

2021 YEAR IN REVIEW



OFFICE *of the* DISTRICT
ATTORNEY GENERAL
6th Judicial District • Charmé P. Allen



TABLE OF CONTENTS

03

Letter from DAG

04

Office Overview

05

2021 Case Data

06

Trial Data

09

Special Prosecution
Units

13

Juvenile Justice &
Collaborations

14

Victim/Witness
Services

16

Initiative Highlights

A LETTER FROM YOUR DISTRICT ATTORNEY GENERAL

Fellow Knox County Citizens,

I am proud to report on the variety of ways our prosecutors, victim/witness coordinators, criminal investigators, and support staff have served the citizens of Knox County in 2021.

Last year was challenging in many ways for our community. Unfortunately, we saw a dramatic increase in homicides and drug overdose deaths, while dealing with the impact of COVID-19. Fortunately, as a result of the continuous effort throughout my term in office to build well-trained, robust units to address violent and drug-related crime, we were prepared to begin trying cases as soon as the Tennessee Supreme Court allowed us to re-open for trials in mid-April. Out of the 58 trials in 2021, my Major Crimes and Career Criminal/Gang Units pushed 29 cases to trial, including 15 homicide and 5 attempted homicide cases.

We continue to collaborate with state and federal agencies and commit manpower and resources to identify and remove dangerous, habitual criminals from our neighborhoods. These collaborations range from creating violent crime reduction strategies to prosecuting drug dealers whose drugs are driving the loss of life through overdose deaths.

The safety of our community is my primary focus as we strive to administer justice. I remain inspired by my staff's commitment and passion for serving our community, and it is my honor to serve as your District Attorney General.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charme P. Allen".

Charme P. Allen
District Attorney General
6th Judicial District



OFFICE OVERVIEW

WHAT WE DO

The Office of the District Attorney General for the 6th Judicial District represents the people of the State of Tennessee in all criminal cases that occur within Knox County. The mission of the Office is to pursue the guilty and protect the innocent.

In the 6th Judicial District, most criminal cases are the result of investigations and arrests made by the Knoxville Police Department, the Knox County Sheriff's Office, the University of Tennessee Police Department, or the Tennessee Highway Patrol. The District Attorney's Office is responsible for determining whether there is enough evidence to prosecute persons accused of crimes. Assistant District Attorneys appear in the various General Sessions and Criminal Courts where such cases are tried before a judge or a jury or are resolved upon guilty pleas. In addition to courtroom duties, Assistant District Attorneys review citizen complaints about alleged criminal activity, consult with law enforcement agencies about on-going investigations, and provide legal advice to the police.





