

# Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney



## 2021 Annual Report



**Sharen Wilson**

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# Message from Sharen Wilson



Dear Friends:

2021 wasn't exactly what we expected it to be.

It was a year filled with continued struggles because of the COVID-19 pandemic. My office was no exception to the rule. Judges delayed most trials, docket calls and court hearings for most of the year.

Even so, here's some good news from 2021:

- A Mental Health Jail Diversion Center became reality after years of talk and plans. This facility, operated by MHMR, will do justice for these clients and save taxpayer dollars by giving police alternative treatments for mentally ill people in Tarrant County charged with criminal trespass.
- Some high-profile criminal cases were resolved. Glen McCurley pleaded guilty to the capital murder of Carla Walker, days into his trial, in a nearly 50-year-old cold case. He was sentenced to life in prison, as was Craig Vandewege, who was found guilty of the capital murder of his wife and their three-month-old son. And "Doc" William Neil Gallagher, who swindled 192 victims out of \$32 million, pleaded guilty and received three life terms in prison.
- Attorneys, investigators, and staff in this office were recognized for a variety of awards, ranging from attorneys and staff earning awards from the National Association of Counties to investigators earning the Best Practices award from the Texas Police Chiefs Association Foundation.
- Tarrant County officials worked together to dedicate a Law Enforcement Memorial to forever remember our fallen law enforcement officers. It is on the west lawn of the historic 1895 courthouse, and, in May, it honored 16 peace officers. The names of three more officers were added in October.

I am proud of all the work our office accomplished this year – and every year. I work with truly dedicated, talented employees.

We remain true, every day, to our mission of seeking justice for all in Tarrant County. Here's to a great 2022.

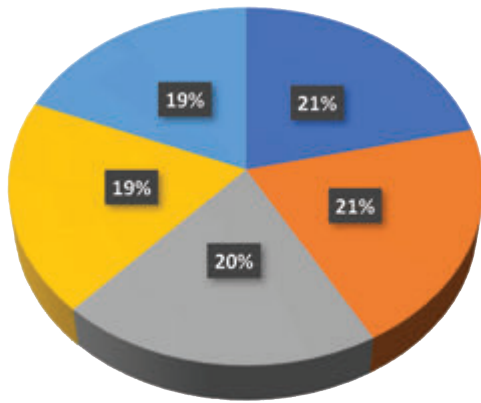
Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharen Wilson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "W".

Sharen Wilson

# Crime Trends

## Top 5 Crimes in 2021



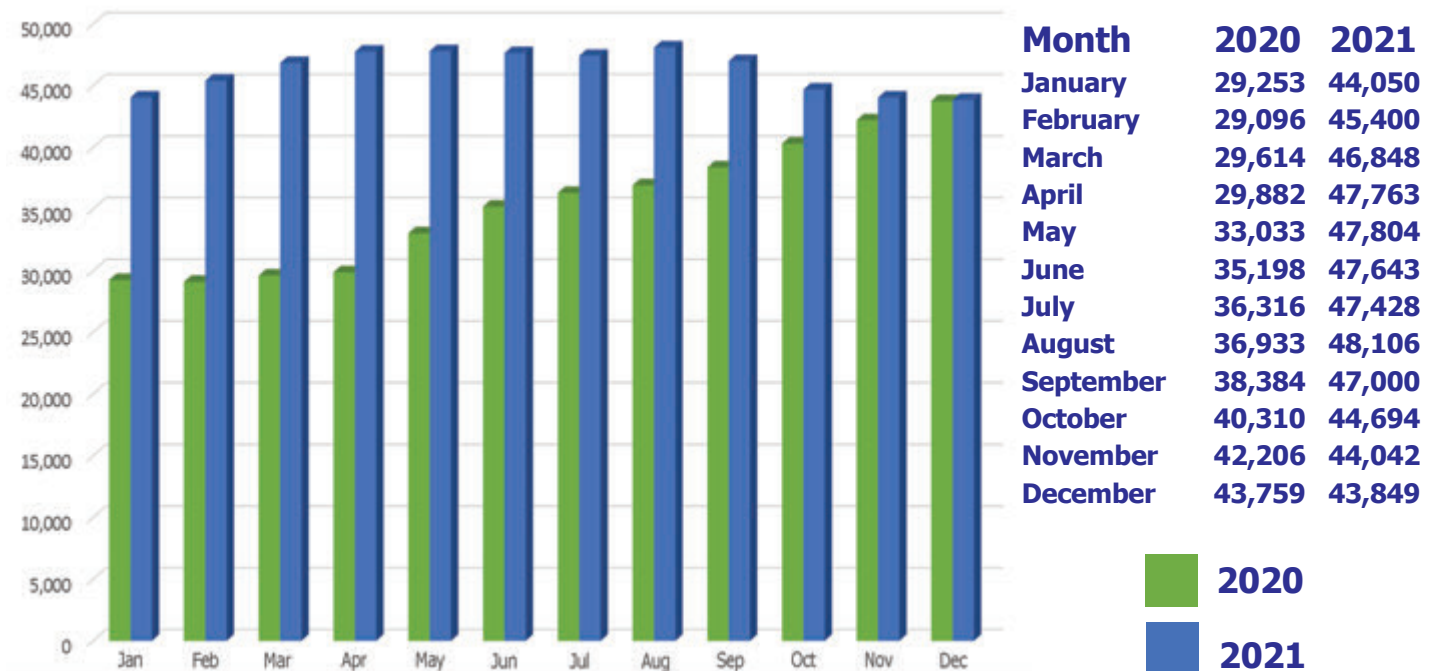
- 1 Possession of controlled substance, less than one gram (felony) 2,070 cases filed
- 2 Possession of marijuana, less than two ounces (misdemeanor) 1,989 cases filed
- 3 Driving while intoxicated (misdemeanor) 1,949 cases filed
- 4 Assault causing bodily injury - family violence (misdemeanor) 1,879 cases filed
- 5 Criminal Trespass (misdemeanor) 1,822 cases filed

