

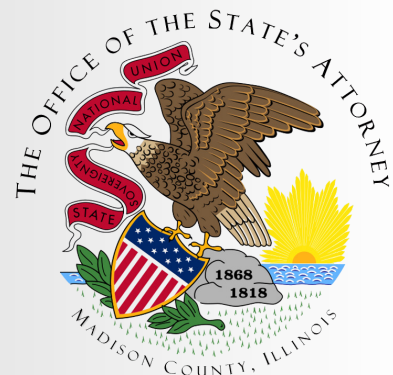
Annual Report

Madison County State's Attorney's Office



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Thomas A. Haine
State's Attorney



A message from...

Tom Haine

MADISON COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY



To: Honorable Kurt Prenzler, Chairman, Madison County Board
Honorable Members of the Madison County Board
Citizens of Madison County

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am happy to present to you our Annual Report, highlighting the stellar accomplishments of the Madison County State's Attorney's Office in 2023.

The State's Attorney's Office consists of an energetic and devoted team of public servants and professionals, who pursue the ends of justice under law in a variety of ways, touching every facet of Madison County government and every community in Madison County. However, many members of the community and even our leaders in County Government don't interact with the justice system on a day-to-day basis, and therefore do not get an opportunity to see the tremendous work of our team. Our hope is that this Report provides insight into how your hard-earned tax dollars are put to work in the cause of justice.

All of our efforts depend upon the support and cooperation of the County Board. We're grateful for this vital support, which demonstrates that our elected leaders – and the voters of Madison County – see public safety as an important key to our future. Hopefully, our efforts will continue to have a major impact in fighting the scourge of crime so our families and businesses can thrive in safety.

Thanking you again, I remain,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas A. Haine". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Thomas A. Haine,
Madison County State's Attorney

2023: By the numbers

\$5,539,952	Total budget (including state grants)
\$196,024	Amount under budget (general fund)
25,445	New Misdemeanor, Traffic, DUI charges filed (increase of 5,096 from 2022)
3,769	Felonies prosecuted to conclusion
2,996	New Felony charges filed
4,214	Felony cases open at end of year (lowest number in 5 years)
290	Average jail population for first 6 months of 2022 (prior to SAFE-T Act)
178	Average jail population for last 4 months of 2023 (after SAFE-T Act)
93	Court hearings held on detention petitions filed under SAFE-T Act
60	Full-time employees in State's Attorney's Office
32	Assistant State's Attorneys (full-time)
19	Murder, Attempted Murder or Involuntary Manslaughter cases prosecuted to conclusion
3	Jury trials held for First-Degree Murder or Attempted First-Degree Murder (guilty verdict in each)
3	Consecutive years under budget

2023: A YEAR OF CHANGE

For the Madison County State's Attorney's Office, 2023 marked a year of significant change. Some of these changes – such as implementation of a new case-management software system – were undertaken as part of our ongoing effort to utilize the best and most efficient tools to handle our cases and thereby keep our neighborhoods safe, better serve the citizens of Madison County and pursue justice for victims of crime.

Other changes were made in order to better situate our county for the implementation of the SAFE-T Act, which has had a monumental impact on

the Criminal Justice System.

While navigating these major changes, the Madison County's State's Attorney's Office has continued fulfilling its core mission of pursuing justice and fighting crime. This has been a true team effort, and a testament to the incredible professionals who dedicate their careers to public service in the office. In addition, the State's Attorney's Office is grateful for the assistance and cooperation from other stakeholders in the Criminal Justice System as we've forged ahead, including: the Judiciary, Law Enforcement Agencies, Circuit Clerk and Public Defender.

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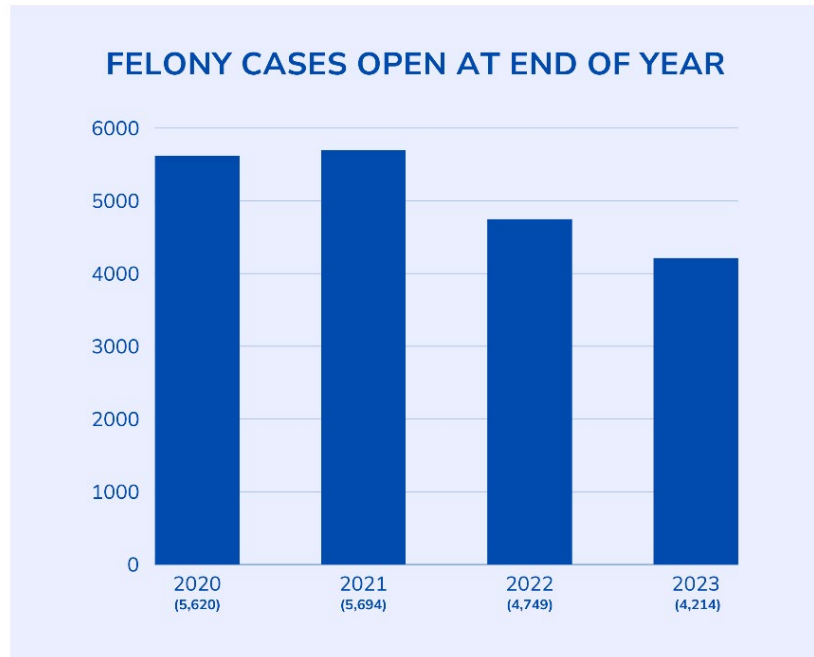
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CONTINUED REDUCTION IN CASE BACKLOG

In 2023, the State's Attorney's Office continued making remarkable progress in reducing a case backlog that developed during COVID restrictions.

The number of open felony cases stood at 5,620 at the end of 2020, and 5,694 at the end of 2021. By the end of 2022, we had whittled the number of unresolved felony cases down to 4,749. And we are proud to report that, for the conclusion of 2023, the backlog has been pared even further, down to 4,214 open cases. Last year we filed 2,996 new felony cases, a small reduction from the year prior (due in large part to the disruption caused by the SAFE-T Act). Our goal is to have approximately the same number of open



cases as we charge per year.

Resolving cases in a timely manner is of critical importance in the criminal justice system, because for the victims of crime, justice delayed is justice denied.

In addition, if cases languish, they become more difficult to

successfully prosecute. The memories of witnesses can fade, and some witnesses or parties to a case can become impossible to locate, or possibly even pass away. This year we hope to eliminate this backlog entirely, and continue to speed resolutions to a successful conclusion.



