

**2022**



# **Annual Report**



**Sharen Wilson**  
Tarrant County  
Criminal District Attorney

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# Message from Sharen Wilson



Thank you.

As I prepare to leave this office, thank you for the faith you had in me – and for electing me as Tarrant County’s Criminal District Attorney.

I have been honored to serve as your CDA since 2015, seeking justice and serving as the voice for victims.

I have had the privilege of working with an excellent team of CDA lawyers, investigators, and staff who understood the vision and worked to make it a reality.

We made this office transparent, efficient, and effective. We created new prosecutorial teams to address growing crime trends, from Adult Sexual Assault and Intimate Partner Violence to Elder Financial Fraud and Auto Crimes.

We not only balanced the CDA office budget each year, but we also came in under budget every year. All this, even as we modernized the office and boosted staff to handle a massive increase in video from police body cameras, home and business surveillance and cell phones for court cases.

We prosecuted offenders, seeking strong but fair sentences, but we also worked to give first-time offenders a second chance through rehabilitation programs such as the Deferred Prosecution Program (DPP).

We used every opportunity possible – from speaking to community groups to teaching about the criminal justice system through our Citizen Prosecutor Academy – to explain what this office does and how hard prosecutors, investigators and staff work on behalf of victims and this community.

Most of all, we worked to ensure that every person in our county criminal justice system – regardless of their neighborhood, gender, income, race or education – finds justice.

I am proud of all the work our office has done since 2015, and I am proud to share our successes with our dedicated, talented attorneys, investigators, and staff.

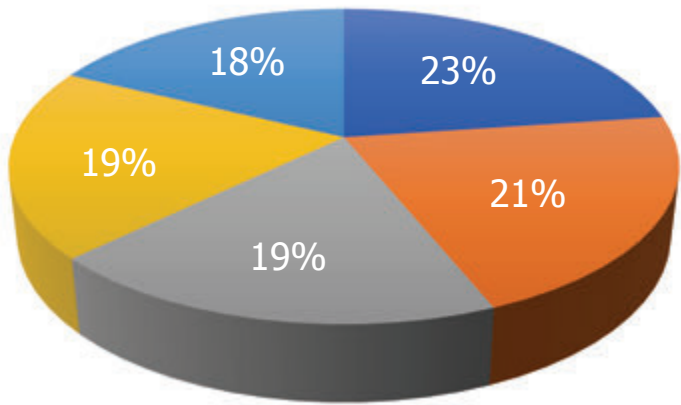
Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharen Wilson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Sharen Wilson

# Crime Trends

## Top 5 Crimes in FY 2022



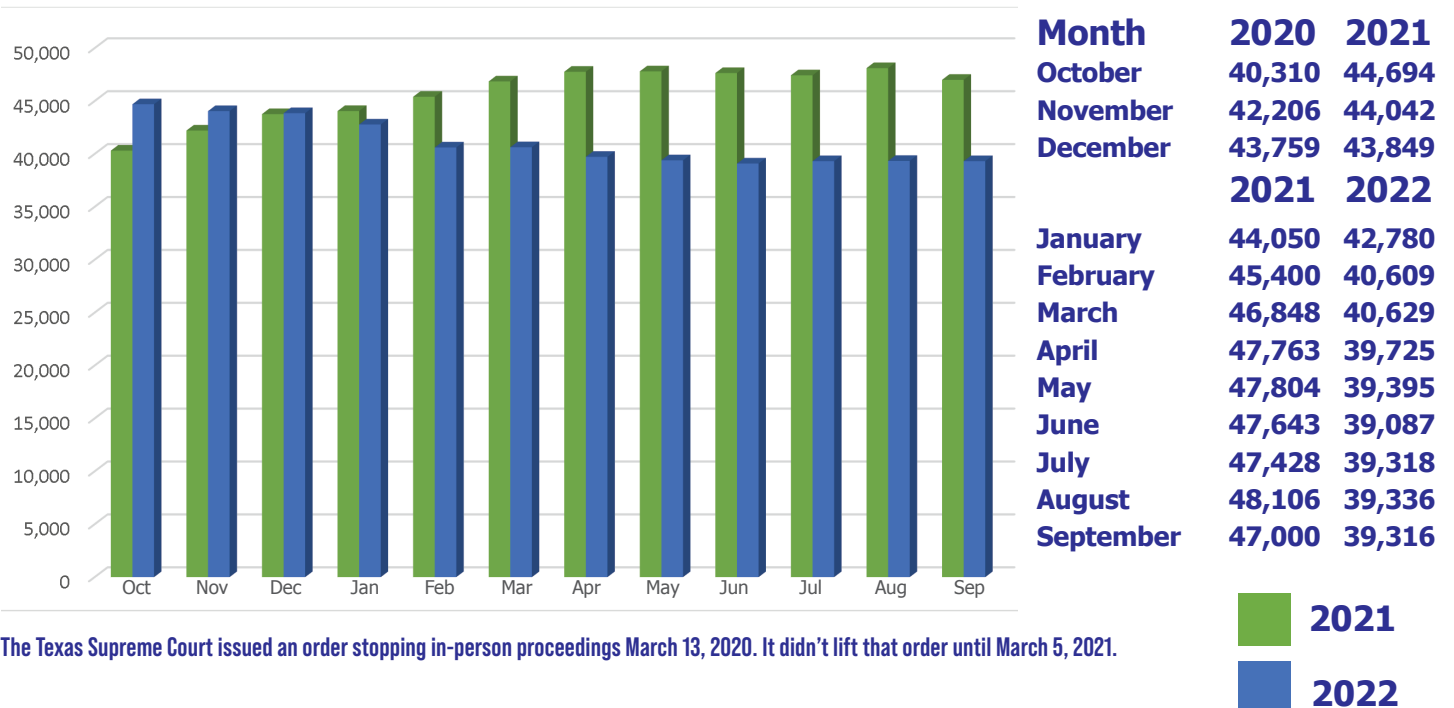
- 1 Possession of controlled substance, less than one gram (felony) 2,462 cases filed
  - 2 Possession of marijuana, less than two ounces (misdemeanor) 2,271 cases filed
  - 3 Assault causing bodily injury - family violence (misdemeanor) 2,040 cases filed
  - 4 Criminal trespass (misdemeanor) 2,104 cases filed
  - 5 Aggravated assault with a deadly weapon (felony) 1,915 cases filed
- \* DWI historically ranked in the top five offenses, but has now dropped to sixth.

## Waiting for Justice - But Progress Made

There has been significant progress toward reducing the backlog of cases caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The number of pending cases has been reduced, month by month, after a peak of 48,106 cases in August 2021. The numbers continue trending downward, as judges holding more trials and inventory dockets resolve, or advance, criminal cases.

### Pending cases 2021 vs 2022



The Texas Supreme Court issued an order stopping in-person proceedings March 13, 2020. It didn't lift that order until March 5, 2021.

# Most Read

The 10 most read CDA social media posts from 2022

Metrics from  dashthis

*Note: This annual report is based on the fiscal year, October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022*



## FACEBOOK



1. Noemi Martinez was sentenced to 10 years in prison for the intoxication manslaughter death of Benjamin Isaac Castaneda, a 17-year-old violin player and singer in North Side High School's mariachi band. July 7.
2. Justin Barrett Frazell, a former host on Fort Worth radio station KFWR, pled guilty to a charge of sexual assault of a 17-year-old girl at his home in Mansfield. April 2.
3. Uber driver Victor Huynh Le has been convicted of sexually assaulting a woman who had taken his rideshare in June of 2020. He fled the courthouse in the middle of his trial and was sentenced to 11 years in prison in his absence. September 2.
4. See the Tarrant County Criminal Court Trial Board. Go to our website, [cda.tarrantcounty.com](http://cda.tarrantcounty.com), and keep up with the criminal trials in Tarrant County. There is no charge to access our trial board which shows every trial in the Tim Curry Criminal Justice Center. February 9.
5. Jamie Fuentez Ramirez, 51, was found guilty and sentenced to 20 years in prison on six counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon against a public servant. August 19.
6. Timothy Kion Huff was found guilty of capital murder and sentenced to life in prison. June 27.
7. James Williams, a Fort Worth sex offender with a history of kidnapping charges, pled guilty to aggravated sexual assault of a child, kidnapping and rape of a child under 14 years old. He was sentenced to 30 years in prison. February 28.
8. Former Tarrant County Justice of the Peace Jacquelyn Wright was convicted of tampering with a government record. She was sentenced to 10 days in jail, a \$2,500 fine and ordered to write a 50 page essay apologizing to the court and public for her behavior. February 2.
9. Josh Hamilton, former professional baseball player, pleaded guilty to unlawful restraint, the result of a 2019 arrest after his teenage daughter accused him of hitting her. He was sentenced to attend anger control counseling and parenting classes, serve 20 hours of community service and pay a \$500 fine. February 22.
10. Reginald Kimbro pled guilty on Friday to the April 9, 2017, rape and murder of Molly Jane Matheson, a 22-year-old Fort Worth woman, and was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. March 18.