30+
VICTIM WITNESS
COORDINATORS/
LEGAL SECRETARIES

3
CRIMINAL
INVESTIGATORS

8
EXECUTIVE &
ADMINISTRATIVE
TEAM MEMBERS

2021 CASE DATA

KNOX COUNTY GENERAL SESSIONS COURTS

37,438 New Charges
35,627 Dispositioned Charges

KNOX COUNTY CRIMINAL COURTS

6,195 Opened Counts
6,303 Dispositioned Counts
58 Trials

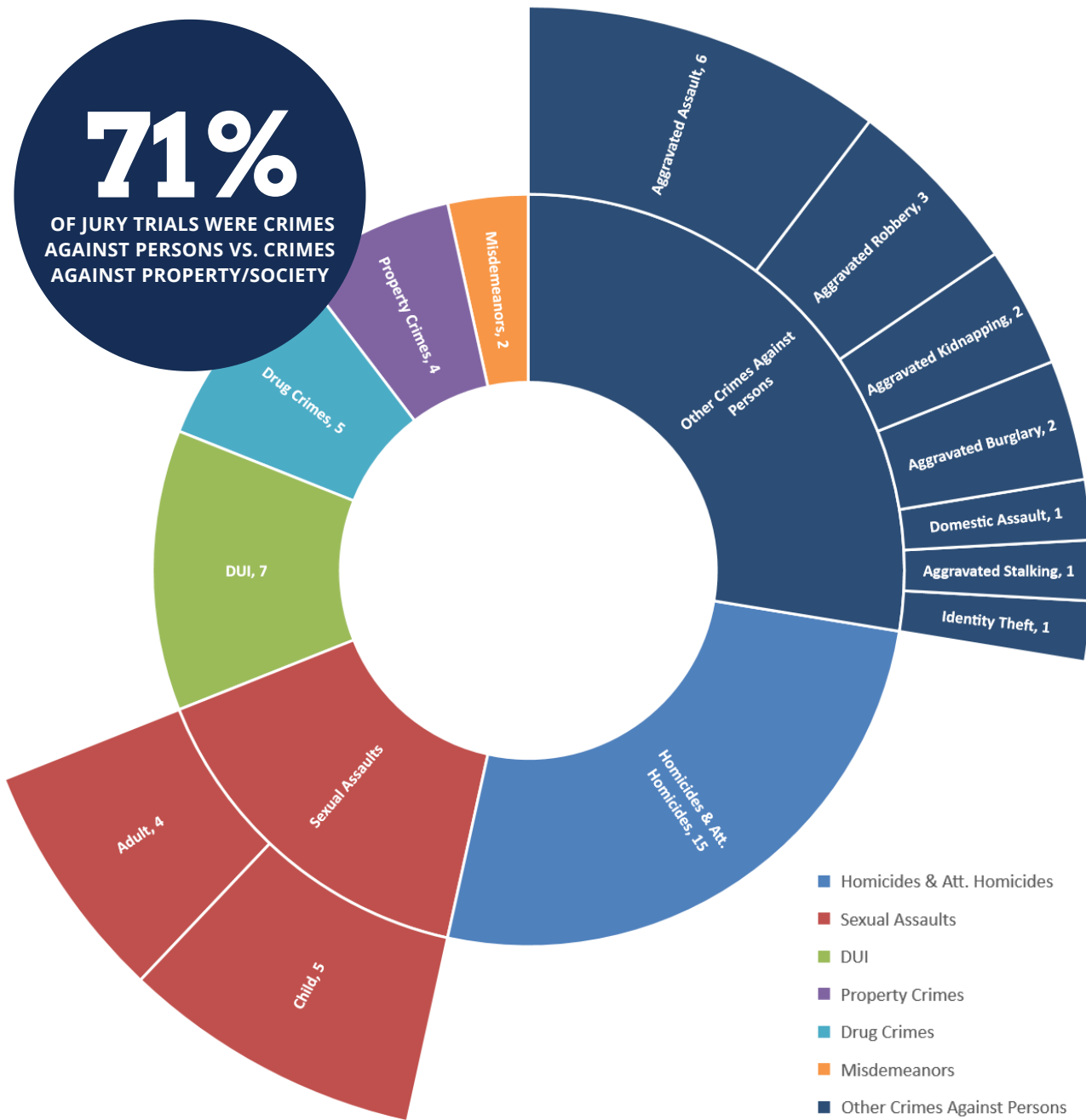
GRAND JURY

464 Indictments
191 Presentments

TRIAL DATA

In 2021, court closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic continued to affect criminal trials in Knox County. Once the Supreme Court began allowing trials in April 2021, the Knox County District Attorney's Office brought 58 cases to trial. Fifty percent of trials were brought by DAG Allen's Major Crimes and Career Criminal/Gang Units which prosecute our community's most violent offenses.