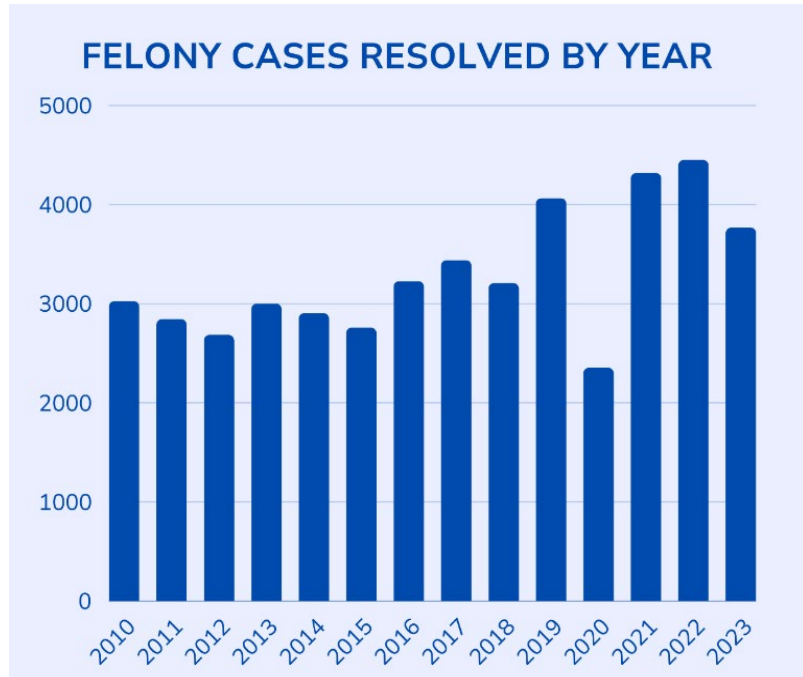
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RECORD PACE OF PROSECUTION CONTINUES

As part of our effort to reduce the case backlog, we continue to resolve cases at a record pace. The SAO in 2023 prosecuted 3,769 felonies to conclusion, through trial convictions, guilty pleas and other dispositions.

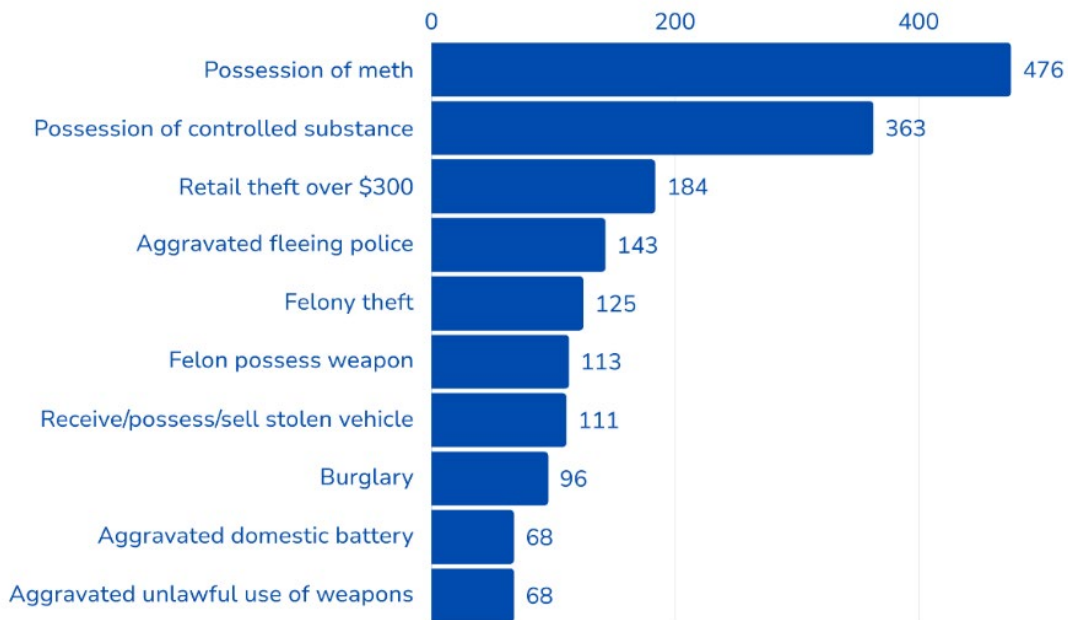
To put that in context: 2021 and 2022 saw the most prosecutions on record (each setting a new record), and then as the backlog continued to drop, 2023 was still higher than any year



between 2010 and 2018. We are very proud of our

team for their continued, historic efforts.

2023 Top felony charges



FIGHTING CROSS-RIVER CRIME, VEHICLE THEFTS

In 2021, the State's Attorney's Office recognized a disturbing trend: offenders coming from Missouri, committing crimes and then returning to Missouri, often before victims are even aware. In response, the SAO joined with law enforcement agencies to develop the innovative Cross-River Crime Task Force, which encourages increased use of Automated License Plate Readers and utilizes the data to conduct targeted saturation patrols.

We are grateful for those courageous local officers who have volunteered for this task force whether as part of our saturation patrols or as part of its Core Team, as well as our first two commanders: Sheriff Jeff Connor (then Chief Deputy, now

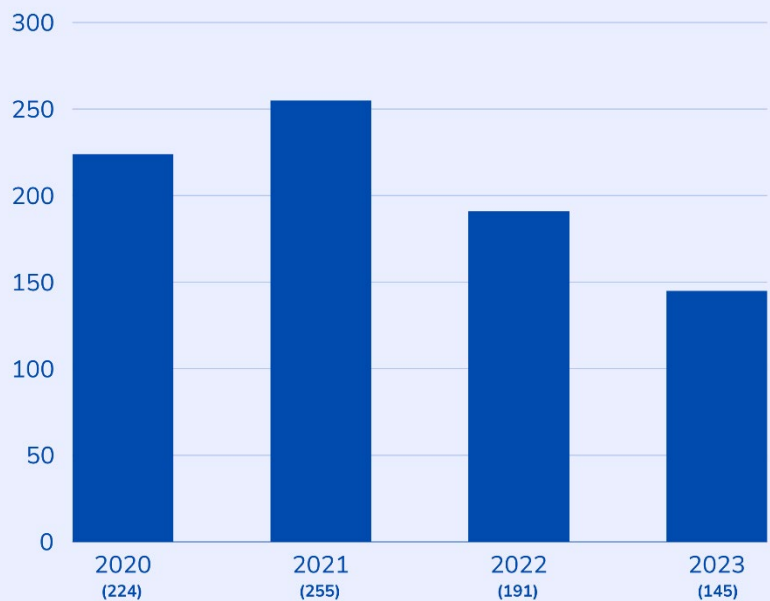
Sheriff), and Chief Nick Novacich of Granite City.