# “I don’t feel safe in this world”

Sabrina Hull’s world shattered in September 2018.

That’s when her husband, Fort Worth Police Officer Garrett Hull, was murdered.



**Sabrina Hull**

“Sometimes I wish they would have just buried me, too,” she tearfully told a jury this year. “I am not the same woman I was. I don’t feel safe in this world, that’s for sure.”

It took four years after her husband’s death, but she finally found a small measure of justice.

On June 29, 2022, a Tarrant County jury sentenced Timothy Huff to life in prison without parole for the capital murder of Garrett Hull.

Tarrant County Assistant Criminal District Attorneys Tim Rodgers and Lloyd Whelchel explained to jurors what happened that fateful night – September 14, 2018 – as the Los Vaqueros bar was robbed.

Garrett Hull had told Sabrina about the group of armed robbers who targeted Hispanic-run bars and how he and other undercover police officers were determined to arrest the suspects and end their reign of terror.



**Garrett Hull**

“He said, ‘These guys are really dangerous babe and it’s bad,’ ” she told the jury. “He said he felt like there was going to be a shooting ... and I was like, ‘Don’t put that in the universe, don’t say something, don’t think like that.’ And he said, ‘We need to talk about these things. They’re real.’ ”

After Los Vaqueros was robbed that night in 2018,

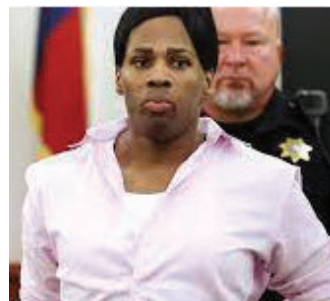
three suspects – Huff, Dacion Steptoe and Samuel Mayfield – ran outside, saw police, and started running in different directions. Garrett Hull was among the officers who chased Steptoe.

Steptoe shot at Hull; officers fired back at Steptoe. Hull was struck in the head and rushed to the hospital where he later died. Steptoe was shot and killed onsite.

The other two suspects – Huff and Mayfield – were caught and charged with capital murder. Under Texas law, a person is criminally responsible for the actions of someone else when they have a conspiracy to commit one crime and another felony occurs.

“This case is textbook for how someone is guilty of capital murder even when they didn’t pull the trigger,” Rodgers said. “He’s as guilty as if he pulled the trigger himself.”

CDA Investigators Jose Carrizal and Jose Hernandez also worked on the case, as did victim advocate Cecilia Jones.



**Timothy Huff**

After the life sentence was announced, Sabrina Hull took the stand to talk to Huff.

She wanted him to know that he “can never understand the depth of our sadness.”

“I don’t miss Garrett every day. I miss him every hour,” she said. “That’s all I have to say.”

She thanked the jury for doing such a tough job.

“You sent a message to this city and its people that there are consequences, consequences for the choices you make,” Sabrina Hull said.

# Beginning a Revolution

On March 18, 2022, several Texas families heard the confession they waited years to hear.

Reginald Kimbro, wearing handcuffs and a green jumpsuit, admitted in a Tarrant County courtroom that he raped several women and murdered two of them.



**Reginald Kimbro**

Silence lingered after each guilty plea.

Those killed: Molly Jane Matheson, a 22-year-old Fort Worth woman, and Megan Getrum, a 36-year-old Plano woman. For each of those capital murders, Kimbro received a sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole.



**Molly Matheson Megan Getrum**

Kimbro also pled guilty to three aggravated sexual assaults – one in Collin County in 2012, another in Collin County in 2014 and one in South Padre in 2014 – and one sexual assault in Collin County in 2014. He received three 20-year sentences in prison for the North Texas rapes and a life sentence for the South Padre rape. Each sentence was the maximum allowed for the charge.

This unusual multi-county disposition of cases was orchestrated by Assistant Tarrant County Criminal District Attorneys Allenna Bangs and Page Simpson with the help of prosecutors in Dallas, Collin and Cameron counties.

CDA Investigator Pauline Fitzgerald and Victim Advocate Clara Salvatierra also worked on the case.

Tarrant prosecutors initially planned to seek the death penalty for the death of Molly Jane

Matheson. Then Kimbro agreed to plead guilty to all six cases in exchange for a sentence of life in prison with no possibility of parole.

“Our decision to accept your guilty plea, allowing you to avoid the death penalty, has absolutely nothing to do with mercy,” Tracy Matheson, Molly Jane’s mother, told Kimbro in court a few days later during an allocution. “You have done nothing to deserve that. Instead, it has everything to do with silencing your voice.”

“No longer will you be able to sit behind the lie of innocence.”

As part of the arrangement, Kimbro waived all appeals.

“I honestly have nothing to say to you,” David Matheson, Molly Jane’s father, said during the allocution. “You don’t exist. You don’t occupy any space in my head. You never will. You are the definition of a coward.”

He thanked the District Attorney’s Office and the Fort Worth Police Department before thanking his family and support system.

A few survivors spoke directly to Kimbro, who sat in silence.

“Today is a celebration because justice has been served,” one woman said. Another labeled him “a true monster.”

But all the pain and suffering Kimbro caused has already led to change.

“I am beginning to see the start of a revolution, a movement,” Tracy Matheson said. “I will spend the rest of my days making sure that this battle is won. The conversation about sexual assault will change and victims will be empowered to find their voices.”

Her daughter’s murder led Texas lawmakers in 2019 to create “Molly Jane’s Law,” which requires law enforcement officers investigating sexual assault to input pertinent information into a national database which is maintained by the FBI.

**(Continued on the next page)**

## Beginning a Revolution (continued)

State Rep. Craig Goldman, R-Fort Worth, shepherded the measure through the Texas Legislature.

A statewide task force was created by Texas Governor Greg Abbott to address gaps in services provided by law enforcement in the realm of sexual assault. Two representatives from the Tarrant County CDA's Office – ACDA Kim D'Avignon and Investigator Kristina Gonzalez – serve on that task force.

In 2019, after a review of sexual assault cases in Tarrant County, Sharen Wilson formed a division to focus on adult sexual assaults. ACDA Kim D'Avignon guides that team. The team's work has boosted the number of cases brought by law enforcement, indicted by the Grand Jury, taken to trial, and convictions secured. Their work includes actively prosecuting serial rapists and cold cases that may have gone undetected before.

A non-profit organization led by the Matheson family has worked to lobby for legislation in Texas to change the narrative and approach to sexual assault investigations and arrests.

"The light – Molly's brilliant, joy-filled, bright light – will shine over the darkness brought by your cowardly decisions," Tracy Matheson told Kimbro. "Her light is the fuel for the revolution."

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# "This is evil, but you can't look away"

The picture lingered on the screen in the courtroom.

Angela Gagne, a 41-year-old mother of five, lay on the floor in the guest room of her duplex.

She was naked.

She had been brutally beaten.

She had been shot in the head four times.