TRIALS BY CHARGES



JURY TRIAL CONVICTIONS

04/19/21	First Degree Murder	GUILTY
04/26/21	Rape of a Child	GUILTY
04/26/21	First Degree Murder	GUILTY*
05/05/21	D.U.I. (felony)	GUILTY
05/10/21	D.U.I.	GUILTY
05/10/21	Rape	GUILTY
05/12/21	D.U.I.	GUILTY
05/24/21	Theft (D felony)	GUILTY
05/27/21	D.U.I.	GUILTY*
06/07/21	Aggravated Assault in concert	GUILTY*
06/21/21	First Degree Murder	GUILTY
06/22/21	Aggravated Burglary	GUILTY*
06/29/21	Att. Second Degree Murder	GUILTY*
07/07/21	D.U.I.	GUILTY
07/14/21	Felony Possession Sch 1 Zone	GUILTY
07/26/21	Att. First Degree Murder	GUILTY*
07/28/21	Aggravated Assault	GUILTY
08/03/21	False Report and Identity Theft	GUILTY
08/09/21	Aggravated Robbery	GUILTY
08/09/21	Rape	GUILTY
08/16/21	First Degree Murder	GUILTY*
08/16/21	Rape of a Child	GUILTY
08/25/21	Aggravated Kidnapping	GUILTY
08/30/21	Aggravated Sexual Battery	GUILTY
09/08/21	Aggravated Assault	GUILTY*
09/13/21	First Degree Murder	GUILTY
09/13/21	Attempted First Degree Murder	GUILTY
09/22/21	Felony Possession Meth in Zone	GUILTY
09/27/21	First Degree Murder	GUILTY
10/04/21	Attempted First Degree Murder	GUILTY*
10/04/21	First Degree Murder	GUILTY*
10/06/21	Aggravated Kidnapping	GUILTY
10/11/21	Felony Possession of Sch 1 in Zone	GUILTY
10/25/21	First Degree Murder	GUILTY
11/01/21	Felony Possession Cocaine -Drug Free School Zone	GUILTY
11/01/21	Rape of a Child	GUILTY
11/08/21	Aggravated Rape	GUILTY
11/08/21	Rape of a Child	GUILTY
11/09/21	Aggravated Stalking	GUILTY
11/15/21	Felony Possession of Meth	GUILTY
11/15/21	Aggravated Robbery	GUILTY
11/29/21	First Degree Murder	GUILTY*
12/06/21	First Degree Murder	GUILTY*
12/06/21	Aggravated Arson	GUILTY



138
DAYS IN JURY TRIALS

50%
OF JURY TRIALS ASSIGNED
TO MAJOR CRIMES & CAREER
CRIMINAL/GANG UNITS

**Defendant convicted of a lesser charge*



TRIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Prosecutors in the Major Crimes Unit obtained a sentence of life plus thirty years against, Phillip Jerome Locke, 32, who lured the victim to a drug deal in order to execute him. The defendant was convicted of First Degree Murder, Especially Aggravated Robbery, Carjacking, Possession of a Firearm During the Commission of a Dangerous Felony, and Unlawful Possession of a Firearm. Judge Steve Sword sentenced Locke to serve life in prison on the First Degree Murder count and ordered another thirty years in prison consecutive to the life sentence for the Unlawful Possession of a Firearm count.

Prosecutors in the Child Abuse Unit/Major Crimes Unit obtained convictions against a defendant who sexually abused a child then fled the country for over two decades. In trial, prosecutors explained to the jury that in 1992, Jahangir Shaffighi was a taekwondo instructor, and the victim was one of his students. Shaffighi was convicted of Aggravated Rape and Aggravated Sexual Battery. Judge Scott Green sentenced Shaffighi to serve 25 years in prison.

Prosecutors in the Domestic Violence Unit obtained an eighteen-year sentence against a defendant who assaulted his fiancée and refused to let her leave her residence. Geoffrey Ian Paschel, 44, was convicted of Aggravated Kidnapping, Domestic Assault, and Interference with Emergency Calls. Judge Kyle Hixson ordered Paschel to serve eighteen years in prison without the possibility of parole.

Prosecutors in the Career Criminal/Gang Unit obtained convictions against a member of the Vice Lord gang who shot and killed a young man after mistaking him for a rival gang member. Jeffery Milton Stokes, 34, was convicted of First Degree Murder and Reckless Endangerment. Judge Scott Green sentenced Stokes to serve life in prison.



SPECIAL PROSECUTION UNITS

The District Attorney General's Office is organized into specialized prosecution units to best serve crime victims, law enforcement agencies, and the citizens of Knox County. This model helps prosecution teams to specialize in specific types of crime and focus on the unique needs of crime victims. The majority of the units established by DAG Allen utilize a vertical prosecution model. By using a vertical approach to prosecution, victims are assigned a prosecutor and victim/witness coordinator to help guide them through the process of seeking justice.

CAREER CRIMINAL/GANG UNIT

This Unit is assigned crimes committed by known gang members or career criminals. Prosecutors in this unit meet monthly with State and Federal law enforcement agencies to identify and maximize punishment for the most violent criminals operating in our community. Additionally, sentencing enhancements are a tough-on-crime tool prosecutors can use specifically when dealing with gangs and/or career criminals. In 2021, 161 defendants were identified as gang members. The majority of these cases were assigned to the Career Criminal/Gang Unit.