The Cross-River Crime Task Force completed four large-scale saturation patrols in 2023, apprehending fugitives, recovering stolen vehicles, confiscating illegal drugs,

and seizing weapons that were not lawfully possessed.

Just as importantly, the Task Force's highly-visible presence in targeted areas continued to send a clear message to would-be criminals.

OFFENSES RELATED TO MOTOR VEHICLES
(RECEIVE/POSSESS/SELL STOLEN VEHICLES AND RELATED FELONIES)



In those four saturation patrols, the Task Force conducted a combined 287 traffic stops and made 51 arrests.

The State's Attorney's Office is confident that this task force is having an impact. Many of the crimes that traverse the state line involve vehicle thefts.

Following a record high in 2021, the number of vehicle-theft cases presented to the State's Attorney's Office has sharply declined. In 2021, our office charged 255 individuals with Offenses Related To Motor Vehicles (a category that includes possessing, receiving or selling a stolen vehicle). That total dropped to 191 in 2022; it fell further to 145 in 2023.

Vehicle thefts are a concern not only because the theft itself is disturbing and frustrating for the car owner, but because the thefts are often committed in conjunction with other crimes and because the thefts often create dangerous situations on our roadways.

In 2023, the Cross-River Crime Task Force was chosen as the recipient of the prestigious Unit Award from the Southwestern Illinois Law Enforcement Commission and the Southern Illinois Police Chiefs Association. Members of the Cross-River Crime Task Force received Unit Award plaques and were honored during the annual awards banquet of SILEC and SIPCA. The Unit Award

recognizes the Task Force as an intelligent strategy for crime-fighting and for crime-prevention.

We remain hopeful that the Cross-River Crime Task Force, with its use of real-time data from License Plate Readers to track the whereabouts of offenders, will help reduce the frequency of drivers attempting to elude police, something we try to deter by aggressive prosecution.

In 2018 and 2019, the criminal offense of Aggravated Fleeing Or Eluding was not even among the top 10 most-filed felony charges in Madison County. In each of the past four years, however, the offense of Aggravated Fleeing or Eluding has made the

Top 10 list: 102 charges filed in 2020; 134 filed in 2021; 125 filed in 2022; and 143 filed in 2023.

We also have anecdotal evidence that reinforces this concern: At one trial, a police officer stated in sworn testimony that roughly one in three attempted traffic stops in his jurisdiction (along the river) results in the motorist attempting to flee across the McKinley Bridge.

Crimes involving motor vehicles, along with attempts to flee from police, present a great danger to fellow motorists, to pedestrians, and to police officers. Our belief is that the Cross-River Crime Task Force will prove to be a smart approach to this troubling trend.

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PROTECTING FRONT-LINE LAW ENFORCEMENT

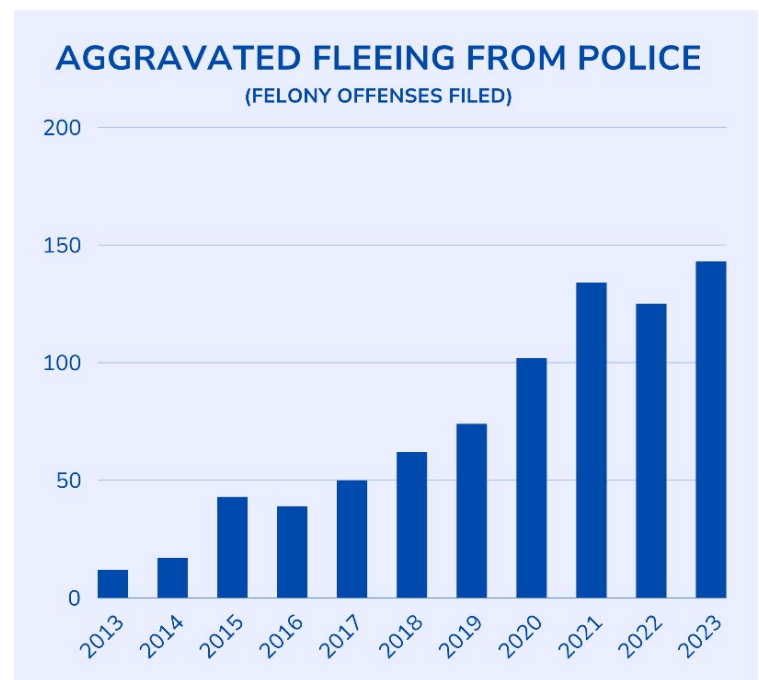
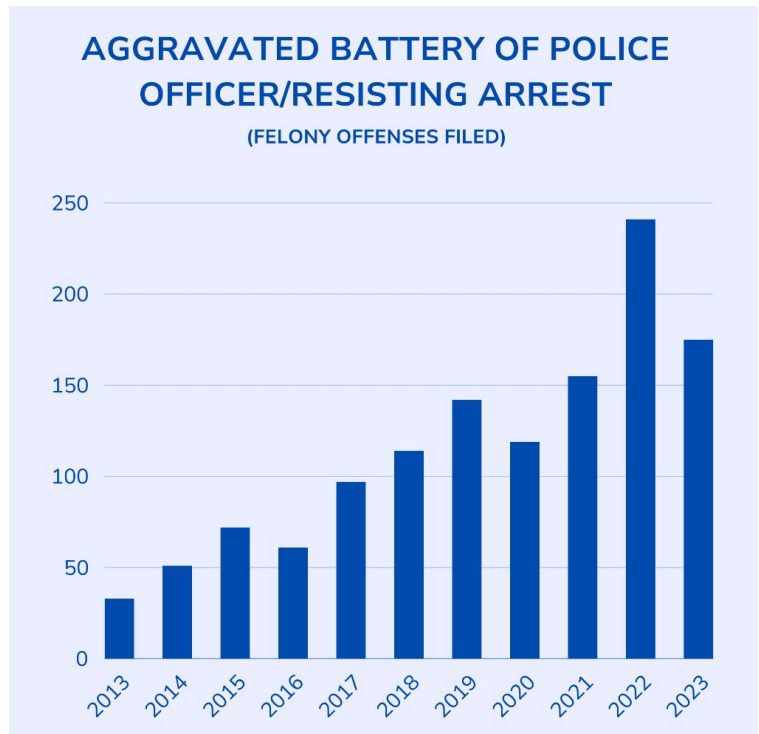
In 2023, we were honored to take part in the dedication for the new Tyler Timmins Drive, a section of roadway in Wood River named for fallen Officer Tyler Timmins. This roadway serves as a daily reminder that we need to protect and support the front-line officers who risk their lives every day to protect us.