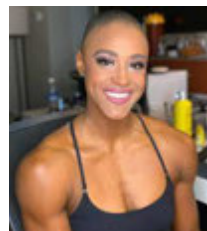
She was in the fetal position in a pool of her own blood.

A Tarrant County jury on August 5, 2022, found Q'Juan Tiakei Holmes, 35, guilty of the 2017 capital murder of his girlfriend, Angela Gagne.

He received an automatic sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole for the crime. Tarrant County Assistant Criminal District Attorney Marcus Hanna showed the jury Angela Gagne's picture because he said she had been left "like a piece of garbage that didn't matter to anybody."

Hanna and ACDA Collin Ashworth explained to the jury that Gagne on June 4, 2017, called 9-1-1 to report that her boyfriend was beating her.

Six days later, Holmes and Gagne argued at her Fort Worth duplex while Holmes' older brother, Xondadic Antonio Holmes, was visiting.



**Angela Gagne**

As they argued, Q'Juan Holmes dragged Gagne into a spare bedroom, keeping her there as he and his brother stole TVs and personal items.

She never left the room.

Two days later, during a welfare check, police found her lifeless body there.

After the shooting, Q'Juan Holmes, who had been living with Gagne, took a bus to Florida. Police tracked him down and extradited him back to Texas.

"This is evil, but you can't look away because the person who did this is sitting in the courtroom right before you," Hanna said. "Anybody want that man walking around you or your loved ones?"

"Find this man guilty."





# TEAM APPROACH

**Sharen Wilson looked at the data and the evidence.**

**That showed her, after she took office in 2015, that a specialized approach was needed to address some crimes.**

**There already were several teams in place to give a specialized focus to Post Conviction, Gang, Grand Jury, Intake, Special Victims, and White Collar/Public Integrity cases.**

**Before her first year in office was over, she created two more teams: Conviction Integrity and Law Enforcement Incidents.**

**Over the next few years, additional teams were put together to focus on Intimate Partner Violence, Elder Financial Fraud, Trafficking, Adult Sexual Assault and Auto Crimes.**

**Here's a look at how and why those teams were created.**

# Conviction Integrity

## est. 2015

One of Sharen Wilson's first priorities was to create a Conviction Integrity team.

This team re-examines past cases as warranted to make sure that innocent people are not wrongfully imprisoned.

When created in 2015, it was one of only 17 in the nation.



**John Nolley**

The first case reviewed by Conviction Integrity was the 1998 murder conviction of John Nolley, for fatally stabbing Sharon McLane, a Bedford woman, 57 times.

Nolley was convicted largely based on false testimony from a jailhouse informant who, despite facing decades in prison, was released on probation after his testimony helped convict Nolley.

While the Innocence Project began working on this case with the Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney's Office's Post-Conviction Unit in 2009 with new DNA testing, it was not until Sharen Wilson created the Conviction Integrity Team in 2015 that significant progress was made in reviewing Nolley's conviction.

Assisted by the Bedford Police Department, the Conviction Integrity Team and the Innocence Project discovered new evidence that ultimately led to Nolley's release from prison in 2016 and

the reversal of his conviction and formal declaration of his innocence in 2018.

In 2018, Nolley – who spent nearly 19 years in prison for the crime – was released from prison and formally declared innocent.

"I realize that this apology cannot take back the 21 years of your life," Judge Louis Sturns said to Nolley during his court hearing. "But, to the extent that words can express our sorrow and regret, I wish to apologize to you."

Due to Nolley's wrongful conviction, Sharen Wilson changed the Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney's Office's jailhouse informant policy to ensure that our office tracks and restricts the use of jailhouse informants.

Echoing Sharen Wilson's changes, Texas law changed and now requires that prosecutors statewide track informants and benefits provided to them. Attorneys also are allowed to tell juries about informants' criminal histories.

As forensic science continues to advance, CIU may provide even more opportunities for our team to study cases and ensure that only the guilty are in prison.

The first CIU team was guided by former ACDA Dawn Boswell. It's now headed by ACDA Steve Conder.



**Nolley released, May 2016**

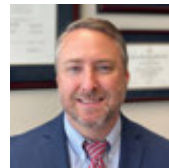
# Law Enforcement Incident Team

## est. 2015

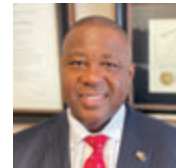


Near the end of her first year in office, Sharen Wilson met with Tarrant County Law Enforcement executives to talk about creating a Law Enforcement Incident team.

This team, created in December 2015, handles police officer conduct related cases. The first LEI team was guided by former ACDAs Tamla Ray and Jacob Mitchell. It's now led by ACDAs Tim Rodgers and Sam Williams.



**Tim Rodgers**



**Sam Williams**

Members of this team respond to officer involved shootings and review the investigations of Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA) that examine and investigate the incidents.

The Law Enforcement Incident team also reviews cases involving in-custody deaths, discharging a firearm at a civilian, and suspected official oppression incidents that involve excessive use of force or that result in a serious injury to a civilian.

This team's goal is to make sure there is an objective and unbiased review of all of the facts in each case received by the team. After a review of the cases received, team members present cases that meet required criteria to the Grand Jury.

Prosecutors do not make a recommendation to the Grand Jury as to what the indictment decision should be. They present the facts and will prosecute any cases on which a Grand Jury returns an indictment.



# Intimate Partner Violence Team

## est. 2016

As CDA, Sharen Wilson personally reviews every capital murder case filed in Tarrant County.

When she began this process in 2015, she was surprised to learn that half the capital murders she saw were Intimate Partner Violence related. In 2016, there were 16 IPV related homicides, including the tragic stabbing deaths of Shanna Vandewege and her infant son Diederik and the drowning of Elizabeth Arellano, who was thrown from an overpass into Lake Worth.

Sharen Wilson began to focus on IPV and related homicides, asking Tarrant County commissioners to fund an IPV team of five felony attorneys, three investigators, and one administrative assistant. The team's goal: Maximize protection for victims and hold offenders accountable.

Changing the focus from victim cooperation to offender accountability has taken years to accomplish and it involved working closely with Safehaven, One Safe Place, John Peter Smith Hospital, and all local law enforcement agencies. The first IPV team was guided by ACDAs Art Clayton and Allenna Bangs. It's now headed by ACDA Kelly Meador.

By 2018, the number of IPV homicides dropped to eight. The number of IPV homicides remained at eight the next year as well. The change in attitude of the CDA's office was noticed by our partner agencies and law enforcement throughout the county.

In 2020, when the pandemic began, IPV homicides and misdemeanor family violence cases spiked. The "Stay home, Stay safe" campaign was not safe for vulnerable individuals who are victims of violence in their homes. In response to the rising numbers and then stagnate courts,

prosecutors began an intake program to better evaluate and reduce our misdemeanor cases. The focus became identifying potential evidence such as statements, pictures, videos, and recordings that possibly could still be obtained to strengthen the state's case – and making first day contact with the injured party to get crucial information, refer to necessary services, and explain the criminal process.

The intake program actually led to fewer misdemeanor cases filed. That's because several hundred mental health related cases were identified, and several hundred cases were increased to felonies. This program was recognized by both the Texas Association of Counties and the National Association of Counties for Best Practices.

In 2021 and to date in 2022, the number of IPV homicides dropped to seven each year. While any loss of life at the hands of a loved one is taken very seriously, it is significant that the number dramatically dropped during Sharen Wilson's tenure.

Each year since 2017 in October, which is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, this office spearheads an educational and social media campaign called Not in My County. The goal is to show commitment to combatting the prevalence of IPV here and spreading the word about how widespread domestic and family violence is. The message is and will remain: #NotinMyCounty.

**Not in  
My County**

Stop Intimate Partner Violence



**We Prosecute!**  
cda.tarrantcounty.com



# Elder Financial Fraud Team

## est. 2016

Some of the worst crimes in Tarrant County are committed against those you'd least likely expect – the elderly.

These senior citizens – parents, grandparents, great grandparents and more – are swindled out of the savings they spent decades building up to help them through their golden years.

Seniors are targeted because they tend to be trusting. That trust has led to millions of senior victims across the country being bilked out of billions of dollars each year.

The population impacted grows every day. By 2050, people aged 65 and older are expected to make up 20% of the total U.S. population.

Sharen Wilson in 2017 created the Elder Financial Fraud team to crack down on the problem locally. Under the direction of ACDA Lori Varnell, chief of EFF, our office has sent a growing number of fraud perpetrators to prison for taking advantage of our neighbors in their golden years.

In 2017, more than 75 cases were filed with the team. By 2022, more than 800 cases were filed.



**Elder Financial Fraud Team**

Since 2017, this team – which works to address this growing crime with aggressive prosecution and education – has overseen more than \$2.5 million in restitution paid to victims.

Through the years, Varnell and her team prosecuted some very high-profile cases and achieved tremendous results.

Among their recent convictions:



- William Neil "Doc" Gallagher pled guilty in 2021 to several charges related to the Ponzi scheme he ran in Hurst that bilked 192 senior citizen victims out of \$32 million. A judge sentenced the 80-year-old man to three life terms in prison as well as an additional 30 years behind bars.



- Desiree Boltos was convicted of swindling senior citizens out of \$1.6 million. She was sentenced in 2018 to 85 years in prison and was told to pay \$60,000 in fines. She ran "sweetheart" scams on five men and one woman. She pretended to be in relationships with them, even marrying one of them, even though she was already married to common-law husband Paul Hill.



- Paul Hill pled guilty in 2021 to several charges of bail jumping, engaging in organized criminal activity, theft of service worth more than \$300,000, money laundering and more. A judge sentenced Hill to 125 years in prison.

The EFF team continues to meet with people throughout the community, letting them know what to watch out for and how to identify scams.

One of their first steps was to partner with Guardianship Services Inc., working to help establish the Financial Exploitation Prevention Center that connects seniors in Tarrant County with an array of available resources. Just call 817-720-6556.

# Adult Sexual Assault Team

## est. 2016

In the summer of 2018, Sharen Wilson went to a community meeting and learned that July had been a brutal month for sexual assaults in our county. The Women's Center, the agency that provides rape crisis counseling for all of Tarrant County, had been called to more than 100 hospital visits that month.

She returned to the CDA office and told the felony division chief to get ready because we were about to receive an onslaught of adult sexual assault cases.

Out of those more than 100 hospital visits, our office received five filed cases.

Five.

That was when Sharen Wilson decided to change how sexual assaults were prosecuted in Tarrant County. She met with police chiefs and gained their support. By November 2019, the Adult Sexual Assault team was created and tasked with finding a better path to prosecution. It has not been an easy journey, but it was one where every step on the journey mattered.

Among the changes that have come from our new Adult Sexual Assault Team:

- A working group of law enforcement, partner agencies, colleges, advocacy groups and hospitals determined we needed to change the culture around how sexual assaults were handled, ranging from how police talked to victims to how cases were prosecuted. We retrained law enforcement on how to work with victims. We also worked with partner agencies and advocacy groups about how we prosecute sexual assault cases.
- We began contacting victims as early as possible, so they better understood the process.
- We worked to make sure bond conditions better matched up with what we knew to be risk factors due to the relationship of the attacker and victim.
- We switched to vertical prosecution so that victims and law enforcement could have continuity and consistency in prosecution.
- We began only looking at cases in an evidence-based way. Every decision in a case from intake to trial came down to the evidence and what we could prove.

Has it worked? We certainly are seeing some improvement.

From November 1, 2019, to December 31, 2021, 320 cases were filed with this team. Additional funding for testing cold case rape kits has accounted for a 9.7% increase in cold cases filed by the team. Fourteen percent of the team's total caseload now involves cold cases, and two-thirds of those involve offenders with prior allegations and/or charges of a sexual offense nature.

As we keep fighting for victims of sexual assault, we continue to learn and grow. However, the importance of the creation and vision of this team cannot be overstated.

"For too long, victims were re-traumatized by the very system meant to protect them," said Kim D'Avignon, an Assistant Criminal District Attorney and chief of the Adult Sexual Assault team. "Our hope is to be a place where victims feel heard and where sex offenders understand Tarrant County will not look the other way any longer.

"We have Sharen Wilson to thank for helping us begin the hard, vitally important work to find justice for victims of sexual assault."



**Kim D'Avignon**

# Trafficking Team

## est. 2019

In 2019, Tarrant County had five pending human trafficking cases.

Sharen Wilson believed the number of these cases was abnormally low, especially cases where vulnerable teenagers are preyed upon by sex traffickers through social media.



That year she asked Tarrant County Commissioners to fund a position where one prosecutor would handle all human trafficking cases. Sharing in her concern, the position was funded and ACDA Lindy Borchardt began serving in that position on November 1, 2019.

**Lindy Borchardt**

By 2022, there were nearly 100 human trafficking and related cases pending in Tarrant County. These cases are complex, involving multiple layers of defendants from the trafficker to the buyers of sex.

These cases have increased as traffickers have become increasingly sophisticated in recruiting teenagers – boosting recruitment through social media, primarily Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat and Instagram.

The COVID pandemic didn't help. Keeping students out of school for many months resulted in less supervision at home for some. That gave defendants even more opportunities to prey upon them.

In response to the increase in these cases, Tarrant County strengthened the foundation to fight human trafficking.

Sharen Wilson was actively involved in the formation and structure of the Tarrant County Governor's Child Sex Trafficking Advisory Board and the Tarrant County Human Trafficking Task Force. Lindy Borchardt represents the TCCDA's Office on those committees, as well as others in addition to serving as co-chair of the Law Enforcement and Prosecution subcommittee.

Our office works closely with community groups such as Unbound, Traffic911, and the Tarrant County 5 Stones Taskforce to facilitate services for victims of human trafficking and increase community awareness. Alliance for Children conducts monthly staffing of cases with important stakeholders to ensure a comprehensive and coordinated approach to these cases in addition to providing services to the victim and her family.

Our prosecutors are laser focused on these cases. Borchardt was honored this year with an award for Community Impact from the Tarrant County 5 Stones Taskforce for prosecuting these cases.

It takes a strategic approach to aggressively prosecute and seek justice on behalf of victims who have endured so much trauma.





# Auto Crimes Team est. 2021

**These aren't minor thefts. They are serious economic crimes.**

Missing a catalytic converter?

If so, you're not alone.

Catalytic converter thefts spiked in North Texas, particularly during the COVID pandemic, despite a new law that requires the person selling catalytic converters to show documents proving he or she owns the vehicle from which the part came.

Area law enforcement officials decided they needed a new approach to crack down on the overall problem of auto crimes.

Sharen Wilson named an assistant criminal district attorney – Zane Reid – to work with the Tarrant Regional Auto Crimes Task Force.

This prosecutor is the first in Texas named to solely work with an auto crimes task force and only prosecute auto theft-related crimes.

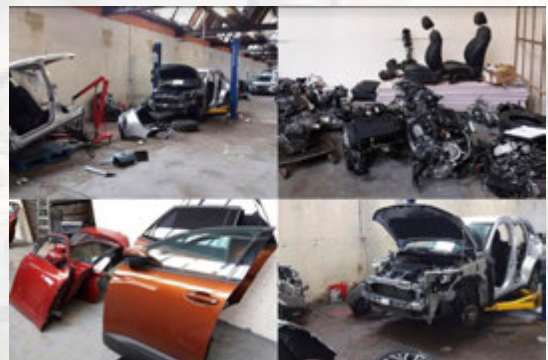
"These aren't minor thefts," Wilson said. "They are serious economic crimes. With the rising cost of vehicles, these thefts have a major impact on people and businesses. We need to do everything we can to stop these thefts."

In the past, auto theft cases were sent to the CDA's Office and assigned to various prosecutors.



**Zane Reid**

All will now go to Zane Reid, who will be able to spot trends and identify multiple cases involving the same defendant that should be grouped together.