CHILD ABUSE UNIT

With the Child Abuse Protection Investigative Team, the unit reviewed more than 1,900 reports of child abuse in Knox County in 2021. Through expertise in the investigation and prosecution of child abuse cases, the Unit can stop and punish predators found in our community and help minimize secondary trauma to victims. The Unit obtained convictions of 80 individuals in 2021, securing lengthy prison sentences in many cases.

80

**CHILD ABUSE
CONVICTIONS**



CRIMINAL COURTS UNIT

The Criminal Courts Unit is assigned cases that do not fall under the parameters of the other specialized prosecution units. The unit prosecutors are also available to assist other specialized units for hearings and trials, as needed.

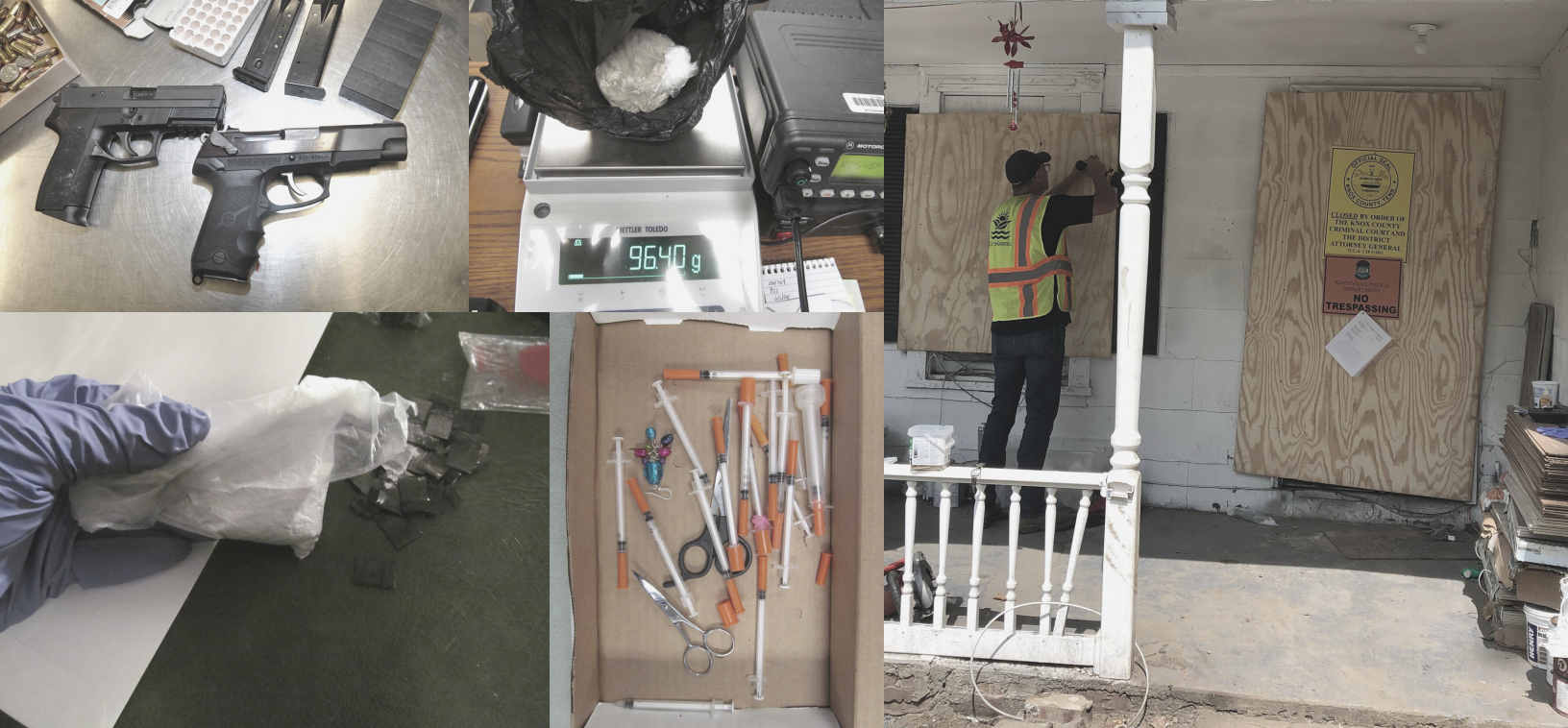
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UNIT

