirator, Letterlough was also convicted at the above referenced trial and was sentenced on August 29, 2022, to 111 months in prison. Letterlough surrendered her interests in Grams Grill, located in Harrisburg, and another real estate property.
- *U.S. v. Ricardo Soto-Delgado.* A 48-year-old Harrisburg man was sentenced on December 15, 2022, to 18 years in prison for his role in a conspiracy to have kilograms of cocaine shipped into Harrisburg, Pennsylvania through the United States Postal Service. Between April 2018 and November 2019, Soto-Delgado had approximately 35 kilos of cocaine shipped from Puerto Rico to various addresses in Cumberland and Dauphin Counties. Postal Inspectors

uncovered the drug trafficking operation after they intercepted parcels destined for the addresses.

- *U.S. v. Elmer Rodriguez.* Rodriguez was sentenced on March 14, 2022, to 165 months in prison for attempting to receive five parcels he knew each contained approximately two kilograms of cocaine. The parcels had been shipped from Puerto Rico and were destined for five different addresses in York County.

Marijuana

- *U.S. v. James Burrous.* On February 9, 2022, James Burrous was sentenced to 51 months in prison for his role in a marijuana grow operation. Burrous possessed more than 100 marijuana plants that he intended to distribute. When a search warrant was executed on Burrous’s home, other controlled substances such as Dimethyltryptamine (“DMT”) and lysergic acid diethylamide (“LSD”) were also recovered.



Firearms. Reducing gun violence and enforcing federal firearms laws have always been among the office's highest priorities. Examples of this type of prosecution follow:

- *U.S. v. Steven Brinson.* A 32-year-old Tobyhanna man was indicted on November 15, 2022, for allegedly possessing firearms, including a non-serialized AR-style "ghost gun," and ammunition, despite having a prior felony conviction. Brinson pleaded guilty and is awaiting sentencing.
- *U.S. v. Cody Drumheller.* A 28-year-old Berwick man was sentenced on December 2, 2022, to 66 months in prison for possessing a stolen 9mm handgun and two sawed-off 12-gauge shotguns, while prohibited from possessing firearms based on prior convictions.
- *U.S. v. Gregory Dehart, et. al.* A 32-year-old Scranton man was sentenced on October 26, 2022, to 18 months in prison for conspiring with two other individuals to lie to employees at three Lackawanna County federally licensed firearms dealers, J & G Sport Center in Throop, Roll Call, LLC, Dick's Sporting Goods, and Piestrak's Gun Shop, in order to purchase a total of 29 firearms. Dehart was not the actual buyer of any of the firearms and he and his co-defendant purchased the firearms on behalf of others. Following the purchase of the firearms, Dehart would then transport the firearms to the actual buyers, who paid Dehart for the price of the firearms and a fee to making the purchases on their behalf. Of the 29 purchased firearms, three have been recovered in connection to criminal offenses in Baltimore, Maryland, and New York City. Samantha Piasecki was sentenced on June 8, 2022, to time-served of 137 days in prison and Mitchell Bethea pleaded guilty and is awaiting sentencing.
- *U.S. v. Antonio Godbolt.* A 37-year-old Harrisburg man was sentenced on October 24, 2022, to 33 months in prison for conspiring with three other individuals to purchase firearms for felons and persons under indictment. Godbolt was prohibited by law from possessing a firearm because of his prior felony convictions, but he arranged for Taashaun Mansfield, age 21, of Harrisburg, to purchase a firearm for him. Mansfield also purchased six other firearms for felons. Mansfield pleaded guilty to weapons offenses and was sentenced to 37 months in prison. Michael Windham, age 22, of Harrisburg, also pleaded guilty to weapons offenses and was sentenced to 46 months in prison. Johnny Quinones, age 35, of Harrisburg, is awaiting trial.
- *U.S. v. Kshawn Carter.* A 25-year-old Harrisburg man was sentenced on June 6, 2022, to 15 years in prison for possessing a stolen handgun discovered during the execution of a search warrant at his Harrisburg residence. Because Carter had three prior felony drug convictions, under federal law, his possession of the firearm mandated the 15-year sentence.
- *U.S. v. Donald Jackson.* Jackson was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment on February 11, 2022, for possession of a firearm in furtherance of drug trafficking. Harrisburg Bureau of Police officers stopped a vehicle in which Jackson was a passenger. Jackson exited the vehicle and fled on foot. Officers took Jackson into custody and found nearby his Ruger 9mm, marijuana, plastic baggies, and a digital scale. During a search of Jackson and the vehicle, ecstasy, marijuana, and crack were also recovered.



Human Trafficking. Prosecuting those who traffic individuals against their will and force them into labor, services, or commercial sexual exploitation are among the office's highest priorities. Examples of this type of prosecution follow:

- *U.S. v. John Golom.* A 57-year-old Florida man was sentenced on October 14, 2022, to 405 months in prison for his involvement in trafficking two women as prostitutes through force, threat, and coercion from 2014 through 2018. Golom recruited women to engage in commercial sex acts, advertised them on websites to attract customers and transported them between Florida and Pennsylvania to conduct his prostitution business. Golom kept all proceeds of the business and used physical violence, threats, and false promises to keep the women working. At sentencing, the Court found that Golom had preyed upon his victims despite knowing that at least one of them was particularly vulnerable because of severe mental illnesses and homelessness. The Court further found that Golom had attempted to obstruct justice by making false statements to the FBI and trying to tamper with his victims' testimony.
- *U.S. v. Faizal Bhimani, et al.* Bhimani was sentenced on February 23, 2022, to 180 months in prison following a two-week jury trial which concluded with the jury returning guilty verdicts against Bhimani and co-defendant Nazim Hassam, along with two hotels, Om Sri Sai, Inc., and the Pocono Plaza Inn hotel for sex trafficking and drug trafficking offenses. The Howard Johnson Hotel was a safe haven for criminal activity. Bhimani, as manager, made rooms available for sex traffickers and drug dealers, and at times took payment for the hotel directly from the proceeds of criminal activity. Bhimani also traded discounted and free rooms for sex. Dozens of women were compelled by traffickers to conduct prostitution in the hotel by physical force, threats, false promises, or coercion, including through blackmail and drug addiction. At least two other employees engaged in sex with victims, including co-defendant Nazim Hassam. Hassam was sentenced to 60 months in prison. In all, 40 defendants have been convicted as a result of this investigation.

"The United States Attorney's Office is grateful to the victims in this case for making the truth known," said U.S. Attorney Karam. "The women who bravely came forward to hold this trafficker accountable made this successful prosecution possible. They are survivors, who, despite the horrific trauma they suffered at Golom's hands for years, made it possible for justice to be done here. I am sure that they have spared other potential victims from the same horrors."





Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF).

OCDETF is a joint federal, state, and local cooperative approach to combat drug trafficking and is the nation's primary tool for disrupting and dismantling major drug trafficking organizations, and targeting national and regional level drug trafficking organizations. The cases below illustrate this initiative:

- *U.S. v. Dwayne Sherman.* Sherman was convicted on September 13, 2022, after a 6-day trial for being a large scale drug trafficker who sold multi-kilogram amounts of cocaine he obtained from Mexico. On three occasions in 2015 and 2016 he was observed delivering over \$555,000 in cash to an informant working for the FBI. In April 2016, he was caught in Los Angeles with two kilos of cocaine and 15,000 pills in his car that he obtained from his sources in Mexico. Sherman is awaiting sentencing.
- *U.S. v. Quran Geddy, et. al.* A 26-year-old Williamsport man was sentenced on May 10, 2022, to 144 months in prison for being the founder and leader of the Williamsport "400 Gang" a/k/a "WAM Gang," that distributed fentanyl in Lycoming County. Codefendant Darnell Cotton, age 26, was sentenced to 46 months in prison.
- *U.S. v. Ira Sims.* A 24-year-old Philadelphia man was sentenced on April 25, 2022, to 100 months in prison for his role in a fentanyl distribution conspiracy based in Williamsport. The Judge highlighted the way that fentanyl has ravaged the Williamsport area and the country, along with the fact that Sims was being supervised for a prior drug-trafficking conviction when he engaged in the criminal conduct that led to his

federal charges. Six other defendants were sentenced to sentences ranging from 25 to 48 months in prison. Two defendants are awaiting trial.

Threats. Threats to commit acts of violence against public officials or threats over the internet are prosecuted because of the risk to public safety that they pose.

- *U.S. v. Robert Maverick Vargo.* A 25-year-old Berwick man was indicted on October 25, 2022, on charges of threatening the President of the United States, interstate communications with a threat, and influencing a federal official by threat. The indictment alleges that on October 11, 2022, US Congressman Bennie Thompson's office received a letter from Vargo containing threats to kill Representative Thompson, his family, President Joseph Biden, and U.S. District Court Judge Robert D. Mariani alluding to "Anthrax," and containing what appeared to be a white powder. Vargo is awaiting trial.
- *U.S. v. Kenelm L. Shirk.* A 72-year-old man was sentenced to 16 months and 20 days in prison for making threats to murder Democratic members of the United States Senate in retaliation for the performance of their official duties on January 6, 2021. On January 21, 2021, Pennsylvania State Police troopers arrested Shirk while he was en route to Washington D.C. A search of Shirk's vehicle recovered two handguns and an AR-15 rifle and loaded magazines, as well as hundreds of rounds of ammunition.



Elder Justice Initiative. The Department of Justice Elder Justice Initiative promotes investigations and prosecutions of financial scams targeting the elderly, and prosecution of crimes involving elder fraud and abuse. The cases below illustrate this initiative:

- *U.S. v. Donna L. Summerlin.* A 63-year-old Fortville, Indiana, woman was sentenced on May 19, 2022 to 48 months in prison for conspiring to commit mail fraud and wire fraud and conspiracy to commit money laundering. Summerlin received over \$1.2 million from over 100 people across the country and, in some cases, other countries such as Canada and Australia in a cross-border scheme. Many of the identified victims were either elderly, deaf, or both. The victims were contacted through Facebook and told that they were winners of a “deaf lottery” or that they had been selected for special and exclusive government grants or other programs. In order to claim their supposed prize, grant, or other financial reward, victims were directed to prepay expenses such as taxes and customs fees. Victims were persuaded to do so with the false promise of a much larger payoff. After making an initial payment, victims were directed to make additional larger payments. Fraudsters contacting potential victims through Facebook, email, and text messages used fake names and photographs to disguise themselves. These fraudsters also took over the accounts of victims so that they could lure their friends into sending money and to reassure them of the scheme’s legitimacy when victims had doubts about participating. Victims were instructed to send these payments to Summerlin, who worked as a “money mule” or intermediary for these fraudsters for approximately four
- years, from 2012 to 2016. Typically, Summerlin wired a portion of the funds to coconspirators in Nigeria and Great Britain. She also made large cash withdrawals, that she sent to coconspirators or used for personal use.
- *U.S. v. Altcase Abramovici.* A 72-year-old Montreal, Quebec, man was sentenced on May 4, 2022, to 30 months in prison for his leadership role in a Montreal-based telemarketing and money laundering organization that targeted elderly victims in the United States, including those living in central Pennsylvania. Abramovici and his co-conspirators informed prospective victims that they had won a substantial amount of money in a lottery or sweepstakes and then directed those victims to send money in order to obtain their winnings. The victims’ payments were falsely characterized as taxes, customs fees, processing fees, and legal and insurance fees. None of the victims received any money, and many of their losses were substantial, with more than \$460,000 in victim losses being attributed to Abramovici’s role in the fraud, and with losses to victims of the broader fraud at more than \$1.3 million. The investigation identified at least 17 individual victims.
- *U.S. v. Josiah DeJesus, et. al.* Five Bronx, New York, men were indicted on January 13, 2022, for their participation in a mail fraud scheme that targeted older victims and fraudulently induced them to send money through the mail under false pretenses. It is alleged that defendants traveled from New York to various locations in Pennsylvania, including addresses in Luzerne and Lackawanna County, and picked up UPS and Fed Ex packages containing thousands of dollars in cash sent by elderly victims under the false pretense that their grandchildren had been arrested and were in immediate need of money. The indictment further alleges that the victims sent the money after receiving fraudulent phone calls made by the named defendants’ co-conspirators, who posed either as the victims’ grandchildren or as a public defender representing the victims’ grandchildren. Defendants are awaiting their next court appearance.

Fraud. The U.S. Attorney's Office handles a wide variety of fraud cases, including health care fraud, identity theft, mail fraud, bankruptcy fraud, bank fraud, corporate fraud, program fraud, tax fraud, investment fraud, counterfeiting, and environmental crimes.

Tax Evasion

- *U.S. v. Jose Dominguez.* A 58-year-old Dominican Republic man was sentenced on November 22, 2022, to 18 months in prison for conspiring to evade the excise taxes imposed on the importation of Victor Sinclair manufactured cigars. Dominguez's co-conspirators included his U.S. importers, Donna Venturini and Hope Carbone, both of East Stroudsburg. During the conspiracy, Dominguez, Venturini, and Carbone collected approximately \$3.9 million in excise taxes from U.S. purchasers of Victor Sinclair manufactured cigars. By using fraudulent invoices, the co-conspirators paid approximately \$2.1 million to the government, unlawfully retaining approximately \$1.8 million for themselves.

