



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



2022

**YEAR IN
REVIEW**



A letter from your DISTRICT ATTORNEY GENERAL

Thank you, Knox County, for electing me to serve as your District Attorney General for a second term. I am humbled by the honor and privilege it is to serve you.

This report outlines how the office met its mission to pursue the guilty and protect the innocent in 2022. The Knox County District Attorney General's Office remains tough on crime and smart on prevention. I believe serious, violent offenders who prey on our community's most vulnerable populations should be held accountable to the fullest extent of the law. Prevention is also an important tool to ensure public safety. If we can prevent crime from happening in the first place, then we have fewer victims of crime, which, ultimately, is the goal. It is also important to me that crime victims are not forgotten in the process. Every victim who comes into contact with the District Attorney General's Office can expect to be treated with dignity and compassion.

Thank you, again, for the privilege of serving as your District Attorney General. I know, together, we can live in a community that is safe for all persons.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charme P. Allen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Charme P. Allen
District Attorney General
6th Judicial District

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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. 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.

WHO WE ARE



40+

PROSECUTORS

30+

VICTIM WITNESS
COORDINATORS/
LEGAL SECRETARIES

3

CRIMINAL
INVESTIGATORS

8

EXECUTIVE &
ADMINISTRATIVE
PROFESSIONALS

2022 CASE DATA



KNOX COUNTY GENERAL SESSIONS COURTS

42,895 New Charges
42,736 Dispositioned Charges

GRAND JURY

979 Indictments
178 Presentments

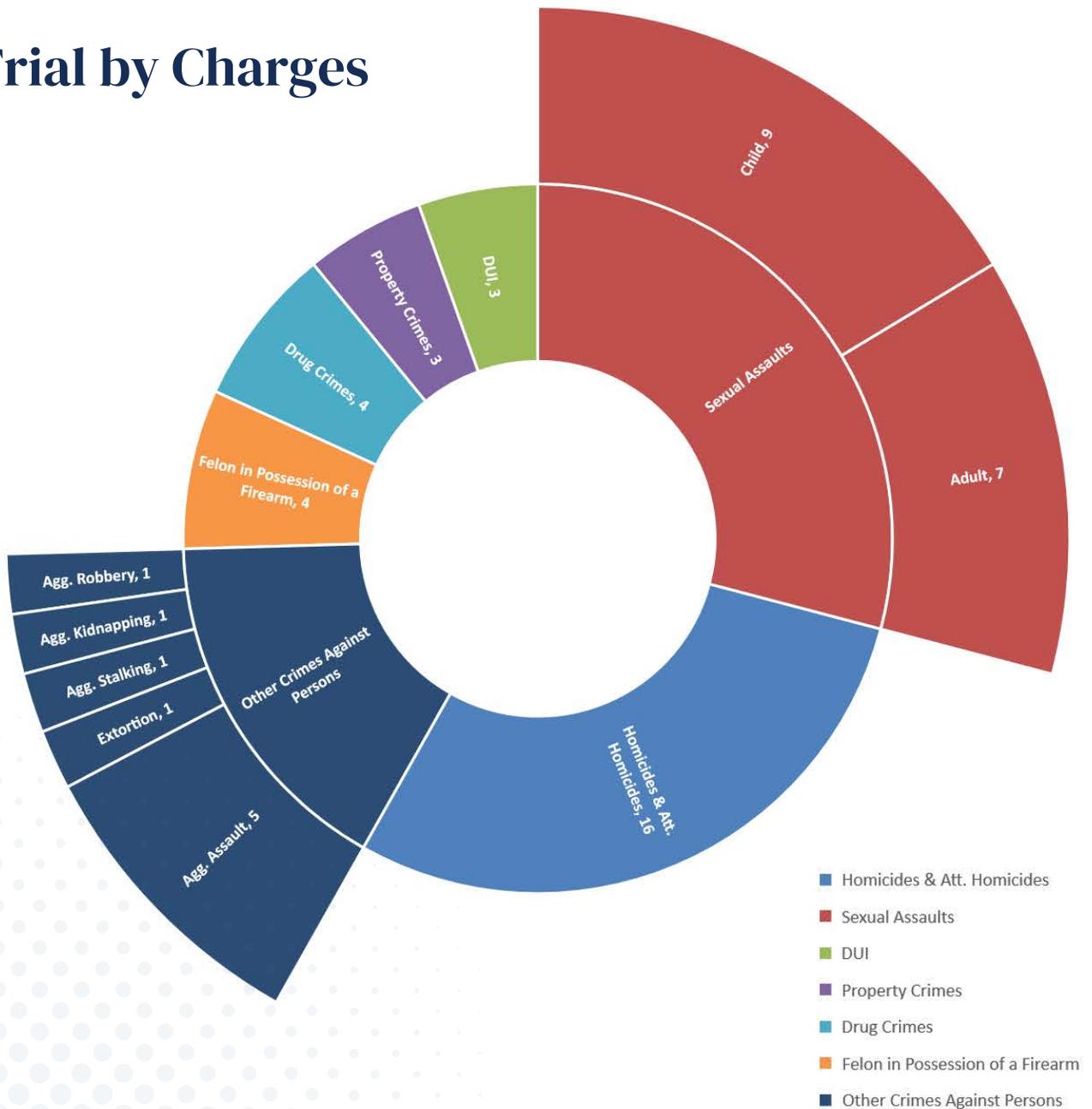
KNOX COUNTY CRIMINAL COURTS

8,577 Opened Counts
7,053 Dispositioned Counts
778 Informations
55 Trials

TRIAL DATA

In 2022, the Knox County District Attorney's Office brought 55 cases to trial. Fifty-three percent of trials were brought by DAG Allen's Major Crimes and Career Criminal & Gang Units which prosecute our community's most violent offenses. Seventy-four percent of jury trials were crimes against persons versus crimes against property/society.

Trial by Charges



JURY TRIALS

BY CONVICTIONS

01/10/22	Felony Possession Cocaine DFZ	GUILTY