This unit handles the highest volume of cases out of the special prosecution units. In 2021, the unit assisted more than 2,000 domestic violence victims. Prosecutors in this unit recognize the unique challenges domestic violence victims face and use every available tool to hold offenders accountable for their actions. These tools include evidenced-based prosecution which involves training law enforcement officers on collecting evidence that is needed to press charges in case a victim is unable to participate in the prosecution process.



DUI UNIT

Through a joint effort with law enforcement, the unit seeks to reduce the number of DUI-related fatalities and injuries in Knox County. The unit resolved more than 1,000 cases in 2021, where the vast majority of the concluded cases were pled as charged. The Office seeks to hold impaired drivers accountable for their crimes.



ELDER ABUSE UNIT

After the Tennessee legislature established the Vulnerable Adult Protective Investigation Team (VAPIT), which brings together prosecution, law enforcement, and Adult Protective Services, the Office created the first specialized prosecution unit for elder abuse in Tennessee. In 2021, the team reviewed more than 1,300 reports of elder abuse. These cases include financial crimes, physical abuse, and neglect cases.

FELONY DRUG UNIT

The Felony Drug Unit prosecutes drug traffickers, drug trafficking organizations, and drug distribution cases involving overdose death victims. The unit is an active member of the Drug Related Death Task Force which is a concerted effort for law enforcement and other community agencies to treat overdose deaths as criminal investigations. The Office charges drug dealers with Second Degree Murder when it can be proven that their drugs led to the death of another person. The unit was assigned approximately 240 cases in 2021.



The Felony Drug Unit also spearheads nuisance injunctions for the Office. In 2021, the unit marked the sixtieth closure by the District Attorney's Office and Knoxville Police Department in their ongoing collaboration to make neighborhoods safer from the activities that affect the safety and quality of life of residents in this community.

FELONY SESSIONS

Prosecutors in this unit are tasked with dispensing justice for misdemeanors and felonies. Felony cases are classed as more serious criminal offenses, and they have a minimum punishment of at least one year. Examples of the types of crimes include aggravated assault, aggravated burglary, or vandalism over \$1,000. In 2021, the unit was assigned 32% of the total warrants issued in Knox County.

MAJOR CRIMES UNIT

This unit is assigned the most heinous crimes involving violent Class A & Class B Felonies, such as murder, rape, robbery, and arson cases. As a result, unit members walk with hundreds of victims and/or families who have lost loved ones to violence through the criminal justice system. In 2021, the unit took 14 cases to trial. Specific to homicide cases, the unit obtained 18 convictions, 12 trial convictions, and 6 plea agreements.

MENTAL HEALTH UNIT

In 2020, District Attorney General Charme Allen created the Mental Health Unit for cases involving individuals experiencing serious mental illness. These types of cases require special attention in order to ensure justice for all. In 2021, General Allen was appointed to the Mental Health Court Committee to create a much needed mental health court in Knox County. The Office also participated in a county-wide mental health needs assessment.



\$1.6
MILLION
ORDERED IN
RESTITUTION

WHITE COLLAR UNIT

The White Collar Unit handles financial crimes and cases involving public corruption. More than \$1.6 million total restitution was ordered for financial crimes in 2021.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

Juvenile Court is a court of exclusive jurisdiction over children under the age of eighteen who violate state or municipal law or who are unruly, abused, neglected, or dependent. Juvenile Court utilizes rehabilitative efforts to address criminal behavior and to reunify families whenever possible. The District Attorney's Office works with Juvenile Court to prosecute serious offenders and to seek transfer of the most serious cases. Of the approximate 7,800 cases filed each year in Knox County Juvenile Court, about 1,100 of them involve allegations of criminal conduct by juvenile offenders. The Knox County District Attorney General's Office is involved in the prosecution of those matters.