## Waiting for Justice

The COVID-19 pandemic left courtrooms at the Tim Curry Criminal Justice Center shuttered for most of 2020 and 2021 after the Texas Supreme Court banned jury trials.

As a result, the number of pending cases grew month by month, hitting a peak of more than 48,000 cases in August 2021. After that, numbers began trending downward, as judges began holding trials and inventory dockets to help resolve, or move forward, criminal cases.

### Pending cases 2020 vs 2021



The Texas Supreme Court issued an order stopping in-person proceedings March 13, 2020. The Justices did not lift that order until March 5, 2021.



# Most Read

The 10 most read CDA social media posts from 2021

Metrics from  dashthis



1. Albert Jason Robles, a former Trimble Tech High School teacher, pled guilty to sexual assault of a child under 17 and indecency with a child under 17. A Tarrant County jury sentenced him to 15 years and five years in prison, consecutively. September 15.
2. Warning! Potential ID Theft! Warning: local voters are receiving postcards asking them to find out if their vote counted in the recent Fort Worth election. This did not come from Tarrant County. June 11.
3. Four life sentences for a Fort Worth burglary rapist. A Tarrant County jury found Jacob Kosine guilty on four counts of breaking into his next door neighbor's home, beating an 18-year-old woman and her mother, using a deadly weapon to choke the young woman and then raping her in front of her mother who he held to the floor by her hair. October 22.
4. A Tarrant County jury on Thursday sentenced Jeremiah Stevenson, 40, to life in prison for aggravated robbery. The jury found him guilty of the crime on Wednesday. October 14.
5. Justice for Carla Walker. Thank you to the Fort Worth Police detectives who never gave up on a 46 year old cold case. August 24.
6. A Tarrant County jury on Friday found Tareq Alkayyali, 39, guilty of murdering his wife, Wasam Moussa, and sentenced him to 23 years in prison for the crime. December 3.
7. Fraud Alert! Click here to see the video. Beware Texans: Someone may be filing for unemployment benefits using your personal information. May 11.
8. Glen McCurley sentenced to life in 1974 murder of Carla Walker. August 24.
9. A man found guilty by a Tarrant County jury of killing his wife and three-month-old son has been sentenced to life in prison. Craig Vandewege. November 4.
10. In our society, we expect law-abiding people to acquiesce to the police. D.C. rioters crossed lawful police lines in violation of the rule of law. I am about as offended as I can get. No one is above the law. Sharen Wilson. January 6.

# Righting past wrongs

## Two Tarrant County men may find justice.

**This office has been working for years with defense attorneys to have the convictions and sentences for James Aaron Dyson and Walter Roy reduced to what is justified by the law and the facts.**

In 1997, when he was 17, Dyson shot the man who killed his best friend. He was convicted that



year of engaging in organized criminal activity and sentenced to 50 years behind bars.

Our Conviction Integrity Team reviewed the case and found no

evidence of gang ties. Dyson's conviction was based on false or misleading testimony alleging he was a gang member or that the shooting was gang related. He clearly committed the offense of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, which carries a maximum 20 year sentence. Dyson was over charged and over sentenced in this case.