01/24/22	1st Degree Murder	GUILTY*
01/31/22	1st Degree Murder	GUILTY
02/07/22	Vehicular Homicide by Impairment	GUILTY*
02/22/22	1st Degree Murder	GUILTY
02/22/22	2nd Degree Murder	GUILTY
03/01/22	Aggravated Sexual Battery	GUILTY
03/15/22	2nd Degree Murder	GUILTY
03/21/22	1st Degree Murder	GUILTY
03/22/22	Rape of a Child	GUILTY
03/22/22	Aggravated Stalking	GUILTY
03/28/22	Poss'n w/ Intent to S/D Sch 1	GUILTY
04/04/22	Aggravated Rape	GUILTY
04/04/22	Aggravated Rape	GUILTY
05/02/22	Rape of a Child	GUILTY
05/16/22	Negligent Homicide	GUILTY
05/16/22	Attempted 1st Degree Murder	GUILTY
05/23/22	Insurance Fraud	GUILTY
06/27/22	1st Degree Murder	GUILTY
06/27/22	Aggravated Sexual Battery	GUILTY
07/11/22	Agg Robbery / Agg Kidnapping	GUILTY
08/08/22	Felon in Possession of Firearm	GUILTY
08/08/22	2nd Degree Murder	GUILTY
08/15/22	1st Degree Murder	GUILTY*

08/22/22	1st Degree Murder	GUILTY
09/06/22	Poss'n w/ Intent to S/D Meth	GUILTY
09/07/22	Aggravated Assault	GUILTY*
09/07/22	Rape	GUILTY*
09/13/22	Felon in Possession of Firearm	GUILTY*
09/19/22	Rape	GUILTY
09/26/22	Rape	GUILTY
10/03/22	Sex Battery by Authority Figure	GUILTY
10/05/22	Aggravated Sexual Battery	GUILTY
10/11/22	Extortion / Harassment	GUILTY
10/17/22	Possession of Meth for Resale	GUILTY
10/31/22	1st Degree Murder	GUILTY*
11/07/22	Felon in Possession of Firearm	GUILTY*
11/08/22	Rape of a Child	GUILTY
11/09/22	Vandalism & Theft	GUILTY
11/14/22	1st Degree Murder	GUILTY*
11/15/22	DUI 2nd	GUILTY
11/21/22	Theft (E felony)	GUILTY
11/28/22	1st Degree Murder	GUILTY
11/29/22	Aggravated Kidnapping	GUILTY*
12/07/22	Rape	GUILTY

**Defendant convicted of a lesser charge*



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 allows the prosecution team 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 2022, 126 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 1,446 reports of child abuse in Knox County in 2022. 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 52 individuals in 2022, securing lengthy prison sentences in many cases.

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 2022, the unit assisted more than 1,800 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 1,215 cases in 2022, 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, this Office created the first specialized prosecution unit for elder abuse in Tennessee. In 2022, the team reviewed more than 1,162 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 839 cases in 2022.