"Auto crime threatens the ability of hard-working people to provide for themselves and their families," Reid said. "My position was a proactive step taken by Sharen Wilson to address an unfortunate but growing need in our community."



# The office of Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney



Sharen Wilson has served as Tarrant County's Criminal District Attorney since January 2015. Her last day is December 31, 2022.

Tarrant County is the 15th largest county in the country and the third largest in Texas. As the leader of the county's largest "law firm," Sharen Wilson has modernized the office, reorganized resources and created new teams to meet the growing demands of Tarrant County.

Our mission is to enhance public safety through rigorous 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 crime and other members of the public.

**As a Criminal District Attorney's Office, we handle both criminal and civil matters.**

The Criminal Division is the largest division in our office. Almost 200 licensed attorneys in this division handle cases in the Grand Jury as well as in 11 Felony and 10 Misdemeanor courts. There are 41 municipal police departments and a total of 76 Law Enforcement Agencies, including the sheriff and colleges and schools. All of these agencies file criminal cases to the Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney. Each year, the TCCDA's Office handles about 45,000 criminal cases. Larry Moore is Criminal Division Chief assisted by three Deputy Chiefs: Dale Smith, Riley Shaw and Allenna Bangs.

The Civil Division serves as general counsel for Tarrant County and its elected or appointed officials, including the Commissioners' Court, the sheriff, the tax assessor collector and the district and county clerks. Leslie Hunt is chief of this division; David Hudson is deputy chief.

The Investigative Division is staffed by investigators, certified Texas peace officers, who help prosecutors by evaluating and helping prepare cases for trial. Maria Hinojosa is chief of this division. Kyle Gibson and Marvin Brown are assistant chief investigators.

The Staff Division is made up of more than 100 non-lawyer, non-investigator employees who serve as our legal administrative staff. Shannon Fletcher is chief of staff.

## Tip of the hat



SafeHaven, the only state designated family violence center in Tarrant County, tipped its hat to Sharen Wilson this year in its Fatality Review Report in recognition of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

"It is vital to recognize the degree with which the team has relied on the leadership of Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney Sharen Wilson," the report stated. "CDA Wilson is an unyielding champion of survivors and their access to justice. It is not hyperbole to say the actions of CDA Wilson in her current role have directly impacted the future of survivors throughout the county and held offenders accountable for their crimes.

"CDA Wilson's support in the fatality review process is unmatched and undoubtedly has advanced the mission: To end (Intimate Partner) homicides."

# Criminal

When Sharen Wilson took office in 2015, there was only one person she wanted to guide the office's Criminal Division: Larry Moore.



**Larry Moore**

An attorney for more than four decades, Moore has served both as a prosecutor and a defense attorney who drew national headlines for helping free a man jailed 23 years for a rape he didn't commit.

Since January 2015, he has carried the duties of running the CDA Office's largest division.

Moore, who has been board certified in criminal law since 1982, graduated from the University of Texas School of Law and first was hired to work in this office by the late Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney Tim Curry.

He worked here from 1977 through 1986; his last position with the CDA at that time was Criminal Division Chief. Moore went on to become a leader in the Texas criminal defense lawyers' community with a devout commitment to the Innocence Project.

He returned to the CDA's office in 2015, as Criminal Division Chief, with Sharen Wilson. He supervises more than 165 attorneys ranging from millennials fresh out of law school to those with 25 or more years of practice. He has overseen the prosecution of thousands of cases.

He is diligent. He doesn't take shortcuts. He prepares.

He faced several challenges throughout the years in this office, including how to handle the ever increasing amount of Digital Media Evidence (DME), which is the video from police bodycams, dashcams, cell phones and car navigation systems.

When he arrived in 2015, there was 6.07

terabytes of data. (One terabyte of video equals about 1,000 hours of video, 17,000 hours of music or 310,000 photos). The amount of digital data, which must be reviewed by this office, continued growing, reaching 315.04 terabytes of data in 2021.

More challenges came in 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic hit, and courts were essentially closed after the Texas Supreme Court banned jury trials. CDA lawyers, staff and investigators never stopped – they continued working in the office, social distancing, wearing masks and taking safety precautions.

The CDA's office got creative. Some dockets and hearings were conducted through Zoom hearings. Electronic plea forms were created; cameras were used to ensure defendants and witnesses could be present for hearings and pleas.

One of Moore's key accomplishments was encouraging Sharen Wilson to establish the Conviction Integrity Unit in 2015. "We needed to be sure we were doing the right thing," he said.

He also is proud of the shoring up of the White Collar Crime team, of which he himself served as chief in the 1980s.

Moore received the prestigious Professionalism Award by the Tarrant County Bar Association in 2018. The award recognizes a bar member who exemplifies professional traits that others in the bar should try to emulate.

Moore guided the criminal division with integrity and a steady hand through the years.

"Larry Moore handles difficult situations with civility – a lost art in the legal profession these days and, frankly, society," Sharen Wilson said. "At the end of the day, Larry knows that all you have is your reputation and ethics. He doesn't say that. He lives it."

"There is no better example of professionalism in law than Larry Moore."



# Civil

## The Civil Division has more than 50 areas of practice.

The Civil Division has long been a crucial arm of the CDA's Office.

Attorneys in this part of the office serve as the general counsel for Tarrant County and elected or appointed officials.

They represent Tarrant County and its officials in civil litigation ranging from contracts to motor vehicle accidents.

And attorneys in this division handle open records requests, help victims of family violence with mental health and protective orders – and represent the Department of Family and Protective Services in cases where abuse or neglect are alleged.

This team also handles federal and state litigation, employment law, bail bond forfeiture cases, asset forfeitures, and election law.



**Leslie Hunt**

In 2019, Leslie L. Hunt was named the first female chief of the Civil Division in this office's history. She came to guide the Civil Division from a law firm in Fort Worth where she handled employment

law, real estate, and business litigation. Her depth of knowledge on legal issues made her a great fit for this role.

Hunt in 2020 was named on the list of the state's top attorneys published by Texas Super Lawyers magazine and as one of the top attorneys in Fort Worth.

Under her leadership, the team's workload grew significantly, especially in 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

Civil attorneys worked at times around the clock to help guide the county through the pandemic, giving time sensitive and sound legal advice to officials throughout Tarrant County, drafting emergency orders and disaster declarations, interpreting Governor and state Supreme Court orders, preparing health safety policies and more.



**Historic Tarrant County Courthouse**

Through the years, they helped improve the system for protective orders by putting in place an online questionnaire for potential victims of family violence seeking protective orders and created a standard procedure manual for the review of JPS contracts.

These Civil attorneys also put in place measurable standards for MHMR deliverable services in the county jail mental health contract and helped the county set up a jail diversion center for low-level offenders with mental health issues.

"The Civil Division has more than 50 areas of practice, and its chief carries a great deal of responsibility and discretion," Sharen Wilson said. "Leslie's depth of knowledge and instincts on the legal issues involved with representing the interests of the nation's 15th largest county make her perfectly suited for this role."

# Investigators

Investigators are the backbone of the CDA's Office.

These men and women, who are certified Texas Peace Officers, help prosecutors evaluate and prepare cases for trial. While reviewing cases, they also determine areas that need more investigation, locate witnesses and help gather facts and information needed to help Assistant Criminal District Attorneys successfully prosecute cases.

Many have specialized training in specific trades, such as fraud investigation, video forensics, computer or cellphone forensics or homicide investigations.

"Most of our investigators had long careers in law enforcement before coming to the CDA," Sharen Wilson said. "Those veterans make up a team of the most experienced investigators anywhere."

Maria Hinojosa was named chief of the investigative division as of August 30, 2021.

The TCCDA's office made history in the last days of 2021 by becoming the first district attorney's office in the state to be named a "Recognized Law Enforcement Agency" by the Texas Police Chiefs Association Foundation.

This recognition given to our office's investigators is based on participating in a voluntary program that proves law enforcement agencies are meeting or exceeding 168 difficult standards based on Texas law, court decisions and Best Practices.