In 2022, we obtained a murder conviction and life sentence for the killer of Pontoon Beach Officer Timmins. We also obtained a murder conviction and life sentence (plus 13 years) for the killer of Brooklyn Officer Brian Pierce Jr.

In 2023, we continued our strong support of law enforcement personnel, aggressively prosecuting those who attempt to inflict harm on officers.

In 2023 and in 2022, we charged at least 175 defendants with felony Aggravated Battery of a Police Officer or felony Resisting Arrest. This continues a trend of increased charges for these kinds of cases since 2020.

Sadly, it has become commonplace for criminals to attempt to flee from officers and to fight with officers rather than submit to arrest. This is terribly dangerous for all involved. The Madison County State's Attorney's Office will continue to send a message that refusing to obey lawful commands from police officers and attempting to harm police officers will not be tolerated.



MAKING THE BEST OF THE SAFE-T ACT

The SAFE-T Act went into effect in Illinois on Sept. 18, 2023, so the end of last year saw a historic amount of new activity in our office and throughout the Criminal Justice System due to this upheaval.

Though we didn't ask for this change (in fact we vigorously opposed it), we have worked hard to keep our community safe under the new constraints of the SAFE-T Act. As the SAFE-T Act was being introduced, we challenged it in court and, in response to the public outcry, were very happy that a major amendment was passed at the last minute, modifying many of the most egregious portions of the original bill. Then our litigation delayed the date of implementation from Jan. 1, 2023, to Sept. 18, 2023 — giving us valuable time to prepare. We believe our efforts made this Act less harmful to law-abiding citizens as it went into effect.

The most far-reaching impact of the SAFE-T Act (even under the new amendments) is the elimination of cash bail. Under this new system, a defendant

can be held in custody prior to trial only if he or she is charged with certain high-level felony offenses. But even if the defendant is charged with one of those eligible offenses, the State's Attorney's Office is required to persuade a judge

that the defendant meets additional criteria, such as being a "real and present threat" to others.

Judges make these determinations at a

new type of hearing called a Detention Hearing, where the State's Attorney's Office is required to present a case for why the defendant should remain in pretrial custody. The Detention Hearings are conducted within a statutory timeline, typically within a couple of days, meaning prosecutors have limited time to gather important information about the case and the defendant's history. These new requirements have created entirely new unfunded mandates on the State's Attorney's Office to simply do what our prior system did without these additional procedures: namely, holding defendants who raise concerns to our judges in our jail prior to trial.

— “ **These new requirements have created entirely new unfunded mandates on the State's Attorney's Office...**

— ”

— “ **But even if the defendant is charged with one of those eligible offenses, the State's Attorney's Office is required to persuade a judge that the defendant meets additional criteria, such as being a "real and present threat" to others.**

— ”

CREATION OF WARRANT DIVISION

To prepare for the SAFE-T Act's new restrictions and mandates, in 2023 we launched a Warrant Division within the State's Attorney's Office, staffed primarily by two Assistant State's Attorneys as well as support personnel. This division evaluates investigations presented to our office by the roughly 30 Law Enforcement agencies that have jurisdiction in Madison County. This division determines what, if any, charges should be issued. Previously, a rotation of Assistant State's Attorneys handled these duties. Having a Warrant Division with staff devoted full-time to this specialized area provides consistency to Law Enforcement agencies.

In addition, the Warrant Division prepares Detention Petitions and presents arguments in support of those petitions during Detention Hearings.

This creates an efficiency, as the Warrant Division has the most familiarity with a case at this early stage.

Here is some early data from just the first three months of the SAFE-T Act's

implementation (from September 18, 2023 through December 31, 2023) to consider regarding the SAFE-T Act and detentions hearings:

Total Detention Hearings held during first 3 ½ months: 93

Detention Hearings resulting in detention: 59 (63%)

Detention Hearings resulting in release: 34 (37%)

Regarding those detention hearings and the ratio of detention versus release, it should be noted that the State's Attorney's Office has taken a tough approach on seeking detention. We do

“ We will continue to aggressively seek detention where local law enforcement agencies see merit to such a request, in order to zealously protect crime victims and the public.

our best to convince the court to agree with our assessments on whether a defendant should be detained.

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”

CONTINUING TO MONITOR SAFE-T ACT'S IMPACT

It will take time to know the full impact of the SAFE-T Act on our community. However, in the short period of time since its implementation, we have seen cases where defendants have been released from custody, even though we felt they posed a threat to the community.

In one such case, a defendant charged with Attempted Armed Robbery (Class 1 felony) was granted pretrial release, over our objection, and later was arrested on a charge of First-Degree Murder. In another case, a defendant was charged with a Class 1 felony count of Criminal Sexual Assault and granted pretrial release over our objection. After release, that defendant subsequently committed a second Class 1 felony offense of Criminal Sexual Assault. The court granted the State's Attorney's Office's second petition seeking pretrial detention of this defendant.

But there are thousands of felony cases that move through our office every year, and these are just a few examples of regrettable results due to the restrictions of the SAFE-T Act and the fact that judges no longer have the option of demanding

bond but must decide simply whether to detain or not (and if not, must release without requiring any bond to ensure compliance with court orders). We will continue to give our best efforts to prevent these avoidable tragedies, and appreciate the County Board's continued support and funding of these efforts, despite the lack of additional funds from the State to meet these new requirements and procedures.

— “
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” —

— “
Defendants who are being released now under terms of the SAFE-T Act – with no cash bail requirements – will have diminished incentive to return to court for resolution of their cases.
” —

Also, the State's Attorney's Office is working with the Office of the State's Attorney's Appellate Prosecutor to challenge some interpretations of the SAFE-T Act (and have had our cases upheld on appeal), though we cannot appeal every time we disagree with a judge's assessment. Nonetheless, we feel it is important to pursue these challenges in order to maintain the safety of our neighborhoods.

In addition, we fear that the SAFE-T Act will eventually have a negative impact on our case data, such as the number of cases that remain open at a given time. That's because the Defendants who are being released now under terms of the SAFE-T Act – with no cash bail

requirements – will have diminished incentive to return to court for resolution of their cases. We will continue to track these numbers however we can.