LAW ENFORCEMENT & COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

In addition to investigative support and trial preparation, the District Attorney's Office conducts a significant amount of work in the community to prevent crime and protect citizens. DAG Charme Allen and staff members actively participate in the following collaborations.

INVESTIGATIVE TEAMS

Child Protective Investigative Team
Vulnerable Adult Protective Investigative Team
Drug Related Death Task Force
Violent Crime Case Review
Human Trafficking Law Enforcement Task Force
Sexual Assault Response Team

STATE APPOINTMENTS

Tennessee Opioid Abatement Council
Tennessee Lottery Corporation Sports
 Wagering Advisory Council
TN Commission on Aging & Disability
TN District Attorneys General Conference
 Executive Committee
 Family Justice Committee
 Finance & Audit Committee
 Legislative Committee
 Opioid/Heroin Committee
 Public Education Committee
 The Sexual Offender Treatment Board

FATALITY REVIEW TEAMS

Overdose Fatality Review Team
Child Fatality Review Team
Domestic Abuse Death Review Team

SPECIALTY COURTS

Veterans Court
Recovery Court
Mental Health Court Development Committee

COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

All4Knox Judicial Diversion Team
Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center
 Operations Committee
Expungement Screenings
Homeless Legal Initiative
Knox County Schools Alliance for Educational Equity
Knoxville Homelessness Roundtable
Knoxville Family Justice Center Board/Committees



VICTIM/WITNESS SERVICES

Victim/Witness Coordinators are employed by the District Attorney's Office to help victims and witnesses of crimes understand their rights and answer their questions about the prosecution process. Their mission is to enhance prosecution efforts by delivering the highest quality of services to victims and witnesses through proactive and responsive assistance. In 2021, the office assisted more than 4,500 crime victims.

Victim/Witness Assistance Program Services

- Assistance with Criminal Injuries Compensation
- Restitution and property return assistance
- Offender release notification registration
- Emotional support and crisis intervention
- Accompaniment to meetings and proceedings
- Safety planning and secure witness areas
- Parking and building accessibility assistance