This recognition lasts four years and requires the TCCDA's Investigative division to submit annual reports showing continued compliance.

"I am very proud of the hard work put in by

investigators in this office," Sharen Wilson said. "These men and women show up every day, working hard to seek justice. They make a difference in the criminal justice system."



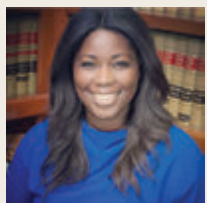
**Criminal Division Team**  
**(l-r) Sharen Wilson-Criminal District Attorney,**  
**Barbara Childress-Investigator,**  
**Maria Hinojosa-Chief Investigator,**  
**Kyle Gibson-Assistant Chief Investigator,**  
**Marvin Brown-Assistant Chief Investigator**



# Staff

## Transforming the CDA's office began with a first-ever Chief of Staff

A few months after taking office in 2015, Sharen Wilson created a new position – the first-ever Chief of Staff in the Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney's Office.



**Shannon Fletcher**

She hired Shannon Fletcher. Anyone who knows Sharen Wilson knows that she had big expectations for the new Chief of Staff.

The job was no small feat, putting in place processes, training and more for the 301 CDA employees and overseeing the office's \$37.9 million budget.

Fletcher, a Fort Worth native, quickly grabbed the reins and took responsibility for managing all non-attorney, non-investigator staff which includes business operations, hiring and personnel matters, internal information technology needs, facility requirements, communications, community outreach and the CDA's office annual budget.

Almost as soon as she started, she was charged with the massive task of implementing Tech Share Prosecutor, the CDA case management system, as well as coordinating a new position called Director of Technology that oversees internal technology projects.

She worked hard to make improvements in this office, whether in budgeting, human resources or overall management.

Fletcher focused on creating a variety of training for both leaders and staff, such as discrimination and harassment compliance training, which has become the county standard. She also provided management leadership training for the CDA management team to give managers tools to improve their skills.

She also developed more meaningful and accurate evaluations and appraisals for CDA personnel and even developed "Baby Chief" training for new court chiefs and supervisors to learn about issues ranging from time administration to Family Medical Leave.

Fletcher – who has been named "Great Women of Texas" by the Fort Worth Business Press, as well as the Top 40 under 40 and 20 Women to Watch – was tireless.

She also oversaw the installation of a new phone system, led efforts to move the Asset Forfeiture team into the CDA office and coordinated the move of CDA staff into the new Juvenile Scott D. Moore Justice Center.

"Shannon Fletcher helped transform this office, the county's largest law firm, into a functioning, professional law office," Sharen Wilson said. "She helped make the CDA's office run smoothly. She exceeded all of my expectations.

"I appreciate all of the hard work she put in over the past eight years."



**Executive CDA Staff**  
(l-r) Maria Hinojosa-Chief Investigator,  
Larry Moore-Chief Criminal Division,  
Sharen Wilson- Criminal District Attorney,  
Shannon Fletcher-Chief of Staff,  
Leslie Hunt-Chief Civil Division

# Community Outreach

After taking office, Sharen Wilson began efforts to engage with the community outside of the courthouse.



**Amy Bearden**

Community Outreach Coordinator Amy Bearden worked to ensure that the community always had a way to effectively communicate with the CDA's Office and gain access to speakers, programs and more.

Among the programs Bearden launched:



**The Citizen Prosecutor Academy.** A 12-week program geared to give citizens insight into how the CDA's Office works. These academies held twice a year, once in the spring and once in the fall, are open to members of the community who are interested in learning more about the criminal justice system. This program has won both state and national awards.

**Speakers on the Road.** A program where community groups can reach out to the CDA's Office to ask for speakers to visit their schools, businesses, churches, and other organizations. (Note: The Elder Financial Fraud presentation is the most requested).

**Citizen Advisory Committee.** A group of citizens from across the county that met with this office quarterly to let us know about key issues and concerns. Sharen Wilson also talked to this group about programs and efforts in this office.

**Minister Breakfasts.** Sharen Wilson met with clergy from around Tarrant County over breakfast twice a year. The goal was to hear about concerns and issues in communities throughout the county. Sharen Wilson shared information about programs and efforts in this office with them so they could share that information with their constituents.

**Intern Programs.** Interns, externs, and post-bars from across Texas and the county worked with attorneys in the CDA office and participated in continuing education programs.



**Prosecutors in High School.** A virtual class that teaches students about the criminal justice system. This program was launched virtually during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 to build trust with students, teach about criminal justice and let students know about future job opportunities with this office.



# Communications

Hand-in-hand with community outreach was communication.

Sharen Wilson, from Day 1 in office, made it a top goal to engage with the community. The best way to do that was to increase and improve the communication between this office and the community.

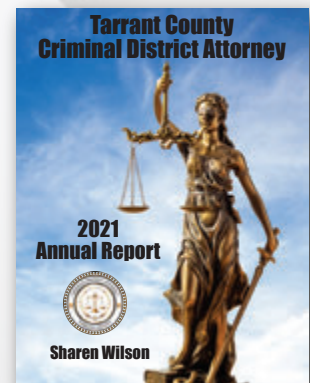


First up: A newsletter. Every quarter, a newsletter filled with stories about convictions, new programs, staff achievements and more was distributed to update Tarrant County residents about what was happening in this office.

Next: Enhanced social media. News about what this office was accomplishing was shared on our office's social media accounts – Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn.



Then: An Annual Report. This office's first comprehensive Annual Report was created in 2016, sharing even more news about this office's accomplishments. That first report – which was the first among CDA offices in Texas – has been followed each year with additional annual reports updating the community on achievements and efforts by CDA staff as well as new programs, crime trends, criminal justice challenges and more. The Texas County and District Attorneys Association even suggested in 2021 that the CDA report "could be a guide for how other offices might go about highlighting their work."



**Anna Williams**      **Mike Snyder**

Two former veteran news reporters, Anna Tinsley Williams and Mike Snyder, work hard to share those stories – in addition to informative videos – in those publications and on our office's social media accounts. They've also worked to grow the office's social media account audiences, which have increased every year.

In addition to sharing news of the office ranging from trial verdicts to press releases on our social media accounts, the communications team also remains busy updating the CDA website, managing the monthlong Not in My County public campaign geared to help reduce Intimate Partner Violence every October, publicizing efforts such as National Crime Victims' Rights week every April and more.



# Second Chances



Justice isn't always about getting a conviction or jail time.

Sometimes it can be found by giving someone a second chance.

That's why the Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney four decades ago created – and this year worked to enhance – a program to give first-time offenders a second chance for a clean criminal record.

It's called Deferred Prosecution Program (DPP) and it's geared to rehabilitate young offenders who face a non-violent criminal charge. The program initially was open to applicants between the ages of 17 and 24. We now have increased the age limit to 26.

The program lasts four months for misdemeanor offenses and eight months for felony offenses. All participants must have no criminal history and be willing to stay crime- and drug-free. If they successfully complete the program, the case is dismissed, and the participant may seek expunction of the arrest from their criminal records.



A criminal record can prevent a person from getting a good job, going to college, even getting loans, or renting a place to live. This program can remove those criminal records.

**Kenneth Mays** and probation officer – who guides the CDA program. “None of us are successful in life without the support of others or an unexpected helping hand,” said Kenneth Mays – a former juvenile detention officer, juvenile probation officer, Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission agent. “We all stand on the shoulders of someone or benefit from an opportunity extended to us.”

Since 2015, more than 2,675 people have successfully completed DPP.

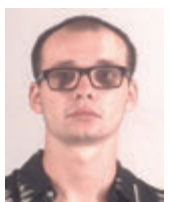
# The year in review

In fiscal year 2022, 54,327 cases were disposed of - 20,908 convictions, 56 acquittals, 14,827 dismissals and 2,745 other dispositions. The cases below are representative of the major cases tried by this office during FY 2022.