Theft of Government Funds

- *U.S. v. Jimmy Tran.* A 40-year-old Harrisburg man was sentenced on June 1, 2022, to 24 months in prison for the unauthorized use, acquisition, and possession of benefits of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Tran, who owned and operated Asia Market in Harrisburg, allegedly provided cash in exchange for SNAP benefits between January 2017 and August 2020. The value of the SNAP benefits exceeded \$1.8 million.

False Statements

- *U.S. v. Matthew W. Mensinger.* The Chief Lending Officer of a Berwick financial institution was sentenced on November 2, 2022, to 12 months in prison and ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$290,000,

for perpetrating a scheme to obtain bank loans through false statements. He persuaded family members and business owners to obtain approximately \$690,000 in loans from his financial institution, by submitting false loan applications purportedly for small business purposes and home mortgages. Mensinger, in turn, authorized and facilitated the loan approvals in his position as a financial institution officer. The individuals provided the money to Mensinger, who did not qualify to obtain the loans in his own right, and who promised that he would repay the loans.

Major Fraud Act Violations

- *U.S. v. James A. Coccagna.* A 67-year-old Chambersburg man was charged on December 8, 2022, with conspiring to commit violations of the Major Fraud Act. Between 2003 and 2014, Coccagna, then Chief of the Engineering and Planning Division in the Directorate of Public Works at Letterkenny Army Depot, in Chambersburg, worked with a number of unnamed coconspirators to defeat the rules and purpose of the U.S. Small Business Administration's 8(a) Business Development Program. Coccagna admitted to steering federal government contracts to certain participants in the 8(a) Program, knowing that those companies and their existing employees, if any, were not playing any meaningful role in performing contracts awarded to them.

Identity Theft

- *U.S. v. Nana Mensah and Shaderick Jojo Opare.* Mensah was sentenced on September 2, 2022, to 99 months' imprisonment and ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$357,565.92. Opare was sentenced to three day's imprisonment and ordered to pay \$185,272 in restitution. Mensah and Opare were involved in an international scheme in which co-conspirators, often located in Ghana, would steal victims' identity in order to open Sprint cell phone accounts. As part of

opening the new accounts, the co-conspirators would order new cell phones and have them delivered to vacant homes where they would be picked up by other co-conspirators and eventually resold. The conspiracy involved more than 270 packages containing over 830 cell phones that were valued at over \$595,000, and took advantage of over 240 victims.

Embezzlement

- *U.S. v. John Sherman Jumper.* A 56-year-old Tennessee man was sentenced to 78 months in prison and to pay restitution in the amount of \$2,426,550 on June 2, 2022, for embezzling \$5.7 million from the pension benefit plan for employees of Snowshoe Refractories, a fire brick manufacturer located in Clarence, PA. Jumper forged signatures on fraudulent documents that purportedly authorized him to transfer funds from the pension plan on three separate occasions. Jumper used the embezzled funds to make unauthorized loans and investments for the purchase of a tubing plant in Arkansas and three other business, to pay off \$1.2 million of his personal loans, and to cover his personal legal fees. In addition, Jumper received a personal interest in the businesses purchased with the embezzled pension funds, and his securities company, Alluvion Securities in Memphis, received over \$1 million in fees from the sale of the Arkansas tubing plant. As a result of his fraudulent misappropriation of pension funds, Jumper has been the subject of civil and regulatory sanctions obtained by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA). The SEC's motion for default judgment against Jumper was granted, and the court entered a final judgment as to Jumper and his companies and businesses. The final judgment permanently enjoined Jumper from violating securities laws and ordered that he disgorge \$5,700,000, representing profits gained as a result of the fraudulent conduct, together with

prejudgment interest in the amount of \$726,758.79. The FINRA permanently barred him, with his consent, based on allegations that he misappropriated funds from the Snowshoe pension plan for his personal use and to infuse capital into his member firm, Alluvion Securities.

Bank Fraud

- *U.S. v. Edward Hart.* A 32-year-old New York man was sentenced on June 7, 2022, to 18 months in prison and ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$82,969.06, for bank fraud. Hart was a member of a conspiracy in which he and others stole mail from postal boxes, rifled that mail to find checks that had been made payable to third parties, and then altered the checks and deposited them in other bank accounts. The conspiracy formed in the New York City area and extended into central Pennsylvania. The conspiracy also involved a former Harrisburg area U.S. Postal Service employee, Kazaria Blair, who provided access to a postal key that enabled them to open blue postal collection boxes to steal the mail. The investigation identified at least 40 stolen checks, of which 19 had been cashed, resulting in financial losses to victims. Blair pleaded guilty on May 23, 2022, and is awaiting sentencing.

Immigration. The U.S. Attorney's Office prosecutes illegal reentry cases throughout the District.

- *U.S. v. Tomi Moscat-Lara.* A 44-year-old native and citizen of the Dominican Republic was sentenced on November 23, 2022, to 18 months in prison for illegally reentering the United States after being previously removed following a conviction for a felony offense of cocaine trafficking.



Criminal Appeals. The United States has 94 judicial districts and there are 13 Appellate Courts that handle appeals from those districts. The United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit is the federal court with appellate jurisdiction over the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

U.S. Attorney Karam formed an Appeals Unit within the office and has staffed it with four Assistant U.S. Attorneys. The goal in establishing this Unit is to elevate our appellate work product as well as allowing our litigators to focus on investigations and litigation matters. The Appeals Unit will handle all criminal and civil appeals on behalf of the Office.

- *United States v. Anthony Diaz.* The Third Circuit upheld the defendant financial planner's fraud conviction and 17 ½ year sentence. The court held that the district court properly admitted evidence about the defendant's firings, suspension, and disbarment, as well as testimony from the defendant's former assistant that after she and the defendant learned of the investigation, they altered and destroyed documents. The court also upheld multiple sentencing enhancements, including those for the number of victims, using sophisticated means, violating securities law, being a leader or manager, and obstructing justice. Finally, the court confirmed that the defendant's sentence was reasonable.