4,500+

CRIME VICTIMS
SERVED IN 2021

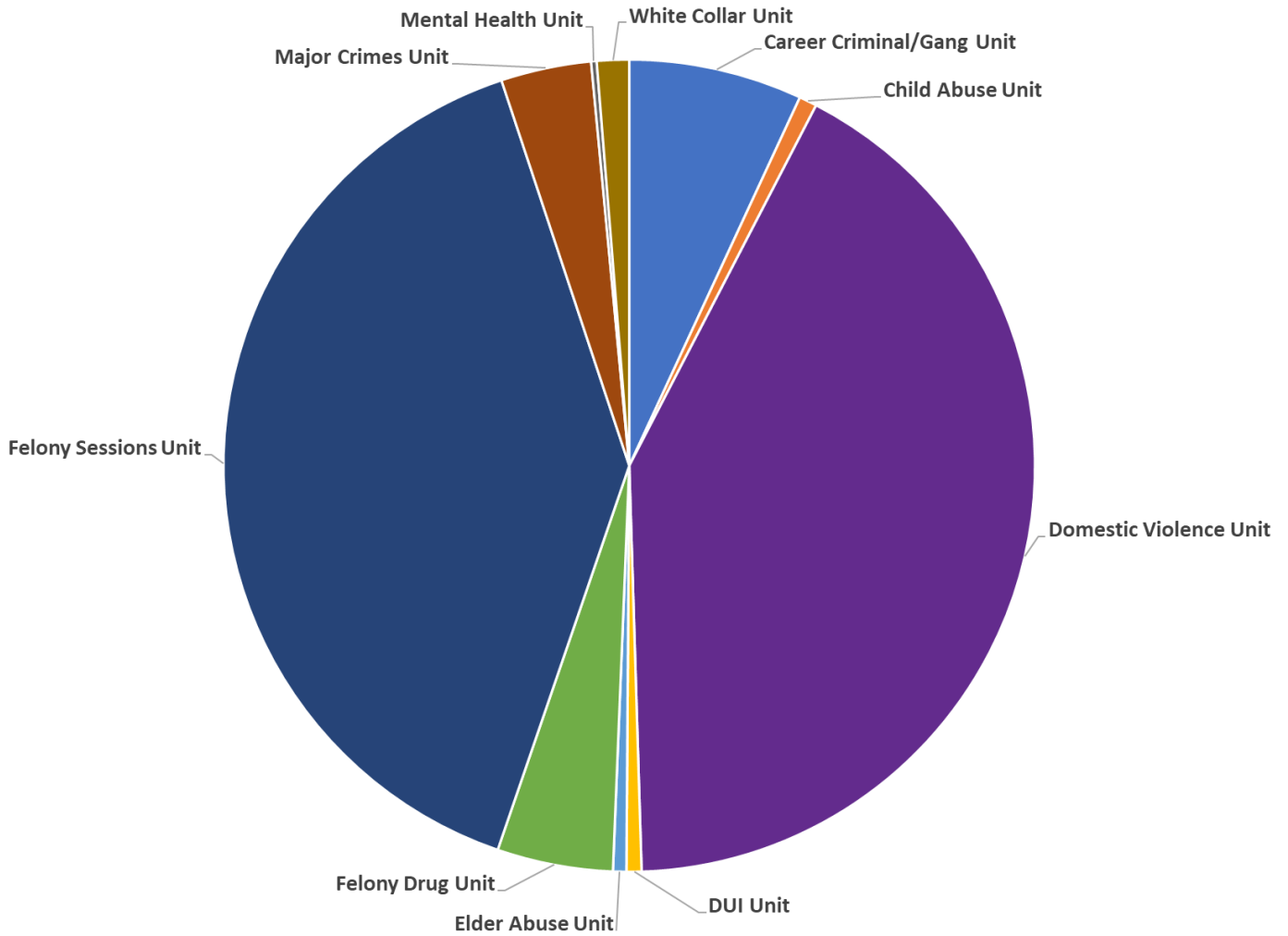
Victim & Witness Protection

No Contact Orders prohibit the accused person from some or all contact with victims. These orders are often requested by victims of stalking or domestic violence, but can be used in other crimes as well.

Separate Waiting Areas are available, in certain cases, for victims and witnesses who require privacy and protections from intimidation. Upon taking office, DAG Charme Allen created designated areas, designed specifically for victims and witnesses to use in the DA's Office.

CRIME VICTIMS SERVED

BY SPECIAL PROSECUTION UNIT

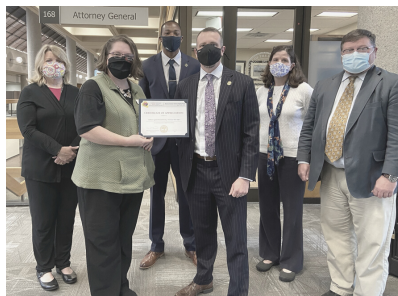




INITIATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

PROSECUTION UNITS MARK NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK BY RECOGNIZING PARTNERS

Last year marked the 40th anniversary of National Crime Victims' Rights Week. NCVRW promotes victims' rights, honors crime victims, and recognizes those who advocate on their behalf. Considering last year's theme, "Support Victims. Build Trust. Engage Communities.," each special prosecution unit selected a group who supports crime victims and advocates for their rights. The groups recognized include Childhelp Tennessee, Collaborative Response to Elder and Vulnerable Adult Abuse (CREVAA), Drug Overdose Support Group, HOPE for Victims, Knoxville Family Justice Center, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, and Mothers of Mission Survivors. No crime victim is the same. Some sustain horrendous acts of violence, some have property damaged or stolen, and others are exploited financially. Each group honored by the District Attorney's Office provides a place for comfort and healing and an additional support system as victims seek justice. For more information about Crime Victims' Rights, visit www.knoxcounty.org/dag.





COLLABORATIONS LEAD TO OVERDOSE FATALITY REVIEW TEAM

In 2021, the Overdose Fatality Review Team was created as part of the ALL4Knox Strategic Plan to reduce substance misuse in Knox County. District Attorney General Charme Allen served as a Justice Sector Lead in the formation of the community-wide plan. The OFRT is a multidisciplinary team that reviews overdose deaths to effectively identify system gaps and innovative, community-specific overdose prevention and intervention strategies. The OFRT uses data collected by the Drug Related Death Task Force, an inter-agency investigation and prosecution team who examines overdoses that occur in Knox County as a means to combat the opiate epidemic.