In 2020, in an unusual move, all three trial officials – Tarrant County Sheriff Bill Waybourn, State District Judge Mike Thomas and Criminal District Attorney Sharen Wilson – asked Governor Greg Abbott to commute Dyson's sentence to time served, something the Governor rejected.

After the governor's rejection, we asked the Court of Criminal Appeals to reopen Dyson's writ claim that his conviction and sentence were based on false or misleading testimony. In March, the trial court heard evidence and recommended Dyson be granted relief. On May 8, 2021, the trial court released Dyson on bond pending a decision by the Court of Criminal Appeals.

In September, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals vacated Dyson's nearly 25-year-old conviction for engaging in organized criminal activity, sending the case back to Criminal

District Court No. 4 to resolve a lesser charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. The trial court has not yet set a date for resentencing Dyson for aggravated assault. Dyson has already served more than the maximum sentence for that offense.

In 1995, Walter Roy was at Echo Lake Park

when gunfire broke out. Police arrested him and found the gun in a drainage ditch. Testimony during Roy's 1998 trial referred to him as the actual shooter. He was



sentenced to life in prison after being found guilty of attempted murder and engaging in organized criminal activity. Our Conviction Integrity Team reviewed the case and determined that, while Roy was present during the shooting, he was not the actual shooter.

In 2020, Sheriff Waybourn, State District Judge Wayne Salvant and CDA Wilson – the three trial officials – asked Governor Greg Abbott to commute Dyson's sentence to time served, something the Governor rejected.

Defense counsel filed a writ alleging that the life sentence was based on false testimony and requested the Court of Criminal Appeals give him a new punishment hearing. Our office agreed. On August 31, 2021, Roy was released on bond pending a final decision by the Court of Criminal Appeals.

"My sworn obligation is to make sure verdicts and sentences are correct," Sharen Wilson said. "These weren't."

Now we wait to see what the courts do.

# First of a kind



The Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney's Office made history in the waning 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 the 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.

"We are honored to be the first District Attorney's Office in Texas to receive this recognition," said Maria Hinojosa, chief investigator.

These Best Practices standards were developed by law enforcement officers in Texas to help agencies deliver services and protect individual's rights. They cover all aspects of law enforcement operations including use of force, protection of citizen rights, property and evidence management, and patrol and investigative operations.

Our investigators began preparing for this process about three years ago. Among the work done: An internal review, an external audit, and a review by Texas police chiefs to ensure that our office complies with all standards.



"Our investigators worked very hard to gain this coveted recognition," Sharen Wilson said. "This program is the new gold standard and I'm very proud of all that they do."

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

The Tarrant County CDA Office's investigative division will be recognized at the Texas Police Chiefs Association annual conference in Galveston in April.



# Mental Health Jail Diversion Center

Some Tarrant residents are about to get the help they need.

For decades, mentally ill people caught criminally trespassing here found themselves time after time in the same place: Jail.

There, they found themselves stuck in a criminal justice system they didn't understand, not getting the medical treatment they needed.

That now changes.

Tarrant County officials, including Sharen Wilson, have worked to create a Mental Health Jail Diversion Center that gives law enforcers a new option – a place to take these low-level offenders with mental health needs that isn't jail.

Once at the facility, the person can stay voluntarily while MHMR, JPS and community partners work to find the best options to help with psychiatric needs, homelessness, medication management, health issues and more. Average stays last 24 to 72 hours; MHMR will run the facility.

Tarrant County Commissioner Roy Brooks has praised Sharen Wilson for being a "reliable partner" in seeking this alternative way to help people with mental health needs in Tarrant County.

"This jail diversion center, we'd probably still be trying to push that rock up the hill if it were not for Sharen joining us and putting her shoulder to the rock and helping us push," Brooks said.

Here's how the center works: A police officer stops someone for a low-level, non-violent crime such as criminal trespassing.

Based on his expertise and training, the officer recognizes that the person is mentally ill. After all, more than 60% of people arrested for criminal trespassing already are on the MHMR data base as receiving

