

Office of the Criminal District Attorney 2016 Annual Report



Sharen Wilson, CDA



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CDA



2016 was a year of substantial growth, in a variety of ways.

We continued to expand our outreach in the community, including hosting the inaugural class of our Citizen Prosecutor Academy. Our CDA Speakers on the Road experts made almost 300 presentations to organizations around the county and state, and we participated in successful town hall meetings in both Arlington and Fort Worth.

Our special units increased in number with the creation of a unit dedicated to the prosecution of felony Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) offenses. And our ACDAs breadth of knowledge continues to grow, as we developed multiple continued legal education and training opportunities for them to advance their understanding of and specialization in the areas of responsibility we hold. Many times throughout the year, our Conviction Integrity Unit (CIU) also took on the role of implementing procedures and educating our employees about the many changes in forensic science that continue to develop.

Perhaps the largest area of growth has been in the exponential volumes of Digital Media Evidence (DME) now being received by our office on a daily basis. With the increasing use of surveillance cameras, dash and body cams and the memory available on phones/tablets/hard drives, the amount of DME transmitted from law enforcement agencies in 2016 increased 1400% just from the previous year. In maintaining transparency and accountability, we are responsible under *The Michael Morton Act* for every piece of information contained in those 82.22 total Terabytes of data. The manpower required to handle that task, as well as the rapidly increasing population of Tarrant County, has resulted in the need for additional employees here in our office, creating growing facilities challenges in office space designed for significantly fewer people.

The good news is: we are up for any challenge. It is an honor to work each day with the talented men and women of this office, who are dedicated to advancing our mission to ensure justice for all Tarrant County residents. I hope you find this year's Annual Report an interesting and educational glimpse into the work we are doing for you every day, and that you will not hesitate to contact our office if we may ever be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



The Criminal Division

The largest division, charged with the responsibility to investigate and prosecute the thousands of criminal allegations which are brought in Tarrant County each year. The division consists of 11 Felony Courts, 10 Misdemeanor Courts and 8 specialty units.

Each special unit deals with a specific facet of our Office's prosecutorial responsibilities. These units include: Conviction Integrity, Gang, Intake, Intimate Partner Violence, Grand Jury, Post Conviction, Special Victims and White Collar/Public Integrity.

The Criminal Division consists of approximately 140 Assistant Criminal District Attorneys (ACDAs), and is led by Chief Larry Moore, and three Deputy Chiefs, Tiffany Burks, Kevin Rousseau and Riley Shaw.

The Civil Division

This division acts primarily as General Counsel for Tarrant County, providing legal advice to all elected and appointed officials. It also serves in a social capacity by assisting citizens with protective orders and mental health commitments and representing the Department of Family and Protective Services, formerly CPS.

The Civil Division includes 26 ACDAs, and is led by Chief Vince Cruz, Jr.

The Investigative Division

The investigators assist prosecutors in evaluating and preparing cases for trial. Each CDA Investigator is a certified Texas Peace Officer with a wealth of experience interviewing witnesses, arresting suspects and advising other Federal, State and local law enforcement agencies. This division also includes our Digital Forensic and Technology Services (DFATS) unit, a one-stop shop for handling digital media evidence.

The Investigative Division has approximately 50 investigators, and is led by Chief Gary Willis and Assistant Chief Kyle Gibson.

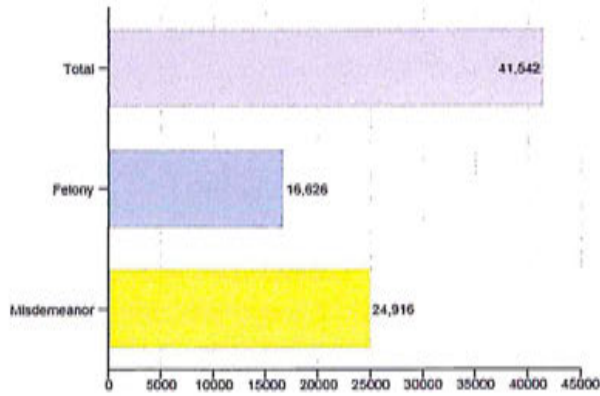
The Chief of Staff Division

This division is responsible for all non-lawyer, non-investigator operations of the office, including human resources, information technology, facility requirements, communications, community outreach and our Victim Services.

This division, the second largest in our office, has almost 100 employees, and is led by Chief of Staff Shannon Fletcher.