The Felony Drug Unit also spearheads nuisance injunctions for the office. In 2022, the unit marked the 61st 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 2022, the unit was assigned 29% 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 2022, the unit took 20 cases to trial. Specific to homicide cases, the unit took 14 cases to trial, obtaining 13 convictions. The unit also obtained 7 homicide 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 to ensure justice for all. In 2022, the Mental Health Unit assisted at all court levels, from problem-solving resolutions in General Sessions Court to conducting necessary judicial hospitalizations in Criminal Court. The unit also serves as the office's representative for Veterans Court and Recovery Court, as well as working closely with service providers for participants in the FACT-Mental Health Program.

WHITE COLLAR UNIT

The White Collar Unit investigates and prosecutes complex financial crimes and public corruption. The restitution amount ordered for financial crimes in 2022 totaled \$1,097,990.41.

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 to adult court.

Of approximately 8,200 cases filed in Knox County Juvenile Court in 2022, about 1,000 of those cases involve allegations of criminal conduct by juvenile offenders. Those filings represent the prosecution of just over 800 juveniles for delinquent and unruly offenses. The Knox County District Attorney General's Office is involved in the prosecution of those matters. The most commonly charged misdemeanor offenses were simple possession of controlled substances, simple assault, and disorderly conduct. The most commonly charged felonies were aggravated assault, theft, and burglary. Juvenile prosecutors also noted a significant increase in charged offenses involving school threats and possession of firearms.



VICTIM/WITNESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

VISION & MISSION

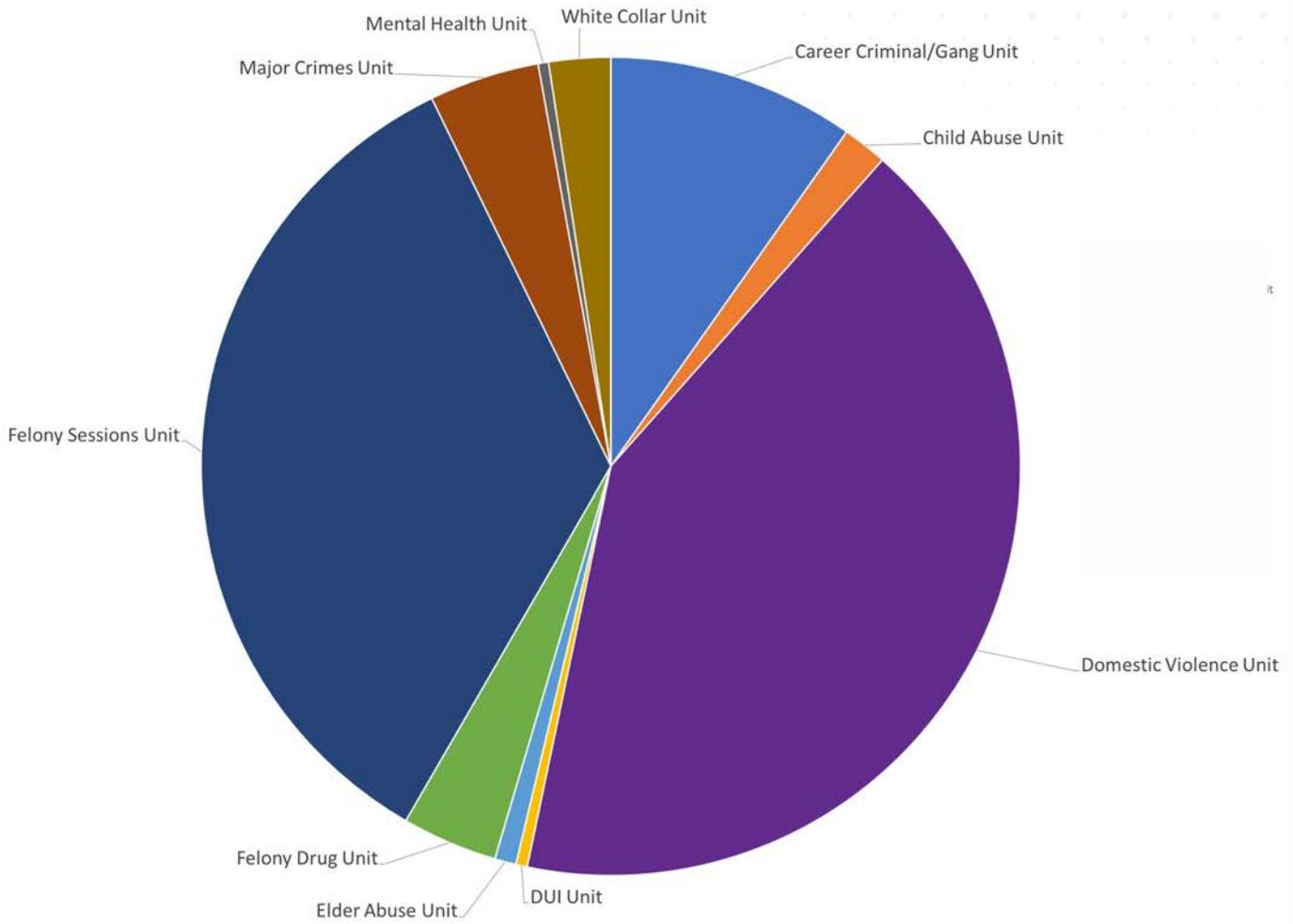
Victim/Witness Coordinators are employed by the District Attorney's Office to help victims and witnesses of crimes understand their rights and answer their questions about the prosecution process. Their mission is to enhance prosecution efforts by delivering the highest quality of services to victims and witnesses through proactive and responsive assistance. **In 2022, the office assisted more than 4,600 crime victims.**