Further, the SAFE-T Act could potentially have a negative effect on the number of charges filed by our office. That could happen if victims of certain crimes, such as retail thefts, develop a viewpoint that there is little merit in reporting such

“**That could happen if victims of certain crimes, such as retail thefts, develop a viewpoint that there is little merit in reporting such offenses to law enforcement in a “catch-and-release” environment.**”

offenses to law enforcement in a “catch-and-release” environment. We are working with our local law enforcement agencies to make sure we use all the tools available to increase, rather than decrease, the pressure we put on local criminal activity, so that despite the SAFE-T Act, those who would commit crimes will know they still face stiff resistance in our county.

LAUNCH OF REDESIGNED WEBSITE

Last year the State's Attorney's Office also finalized a new website (www.madcosao.gov). The new site is more user-friendly and contains helpful information for victims, jurors and others who interact with the State's Attorney's Office and the Criminal Justice System.

The new site also provides a fresh, modern appearance for what



essentially serves as a public face of the office. For many individuals (such as victims or witnesses in cases), their first contact with the

State's Attorney's Office is via our website. We believe the new website reflects the State's Attorney's Office's high level of professionalism.

“**The new site is more user-friendly and contains helpful information for victims, jurors and others who interact with the State's Attorney's Office and the Criminal Justice System.**”

IMPLEMENTED NEW SOFTWARE SYSTEM

As part of our overall office modernization program, in 2023 we moved to a new case-management software system, Prosecutor By Karpel, for felony prosecutions. This system is known as the leading criminal case-management software in the U.S. because of its ability to streamline workflows, cut costs, and increase the capabilities and speed of prosecutors. We appreciate the County Board's willingness to fund this new purchase, which will give us major new capacities.

As anyone who has ever worked with a computer knows, switching to a new software system is a major task. This move has

“
As the volume of digital data associated with the prosecution of a criminal case continues to grow (for example, mandated body-camera video), this new system will improve our efficiency.
”

significantly altered the workflow of prosecutors and support staff in the State's Attorney's Office. Their commitment and dedication have been key to the successful rollout of the new software system. I cannot thank them enough for their tremendous efforts.

Likewise, the Law Enforcement agencies that work with the State's

“
This new tool will allow us to make the most of one of our major resources: information.
”

Attorney's Office deserve recognition for their role in the move to the new system. The manner in which police officers submit reports and evidence to the State's Attorney's Office has drastically changed. Representatives and leaders from the Law Enforcement agencies joined prosecutors in numerous meetings and training sessions as the Karpel system was implemented. While there have been growing pains and normal hiccups, we're confident this new system will greatly improve the effectiveness of both prosecutors and police. This new tool will allow us to make the most of one of our major resources: information.

PROTECTING COUNTY INTERESTS IN CIVIL LITIGATION

One of the fundamental roles of the State's Attorney is to represent Madison County and County Government in civil litigation. Sometimes, the State's Attorney's Office initiates civil litigation to protect the rights and interests of all county residents, such as when we joined more than 60 other counties in filing a civil suit involving the SAFE-T Act. We also joined 32 other counties in filing an Amicus Brief in opposition to the governor's so-called assault weapons ban, which we believe infringes on the rights of law-abiding gun owners.

In June of 2023, the State's Attorney's Office and other Madison County officials announced the distribution of an initial round of local grants aimed at prevention of substance abuse, utilizing funds from a settlement in a lawsuit against opioid distributors. The county is receiving approximately \$3.7 million over a period of years, through 2038, as its share of the opioid settlement. The county is using the settlement to provide grants to local agencies and organizations.

Like any other large entity, Madison County sometimes is forced to defend against litigation. Many of the lawsuits filed against Madison County have little merit, in our view. Nonetheless, we must

defend the county vigorously against any litigation whatsoever.

We are proud of our track record in defending the county against litigation. For example, in December a jury in federal court returned a verdict in favor of Madison County in a civil lawsuit stemming from the arrest of an armed

— “ —
A jury seated in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Illinois deliberated less than two hours before returning a unanimous verdict in favor of Madison County and two sheriff's deputies.
 — ” —

and suicidal motorist. A jury seated in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Illinois deliberated less than two hours before returning a unanimous verdict in favor of Madison

County and two sheriff's deputies.

In 2023, we also continued our proactive updating of civil codes to support community safety. Our Civil Division began to assist municipalities in coordinating a comprehensive, countywide approach to outlawing unauthorized encampments in public spaces, such as on City Hall properties or parks. The result was a template ordinance that municipalities and city leaders can tailor to suit their needs. Several municipalities already have approved ordinances based on this template, and the County Board is working on passage of an ordinance to cover unincorporated areas.

The goal of these ordinances is to establish guidelines for the use of public spaces and strike a balance between compassion for those who are in serious need and the responsibility of community leaders to maintain the well-being and accessibility of public areas.

The ordinances exemplify a thoughtful and community-oriented approach to addressing the challenges associated with encampments on public property. It is essential to find solutions that consider the interests of all residents, taxpayers, property owners and businesses while



recognizing the complexities surrounding this issue.

Our hope is to create a unified and consistent approach to this difficult issue, rather than a patchwork of regulation or non-regulation. These

proactive steps align with Madison County's ongoing commitment to addressing societal challenges in a comprehensive, intelligent, fair-minded and compassionate manner.

“ The ordinances exemplify a thoughtful and community-oriented approach to addressing the challenges associated with encampments on public property. ”

EARNING THE COMMUNITY'S CONFIDENCE

In 2023, we attended numerous community events and held multiple meetings with community organizations, in an effort to gather input from citizens and stakeholders and provide information about how the State's Attorney's Office can help keep our neighborhoods and communities safe.

We also held a series of workshops with community leaders and educators to address the issues of juvenile crime and juvenile delinquency. We invited these front-

line stakeholders to share information and ideas on how to keep our youths on the right track. We firmly believe that a united effort is required to help our youths become productive, law-abiding citizens.

In 2023, the State's Attorney's Office issued news releases or conducted news conferences more than 65 times. The office also maintains relationships with the news media and has worked to increase its presence on social media. The SAO

undertakes these efforts because it's important that Madison County's taxpayers, residents, shoppers, visitors, business owners and workforce have confidence in their criminal justice system.