LEADERS PROMOTE EXPUNGEMENT SCREENINGS

In 2021, the State of Tennessee expanded the list of charges that are eligible to be permanently removed from a criminal record. Since 2015, the Knox County DAG's Office and the Criminal Court Clerk's Office have offered Expungement Screenings to help individuals determine if charges can be permanently removed from their criminal record. At the screenings, individuals can meet one-on-one with a prosecutor to review their criminal history and determine which charges, if any, can be expunged. Members of the Clerk's Office are also available to answer questions, and the UT Legal Clinic is on hand to provide legal advice, if needed. In 2021, the Knox County District Attorney General's Office reviewed 10,884 applications, and 9,912 of those applications qualified for expungement. For more information about Expungement Screenings, visit www.knoxcounty.org/dag.

GENERALLY SPEAKING

A PODCAST PRESENTED BY
THE KNOX COUNTY DISTRICT
ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE



GENERALLY SPEAKING PODCAST LAUNCHES

Generally Speaking, a true prosecution podcast hosted by the Knox County District Attorney General's Office, launched in the fall of 2021. The Office's podcast is the first of its kind in the State of Tennessee. Each episode highlights a special prosecution unit and unveils what it is like to represent the State of Tennessee in the courtroom and community.

In the podcast, General Allen discusses important issues impacting public safety with expert, frontline prosecutors. The special prosecution units in the podcast include the Major Crimes Unit, Domestic Violence Unit, Felony Drug Unit, Child Abuse Unit, Career Criminal & Gang Unit, and Juvenile Justice Unit.

"We receive questions every day about the cases that are coming in and out of our office. Most of the time we are unable to answer questions due to ethical rules that are in place to protect the integrity of the process for everyone involved," states District Attorney General Charme Allen. "I hope this podcast series provides some insight into what the District Attorney General does, and the legal and ethical rules prosecutors must follow. I also hope the citizens of Knox County learn more about issues that impact our community's safety."



SCAN ME



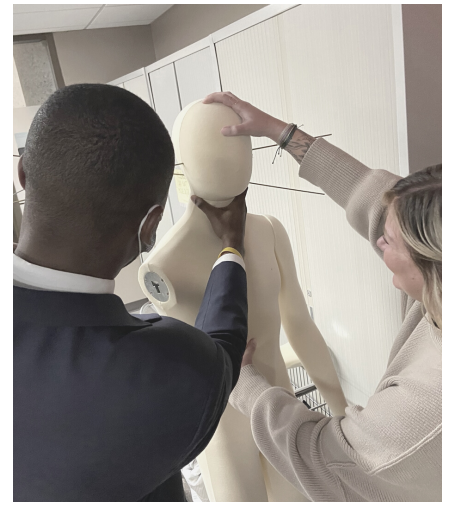
KNOX COUNTY LEADERSHIP INITIATES DOMESTIC ABUSE DEATH REVIEW TEAM

As part of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Knox County Commission approved District Attorney General Charme Allen and Mayor Glenn Jacobs' resolution to form the Knox County Domestic Abuse Death Review Team.

The interagency death review team identifies and reviews domestic abuse deaths, including homicides and suicides, and facilitates communication between agencies involved in domestic abuse cases. This type of review will help support our community's efforts to identify and formulate strategies to prevent domestic abuse. District Attorney General Charme Allen appointed members to the review team with the approval of Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs in January 2022.

OFFICE HOSTS LARGEST CITIZENS ACADEMY CLASS

In the fall of 2021, 31 participants graduated from the Citizens Academy program. The annual Citizens Academy offers a behind-the-scenes experience for people who live and/or work in Knox County. Presenters provide an overview of the criminal justice system and address current trends impacting public safety. After covering the basics, participants learn what it is like to represent the State of Tennessee in the court of law, through a mock trial. With seasoned prosecutors playing along as witnesses, victims and defense attorneys, the mock trial can take several turns. For more information about the Citizens Academy, visit www.knoxcounty.org/dag.



TOUGH ON CRIME SMART ON PREVENTION

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY GENERAL

6th Judicial District, Knox County, Tennessee

400 Main Street, Suite 168

Knoxville, TN 37902

www.knoxcounty.org/dag