- *United States v. Ernest Dyer.* The Third Circuit affirmed the defendant's conviction for unlawful possession of a firearm as a previously convicted felon. The Court held, for the first time in a precedential opinion, that a defendant is not entitled to withdraw a conditional guilty plea if the claimed error could have had no effect on the defendant's decision to plead guilty. Here, the evidence the defendant claimed should have been suppressed did not support the charges against him in any meaningful way, so the Third Circuit did not give him an opportunity to withdraw his plea.
- *United States v. Earl Hall.* The Third Circuit affirmed the defendant's convictions for fraud, money laundering, and aggravated identity theft. The court held that the defendant's due process rights were not violated by permitting a probation officer, who was familiar with the defendant's voice, to identify the defendant's voice on recorded phone calls, as the identification was neither unreliable nor procured pursuant to an unduly suggestive process. Nor was it improper to allow the jury to make its own aural comparison to a recording of the defendant's voice, as expert testimony is not required for voice identification. The court also held that recent Supreme Court precedent did not overturn the well-established rule that it is permissible for law enforcement to obtain bank records by ordinary subpoenas; a warrant is not required.



Financial Litigation Unit. The Financial Litigation Unit (FLU) is tasked with the collection of criminal and civil debts owed to the United States and federal crime victims. FLU strives to collect and enforce debts in an aggressive, efficient, and effective manner. Maximum asset identification is achieved through vigorous financial investigations.

Restitution Recovered.

- *Rodney Yentzer* - \$783,000.00 – Yentzer owned Illumina Life Management, and through this company directed and controlled an entity called Pain Medicine of York. Yentzer submitted false claims for payments to the Medicare Program in violation of the False Claims Act for Urine Drug Tests, when these tests were not medically necessary. Rodney Yentzer agreed to pay \$900,000.00 to Medicare.
- *KCF Technologies* - \$1,226,436.14 – a corporation that conducts research, development and commercialization involving technology. The investigation arose from KCF's conduct with respect to various Department of Defense contracts. It is alleged that KCF billed labor time spent on commercial contracts improperly to contracts it had both with the Department of the Navy and the Department of the Army between 2016 and 2019.
- *Wilkes-Barre Treatment, LLC (d/b/a Clearbrook Treatment Centers)* - \$300,000.00 – Clearbrook Treatment Centers, a drug and alcohol detoxification and rehabilitation center, paid \$300,000 in a settlement of a civil investigation into potential violations of the Controlled Substances Act. Between December 2016 and April 2021, Clearbrook obtained prescription medications and maintained a general stock of controlled substances for dispensing without

being properly registered with the DEA. Clearbrook also failed to maintain complete, timely, and accurate records of controlled substances dispensed.

- *Andrew Brown's Drug Store, Inc.* - \$250,000.00 – president and pharmacist, Michael Brown, owns Andrew Brown's Drug Store that filled prescriptions and/or made distributions of controlled substances to Clearbrook Treatment Centers and/or Clearbrook Manor, which is a drug and alcohol detoxification and rehabilitation center, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 842(a)(1) & (2). Michael Brown and Andrew Brown's Drug Store also failed to maintain a complete and accurate records of controlled substances delivered to Clearbrook.
- *Pennsylvania State University* - \$899,824.55 – Penn State University operates Penn State Psychological Clinic in State College, PA, that offers services to Medicare, TRICARE and Medicaid recipients for behavioral health and Evaluation & Management services. Penn State, through the Clinic, submitted improper claims related to behavioral health services with respect to the supervision of doctoral students, "incident-to" billing requirements, and/or the credentialing of licensed practitioners for Medicare participation. The Clinic also submitted claims for Evaluation & Management services that were not supported by the medical record. After discovering the problems, Penn State took corrective action and disclosed the matter. Restitution is \$599,883.03 of the settlement amount.

Asset Forfeiture Judgments. The Department of Justice Asset Forfeiture Program's mission is to use asset forfeiture as a tool in order to deter, disrupt, and dismantle criminal enterprises by depriving criminals of the instruments of illicit activity.

The Justice Asset Forfeiture Program includes activity by Department of Justice components and components outside the Department. Each component plays an important role in the Program.



- *U.S. v. Approximately \$650,160.00 in U.S. currency* – The defendant property - approximately \$650,160.00 was seized from inside cereal boxes in the trunk of a vehicle being driven cross-country by agents of Romy Sembiring. The cash tested positive for high traces of cocaine and oxycodone. After limited discovery, Sembiring's claims that the cash represented proceeds from the sale of equipment to a business partner was contradicted and the cash was later forfeited via default judgment with a stipulation from the defense.

- *U.S. v. \$345,950* – The defendant property - \$345,950 in U.S. currency was seized from inside a vehicle stopped for moving violations on a cross-country trip. After exhibiting suspicious behavior prompting a K9 search, the cash was found inside Ziploc bags along with brass knuckles and two fully loaded Tasers. No claims were submitted as to the defendant property and it is in the process of being forfeited via default judgment.
- *U.S. v. Om Sri Sai, Inc.* – After being found guilty at trial in 2020, the Government forfeited 2 million dollars in lieu of a former Howard Johnson hotel. The hotel was used to facilitate drug distribution and sex trafficking. Out of the forfeited cash, the court ordered restitution in the amount of \$277,000 to two of the victims who were affected by the criminal activity.
- *U.S. v. Gutman et. al* – Bothers Daniel and Benjamin Gutman owned and operated Gutman Brothers, LTD, a livestock exporting business in Maryland and South Central PA. The Gutmans worked with a veterinarian to falsify certifications of blood sample/vaccination reports for tuberculosis testing for thousands of cattle that were due to be shipped abroad. The Gutman brothers paid a \$1.4 million money judgment to the Asset Forfeiture Fund at the time of their sentencing in November 2022.

Civil Division

Civil Assistant United States Attorneys

First Assistant U.S. Attorney:

John C. Gurganus

Civil Chief:

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Deputy Chief:

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Deputy Chief, Appeals Unit:

Navin Jani

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Melissa Swauger

Richard Euliss

Harlan Glasser

Tamara Haken

Navin Jani

Scranton:

Gerard Donahue

Timothy Judge

G. Michael Thiel

The Civil Division represents the United States and defends federal agencies and officials against civil claims. The Civil Division also works to ensure the civil rights of all Americans, enforcing the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Fair Housing Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the Voting Rights Act among other federal civil rights laws.

The Civil Division's work is far ranging and includes the areas of:

- prisoner litigation
- immigration
- defensive and affirmative cases
- bankruptcy
- social security
- mortgage foreclosures
- healthcare fraud
- qui tams
- civil rights
- appeals

The Civil Division handled approximately 742 cases in 2022. A sample of these cases includes approximately 70 First Step Act cases; approximately 186 Social Security cases; approximately 180 prison litigation cases including habeas petitions and Constitutional Claims; approximately 54 Federal Tort Claims Act cases, 3 medical malpractice cases; and approximately 5 employment discrimination cases. Highlights of the Civil Division's work in 2022 follows:

Immigration. The U.S. Attorney's Office handles a number of immigration detainees who file habeas petitions challenging their detention status and seek immediate release. The Civil Division handled approximately 25 such cases in 2022.

Civil Rights. MDPA works closely with the Department of Justice, Civil Rights Section, to investigate allegations of civil rights violations within the district. The civil rights matters involve allegations of denial of equal access to persons with disabilities, employment discrimination, fair housing, discrimination, denial of religious freedom, violations of the rights of institutionalized persons and investigating allegations of denied access to polling sites for those with mobility impairments.



Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA)

The ADA is a transformative law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in places of public accommodation, including all hotels, restaurants, retail stores, theaters, health care facilities, convention centers, parks, and places of recreation (Title III), in all activities of state and local governments (Title II), and in employment (Title I). The ADA empowers the Department of Justice to investigate, litigate, and resolve complaints of discrimination as well as authorizing the Government to conduct compliance reviews of covered entities.

- *United States v. Cracked Pot Coffee Shop.* After an investigation, the USAO settled with this private coffee business for violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The business did not have an accessible entrance or accessible parking. The agreement

required the business remove any barriers to the enter the building, including placing a sign to refer patrons to the accessible entrance, and to designate and strip a van accessible parking space.

Civil Defensive. Defending Federal Agencies and Employees.

- *Cienciva v. Brozowski, et al.* The U.S. Attorney's Office successfully obtained dismissal of a counseled Bivens case filed against a dozen law enforcement officers asserting civil rights violations, including excessive force, arising during his arrest. The Court held that, although involving "almost parallel" circumstances than in Bivens, the plaintiff's claims presented a new context for which a new Bivens remedy should not be extended. The case was dismissed on legal grounds without leave to amend.
- *Helton v. United States.* The U.S. Attorney's Office received summary judgment in a FTCA negligence claim arising from the plaintiff's falling down a flight of stairs after slipping on ice outside a post office. The Court held that the individual who was responsible for clearing the premises of ice and snow was an independent contractor, even though there was no formal contract in place. The Third Circuit affirmed.
- *Pham v. Walters, et al.* The U.S. Attorney's Office received summary judgment in a Bivens deliberate medical indifference claim concerning the inmate's treatment for nerve damage and injuries from multiple gun shot wounds prior to his arrest. After the defense fully laid out the extensive medical care the inmate had received, the Court held the defendants were entitled to qualified immunity.

- *DeMolick v. United States of America*. A woman slipped on ice in the restroom parking lot at Gettysburg National Military Park and sued under the Federal Tort Claims Act. The district court granted the government's motion to dismiss for lack of subject matter jurisdiction. Pennsylvania's Recreational Use of Land and Water Act shields landowners from liability for ordinary negligence if they open their land to the public for recreational use at no cost. Because the woman was injured while taking a free driving tour of the park's monuments a private landowner would not have been liable under RULWA and so the FTCA did not waive sovereign immunity. Moreover, neither discovery nor amendment could change this conclusion.

- *Mango v. Veteran Affairs (VA)*. A cook from the Lebanon VA alleged gender discrimination when he was removed as a cook supervisor. After extensive discovery, the Lebanon VA successfully argued that it had legitimate business reasons for removing this cook due to his disciplinary history and failure to report workplace violence, which had no connection to his gender. The district court granted summary judgment in the Lebanon VA's favor.

- *Bridges v. SSA*. An SSA judge claimed employment discrimination because he was not selected for three positions due to his race. The district court granted summary judgment to the SSA because there was no evidence that the SSA's judge's race had any connection.

- *Lisa Davenport v. United States*. Davenport suffered from Fibromyalgia, Chronic Fatigue syndrome and Lyme disease, and filed a two count amended complaint in 2016 challenging the Merit System Protection Boards (MSPB) decision affirming the

Administrative Law Judges (ALJ) finding that the Navy properly removed her from her job because she was physically unable to perform the essential functions of the job; and, denying her failure to accommodate claim (Count I); and, a disability discrimination claim under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 that included a claim of gender discrimination because when she was removed from her position as a Supervisory Security Specialist and was replaced by an unqualified man (Count II). The United States filed a motion for summary judgment and supporting brief arguing that Davenport cannot prove she is a "qualified individual" because she stopped reporting to work and her doctors described her as unable to work. The Court ultimately relied heavily on the government's arguments and reasoning and granted summary judgement in favor of the United States.

- *Stein v. Garland, BOP*. This is an employment discrimination where two correctional officers, who were in an on and off romantic relationship, had a fight at USP Lewisburg. The female officer claimed she was retaliated against and subjected to a sexually hostile work environment because the male officer was not terminated, but required to work at the camp, rather than USP Lewisburg. The BOP had the male officer work at the camp to keep them separated at work and no further incidents occurred at work. The district court granted summary judgment in the BOP's favor as it found that the BOP took prompt and effective remedial action to prevent further workplace conflict.

Affirmative Civil Enforcement (ACE).

Affirmative Civil Enforcement (ACE). The Affirmative Civil Enforcement unit within the Civil Division exclusively handles ACE matters such as health care fraud, violations of the Controlled Substance Act, defense procurement fraud, COVID relief fraud, as well as various grant program frauds. The ACE team is comprised of two AUSAs, however some ACE matters are handled by other AUSAs in the Civil Division. In addition to the AUSAs working these types of matters, the office also has an ACE auditor, a contract investigator and a contract financial analyst to support these investigations. In 2022, the ACE unit resolved 10 matters through paid settlement agreements (3 of which did not have agency investigative support), and declined more than 10 matters after thorough investigation (2 of which did not have agency investigative support). Also, in 2022, the ACE unit opened 10 new investigations (3 of which were identified without the assistance or referral of any federal agency). The ACE unit currently has 20 open investigations.

- *USA v. Dr. Musaddiq Nazeeri.* The U.S. Attorney's Office reached a \$86,506.30 settlement on November 28, 2022, to resolve civil liability for alleged violations of the False Claims Act. Dr. Nazeeri billed Medicare for certain services that were not supported by the medical record. During the above timeframe, Dr. Nazeeri submitted Evaluation & Management (E&M) claims when the only service rendered was the administration of the COVID-19 vaccine. It is those type claims that were not supported by the medical record. Dr. Nazeeri cooperated with the investigation.
- *USA v. Waschko's Pharmacy.* The U.S. Attorney's Office reached a \$210,000 settlement on November 1, 2022, to resolve civil penalties for allegedly failing to comply with recordkeeping requirements under the Controlled Substance Act. A DEA inspection revealed that Waschko's Pharmacy failed to

keep complete, timely, and accurate inventories and records regarding the receipt and dispensing of Schedule II, III, and IV controlled substances, including but not limited to oxycodone, amphetamine salts, buprenorphine/naloxone, and alprazolam. As a result of Waschko's Pharmacy's alleged actions and inactions, thousands of doses of controlled substances went unaccounted for. Waschko's Pharmacy cooperated with the investigators and has since been placed under new ownership and hired a new pharmacist-in-charge.

- *USA v. Dr. Ahmed Khan.* The U.S. Attorney's Office reached a \$40,800 settlement on April 6, 2023, to resolve civil liability for violations of the False Claims Act. Dr. Khan accepted consultation fees for ordering Durable Medical Equipment (DME) and topical pain creams for patients with whom he did not have an established provider-patient relationship. He authorized orders for pre-selected products without any physical examination of the patients. In many instances, Dr. Khan had no interaction at all with the patients, and in some instances, he had only a brief phone call. Dr. Khan approved and signed orders for medically unnecessary DME (such as knee braces) and topical pain creams, in exchange for a small fee per patient from a third-party marketing company. As the prescribing physician, Dr. Khan played a key role in a larger telemedicine scheme that resulted in Medicare paying hundreds of thousands of dollars to DME companies and pharmacies for unnecessary products.
- *USA v. GDD Pharmacy Services, Inc.* The U.S. Attorney's Office reached a \$70,000 settlement on March 17, 2022, to resolve civil penalties for allegedly failing to comply with recordkeeping requirements under the Controlled Substance Act. GDD Pharmacy Services, Inc., failed to maintain complete and accurate records and inventories in violation of the CSA. GDD Pharmacy Services, Inc. cooperated with the investigation, and has since enhanced its internal controls in response to concerns raised by the DEA during this investigation.

Prison Litigation. The MDPA houses four major federal correctional complexes: Allenwood, Canaan, Lewisburg, and Schuylkill. With a population of approximately 6,000 inmates, the facilities constitute one of the largest concentration of federal populations in the country. These inmates are a constant source of complex litigation including, habeas corpus challenges, general torts, and Constitutional claims alleging excessive force, failure to protect, retaliation, and other damages and constitutional claims. Named as defendants are multiple federal employees and institutions.

- *Harris v. United States of America.* An inmate sued the BOP for injuries sustained after he tripped on a portion of raised sidewalk. The district court granted the government's motion for judgment on the pleadings and dismissed the suit because the complaint showed that the inmate traversed the area in question on a daily basis and had also heard of others tripping there. Because he was thus aware of the actual condition of the sidewalk, the activities carried on, and the potential dangers, he failed to trigger a duty on the part of the United States.
- *Bryant v. United States.* The U.S. Attorney's Office settled a counseled FTCA negligence claim arising from an inmate-on-inmate assault. The plaintiff claimed BOP personnel violated their own processes and regulations in using the plaintiff as an informant against other prisoners' use of contraband and then failed to take reasonable action in protecting him from an assault. Despite significant liability concerns arising in part from a purported complete lack of memory by a correctional officer and the plaintiff's initial demand for \$1.5 million, the case resolved for \$25,000.



USP Lewisburg—High security U.S. Penitentiary with an adjacent minimum security satellite camp.



USP Allenwood—High security U.S. Penitentiary which is part of a correctional complex including a medium and low security institution.



USP Canaan—High security U.S. Penitentiary with an adjacent minimum security satellite camp.



FCI Schuylkill—Medium security federal correctional institution with an adjacent minimum security satellite camp.



Civil Appeals

- *Dongarra v. Smith*. An inmate alleged that prison officials exposed him to attack from other inmates and thereby violated his Eighth Amendment right to be free from cruel and unusual punishment by issuing him a T-shirt from a prison known to house sex offenders and an ID card with a code indicating he was a sex offender. The district court dismissed the suit because it believed Supreme Court precedent does not permit inmates to seek money damages from individual officers under these circumstances. In a precedential decision, the Third Circuit Court of Appeals agreed. Because the inmate was never actually attacked and because he could have either filed a grievance with the prison or sought an injunction in federal court, it was not appropriate for the court to allow his civil rights suit in the absence of a law passed by Congress.
- *Boczkowski v. United States Postal Service*. An elderly couple sued the US Postal Service after a rural carrier rear-ended them. After a bench trial, the district court found that the carrier was responsible for the couple's injuries but awarded them only their out-of-pocket costs for treatment because the accident was a "slow-moving fender bender." The Third Circuit affirmed the zero award for pain and suffering because a plaintiff's "discomfort" can, under PA law, be "the sort of transient rub of life for which compensation is not warranted." Here, there was no sign of injury immediately after the accident. Plaintiffs sought only chiropractic treatment, neither took anything but over-the-counter pain medication, and one had a degenerative back condition.



Administrative Division

Administrative Division. The Administrative Division is responsible for planning and executing a comprehensive range of administrative services that support the mission of the U.S. Attorney's Office. The Administrative Officer is the principal advisor to the United States Attorney and the District on all administrative matters.

The Administrative Division continues to support the overall mission of the office by working jointly with other agencies and offices, including the General Services Administration, Justice Management Division, the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, and the U.S. Marshals Service.

Our six-person staff has continued to provide services to staff in all three offices including staffing, classification, personnel security, benefits management, retirement counseling, new employee orientation, leave administration, position management and classification, payroll, contracting, purchasing, document management, case management, records management, budget, financial management, construction and facilities management, space planning, mail services, shipping and receiving.

In 2023, the Harrisburg Office will be moving to a new building, which has required a significant amount of coordination with Facilities Staff at EOUSA, General Services Administration, District Court Staff, general contractors, move coordinators and construction managers. We also purchased new furniture for the entire office in 2022, working with design experts and space planners.

Prevention

Reentry Programs

The Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative also called for greater attention to other major components of the federal criminal justice system. The initiative proposed changes to the traditional role of the federal prosecutor, calling for sustained involvement in matters related to crime prevention and offender reentry programs, in part to help reduce recidivism. A primary focus of our reentry efforts is to remove or reduce barriers to successful reentry, so that motivated individuals - who have served their time and paid their debt to society - are able to compete for a job, attain stable housing, support their children and their families, and contribute to their communities.



CARE (Court Assisted Re-Entry Program)

The United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania conducts a Court-Assisted Re-Entry Program (CARE), a four-phase program designed to aid the rehabilitation and re-integration of persons recently released into the community under federal supervised release and who face a moderate to high-risk of recidivism. The CARE Program relies upon support from public institutions and agencies as well as volunteer private entities and individuals. The MDPA CARE Program began in 2009. The U.S. Probation Office, the Federal Public Defenders and the U.S. Attorney's Office participate in the program. The CARE Program offers an alternative program of supervision and

a blend of treatment and support to effectively address offender behavior and rehabilitation. Most CARE participants have served multi-year prison sentences and face barriers to reintegration to the community.

The CARE Program is an intensive voluntary program in which criminal justice professionals who comprise the "CARE Team," encourage and assist participants to seek educational, employment, health, family counseling and other opportunities to aid in their successful return to the community as productive and law abiding citizens.

Persons recently released from federal prison and serving a period of supervised release under supervision of the U.S. Probation Office are eligible to apply for admission. Each applicant is considered based on the totality of his/her individual circumstances, including a Risk Prediction Index and Post-Conviction Risk Assessment scores.

The U.S. Probation Office considers each applicant and then makes a recommendation to the Court and to the participating Federal Public Defenders and Assistant United States Attorneys as to whether or not an applicant would likely benefit from the program. Before making recommendations, the Probation Office also consults the federal judge who imposed the original prison sentence and term of supervised release and the federal prosecutor who handled the case. While the Assistant United States Attorneys and Federal Public Defenders who participate in the CARE Program are consulted regarding an applicant's suitability for participation, the judge who oversees the program makes the final decision as to whether or not to admit an applicant. The CARE Program operates in the Court's Harrisburg, Scranton and Williamsport venues. There is no set number of allowable participants. However, experience suggests that multiple groups that meet separately and consist of approximately 10 participants per group leads to ideal circumstances for interactions between participants, the Court and other CARE partners.

CARES

In the summer of 2015, an innovative public/private partnership between the CARE Program and ESSA Bank & Trust, Northampton Community College, and Pyramid Healthcare, Inc. local, regional, and national nonpartisan private business interests, whose goals and missions, among other things, are to be involved in their respective communities, was established. Each of these entities has demonstrated a commitment to support the reentry efforts of the CARE Program through a focused set of activities called, collectively, Cooperatively Arranged Re-Entry Services "CARES." Each participating entity has entered into a written agreement to provide the services. The CARES providers have expressed common goals for their investment of resources and services: to enhance crime prevention, deter crime, help families, save costs to taxpayers, and reduce recidivism. The purpose of this public-private collaborative arrangement is to provide services to CARE Program participants that will aid and assist in reaching its goals and objectives. One of the most innovative aspects of the CARES Agreement is that the services provided are available, not only while a CARE participant is enrolled in the CARE Program, but also after the participant graduates from the Program and is no longer under court supervision.

Another key component of CARES is participation of individual community volunteers who provide mentoring services to some CARE participants.

The CARES partnership provides a continuum of services to participants and graduates of the CARE Program, including scholarships, grants, and loans for education, job training, transportation, housing, healthcare, drug and alcohol counseling.

Project Safe Childhood



Our prosecutors along with the FBI, spoke to various groups of parents, teachers and students throughout the district about internet safety. They shared lessons from cases about internet child predators who seek to meet children and teens online, travel to meet children in person, coerce children to share photos and engage in sextortion if the child does not share an explicit photo.



Elder Justice Initiative

U.S. Attorney Karam participated in an interactive telephone -town hall along with the FBI and AARP to educate 4,000 seniors on the latest financial scams.



Our Public Affairs Officer attended multiple senior expos to hand out materials on elder fraud and abuse.

Our prosecutors, along with the Postal Inspection Service spoke at senior centers to educate seniors about common scams and to provide tips on how not to be scammed.





Group Violence Initiative Call in Program

In 2016, the U.S. Attorney's Office joined community and law enforcement partners in York as part of the York Group Violence Initiative (GVI). GVI is designed to reduce street group-involved homicide and gun violence. GVI was pioneered by the National Network for Safe Communities at John Jay College.

As the National Network's website notes, GVI has repeatedly demonstrated that violence can be dramatically reduced when a partnership of community members, law enforcement, and social service providers directly engages with the small and active number of people involved in street groups and clearly communicates a credible moral message against violence, prior notice about the consequences of further violence, and a genuine offer of help for those who want it. A central method of communication is the call-in, a face-to-face meeting between group members and the strategy's partners. The aim of the GVI strategy is to reduce peer dynamics in the group that promote violence by creating collective accountability, to foster internal social pressure that deters violence, to establish clear community standards against violence, to offer group members an "honorable exit" from committing acts of violence, and to provide a supported path for those who want to change.

In 2022, GVI continued to develop the Community Moral Voice of the GVI strategy. GVI hired, through a Support & Outreach partner, The Program Its About Change, an individual as the second "Credible Messenger." This was made possible through GVI's work with the WellSpan Health System and York Hospital, who provided grant funding for the position. The Credible Messengers respond to shooting victims and families as well as work closely with the high school and in the neighborhoods on a daily basis to bring the "We want you safe, alive, and Free" message to group members.

WellSpan has fully implemented the Hospital Based Violence Intervention program in partnership with GVI to actively engage gun violence victims and their families. The Hospital based strategy engages them at a vulnerable point where they are more receptive to accept the help GVI offers.

On October 25, 2022, a GVI call-in meeting was held to address an increase in violent crime in the city of York. A call-in is a face-to-face meeting between individuals who are on probation and who potentially could reoffend with community members, law enforcement, and social service providers. At this call-in, there were 10 high-risk probationers present. Criminal Chief Bruce D. Brandler participated in the call-in.

United Against Hate Initiative

Our office launched the United Against Hate Program on November 17, 2022, as part of the Department of Justice's new initiative to better counter hate crimes and hate incidents. The United Against Hate initiative seeks to strengthen collaborative relationships of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies with communities in order to build trust and encourage the reporting of hate crimes and hate incidents. We were one of the first of 16 U.S. Attorney Offices to launch the program.



Overdose Death Investigations

On May 20, 2022, the Wilkes-Barre City Police Department with the assistance of the FBI presented a one-day training program for approximately 25 patrol officers. One of our prosecutors presented a 45-minute training regarding overdose death investigations on crime scene preservation, and the identification and collection of evidence immediately at the scene of an overdose death and/or overdose with serious bodily injury. The focus also involved the critical nature of treating the scene like a homicide; and the critical nature of establishing the timeline of drug distribution to use to death/overdose. She also provided some wisdom regarding possible strategies to be employed at critical moments in time that she learned from prosecuting so many of these cases, and which proved to be invaluable at trial.

Human Trafficking

On May 24, 2022, PA State Police and the FBI presented a three-day conference for law enforcement, probation officers, EMTs, service providers, and victim advocates on Human Trafficking. Our prosecutors shared lessons on cases and focused on the sex trafficking aspects of the overall investigation and trial. They also provided illustrations about best practices for interviewing potential sex trafficking victims and the interplay between narcotics and human trafficking.

Active Shooter Training

Our Law Enforcement Coordinator worked to arrange active shooter training at the request of a Catholic church. The PA State Police conducted the training on July 25th, 2022, in Harrisburg. In addition, private legal representation was provided by the church to address questions as to the church's rights in the event of trespassing/ disruption of service and/or destruction of private property.

Effective Management Techniques Conference

In August 2022, Criminal Chief Bruce D. Brandler traveled to Ghana for a 3-day conference where Mr. Brandler and AUSA Bill Houser gave a presentation to Ghanaian prosecutors on Effective Management Techniques.



National Night Out

The United States Attorney's Office joined law enforcement partners, community leaders and residents on August 3, 2022, at six event locations to celebrate National Night Out. U.S. Attorney Karam also attended the Taylor Borough National Night Out on October 8, 2022.



Public Affairs

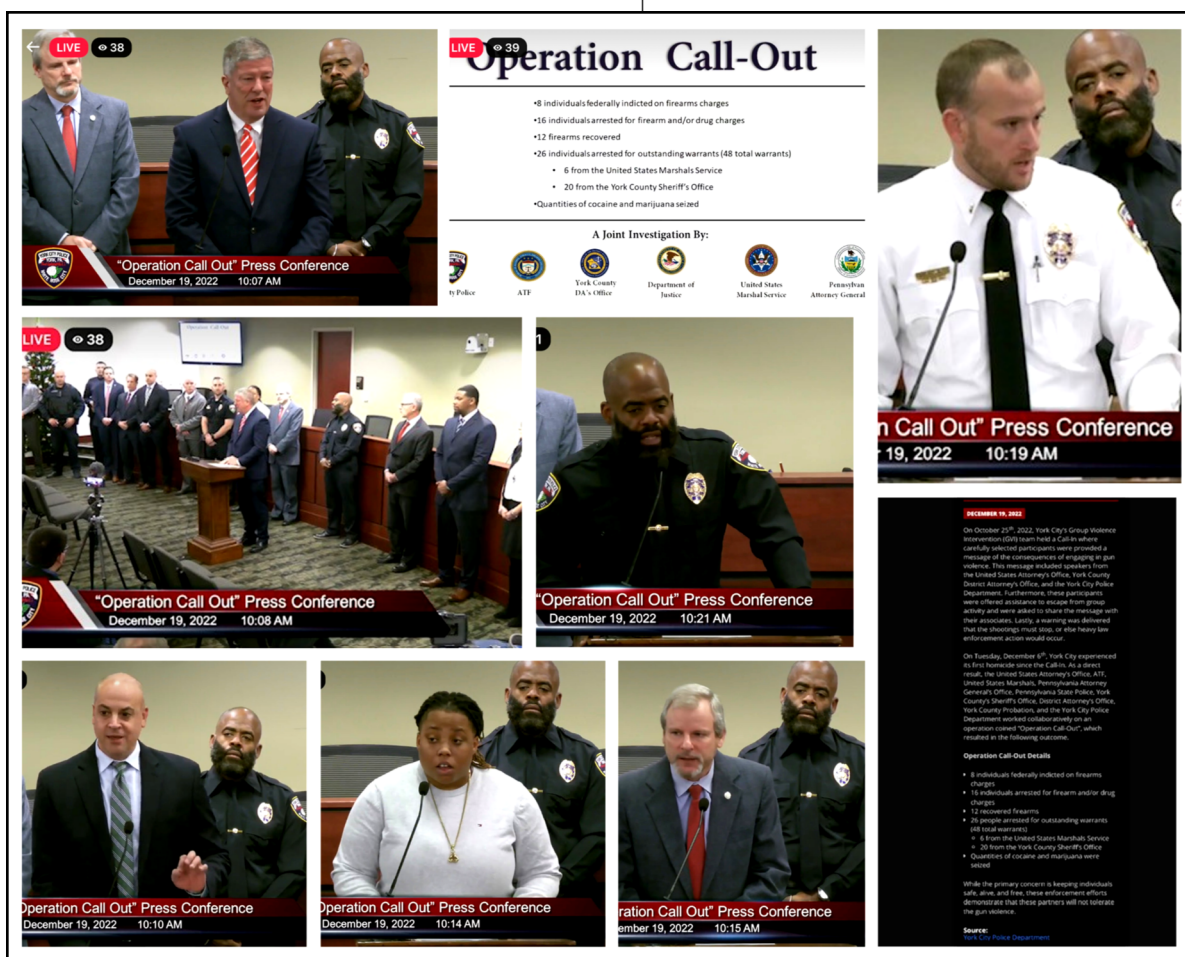
Violence in York City Press Conference

U.S. Attorney Gerard M. Karam and Criminal Chief Bruce D. Brandler joined ATF, United States Marshals, PA Attorney General's Office, PA State Police, York County's Sheriff's Office, York County District Attorney's Office, York County Probation, and the York City Police Department for a press conference on December 19, 2022, to address the violent crime and the collaborative partnership on "Operation Call-Out." Eight individuals were federally indicted on firearms charges; 16 individuals arrested for firearm and/or drug charges; 12 recovered firearms; 26 people arrested for outstanding warrants (48 total warrants); 6 from the United States Marshals Service; 20 from the York County Sheriff's Office; 1oz of cocaine seized; and 2lbs of marijuana seized.

Article and video:

<https://www.ydr.com/story/news/local/2022/12/19/york-city-police-gun-violence-has-to-stop/69740633007/>

"The only way we make York safe is to stop the gun violence, and that has to stop right now," said Gerard M. Karam, U.S. Attorney.



New Federal Courthouse

The new Sylvia H. Rambo United States Courthouse located at 6th and Reily Streets in Harrisburg, will be a 243,000 square foot 11 story modern building. The Federal Courthouse will house 8 court-rooms, 11 judges' chambers, the U.S. Marshal Service, U.S. Probation, the U.S. Trustees Office, and the U.S. Attorney's office, that will be located on the 2nd Floor. Our Administrative Division is working hard to ensure a smooth transition to our new workplace. The Courthouse is currently scheduled to open in April 2023.



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