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



CRIME VICTIMS SERVED BY SPECIAL PROSECUTION UNIT



INITIATIVE HIGHLIGHTS



National Crime Victims' Rights Week Kick Off

The Knox County District Attorney General's Office kicked off National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 24-30, with a ceremony to raise awareness about crime victims' issues and rights and recognize the many agencies and community members who advocate on crime victims' behalf. The event was held on Friday, April 22 at the Knoxville Family Justice Center and was attended by elected officials, advocates, law enforcement, crime victims' rights and support groups, service agencies, community volunteers, and victims of crime.



Truth In Sentencing Bill Signing

District Attorney General Charme Allen was proud to speak at the signing of Speaker Cameron Sexton and Lt. Governor Randy McNally's "Truth in Sentencing" bill and to stand alongside victims' families and other community leaders.

With the passage of the new law in 2022, the possibility of parole for several violent felony crimes was eliminated. Crime victims in our state deserve clarity when it comes to the actual service time for those who have wronged them.



World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

On World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, June 15, members of the District Attorney General's Office delivered Mobile Meals to homebound seniors in Knox County. The annual day of volunteering helps to bring awareness to the silent epidemic of elder abuse, empower the community to speak out, and help to end elder abuse. Each meal delivered on WEAAD includes materials with prevention strategies and community resources for elders.





Open Book Program

Each week, volunteers from the office read to students at Spring Hill Elementary through the Open Book Program. The goal of the community partnership is to expose our community's young people to professionals in the District Attorney General's Office and to help them excel in their educational goals. By connecting students with caring adults, mentoring amplifies positive youth development which ties in with District Attorney General Charme Allen's call to be smart on prevention.

Partnership with Pellissippi State

The Knox County District Attorney General's Office partners with the Pellissippi State Community College Criminal Justice program by providing a customized internship experience. Selected interns job shadow the various types of professionals in the DA's Office as well as visit with agencies the office partners with during the criminal justice process. For example, outside agency visits include but are not limited to 911, the Medical Examiner's Office, child advocacy centers, and other law enforcement offices.





Citizens Academy Homecoming

The Citizens Academy held its first alumni homecoming event after its fifth anniversary. Since starting the program in 2016, the academy has seen more than 200 graduates come through. The Citizens Academy is held in the fall and offers a behind-the-scenes look at the criminal justice system. In addition to a mock trial, assistant district attorneys present on a wide range of topics including Criminal Justice 101, the “CSI Effect,” the opioid epidemic, gangs, and other trends impacting our community. The 2022 Class was as exciting and informative as the 2016 class and the office looks forward to continuing to expand the program’s reach in Knox County.





High School Job Shadow Program

A number of high school students are selected to shadow a variety of professionals involved in the criminal justice system during one week of the summer. The shadow program is designed for high school students who live in Knox County and demonstrate a strong interest in learning about the District Attorney General's Office. In 2022, more than 30 students participated in the High School Job Shadow program.

Overdose Awareness Month

District Attorney General Charme Allen supported the Drug Overdose Support Group's initiative to provide law enforcement and first responders with a magnetic purple ribbon to place on their fleets during Overdose Awareness Month in August. In 2022, there were 505 suspected drug overdose deaths in Knox County.





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