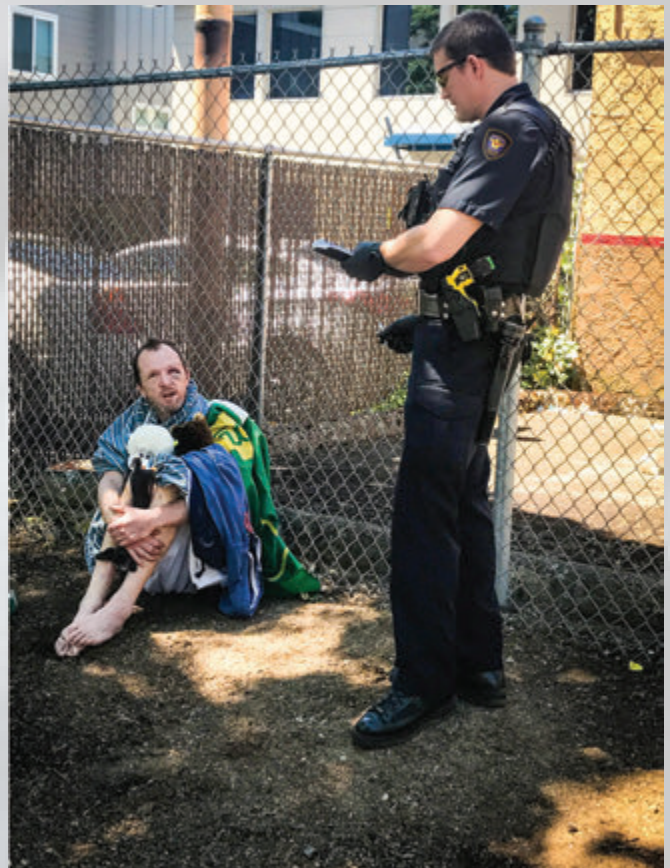
treatment.

Instead of arresting the person and heading to jail, the officer instead takes him or her to the Mental Health Jail Diversion Center. The only way into this facility is in custody of the police.

Police save time by dropping off people at the center, rather than writing up a police report and checking them in to jail. The county saves tax dollars by not putting the mentally ill behind bars where they would rack up jail, attorney, and court costs.

"This has been needed for a long time and I'm glad we were able to work together to make it reality," Sharen Wilson said.

"This is a true diversion from jail."







# A Paw-fect Combination



The article noted that both dogs love all the humans in this office – and those they get to interact with who come to visit.

“The only people they’re not fond of are the window washers,” Sharen Wilson, with a wry smile, told the 360 West interviewer.

Then Brady was a big topic in the Texas Legislature and even made history.



The emotional support dogs in our office – Brady, a 6-year-old golden retriever who is the official CDA emotional support dog, and Scout, a 5-year-old labradoodle who essentially is Brady’s emotional support dog – drew a lot of attention in 2021.

Texas lawmakers passed a bill in the regular 87th Legislative Session requiring court dogs to be qualified facility dogs or qualified therapy dogs.

First, they made headlines in May when they were showcased in the 360 West magazine’s “Working Dogs” monthly feature.

Brady, who has gone through extensive training to work with and help victims, doesn’t have the formal title required by House Bill 1071.



In recognition of his work – as the hashtag #Save-Brady gained attention on social media – lawmakers grandfathered in Brady and any other dog who had been allowed to go with a witness to trial before January 2021.

That, we thought, was the paw-fect move.



# Memorial Dedication



Hamill P. Scott was working security at the Fort Worth Fat Stock Show March 22, 1907, when Tarrant County attorney Jefferson McLean was shot in the throat by a man named William Thomason.

Someone saw which direction Thomason ran and told Scott, who quickly took off in pursuit.

Thomason saw that Scott was chasing him, so he hid behind some boxes in an alley. When Scott drew close, Thomason first shot him in the arm – and then in the spinal cord, which paralyzed him from the waist down.

Thomason grabbed Scott's gun and ran from the scene. He later was tracked down and arrested by other officers.

Scott, 42, survived for weeks before passing away May 1, 1907.



He is one of the first 16 Tarrant County law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty and, in 2021, were memorialized in a permanent tribute on the west lawn of the historic 1896 Tarrant County courthouse.

The memorial – a slab of pink granite on which a ring-shaped memorial featuring a Texas star and bronze Tarrant County seal lies – was dedicated in May. Three more names were added to the memorial in October.

Work to create this tribute began more than 30 years ago, when Tarrant County Commissioner J.D. Johnson and former Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney Tim Curry, the longest serving district attorney in Tarrant County, co-founded the effort. J.D. Johnson kept the idea alive year after year, until it became reality.



The Law Enforcement Memorial Committee that did the final work on this project included Johnson, Tarrant County Judge Glen Whitley, Sharen Wilson and Tarrant County Sheriff Bill Waybourn.

"It's heartbreaking that the number of officers who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect Tarrant residents continues to grow," Sharen Wilson said. "We were blessed to have these officers who chose to serve.

"They will never be forgotten."



# Diversity and Inclusion

Our office moved forward this year with new efforts to ensure a commitment to diversity and inclusion.

We partnered with KJE Consulting & Coaching – a company that has worked with clients ranging from Six Flags to the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas – to launch a strategic Diversity and Inclusion Initiative.

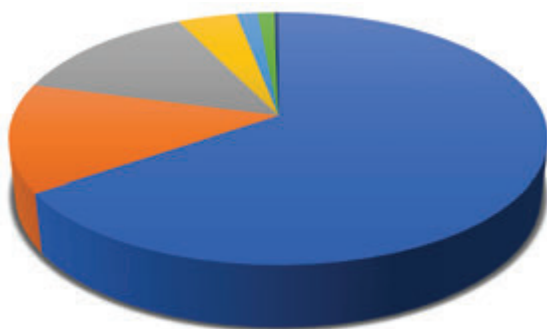
“I am committed to cultivating a workplace where all employees feel they belong,” Sharen Wilson said.

- ✓ We did surveys.
- ✓ We held focus groups.
- ✓ We encouraged people to talk about what is right and wrong in this office.
- ✓ We did a comprehensive cultural assessment.

All that led to the creation of a new Culture Committee that now is working to promote a positive, inclusive work environment; plan and organize workplace events and programs; serve as a resource for the office to gather diverse viewpoints; support the execution of diversity and inclusion initiatives; and make recommendations that support an inclusive culture.

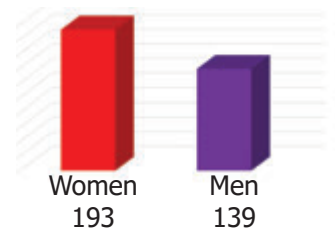
After the committee’s first meeting, the 10 members said this: “We quickly came together as a group. We had some great discussions and ideas for next year were flowing freely. We look forward to growing as a team and working with everyone at the CDA office.”

## Who we are



- White (217) 65%
- Hispanic or Latino (46) 14%
- Black (45) 14%
- Two or more races (14) 4%
- Asian (5) 2%
- Not specified (4) 1%
- American Indian/Alaskan Native (1) 0%

## Gender



Women  
193

Men  
139



# Case closed

In 1974, Fort Worth was rocked by the abduction, rape, and murder of 17-year-old Carla Walker.

Carla had just attended the Western Hills High School Valentine's Day Dance when she was yanked out of the car she was in with her boyfriend, Rodney McCoy. After an extensive countywide search, her body was found three days later in a culvert out by Benbrook Lake.

The crime was, at the time, one of the most well-known murders in Fort Worth history. Task forces were created to help solve the case, but the case went unsolved for nearly five decades.



## Then, in 2019, there was a break in the case.

Fort Worth police detectives Jeff Bennett and Leah Wagner reopened the case and, using cutting edge DNA technology and forensic genetic genealogy, a suspect was developed.



Glen Samuel McCurley was originally interviewed in 1974 for owning a pistol similar to the one used in the abduction. He was eliminated as a suspect until new DNA testing revealed he was the source of DNA left on

the clothing of Carla in 1974. McCurley, who was 31 at the time of the crime, was arrested in September of 2020. He ultimately confessed to the heinous crime.

In 2021, this office began preparing for trial to secure justice for Carla Walker.



Prosecutors from this office's Adult Sexual Assault Team, Kim D'Avignon and Emily Dixon, worked diligently through four separate admissibility hearings to ensure the new DNA technology would be admissible in court, in one of the first uses

of forensic genetic genealogy in a trial in the nation. CDA Investigator Chris LaChance and

Victim's Assistance Advocate Elizabeth Garcia helped guide family members and witnesses from all those many years ago through the process.

The trial began in August of 2021 and, on the third day of trial, McCurley – now 78 – changed his plea to guilty and was convicted of the capital murder of Carla. He was sentenced to life in prison.

"This case would not have been solved without the hard work of police," said D'Avignon, chief of the Adult Sexual Assault team. "We appreciate the investigators in the 1970s, who gathered evidence and conducted interviews trying to find



Carla's murderer. We also appreciate the investigators, who, more than 40 years later, were able to use DNA technological advancements to link McCurley to Carla Walker."

"Getting to see this all the way through to closure was very emotional and very gratifying," Dixon said. "We are so proud to have had so much support from the community for this case."

McCurley was sent to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice's Gib Lewis Unit in Tyler County.

# 'Justice was done'

Nearly five years after Shanna Riddle Vandewege and her 3-month-old son Diederik were found dead in their home, Craig Vandewege – her husband and the baby's father – was convicted of capital murder and sentenced to life in prison.

Craig Vandewege called 911 about 9:30 p.m. December 15, 2016, to say he found his wife, Shanna Riddle Vandewege, and their son, Diederik, dead at their Fort Worth home. Both Shanna and Diederik had their throats slashed and were pronounced dead at the scene.

Shanna was in her bed; Diederik was nearby in his bassinet. The home appeared staged to simulate a burglary.

"This was never a burglary," Assistant Criminal District Attorney Lisa Callaghan told the jury.



"Why would a burglar ever kill an infant? ... It's absurd. It doesn't add up, no matter which way you look at it."

On November 4, 2021, a Tarrant County jury found the now 40-year-old guilty. He received an automatic sentence of life without the possibility of parole for the crime.

Shanna Vandewege's family attended the trial every day. Many wept silently when the verdict was announced.

During the trial, Craig Vandewege's coworkers testified about how disparaging he was about

his wife. Investigators found that Craig Vandewege stood to claim more than \$700,000 in life insurance after the deaths of his wife and son.



Callaghan and ACDA Emily Dixon both explained to the jury that this case is similar to a puzzle – you just have to put the pieces together to solve it.

"All these pieces ... show you a picture of only one thing, that he's guilty," Callaghan said.

Callaghan said Shanna's family had to wait nearly five years for justice because of the Covid pandemic.

"There is nothing that can replace Shanna and Diederik, but true justice was done in this case by a Tarrant County jury," she said.



# The year in review

The Texas Supreme Court delayed jury trials for the first part of 2021 because of COVID-19. By summer, some judges began scheduling court hearings and trials. Here's a look at some of the felony cases that were prosecuted or sentenced in 2021.

**William Neil "Doc" Gallagher** pled guilty 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 and 30 additional years behind bars.



**Albert Jason Robles**, a former Trimble Tech High School teacher, pled guilty to sexual assault of a child under 17 and indecency with a child under 17. A jury sentenced him to 15 years and five years in prison, consecutively.

**Paul Hill** pled guilty to several charges of bail jumping, engaging in organized criminal activity, theft of service worth more than \$300,000, money laundering and more. Hill is the common-law husband of the "Sweetheart Swindler" Desiree Boltos, who was sentenced in 2018 to 263 years in prison for swindling senior citizens. A judge sentenced Hill to 125 years in prison.



**Jose Galindo Mendoza** was prosecuted for burglary of a habitation while committing assault. The victim testified she fell asleep on her couch watching the crime show "A Stranger in My Home" and was startled awake when Mendoza put

his hand over her mouth and choked her with his other hand before demanding sex. A jury found him guilty and sentenced him to 20 years in prison.

**Jacob Kosine** was prosecuted for breaking into his next-door neighbor's home, beating an 18-year-old woman and her mother, using a deadly weapon to choke the young woman and then raping her in front of her mother who he held to the floor by her hair. A jury gave him four life sentences.



**Wesley Troy Shields** pled guilty to aggravated sexual assault of a child and sexual assault of an adult. A jury sentenced him to four 40-year sentences and one 20-year sentence. All five sentences run concurrently.

**Jeremiah Stevenson** was tried for aggravated robbery at a Valero convenience store, shooting at the clerk – fortunately missing her – before grabbing money from the cash register and a pack of cigarettes before he left. Stevenson, who has a criminal history that includes other aggravated robberies and escaping from



**Broderick "B.J." Ross**, a former quarterback at McMurry University in Abilene, pled guilty to murder for his role in the death of a Fort Worth man who was robbed and killed in Fort Worth. A judge sentenced him to 25 years in prison.

the Tarrant County Jail, was found guilty by a jury that sentenced him to life in prison.



**Tareq Alkayyali** was prosecuted for the murder of his wife, Wasam Moussa, a 23-year-old from Jordan. She said she wanted a divorce the day after the two were married and visited Alkayyali in Arlington the year after their wed-

ding. She died of asphyxiation. A Tarrant County jury found him guilty of murder and sentenced him to 23 years in prison.



# The office of Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney



Sharen Wilson has served as Tarrant County's Criminal District Attorney since January 2015.

Tarrant County is the 15th largest county in the country and the third largest in Texas. There are 41 municipal police departments and 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.

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 the criminal justice system.

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 officers; 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.

**This office is different from other District or County Attorney offices across the state because it handles 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. Our specialized teams include Intake, Juvenile, Post-Conviction, White Collar crimes, Special Victims, Adult Sexual Assault, Intimate Partner Violence, Auto crimes and Gang crimes. Each year, the TCCDA's Office handles about 45,000 criminal cases. Larry Moore is Division Chief assisted by two Deputy Chiefs: Dale Smith and Riley Shaw.

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. Attorneys represent Tarrant County and its officials in civil litigation in areas such as property damage, employment law, contracts, collections, and civil rights. This division also handles Open Records requests, helps victims of family violence with protective orders and represents the Department of Family and Protective Services in cases where abuse or neglect are alleged. 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. Investigators are assigned to trial teams or specialized units within the Criminal District Attorney's Office based upon training and experience. Maria Hinojosa is chief of this division. Kyle Gibson and Marvin Brown are assistant chief investigators.

The Chief of Staff Division is made up of more than 100 non-lawyer, non-investigator employees who serve as our legal administrative staff for court teams and handle business operations, information technology, facilities, community outreach and communications. This division oversees the annual budget and tightly manages expenditures to save taxpayer dollars. Shannon Fletcher is chief of staff.

# Fighting auto crimes

**Catalytic converters are as good as gold to car thieves.**



Well, at least as good as platinum, rhodium and palladium.

Those are all the precious metals used in catalytic converters – and they fetch a pretty penny in the scrap-metal business these days.

These car parts, used to reduce emissions, are highly desirable to car thieves, who steal and sell them for a hefty payout in the scrap-metal business.

Just one catalytic converter can draw a payout of hundreds of dollars. The most popular vehicles targeted include Lexus SUVs, the Accord, Tacoma and Prius.

**Owners who must replace the parts on their vehicles have a heftier price tag, potentially \$2,000 or more, depending on the car.**



Thefts of these parts, which spiked during the COVID pandemic, continue despite a new 2021 law that's geared to deter the theft. The new law requires the person selling this part to show documents proving he or she owns the vehicle from which the part came. The penalty for selling a stolen catalytic converter is no longer a misdemeanor. It now is a felony.

This is among the many reasons law enforcement is taking a new approach to cracking down on auto crimes in Tarrant County.



## First prosecutor in Texas named to solely work with an auto crimes task force.



Zane Reid, an assistant criminal district attorney in Tarrant County, now is working with the Tarrant Regional Auto Crimes Task Force and will prosecute only auto theft-related cases. He is the first prosecutor in Texas named to solely work with an auto crimes task force.

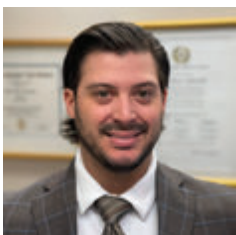
In the past, auto crimes – which add to millions of dollars of loss from theft – were sent to the DA’s Office and assigned to various prosecutors. All now will go to Reid, who will be able to spot trends or see if there are multiple cases involving the same defendant that should be grouped together.

“My goal will be to provide greater consistency and availability to our law enforcement agencies to ensure successful prosecution,” said Reid, a prosecutor with Tarrant County since 2015.

In Tarrant County, motor vehicle thefts rose to 6,367 in 2020 from 5,895 in 2019. Burglaries from motor vehicles grew to 14,288 in 2020 from 13,884 in 2019. Fraud related motor vehicle crimes reached 56 in 2020, up from 52 in 2019, according to the task force.



Fort Worth Magazine named five of our current Assistant Criminal District Attorneys as 2021 Top Attorneys. Collin Ashworth, Aulstin Gardiner, Brock Groom, William Knight, and Tim Rodgers.



Collin Ashworth



Aulstin Gardiner



Brock Groom



William Knight



Tim Rodgers



# Honors & Recognitions



**This office won three Achievement Awards from the National Association of Counties (NACo) this year. The awards recognize innovative county government programs. They are for:**



- Prosecutors in High School, a virtual class that teaches students about the criminal justice system. (ACDA Matthew Jackson, Community Outreach Coordinator Amy Bearden)
- Prosecuting adult sexual assaults by creating a better path to prosecution that 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)
- A new Intimate Partner Violence intake process that streamlines the evaluation of misdemeanor domestic violence cases and improves the victim outreach process. (ACDA Allenna Bangs, Felony IPV Team and Investigators and Misdemeanor Attorneys)



Bruce Blaisdell, an investigator, received the Director’s Distinguished Group Award from the U.S. Marshals Service.



Allison Bowen, director of the CDA’s Victim Services team, was picked to serve on a 2021 Victim Impact Statement Revision Committee.



Kim D’Avignon, Chief of the Adult Sexual Assault team, was named to serve on the Prosecutor Working Group for the Governor’s Sexual Assault Survivors’ Task Force.



Gary Fuller, retired office manager, received the 2021 Unsung Hero Award from Mothers Against Drug Driving.



Marvina Robinson, Chief of the Mental Health and Protective Orders team, was elected to serve on the 2021-22 Board of Directors for the Tarrant County Bar Association. She is the Place 2 Director.



Angel Williams, an assistant criminal district attorney, received the President’s Award from the Tarrant County Bar Association.

# DME OVERLOAD

Every year, our prosecutors review Digital Media Evidence, which includes video from police bodycams, dashcams, surveillance video, cell phone data and car navigation systems.

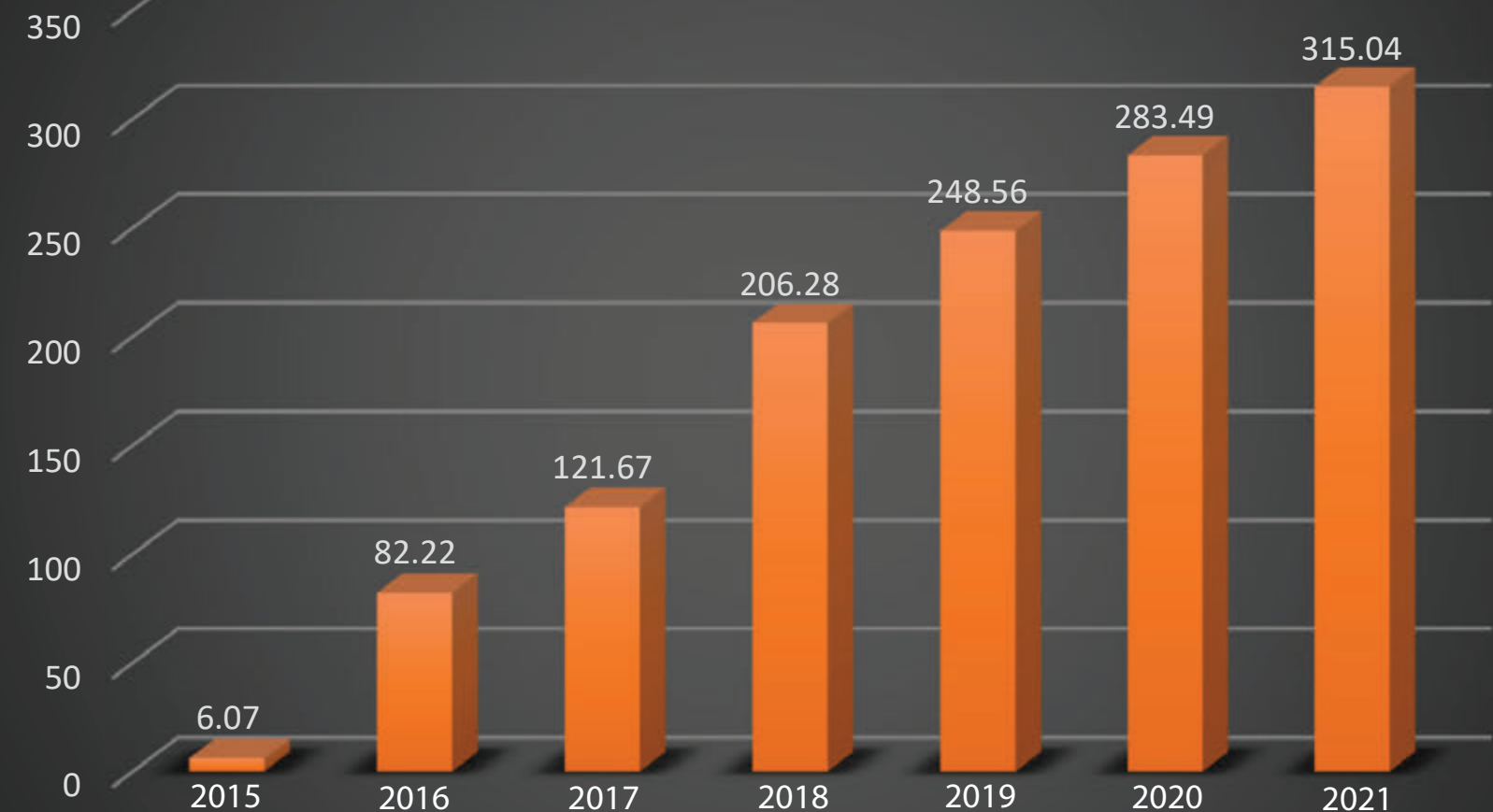
The amount of this evidence grows exponentially every year, taking up more time and costly computer storage space.

In 2021, DME topped 300 terabytes. That is expected to grow even more now that a new Texas law is in effect requiring police to keep their body cameras activated during investigations.

## Digital Media Evidence

Submitted by law enforcement

Terabytes



One terabyte of video equals approximately 500 hours of viewing.





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