That trust is what makes Madison County an attractive place to reside, raise families, visit, and conduct business. To maintain that trust and confidence, we work to keep the public informed about the operation of their Criminal Justice System.



HIRING FANTASTIC ATTORNEYS AND PROFESSIONALS

Maintaining an exceptional State's Attorney's Office requires a full staff of top-notch attorneys, support personnel and administrators. Like other government offices, the SAO finds it increasingly challenging to compete against the private sector for first-rate employees, though has had noted success in the past year bringing in new attorneys.

In 2023 we swore in nine (9) new full-time ASAs, and 12 new support staff (non-attorney) professionals. We believe our new successes at hiring are due to the support of the County Board at increasing base salaries for attorneys especially (which increased last year from \$49,000 to \$60,000). We will continue to inform the County Board on these efforts, and whether additional changes are needed, so we can continue to bring in excellent new prosecutors to our office rather than lose them to



other opportunities, which ultimately will degrade our ability to do justice for victims of crime and keep our community safe.

In short, with the help of the County Board, we will continue to strive to make the SAO a dream job for attorneys and legal professionals by offering competitive pay, benefits and workplace flexibility as well as the opportunity to do justice and work with an uplifting and positive group of people. We're also working closely with the region's law schools to step up our recruitment efforts, by participating in internship programs, job

boards, career fairs and on-campus interview sessions.

The State's Attorney's Office is grateful for the support it receives from the Madison County Board. The successful operation of a prosecutor's office in a large jurisdiction requires significant resources. Those resources are needed to attract and retain exceptional prosecutors, to provide them with first-rate support staff, to keep victims informed, to keep track of witnesses, and to provide excellent legal services to the County Board and other County offices.



OFFICE OVERVIEW

Madison County is the eighth-largest county by population in the State of Illinois, and the largest county south of Cook County and the Chicago collar counties. It contains approximately 30 law enforcement agencies that refer criminal cases to the Madison County State's Attorney's Office.

The Madison County State's Attorney's Office touches every facet of County Government as well as supporting the safety and well-being of every community in the County on a daily basis.

The State's Attorney is the legal adviser to County Government and Officials, the parliamentarian of the County Board, and the sole prosecuting authority for almost all state crimes committed in Madison

County and referred by local law enforcement agencies. Assistant State's Attorneys are appointed by the State's Attorney to assist in these duties.

The State's Attorney's Office consists of 32 full-time Assistant State's Attorneys, 20 Support Staff (which includes three Victim Advocates), two Investigators, one Office Manager, and one Communications Director.

The SAO's annual budget for FY2023 was \$5,539,952 with roughly \$4,824,421 provided by the County Board and the rest was provided by grants, and Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services. Our General Fund expenditures in fiscal year 2023 were \$196,024.00 under budget.

“ **The State's Attorney is the legal adviser to County Government and Officials, the parliamentarian of the County Board, and the sole prosecuting authority for almost all state crimes committed in Madison County and referred by local law enforcement agencies.** ”

LIFE-CYCLE OF A CRIMINAL CASE

From report to prosecution, the life-cycle of a typical criminal case (both misdemeanor and felony) follows predictable patterns.

First, for misdemeanor cases:

Law enforcement agencies file their own misdemeanor and traffic charges.

Typically defendants are released on

bond or a promise to appear in court. Traffic and misdemeanor defendants represent themselves more often than in felony court. Only defendants charged with certain offenses with a possible term

of jail (all less than one year) are eligible for a public defender. These cases are often resolved via plea agreement. Court supervision is available in a large number of these cases. Defendants do have the right to a jury or bench trial. Not all cases have incarceration as a possible penalty, but those that do are all for terms of less than one year. Conviction of certain offenses (i.e., theft, domestic battery, DUI) can make subsequent offenses a felony.

Second, for felony cases:

Once a criminal investigation into a felony offense is completed, the law enforcement agency will present its findings to the State's Attorney's Office to review for possible charges. The State's

Attorney's Office now has a Warrant Division, staffed by prosecutors who handle the majority of felony charges at this initial stage. Any special offenses such as First-Degree Murder, Sexual Assault, and Elder Abuse would be presented to an ASA in the specialized unit that will handle the matter.

Once a case is charged, an arrest

warrant will be issued.

At this time, the State's Attorney's Office can file a Detention Petition, asking that the defendant be held in custody while awaiting trial. A Detention Petition can be filed

only if the defendant is charged with an eligible offense, as enumerated in the SAFE-T Act.

The case will then be set for a preliminary hearing. At that time the State's Attorney's Office can either proceed with a preliminary hearing to determine if there is probable cause for the charges, or the case can be presented to a grand jury for indictment. Once the case has passed through the preliminary hearing or indictment stage, the matter will be set on a trial docket. Cases can be delayed while waiting for laboratory results (for example, drug-testing, fingerprints, DNA, etc). Eventually the case will resolve via trial, plea, or dismissal.

“
If a Detention Petition is filed, a judge will conduct a Detention Hearing, during which the prosecution and defense can present testimony, evidence and arguments as to whether the defendant should be detained while awaiting trial.
 ”

ADMINISTRATION

SAO Administration is responsible for creating and maintaining office policies and procedures, planning and management of the budget, providing outreach to media on matters of public importance, and the hiring of office personnel.

The administrative team also provides supervision and oversight of the different divisions within the office.

Administrators:

Thomas Haine – *State's Attorney*
Chad Loughrey – *First Assistant State's Attorney*
Stephanie Seehausen – *Office Manager*
Carleatha Charleston – *Executive Secretary*
Brian Brueggemann – *Communications Director*

Certain other SAO personnel are directly managed by the SAO Administration:

Victim Advocates:

Tiffany Brooks (coordinator)
Maddison Ervin
Aubrey Ellinger

Investigators:

Lead Investigator Lee Brousseau
Investigator Cody Thomas

Receptionist:

Marcus Gardner

Digitization:

Benjamin Hunter

Mental Health Docket:

Laura Andrews



VIOLENT CRIMES UNIT

The Violent Crimes Unit (VCU) focuses on high-level crimes of violence.

This division is staffed by experienced trial attorneys who are focused on some of the most violent and dangerous offenders in our jurisdiction.

The VCU specializes in the prosecution of murder, violent acts and weapons offenses. These cases often receive a great deal of media

coverage and result in trials.

VCU prosecutors often respond to the scene of murders and violent offenses and assist in the cases from initial investigation through charging and disposition. VCU prosecutors work regularly with victims and victims' families.

