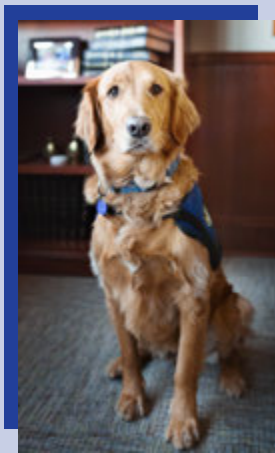


Sharen Wilson, Criminal District Attorney

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.



Sharen Wilson, Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney
401 W. Belknap, Fort Worth, TX 76102 • 817.884.1400 • cda.tarrantcounty.com

Office of the Criminal District Attorney



2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Sharen Wilson
Criminal District Attorney

A Message from Sharen Wilson ... 2

Our Divisions ... 3

2018 At a Glance ... 5

Meet Our Employees ... 7

Financial Report ... 8

Brady: DA Dog ... 8

Intimate Partner Violence ... 9

Elder Financial Fraud ... 10

2018 Honors ... 10

Deferred Prosecution Program ... 11

Expunctions ... 11

CDA in the Community ... 12

The Year in Review ... 13



Some of 2018's Felony Prosecutions

The State of Texas v. Alexis Botello

Botello, the mother of 18-month-old Tylea Moore, stood by as her live-in boyfriend Joshua Beard brutally bit, beat, and stomped her young daughter to death. Afterward, the two picked up supplies and drove to rural Parker County, where they buried Tylea's body in a shallow grave, telling a variety of stories to family members about Tylea's whereabouts before their crime was discovered.

Joshua Beard and Botello were both found guilty and received life sentences from the jury.

Sentence: Life in prison, Capital Murder; 10 yrs in prison, Tampering with Evidence

Prosecutors: Melinda Westmoreland, Tiffany Burks **CDA Investigator:** Jim Rizy
Arlington Police Department: Dets. Ben Lopez & Caleb Blank

The State of Texas v. Edis Leonel Alas

Alas entered a family's Fort Worth home in the middle of the night and kidnapped their six-year-old daughter. A community-wide search was launched and the child was found mid-day the next day when a volunteer heard cries coming from a park. Police found Alas hiding nearby and took him into custody. Later, DNA evidence and graphic photos recovered from his cellphone linked him directly to the crime. He was found guilty of Aggravated Kidnapping and three counts of Aggravated Sexual Assault of a Child.

Sentence: Life in prison (x4)

Prosecutors: Lloyd Whelchel, Cami Gildner **CDA Investigators:** Jose Carrizal, John McCaskill
Fort Worth Police Department: Dets. Banes, Rohloff & Garcia (ret.) **CDA Victim Advocates:** Elizabeth Garcia, Diane Medina

The State of Texas v. Nicholas Hester

Hester was staying in a friend's garage when he crossed paths with 21-year-old Cheney Hawthorne. The circumstances are known only to the two of them, but after that meeting Cheney Hawthorne disappeared and his skeletal remains were discovered in a field two months later by a group of children. Hester was arrested in Texarkana driving Hawthorne's truck and in possession of his driver's license. Hester gave police multiple versions of what happened that night, and he was ultimately found guilty by a jury of both Capital Murder and Tampering with Evidence.

Sentence: Life in prison without the possibility of parole

Prosecutors: Tiffany Burks, Lori Varnell **CDA Investigator:** Pauline Fitzgerald
Fort Worth Police Department: Dets. Kyle Sullivan & Jeremy Rhoden **CDA Victim Advocate:** Laura Flores

The State of Texas v. Marcelino Pabon

After it was left sitting on a shelf for more than a decade by a disgraced former detective, this case was reopened and investigated by FWPD Detective Pat Henz. Pabon was married to the aunt of the young female victim, who was only six years old at the time of the abuse, which he perpetrated while babysitting her while her mother was at work. Now an adult, the victim bravely took the stand to testify against her abuser, and the jury found him guilty on all six counts.

Sentence: Life in prison (x4), Agg. Sexual Assault of a Child; 20 yrs, Indecency/Fondling; 10 yrs, Indecency/Exposure

Prosecutors: Tim Rodgers, Dawn Ferguson **CDA Investigators:** Bruce Blaisdell, Mia Moore
Fort Worth Police Department: Det. Pat Henz **CDA Victim Advocate:** Cecilia Jones

The State of Texas v. Desiree Boltos

This "Sweetheart Swindler" was responsible for getting close to and then stealing from multiple elderly victims, both male and female. Boltos would meet unsuspecting victims in person or online, and quickly try to develop a close relationship. Through her various ploys, she would convince the victims to spend thousands of dollars on non-existent medical expenses or investments, while pocketing the money, and ultimately leaving the relationship when the victim ran out of money. It was learned that Boltos gambled three victims' life savings away in Las Vegas slot machines. Prosecutors were able to demonstrate a clear pattern Boltos used for her scams, and the jury found her guilty on all six counts.

Sentence: 85 yrs, 75 yrs, 20 yrs, 68 yrs, 15 yrs in prison for Theft (x5); 10 yrs in prison, Exploitation of an Elderly Person

Prosecutors: Lori Varnell, Ty Stimpson **CDA Investigators:** Ron Bonham, Dara Couch, Greg McNeese
Hurst Police Department, North Richland Hills Police Department, TX Dept. of Family Protective Services

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

The State of Texas v. Ricci Chambless Bradden II

Termed the “Good Samaritan” murder in the local news, this case unfolded in the parking lot of an Arlington Walgreens. Ricci Bradden laid in wait for his wife, a Walgreens employee, to come out of the store, and then opened fire on her. Injured, she was able to crawl into the store and, hearing her cries for help, Marine and married father of three Anthony “TJ” Antell, rushed forward to prevent Bradden from leaving the scene before police could arrive. Bradden shot Antell, killing him instantly in front of his wife and young children. Judge Louis Sturns found Bradden guilty of Murder for Antell’s death, and he pled guilty to Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon for the initial shooting of his wife.

Sentence: 75 yrs in prison

Prosecutors: Page Simpson, Allenna Bangs CDA Investigator: Clint Leach

Arlington Police Department: Detective Ben Lopez CDA Victim Advocate: Cecilia Jones

The State of Texas v. Ronald Dunn

Dunn, a 67-year-old with no prior criminal record was an agent with Prudential Financial when he began running a Ponzi scheme on multiple victims, many of them elderly. In all, Dunn is believed to have taken \$693,000 from 13 people. He was found guilty of Theft of Property over \$200,000 and three counts of Securities Fraud over \$100,000. Prudential was at no time involved or responsible for Dunn’s criminal activity, but in an act of corporate social responsibility, the company proactively offered financial restitution to many of the victims financially devastated by Dunn’s crimes.

Sentence: 25 yrs in prison

Prosecutors: Matt Smid, Angela Cole (State Securities Board) CDA Investigators: Mark Taylor

Texas State Securities Board

The State of Texas v. Mark Phelps Andrews

Andrews’ habits as a compulsive gambler had left his family in financial straits. Seeking to benefit from two life insurance policies on his wife, he murdered her in her bed with blows from a hammer, then tried to stage the scene to appear their home had been burglarized. He was found guilty of the Murder of Doris Jean Andrews by the jury and given a life sentence.

Sentence: Life in prison

Prosecutors: Kevin Boneberg, Art Clayton CDA Investigator: Jim Rzy CDA Forensic Financial Analyst: Jeanette Hanna

Azle Police Department: Ofcs. Mike Winterrowd, Kevin Rogers & Richard Lukowsky CDA Victim Advocates: Cecilia Jones, Gabriela Lepe

The State of Texas v. Charles Dean Bryant

Bryant met 24-year-old Jacqueline Vandagriff, a student at Texas Women’s University, at an off-campus bar in Denton. Later that night, he brutally murdered her, dismembered and burned her body inside a plastic child’s pool, and then dumped her remains near Grapevine Lake. Bryant, who was under suspicion for stalking an ex-girlfriend at the time of the murder, was found guilty of both Murder and Tampering with Evidence.

Sentence: Life in prison

Prosecutors: Lucas Allan, Anna Hernandez CDA Investigator: Jerrold Hoffee

Grapevine Police Department: Det. Duane Stubblefield & Sgt. Marc Shimmick CDA Victim Advocate: Laura Flores

The State of Texas v. Hoa “Kevin” Cam Huyen

A female patient in a Southlake hospital for hip-replacement surgery reported that Huyen, a nurse, had injected her with unrequested medication, putting her to sleep. She later awoke to find him sexually assaulting her and reported it. Additional testimony was given that he had previously attempted similar acts with another patient. The jury found him guilty of two counts of Sexual Assault.

Sentence: 9 yrs in prison, 10 yrs’ probation

Prosecutors: Derek Dumas, Kacey Fickes CDA Investigator: Michael Weber

Southlake Police Department: Dets. Robert Briggs, Delaney Green & Sgt. K. Moore CDA Victim Advocate: Cecilia Jones

A MESSAGE FROM SHAREN WILSON



Our county continued to experience significant growth in 2018, and that was reflected in the volume of criminal cases filed with this office. Although we remain one of the safest communities in which to raise your family, an increase in population inevitably leads to more cases, and the year ended with a 12% increase in filings to our office over the previous year.

As the top law enforcement official in the county, I never forget that the issues we deal with on a daily basis have the ability to permanently impact people’s lives. No matter how many cases we receive, we consider each criminal case on an individual basis, taking into account both the potential risk to the community and the potential for rehabilitation for those charged with the offenses. Justice recognizes that while we may seek maximum sentences for violent criminals, not every defendant should be convicted or incarcerated.

In seeking to fairly evaluate each of these cases, we continue to incorporate specialized units and training opportunities that allow prosecutors to become experienced in the nuances involved in certain types of offenses. Work by our two most recently created teams are highlighted in this report (see pg. 9–10).

The talented men and women of this office are committed to our duty not only to ensure every case meets the standard of proof beyond a reasonable doubt, but that we are safeguarding the future integrity of convictions through transparent and accountable practices.

As I begin my second term as your Criminal District Attorney, it will continue to be the daily goal of this office to be fair, accountable, and trustworthy. I am proud to work each day with the dedicated employees of this office to advance the mission of ensuring justice for all residents of Tarrant County. As always, please don’t hesitate to contact my office if I may ever be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,

OUR DIVISIONS

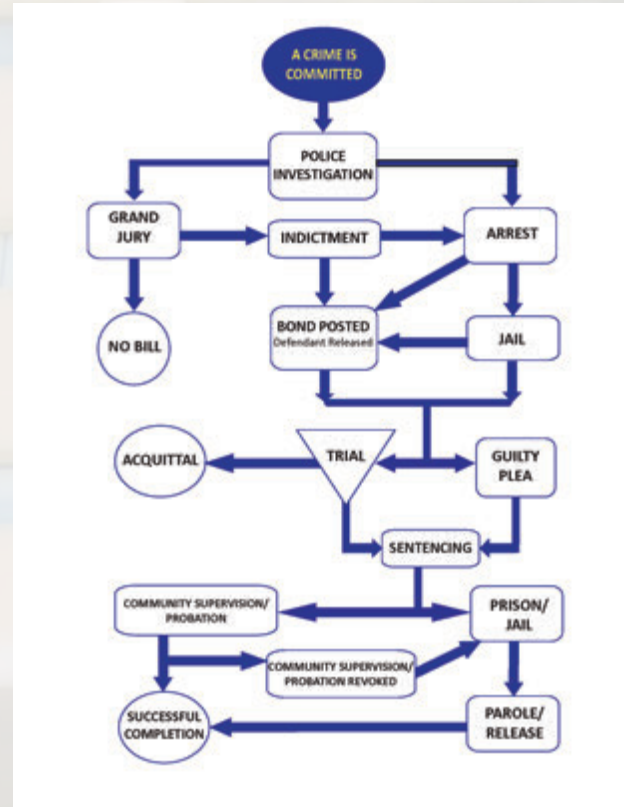
The Criminal Division

The largest of the four divisions, it is charged with the responsibility to investigate and prosecute the thousands of criminal allegations brought in Tarrant County each year. This division consists of 11 District Courts, 10 County Courts and 10 specialty teams.

Each special team focuses on a specific area of our office's prosecutorial responsibilities. These teams include:

- Conviction Integrity
- Elder Financial Fraud
- Gang
- Grand Jury
- Intimate Partner Violence
- Intake
- Law Enforcement Incidents
- Post Conviction
- Special Victims
- White Collar/Public Integrity

The Criminal Division is led by Chief Larry Moore, and three Deputy Chiefs, Tiffany Burks, Kevin Rousseau, and Riley Shaw. It consists of 149 felony and misdemeanor attorneys.



The Civil Division

This division acts primarily as General Counsel for Tarrant County, providing legal advice to all elected and appointed officials, and representing the County itself in legal matters. This includes overseeing contracts for everything from large-scale construction projects to office supplies, and managing employment law for more than 4,500 county employees.

The Civil Division assists victims of family violence in obtaining protective orders. These orders place limitations on the ability of individuals to abuse you, your family, or pets. Civil prosecutors also represent the State of Texas in obtaining involuntary commitments of persons who have not committed a crime, but have been diagnosed by two physicians as having a mental condition that will pose a threat to themselves or someone else. (See pg. 6)

Finally, civil attorneys represent the Department of Family and Protective Services in cases where abuse or neglect are alleged and court intervention is sought. These civil suits include termination of parental rights, adoption, and suits that affect the custody of children or adults.

This division consists of 28 attorneys, and is led by Chief Robert Browder.



IN THE COMMUNITY



The best way to earn your trust is to make sure we are accessible, accountable, and transparent. Some of the opportunities available to learn more from and about our office include:

Speakers on the Road

This program provides CDA experts to speak on almost 70 different topics of interest, from bullying to cyber-security to elder fraud. These attorneys, investigators and staff are available to meet with your school, church, business, non-profit or other organization. In 2018, our speakers participated in 440 speaking engagements around the region. If you're interested in requesting a speaker, please contact our Community Outreach Coordinator Amy Bearden at AHBearden@tarrantcountytx.gov or 817.884.3126.

Citizen Prosecutor Academy

This 11-week program gives residents an in-depth understanding of the criminal justice system in Tarrant County. With our attorneys and investigators as instructors, participants review each step of the prosecutorial process to gain an insider's perspective on how the system works, including the unique challenges faced by our special teams. Members of our Fall 2018 classes are pictured below. For more information on participating, please visit our website at cda.tarrantcounty.com.

Quarterly Newsletters

In addition to our Annual Report, the office also publishes quarterly newsletters to keep residents apprised of recent cases and updates on justice-related issues. Sign up to receive these via email by visiting our website at cda.tarrantcounty.com.

Social Media

To encourage ongoing conversation on a real-time level, we have active Facebook and Twitter (@tarrantcountyda) accounts, which are regularly updated with information, photos, videos and links about the office and the cases we handle. These monitored channels have been very successful, inspiring dialogue between our office and thousands of Tarrant County residents. Most recently our emotional support canine Brady has even launched his own Instagram page @TarrantDADog.



DEFERRED PROSECUTION PROGRAM

Not everyone should be incarcerated or convicted. Our Deferred Prosecution Program (DPP) is designed to give young, first-time offenders the chance to rehabilitate without jail time or the stigma of a criminal record. DPP is available to non-violent offenders aged 17–24 who are willing and able to change their conduct. In 2018, the program was successfully completed by 434 young adults from Tarrant County.

Originally created in the 1970s by then-CDA Tim Curry, CDA Wilson reviewed the program and determined it was not being widely utilized by young offenders who could most benefit – minorities and low income residents. With the mission to better reach these young adults, updates were made to increase the age range, extend the application period, and eliminate the prior ban for a person who had been previously arrested.

Our office actively promotes DPP as a worthwhile alternative to probation or incarceration for those who qualified, and there has been a significant shift in the program’s population. Before the program updates, DPP participants were primarily white (74.7%). In 2018, minority participation grew to 68%. More than 1,500 young adults have successfully completed the program since 2015, each of whom now has the opportunity to face the future with a clean slate.



The Investigative Division

Our investigators assist prosecutors in evaluating and preparing cases for trial. Each CDA Investigator is a licensed Texas Peace Officer with a wealth of experience interviewing witnesses, arresting suspects and assisting other federal, state and local law enforcement agencies.

This year, our Investigative Division implemented a new initiative focused on providing training to local police and other law enforcement agencies on the intricacies involved with prosecuting a criminal case. This program, called “Justice Together,” is held four times a year, offering expertise on topics to help ensure we are filing and prosecuting strong cases.

Our Investigative Division is also the home of our Digital Forensic and Technology Services team, known as “DFATS.” This one-stop shop for handling digital media evidence employs some of the leading video analysts in the country, and is regularly consulted by other jurisdictions around the state and the region for their assistance on difficult cases.



This division of 48 investigators is led by Chief Tammie Hughes, and Deputy Chiefs Maria Hinojosa and Tommy Simmons.



Justice Together

Train | Develop | Learn | Update | Motivate | Collaborate

EXPUNCTIONS

When a person is arrested and charged with a crime, but is later acquitted, pardoned, completes a diversion program, or has the case dismissed, criminal records will still show that arrest and case filing. That record can keep someone from finding housing, schooling, or having the career of his or her choice.

Since taking office, CDA Wilson has partnered this office with the L. Clifford Davis Legal Association in the shared effort to increase access to expunctions and non-disclosures. Together we have held highly successful Expunction Clinics in Southeast Fort Worth and Arlington, with prosecutors and defense attorneys volunteering their time to assist Tarrant County residents seeking this relief.



After working with Tarrant County Commissioners to waive local fees, CDA Wilson worked closely during the last legislative session with local representatives to pass new laws which allow district courts to waive the fees for those who can’t afford them, and which give prosecutors the discretion to file expunctions on a defendant’s behalf.

The next Expunction Fair is currently being planned for May 4th in the Como community of Fort Worth.



The Chief of Staff Division

The Chief of Staff Division is responsible for all non-lawyer, non-investigator operations of the office. This division oversees personnel matters, business operations, information technology, facilities, community outreach, communications, and Victim Services. This division also prepares our office’s annual budget, ensuring that at CDA Wilson’s direction, it is managed with the utmost fiscal responsibility. For the fourth consecutive fiscal year, the office was able to remain under budget.

This second largest of our divisions also includes the invaluable paralegals, legal assistants and support staff who make it possible for our prosecutors to effectively manage their ever-growing caseloads.

This year, the division gave great focus to our technological needs, ultimately securing new, more modern computers for all of our prosecutors, and continuing to oversee the implementation of a comprehensive software system rollout across our departments.

The division also continued to engage employees through new management training and continuing education opportunities.

This division consists of 104 employees, and is led by Chief of Staff Shannon Fletcher.

TOTAL CRIMINAL CASES FILED



Felony	20,839
Misdemeanor	29,141
Total	49,980

12% INCREASE
IN TOTAL FILINGS
SINCE 2017

TOP FELONY OFFENSES

- Possession of a Controlled Substance Less Than 1 Gram
- Theft of Property <\$2,500, with 2 or more previous convictions
- Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon

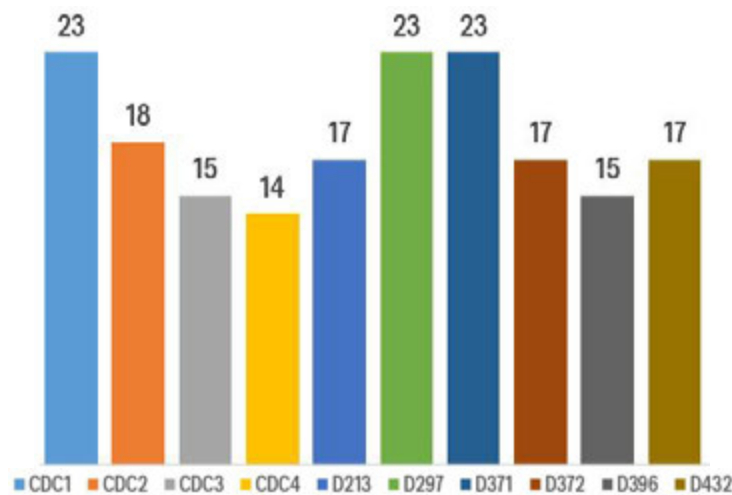
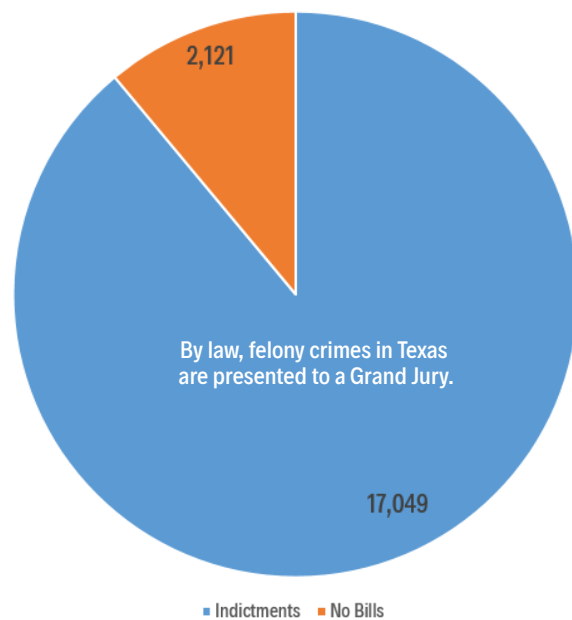
MOST COMMONLY
FILED JUVENILE
OFFENSE

Aggravated Robbery

TOP MISDEMEANOR OFFENSES

- Possession of Marijuana Less than 2 Ounces
- Assault Causing Bodily Injury – Family Violence
- Driving While Intoxicated

TOTAL CASES PRESENTED
TO GRAND JURY: 19,170



JURY TRIALS BY DISTRICT COURT*
(*Total includes jury trials, directed verdict, and mistrial/hung jury)

As our population ages, elderly Americans represent more of our population than ever before. It is estimated that by 2030, more of the U.S. population will be over 65 than under 18.

Our Elder Financial Fraud (EFF) team was created in 2017 to serve as a community resource addressing the special needs of elderly victims through a mission of aggressive prosecution, education and deterrence. In 2018, our Elder Financial Fraud prosecutors spoke to more than 40 local businesses, community groups, and law enforcement agencies, increasing awareness about the common schemes used by those who seek to scam elderly victims, and the resources available to fight this kind of crime.

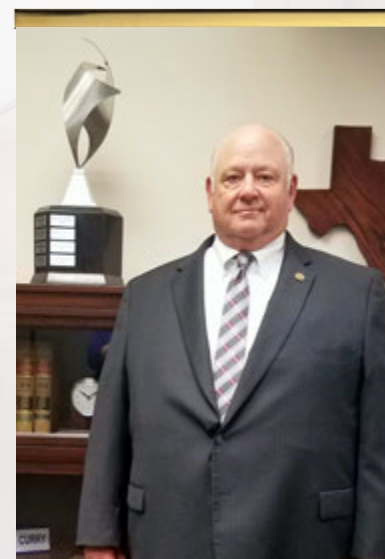
The EFF team, comprised of 2 prosecutors, 2 investigators, and 1 support staff member, also continued its partnership with Guardianship Services on the Financial Exploitation Prevention Center of Tarrant County. This one-stop shop was created to most efficiently and effectively connect Tarrant's seniors with the vast network of resources available to them.

Most importantly, the team was able to find justice for many seniors this year who were victims of financial fraud, securing prison sentences for defendants who prey on our greatest generation. One such case, the State of Texas v. Desiree Boltos, is highlighted in our "Year in Review" section on page 14.



FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION PREVENTION
CENTER OF TARRANT COUNTY

(817) 720-6556



Larry Moore, Chief of our Criminal Division, was selected for the prestigious Professionalism Award by the Tarrant County Bar Association. Moore has practiced law in Tarrant County for more than 40 years, beginning in the Criminal District Attorney's Office in 1977, then launching a highly successful career in private practice, before returning to our office to serve once again as Criminal Chief. This award recognizes a bar member who exemplifies the professional traits all attorneys should emulate and who serves as an inspiring role model to all other attorneys.

2018
HONORS

Pam Boggess, an Assistant Criminal District Attorney in our Gang Unit, was awarded the 2018 Prosecuting Attorney of the Year Award by the Texas Gang Association, and Prosecution of the Year by the International Association. She was recognized for prosecuting 2017's high profile case against former-Fort Worth Bandidos president Howard Baker. Baker was found guilty of Directing and Engaging in the Activities of a Criminal Street Gang, and Murder for organizing an ambush by dozens of gang members at the Gators Inn Bar in Fort Worth, resulting in the murder of a rival gang member.



INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

This was another busy and highly successful year for the intimate partner violence team.

Created by CDA Wilson in 2016 in response to the prevalence of these incidents in our county, this team has worked diligently since its inception to prosecute abusers, assist survivors, partner with law enforcement, and educate the public on the dynamics of this kind of abuse.

In addition to dozens of speaking engagements, many to students, the team worked closely with law enforcement family violence detectives to implement trauma-informed response methods used to deal with these defendants and victims from the initial contact with police.

By focusing on evidence-based prosecution to secure the strongest evidentiary case for prosecution, the team has been very successful in securing more and higher prison sentences for abusers, including multiple life sentences. Two of the cases tried by members of the team in 2018 are featured in our "Year in Review" section, on page 13.

This was also the second year for our "Not in My County" public awareness campaign, held each October in coordination with National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. By engaging members of the community as participants in the effort, we are able to bring attention to the fact that this type of abuse touches every resident in one way or another. Our united message to abusers that we as a community will not tolerate their offensive actions has been featured prominently on social media and in the news media, reminding survivors that help is available.



DEFERRED PROSECUTION PROGRAM

Diversion program designed to give first-time youthful offenders a second chance (see pg. 11)

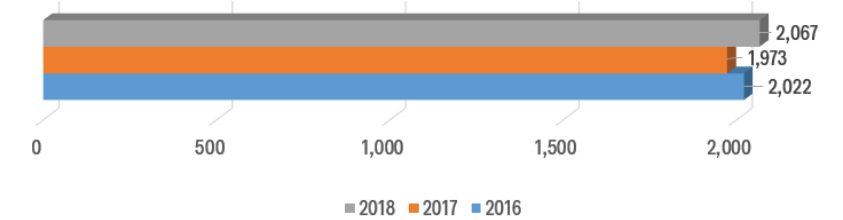
434 program completions in 2018
90% completion rate
1,548 completions since program update

14
Juvenile offenders certified to stand trial as adults

JUVENILE OFFENSES FILED

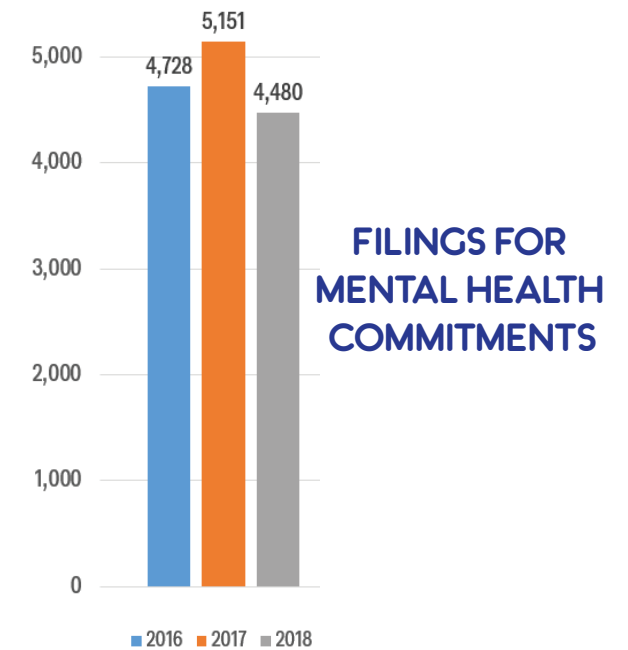
Felony 1,257
Misdemeanor 1,087

REQUESTS FOR PROTECTIVE ORDERS



DIGITAL MEDIA EVIDENCE SUBMITTED TO OUR OFFICE BY LAW ENFORCEMENT

Year	Size in Terabytes
2013	0.37
2014	0.64
2015	6.07
2016	82.22
2017	121.67
2018	206.28



4,064
of intimate partner violence-related cases filed in Tarrant County in 2018



CDA EMPLOYEES

BY DIVISION

167 ATTORNEYS
46 INVESTIGATORS
98 STAFF

BY ETHNICITY

224 CAUCASIAN
41 AFRICAN AMERICAN
40 HISPANIC
5 ASIAN
1 NATIVE AMERICAN



BY GENDER

57% FEMALE
43% MALE

83%

OF CDA EMPLOYEES
ARE INVOLVED IN A
COMMUNITY GROUP
OR ACTIVITY



440

OF SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS BY
OUR EMPLOYEES IN 2018

25

OF OUR ATTORNEYS WHO ARE
BOARD CERTIFIED BY THE TEXAS
BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION

14%

PERCENTAGE OF OUR ATTORNEYS
WHO HOLD THIS DESIGNATION
(TWICE THE STATEWIDE PERCENTAGE)



Our 4-year-old emotional support canine, Brady has become a fixture here at the courthouse, offering warm, unconditional support to victims, law enforcement and courthouse employees.

This year for the first time, Brady accompanied a child victim into court to testify. Before the moment came, Brady visited the courtroom with his trainer to become familiar with the surroundings. He dutifully practiced his position under the witness stand, where he could be just a hand's reach from the boy throughout his time on the stand.

Brady also sat patiently with the boy as he waited to enter the courtroom, and again after his testimony was finished, providing him a calm, kind comfort and distraction from what can be a harrowing experience for even the bravest adult.

In our office, we never lose sight of the fact that many people seeking our assistance are suffering through the most terrible experience of their lifetime. And on an average day, Brady is standing by, greeting those who come to our office, and ready to provide comfort to those who need it most.



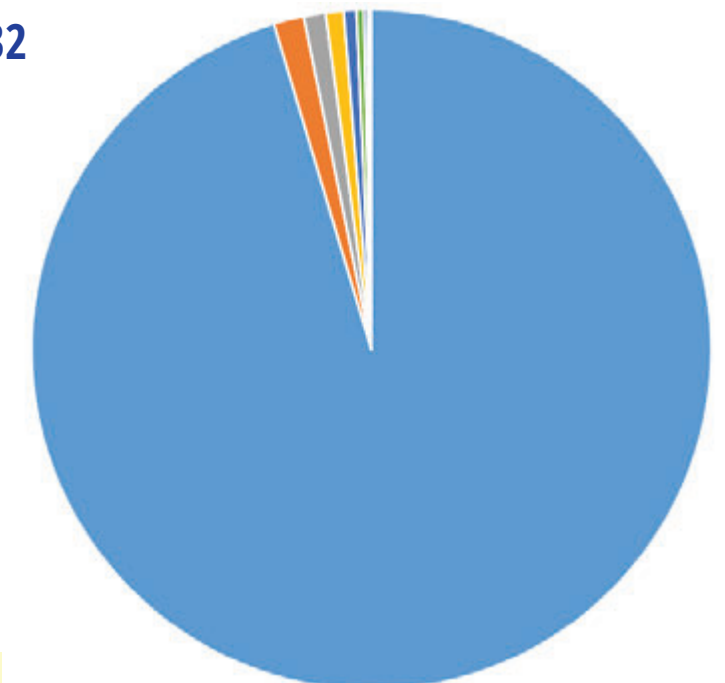
BRADY: DA DOG

FINANCIAL REPORT

FY2018 Approved Budget \$42,494,432

Personnel	\$38,678,692
Materials & Supplies	\$ 578,666
Capital	\$ 417,535
Court Costs	\$ 343,552
Other	\$ 241,878
Education	\$ 141,383
Contracts	\$ 69,396
Building	\$ 47,264
Travel	\$ 25,354

FY2018 Spend \$40,543,721
FY2018 Budget Savings \$ 1,950,711



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