**James Floyd**, 55, was convicted of aggravated robbery for beating John Porter with metal table legs and shooting him

in the head, as well as for shooting his wife Diane in March 2017. Floyd represented himself in the guilt/innocence portion of the trial. The jury found him guilty and sentenced him to life in prison. A separate capital murder charge against Floyd is pending. *Prosecutors: Lisa Callaghan, Art Clayton. Investigator: Danny Nutt. Victim Advocate: Laura Flores.*



**Jared Holton Seavey**, 24, was found guilty of murdering his 31-year-old fiancée, Vanessa Faye Mayfield,

outside a Fort Worth church by stomping her head with his feet in 2019. A jury sentenced him to 99 years in prison. *Prosecutors: Charlie Boulware, Madeline Jones. Investigators: Darla Dowell, Victor Espino-Nevarez. Victim Advocate: Clara Salvatierra.*



**James Williams**, a 55-year-old Fort Worth sex offender with a history of kidnapping charges, pled guilty to aggravated

sexual assault of a child and aggravated kidnapping regarding the 2015 rape of a child under 14 years old. 297th District Court Judge David Hagerman sentenced him to 30 years in prison. *Prosecutors: Kim D'Avignon, Peter Geiseking. Investigator: Chris LaChance. Victim Advocate: Angela Stevens.*



**Tarhe Eugene Brown**, 22, was found guilty of aggravated sexual assault of a child (life in prison), four counts of sexual

assault of a child (20 years in prison on each), three counts of indecency with a child (20 years in prison on each) and online solicitation of a minor to engage in sexual conduct (10 years in prison). The 20 year sentences were stacked by the court to run consecutive to the life sentence. *Prosecutors: Kim D'Avignon, Stephanie Simpson. Investigator: Chris LaChance. Victim Advocate: Cecilia Jones.*



**Jacquelyn Wright**, 74, a former Tarrant County Justice of the Peace, was found guilty by a jury on three counts of falsifying

homestead exemptions. Visiting Judge Daryl Coffey sentenced her to four years probation, 10 days in jail and a \$2,500 fine. He also required her to write a 50-page essay apologizing for her actions. *Prosecutors: Lloyd Whelchel, Tommy Brown. Investigators: Marcus Rink, Kyle Pisula.*



**Juan Alfredo Alvarez**, 33, pled guilty to the August 2, 2018, murder of Donald Jenkins, 47, and Cheryl Trimmier, 52, at his Fort Worth

home. 372nd District Court Judge Scott Wisch sentenced Alvarez to two 65-year terms in prison. Alvarez must serve 30 years before he's eligible for parole.

*Prosecutors: D.J. Estes, Lisa Callaghan. Investigator: Danny Nutt. Victim Advocate: Cecilia Jones.*



**David Angelo Colon, Jr.**, 40, was found guilty of murdering Walter Davis in Fort Worth on March 28, 2018.

A jury sentenced him to 50 years in prison and a \$5,000 fine. *Prosecutors: Christy May, Diego Esparza. Investigator: Joshua Neiswender. Victim Advocate: Imelda Lopez.*



**Shalen Gardner**, 37, pled guilty to the 2017 capital murder of his estranged wife, Elanceia "Lana" Gardner at their

Fairmount Avenue duplex. Their children found her dead around 8:37 a.m. November 2, 2017. Gardner agreed to serve a term of life in prison without the possibility of parole. *Prosecutors: Allenna Bangs, Emily Kirby. Investigator: Danny Nutt. Victim Advocate: Clara Salvatierra.*



**Dorian Woodard**, 20, was found guilty of murdering Jordan Hightower, a 31-year-old clerk at a south Arlington E-Z Mart, on January 17,

2021. A jury sentenced him to life in prison plus a \$10,000 fine. *Prosecutors: Matt Rivers, Kyle Russo. Investigator: Clint Leach. Victim Advocate: Laura Flores.*



# Honors and Recognition



**Cami Wimberley**

Cami Wimberley passed the Texas Board of Legal Specialization-Paralegal Exam in Criminal Law, becoming one of only 14 Board Certified Paralegals in the area of Criminal Law for the entire state of Texas.



**William Knight**

ACDAs William Knight and Lee Sorrells gained board certification in criminal law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. Less

than 7% of attorneys in Texas are board certified. They joined 11 other attorneys with this criminal law certification at the Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney's Office.



**Lee Sorrells**



**Elder Financial Fraud Team**

CDA Sharen Wilson received the Colleen Colton Award for compassionate service to Tarrant County's at-risk adults by Guardianship Services Inc. The award was for her groundbreaking work to fight elder fraud and financial exploitation with initiatives that include creating the Elder Financial Fraud team.



**Kristina Gonzales**

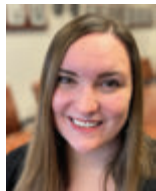
Investigator Kristina Gonzalez was recognized by Texas Governor Greg Abbott for her commitment and efforts as a member of the Sexual Assault Survivors' Task Force.



ACDA Matthew Jackson was honored with the Rising Star Award, one of the 2022 Alumni Legacy Awards from the Texas A&M University School of Law that recognizes graduates who made noteworthy contributions to the legal field and the community. Matthew is a 2013 Texas A&M Law School graduate.



**Aulstin Gardiner**



**Sarah Brown**

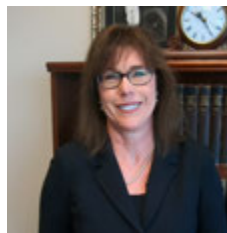
ACDA Aulstin Gardiner is the new president-elect and Sarah Brown is a new board member for the Tarrant County Young Lawyers Association.



**Lone Star Prosecutor**

CDA Sharen Wilson was given the Lone Star Prosecutor Award from the Tarrant District and County Attorneys Association for her tireless work in seeking justice for Tarrant County victims. She has served on the TDCOA board of directors and

on various committees for the board. Many times she has gone above and beyond the call of duty. This award is given to someone in the ranks of prosecution who has shown true dedication to the profession but isn't always given the recognition he or she deserves.



ACDA Lindy Borchardt was honored with an award for Community Impact from the Tarrant County 5 Stones Taskforce for her work as the human trafficking prosecutor for this county. These trafficking cases are some of our most challenging cases where the victims are not cooperative and the families are in crisis. These are also some of our worst defendants who actually think they can own women.



**(Continued on the next page)**





This office won three Best Practices Awards from the Texas Association of Counties this year. The awards, which come a year after these programs won Achievement Awards from the National Association of Counties, recognize innovative efforts to solve challenges facing local governments.



**Adult Sexual Assault Team  
Best Practices Award**

**CDA Investigator Christopher LaChance,  
CDA Sharen Wilson  
Rhita Koches - Texas Association of Counties,  
ACDA Kim D'Avignon - Chief of ASA Team  
ACDA Amy Allin  
ACDA Stephanie Simpson**

Prosecution of Adult Sexual Assaults by creating a better path to prosecution begins with how police officers file cases and deal with victims and extends to how prosecutors handle and prosecute cases. (ACDAs Kim D'Avignon, Emily Dixon).

**Prosecutors in High School  
Best Practices Award**

**CDA Chief of Staff Shannon Fletcher,  
CDA Sharen Wilson,  
Rhita Koches - Texas Association of Counties  
ACDA Matthew Jackson**



Prosecutors in High School is a virtual class that teaches students about the criminal justice system. (ACDA Matthew Jackson, Community Outreach Coordinator Amy Bearden).



**Congratulations to our Investigators**



**RECOGNIZED  
LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY**

The Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney's Office is the first DA's office in Texas to be named a "Recognized Law Enforcement Agency" by the Texas Police Chiefs Association Foundation.



Our investigators met all 168 Best Business Practices for law enforcement in Texas to achieve this prestigious recognition.

# Emotional Support Dogs

One year after taking office, Sharen Wilson did something no other District Attorney in Tarrant County had done.

She brought in an emotional support dog.

In 2016, Brady – a golden retriever – was brought into the office to be a comfort for victims and witnesses, especially children.