They are also highly trained in areas of forensics such as DNA and ballistics evidence.

Assistant State's Attorneys:

Lauren Maricle – Chief
Morgan Hudson
Luke Yager
Mike Stewart (part-time)
Adrine Krikorian

Support:

Carrie Rayl (lead)
Heather McCammack
Stephanie Burns
Rachel Stilwell



GENERAL CRIMINAL DIVISION

The General Criminal Division is responsible for the wide range of cases that do not fall within either the Violent Crimes Unit or Children's Justice Division. Its felony prosecutors handle the largest number of felony offenses in the office. These include death cases involving driving under the influence and drug-induced homicide, domestic violence and other offenses resulting in great bodily harm or

permanent disfigurement, elder abuse, white-collar crime, and all other felony-level narcotics, property, and traffic offenses.

Approximately 85% of the felony cases currently pending are prosecuted within the General Criminal Division.

Assistant State's Attorneys:

Jim Buckley
Tracy Baum
Gina McNabney
Sean Williams
Audrey Paulda
Cara Tegel
Korinne Rolens
Courtney Lindbeck

Susan Jensen - *Trial Coordinator/Metro East Auto Theft Task Force*

Amy Gabriel (*part-time post-conviction*)



WARRANT DIVISION

The Warrant Division is a new unit in the State's Attorney's Office.

The prosecutors assigned to this division evaluate investigations presented by the roughly 30 Law Enforcement agencies that serve Madison County. This division determines what,

if any, charges should be issued.

In addition, the Warrant Division prepares Detention Petitions and presents arguments in support of those petitions during Detention Hearings.

Assistant State's Attorneys:

Ryan Kemper –Chief
Andrew Thierry

Support:

Amber Harris
Taylor Wells
Melissa McClusky
Samantha Kelly

TRAFFIC AND MISDEMEANOR

The SAO's Traffic and Misdemeanor personnel are part of a team within the Criminal Division, and handle a high-volume caseload of all traffic and misdemeanor offenses in Madison County.

There were 25,445 misdemeanor and traffic cases filed in 2023 in Madison County. These include, but are not limited to, first and second DUI offenses, domestic battery, retail theft, assault, battery, disorderly conduct, and many others.

These offenses are punishable by up to one

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There were 25,445 misdemeanor and traffic cases filed in 2023 in Madison County.

year in jail. This division also handles County ordinance violations.

Traffic and Misdemeanor has court in both Edwardsville and in Alton. Law enforcement agencies handle the filing of most misdemeanor offenses and traffic offenses, after which the SAO takes over prosecution of the cases.

Assistant State's Attorneys:

Daniel Farroll
Garet Collum
Jerren Fulcher
Kole Covington
Mike Wesley (part-time)

Support:

Bonnie Wilson (lead)
LaTina Madison
Melissa Jones
Lauren Haffer

CHILDREN'S JUSTICE DIVISION

The Children's Justice Division focuses on crimes against children, child protection and sexually-based offenses. They are trained and experienced in dealing with vulnerable victims as well as complex forensics. The Children's Justice Division works hand-in-hand with the Madison County Child Advocacy Center and their Multidisciplinary Team to ensure that investigations are handled swiftly and with children's best interests in mind. We review, charge, and prosecute hundreds of cases a year, liaise with the Department of Children and Family Services, police departments, and with victims.

The Children's Justice Division also encompasses the Juvenile Abuse and Neglect and Juvenile Delinquency division. Juvenile Abuse and Neglect primarily works with DCFS to ensure the safety of children in at-risk situations. They remove children from dangerous environments, offer services to parents to correct issues, and work to find permanent placement for children who have been removed from homes. Juvenile Delinquency works with juvenile offenders and covers the full



range of criminal offenses from misdemeanors to First-Degree Murder.

Assistant State's Attorneys:

Ali Foley – Chief
 Rebecca Buettner
 Sarah Voudrie – Juvenile Delinquency
 Kathleen Kiser – Juvenile Abuse/Neglect
 Emily Bell – Juvenile Abuse/Neglect

Support:

Taylor Schumacher

“ **The Children's Justice Division works hand-in-hand with the Madison County Child Advocacy Center and their Multidisciplinary Team to ensure that investigations are handled swiftly and with the children's best interests in mind.** ”

CHILD SUPPORT

The Child Support Division represents the Department of Healthcare and Family Services on Family and Divorce dockets. Child Support personnel provide services to custodial and non-custodial parents by establishing paternity and establishing, enforcing, and modifying child-support obligations. Currently, Child Support

manages more than 10,000 active child-support cases. All funding for the Child Support division is provided through a contract with the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services. Furthermore, the office provides continued legal education programs to local attorneys and the community regarding child-support topics.

Assistant State's Attorneys:

Hannah Meyer – Chief
Warren Benning
Joseph Reams
Christopher Hunter
(part-time)

Support:

Kathy Howes (lead)
Joelle Randolph
Paula Walker



CIVIL DIVISION

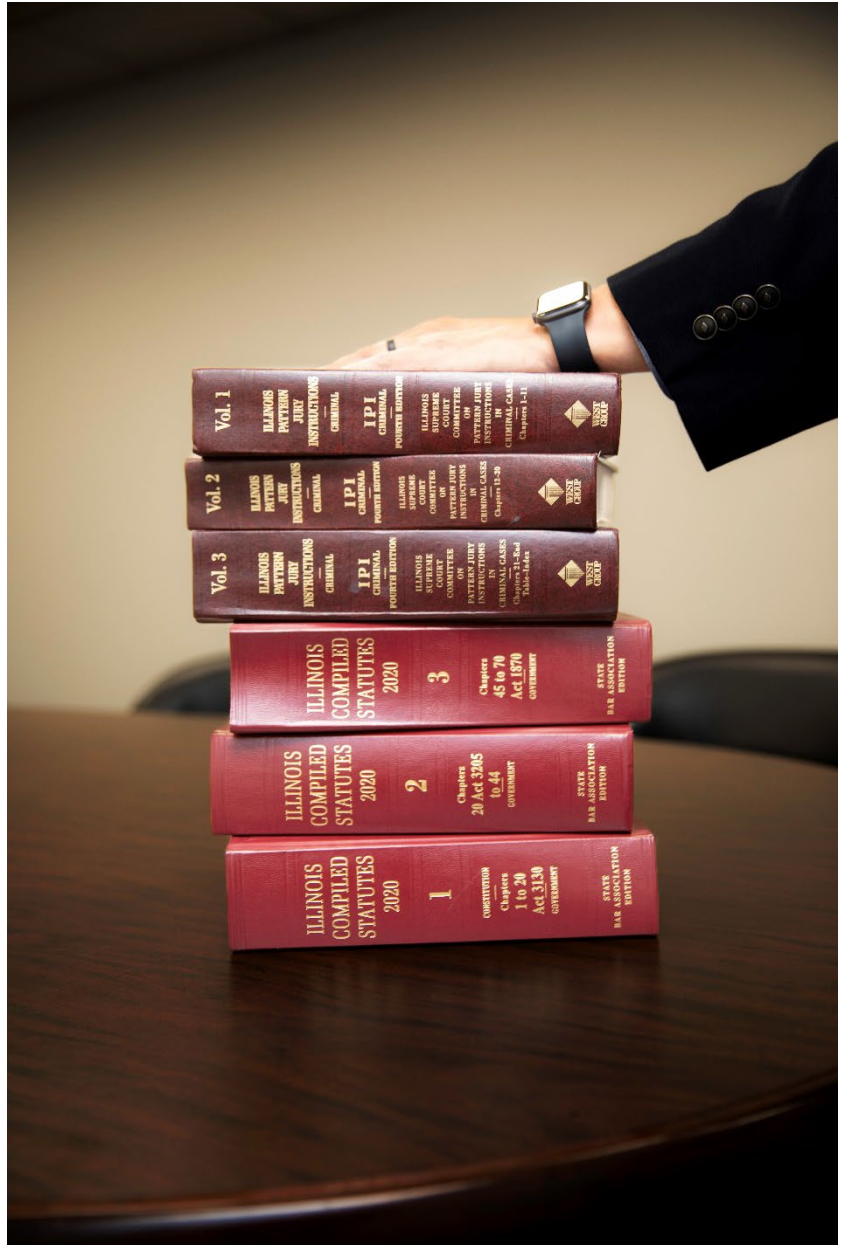
The Civil Division assists the State's Attorney in his role as the chief legal adviser for Madison County.

The Civil Division provides advice and assistance to the County Board on a wide range of matters such as zoning, taxes and environmental issues. The Civil Division reviews Freedom of Information Act requests for legal issues. The Civil Division also assigns certain litigation matters relating to Madison County to outside civil attorneys, while still managing each case.

The Civil Division provides legal advice to the various departments within Madison County government. The Civil Division also provides legal services to certain governmental entities such as Madison County Transit District and Special Service Area No. 1.

Assistant State's Attorneys

David Livingstone – Chief
 Paul Evans
 Zac Cato
 John Hackett (part-time)



SPECIALTY COURTS

The Madison County State's Attorney's Office participates in three formal criminal diversion courts. They are the Drug Court, Veterans Court and Mental Health Court.

The State's Attorney's Office has ASAs who are assigned to these courts. These courts are authorized by Illinois Statute and attempt to create a non-adversarial experience in the criminal justice system where treatment is the focus. Participants can be placed into these

programs on a diversion track, where charges would be dismissed, or on a conviction track, where they are convicted of the offense and participate in the specialty court as part of their probation. Often, a defendant is facing prison time and is given a "last chance" to avoid prison by participating in the probation track.

Defendants involved in all three courts are placed into appropriate treatment programs. They face sanctions such as community service or jail time for non-compliance with the court's directives. The specialty courts also assist individuals in finding housing and employment.

1. **Drug Court** focuses on offenders whose criminal conduct is attributable to drug use and addiction. These defendants are charged with non-violent offenses,

such as drug possession or theft. They are placed into treatment through Chestnut Health Systems.

- a. Assigned ASA: Tracy Baum
2. **Veterans Court** provides a wide range of treatment for a veteran of a branch of the United States military who has been honorably discharged or discharged under general conditions. No veterans

who have been dishonorably discharged are eligible. Treatment is arranged through the VA utilizing benefits the veteran has earned by serving, at no additional cost to Madison County taxpayers.

- a. Assigned ASA: Chad Loughrey

3. **Mental Health Court** provides treatment to individuals whose criminal conduct is directly linked to mental health issues. These defendants have a wide range of criminal charges and are in need of specialized mental health treatment. Defendants are linked to treatment providers with Chestnut Health Systems and Centerstone.

- a. Assigned ASA: Laura Andrews

“Defendants involved in all three courts are placed into appropriate treatment programs. They face sanctions such as community service or jail time for non-compliance with the court's directives.”

SAO TASK FORCES

In order to provide specialized prosecution and focus on various types of cases, the SAO has several specialized task forces in which ASAs receive specialized training on reviewing and prosecuting these types of offenses:

Opioids and Narcotics: ASA Audrey Paulda is assigned to the narcotics task force. The position is funded through a federal grant and is directly tied to the Metropolitan Enforcement Group of Southwestern Illinois (MEGSI). MEGSI is a specialized drug unit consisting of officers from police agencies across the region. Madison County has seen a huge rise in drug cases over the past decade, specifically opiates, fentanyl and methamphetamine. This task force targets drug dealers and drug traffickers and attacks the problem at the source, to disrupt the supply of these illicit substances coming into our county.

Elder Abuse: ASA Jim Buckley is assigned to the Elder Abuse Task Force. This task force works closely with law enforcement agencies to build cases involving physical and financial abuse of elderly people. Elderly people can easily become the targets of financial exploitation or even physical abuse. These



are complex cases that require thorough investigation. Having this dedicated task force helps to ensure that such crimes are aggressively prosecuted, and that the elderly are protected from further victimization.

Intimate Partner Violence: ASAs Gina McNabney and Cara Tegel are assigned to the IPV Task Force. The unit focuses on domestic violence between intimate partners. These are difficult cases because the victims in many cases recant their initial allegations – often out of fear. It is important to address the issues of violence between partners to prevent an escalation or possible harm to the individuals in the home.



This task force targets drug dealers and drug traffickers and attacks the problem at the source, to disrupt the supply of these illicit substances coming into our county.



OUR MISSION

SEEK JUSTICE,
PURSUE TRUTH,
FIGHT FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME,
PROTECT THE COMMUNITY FROM LAWBREAKERS,
STRENGTHEN THE RULE OF LAW,
SAFEGUARD CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS,
AND
IMPLEMENT INNOVATIVE STRATEGIES
TO REDUCE CRIME,
ALL WHILE ACTING WITH
INTEGRITY AND PROFESSIONALISM.

MADISON COUNTY STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE