

2015
OFFICE OF THE
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY



SERVING JEFFERSON AND GILPIN COUNTIES



A MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY



I am honored to serve the citizens of Jefferson and Gilpin counties in the pursuit of justice for victims of crime, the community, and the accused.

A District Attorney's duty is to seek justice. This duty is met when we make the

distinction between the ordinary citizen who has made a mistake and someone who preys on innocent victims.

The District Attorney aggressively fights on behalf of crime victims, including the most vulnerable victims in our community, our children and the elderly. Protecting the rights of crime victims is a one of the most important things we do.

An effective criminal justice system recognizes that a one-size-fits-all approach to justice is not in the best interest of offenders, victims, or the community. The District Attorney's Office uses specialized units and problem-solving courts to address specific needs and challenges faced by appropriate offenders which are not adequately addressed in traditional courts. These courts offer alternatives for these men and women who cycle in and out of the criminal justice system. Our Drug Recovery Court, Veterans Court, and juvenile and adult mental health courts provide opportunities

for interrupting these cycles. Our Adult Mental Health Court became operational in 2015. Senior victims also present the need for specialization in prosecution. Our Elder Abuse Unit remains in the forefront of the movement to protect victims in this rapidly aging population. We continue to lead the fight against Human Trafficking. Our Human Trafficking Unit has a full-time prosecutor and an investigator who collaborate with law enforcement, human services, schools, non-profits, and others to protect children and punish offenders.

In addition to fair and just prosecution of offenders, our robust crime prevention and public education programs help us protect citizens from becoming victims of crime. We offer a number of cutting-edge crime prevention programs including Power Against Fraud which provides fraud prevention for seniors, and our Child Sex Offender Investigations (CHEEZO) program which teaches internet and cell phone safety for youth and adults. Our annual Senior Law Day and Safety Fair provide a valuable array of safety services and resources for people of all ages.

Through a balance of aggressive prosecution and commitment to crime victims, our office seeks to maintain and improve public safety for all of our citizens. I proudly accept the honor and responsibilities vested in the Office of the District Attorney while serving the citizens of Jefferson and Gilpin counties.

- DA Pete Weir

Public safety promotes thriving communities. We are committed to aggressive prosecution of dangerous criminals while pursuing justice for victims and building safer communities with education and crime prevention programs.

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COMMITTED TO PUBLIC SAFETY

Gilpin County Courthouse



Jefferson County Courthouse



Office in Golden, CO



ENHANCING PUBLIC SAFETY HELPS REDUCE VICIMIZATION.

About the First Judicial District

The First Judicial District Attorney serves Jefferson and Gilpin counties. Jefferson County is one of the largest counties in Colorado with a population of 551,798 residents. Gilpin County lies in the steep mountain area to the west of Jefferson County and has a population of 5,601 residents.

The District Attorney is responsible for the investigation and prosecution of state criminal offenses occurring in the First Judicial District. These include cases brought by fourteen municipal police departments, two sheriffs' departments, two college police departments, and state and federal law enforcement agencies. Criminal cases are filed in both the Jefferson and Gilpin County courts.

***Coordination between agencies is critical for ensuring public safety
We are proud of our relationships with our law enforcement partners***

Arvada Police Department
Black Hawk Police Department
Central City Police Department
Colorado Attorney General
Colorado Division of Gaming
Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife
Colorado School of Mines Department of Public Safety
Colorado State Patrol

Colorado Bureau of Investigation
Department of Public Safety
Drug Enforcement Agency
Edgewater Police Department
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Gilpin County Sheriff's Office
Golden Police Department
Jefferson County Sheriff's Office
Lakeside Police Department

Lakewood Police Department
Littleton Police Department
Morrison Police Department
Mountain View Police Department
Red Rocks Community College Department of Public Safety
West Metro Drug Task Force
Westminster Police Department
Wheat Ridge Police Department

CHILDREN AND SENIORS

THERE IS NOTHING MORE IMPORTANT THAN PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN AND OUR SENIORS, OUR MOST VULNERABLE CITIZENS

Within the District Attorney's Office, many felony cases are handled by specialized units to ensure that crimes committed against certain victims are handled by staff with the necessary expertise and training.

The **Special Victims Unit (SVU)** specializes in crimes against children, human trafficking, and crimes against seniors.

- **Crimes Against Children** present unique challenges because children are easily intimidated and are often related to, or known to, offenders whom they love and trust. SVU prosecutors, investigators, and victim witness specialists work together to obtain justice for these vulnerable young victims.
- The **Human Trafficking Unit** takes a tough approach with offenders involved in this contemptible behavior. An experienced prosecutor and investigator collaborate with the FBI's Innocence Lost Task Force and other agencies to investigate and prosecute those engaged in the sex trafficking of children. Using a proactive approach, the unit focuses on prevention and protection of those who get caught in traps, in addition to aggressively prosecuting those offenders who are sexually exploiting children. Risk assessment helps to identify high-risk youth who are most vulnerable to being exploited. The unit attempts to break the cycle by protecting those who are already being exploited, by helping them find a way out of that life, and helping prevent other vulnerable youth from being drawn into the web of prostitution.



Deputy District Attorney Katie Kurtz was recognized for her work in Human Trafficking by the FBI at a news conference in October, 2015. Kurtz is the deputy district attorney assigned to the DA's Human Trafficking unit.



Daniel Onodera Sentenced to Prison for 120 Years to Life.

Daniel Onodera operated a child prostitution ring out of the Timberleaf Apartments in Lakewood. He was the ringleader of a group of seven men and women who were pimping young girls in 2012. The girls did not know each other, but had things in common. They had each run away from home, were truant from school, were vulnerable, desperate, and had been lured by methamphetamine provided by Onodera. A jury found Onodera guilty of eight felony counts. He had nine prior felony convictions and was on parole when he was arrested in this case. He was sentenced as a habitual criminal. His codefendants were convicted and sentenced according to their participation.

CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING IS A FORM OF SLAVERY AND IT MUST BE STOPPED

IDENTIFYING HIGH-RISK CHILDREN

The team identifies children considered at high-risk to become involved in child sex trafficking.

Indicators considered:

- 3 or more runaways in 12 months
- First run at age 12 or younger
- Longest run more than 30 days
- Truancy
- Substance abuse
- Tattoos
- Dysfunctional family background

CHILDREN AND SENIORS

AGGRESSIVELY FIGHTING ON BEHALF OF VULNERABLE VICTIMS



Our **Child Sex Offender Internet Investigations Unit** is called “CHEEZO” after the mascot created to help promote internet and cell phone safety for kids. CHEEZO is a specialized team of DA investigators who locate and arrest online predators attempting to prey on children. When not online looking for child predators, CHEEZO goes into schools to teach internet and cell phone safety to kids and parent groups.

A **Partnership with the Ralston House Child Advocacy Center** was established in 2015. The Ralston House works with law enforcement, human services, and the community to provide a safe place for kids during child abuse investigations. A grant enables the District Attorney’s Office to assign a full-time prosecutor to the Ralston House to assist forensic examiners in interviewing child victims. Crimes against children are difficult to prosecute; children may not disclose what happened to them until long after the abuse. This makes corroborating their statements critical to conducting an effective investigation. The prosecutor observes interviews, collaborates with investigators, and makes suggestions to help confirm facts and build successful prosecutions.

The **Heroes Party** is an annual event celebrating children who have been the victims of crime or have witnessed a criminal incident. The Ralston House, the District Attorney’s Office, and local law enforcement come together to honor the courage of these young heroes.



PROTECTING OUR SENIORS:

The **Elder Abuse Unit (EAU)** was created in response to a rapidly aging population and out of concern for the unique vulnerability of seniors. The EAU consists of two full-time deputy district attorneys, an investigator, and a volunteer forensic Certified Public Accountant. They work closely with law enforcement agencies, Adult Protective Services, and others who are committed to holding accountable those who victimize older adults.

A new law was enacted in 2014 which requires mandatory reporting of suspected abuse or exploitation of adults who are 70 years of age or older. Since that time, the EAU has received over 700 reports. Each report is carefully reviewed. Most involve potential fraud, neglect or care issues.



Jana Bergman Sentenced to Prison for 208 years.

Jack Woods was 88 and lived alone in Arvada when he posted an ad in the paper looking for a housekeeper/companion. Jana Bergman answered the ad from her cell at the Denver County jail where she was in custody. She began writing and talking to Mr. Woods, telling him that she loved him. He eventually posted her bond and she moved into his Arvada home. Over the next year Mr. Woods paid \$20,000, bonding her out of jail and paying her expenses. In November 2014, Bergman attacked Mr. Woods during an argument, punching and kicking him, and she pushed him down the stairs. While he was gripping the stairway railing to keep from falling, she wrenched his forearms off the railing, shearing off the fragile skin on Mr. Woods’ arms. She stole his wallet and keys, and left in his car. A jury convicted her of six counts including Attempted Manslaughter, Assault, and Robbery of an At-Risk Adult. Bergman had four prior felony convictions. She was sentenced as a habitual criminal.

CHILDREN AND SENIORS

Senior Law Day helps families prepare for the “Silver Tsunami” as older adults face complicated life issues. Each year in June, the event provides educational workshops and resources for seniors and adults facing issues with aging parents. Popular topics include Medicare Issues, Investment Fraud, and Maneuvering through Probate.



The **Power Against Fraud** program was created to help protect seniors from identity theft, fraud, and exploitation. Fraud prevention presentations are available at no cost for groups of any size. The program also provides a fraud hotline, 303-271-6980, which provides the opportunity to talk to a live person.

Two new programs were created in 2015 to help protect seniors from current scams.

- **5 Red Flags of Scams** focuses on what seniors need to know about scams that come in through the mail, email or telephone.
- The **Senior Rx** presentation provides information about how seniors can recognize and protect themselves from contractor fraud, charitable fraud and investment fraud. It also delves into the issue of capacity and powers-of-attorney.



The **TRIAD** is an active partnership serving older adults in Jefferson and Gilpin counties. The program brings together the District Attorney’s Office, law enforcement agencies, senior service providers, and senior volunteers who work together to develop and implement crime prevention programs for older adults. TRIAD meets monthly at the District Attorney’s Office.

The **911 Senior Cell Phone Project** is administered by the TRIAD partnership and provides free emergency phones for seniors. Used phones can be donated at the Golden District Attorney’s Office or Victim Witness Center at the courthouse. The program provided phones to 250 seniors in 2015. Call 303-271-6980 for details.

Senior Heroes are a priceless resource in our community. You see them at schools, in hospitals, at libraries, animal shelters, and many other places. They cheerfully donate their time and energy, asking nothing in return. The District Attorney’s office joins with the Seniors Resource Center and the Jefferson County Council on the Aging to shine the spotlight on a few of these vital members of our community at the Annual Seniors Heroes Awards event in appreciation for all they do.



Community Leaders and 2015 Senior Heroes



By 2020, 1 in 4 citizens in Jefferson County will be 60 or older

DISTRICT COURT

The **Felony Prosecution Unit** targets violent criminal offenders. Felony crimes are the only crimes that can result in a sentence to prison. Prosecutors assigned to the Felony unit handle murder cases, serious assaults, sexual assaults, arson, and many other cases which may be crimes of violence, or may have been committed by habitual criminals.

The **Special Victims' Unit (SVU)** specializes in family violence, in addition to human trafficking, elder abuse, and crimes against children.

Family Violence cases are handled by the **Special Victims Unit**. These cases include felony domestic violence and require specialized training and practices. As a result of the emotional and financial dependence perpetuated through the cycle of domestic violence, victims are often reluctant to testify or cooperate with prosecutors or law enforcement.

The **Economic Crime Unit (ECU)** investigates and prosecutes complex white-collar crimes. They work closely with local, state, and federal law enforcement investigators in cases including racketeering, securities fraud, drug trafficking rings, identity theft rings, and public corruption. The ECU also manages the two grand juries in the First Judicial District.

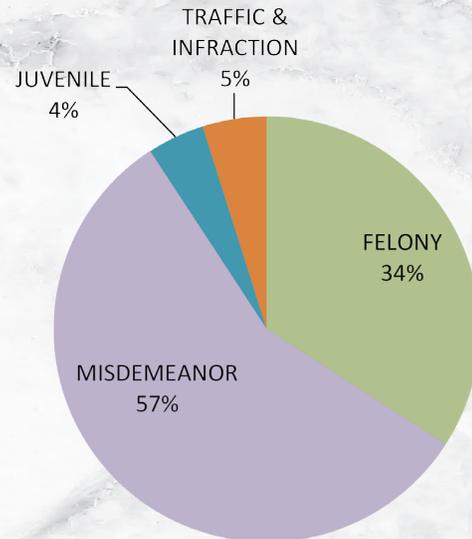


Perry Sawano Sentenced to Prison for 28 years.

The 51-year-old Wheat Ridge man was a licensed investment advisor when he began operating a Ponzi scheme, wiping out the financial resources of 28 unsuspecting men and women. He cost his clients \$4.4M. At his sentencing hearing in July, 2015, an emotional 85-year-old woman, who lives in a retirement facility in Chicago, spoke to the judge. She told him that Sawano stole over \$800,000 from her, money that was to provide for her in her retirement. Sawano sat with another elderly woman on her death bed, offering comfort, as he was simultaneously bilking of her of her life's savings.

FILED 4,048 FELONY CASES, INCLUDING:

- 72 Elder abuse cases
- 210 Special victims cases
- 76 Economic crime cases
- 418 Felony domestic violence cases



390 TRIALS IN 2015

2015 BY THE NUMBERS

- 25,000 Misdemeanor and traffic cases filed
- 29 Part-time employees
- 762 Juvenile cases filed
- 44 Interns and volunteers
- 68 Deputy district attorneys
- Operating budget of \$21,074,977
- 168 Full-time employees

VEHICULAR HOMICIDE

In 2015, 545 people died in Colorado traffic crashes, with 56 of those deaths in Jefferson County. According to the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), traffic fatalities increased by 10% across the state in 2015. This rise is part of a disturbing national trend. Of the 56 deaths in Jefferson County 15 were the result of a criminal traffic offense.

EACH TRAGIC DEATH IMPACTS FAMILIES AND THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY



David Bunn Sentenced to Prison for 28 years.

In September 2014, 19-year-old Lyneah Dike and her best friend, 18-year-old Lyndsey Petrie, were on their way to have dinner with friends. They were in Arvada, driving north on Wadsworth Blvd. At the same time, David Bunn, 54, had just finished having dinner with a friend. The friend told Bunn that he was too drunk to drive and she refused to get in the car with him. This made Bunn angry, but he ignored the warning and got in his car and started driving home. Bunn was also driving on Wadsworth Blvd. He was going 60 mph, and texting, when he crossed several lanes of traffic and hit Lyneah's car head-on. She died of her injuries. Her passenger, Lyndsey, was seriously injured. Bunn was not injured. His blood alcohol level was almost three times the legal limit when he crashed into the girls' car, destroying two young lives and those of their friends and families. Lyndsey has had over a dozen surgeries and will suffer from her injuries for the rest of her life. Bunn pled guilty to Vehicular Homicide, First Degree Assault, and Vehicular Assault.



Lyneah Dike & Lyndsey Petrie



Alton Kirkland Sentenced to Prison for 35 years.

In May 2014, 18-year-old Jordan Sprouse was looking forward to high school graduation. He was driving eastbound on W. 32nd Avenue in Wheat Ridge. As Jordan was going through the intersection at Kipling on a green light, Kirkland ran the light and crashed into his car. He was drunk and speeding southbound on Kipling, traveling between 60-100 mph. He had been driving in the left-turn lanes, passing traffic that was stopped at 32nd Avenue when he crashed into Jordan's car, killing him. Kirkland ran, leaving his girlfriend and children in the car. He was arrested by Wheat Ridge police two hours later. He pled guilty to nine counts, including Vehicular Homicide and Leaving the Scene of an Accident Causing Death.



Codey Trahan Sentenced to Prison for 35 years.

Codey Trahan was driving under the influence of alcohol when he hit and killed 37-year-old Joe Gonzales in May, 2014. Trahan was speeding westbound on 80th Avenue when he ran the light at Sheridan. He was traveling 114 mph just seconds before the collision. Trahan's BAC was .170, over twice the legal limit. A jury found Trahan guilty of eight counts including Vehicular Homicide.



Zachariah McKellip Sentenced to Prison for 10 years.

In October 2014, Zachariah McKellip, driving under the influence of alcohol when he hit and killed Fred Criswell in his motorized wheelchair. Mr. McKellip pled guilty to Vehicular Homicide. He was on parole at time.

FELONY PROSECUTIONS

SOME OF THE FELONS CONVICTED IN 2015



*Jimmy Valanzuela
Sentenced to Prison
for 72 years,
5 prior felony
convictions, sentenced
as habitual criminal*



*Timmy Valanzuela
Sentenced to Prison
for 96 years,
2 prior felony
convictions*



*Michael Valanzuela
Sentenced to Prison
for 96 years,
6 prior felony
convictions, sentenced
as habitual criminal*

Dismantling of the Leadership of a Violent Street Gang

The Valanzuela brothers, Jimmy, Timmy, and Michael were members of a violent, highly-organized street gang when they were indicted and convicted at trial in October, 2015. They have each been sentenced to prison for what will likely be the rest of their lives. Jimmy was the leader and highest ranking gang member. His brothers Timmy and Michael were also high ranking members. The three brothers were among the founding members of the gang known as GKI (Gallant Knights Insane). They ran an organized, intricate network which shared information between inmates in jails and prisons. They would retaliate, targeting for death anyone they believed may have cooperated with police. The GKI is one of the largest and most violent street gangs in Colorado and it operates in essentially all Department of Corrections' facilities. The investigation began when Jimmy and Timmy shot a man at a bar in Lakewood, believing him to be a "snitch." The brothers were convicted of numerous charges, including Violation of the Colorado Organized Crime Control Act (COCCA); Attempted Murder; Conspiracy to Commit Murder; and Solicitation to Commit Murder.



First Degree Murder and Sexual Assault

Warren Watson sentenced to prison for life + 344 years

In March 2013, 66-year-old Claudia Miller was a well-known attorney, a mother, and a grandmother when Warren Watson called her law office and asked for an appointment at the end of the day. Claudia was not the first female attorney that Watson called, but she was the one who agreed to see him. Watson had planned to find a female attorney who would be alone in her office late in the day and was unlikely to have a gun. He had planned a twisted fantasy of sexual assault and robbery months in advance. He used a fake name and a contrived identity. Claudia agreed to see him at the end of the day because he seemed to need her help. Watson arrived at her office as planned. When Claudia was found the next morning she had bruising to her face and chest, broken ribs and had suffered sexual trauma. She had been beaten and then strangled to death. Watson attempted to cover his tracks by disposing of evidence and using her credit cards to leave the state. He was arrested in Idaho. A jury convicted him of 15 counts, including First Degree Murder. Watson had seven prior felony convictions and was sentenced as a habitual criminal.



Claudia Miller

FELONY PROSECUTIONS



Prostituting a 14-Year-Old Girl

Robert Gonzales sentenced to prison for 112 years to life

A 14-year-old girl in foster placement had the misfortune of being placed in the home of Robert Gonzales' sister. Gonzalez met the young teen there and began grooming her to believe that she was in love with him. He began to have sex with her. He provided her with methamphetamine and alcohol and he forced her to have sex for money or drugs with men she did not know. He arranged for the motel rooms in which she would have sex with strangers. The money and drugs went to Gonzales. Prosecutor Katie Kurtz, from the District Attorney's Human Trafficking Unit, told the sentencing judge that this was one of the most dehumanizing cases that she had ever seen. She said that Gonzales did not treat the young woman as a human being, but as his property. She described that he had punched her, kicked her, burned her with cigarettes, and used her to create child pornography. He also caused her to be addicted to methamphetamine. A jury found Gonzales guilty of 17 counts, including Pimping of a Child, Pandering of a Child, and Kidnapping.

"This is a story of courage and the survival of a young woman who suffered the loss of her childhood and her innocence. It is also a story of justice," - DA Pete Weir



Attempted Murder of a Police Officer

Maksim Khamov sentenced to prison for 72 years

Khamov and his friend Igor Skorev were playing pool at a bar in Arvada in January, 2014. They had a verbal altercation with four people in the parking lot before everyone left. A short time later, the group noticed that a car, driven by Khamov, was tailgating and driving aggressively behind them. Skorev leaned out the window and fired shots at them. The victims were able to escape and call 911. Arvada police located Khamov and Skorev. When officers stopped and got out of their car, Khamov drove directly at them, attempting to run them over with his car. As Khamov drove directly at the police, ignoring commands to stop, officers fired several shots at them. Khamov swerved past and drove on, eluding police through neighborhoods and busy streets. When Khamov reached speeds of up to 100 mph, officers ended the pursuit. However, police soon located the car and arrested Khamov. Skorev was found dead in the car. He died from gunshot wounds. Khamov was found guilty of 14 counts, including five counts of Attempted Murder - Extreme Indifference.



Kidnapping of a Child

Dennis Willmore sentenced to prison for 28 years

Convicted sex offender Dennis Willmore had been watching the 10-year-old girl who lived in his neighborhood in Wheat Ridge as she was walking her dog. He followed her for a while and then grabbed her, dragging her behind a dumpster in an alley. The little girl thought Willmore might hurt her dog and so she fought and screamed and was able to escape. Willmore pled guilty to Kidnapping and Assault.

FELONY PROSECUTIONS



First Degree Murder

James Dominguez-Castor sentenced to prison for life + 54 years

In February, 2014 Robert Phippen was 79-years-old and lived in a trailer park in Lakewood. He knew Dominguez-Castor and his co-defendant, Stephvon Atencio. Mr. Phippen had befriended them in the past, paying them to do odd jobs or giving them a place to sleep. In return, they broke into his trailer, ransacked his possessions, robbed him, cut his throat, and then stole his van. He suffered 60 knife wounds to his body. Dominguez-Castor and co-defendant Stephvon Atencio were apprehended, arrested, and convicted. A jury found Dominguez-Castor guilty of First Degree Murder and other counts. This was his third felony conviction. One of his prior convictions was for Theft from an At-Risk Adult, in which the victim was Mr. Phippen. He was on probation in that case when he killed Mr. Phippen. Dominguez-Castor was sentenced as a habitual criminal. Stephvon Atencio was sentenced to prison for 39 years for Second Degree Murder.



Crime Spree on Lookout Mountain

Christopher Sullivan sentenced to prison for 80 years

A routine traffic stop in July, 2015 quickly became a crime spree when Christopher Sullivan sped away from Sheriff's deputies, down the side of a mountain. When his car got stuck he took off on foot, wielding an assault rifle and high on cocaine. He terrorized residents and tourists on Lookout Mountain, stealing cars and breaking into houses while running from deputies. He committed carjackings, burglaries, and felony menacing of numerous individuals at gunpoint. There were 15 individual and three business victims. Much of the incident developed and was viewed live on TV as Sullivan was followed by a news helicopter. Deputies arrested him in the westbound lanes of Interstate 70. Sullivan pled guilty to 46 counts including Aggravated Robbery, Aggravated Motor Vehicle Theft, Felony Menacing, and Burglary.



Running a Sex Trafficking Ring

Joe Avalos sentenced to prison for 30 years

Joe Avalos operated a multi-jurisdictional sex trafficking ring out of his home in Arvada in 2012 and 2013. He trafficked five young women, two were under 18. Avalos lured the young women with methamphetamine, in exchange for them having sex with strangers. He advertised their services, scheduled the meetings with male customers, and then drove them to the jobs at motels in the metro area. Avalos waited in his car, armed with a gun, until they were finished. He then collected the money. Avalos pled guilty to 35 counts, in four cases, including charges of Pimping, Pandering, Kidnapping, Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor. He was sentenced in January, 2015.

FELONY PROSECUTIONS



Second Degree Murder

Cody Sewick sentenced to prison for 27 years

In December 2013, 45-year-old Jonathan Evans was living in motel on West Colfax Avenue. Cody Sewick knew Evans and had bought drugs from him earlier in the day. That night, after doing drugs together, Sewick stabbed Mr. Evans to death.



Sexual Assault

Richard Threlkeld sentenced to prison for 16 years to life

Over a period for four years, Richard Threlkeld sexually assaulted two little girls and one boy who were related to him. With their parents' permission, the children often spent time with him at his house or in his camper in a campground in Monument. The girls were 7 and 10 years old and the boy was 8 years old when the assaults began. Following five days of trial, the jury found Threlkeld guilty of three counts of Sexual Assault of a Child Under 15 by One in a Position of Trust.



First Degree Murder

Jose Palacios sentenced to prison for life

Jose Palacios and co-defendant Floyd Anthony Sandoval, Jr. said that they went to the Edgewater home of John Goggin to purchase \$13,500 worth of marijuana. Instead, they went to rob Mr. Goggin who was shot and killed during the bogus transaction. A jury found Palacios guilty of First Degree Murder. Sandoval, Jr. was also convicted at trial and sentenced to life in prison.



Identity Theft Ringleader

Angela Vigil sentenced to prison for 22 years

Angela Vigil was the ringleader of a four-man, five-woman identity theft ring that operated in Jefferson County and the metro Denver area in 2013. Operating as part of a criminal enterprise, she stole personal and financial information from people and businesses and then used the information to create checks and identification. She used the stolen information to create false documents, including drivers' licenses and checks. The fraudulent checks were passed at businesses and banks. The proceeds from the forged checks were used for general expenses and for the purchase and use of methamphetamine. Vigil was indicted by the grand jury. She pled guilty to Violation of Colorado's Organized Crime Control Act (F2) and two counts of Identity Theft (F4) on December 1, 2014. Her sentence was aggravated because she was on probation for a prior felony conviction for Identity Theft during the commission of this crime.

PROBLEM SOLVING COURTS

COLLABORATING ON THE PATH TO PUBLIC SAFETY

Problem-Solving Courts offer effective alternatives to prison and the traditional judicial process in response to the unique issues and needs of certain offenders. Using a collaborative approach to dealing with specific problems, these courts seek to promote outcomes that will benefit the offender and the victim while promoting public safety by helping prevent further criminal activity.

Veterans' Treatment Court (VTC) offers a multi-disciplinary approach to traditional prosecution for veterans of the U.S. military. The VTC provides appropriate treatment and support while holding offenders accountable by identifying and addressing substance abuse, mental health concerns, or combat-related injuries often faced by veterans. The VTC served 32 veterans in 2015.

Drug Recovery Court takes a collaborative approach to promoting safe communities and reducing recidivism through accountability while rehabilitating substance-dependent offenders. During this intensive 18-month program offenders make frequent court appearances. They are held to strict compliance with their individual program requirements. They must meet clinical diagnostic criteria for substance

abuse and be motivated to make permanent changes in their lives. In 2015, there were 191 clients in Drug Recovery Court.

Juvenile Mental Health Court addresses mental health issues underlying juvenile criminal behavior. Agencies such as the Jefferson Center for Mental Health, schools, law enforcement, and courts collaborate to help prevent future crime by treating the underlying mental illness of young offenders. In 2015, 21 youth went through the Juvenile Mental Health Court.

Adult Mental Health Court

Promoting safety through changing behavior is the goal of our Adult Mental Health Court which began in October, 2015. Leaders in the criminal justice system and the Jefferson Center for Mental Health wanted a smarter approach to mental illness and public safety. Professionals recognized that many people cycle in and out of the criminal justice system as a direct result of their mental illness. This problem-solving court addresses mental health treatment needs with closely monitored supervision and focused mental health treatment. Referrals to the court can be made by probation officers, prosecutors, mental health professionals or a judge.

COUNTY COURT

This is the people's court, where most of the members of the public form their view of the criminal justice system. In 2015, there were over 25,000 cases filed in the County Court. Prosecutors in the County Court handle the majority of the criminal cases filed in the First Judicial District. Offenses include DUI, careless driving resulting in death or injury, domestic violence, assault, harassment, cruelty to animals, unlawful sexual contact, indecent exposure, and theft.

Domestic Violence Fast Track Program (DVFT)

The DVFT program takes a specialized approach to misdemeanor domestic violence cases, providing immediate responses to the potentially dangerous offenders and providing prompt services for victims. These misdemeanor domestic violence cases are filed into the County Court. There were 1,513 DVFT cases filed in 2015.

JUVENILE

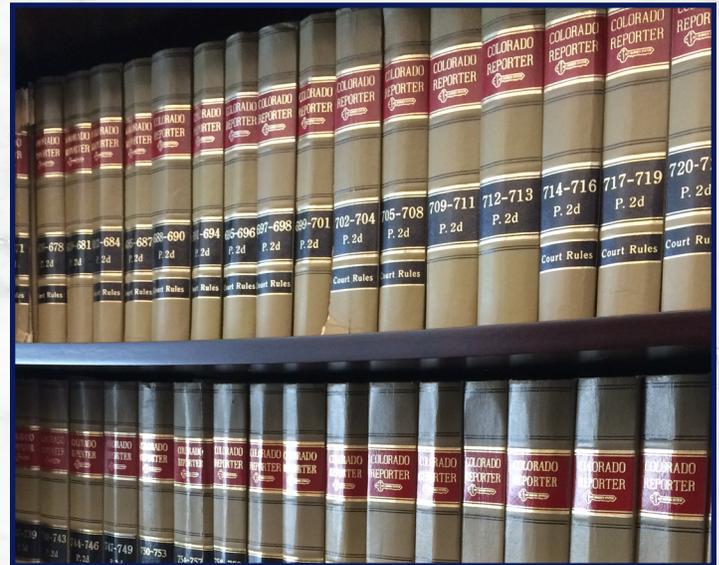
PROSECUTORS CONSIDER PUBLIC SAFETY AS WELL AS THE BEST INTERESTS OF JUVENILE OFFENDERS

The **Juvenile Unit** handles crimes committed by youths between 10 and 17 years of age. The juvenile justice system is separate and distinct from the adult criminal justice system. The juvenile system is essentially a civil process with a treatment component designed to use quick and targeted intervention as the best approach to changing behavior of young offenders.

Juvenile case filings dropped by 67% from 2001 to 2015. Much of this success is due to the innovative approaches used to promote public safety through better decision-making and cutting-edge collaborative programs designed to change behavior. The programs include the Juvenile Diversion Program, Low Risk Offender Program, Juvenile Mental Health Court, Younger's Program, Sexting Solutions, Truancy Court, Sex Offender Community Supervision Program, and our Juvenile Assessment Center.

The **Juvenile Diversion Program** is designed for first-time, non-violent juvenile offenders. The one-year program includes supervision by a diversion officer with specific terms and conditions. At the end of the year, juveniles who have met the requirements will be successfully terminated from the program and their cases will be dismissed. This very effective program has a recidivism rate which has remained below 10% for the last five years. In 2015, there were 341 juveniles in the program.

The **Low Risk Offender Program (LROP)** diverted approximately 135 kids from the juvenile justice system in 2015. Through this partnership with the Juvenile Assessment Center, low risk juvenile offenders are offered a quick treatment plan addressing issues underlying their criminal conduct. Low risk offenses include curfew violations, minor in possession of alcohol, shoplifting, and other similar conduct. If they successfully complete the program, no criminal case is filed. The program has a 95-98% success rate.



The **Youngers Program** is a multi-disciplinary approach to young offenders, ages 10-12, which focuses on short-term intervention addressing specific needs and risks. The program is designed to reduce recidivism and to keep young offenders out of detention centers. The single biggest predictor of future delinquency among juveniles is the age at first offense. The younger the juvenile, the greater is the risk for future offenses. There were 26 youths in the program in 2015.

The **Truancy Court** aides in combating truancy in the community. Habitual truancy is a significant factor when addressing future juvenile delinquency. The District Attorney's Office entered into a partnership with the courts creating a Truancy Court aimed at intervening with high-risk youth to overcome the underlying causes of truancy. We are one of three judicial districts to offer this specialized approach to truancy.

YOUNG OFFENDERS OFFER UNIQUE CHALLENGES

JUVENILE

Sex Offender Community Supervision offers alternatives for juveniles who have been arrested for sex offenses. The District Attorney's community safety officer (CSO) closely monitors the youth in sex offender treatment. A safety plan is developed for home, school, and for others who have contact with the juvenile. In 2015 the CSO supervised 86 youths..

The **Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC)** provides a collaborative approach to evaluating youths at the entry-point of the juvenile justice system. Law enforcement officers can bring juvenile offenders to the JAC where experts from law enforcement, the school district, mental health agencies, human services, and the District Attorney's Office work together to assess each juvenile offender on a case-by-case basis.



Sexting: Balancing the law, teens, technology, and bad choices.

Sexting is the act of sending sexually explicit photos electronically, primarily between cell phones. This is a serious challenge facing today's youth. Young people fail to recognize the danger of sending intimate photos electronically. Photos sent are easily shared and impossible to retract.

In response to the challenges created by teens who engage in sexting, the District Attorney's Office developed the Sexting Solutions program to address the specific issues faced by teens and their parents. While sexting is criminal behavior, existing laws are too extreme. The Sexting Solutions program provides educational classes, treatment, and counseling outside of the juvenile justice system. Total of 148 youth have gone through the program which has a 100% success rate.

Sexting is highly underreported among teens and has potentially devastating consequences. Taking a naked "selfie" and sharing it with one friend may seem like harmless behavior. However, these photos are often shared with friends, friends of friends, or may be posted on social media. The teen in the photo has no control over who sees the photo or where it may end up. They never imagine a topless "selfie" making its way around their school and beyond. It could appear years later in a college or employment application process. Sexting can haunt them for the rest of their life.



Zachary Oliver Sentenced to Prison for 24 years for Escape and Assault.

Zachary Oliver was 17-years-old when he and three other teens escaped from the Lookout Mountain Youth Services Center (LMYSC) in August, 2014. During the

escape, Oliver brutally attacked a 65-year-old employee of the Center. The four teens had carefully planned their escape, including collecting fist-sized rocks from the recreation area and hiding them in their rooms. As planned, Oliver escaped from his room first and attacked the guard. He repeatedly hit the man in the head with a pillow case containing the fist-sized rocks. Oliver then let the other three juveniles out of their rooms. The teens took a baseball bat and other items before they left the building and made their escape. They were arrested by police a few hours later. Oliver was charged as an adult. He pled guilty to four counts including First Degree Assault and Escape. The guard suffered a fractured skull, subdural hematoma, a broken nose, and other injuries. Prior to the assault and escape, Oliver had 243 incidents while in custody of LMYSC. In addition to Oliver, one other teen was charged as an adult. The co-defendants have all been convicted and sentenced.

"This assault was planned, deliberate, and vicious. He continued to pummel the guard with the bag of rocks, long after he was disabled." - DA Pete Weir

DIVERSION SERVICES

DIVERSION HELPS FIRST-TIME OFFENDERS REDIRECT THEIR LIVES

Diversion Programs offer offenders charged with first-time, non-violent offenses the opportunity to repay their debts to victims and society, and to have their criminal charges dismissed if they successfully complete the program. Clients pay for much of their own treatment and there is an emphasis on paying restitution to victims.

To be accepted into a diversion program, offenders must take responsibility for their actions by pleading guilty. They then sign a contract which defines the specific terms and conditions they must complete in order to have their case successfully terminated and dismissed.

Diversion has three major programs: the Adult Felony Program; the Adult Misdemeanor Domestic Violence and Drug Diversion Program; and the Juvenile Diversion Program. Diversion Services also supervises the District Attorney's Sexting Solutions program.

In 2015, the Diversion programs provided services to 1458 clients and collected \$131,000 in restitution.

Diversion offers a great opportunity for offenders, but it also provides significant benefits to the community since its goals are designed to foster responsible citizenship. Some of the goals include:

- Deterring offenders from committing additional criminal acts
- Holding offenders accountable for their choices and actions
- Helping make victims whole
- Monitoring and assisting clients with compliance with court orders

The **Veterans' Diversion Program** offers an alternative for offenders who are veterans, addressing issues unique to those who have served in the military.

DIVERSION CLIENTS IN 2015

- 712 Adult Felony Program
- 405 Adult Misdemeanor and Drug Program
- 341 Juvenile Diversion Program

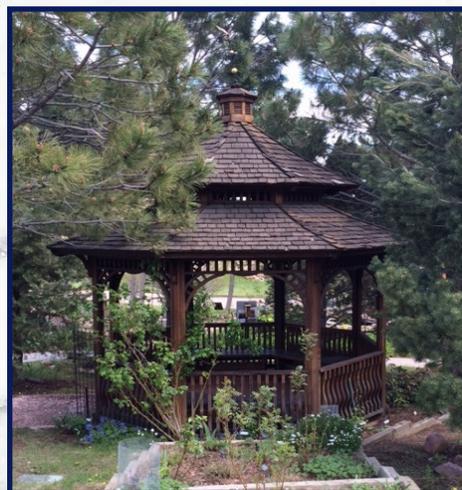
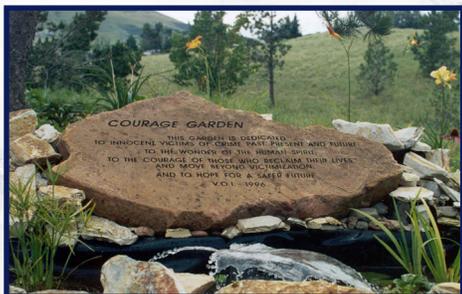


VICTIM WITNESS SERVICES

JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME HELPS THEM PUT THEIR LIVES BACK TOGETHER

Victim and Witness Services are a critical component of the justice system. The impact of violent crime can be devastating and life-changing for victims. Justice dictates that we advocate for victims of crime and help them navigate their way through the sometimes overwhelming court process. In an effort to lessen the impact of crime on victims and their families, we are committed to protecting victims' rights and ensuring that they are treated with fairness, respect, and dignity as guaranteed by the Victims' Rights Act of the Colorado Constitution. Specialized programs provide support for domestic violence victims, child victims, victims of elder abuse, assistance with victim impact statements, restitution, and crime victim compensation.

In addition to the main Victim Witness Services office, the Victim Witness Center at the Golden courthouse is a busy hub where everyday hundreds of victims and witnesses check in and are directed to appropriate courtrooms or meetings with advocates, prosecutors, and investigators.



The Courage Garden offers a place of respite for victims.

VICTIM SERVICES IN 2015

- Provided services to 5,896 victims of crimes against persons
- Supported and guided 150 child victims of sexual abuse and their families through the prosecution of criminal cases
- Provided 56,463 victim notifications at critical stages of the criminal justice process
- Paid \$1,756,000 for out-of-pocket expenses to crime victims through the Crime Victim Compensation Program
- Collected over \$2.7M in restitution



Raven works with the District Attorney's Office as a certified therapy dog providing support and calm for victims and witnesses who may be anxious about the court process.

Quote from victim:
"The victim witness specialist was amazing and really made our family feel like our case was of importance."

INVESTIGATIONS



Investigators for the First Judicial District Attorney's Office are sworn peace officers whose assignments include every aspect of criminal investigation. Many have specialized skills, including advanced knowledge of cold case homicides, sexual assaults, domestic violence, crimes against children, internet and cell phone predators, complex economic crimes, and elder abuse.

The District Attorney's **Cold Case Unit** was created in 2015 in response to the pressing need within our judicial district to

investigate and prosecute unsolved cases. Law enforcement agencies in Jefferson and Gilpin counties have identified over 100 unsolved homicides and missing persons who have been missing for over a year. Two full-time senior investigators have been assigned to the unit. Any law enforcement agency in Jefferson or Gilpin County can present cold cases to be considered for investigation. This dedication of resources will help bring justice for the families and friends of cold case murder victims and missing loved ones.

CHEEZO

CHEEZO, the District Attorney's Child Sex Offender Internet Investigations Unit is named after the five-foot-tall cool cat mascot who helps investigators teach cell phone and internet safety to kids.

The **CHEEZO Unit** is a specialized team of DA investigators who conduct undercover investigations and arrest online predators who are attempting to prey on children. In addition to monitoring chat rooms and social media sites frequented by children, the CHEEZO Unit goes into the community to present safety and educational programs to children, parents, and teachers to help keep kids safe online. Safety presentations are also available for parents in Spanish, as are the technology safety booklets and posters.

CHEEZO has over 3,000 friends on Facebook where investigators share safety tips and tools, and provide a kid-friendly forum to report safety concerns. For more information on the CHEEZO program, call 303-271-6766 or visit www.cheezo.org.



CHEEZO Unit in action

James Lee Pierce, 53, arrived in Denver on April 17, 2014. He had traveled by Greyhound bus from Rome, Georgia to see a 14-year-old girl he had met online. Pierce planned to have sex with the underage teen and then take her back to Georgia with him. He got off the bus in Denver wearing an ankle monitor; he was already on parole in Georgia for molestation of a child. Pierce got in a cab and headed for Golden. What he did not know was that the cab driver was actually an investigator with the District Attorney's Office. Pierce was arrested, charged and convicted at trial of two counts of Internet Sexual Exploitation of a Child and Internet Luring of a Child and sentenced to prison for six years to life.

GIVING KIDS UNSUPERVISED ACCESS TO CELL PHONES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES IS LIKE INVITING STRANGERS INTO THEIR BEDROOMS

CHEEZO

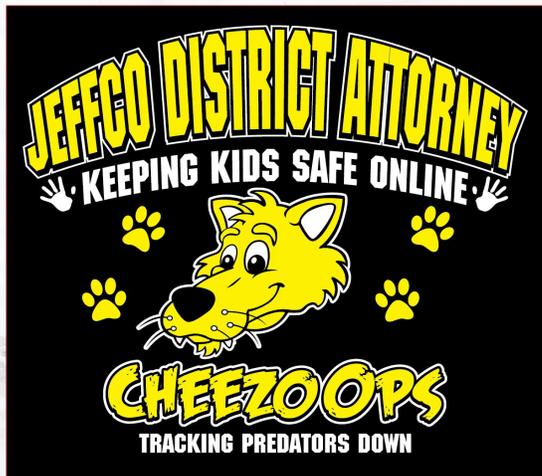
CHEEZO Investigators recommend that parents set a technology curfew requiring their children to turn in their electronics to their parents at bedtime. The electronics can be charged overnight in the parents' bedroom and kids can get the sleep they need. Over 60% of kids surveyed during safety presentations admit to texting to their friends or using social media late into the night.

CHEEZO Safety Tips for Parents

- Talk to your child about how to stay safe online
- Manage your child's time on phones, pads, etc.
- Know the dangers of social media and in game sites
- Regularly review your child's apps
- Educate yourself, then your child

IN 2015, THE CHEEZO UNIT:

- Arrested 52 child predators
- Presented 158 safety programs
- Presented to over 30,000 kids and parents
- Has arrested 870 child predators since 1996



THE MOST IMPORTANT MESSAGE WE TEACH KIDS IS TO ONLY COMMUNICATE WITH PEOPLE THAT THEY KNOW FACE-2-FACE

PUBLIC INFORMATION & SOCIAL MEDIA

The District Attorney's Office is a public office and is committed to providing the greatest possible transparency for the community while protecting the rights of the accused. It is the role of the public information officer to ensure the flow of information from the District Attorney's Office to the media and to the public.

Social media is an important resource for the community and government. Follow us on Twitter at @DA1Colorado for the latest information about crime prevention tips, programs, and current events. News releases and other information about the DA's Office are also available on our website www.districtattorney1.com



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

PROMOTING PUBLIC SAFETY HELPS MAINTAIN A VIBRANT COMMUNITY

OUR COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM PROVIDED 235 EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS TO 17,707 PEOPLE

- 99 school presentations to student and teachers
- 17 presentations to 910 victim services providers
- 77 presentations to 4,951 law enforcement officers and prosecutors
- 26 presentations to 1,055 community group members
- 9 presentations to 910 business people and professionals

Community Outreach - Building Blocks to Safer Communities

Building safer communities requires outreach. Providing crime prevention programs and community resources helps protect citizens from becoming victims of crime. Free presentations are available for groups of all ages and sizes on topics such as identity theft, child sex trafficking, fraud, elder abuse, sexting, drinking/drugs and driving, and marijuana laws. To schedule a presentation, call 303-271-6931.

The **DA's Citizens Academy** is a 12-week program which immerses citizens into the judicial process by bringing them together with prosecutors, law enforcement personnel, defense attorneys, and judges. Hands-on instruction is provided on case investigation and prosecution, including presentations on topics such as the autopsy of a high profile case, child trafficking, elder abuse, identity theft, child predators, and online safety. For more information on the 2015 Citizens Academy, call 303-271-6905.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

In the **Consumer Fraud Unit**, a specialist handles a variety of consumer complaints and fraud inquiries in addition to those received by our Power Against Fraud program. However, the District Attorney's Office is not a substitute for small claims court or other civil remedies.

The District Attorney's Office offers a wide selection of programs designed to protect older adults from becoming victims of crime:

- Power Against Fraud (PAF)
- TRIAD
- The 911 Senior Cell Phone Project
- Senior Law Day (SLD)



CONSUMER FRAUD IN 2015

- Handled 2,030 consumer fraud calls and emails
- Handled 19 consumer complaints resulting in the collection of \$142,369 in restitution (up 16% from 2014)



POWER AGAINST FRAUD IN 2015

Fraud Hotline

- Handled over 1,500 calls

Seminars

- Made 137 community presentations with 5,200 attendees
- Distributed 4,631 Power Against Fraud handbooks

Senior Law Day

- 500 attendees and 150 volunteers helped make the event a success



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Safety Fair 2015

The District Attorney's annual Safety Fair is a one-stop safety shop, providing free safety tips, tools, and demonstrations for the entire family. Over 3,200 attendees took advantage of free document shredding, electronics recycling, and drug disposal. Four shredding trucks were filled, 10,000 lbs. of electronics were brought to be recycled, and over 500 lbs. of prescription drugs were destroyed. There were over 80 booths offering valuable crime prevention information and resources in a fun, family-friendly atmosphere filled with activities and entertainment.



COMMUNITY SAFETY AWARENESS DAY



COMMUNITY SAFETY AWARENESS DAY

ID THEFT PROTECTION LAB

Services available:

1. Enroll in the Colorado "No Call" list
2. OPT OUT from receiving pre-approved credit card offers from coming and sitting in your mailbox where an ID thief can steal them
3. Place a Security Freeze on your credit reports with the 3 credit reporting agencies preventing an ID thief from opening credit in your name without your knowledge

YOU WILL NEED TO PROVIDE YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS INCREASE COMMUNITY AWARENESS

Public safety is heightened when crime prevention programs are readily available. Government budgets are tight. The DA's Community Partnership was created with 501(c)(3) non-profit status which allows businesses and community members to share the costs of valuable crime prevention programs. In addition to many small donations throughout the year, some businesses make a substantial donation to the District Attorney's prevention programs.

Prosperion Financial Advisors became a community partner by donating \$10,000 to the Power Against Fraud program, which provides vital crime prevention services to seniors in our community. District Attorney Pete Weir thanked Prosperion founder and owner Steve Booren in a commemoration ceremony in June, 2015.

Verizon Foundation joined the District Attorney's Office as a community partner in helping keep kids safe from online sexual predators. The Verizon Foundation awarded a \$5,000 grant to the CHEEZO unit to help provide crime prevention services aimed at protecting kids from dangers in cyberspace.

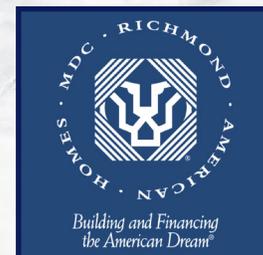
Colorado Federal Savings Bank became a community partner donating \$15,000 towards providing important crime prevention information for low-income seniors and training law enforcement on the implementation of the new Mandatory Reporting of Elder Abuse law.

First Bank has been a long-time community partner of many of the DA's crime prevention programs including outreach to seniors. They are also a major sponsor of the annual Safety Fair. In 2015 they donated \$2,700.

In August, 2015 **Nick's Café** in Lakewood raised \$1,000 for the CHEEZO Unit at a summertime cookout with entertainment, including a car show and music by Dennis Thornberry, the "Colorado Elvis."

MDC Holdings Inc. and **Richmond Homes** donated \$2,000 to the CHEEZO Unit to help protect children from online predators.

Colorline Print & Design donated \$500 in printed materials to support the CHEEZO Unit's outreach efforts.



NICK'S CAFE

colorline
print design

COMMUNITY EVENTS

WORKING TOGETHER TO BUILD A BETTER COMMUNITY

The **Courage Walk** is held each year during National Crime Victims' Rights Week to celebrate the strength and courage of victims in the aftermath of crime. Victim advocates, law enforcement, service providers, and community leaders join with victims and their families and friends at this time of national remembrance to speak out and promote victims' rights. Over the past 21 years, the number of participants who take the mile walk to the Courage Garden has grown. It is a peaceful walk with some participants holding hands, some with tears in their eyes. In the background there is the laughter of children and the occasional barking of dogs. Some participants ride bicycles. Some choose to walk in silence.



April 25th 2015 Jefferson County, Colorado

22nd Annual Courage Walk

Thank you to all those who came out to support the 22nd Annual Courage Walk! This year, participants raised over \$4,000 - money that will support victim services in the First Judicial District and help with the maintenance of the "Courage Garden", a memorial garden for crime victims and Jefferson County employees.

Deputy Toosler & K9 Jessie - named after Jessica Ridgeway

Jefferson County Sheriff's Office Mounted Patrol

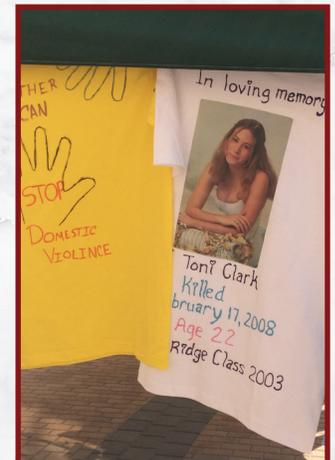
District Attorney Pete Weir & Chezo

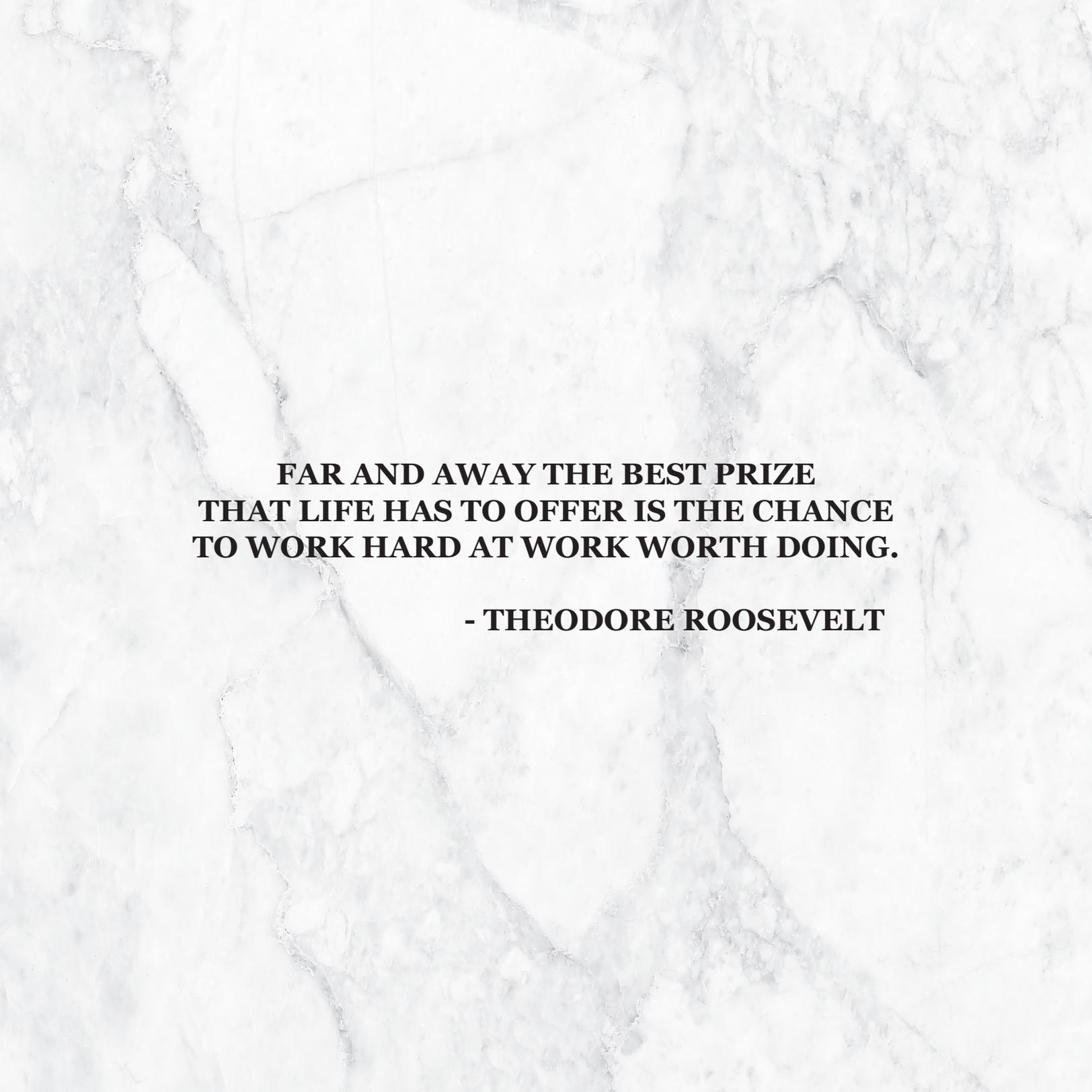
IN HONOR OF

Each dove is in honor of a loved one

National Crime Victims' Rights Week | April 18-24, 2015

ENGAGING COMMUNITIES
EMPOWERING VICTIMS



The background of the image is a light-colored, marbled pattern with soft, swirling veins of grey and white, resembling natural stone or paper.

**FAR AND AWAY THE BEST PRIZE
THAT LIFE HAS TO OFFER IS THE CHANCE
TO WORK HARD AT WORK WORTH DOING.**

- THEODORE ROOSEVELT



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