2016 AT A GLANCE

Total Cases Filed



Top 3 Felony Offenses (by # of cases filed)



Felony Jury Trial Win Ratio



82.22 Terabytes of Digital Media Evidence (DME) submitted to our office in 2016

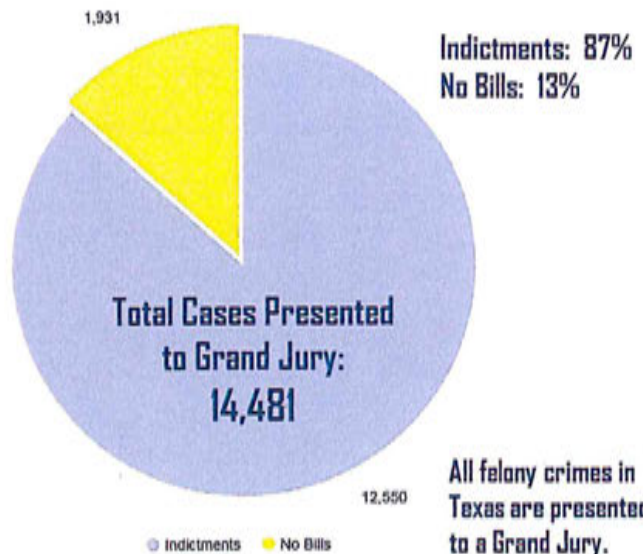
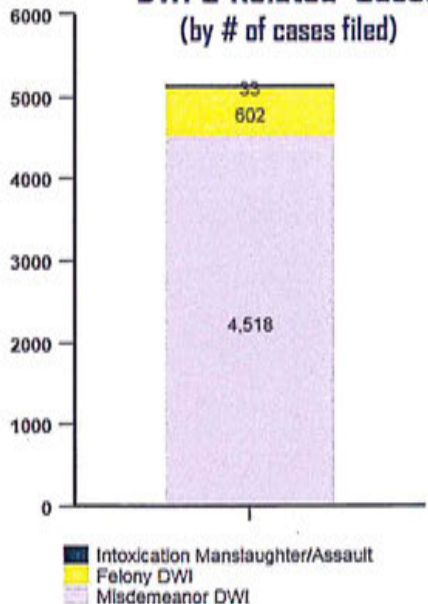
Deferred Prosecution Program (DPP)

CDA diversion program designed to give first-time youthful offenders a second chance.



88% completion rate
491 participants in 2016

DWI & Related Cases (by # of cases filed)



All felony crimes in Texas are presented to a Grand Jury.

13,000+
of residents
reached in 2016 through
CDA Speakers
on the Road

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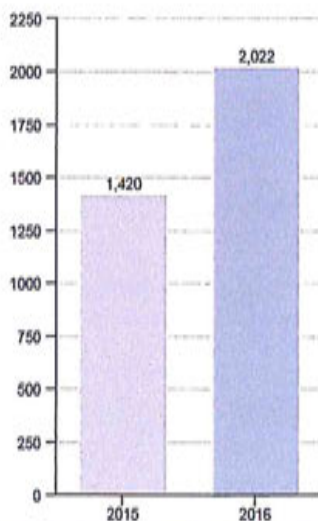
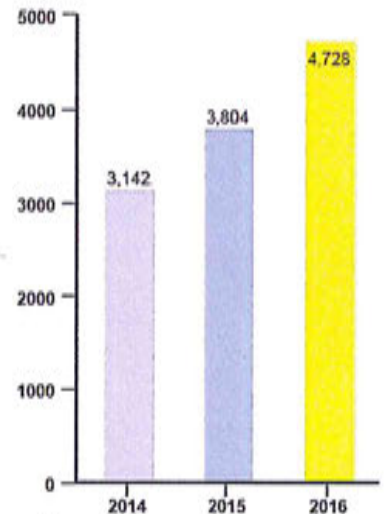


10,629
Cases Handled by CDA Victim Services

Victim Services advocates are trained specialists here to help victims of violent crime, and close family members of deceased victims navigate the complex criminal justice process.

Most Common Misdemeanor Offense:
Drug Possession - Marijuana
4,337 cases filed

Filings for
Mental Health Commitments:
25% increase over 2015

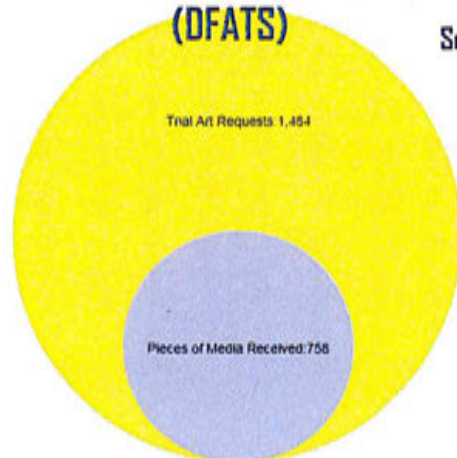


Requests for
Protective Orders:
42% increase over 2015

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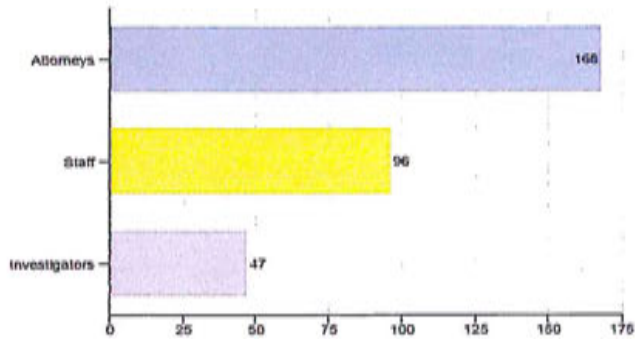
Digital Forensics & Technology Services
(DFATS)

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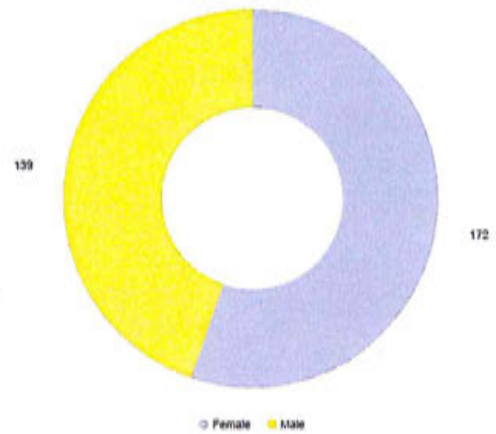


CDA EMPLOYEES

By Division



By Gender



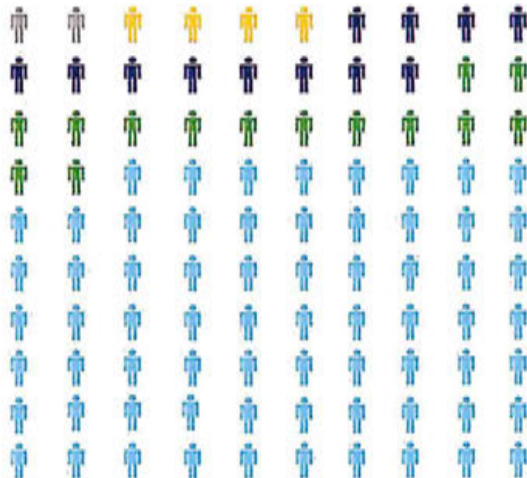
82% of CDA employees are involved in a community group/activity

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Years of Tenure

25 years & up	30
20 - 25 years	25
15 - 20 years	33
10 - 15 years	42
5 - 10 years	41

By Ethnicity



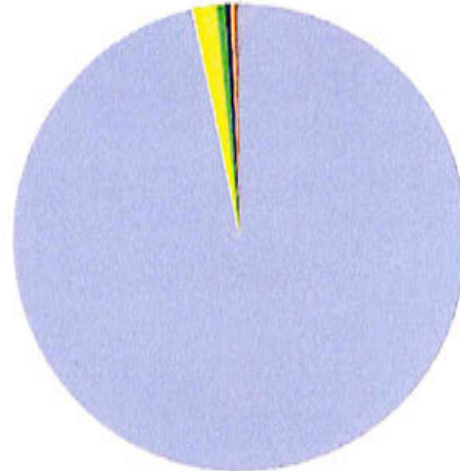
- Asian
- More than one ethnicity
- Hispanic/Latino
- African-American
- Caucasian

21% of our attorneys are minorities, which is greater than the 17.8% of active attorneys in the State Bar of Texas who identify themselves as minorities.

FINANCIAL REPORT

FY2016 Approved Budget \$39,402,190

Personnel	\$34,626,136
Materials & Supplies	\$ 611,986
Court Costs	\$ 227,477
Other	\$ 147,098
Education	\$ 111,200
Capital	\$ 90,366
Transfers	\$ 74,190
Contracts	\$ 43,074
Travel	\$ 23,154
Building Costs	\$ 19,427



● Personnel
 ● Materials & Supplies
 ● Court Costs
 ● Other
 ● Education
 ● Capital
● Transfers
 ● Contracts
 ● Travel
 ● Building Costs

FY2016 Spend \$ 35,974,109

FY2016 Budget Savings \$ 3,428,081

FY2015 Budget Savings \$3,077,466

Asset Forfeiture Funds

Asset forfeiture involves the confiscation of assets by the State which are the products or instruments of criminal activity. An example of this would be the funds or property confiscated from a drug dealer during his/her arrest. The funds collected in these cases, and from the public auction of the confiscated property, are then reinvested into the criminal justice system to fund multiple departments and projects. In FY2016, these funds allowed for training and licensing for law enforcement agencies, donations to valued community partners such as the Alliance for Children, and capital expenditures not covered by the general budget.

Assistance to Law Enforcement	\$17,000
Donations to Community Partners	\$13,500
Training for Assistant Criminal District Attorneys & CDA Investigators	\$28,673
Support of Narcotics Investigations	\$49,926
Court Costs	\$ 8,605
Capital Expenditures for Office (Not funded by County)	\$35,474
TOTAL	\$153,178

FACILITIES



Exponential Growth

We live in one of the fastest growing counties in the nation. Tarrant County's 2016 population was 1.9 million, and it is estimated that the population will reach 3 million by 2040.

A rapidly growing population is a strain to all infrastructure, which struggles to keep pace with the influx of new residents. This is also true for the Office of the Criminal District Attorney. In 2016, Tarrant County had the highest ratio of county residents per CDA employee (6,375) among the big five counties (Bexar, Dallas, Harris, Tarrant & Travis) in Texas. The Criminal Justice Building for criminal courts in 1998 was designed to provide space for 189 CDA employees. As we enter 2017, our 325 employees have to be divided among 5 locations around the City of Fort Worth.

As the population grows, so does the workload. This means the creation of more courts, and subsequently, the need for additional CDA employees to support each new court. In 2014, the implementation of *The Michael Morton Act* created a much more intensive level of discovery for each case, necessitating that the ACDA handling each case was responsible for reviewing and making available to the defense each bit of information gathered by the law enforcement agencies responsible for the case. In the digital age of body cams, dash cams and surveillance cameras, 911 recordings and digital photography, the volume of evidence under review has exponentially increased. Between 2015 and 2016, the amount of Digital Media Evidence (DME) received by the CDA's office grew from 6.07 Terabytes to 82.22

DIGITAL MEDIA EVIDENCE

Year	Size in Terabytes
2016	82.22
2015	6.07
2014	0.64*
2013	0.37
2012	0.36

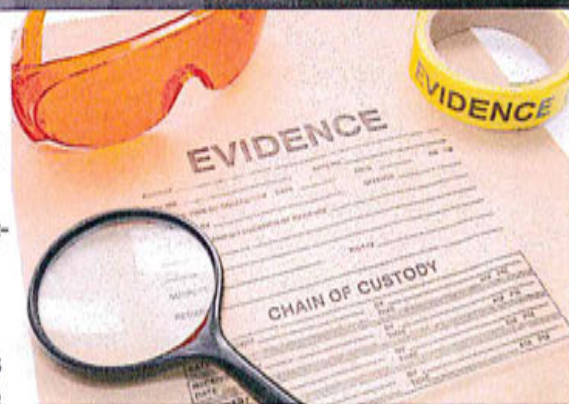
Terabytes. To put this in perspective, each Terabyte is roughly 1 TRILLION bytes of digital information, which translates to 2,000 viewing hours for each of the 82.22 Terabytes received. And for which every single hour must be reviewed by a CDA employee. Because of population growth and technology changes, our office is as small as it will ever be.

We will continue to work diligently to utilize our resources in the most efficient and effective ways possible, as the County restructures to bear the load of our ever-expanding populace.

ENSURING CONVICTION INTEGRITY

As we continue our mission to provide justice to all Tarrant County residents, it is more important than ever that we do all we can to promote transparency and accountability at all levels. This responsibility is ours not only leading up to and in securing convictions, but in ensuring the perpetual soundness of those convictions in the subsequent years.

With the tools and technology now available to us, discoveries are being made about sciences and methods we once considered to be error-proof. The process of collecting and analyzing evidence continues to evolve, and our charge is to be proactive in making certain that the data, witnesses and scientific methods used in our cases are completely reliable.



When we announced the creation of our Conviction Integrity Unit (CIU) in 2015, it was one of only 17 others like it in the nation. It was our goal to create a unit not just with the strict purpose of reviewing claims of actual innocence or wrongful conviction, but to honestly assess potential areas where we might implement improvements to proactively prevent such convictions. This has allowed our county to remain at the forefront of analyzing these issues as they arise, and in several instances we have been able to provide blueprint policies that have gone on to be implemented by other jurisdictions around the state.

Under *The Michael Morton Act*, a prosecutor's obligation extends beyond just the information the prosecution has in its immediate possession, to include any material or evidence in the hands of our partner agencies. These include the Medical Examiner's Office, medical laboratories where evidentiary testing is done, and the police departments. It also involves the disclosure of information that could go toward the background and character of the expert agency witnesses who may be involved in the case. In order to ensure a transparent flow of information, we have implemented detailed policies on the inter-agency exchange of often highly-confidential material.

The Tarrant County CDA Discovery Compliance Policy for Laboratories and Medical Examiner's Offices details the process for labs and ME's offices to notify us regarding any conduct by employees of that agency which meets our legal obligations. This includes pending complaints against the employee, formal investigations, or convictions on the employee's record which may be raised by the defense to question the integrity or expertise of the agency expert. These agencies are responsible to report this information to the CDA's office on an ongoing basis.

The model for the laboratory compliance policy was created by our office in 2015. The first-of-its-kind *Discovery Compliance Policy (DCP)* formalized a similar procedure between police departments, the CDA's office and defense attorneys on the disclosure in a criminal case when a law enforcement officer involved has a record of criminal acts or conduct that reflects negatively on his or her credibility as a potential witness. Our office developed this policy in close partnership with the chiefs of each police department in the county, and it quickly became a model for numerous other Texas counties.

While at work on a recent case, it became clear to members of our CIU team that a clear template did not exist on how to deal with and account for the instances in which a jailhouse informant was used to gain information in a criminal case.

This discovery led to the proactive creation of our own Jailhouse Informant Procedure, which provides clear guidance for prosecutors on the use of jailhouse informants, mandates tracking the use of these witnesses, and sets forth the disclosure of information we believe is required by Texas law. This procedure was praised recently by the *Houston Press* for demonstrating a clear commitment to accountability, and has been shared with the Tim Cole Exoneration Review Commission for consideration for implementation around the state.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In 2016, we continued to expand our opportunities to engage with the community outside of the courthouse. In the Spring, CDA Wilson participated in a highly-attended **Arlington Town Hall** meeting, at which there was an engaging dialogue about how the community can raise awareness for and assist the survivors of Intimate Partner Violence. (IPV) The event was moderated by Mayor Jeff Williams, and attended by Arlington Police Chief Will Johnson.

CDA employees made 287 presentations last year to community organizations, schools, churches and businesses through our **Speakers on the Road** program, and we encourage groups to continue to utilize this resource. Our talented experts are available to speak on almost 70 different topics, from IPV to cyber security to elder abuse.

This year we welcomed the inaugural class for our **Citizen Prosecutor Academy (CPA)**. Designed in the tradition of police department citizen academies, ours is an 11-week program developed to give citizens an inside look at the responsibilities of the Criminal District Attorney's office, and the decisions we make on a daily basis. With our Assistant Criminal District Attorneys and Investigators as instructors, participants review each step of the prosecutorial process to gain perspective on how the system works, including the unique challenges faced by our special units. Please visit our website at cda.tarrantcounty.com if you're interested in information on applying for the 2017 CPA class.

On October 4th, CDA employees took part in neighborhood activities across Tarrant County in celebration of **National Night Out** - an annual public awareness event to encourage positive relationships and comradery between law enforcement and our neighborhoods. Our attorneys, investigators and staff were all pleased to participate once again in this effort to bring together citizens and police to advance a common goal: the safety of our community. Teams of CDA employees additionally took part in both the Tarrant-area **Victory Over Violence** and **MADD Walk**, to raise awareness about domestic violence and drunk driving.

Our mission is strengthened significantly through the assistance and participation of the dedicated citizens in our community, who work diligently with us to educate and inspire our youth, build safe neighborhoods and insist on an environment in which offenders are held accountable for their actions. We are fortunate in Tarrant County to have not only our dedicated police officers who seek each day to do the right thing, but the dozens of neighborhoods countywide who are committed to ensuring Tarrant County remains one of the best and safest places to live in our nation.



CRIMINAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY



INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE



In 2016 our area witnessed a number of high-profile examples of a very serious crime that is still too often minimized in our society. Elizabeth Arellano had a rock tied around her neck and was thrown from the Lake Worth bridge. Linda Martin was shot at a stoplight in Southlake Towne Center just after leaving her divorce lawyer's office. Anthony Antell, Jr., a husband and father of 3 was killed in a Walgreen's parking lot in Arlington while trying to intervene to protect a young woman shot and injured by her boyfriend. These, and too many other brutal Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) murders shocked our community, and in each case it is a current or former loved one who stands charged with the crime.

The unfortunate reality is that Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) crime happens every day, and reaches every ethnicity, income level, age, gender, religion and other demographic in Tarrant County.

IPV describes physical or sexual violence, or stalking by a current or former partner of the victim. HALF of the recent Capital Murder incidents in this County have been the result of an IPV situation that has escalated to murder, and more than 2,000 IPV-specific cases were filed in 2016.

CDA Wilson has made it clear that combatting IPV is one of this office's highest priorities, working actively not only in the courtroom, but also in the community to assist survivors, educate our citizens and aggressively prosecute IPV offenders. Amos Wells III was sentenced to death in 2016 for the murder of his pregnant girlfriend, her mother and her little brother, and repeat offenders were put on notice that they would face the most serious penalties allowed by law. One of these, Jose Luis Barboza who brutally beat his victim and used a stun gun to incapacitate her, was sentenced to 99 years in prison for Aggravated Assault - Serious Bodily Injury, and another serial offender, Jim Harvey Opry, received an 85 year sentence.

In the Fall, Tarrant County Commissioners approved a new special unit dedicated to prosecuting felony IPV cases. This team consists of 5 full-time Assistant Criminal District Attorneys, 2 Investigators and a support staff member. Team Chief Art Clayton and Deputy Chief Allenna Bangs each have extensive experience prosecuting some of the most complex and violent cases of the last decade. Additionally, there is a Misdemeanor Court focused on the prosecution of lower-level IPV offenses: County Criminal Court No. 5.

Our Protective Order unit is also inextricably involved in assisting IPV survivors seeking protection from their abusers. A protective order is issued by a court with civil jurisdiction that orders an abusive person to refrain from committing family violence, threatening or harassing the victim, or going within a specified distance of their home or place of employment (or school/childcare facility of minor victims). Unlike a restraining order which is enforceable only by civil contempt, a protective order is criminally enforceable, and valid for up to two years. Violation of a protective order is a criminal offense and the Code of Criminal Procedure authorizes law enforcement officers to arrest violators without a warrant in some situations. Starting in 2016, victims seeking protective orders were able to submit their requests online for the first time, which contributed to a 42% increase in requests over the previous year.

In the coming months we will continue to partner with law enforcement, hospitals, schools, businesses, religious institutions and non-profits in an effort to break this tragic cycle of violence and eliminate this epidemic from our community.

Our state-of-the-art Digital Forensics and Technology Services (DFATS) is the only "one stop shop" of its kind in Texas, and one of the only facilities of its kind nationwide. The DFATS experts have the ability to image, analyze and interpret data from audio, video, cellular and computer sources. As well as providing services for the 40+ law enforcement agencies in Tarrant County, in 2016 DFATS received requests for service from an additional 14 counties, as well as 8 state and federal agencies.

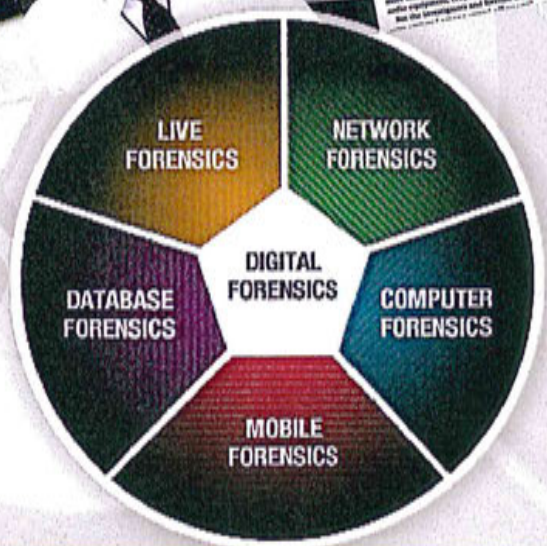
DFATS assisted on multiple investigations involving the possession of child pornography and Internet crimes against children. In 2 cases, DFATS specialists were able to assist the U.S. Department of Homeland Security with both digital forensics and the execution of search warrants on cases involving local school teachers trafficking in child pornography, leading to arrests and charges filed in federal court. The team received praise this fall from the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Texas for their integral contribution to these investigations.

Of the 55 Certified Forensic Video Analysts in the world, two are members of the DFATS staff. Last year, they were contacted by the Midlothian Police Department to assist in the investigation of the high profile murder of local fitness instructor, Missy Bevers. By analyzing the surveillance footage from the crime scene, our specialists were able to develop a comparative physical description of the suspect caught on camera, including his/her general height and weight, to further assist the police in their search.

DFATS team members were also included in a multi-agency sweep of sex offenders here in Tarrant County. In what was termed, "Operation Overseer", working together officers from the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office, Fort Worth Police Department and other local law enforcement agencies made surprise visits to the homes of several high-risk offenders in a search for contraband materials that would be in violation of the offenders' court-ordered terms. The DFATS experts were on hand to be able to analyze, and as applicable confiscate, the computers, digital phones and/or tablets of the individuals for unlawful files or activity. In several cases, the DFATS team members were able to locate well-hidden files and Internet activity that was in strict violation, leading to arrests.

In addition to their investigative role, DFATS employees also provide much-needed technical trial support. It is up to these experts to convert complicated evidence into trial exhibits and other demonstrative aids to assist the prosecutors in clearly presenting the evidence to jurors. In 2016, 1,484 technical and trial art exhibits were created for this purpose, ranging from intricate maps designed to track cell phone positioning to advanced 3D mock ups of the wounds to victims.

In all, DFATS received almost double the number of requests for their services in 2016 as in 2015, and as the proliferation of digital media continues, that number is only expected to increase.



MEET BRADY

Brady helps kids feel better
win they have been abused.



Brady, a two-year-old Golden Retriever rescue, is our CDA emotional support canine.

These professionally trained dogs are being used increasingly by District Attorney's offices around the country as a way to provide comfort and a supportive environment for victims, witnesses, family members, police officers and even our own employees.

Brady was selected by his trainer after an 8-month search for the dog with the right demeanor, intelligence and patience for the demands of this role. After extensive training, he became a regular fixture here in the CDA office starting in January 2016.

Whether it is a young child having to share the most traumatic thing that will happen to them with a roomful of strangers, the devastated survivor of a sexual assault, or family members left fragile by the violent loss of a loved one, Brady is here to give kind, unconditional support to help ease their pain.



THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Some of 2016's High Profile Prosecutions

These successful prosecutions were the culmination of the combined hard work of the prosecution team and the police departments, which are all noted here.

The State of Texas v. Amos Wells

Amos Wells III was convicted of the Capital Murder of his pregnant girlfriend, her mother and her 10 year old brother. Following a verbal argument on the front lawn of the victims' home, Wells retrieved a gun from his car and opened fire on all three victims while law enforcement was in route to the scene.

He was sentenced to death.

Prosecutors: Kevin Rousseau, Lloyd Whelchel **CDA Investigators:** Jim Rizy, Danny Sustaire
CDA Victim Advocates: Gabriela Williams, Cecilia Jones
Fort Worth Police Department: Detectives M. Barron, T. O'Brien

The State of Texas v. Carter Cervantes

Carter Cervantes was convicted of Capital Murder for the death of her manager at a local clothing store, in the attempt to rob the store of its "Black Friday" profits. The victim in this case was severely beaten and then set on fire, and Cervantes was sentenced to Life in Prison without the possibility of parole.

Prosecutors: Kevin Rousseau, Ashlea Deener **CDA Investigator:** Danny Nutt
CDA Victim Advocate: Cecilia Jones **Fort Worth Police Department:** Detectives J. Cedillo, E. Pate

The State of Texas v. Charles Sprague

Charles Sprague was a violent repeat sexual offender when he cut off his GPS monitor, escaped from a commitment facility and terrorized another victim while on the run from police. After his capture, he was convicted of the Violation of his Civil Commitment, Sexual Assault and Kidnapping, and sentenced to 4 Life sentences.

Prosecutors: Page Simpson, Dawn Ferguson **CDA Investigators:** Joe Thornton, Maria Hinojosa
CDA Victim Advocates: Linda Bingham, Laura Flores
North Richland Hills Police Department: Detectives J. Stieg, A. Smead

The State of Texas v. Beth Branum

Beth Branum was convicted of Intoxication Manslaughter with a Vehicle for the death of a local soldier driving to his drill weekend. Branum, a nurse and mother of 3 young children whose Blood Alcohol Content was 0.11, ignored friends' pleas to take a taxi home from a Mid-Cities bar, causing the accident that killed Bennett Brandon Tyler. She was given the maximum sentence of 20 years in prison, and a \$3,000 fine.

Prosecutors: Richard Alpert, Kacey Fickes **CDA Investigator:** Darran Gabbert
CDA Victim Advocate: Cecilia Jones **Eules Police Department:** Detective Scott Peterson

The State of Texas v. Broderick Cofer

Broderick Cofer was convicted of the Sexual Assault of a Child for the ongoing sexual abuse of a young female relative. The trial uncovered lurid details about Cofer's behavior, and he was ultimately sentenced to 9 Life sentences in prison for his crimes.

Prosecutors: Art Clayton, Kacey Fickes **CDA Investigator:** Byron Hubbard
CDA Victim Advocates: Gabriela Lepe, Laura Flores **Keller Police Department:** Corporal J. Yates

The State of Texas v. Joshua Lee Gonzales

Joshua Lee Gonzales was found guilty of the Capital Murder of a woman who was a guest in the home he shared with his girlfriend. Gonzales bragged to family and friends about the murder before the victim's body was even found. He was given Life in Prison without the possibility of parole.

Prosecutors: Kimberly D'Avignon, Jim Hudson CDA Investigator: Mike Weber
CDA Victim Advocate: Cecilia Jones Fort Worth Police Department: Detective W. Paine

The State of Texas v. Jacob Damm

Jacob Damm was convicted of the murder of a young woman he believed to have stolen prescription drugs from him. Damm led the woman to a secluded wooded area in Kennedale before shooting her multiple times in the head and burying her in a shallow grave. He was sentenced to 99 years in prison.

Prosecutors: Lisa Callaghan, DJ Estes CDA Investigator: Byron Hubbard
Eules Police Department: Detective T. Murphree

The State of Texas v. Jason Bernard Miller

Jason Bernard Miller was convicted of Murder and Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon for the death of veteran Colby Bozo and the injury of his pregnant wife. Miller was driving a stolen car and being pursued by Bedford Police when he struck the Bozo's vehicle at high speed. Colby Bozo was an Army Special Forces veteran who had served tours of duty in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

Miller was sentenced to two terms of 50 years in prison for his crime.

Prosecutors: Tim Rodgers, William Vassar CDA Investigator: Kevin McIntire
CDA Victim Advocates: Gabriela Lepe, Laura Flores
Bedford Police Department: Investigators W. Eurto, C. Miller, S. Peterson, Z. Hicks

The State of Texas v. Jim Harvey Opry

After being convicted by the jury and entering the punishment phase of the trial, Jim Harvey Opry elected to plead guilty to the charge of Manslaughter for killing a young woman he was dating by striking her in the head with a caulk gun when she tried to leave. Harvey had been convicted previously for the shooting death of a teenaged girl when he was 17, and claimed that both deaths were "accidental."

He was sentenced to 85 years in prison.

Prosecutors: David Alex, Allenna Bangs CDA Investigator: Danny Nutt
CDA Victim Advocate: Laura Flores Fort Worth Police Department: Detective J. Rhoden

The State of Texas v. Florencio Sanchez

Florencio Sanchez was convicted of Sexual Abuse of a Child for the continuous abuse of a young female relative. Incriminating evidence hidden on Sanchez's secret cellphone was recovered in this case by our Digital Forensics & Technology Services investigators. The elementary-aged victim bravely chose to testify against her abuser in spite of the vehement opposition of many of her family members, and Sanchez was sentenced to 80 years in prison for his crime.

Prosecutors: Rebecca McIntire, Dinah O'Neal CDA Investigator: Pauline Fitzgerald
CDA Victim Advocate: Gabriela Lepe Arlington Police Department: Detective G. Gildon, M. Weaver



The mission of the Office of the Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney is to enhance public safety through vigorous enforcement of criminal and civil laws in an ethical, honest, and just manner; to encourage rehabilitation for deserving offenders; to earn the public's trust by setting an example of transparency in our dealings; and to assist and educate victims of crimes and other members of the public.



Office of the Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney
401 W. Belknap, Fort Worth, TX 76196 • 817.884.1400 • cda.tarrantcounty.com