He was chosen because he had the right demeanor, intelligence, and patience for the demands of this role.

He can stay with witnesses and victims when they talk with DA staff. He even can go into the courtroom, before the jury is seated, and be at the feet of the child or person testifying, quietly giving comfort.



Brady, 7, has been featured on a trading card, labeled as the DA Dog, that gives details about him ranging from his age to his favorite treat (apples).

He also was among the canines featured in the 2019 Golden Retriever Rescue of North Texas calendar. (He was Mr. September).

And he is featured in a 20-page coloring book this office produced: What Happens in Court? Brady's Activity Guide for Children Testifying in Court.



Brady even has his own support dog, Scout, a Labradoodle, who came to us from Patriot Paws.

Scout, 6, began working in this office in November 2019. He is now working to get his formal certification through Assistance Dogs International.

This comforting canine duo was featured in a 360 West Magazine article about Working Dogs in May 2021. (The article noted that both dogs love all the humans in this office – and those who come to visit as well).

The two even attended a Tarrant County Commissioners Court meeting earlier this year in April to receive a proclamation for National Therapy Animal Day.







# Diversity and Inclusion

Ensure a commitment to diversity and inclusion.

That was the goal this year of a new Culture Committee created to promote a positive, inclusive work environment, plan workplace events, serve as a resource to gather diverse viewpoints and support diversity and inclusion initiatives.

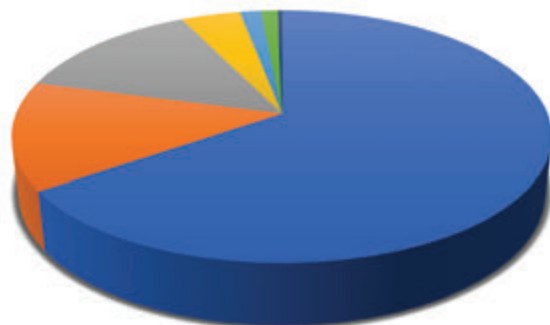
Nearly a dozen people from throughout our office volunteered to work on this committee that was created in 2021 after our office partnered with KJE Consulting & Coaching to launch a strategic Diversity and Inclusion Initiative.

Their work this year included creating and promoting a trivia tournament, hosting a popsicle party, creating an officewide bingo game, encouraging people to take time to improve their health and wellness and more.

“Workplaces where employees feel safe and valued are important. The Culture Committee has strived to create that workplace through building comradery,” said Assistant Criminal District Attorney Brian Hawthorne, co-chair of the committee with Assistant Chief Investigator Kyle Gibson. “I’m proud that our programs have positively brought people together in ways where healthy working relationships can be created.”

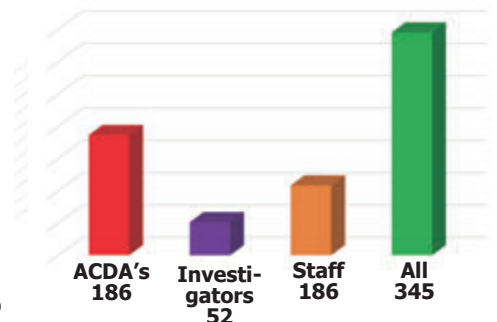
“We’ve also worked to tackle tough issues and bring greater cultural awareness to the office. Through addressing the rise in national violent crimes, as well as monthly intranet posts highlighting various cultural holidays, we are striving to be both fun and substantive. Overall, I love that we are showing that we truly care about each other.”

**Who we are**  
(All CDA employees)



- White (218) 63%
- Hispanic or Latino (56) 16%
- Black (46) 13%
- Two or more races (14) 4%
- Asian (5) 2%
- Not specified (5) 2%
- American Indian/Alaskan Native (1) 0%

**All employees by type**





# Thanks and Hope

Thank you for trusting me to be your Criminal District Attorney for the last eight years. It has been fun to work on this last Annual Report with my communications team and see what great steps we have taken.

We've come a long way – establishing a functioning, professional law office, addressing crimes against women and other underserved victims in Tarrant County, achieving recognition for our investigators, expanding our community outreach, and sharing successes of our court teams and our lawyers. None of this would have been possible without the amazing team of prosecutors, investigators and staff who worked to make the vision of the best DA's office in Texas a reality.

I would like to say all problems have been solved but there is one overarching concern that needs to be talked about. I hesitate to bring it up, because I do not want my sincere gratitude for this job and for your trust to be overshadowed by a negative. But I know that either as an assistant district attorney, criminal district court judge or Criminal District Attorney my job has always been to leave this place better than I received it.

In my over 38 years in the Tarrant County criminal justice system, there has been a reduction in the respect for our local criminal justice system. It may be reflective of the broader societal decrease in respect for the criminal justice system. The lack of respect is a concern for judges and prosecutors, but I have the pulpit to call attention to it – so I will. A few facts:

<b>Jury Trials FY 2022</b>	
<b>Criminal-Felony &amp; Misdemeanor</b>	<b>- 202</b>
<b>Civil District Courts</b>	<b>- 105</b>
<b>Family District Courts</b>	<b>- 6</b>

- More jurors come to the Tim Curry Criminal Justice Center (TCCJC or criminal building) than any other court building in Tarrant County. Most jurors come here because there are more criminal jury trials than civil or family combined. That means more witnesses, victims and families come into this building.

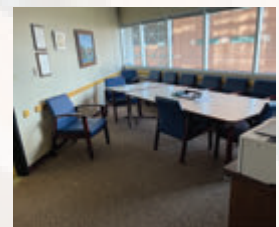
- Some courtrooms in the criminal building have jury rooms that don't even seat 12 jurors around the table.
- Jurors in the criminal courtrooms have embarrassingly small bathrooms that provide very little privacy or dignity.
- Compare our criminal jury rooms to those in civil and family buildings where they have expansive jury rooms with kitchenettes, tables that seat 12-15 and separate bathrooms.



**Civil Jury Room**



**Family Jury Room**



**Criminal Jury Room**

But respect for our citizens who answer the call to jury duty is not just found in the jury rooms. Perhaps the best way to show respect for our criminal justice system is to provide security for the jurors, witnesses, families and staff who attend and work in the criminal justice system.

A few more facts:

- One of our criminal trial jurors was attacked in 2016 as she was walking into the courthouse entrance. The attack caused a mistrial.
- There are only six elevators - when all are working - to serve the entire nine story TCCJC building. Those elevators are filled with criminal defendants, grieving families, defense lawyers, jurors, witnesses, victims, lawyers, prosecutors and CDA staff.



**Criminal Courts Elevator Lobby**

- Parking for the ACDAs, investigators, jurors and staff is not secure. Walking blocks from the garages or the bus stops to the courthouse exposes our employees and jurors, without protection, to the very people we are prosecuting.
- Since the Tim Curry Criminal Justice Center opened in 1991, there are:

**More prosecutors – 179 in 1991 to 354 today**  
**More criminal courts – 14 in 1991 to 21 today**  
**More magistrates – 3 in 1991 to 18 full-and part-time today**  
**More criminal cases – 33,658 in 1991 to 47,433**



**Vandergriff Civil Courts**

Tarrant County's growth has impacted the civil and family courts also. Fortunately, their needs have been addressed in the building of Tarrant County Family Law Center which opened in 2005 and the Tom Vandergriff Civil Courts Building which opened in 2015.



**Family Law Center**



**Civil Courtroom**



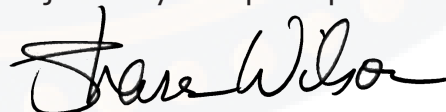
**Criminal Courtroom**



**Family Courtroom**

It is time to respect the criminal justice system and to provide a secure environment for jurors doing their civil duty and for the public servants who deserve our support.

I hope you will join the conversation supporting the participants in the criminal justice system. I hope you will serve on jury duty when called. I hope you will vocally support changes in Tarrant County that respect our criminal justice system participants and that provide security for all involved.







**Thank you for the honor of serving you  
and seeking justice since 2015**