

DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

ANNUAL REPORT

2017



Introduction

In 2017, the Division of Criminal Justice continued its work as New Jersey's leading law enforcement agency. Our work on the streets and in the courtroom resonated forcefully in the communities that we serve, while our groundbreaking policy work placed New Jersey at the national forefront on criminal justice reform and on crucial issues of accountability, transparency, and community relations.

The Division charged more cases and more defendants in 2017 than in any year since 2009. For the fifth year in a row, we charged more cases and more defendants than in the prior year. Of course, our success lies not merely in the statistics, but in the impact of the cases themselves. In 2017, we prosecuted sweeping cases against violent street gangs that had victimized the citizens of Camden, Atlantic City, Trenton, New Brunswick, Newark, Paterson, and Jersey City. We made record-breaking seizures of illegal narcotics worth tens of millions of dollars, and we seized dozens of illegal firearms from gang members and drug dealers. We prosecuted and convicted dozens of corrupt public officials, from state legislators to mayors to municipal officials to law enforcement officers. We incapacitated scores of child predators, including those who searched for and victimized children online. We disabled two international carjacking rings that preyed violently on innocent victims. We recovered millions of dollars in taxpayer money that had been stolen by thieves of all types, including dozens who stole money intended for the victims of Superstorm Sandy. We unmasked vast, multi-million dollar fraud schemes targeted at the elderly and the poor, bringing the perpetrators to justice while recovering money for hundreds of victims. We reshaped the legal landscape in New Jersey through our precedent-making advocacy in the appellate courts. The list goes on, and the theme remains the same: our work in 2017 made New Jersey a better and safer place to live.

Beyond our litigation work, the Division continued to lead the way on statewide development of law and policy through our work in the appellate courts; through our supervision of, and partnerships with, the 21 County Prosecutors; and through our cutting-edge law enforcement training programs. DCJ further provided vital law enforcement services — including victim-witness support, DNA database monitoring, and grant funding — across the state. We also took the lead on vital statewide initiatives, including bail reform, development of enhanced investigatory procedures in police-involved shooting cases, a multi-faceted body-worn camera program, new mandatory police training protocols, and unprecedented development of partnerships with community leaders across the state.

To highlight the outstanding work we have done, this report summarizes the leading cases that the Division prosecuted in 2017, and other accomplishments beyond the courtroom. Every one of our successes, at bottom, springs from the efforts of the people who work for this Division every day. As we move into 2018, we will continue to prove ourselves worthy of the great trust that the people of this state have placed in us to make New Jersey a better and safer place to live.

Elie Honig, Director
Division of Criminal Justice

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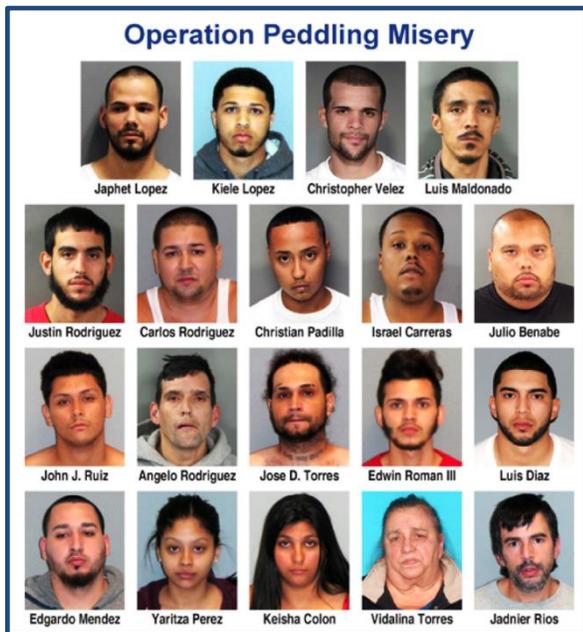
<u>Executive Staff</u>	
Jennifer Stonerod, AAG <i>Chief of Staff</i>	
Christine A. Hoffman, AAG <i>Deputy Director</i>	
Jill S. Mayer, AAG <i>Deputy Director</i>	
Geoffrey D. Soriano, AAG <i>Counsel to the Director</i>	
Tracy M. Thompson, AAG <i>Counsel to the Director</i>	
Michael Williams, AAG <i>Counsel to the Director</i>	
Paul S. Morris <i>Chief of Detectives</i>	
Frederic Moore <i>1st Dep. Chief of Detectives</i>	

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GANGS AND ORGANIZED CRIME BUREAU

Bureau Chief: Lauren Scarpa Yfantis
Deputy Bureau Chiefs: Erik Daab, Annmarie Taggart
Deputy Chief of Detectives: Christopher Donohue

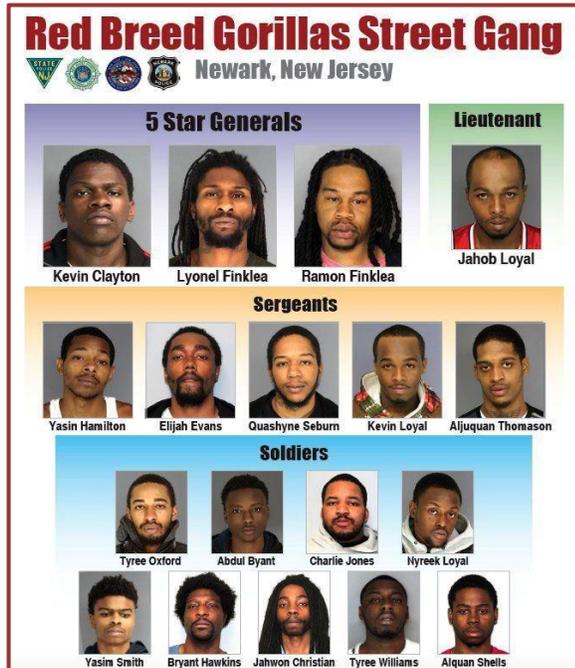
Operation Maple Empire. The Division obtained a 55-count indictment charging 19 defendants, including the alleged leader and numerous other members of a drug network that was distributing large quantities of heroin and cocaine in Trenton. The indictment stemmed from an investigation by the New Jersey State Police (NJSP) Gangs & Organized Crime Central Unit, FBI, U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Trenton Police Department, Mercer County Sheriff's Office, Mercer County Prosecutor's Office, U.S. Marshals Service NY/NJ Regional Task Force, Ewing Police Department, Hamilton Police Department, and Bucks County (Pa.) District Attorney's Office. More than 500 bricks of heroin—which equals more than 25,000 doses of heroin—were seized in the investigation, along with two-thirds of a kilo of cocaine and 3 handguns. **Shawn Davis** pled guilty to first-degree narcotics charges and second-degree weapons charges, and received 15 years in prison with 74 months of parole ineligibility. Many defendants pled guilty, and either received or expect to receive sentences ranging from PTI to 10 years in prison with 5 years of parole ineligibility. Nine defendants remain to be prosecuted. DAG Michael Klein; NJSP Det. Doug Muraglia.



Operation Peddling Misery. Fifteen drug dealers, including four current or former leaders of the Latin Kings street gang in Newark, were indicted on charges including first-degree promoting organized street crime and first-degree racketeering. Four additional defendants were charged with second-degree conspiracy to distribute narcotics and various other offenses, bringing the total number of defendants to 19. The charges stem from a joint investigation by the Division and NJSP Gangs and Organized Crime North Unit, assisted by the Essex County Sheriff's Office, Newark Police Department, and New Jersey State Parole Board. The investigation revealed that the criminal syndicate run by the Latin Kings used violence to defend its turf and routinely beat its own members as “discipline” if they disobeyed gang rules or orders from gang leaders.

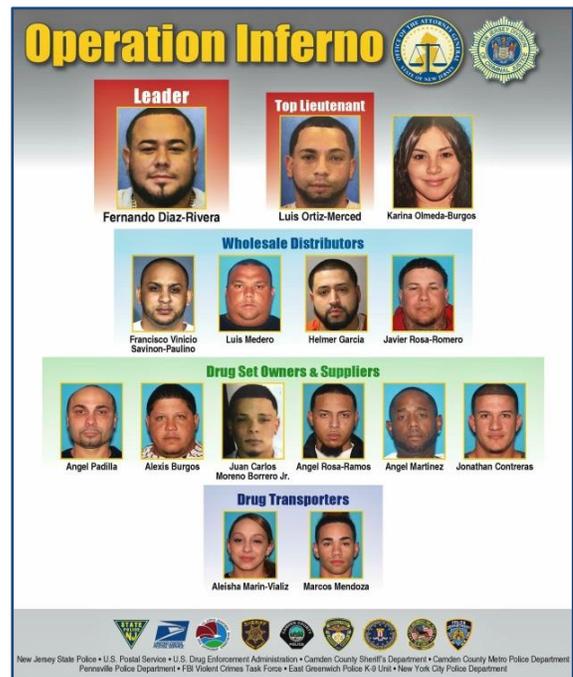
Japhet Lopez, Kiele Lopez, Justin Rodriguez, Israel Carreras, and Julio Benabe are charged with degree armed robbery and second-degree possession of a handgun for an unlawful purpose for

attempting to rob a member of a rival gang, the Trinitarios or 3Ni. The defendants dragged the victim into the basement of an apartment building in northern Newark, which served as a stronghold for the Latin Kings, where they restrained and beat him. During the incident, a Latin Kings gang member was shot and killed by individuals suspected to be associates of the robbery victim who came looking for him. Japhet and Kiele Lopez were also charged with first-degree witness tampering because after Japhet Lopez was arrested, they threatened violence against a man they suspected of cooperating with law enforcement. Three defendants have pled guilty. DAG Jamie Picard; NJSP Det. Scott Sanders.



State v. Kevin Clayton, et al. The Division indicted 27 defendants—including 3 “5-Star Generals”—on charges that they were part of a gang-related drug network that distributed heroin in Newark. Eighteen of the defendants are charged with first-degree gang criminality as alleged members of the Red Breed Gorillas set of the Bloods street gang. All 27 defendants are charged with second-degree conspiracy and various second- and third-degree drug offenses. The members of the drug network were arrested in January 2017 following a 10-month collaborative investigation involving the Division, NJSP, Newark Police Department, and the U.S. Marshals Task Force. Investigators discovered that an organized hierarchy of the Red Breed Gorillas street gang controlled the drug distribution in an area of Newark, contributing to the area’s heightened violence and criminal activity. DAG Heather Hausleben; NJSP Det. Christopher Durning.

Operation Inferno. After a 7-month investigation, the Division indicted 15 members of a major drug ring, including its alleged leader, **Fernando Diaz-Rivera**, who for years has been one of the biggest heroin and cocaine suppliers in Camden and North Philadelphia. The defendants—ringleaders, wholesalers, and street-level dealers—were arrested on first-degree racketeering and/or narcotics charges. They distributed approximately 20 to 30 kilos of heroin and cocaine per month and had ties to Mexican drug suppliers. Several defendants have prior weapons convictions, and the ring allegedly used firearms and threats of violence to conduct business. The Division seized more than 6 kilograms of heroin and approximately 9 kilograms of cocaine, which would have had a street value of \$2 million once cut and packaged for sale. Six of the 15 defendants who have been captured have pled guilty, with sentences ranging from 5 to 10 years in state prison. Bureau Chief Lauren Scarpa Yfantis; Deputy Bureau Chief Erik Daab; DASG Katherine Morris and Rachael Weeks; Deputy Chief of Detectives Christopher Donohue; Lt. Robert Feriozzi; Sgts. Peppi Pichette and Brian Woolston.



Operation 3Ni. After a six-month investigation, the Division indicted 10 members of a major drug ring operating out of Camden County. The defendants were arrested on first-degree narcotics charges, as well as numerous weapons charges and conspiracy. They distributed approximately 27.8 ounces of heroin, and sold 2 shotguns and 2 handguns throughout the course of the investigation. Eight members pled guilty, with sentences ranging from PTI to 15 years in state prison. Bureau Chief



DAG Jamie Picard appears in court. Photograph courtesy of The Jersey Journal.

Lauren Scarpa Yfantis; Deputy Bureau Chief Erik Daab; DAsG Katherine Morris and Rachael Weeks; NJSP DSFC Erik Hoffman.

State v. Jose Colon-Lora, et al. Three drug dealers were indicted on first-degree conspiracy and money laundering charges. After investigating a drug-trafficking organization operating in New Jersey and New York, NJSP executed a search warrant for Colon-Lora's Edgewater residence. The search resulted in the discovery of more than \$730,000 in cash, over 10 ounces of the designer opioid furanyl fentanyl, cocaine, heroin, narcotics-packaging paraphernalia, and equipment used to count and package bulk currency. Three vehicles were also seized as property used to facilitate the drug distribution operation and/or as proceeds of the operation. One vehicle was equipped with an after-market concealed compartment.

Asset Forfeiture. In addition to the ongoing criminal prosecution, the State is pursuing a civil forfeiture action against the defendants.

DAsG Jamie Picard, Amy Sieminski, and Susan Wolansky; NJSP DSG Thomas Kelshaw.

Operation Fistful. In a major organized crime takedown, the Division indicted 14 defendants—including high-ranking “made” members and associates of the Genovese Organized Crime Family—with illegal gambling, money laundering, racketeering, conspiracy, loansharking, tax evasion, and other charges. The defendants include **Charles “Chuckie” Tuzzo**, a Genovese “capo,” and **Vito Alberti**, a Genovese “soldier.” The defendants used a network of licensed and unlicensed check-cashing businesses to conduct massive loansharking, gambling, forgery, and money laundering schemes that generated over \$10 million in criminal proceeds for the mafia. Ten of the indicted defendants face first-degree racketeering charges, which carry potential sentences of 10 to 20 years in state prison. Most defendants also face charges of tax fraud and tax evasion for concealing their incomes and/or failing to file tax returns. Three defendants pled guilty and are awaiting sentencing. Former Deputy Director Christopher Romanyshyn; Bureau Chief Lauren Scarpa Yfantis; Deputy Bureau Chief Annmarie Taggart; DAG Jamie Picard; former DAG Vincent Militello; Chief of Detectives Paul Morris; Deputy Chief of Detectives Christopher Donohue; Lt. Brian Bruton; Sgts. Mario Estrada and Patrick Sole; former Det. Matthew Tully.

NJ Advance Media for NJ.com (4/28/16)

14 indicted in Genovese ‘smorgasbord of mob schemes’

Operation Fistful

Alleged Genovese Capo

Charles Tuzzo

Alleged Genovese Soldier

Vito Alberti

Alleged “Made” Members of the Genovese Organized Crime Family

Alleged Genovese Associates

Domenick Pucillo, Robert Spagnola, Vincent Coppola, Abel Rodrigues, Mansel Rodrigues, John Trainor, Fior Miranda, Jennifer Mann, Jerry Albanese

State v. Louis Boggs, et al. In a 132-count indictment, the Division charged 18 individuals who operated a major weapons-trafficking ring based in Newark. The members of the ring illegally sold dozens of guns, including assault firearms and military-style launchers. Several of the guns were stolen, and one was linked to a prior murder. Ringleader Boggs pled guilty to first-degree firearms trafficking charges and was sentenced to 18 years in state prison with a 9-year period of parole ineligibility. Seventeen additional defendants pled guilty to first- and/or second-degree charges and received sentences ranging from probation to 10 years in prison. DAG Amy Sieminski; NJSP DSG Michael Gregory.

US News & World Report (3/17/17)

Gun Trafficking Ringleader Sentenced to 18 Years in Prison

CNN (1/29/18)

Fentanyl seizure had enough doses to poison all of NYC and New Jersey

to distribute and second-degree possession of fentanyl with intent to distribute and was sentenced to 10 years in state prison. Co-defendant **Daniel Vasquez** pled guilty to second-degree possession of fentanyl with intent to distribute and was sentenced to six years in state prison. The indictment also charged Carrillo-Pineda and **Omar Zeus Rodriguez** in connection with the seizure of 5 kilos of fentanyl, nearly 40 kilos of heroin, and a small quantity of methamphetamine in Willingboro. Rodriguez, who is currently a fugitive, faces charges of possession of heroin, methamphetamine, and fentanyl with intent to distribute. DAG Norma Garcia; NJSP DSG Jeovanny Rodriguez.

State v. Jesus Carrillo-Pineda, et al. Four men were indicted in connection with the record-setting seizure of 45 kilos—nearly 100 pounds—of the super-potent synthetic opioid fentanyl, and nearly 40 kilos of heroin, by NJSP in June. The 45 kilos of fentanyl could have yielded over 18 million lethal doses. Carrillo-Pineda pled guilty to first-degree possession of heroin with intent

State v. Henry Cruz Ventura. The truck driver pled guilty to first-degree possession of heroin with intent to distribute and was sentenced to 10 years in state prison for trafficking 64 kilos of heroin and 10 kilos of cocaine into New Jersey. The heroin seizure from Ventura's tractor-trailer by NJSP ranks as one of the largest by law enforcement in U.S. history. DAG Norma Garcia; NJSP Tpr. James Agens.

State v. Oscar Franco. The California truck driver pled guilty to first-degree possession of heroin with intent to distribute and was sentenced to 10 years in prison for transporting 36 kilos of heroin in his tractor-trailer. A State Trooper and member of the State Police Mobile Safe Freight Unit stopped Franco's truck on I-78 in Greenwich Township to conduct a routine commercial inspection. After the alert Trooper noticed significant irregularities in the bill of lading and logbook and unexplained detours in the itinerary, the Trooper searched the interior of the trailer and discovered two duffel bags filled with heroin. DAG Norma Garcia; NJSP Tpr. Brian Dolinsky.



Above, trucks line up to pass through the weigh station in Greenwich Township on I-78 as they are monitored by NJSP. Below, Troopers examine a truck flagged for further inspection at the Greenwich weigh station. Photographs courtesy of Mel Evans, Associated Press.

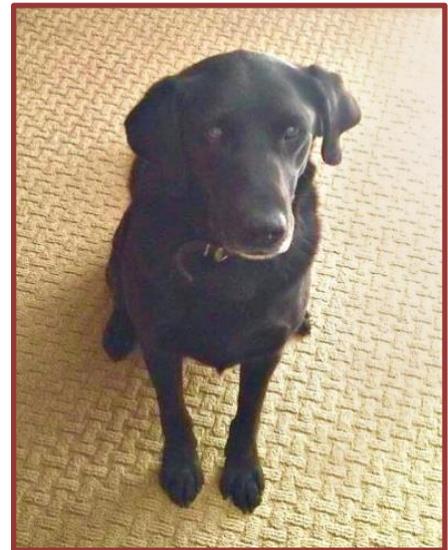
State v. Javier Vega and Francisco Perez. The two out-of-state residents were indicted on first-degree drug charges in connection with 45 kilos of cocaine seized by NJSP following a drug transaction at a truck stop. In addition to the 45 kilos found in Perez's BMW, the police recovered \$7,800 in cash from Perez's person. The men were indicted for first-degree possession of cocaine with intent to distribute, second-degree conspiracy, and third-degree possession of CDS. Vega was also charged with first-degree distribution of CDS. DAG Philip Mogavero; NJSP DSG John Cipot and Det. Brian Oliver.

State v. Yahmire Boardley. The Camden resident was indicted in connection with possessing a record amount of the super-potent synthetic opioid fentanyl. Boardley pled guilty to second-degree possession of fentanyl with intent to distribute after an investigation resulted in the seizure of 14 kilograms—or 31 pounds—of the drug from multiple locations. The multi-agency investigation revealed that packages containing fentanyl were being shipped from China to addresses in Camden. Sentencing is scheduled for early 2018. DAG Katherine Morris; NJSP Det. I Garrett Cullen.

Courier Post (8/22/17)
**Camden drug haul
could have
killed millions**

State v. Michael Herbert. After receiving a tip from a confidential source, NJSP and U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agents observed Herbert go to a shipping facility in Elizabeth and retrieve a large box, which was addressed to Herbert's alleged employer. The box contained approximately 375 pounds of marijuana. Herbert pled guilty to first-degree possession with intent to distribute and was sentenced to 10 years in prison. DAG Norma Garcia; NJSP DSG Robert Wronski.

State v. Terry Saunders. The Newark man was sentenced to 10 years in state prison, including 8½ years of parole ineligibility under NERA, for a carjacking incident that injured a State Trooper. Saunders committed a violent crime spree that included seriously injuring a NJSP detective who tried to stop him from committing a carjacking. Saunders pled guilty and was sentenced to first-degree carjacking, first-degree robbery, and second-degree aggravated assault. Deputy Bureau Chief Annmarie Taggart; former DAG Vincent Militello; NJSP DSG Aaron Auclair.



NJSP K-9 Katie assisted with the search of a suspicious crate Michael Herbert retrieved from an Elizabeth shipping facility. During the sniff, K-9 Katie alerted to the presence of drugs and Troopers located 375 lbs. of marijuana in the crate.

State v. Juan Lorenzo. The Bronx, New York resident pled guilty to first-degree narcotics charges for possessing approximately 17 kilograms of heroin and 17 kilograms of cocaine. The drugs were seized by the NJSP during a vehicle stop in Carteret on the NJ Turnpike. Lorenzo was sentenced to 10 years in state prison with a 54-month term of parole ineligibility. DAG Michael Klein; NJSP Tpr. James Agens.

State v. Bienvenido Cuevas Ruiz, et al. Five individuals were charged with maintaining a heroin and cocaine production facility and first-degree possession with intent to distribute. The charges resulted from a State Police investigation into two heroin mills run by the same Newark organization. Ruiz pled guilty and was sentenced to 10 years in state prison. DAG Heather Hausleben; NJSP Det. Christopher Durning.

State v. Marino Pimentel-Tejada, et al. Last year, upon executing a search warrant, State Police seized more than 300 grams of heroin, a handgun, a shotgun, and more than \$55,000 in cash. Five heroin dealers were sentenced to prison in connection with the operation of a heroin mill in Paterson. Pimentel-Tejada, the top ring member, pled guilty to first-degree maintaining a heroin production facility and was sentenced to 10 years in prison, including 39 months of parole ineligibility. Three other co-defendants pled guilty to second-degree conspiracy to maintain a heroin production facility and were sentenced to 5 years in prison. A fifth co-defendant pled guilty to possession of methamphetamine and was

also sentenced to 5 years. *Asset Forfeiture:* A judge signed an order requiring the forfeiture of Pimentel-Tejada's car and a second vehicle with a hidden compartment, along with all of the cash that was seized. DAG Brandy Malfitano and Omari Reed; NJSP DSG Rebecca Velez.

NJ Advance Media for NJ.com (2/8/17)
5 plead guilty after N.J. heroin mill crackdown

Operation Pitfall. Seventeen individuals were charged with distributing heroin as a result of a six-month collaborative investigation conducted by the Division, the NJSP Gangs and Organized Crime North Unit, the State Parole Board, U.S. Homeland Security Investigations, Newark Police Department, Paterson Police Department, and a number of other law enforcement agencies. The investigation focused on the open air drug market and gun trafficking activities in Paterson. The investigation revealed the drug market was largely controlled by members of the 4K Bloods/Korner Boyz, a subset of the Bloods street gang. The charges included promoting organized street crime and first-degree distribution of heroin. DAG Amy Sieminski; NJSP Det. Scott Sanders.

**OPERATION PITFALL
4K BLOODS / KORNER BOYZ
PATERSON, NEW JERSEY**

LEADERS

- Marvin Pits AKA: Marvin AKA: Marvin Age: 31 Paterson, NJ
- James Davis AKA: James AKA: James Age: 27 Paterson, NJ

SUPPLIER

- James Davis AKA: James AKA: James Age: 27 Paterson, NJ

4K Area of Operation in Paterson: The four corners (4 Korner) area refers to the intersections of Mercer Street and Putnam Street, Mercer Street and Warren Street and Rosa Parks Boulevard and Warren Street.

The 4K area is located in the 4th Ward of Paterson and has a history of gun violence and open air narcotics distribution.

EMPLOYEES / 4K MEMBERS

- Jeffrey Gomez AKA: Jeffrey AKA: Jeffrey Age: 23 Paterson, NJ
- Jerome Deak AKA: Jerome AKA: Jerome Age: 23 Paterson, NJ
- Jeffrey Hunter AKA: Jeffrey AKA: Jeffrey Age: 28 Paterson, NJ
- Eric Huntington AKA: Eric AKA: Eric Age: 31 Paterson, NJ
- Shades Huntington AKA: Shades AKA: Shades Age: 23 Paterson, NJ
- Brandon Perry AKA: Brandon AKA: Brandon Age: 23 Paterson, NJ
- Isabel Pitts AKA: Isabel AKA: Isabel Age: 30 Paterson, NJ
- Angela Whithead AKA: Angela AKA: Angela Age: 31 Paterson, NJ
- James AKA: James AKA: James Age: 31 Paterson, NJ
- James AKA: James AKA: James Age: 31 Paterson, NJ

CHARGED AS A RESULT OF INVESTIGATION

- Scott Sanders AKA: Scott AKA: Scott Age: 29 Paterson, NJ
- James Davis AKA: James AKA: James Age: 27 Paterson, NJ
- James Davis AKA: James AKA: James Age: 27 Paterson, NJ
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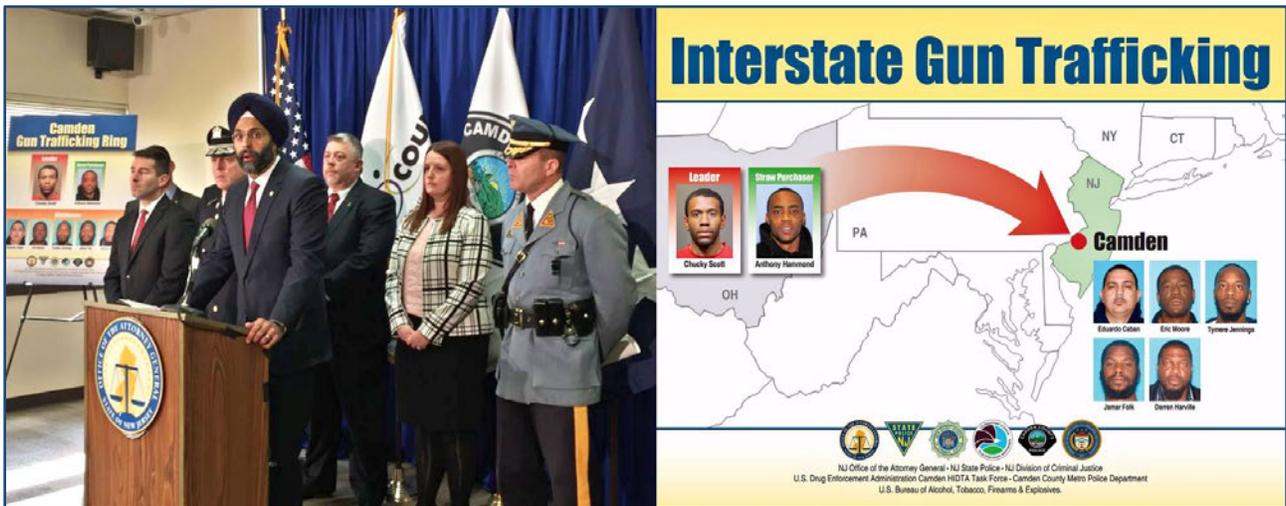
As a result of this investigation, an additional 31 people from New Jersey, Pennsylvania and New York, were arrested for various narcotic related offenses.



General Porriano and Director Honig announce the arrests of 49 people in Operation Pitfall. Photograph courtesy of NJ.com.

State v. Jaquae Hollingshead. The senior corrections officer at the Garden State Youth Correctional Facility was indicted on charges that he smuggled marijuana and tobacco to inmates inside the correctional facility in return for money. On multiple occasions, the monetary payments were made by friends or relatives of the inmates. Hollingshead faces second-degree charges of conspiracy, official misconduct, and bribery in official matters, and third-degree charges of distribution of marijuana and money laundering. He has been suspended from his position as a corrections officer as a result of the allegations. DAG Cassandra Montalto; DOC Investigator Patrick Sesulka.

State v. Chucky Scott, et al. Seven members of a major interstate gun-trafficking ring were indicted with first-degree racketeering and related charges for brokering black market sales of guns—including assault rifles—to criminals in Camden from April 2016 through July 2017. The indictments were obtained following a joint investigation with the NJSP, DEA, ATF, Camden High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Task Force, Camden County Metro Police, and other local agencies. The investigation revealed that Scott and co-defendant **Anthony Hammond** bought multiple weapons at a time in Ohio—where gun purchasing laws are less strict—then texted pictures of the weapons to their “middlemen” who were based in Camden. The middlemen found Camden buyers for the weapons, which were then brought to New Jersey by Scott. A total of 17 guns linked to the weapons trafficking ring were recovered in the investigation, including 14 handguns, 2 AK-47 assault rifles, and an AR-15 assault rifle. Two of the middlemen also face charges related to heroin distribution. DAG Cassandra Montalto; NJSP DSFC Erik Hoffman.



General Grewal and Director Honig announce the indictments in the case against Scott and his co-defendants for trafficking guns into Camden. Photograph courtesy of WHYY.

Operation Smokescreen. The Division charged five defendants with drug offenses for their roles in a narcotics distribution network. During the arrests and searches, detectives recovered a kilogram of cocaine and a handgun. All of the defendants’ cases have been resolved, including lead defendant **Paul Cano**, who pled guilty to first-degree distribution and received a sentence of 10 years in state prison with a 5-year period of parole ineligibility. Deputy Bureau Chief Erik Daab; DAG Michael Klein; NJSP DSG John Cipot.

State v. Charles Walls and Anthony Ervin. The Division obtained a 34-count indictment against Camden residents Walls and Ervin for committing 8 armed robberies of 7-Eleven stores in Camden, Mercer, and Burlington Counties during the first 6 months of 2014. The robberies included one in Pennsauken in which the store clerk was shot four times and left paralyzed. Both defendants are charged with first-degree attempted murder in connection with the Pennsauken incident. They also face eight counts of first-degree robbery among other charges. Both are awaiting trial. DAG Lisa Rastelli; Camden County Prosecutor’s Office Det. Vincent McCalla.

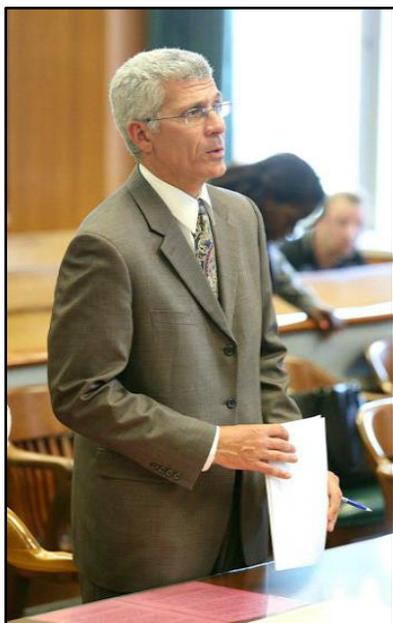
NJ Advance Media for NJ.com (5/13/16)
Armed robbers indicted after paralyzing 7-Eleven clerk

State v. Shawn Flemmings. The Division indicted Flemmings for first-degree strict liability for drug-induced death and 10 other second- and third-degree narcotics distribution charges. Flemmings sold heroin laced with the deadly “cutting” agent fentanyl to a New York victim who died of a drug overdose. Flemmings faces a term of 10 to 20 years with 85% parole ineligibility on the strict liability charge alone. Trial is scheduled for early 2018. Bureau Chief Lauren Scarpa Yfantis; DAG Jamie Picard; former DAG Shontae Gray; Sgt. Ho Chul Shin; Dets. Travis Johnson and Miguel Rodriguez.

NJ Advance Media for NJ.com (10/11/17)

How fentanyl went from obscurity to N.J.’s most dangerous drug

State v. Shameik Byrd, et al. The Division arrested and indicted three individuals with strict liability for drug-induced death for selling the heroin that killed a man in Warwick, New York. The arrests stem from a joint investigation conducted with the New York Attorney General’s Organized Crime Task Force, the Warwick Police Department, and the Passaic County Sheriff’s Office. The New York Attorney General’s Office enlisted the aid of the Division as a result of the existing partnership on the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Heroin Task Force (NEMA-HTF) of state attorneys general that promotes collaboration to fight heroin trafficking. In addition to the first-degree charge of strict liability for drug-induced death, the defendants face third-degree charges of heroin distribution and conspiracy to distribute heroin. A fourth defendant faces possession and distribution charges. DAG Norma Garcia; Sgt. Ho Chul Shin; Dets. Travis Johnson and Miguel Rodriguez.



DAG Philip Mogavero appears in court. Photograph courtesy of NJ.com.

State v. Jeffrey Groth. The Dunnellen resident was indicted for possession with intent to distribute approximately 20 kilograms of cocaine, 3 kilograms of heroin, and over 1 pound of marijuana, as well as third-degree money laundering after the recovery of almost \$40,000 of illegal proceeds. Groth pled guilty to first-degree distribution charges and is scheduled for sentencing in 2018. DAG Philip Mogavero; former DAG Shontae Gray; NJSP DSG Robert Wronski.

State v. Jose Correa, et al. The Division indicted Correa and his associates who operated a heroin and cocaine mill in Elizabeth. During the investigation, law enforcement agents seized cocaine, heroin, and oxycodone pills, \$24,000 cash, and extensive narcotics packaging equipment. Correa’s co-defendants were accepted in the Pretrial Intervention Program (PTI), while Correa pled guilty to first-degree narcotics distribution charges and was sentenced to 11 years in state prison with 5 years of parole ineligibility. DAG Philip Mogavero; former DAG Shontae Gray; NJSP DSG Hugo Ribeiro.

State v. Derek Fuqua, et al. The Division indicted 22 defendants who operated a high-volume heroin distribution enterprise out of heroin mills and stash houses in New Brunswick, Piscataway, and Edison. Twenty defendants have pled guilty, including Fuqua, who pled to first-degree charges of leader of a narcotics trafficking network. He and several co-defendants are awaiting sentencing. Others pled guilty to various narcotics charges and received sentences ranging from time-served to 12 years in state prison. During the arrests, police recovered 2 kilograms of heroin (worth over \$150,000), 6 firearms, first-degree quantities of cocaine, over \$150,000 cash, and various items related to heroin production and distribution. Deputy Bureau Chief Erik Daab; NJSP Sgts. Daniel Connolly and Chris Wright.

State v. Francisco Suriel. The Division and State Police tried Suriel on charges related to distributing 11 kilograms of cocaine and unlawfully possessing 2 handguns. The charges stem from an investigation conducted by the NJSP and the DEA out of Paterson. A Passaic County jury found Suriel guilty of first-degree distribution of CDS and third-degree money laundering. He is awaiting sentencing. DAG Heather Hausleben; NJSP DSG Vittorio Flora.

State v. Jeison Camilo-Nolasco. The West New York resident was indicted after a two-month investigation conducted by the NJSP Trafficking North Unit. During the execution of a consent search and search warrant, NJSP seized over \$100,000 in cash, approximately 6 kilos of cocaine, and a firearm. Camilo-Nolasco faces charges of first-degree possession of controlled dangerous substances with intent to distribute, second-degree money laundering, and second-degree gun possession. He is awaiting trial. DAG Amy Sieminski; NJSP DSG Rebecca Velez and Det. Timothy Steele.

Operation Crossroads. The Division indicted 9 individuals with money laundering and securities fraud for fraudulently obtaining over \$3 million from investors for businesses with no legitimate purpose. The defendants diverted money from one shell company to another, and used it to purchase luxury cars and homes for themselves.

Lead defendant **George Bussanich, Sr.**, his wife, his son, **Heidi Francavilla** (*see Operation Lab Scam, below*), and five other defendants face charges related to this complex money laundering scheme. Francavilla pled guilty and is scheduled for sentencing in March 2018. DAsG Brandy Malfitano and Amy Sieminski; Lt. Brian Bruton; Sgt. Patrick Sole; former Det. Matthew Tully.

NJ Advance Media for NJ.com (3/4/17)

**Family members
indicted over \$7M
'Ponzi scheme' claims**

Operation Lab Scam. The Division indicted 4 defendants who perpetrated 2 separate schemes to defraud investors of over \$350,000 that they claimed to invest in medical ventures. Defendants stole over \$250,000 from one victim by convincing him the money was an investment in a surgical center. Defendants convinced other victims to invest \$100,000 in a blood-testing laboratory by falsely claiming to be joint owners of the lab. The investigation stems from co-defendant **Heidi Francavilla's** involvement in *Operation Crossroads* (*see above*) in which she and other defendants defrauded victims of approximately \$3 million through the sale of bogus investments. The defendants are charged with conspiracy, theft, and money laundering, all in the second degree, and face 5 to 10 years in state prison. Francavilla pled guilty and is awaiting sentencing. DAsG Brandy Malfitano and Amy Sieminski; Lt. Brian Bruton; former Det. Matthew Tully.

Operation Smiles. After a 10-month investigation, the Division arrested Roxbury go-go bar owner **Kevin Lipka** and 5 of his associates—including his wife— on charges of first-degree racketeering and money laundering. The group engaged in an elaborate scheme in which they used stolen credit cards and gift cards to steal more than \$9 million, thus conspiring to defraud retailers, banks, credit card processing companies, and credit card holders. DAG Amy Sieminski; former DAG Shontae Gray; Lt. Brian Bruton; Sgt. Patrick Sole; former Det. Chris Schell.



Smiles 2, the bar from which Lipka and his associates ran their money laundering conspiracy, is now for sale. Photograph courtesy of Google Earth.

Operation Family Affair. Seven members of a violent Trenton-based drug ring were indicted on charges of attempted murder, racketeering, and heroin distribution. Two of the defendants, **Mark Fletcher** and **Keith Journigan**, were charged with attempted murder after Fletcher ordered Journigan to shoot a rival drug dealer on the streets in Trenton. Journigan did, in fact, shoot the intended victim, who survived. Just 10 days after the shooting, the Division arrested Fletcher and Journigan on the attempted murder charges. Fletcher, Journigan, and their co-defendants also distributed heroin and cocaine. Fletcher and Journigan pled guilty to second-degree aggravated assault and are scheduled for sentencing in March 2018. Three other defendants pled guilty to narcotics offenses and received sentences ranging from three to six years in state prison, and one defendant was accepted into PTI. Deputy Bureau Chief Erik Daab; NJSP DSG Blair Astbury and Det. Alan Constance.

Operation Tidal Wave. This investigation, conducted with the NJSP and the DEA, led to the arrest of 32 individuals—including a police officer and a public works employee—who were part of two drug-trafficking organizations operating out of Monmouth and Ocean Counties. Many defendants pled guilty, including all of the defendants from the Monmouth County network. The defendants either received or expect to receive sentences ranging from PTI to 10 years in prison with 40 months of parole ineligibility. The remaining six defendants face various narcotics offenses. During the investigation, police recovered more than 4 kilograms of cocaine; over 3 ounces of heroin; 16 pounds of marijuana; 1,000 Xanax, OxyContin, and ecstasy pills; one handgun; more than \$125,000 cash; and various items related to drug distribution. DAG Michael Klein; NJSP DSG John Cipot.

Operation Kokomo. The Division charged six defendants with running a heroin distribution enterprise out of Paterson. Over 600 grams of heroin were seized in the investigation. The defendants face various first- and second-degree narcotics charges. Four defendants resolved their cases pre-indictment by pleading guilty and face sentences from probation to three years in state prison. Two defendants were indicted, one pled guilty and is awaiting sentence, and one is awaiting trial. DAG Philip Mogavero; former DAG Shontae Gray; Det. Miguel Rodriguez.

Operation Stillwater. Nine individuals were charged with maintaining a heroin and cocaine production facility and first-degree distribution of cocaine. The charges stemmed from a Division investigation into a narcotics distribution network running out of Paterson. Over 7 kilos of cocaine, 800 grams of heroin, 3 guns, and over \$100,000 were seized as a result of this operation. DAG Heather Hausleben; Lt. Brian Bruton; Sgt. Patrick Sole; Det. Russel Kingsland.

Operation State Property. Three family members were charged with distributing heroin and crack cocaine following a nine-month investigation conducted by the NJSP. The investigation focused on members of the Bailey family who were known for selling large quantities of CDS and committing acts of violence in Camden. **Javon Bailey** pled to second-degree distribution of heroin and is expected to be sentenced to 7 years in state prison, 45 months to be served without parole. **Jermere Williams** pled to distribution of heroin in a school zone and is expected to be sentenced to 39 months in state

NJ Advance Media for NJ.com (1/27/17)

**Loaded handguns,
heroin, cocaine
allegedly seized in
drug raid**

prison without parole. At the time the operation was taken down, **Jamaal Bailey** was located in his residence with large quantities of CDS and handguns, and was charged with maintaining a narcotics production facility, first-degree possession with intent to distribute CDS, possession of a weapon during the commission of certain crimes, and certain persons not to possess weapons. Jamaal Bailey is awaiting trial. DAsG Jamey Collidge and Cassandra Montalto; NJSP DSFC Keith Moyer.

Operation White Fox. Seven individuals were charged with distributing crack cocaine or weapons in Burlington City. The case stemmed from a year-long investigation conducted by the NJSP that focused on the open air drug market and gun trafficking activities in the York Street area of Burlington City. Six of the defendants have pled guilty to either distribution of cocaine or the unlawful possession of a weapon. DAG Cassandra Montalto; NJSP Det. Doug Muraglia.

Operation Corona. Fourteen individuals were charged with racketeering and distributing cocaine or weapons in Bridgeton. The case stemmed from a seven-month-long investigation conducted by the Division that focused on cocaine sales from the Las Palmas bar in Bridgeton. DAG Lisa Rastelli; Dets. John Collins, Mike Gonzalez, William Gonzalez, Jeffrey Lorman, Joseph McCray, Jon Norcia, David Swanson, Danielle Terracciano, Jason Volpe, and Todd Watkins; ABC Sgt. Brian Woolston; ABC Dets. Mike Duffield, Ned Shaw, and Terry Shaw.

Human Trafficking



Victims of human trafficking can be exploited for the purpose of commercial sexual activity, including prostitution and pornography, as well as many types of forced labor, including domestic servitude and migrant agricultural work. Traffickers lure and control their victims through the use of force, fraud, or coercion, and employ techniques such as physical and psychological abuse, false employment offers, document holding, and isolation.

State v. Glen Bowman, Sr., et al. The Division indicted five defendants who operated a human trafficking ring out of Bergen and Passaic Counties. The defendants trafficked underage victims as part of a prostitution ring they advertised on Backpage.com. Underage girls were lured into lives of prostitution and forced to have sex with customers at motels and elsewhere. Bowman, Sr. pled guilty to first-degree conspiracy to commit human trafficking and was sentenced to 13 years in state prison, with 5 years of parole ineligibility. His wife, **Ernestine Bowman**, pled guilty to second-degree facilitating human trafficking and was sentenced to 10 years in prison with 39 months of parole ineligibility. **Glen Bowman, Jr.**, the son of Bowman, Sr. and Ernestine, pled guilty to second-degree conspiracy to promote prostitution and was sentenced to six years in prison. **Jessica Copeland**, who acted as boss or “bottom” over the prostitutes, pled guilty to second-degree facilitating human trafficking and was sentenced to six years in prison, with three years of parole ineligibility. **Tokina Williams** pled guilty to conspiracy to commit prostitution and was sentenced to mandatory fines and penalties. DAGs Brandy Malfitano and Jamie Picard; Lt. Lisa Cawley; retired Sgt. Noelle Holl; Det. Timothy Savage.

NJ Advance Media for NJ.com (10/17/17)

Family faces prison for forcing teen into ‘sexual slavery,’ AG says

Ernestine Bowman Glen Bowman Sr. Glen Bowman, Jr.
 Jessica Copeland Tokina Williams

State v. Christopher White and Adria Regn. The Burlington County couple pled guilty to forcing a 17-year-old girl to engage in prostitution at area motels for their profit. The couple posted nude photos of the girl on Backpage.com advertising her services as an “escort” and had her snort crystal methamphetamine while they had her working as a prostitute. The victim originally went to the first motel believing she would be babysitting Regn’s two young children. White pled guilty to first-degree promoting prostitution of a minor and second-degree facilitation of human trafficking. Under the plea agreement, the State will recommend a sentence of 13 years in state prison, including 5 years of parole ineligibility. He will be required to register as a sex offender under Megan’s Law and will be subject to

Burlington County Times (9/26/17)
**Mount Holly woman admits to
 her role in sex trafficking of teen**

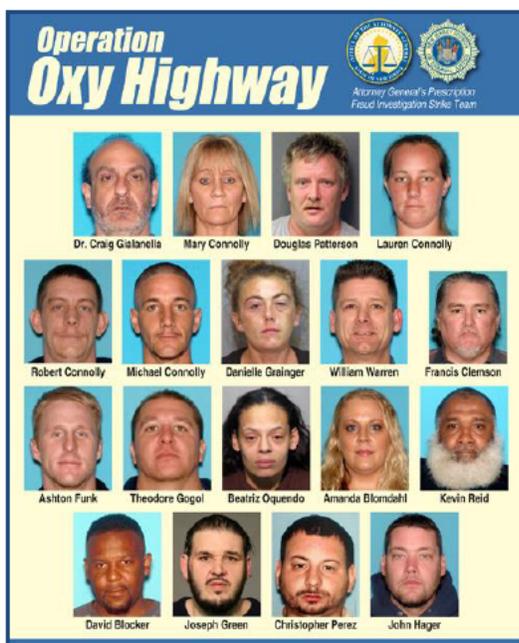
parole supervision for life. Regn pled guilty to second-degree conspiracy to facilitate human trafficking, and the State will recommend a sentence of 5 years in state prison. DAG Cassandra Montalto.

State v. Barbara Cantz. The Westville resident pled guilty to second-degree conspiracy to facilitate human trafficking and was sentenced to five years in state prison. Cantz recruited a 16-year-old runaway to engage in prostitution with her in South Jersey by soliciting clients on Backpage.com. DAG Cassandra Montalto; Dets. Atem Ako, Brian Christensen, and Timothy Savage.

Operation Grand Marquis. Jomell Braithwaite was indicted for conspiracy, promoting prostitution, and promoting organized street crime for running a prostitution ring in Monmouth County. He recruited drug-addicted women and posted ads on Backpage.com offering their services. Once dates were arranged with customers, Braithwaite paid for hotel rooms and waited in a second room until money was exchanged. The women were forced to give Braithwaite all of the money. If they refused to give him the money or to prostitute, Braithwaite withheld food and drugs, and assaulted them. DAG Cassandra Montalto; Lt. Lisa Shea; retired Sgt. Noelle Holl; Dets. Atem Ako, Brian Christensen, and Timothy Savage.

Prescription Fraud Investigative Strike Team (PFIST)

PFIST is a newly-formed team of detectives and attorneys in the Gangs and Organized Crime Bureau that targets corrupt healthcare professionals and “pill mills.”



Operation Oxy Highway. An Essex County medical doctor, **Craig Gialanella**—along with 16 Atlantic County drug dealers—were arrested and charged with various narcotics offenses for distributing tens of thousands of high-dose pills of the opioid painkiller oxycodone, and the anti-anxiety drug alprazolam (Xanax). Gialanella sold prescriptions for cash to the ring of drug dealers in Atlantic County, writing fraudulent prescriptions to individuals who had no legitimate medical need for the highly addictive pills. Defendants **Mary Connolly** and her ex-husband **Douglas Patterson** oversaw the pills’ procurement and distribution. Most defendants are charged with second- or third-degree distribution of narcotics or conspiracy to distribute narcotics. Between January 2014 and May 2017, Gialanella issued prescriptions for more than 350,000 oxycodone 30 milligram tablets, which would have commanded more than \$7 million if the

pills had been sold on the street for \$20 each. The investigation is still ongoing, and it is suspected that Gialanella may have been illegally prescribing oxycodone to individuals in other counties as well. DAG Jeffrey Barile; Sgt. Michael Rasar; Dets. Scott Caponi and Kevin Gannon.



State v. Dr. George Beecher, et al., a/k/a Operation Busted Script. The Division arrested 8 defendants, including Beecher, who operated a drug ring that distributed tens of thousands of high-dosage pills of the addictive painkiller oxycodone with a street value of over \$1 million. Beecher accepted payments to write fraudulent oxycodone prescriptions for people he had neither met nor examined, and the other ring members then acquired and sold the painkillers in bulk to street-level dealers. Beecher was indicted for various offenses including first-degree strict liability for drug-induced death in connection with the overdose death of the adult son of one of the other ring members. He was also indicted for second-degree distribution and conspiracy to distribute. Beecher faces a term of 10 to 20 years with 85% parole ineligibility on the first-degree strict liability charge. In a separate indictment, the other seven defendants were charged with second-degree distribution and conspiracy to distribute. DAG Michael King; Lt. Lisa Cawley; Sgt. Michael Rasar; Det. Kevin Gannon.

State v. Dr. Byung Kang. Following a joint investigation between the DEA Prescription Fraud Strike Force and the Division, Kang was indicted on charges that he sold oxycodone prescriptions to patients with no legitimate need for the addictive opioid pills. During the investigation, it was also revealed that Kang prescribed oxycodone to a patient he knew was abusing the drug. That patient later overdosed on pills prescribed by Kang and died. Kang was indicted for first-degree strict liability for drug-induced death, first-degree money laundering, second-degree conspiracy, third-degree distribution of oxycodone in a school zone, third-degree tax charges, and other related offenses. Kang's wife, who acted as the receptionist for Kang's medical practice, is charged along with him in the money laundering, conspiracy, and tax-related counts of the indictment. *Asset Forfeiture:* As a result of this investigation, the Division seized approximately \$1.4 million in assets and 2 high-end vehicles. DAsG Heather Hausleben and Susan Wolansky.

NJ Advance Media for NJ.com (3/2/17)
**N.J. doctor charged
 in opioid overdose
 death of patient**

State v. Dr. Thomas Duffield and Christopher Parson. Duffield and Parson were indicted on charges including distribution of a controlled dangerous substance by illegally writing or obtaining OxyContin prescriptions. Duffield wrote the prescriptions—often to individuals who were not his patients—and exchanged them for gift cards. On several occasions during the investigation, Duffield exchanged gift cards for prescriptions written for an undercover police officer whom the doctor had never met. Deputy Bureau Chief Erik Daab; DAG Jaclyn Poulton; Sgt. Michael Rasar; Det. Scott Caponi.



CORRUPTION BUREAU

Bureau Chief: Anthony Picione
Deputy Bureau Chiefs: Peter Lee, Jeff Manis
Deputy Chief of Detectives: Daniel O'Brien

State v. Jose Torres, et al. The former Paterson mayor was sentenced to five years in prison for directing city employees to perform work at a private warehouse leased by his daughter and nephew while the employees were being paid by the City. Torres pled guilty to second-degree conspiracy to



General Porriano and Director Honig announce the indictments of the former Paterson mayor and his associates. Photograph courtesy of The New York Times.

commit official misconduct. Three former supervisors in the Paterson Department of Public Works (DPW) were also indicted by the Division and pled guilty to third-degree conspiracy charges. All three were sentenced to three-year terms of probation, forfeited their jobs with the City, and are permanently barred from public employment. Deputy Bureau Chief Jeff Manis; DAsG Peter Baker and Cynthia Vazquez; New Jersey State Police (NJSP) Official Corruption North Unit.

State v. Birdsall Services Group, et al. The Division completed its prosecution of Birdsall Services Group, its CEO, and its top executives for conspiring to subvert New Jersey's Pay-to-Play Act by disguising illegal corporate political contributions as personal contributions of firm employees. Under the scheme, Birdsall, a Monmouth County-based engineering firm, and its executives utilized firm employees to make political contributions to candidates in amounts under the \$300 reportable threshold. The firm and its executives then illegally reimbursed the employees through purported bonus payments and other means. In total, Birdsall—which held millions of dollars in state contracts for engineering services prior to its bankruptcy and subsequent sale—made more than \$1 million in illegal contributions to dozens of officials and candidates.

All nine former Birdsall executives, shareholders, and managers charged in the case have pled guilty to participating in the scheme: CEO **Howard Birdsall** pled guilty to second-degree misconduct by a corporate official and was sentenced to four years in state prison; Executive Vice President **Thomas Rospos** pled guilty to third-degree tampering with public records or information and was sentenced to three years in state prison; Senior Vice President **William Birdsall** pled guilty to



DAG Mallory Shanaban and Bureau Chief Anthony Picione appear in court for the sentencing of a defendant in the Birdsall case. Photograph courtesy of The Asbury Park Press.

third-degree misconduct by a corporate official and was sentenced to 270 days in county jail as a condition of a 2-year term of probation. Finally, as a corporate entity, **Birdsall Services Group** pled guilty to first-degree money laundering and forfeited \$3.6 million to the State in criminal and civil forfeitures and penalties.

Asbury Park Press (7/7/17)
**Last Birdsall executive
 pleads guilty in
 pay-to-play scheme**

Bureau Chief Anthony Picione; former AAG Mark Ondris; DASG Emily Anderson, Claudia Demitro, Brian Faulk, Mallory Shanahan, and Charles Wright; former DAG Victor Salgado; Lt. Edward Augustyn; Sgt. Kiersten Pentony; Dets. Matthew Burd, Melissa Calkin, and Sonya Carney; former Det. Janine Buchalski; former Det. Trainee Jessica Chace; former Auditor Catherine Lodato; Analyst Nathalie Kurzawa.

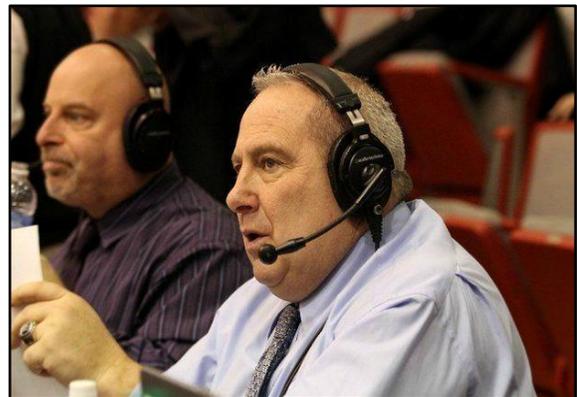
State v. Robert Schroeder. The former New Jersey Assemblyman (R-Bergen) was sentenced for defrauding investors and issuing bad checks in connection with various business dealings that caused a combined loss of over \$5 million to victims. Schroeder pled guilty to second-degree misconduct by a corporate official and was sentenced to eight years in state prison. Under the plea agreement, he must pay full restitution of \$5.3 million to his victims and is permanently barred from public office and public employment in New Jersey. Four companies operated by Schroeder also pled guilty, and each company is jointly and severally liable with Schroeder for paying full restitution. Deputy Bureau Chief Jeff Manis; former Deputy Bureau Chief Veronica Allende; DAG Peter Baker; former DASG Joseph Glyn, Jane Khodarkovsky, Perry Primavera, Cambridge Ryan, and Alexander Sakin; Analyst Kathleen Ratliff; NJSP Official Corruption North Unit.



DAG Peter Baker and Deputy Bureau Chief Jeff Manis (left) appear in court when Schroeder (right) pled guilty to bank fraud. Photographs courtesy of NJ.com.

Deputy Bureau Chief Jeff Manis; former Deputy Bureau Chief Veronica Allende; DAG Peter Baker; former DASG Joseph Glyn, Jane Khodarkovsky, Perry Primavera, Cambridge Ryan, and Alexander Sakin; Analyst Kathleen Ratliff; NJSP Official Corruption North Unit.

State v. Kevin Bannon. The former executive director of the Mercer County Park Commission was indicted on six counts of second-degree official misconduct, one count of second-degree pattern of official misconduct, one count of second-degree misapplication of entrusted property and property of government, and one count of third-degree theft of services. The indictment stems from an investigation by the Division that revealed six different schemes through which Bannon illegally diverted money from the Mercer County Park Commission to a non-profit organization he controlled, or through which he arranged for unauthorized benefits at county expense for himself, his family, and others close to him. DASG Valerie Butler, John Nicodemo, Mallory Shanahan, and Charles Wright; former DAG Alexander Sakin; Lt. Robert Stemmer; Sgt. Kiersten Pentony; Dets. Erin Bancroft, Matthew Burd, Sonya Carney, and Thomas Page; former Det. Trainee Jessica Chace; Civil Investigators Wayne Cummings and Jordan Thompson.



Bannon, the former Rutgers men's basketball coach, was indicted on official misconduct and related theft charges. Photograph courtesy of The Times of Trenton.

State v. Rabbi Osher Eisemann, et al. The founder and director of the School for Children with Hidden Intelligence (“SCHI”) in Lakewood was indicted on charges that he misappropriated over \$630,000 in public tuition funds using a purported fundraising foundation for the school in his schemes to steal and launder money. Eisemann and the purported fundraising foundation, Services for Hidden Intelligence, LLC, were indicted on second-degree charges of theft by unlawful taking, misapplication of entrusted property and property of government, and money laundering. Eisemann was also indicted for second-degree misconduct by a corporate official. He stole approximately \$430,000 in public tuition funds entrusted to the school to educate special needs children and invested the money in a now-defunct clothing business

that was operated by a business associate. In the money laundering scheme, Eisemann transferred an additional \$200,000 in public tuition funds from SCHI to the fundraising foundation. Bureau Chief Anthony Picione; Deputy Bureau Chief Jeff Manis; DAsG Brian Faulk, John Nicodemo, and Anthony Robinson; former DAG Cambridge Ryan; Dets. Erin Bancroft, Thomas Page, and Brandon Peay; Analyst Kim Geis.



DAG Anthony Robinson (right) appears in Middlesex County Superior Court as Rabbi Eisemann (in middle at far table) pled not guilty to charges including theft, money laundering, corporate misconduct, and misuses of government funds. Photograph courtesy of NJ.com.

State v. Elias Chalet. The former Bloomfield Township Councilman pled guilty to second-degree bribery in official and political matters for soliciting and accepting a \$15,000 bribe from a



DAsG Cynthia Vazquez and Brian Faulk listen in court as Chalet pled guilty to bribery charges. Photograph courtesy of NJ.Com.

business owner in exchange for promising to use his position on the Council to ensure that the Township proceeded with its planned purchase of the business owner’s commercial property. Under the plea agreement, the State will recommend a five-year sentence in state prison, with two years of parole ineligibility. Chalet must also forfeit the \$15,000, as well as his public position, and will be permanently barred from elected office and public employment in New Jersey. DAsG Brian Faulk and Cynthia Vazquez; former DAsG Jane Khodarkovsky and Julia Zukina; NJSP Official Corruption North Unit.

State v. Timothy Grossi, et al. The Division tried and convicted **Troy Bunero** and **Francis Longo**, two North Bergen Department of Public Works (DPW) supervisors, of official misconduct, theft, and other offenses for having DPW workers perform personal and political work on Township time. Between 2006 and 2012, Bunero and Longo assigned subordinate municipal employees to work on election campaigns and to complete personal chores or projects for them or their boss, Superintendent **James Wiley**, who previously pled guilty to similar charges and is scheduled for sentencing in early 2018. Wiley faces 5 to 10 years in state prison and must repay the Township. Bunero and Longo were convicted on all counts by a Hudson County jury, and each was sentenced to five years in state prison without eligibility for parole. Grossi, the Deputy Director of the DPW, pled guilty to third-degree misapplication of entrusted property and property of government. He was sentenced to three years in state prison, but received a suspended sentence due to his declining health. Grossi, Bunero, and Longo are all permanently barred from public office and employment in New Jersey. Deputy Director Christine Hoffman; Appellate Bureau Chief Daniel Bornstein; Appellate Deputy Bureau Chief Carol Henderson; DASG Sara Quigley, Sarah Elsasser, Cynthia Vazquez, and Charles Wright; former DASG David Fritch, Joseph Glyn, Jeffrey Mongiello, Victor Salgado, and Julia Zukina; Lt. Robert Stemmer; Det. Garrett Brown; Civil Investigator Joseph Salvatore; Analyst Kathleen Ratliff.



Civil Investigator Joseph Salvatore testifies at the trial of Troy Bunero and Francis Longo. Screen capture courtesy of Hudson County View.

permanently barred from public office and employment in New Jersey. Deputy Director Christine Hoffman; Appellate Bureau Chief Daniel Bornstein; Appellate Deputy Bureau Chief Carol Henderson; DASG Sara Quigley, Sarah Elsasser, Cynthia Vazquez, and Charles Wright; former DASG David Fritch, Joseph Glyn, Jeffrey Mongiello, Victor Salgado, and Julia Zukina; Lt. Robert Stemmer; Det. Garrett Brown; Civil Investigator Joseph Salvatore; Analyst Kathleen Ratliff.

NJ Advance Media for NJ.com (1/20/17)

**Former state
bookkeeper who
stole \$296K
sentenced to prison**



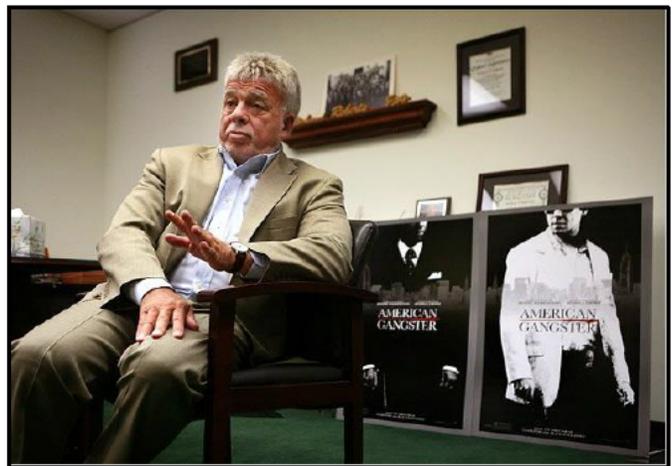
State v. Suzanne Eyman. The former head bookkeeper with the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) pled guilty to second-degree theft by deception, and was sentenced to 5 years in state prison for a scheme in which she used her state position to steal nearly \$300,000. Eyman submitted fake bills to the state for services purportedly

provided to DDD clients and sent payment for the services to herself and her husband. Charges against Eyman's husband were dismissed. Eyman must pay full restitution, forfeited her job, and is permanently barred from public employment in New Jersey. DAG Mallory Shanahan; Dets. Matthew Burd and Thomas Page.

State v. Lamont King. The Division continued its prosecution of King, a family services worker with the DCP&P charged with official misconduct, pattern of official misconduct, tampering with public records, bribery, and sexual assault for using his position to have sex with two young mothers whom he was responsible for transporting and supervising in connection with court-ordered visits with their children. The children of both mothers had been placed in foster homes, and both mothers were trying to regain custody. King's role involved observing and writing reports about parent-child interactions during the visits, information that could be considered by a judge to assess if/when the mothers should regain custody and whether future visits could be unsupervised. King told the first victim that if she

trusted him, he would recommend that her visits with her son occur at a park rather than a state office. The first victim did not resist King’s sexual advances because she feared that King could have impacted her ability to regain custody of her son. The sexual assault charge stems from King’s interactions with the second victim. King told her that he would allow visits with her children to be unsupervised if she complied with his sexual requests to manually stimulate him. After engaging in such conduct during several visits, King later instructed the second victim to perform oral sex on him, threatening that if she did not comply he would negatively affect her visits with, and chance to regain custody of, her children. She complied. The case is scheduled for trial in 2018. Deputy Bureau Chief Peter Lee; DAsG Valerie Butler and Brian Uzdavinis; NJSP Official Corruption South Unit.

State v. Richard M. Roberts and Gerald Saluti, Jr. The former partners, who previously operated a Newark law firm, were indicted on charges that they stole more than \$140,000 from clients to pay for their personal expenses such as car payments, credit card bills, entertainment expenses, and alimony payments. The two face charges of second-degree conspiracy, second-degree theft by failure to make required disposition of property received, third-degree hindering apprehension, and third-degree perjury. The hindering and perjury charges relate to allegations that the defendants falsely reported to law enforcement and testified under oath that the practice administrator for their firm, Gabriel Iannacone, was solely responsible for the misappropriation of certain client funds from their attorney trust account. In fact, Roberts and Saluti conspired with Iannacone in those improper withdrawals and payments. Iannacone pled guilty to third-degree conspiracy to commit theft by failure to make required disposition of property received for his role in the scheme. Under the terms of the plea, Iannacone faces incarceration in state prison and is required to pay restitution to the victims, together with any other defendants who are convicted. Saluti’s license to practice law was suspended in 2014 and he was disbarred in May 2017. Roberts’ license was suspended in 2015. DAG Cynthia Vazquez; former DAG Julia Zukina; Lt. Michael Fallon; Sgt. Scott Donlan; Det. Mechea Medine; former Det. Thomas Gallagher.



Richie Roberts (in 2007), a former detective and Assistant Prosecutor in Essex County, was instrumental in the arrest and prosecution of 1970s Harlem drug lord Frank Lucas. Roberts’s investigation and takedown of Lucas’s criminal enterprise was the subject of the 2007 film “American Gangster,” starring Russell Crowe as Roberts and Denzel Washington as Lucas (posters in background). Lucas was Roberts’s first client when Roberts became a criminal defense attorney. Photograph courtesy of The New York Times.

State v. Eric Richardson. The NJSP Trooper was charged with third-degree tampering with public records or information and fourth-degree falsifying or tampering with records to cover up that he conducted improper stops of female drivers for the purpose of pressuring them to begin personal relationships with him. An investigation revealed separate incidents between August 2016 and January

Trentonian (5/31/17)

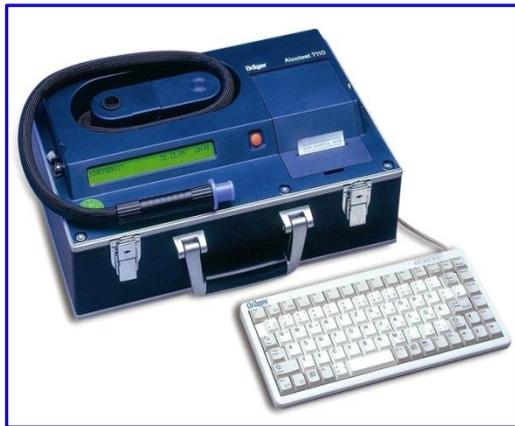
NJ state trooper charged with pressuring women to give him their numbers

2017 where Richardson repeatedly pulled over young women and harassed them about initiating personal relationships. The third-degree charge carries a sentence of three to five years in state prison. DAsG Brian Faulk, Jonathan Gilmore, Brian Uzdavinis, and Charles Wright; NJSP Office of Professional Standards.

State v. Marquice Prather. The former New Jersey State Trooper pled guilty to third-degree invasion of privacy, fourth-degree tampering with physical evidence, and fourth-degree falsifying or tampering with records for covering up his improper stops of female drivers for the purpose of propositioning them to meet him socially and copying photographs of them from their cellular telephones to his own. Suggesting a pattern of impropriety, the investigation revealed that Prather had committed a number of violations, including deactivating his microphone during the traffic stops and later claiming it malfunctioned, and falsely reporting the gender of drivers he pulled over to disguise the high frequency of female drivers stopped. Prather was sentenced to 3 years of probation, ordered to perform 50 hours of community service, required to pay a \$5,000 fine, and forbidden to contact his victims. He forfeited his job as a State Trooper and is permanently barred from public employment and public office. DAsG Brian Faulk, Jonathan Gilmore, and Charles Wright; NJSP Office of Professional Standards.

U.K. Daily Mail (9/12/17)

Former New Jersey state trooper admitted to pulling women over to go through their phones and ask them on dates



Dennis is accused of deliberately omitting a step in re-calibrating three Alcotest units, like the one above.

State v. Marc Dennis. The Division indicted the NJSP Sergeant, a former coordinator with the NJSP's Alcohol Drug Testing Unit, for allegedly falsifying certifications related to the re-calibration of Alcotest units. He is accused of signing several false re-calibration certifications to cover up his failure to perform a specific aspect of the calibration procedure mandated by NJSP's Chief Forensic Scientist and approved by the New Jersey Supreme Court. The charges against Dennis include third-degree tampering with public records and fourth-degree falsifying or tampering with records. DAsG Brian Faulk, Samantha McCluskey, Cynthia Vazquez, and Charles Wright; Lt. Robert Stemmer; Dets. Erin Bancroft and Matthew Burd; Civil Investigator Joseph Salvatore.

State v. Tajji Williams and Qaadir Royal. The two suspended employees of the City of Newark were charged in separate indictments with taking bribes from a man seeking to operate an after-hours social club. In exchange for a \$5,000 bribe, Williams, a city code enforcement officer, promised the man that he would arrange advance notice of law enforcement activity and give priority in the filing and granting of permits. In exchange for a \$1,000 bribe, Royal, a clerk in the City Code Enforcement Office, used his access to city databases to alter the man's certificate of occupancy for the building he rented. The two men were indicted on counts of second-degree bribery and official misconduct, and Royal is also charged with third-degree tampering with public records. DAsG John Nicodemo and Anthony Robinson; NJSP Official Corruption North Unit.

Associated Press (9/14/17)

City Employees Charged With Soliciting, Accepting Bribes

Philly.com (6/30/17)

Ex-treasurer of S. Jersey youth football league sentenced for embezzling funds

State v. Michael DiFlorio. The former treasurer for the South Jersey Elite Invitational Youth Football League pled guilty to third-degree theft by unlawful taking and was sentenced to 330 days in county jail as a condition of a 2-year term of probation for embezzling over \$56,000 from the league. Between July 2014 and June 2016, DiFlorio withdrew thousands in cash and wrote checks to himself to use for his personal benefit. He also stole more than \$14,000 in cash generated by the league's 2015 championship game.

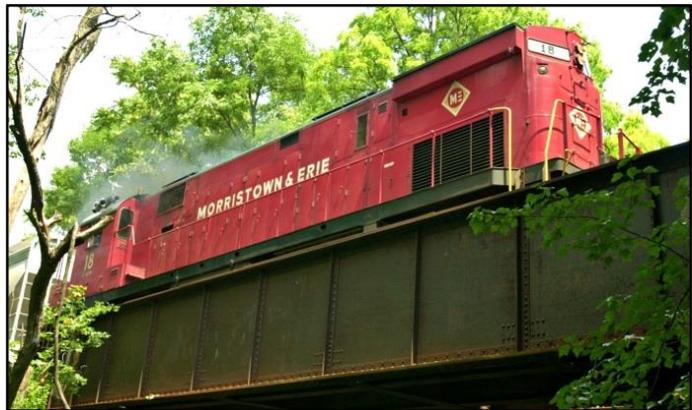
DiFlorio also pled guilty to an accusation charging him with third-degree theft by unlawful taking for stealing \$1,147 from his former employer, an exterminating company. He must pay full restitution to the football league and his former employer. DAG Jonathan Gilmore; NJSP Official Corruption South Unit.

State v. Mitchell Perkins. The former Lakewood Township electrical code inspector was sentenced to three years in state prison for accepting bribes from contractors in exchange for preferential scheduling and conducting inspections more quickly. In at least one instance, Perkins, after receiving a bribe, approved work that was not actually inspected. He pled guilty to second-degree conspiracy to commit bribery, and in addition to his prison sentence is permanently barred from public employment in New Jersey. DAG Pearl Minato; NJSP Official Corruption South Unit.

Asbury Park Press (2/3/17)

Ex-Lakewood code inspector imprisoned for bribery

State v. Gordon Fuller, et al. The Division successfully tried the former chief operating officer of a Morristown-based freight railway company for attempting to steal over \$75,000 by falsely inflating an insurance claim that the company filed in connection with damage to a railroad switch caused by a truck accident. After being found guilty by a Morris County jury on charges of second-degree conspiracy, second-degree insurance fraud, second-degree attempted theft by deception, and fourth-degree falsifying or tampering with records, Fuller was sentenced to five years in state prison. The Division's investigation also resulted in two other indictments. A second indictment charged Fuller and a former project manager, **Willard Phillips**, with defrauding the New Jersey Department of Transportation (DOT) of over \$800,000 by submitting false claims for grant funds for railway improvement work that was never performed. The charges in that indictment are still pending. The third indictment charged **Ernest Dubose** with assisting former DOT senior engineer **Gaudner Metellus** in soliciting a large bribe from the railway company in exchange for DOT awarding a contract for repair work that would never be done to the railway company. Metellus pled guilty to conspiracy to commit bribery and was sentenced to three years in state prison.



Fuller was the former COO of the Morristown and Erie Railway (M&E), and was sentenced to 5 years in prison for offenses related to his position at the company. Charges are pending in a second indictment against Fuller and M&E's former project manager, Willard Phillips. Photograph courtesy of The Star Ledger.

Dubose was found guilty by a jury and sentenced to six years in state prison. Former AAG Mark Ondris; former Deputy Bureau Chief Veronica Allende; DAsG Brian Faulk, Anthony Robinson, and Melissa Simsen; former DAsG Jane Khodarkovsky, Perry Primavera, Paul Salvatoriello, Heather Taylor, and Julia Zukina; Dets. Michael Behar, Robyn Greene, and Timothy Herron; former Det. David Salzmann.

State v. Chetan Shah. The Burlington County man was sentenced to a suspended 364-day jail term for falsifying bids to win 4 contracts worth approximately \$4.6 million from the New

Jersey Department of Transportation for engineering services related to bridge painting and construction projects. Shah and his company, S&R Engineers, each pled guilty to a charge of third-degree tampering with public records or information and forfeited \$250,000 prior to sentencing, which represented the estimated profits or gains from their illegal conduct. Deputy Bureau Chief Peter Lee; DAG Brian Uzdavinis; former DAG Alexander Sakin; Sgt. Paul Marfino, Dets. Eric Barnes and Stacy Scott.

Burlington County Times (10/18/17)
Mount Laurel man sentenced to jail for falsifying public bids



State v. Giovanni Nieves and Christian Orellana.

Former New Jersey Department of Corrections Senior Officer Nieves was sentenced to three years state prison for smuggling tobacco into Garden State Prison for inmate Christian Orellana. In 2015, Nieves accepted a series of bribe payments from Orellana to smuggle loose tobacco into the prison. Nieves also forfeited nearly \$1,500 in bribe proceeds and his public employment, and received a permanent bar on public employment in New Jersey. Orellana pled guilty to all charges in his indictment, including second-degree conspiracy and second-degree bribery, and the State will recommend that he serve an additional five years in state prison. DAG Jonathan

Gilmore; Civil Investigator Wayne Cummings; NJSP Official Corruption South Unit.

State v. John Campbell. The retired Cape May Police Officer, who formerly served as president and state delegate of New Jersey Policemen’s Benevolent Association (PBA) Local 59 in Cape May, was sentenced for embezzling large sums totaling approximately \$105,000 over a period of five years. While serving as the PBA’s state delegate from 2012 through 2016, Campbell used credit and debit cards issued to him by the union, and paid for with union funds, for a variety of unauthorized personal expenses unrelated to union business, ranging from modest purchases at convenience stores and gas stations to more exorbitant purchases involving time shares and home improvements.

Campbell pled guilty to third-degree theft by unlawful taking and was sentenced to six months of home detention under the county’s

alternatives to incarceration program. Campbell must also pay full restitution and perform 300 hours of community service. Deputy Bureau Chief Peter Lee; DAsG Valerie Butler and Brian Uzdavinis; Civil Investigator Wayne Cummings; NJSP Official Corruption South Unit.

NBC Philadelphia (8/13/17)
‘Crass Betrayal’: Retired Officer Steals \$105,000 From Police Union to Pay for Time Shares, Designer Christmas Tree

- As a result of the investigation, additional thefts were discovered that led to a charge against a second official of PBA Local 59, former treasure **Kyle Grossman**, who was also a Cape May police officer. Grossman was charged by accusation with third-degree theft by unlawful taking. He was admitted into the Pretrial Intervention Program (PTI), agreed to pay \$5,000 in restitution, forfeited his job as a police officer, and agreed to enter a consent order under which he will be permanently barred from public employment.

State v. William Ortiz and Joseph DeBonis. The Division indicted Ortiz and DeBonis, employees of the City of New Brunswick Water Authority, with second-degree conspiracy, second-degree official misconduct, second-degree bribery in official and political matters, and third-degree tampering with public records for their roles in a scheme to defraud the City out of thousands of dollars in water and sewer revenue. Both are charged with accepting bribes in exchange for manipulating and reducing the utility bills of property owners. DAsG Samantha McCluskey and Anthony Robinson; Dets. Rick Lane and Kristin Meier.

State v. Tierra Slade. The former case worker with the Rutgers University Southern Regional Child Resource and Referral Agency was sentenced to 364 days in jail as a condition of 12 months of probation for stealing the identity of a parent who was a client of the agency to open a credit card account and purchase furniture. She pled guilty by accusation to third-degree theft by unlawful taking. Slade's position gave her access to confidential information of agency clients, and she used the personal

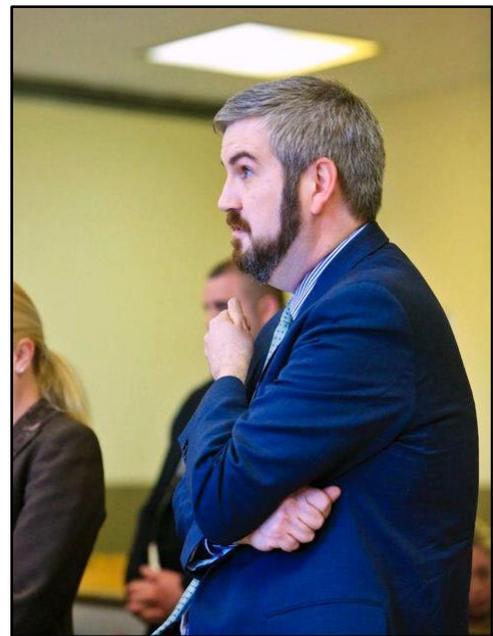
NJ Advance Media for NJ.com (4/21/17)

N.J. child care worker gets jail time for stealing client ID to go on shopping spree

identifying information of a client to apply for several credit cards. Slade was ordered to pay full restitution and is permanently barred from public employment. Deputy Bureau Chief Peter Lee; DAG Valerie Butler; Dets. Alison Akke and Stacy Scott.

State v. Steven Saunders, et al. The Department of Corrections Senior Officer at Southern State Prison in Cumberland County was charged with smuggling the deadly opioid fentanyl and marijuana to an inmate in the prison in exchange for money. The summons charged official misconduct and possession of a controlled dangerous substance with intent to distribute. The investigation revealed that Saunders accepted bribes in excess of \$200 from an inmate's girlfriend in return for smuggling the drugs and other contraband into prison. Saunders has been suspended from his position as a senior correction officer as a result of the allegations. **Tasha Swain**, the girlfriend of the inmate involved, has also been charged by summons with conspiracy to commit official misconduct, possession of a controlled dangerous substance with the intent to distribute, and possession of marijuana. DAsG Valerie Butler, Jonathan Gilmore, and John Nicodemo; NJSP Official Corruption South Unit.

State v. Roberto Reyes-Jackson. The Department of Corrections Senior Officer at Northern State Prison in Newark was indicted on charges that he smuggled the deadly opioid fentanyl and marijuana to an inmate in the prison in exchange for money. The indictment charged second-degree conspiracy, second-degree official misconduct, second-degree bribery in official matters, third-degree distribution of fentanyl, and fourth-degree distribution of marijuana. The investigation revealed that Reyes-Jackson accepted bribes in excess of \$200 from the inmate's girlfriend in return for smuggling the drugs into prison. Reyes-Jackson has been suspended from his position as a senior correction officer as a result of the allegations. DAG Peter Baker; former DAG Julia Zukina; Det. Mechea Medine; former Det. Thomas Gallagher.



DAG Peter Baker appears in court. Photograph courtesy of The Jersey Journal.

NJ Advance Media for NJ.com (9/21/17)

State Treasury employee admits to \$75K fraud

State v. Stephanie Hargrove, et al. The former claims investigator with the State Department of the Treasury pled guilty to second-degree theft by unlawful taking for stealing more than \$75,000 by processing and/or approving fraudulent claims in the names of various relatives and friends. Under the plea agreement, the State will recommend a sentence of three years in prison. Hargrove must also pay full restitution to the State, must forfeit her job, and will be permanently barred from public employment. Hargrove is awaiting sentencing. The investigation also resulted in the prosecution of all 11 accomplices who aided Hargrove in the scheme by signing fraudulent claims. Each of the 11 accomplices either pled guilty to third-degree theft or entered PTI on third-degree theft charges, depending on the number and amount of the claims each submitted. The accomplices who pled were sentenced to probationary terms ranging from 18 months to 2 years. DAsG Jonathan Gilmore, Mallory Shanahan, and Charles Wright; Dets. Erin Bancroft, Garrett Brown, and Sonya Carney; Civil Investigator Wayne Cummings.

State v. Michael Smart. The former head track and field coach at Essex County College was sentenced to three years in state prison after pleading guilty to second-degree theft. Smart stole approximately \$150,000 by fraudulently taking advances for travel and event expenses, inflating the costs of events, requesting entry fees for events that charged no fee, and requesting money for events that the team did not attend. He is permanently barred from public employment and must pay full restitution. DAG Anthony Robinson; Det. Robyn Greene.

State v. Abraham Garcia and Walter Somick. The Division continued its prosecution of Garcia and Somick, both municipal employees of North Bergen, for holding “no-show” jobs in which they falsely submitted time sheets to collect pay for hours when they were not actually working. In separate indictments, each was charged with second-degree official misconduct, third-degree theft by deception, and related charges. Both were accused of stealing tens of thousands of taxpayer dollars through their patronage positions. DAsG Cynthia Vazquez and Charles Wright; former DAsG Victor Salgado and Julia Zukina; Lt. Robert Stemmer; Sgts. Patrick Kendig and Kiersten Pentony; Dets. Garrett Brown, Matthew Burd, Thomas Page, and Joseph Saia; former Det. Lee Bailey; Civil Investigator Joseph Salvatore; Analyst Kathleen Ratliff.



Lt. Robert Stemmer (left) and Det. Thomas Page (right) exit the North Bergen Parks and Recreation Department with boxes of evidence while investigating Garcia and Somick. Photograph courtesy of Hudson County View.

State v. Tonia Ramaza-Williams. The former clerk for the Department of Children and Families, Division of Child Placement and Permanency (DCP&P, formerly DYFS) pled guilty to second-degree theft by unlawful taking and was sentenced to three years in state prison. Ramaza-Williams falsified state employment records to fraudulently collect more than \$82,000 in government assistance benefits for which she was not qualified. She must pay full restitution, forfeited her job, and is permanently barred from public employment. DAsG Brian Faulk and Mallory Shanahan; NJSP Official Corruption South Unit.

NJ 101.5 (1/28/17)

NJ state worker goes to prison for stealing welfare

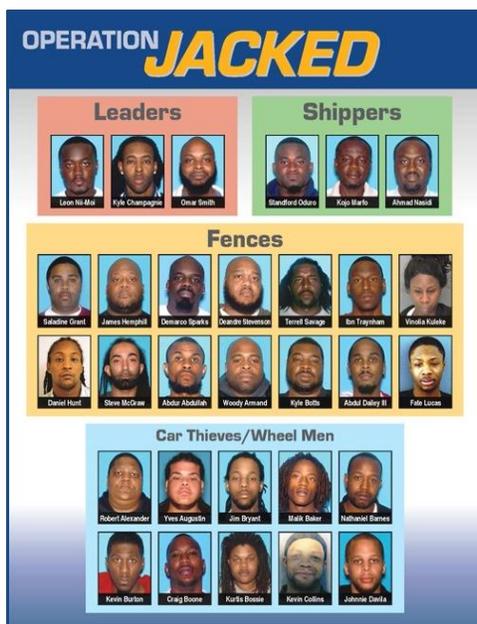
SPECIALIZED CRIMES BUREAU

Deputy Bureau Chiefs: Andrew Johns, Jacqueline Smith
Deputy Chief of Detectives: Weldon Powell

Interstate Theft Unit

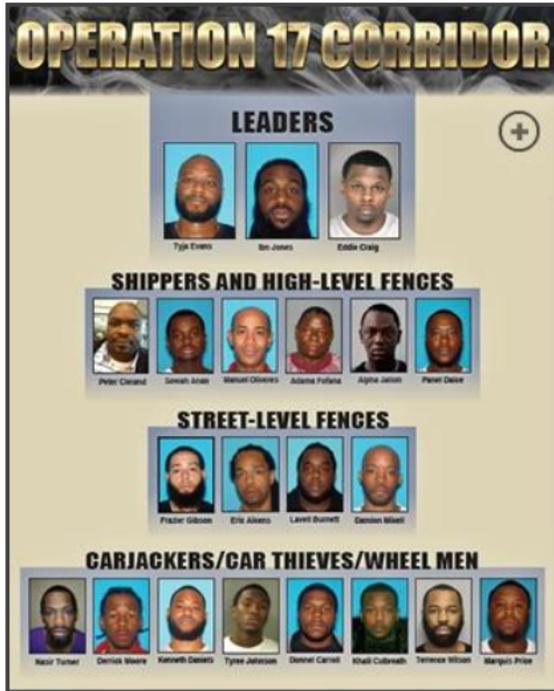
This Unit provides investigative and prosecutorial support to the New Jersey State Police Cargo Theft Unit.

Operation Jacked. After a joint investigation with New Jersey State Police (NJSP), Port Authority Police, ICE Homeland Security Investigations, and 12 other law enforcement agencies, the Division indicted 26 defendants who ran an international carjacking and car theft ring trafficking high-end cars from New Jersey and New York to West Africa. In the takedown, the Division arrested the entire hierarchy of the operation, including leaders, shippers, fences, car thieves, carjackers, wheel men, and ultimate buyers. The ring targeted and stole luxury cars—through violent carjackings or conventional thefts—and then sold the cars through an established chain, culminating in the cars being shipped to West Africa where they command more than American face value. To date, 14 defendants have pled guilty and received sentences ranging from 5 to 20 years in state prison. The remaining defendants face charges of racketeering, conspiracy, carjacking, and theft. *Asset Forfeiture:* During the operation, the Division seized over 160 stolen cars, collectively worth over \$8 million. DASG Adedayo Adu, Debra Conrad, Michael King, Derek Miller, Anthony Torntore, and Susan Wolansky; NJSP DSG Aaron Auclair and Det. Cory Rodriguez.



- **State v. Kyle Champagnie.** One of the carjacking ring leaders, Champagnie pled guilty to first-degree financial facilitation of criminal activity and was sentenced to 14 years in state prison with 5 years of parole ineligibility.
- **State v. Saladine Grant.** A top member of the carjacking ring, the Irvington resident pled guilty to first-degree financial facilitation of criminal activity and was sentenced to 12 years in state prison with 4 years of parole ineligibility.
- **State v. Kurtis Bossie.** The Newark carjacker pled guilty to first-degree conspiracy to commit racketeering and first-degree carjacking and was sentenced to 18 years in state prison with 8½ years of parole ineligibility under the No Early Release Act.
- **State v. Jim Bryant, Jr.** The Newark carjacker pled guilty to conspiracy to commit racketeering and was sentenced to 10 years in state prison with more than 5 years of parole ineligibility under the No Early Release Act.

Operation 17 Corridor. Working with the NJSP, the Port Authority Police, and ICE Homeland Security Investigations, the Division took down a massive international carjacking and car theft ring that stole luxury cars from New Jersey and New York to ship and sell overseas. The defendants worked together in teams to identify and then steal high-end luxury vehicles. Some cars were obtained through carjackings, while others were taken in “soft steals” from locations such as airports, carwashes, stores, and valets where the thieves were able to steal the cars with the electronic keys or key fobs. They also



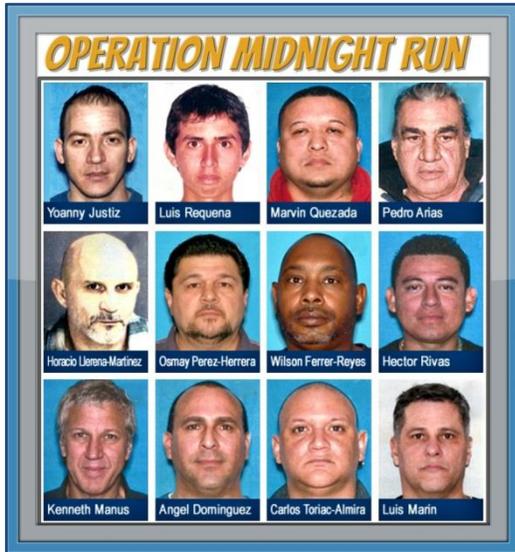
stole cars from dealerships and rental agencies, which involved renting a car with a fraudulent credit card and never returning the vehicle. The defendants then shipped the cars from ports in New Jersey and New York to countries in Western Africa, where the cars command premium prices. In total, the Division seized over 90 stolen cars, collectively worth over \$4 million. The stolen cars were located in five different states in addition to New Jersey. The Division indicted 22 defendants, including the organization’s leaders, shippers, fences, carjackers, car thieves, and wheel men. Prior to indictment, 4 additional defendants pled guilty to racketeering, bringing the total number of defendants to 26. Eighteen of those indicted have pled guilty, and all 18 have either been sentenced or face sentences ranging from 5 to 14 years in prison. The remaining four indicted defendants, including two leaders of the ring, face first-degree charges of racketeering, conspiracy, and money laundering. DAsG Debra Conrad and Danielle Scarduzio; NJSP Det. Cory Rodriguez.

State v. Kelvin Vega, et al. The Division indicted four men with conspiring to steal and fence luxury cars in Northern and Central New Jersey. The defendants stole numerous high-end vehicles, including various models of Mercedes, BMW, and Bentley, and then used certain spots to “cool off” the vehicles, parking them at a hotel in Elizabeth, for example, until they were sure they were not equipped with tracking devices. After a vehicle was sufficiently “cooled,” it was moved to a loading location to either be shipped or fenced domestically. The defendants were directly linked to thefts of at least 14 vehicles with a combined estimated value of over \$800,000. Vega pled guilty to second-degree receiving stolen property and was sentenced to 6 years in prison. Another ring member pled guilty to receiving stolen property and was sentenced to 4 years in prison. Vega’s brother, **Jonathan Vega**, also pled guilty to receiving stolen property and was sentenced to 18 months in prison. The fourth co-defendant, **Bilal Cureton**, faces pending second-degree charges of conspiracy, theft, receiving stolen property, fencing, and financial facilitation of criminal activity. DAG Debra Conrad; Det. Sgt. Jarek Pyrzanowski; Det. Santiago Tapia, Woodbridge Police (assigned to NJSP Auto Theft Task Force).



*D.A.G. Debra Conrad in court.
Photograph courtesy of NJ.com.*

NJ Advance Media for NJ.com (8/1/17)
4 accused of ‘real-life Grand Theft Auto scheme’ in indictment



Operation Midnight Run. The Division indicted 12 defendants who committed a series of thefts of tractor-trailers loaded with cargo worth over \$1.5 million. The multi-state theft ring stole cargo that included clothing, auto parts, bedding, perfume, beverages, and other items which they fenced for a profit. Nine defendants pled guilty to second- or third-degree charges of conspiracy, theft, or receiving stolen property. A tenth defendant pled guilty to fourth-degree receiving stolen property. Defendants who have been sentenced received sentences ranging from 180 days in county jail to 9 years in state prison. One defendant was admitted into the Pretrial Intervention Program (PTI), and the final defendant was deported after his arrest in 2013. DAsG Debra Conrad and Danielle Scarduzio; NJSP DSG Christopher Muscianesi.

State v. Chiara Pender, et al. The Cumberland County woman was sentenced for leading an organized retail theft ring whose members shoplifted thousands of dollars in merchandise at stores in South Jersey. Ring members would return the items for gift cards, which were pawned for cash. Pender pled guilty to second-degree leader of an organized retail theft enterprise, was sentenced to 5 years in prison, and was ordered to pay full restitution for the losses sustained by the targeted stores, totaling more than \$25,000. Pender’s nine co-defendants also pled guilty to charges of theft and receiving stolen property and received sentences ranging from probation to three years in state prison. DAG Christopher Keating; former DAG Brian Carney; NJSP Det. Jerome Moran.

Press of Atlantic City (7/23/17)
Millville woman gets 5 years for leading South Jersey theft ring

Operation Pandora. Six identified defendants were indicted for running an organized multi-state retail theft ring that stole over \$800,000 in jewelry. The defendants were linked to more than 20 thefts in New Jersey and 5 other states. The defendants committed the thefts by various means, including following a jewelry dealer and breaking into her car at a rest stop, and by distracting retail clerks and reaching over counters to steal jewelry. Five defendants pled guilty to second-degree charges of either racketeering, theft, or shoplifting, and received sentences ranging from three to eight years in state prison. The final defendant fled, but racketeering, conspiracy, and shoplifting charges remain pending. Deputy Bureau Chief Andrew Johns; former DAG Brian Carney; Trooper Timothy Long.

Bias Crimes

The mission of the Bias Crimes Unit is the statewide coordination of efforts to eliminate crimes motivated by prejudice against others based on race, color, religion, sexual orientation, gender, disability, or ethnicity.

Operation Skin Deep. This Division-led investigation initially targeted racist skinhead activity in the Atlantic City area, but it soon uncovered a sophisticated narcotics distribution ring. Working their

NJ Advance Media for NJ.com (3/8/16)
Cash, coke and a murder plot: 12 indicted in drug conspiracy

way from the street-level up, detectives were able to identify a two-pronged distribution scheme. The first prong involved distributing wholesale quantities of narcotics to various street-level dealers out of a Union City bar.

The second prong involved an Internet-based mail-order scheme where members of the enterprise took drug orders on the “dark web.” Narcotics were then mailed to customers throughout the U.S. The defendants filled specific roles, including a computer specialist, drug packagers, and hired muscle. The enterprise even planned the murder of a former partner who had fallen out of favor with the group. At the end of the case, detectives executed search warrants that resulted in the seizure of over 2 kilograms of cocaine, a handgun silencer, illegal steroids, and approximately \$1.5 million cash. The Division indicted 15 defendants as a result of this investigation, with 10 charged with first-degree racketeering. Thus far 10 defendants have pled guilty for sentences ranging from 5 to 10 years in state prison. DAsG Jeffrey Barile and Derek Miller; former DAG Alyssa Schwab; Lt. Lisa Cawley; Sgt. Michael Rasar; retired Sgt. Noelle Holl; Dets. Atem Ako, Eric Barnes, Scott Caponi, Brian Christensen, Naïke Casciano, Jessica Marcacci, Tim Savage, and Christine Sullivan; Civil Investigator Debra Maiorano; Analyst Bethany Schussler.

State v. Carla Caraballo. The former home health aide pled guilty to neglecting an elderly woman with Alzheimer’s who was under her care. The conduct—in which Caraballo neglected to help the 91-year-old victim as she rose from bed, fell, and struck her head—was captured by the victim’s family on a hidden camera. Instead of providing assistance and determining whether medical help was necessary, Caraballo remained seated with her legs up on the victim’s wheelchair and scrolled through her cellphone. She pled guilty to third-degree neglect of an elderly or disabled person by a caretaker and was sentenced to 1 year of probation, along with 10 hours of community service. Caraballo permanently surrendered her NJ certification as a certified homemaker-health aide (CHHA) as part of the plea agreement. DAsG Gezim Bajrami and Debra Conrad; former Det. Jessica Tattoli.



The above image was captured by the victim’s family’s hidden camera. In 2017, the Division expanded New Jersey’s groundbreaking *Safe Care Cam program*, which loans cameras for free to residents who suspect their loved ones are being mistreated or neglected by a caregiver. The expansion allows cameras to be used to monitor the care of patients living in nursing homes, assisted-living facilities, residences for the developmentally disabled, and other care facilities, in addition to private homes. Photograph courtesy of The Daily Record.

Casino Prosecutions Unit



This Unit is responsible for prosecuting all indictable criminal offenses occurring on the casino floor or otherwise relating to the gaming activities of Atlantic City’s licensed casinos.

State v. Izyiah Plummer, et al. Following a joint investigation with the State Police Casino Gaming Bureau, the Division indicted 5 defendants on charges of first-degree robbery, second-degree aggravated assault, and second-degree weapons offenses for orchestrating and committing an armed robbery of over \$180,000 from Caesar’s Atlantic City Casino. Led by Plummer, a former Caesar’s security guard, the defendants stole cash at gunpoint from a security officer who was changing out cash boxes at a voucher cash machine on the casino floor. One defendant was



NJSP Capt. Chris Leone (right) announces arrests in the Plummer case. Photograph courtesy of the Associated Press.

accepted into PTI. Plummer pled guilty to all charges, including first-degree armed robbery, conspiracy, aggravated assault, and weapons charges. He was sentenced to 11 years in state prison with over 9 years of parole ineligibility under the No Early Release Act. The remaining three co-defendants pled guilty to second-degree theft: two received seven-year sentences, and one received an eight-year sentence. DAG Kerry DiJoseph: NJSP DSG Charles Vicente and Det. Michael Nelson.

State v. Johnny Cobb, et al. Forty-eight individuals were indicted on racketeering, conspiracy, and theft charges in connection with an elaborate bank fraud scheme in which numerous defendants impersonated holders of legitimate bank accounts in order to steal more than half a million dollars from the accounts, withdrawing most of the funds at Atlantic City casinos. The defendants targeted business accounts at JP Morgan Chase, and stole approximately \$570,000 from 27 different accounts in 2 schemes. The investigation led to an indictment in 2012 charging 23 defendants in connection with the first scheme. Two ringleaders, Johnny Cobb and **Nurlin Wright**, each pled guilty to conspiracy and racketeering charges contained in the first indictment, and each was sentenced to 15 years in state prison. Thirteen additional defendants who were charged in a separate but related 2013 indictment have pled guilty and received sentences ranging from probation to 9 years in state prison. Former DAG Yvonne Maher; NJSP DSFC Christopher Larsen.



Former DAG Yvonne Maher appears in court. Photograph courtesy of The Asbury Park Press.

Atlantic City Task Force (ACTF)

Formed in 2011, the ACTF is responsible for investigating and prosecuting crimes occurring in and around Atlantic City that have a negative impact on the tourism industry. This collaborative effort includes the Division of Criminal Justice, New Jersey State Police (NJSP), State Parole Board, Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office (ACPO), Atlantic County Sheriff's Office (ACSO), Atlantic City Police Department (ACPD), Ocean County Prosecutor's Office (OCPO), Little Egg Harbor Township Police Department (LEHPD), Brigantine Police Department (BPD), and Pleasantville Police Department (PPD).



State v. Saleem Hamilton, et al. The Division indicted seven defendants who ran a major narcotics network that trafficked heroin from Paterson into Atlantic and Ocean Counties. The defendants together distributed approximately 30,000 doses of heroin per month, many of which contained the deadly “cutting” agent fentanyl. The ring members employed at least one juvenile to sell heroin, made heroin deals in front of young children, and took public assistance subsidies as payment for heroin. During the arrests, investigators seized over 16,000 bags of heroin and over \$50,000 cash. All seven defendants have pled guilty. Hamilton pled to second-degree conspiracy and received five years of probation to be served in drug court. The remaining 6 defendants also pled guilty and those who have been sentenced received sentences ranging from 5 to 10 years in state prison. DAsG Jennifer Fipp and James Ruberton; former DAG Martin Steiner; former Special DAG Erik Bergman; Sgt. James Nelson; Dets. David Catona, Brian Graybill, and Todd Watkins; ACPO Det. Caryn Campanella.

State v. Esquiro Salgado and Crisanto Ramirez. As a result of a Division and federal law enforcement investigation into cocaine trafficking in South Jersey, the defendants, both from Texas, were sentenced on charges of first-degree possession of cocaine with intent to distribute. The Division seized 5 kilograms of cocaine, which has a street value of approximately \$230,000. Salgado was

NJ Advance Media for NJ.com (9/8/17)

Duo sentenced for selling 11 pounds of cocaine in drug sting

sentenced to 12 years in state prison with 5 years of parole ineligibility, while Ramirez received 10 years including 3 years of parole ineligibility. DAG James Ruberton; former DAG Martin Steiner; Sgt. James Nelson; Dets. James Blong, David Catona, and Brian Graybill; NJSP Det. Michael Legatie; Homeland Security Special Agent Richard Jones; ACPO Det. Darren Talavera.

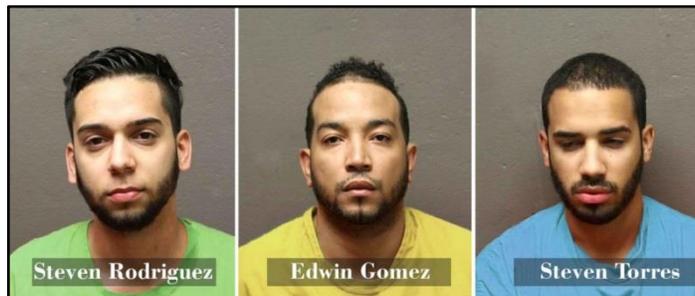
State v. Anthony Martin, et al. The defendants distributed both heroin and cocaine in the Atlantic City area and frequently used hotel rooms in Atlantic City casinos to distribute narcotics. Martin and his co-defendants were indicted for various weapons and narcotics offenses. Martin pled guilty to first-degree possession of cocaine with intent to distribute and second-degree possession of a handgun by a convicted felon, and was sentenced to 12 years in prison with 5 years of parole ineligibility. Two of Martin's co-defendants pled guilty to accusations and received sentences of probation.

Raheem McClendon, another co-defendant who was indicted on charges of conspiracy and possession with intent to distribute, pled guilty and is awaiting sentencing. DAG James Ruberton; former Special DAG Erik Bergman; Sgt. James Nelson; Dets. David Catona, Brian Graybill, and Todd Watkins; ACPD Det. Brian Hambrecht.

Press of Atlantic City (7/8/17)

Bridgeton man sentenced to 12 years in prison for selling heroin and cocaine

State v. Steven Rodriguez, et al. Three heroin traffickers were arrested and 3½ kilos of heroin were seized as a result of an investigation by the ACTF and federal agents of ICE's Homeland Security Investigations (HSI). The investigation revealed that a drug trafficking organization was transporting heroin from Mexico to the New York City area, and subsequently trafficking large quantities of heroin into Atlantic City. The defendants, Rodriguez, **Edwin Gomez**, and **Steven Torres**, were



arrested on charges of first-degree possession of heroin with intent to distribute, second-degree conspiracy to distribute heroin, second-degree possession of heroin with intent to distribute within 500 feet of the Atlantic City Boardwalk, and third-degree possession of heroin. Special DAG Aaron Witherspoon; HSI Special Agent Richard Jones; LEHPD Det. Thomas McAnney.

State v. Terrance Harris. The heroin dealer was arrested on weapons charges and first-degree narcotics charges in connection with the guns, heroin, and cocaine seized from a shed in his yard. A search of the shed resulted in the seizure of 2 small guns: a stolen semi-automatic pistol and a rifle with a laser sight, along with more than a kilo of heroin, more than a kilo of cocaine, suspected cutting agents, mixing utensils, scales, and \$7,465 in U.S. currency. The estimated street value of the drugs is approximately \$140,000. Harris was charged with first-degree possession of heroin with intent to distribute, first-degree possession of cocaine with intent to distribute, second-degree possession of a

weapon during commission of a narcotics offense, second-degree possession of a weapon as a convicted felon, and third-degree charges of possession of

heroin and possession of cocaine. The first-degree drug charges carry a sentence of 10 to 20 years in prison and a fine of up to \$500,000. DAG James Ruberton; NJSP Det. Dennis Quinn.

Press of Atlantic City (6/6/17)

Guns, heroin and cocaine found in alleged Pleasantville dealer's shed

State v. Eder Gonzalez and Sandra Parra Quintero. The two drug traffickers—from California and Mexico respectively— were indicted on charges of first-degree possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute, second-degree conspiracy, and third-degree possession of methamphetamine, in connection with the seizure of five pounds of crystal methamphetamine. The indictment stems from an investigation of partnering agencies, including the ACTF and HSI Cherry Hill Office, assisted by the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and the NJSP TEAMS South Unit. The partnering agencies developed information that the two defendants were transporting a large quantity of methamphetamine and would be delivering it to a location in Camden. The seized drugs have a street value of \$40,000. DAG James Ruberton; former DAG Martin Steiner; HSI Special Agent Richard Jones; ACPO Det. Darren Talavera; LEHPD Dets. Joseph Falkiewicz and Thomas McAnney.

State v. Jurggen Thomas. Members of the ACTU and HSI arrested Thomas after seizing half a kilo of cocaine and 120 pounds of marijuana from a shed at his home. The joint investigation began after HSI intercepted a suspicious package that was mailed from Haiti to Thomas's Egg Harbor Township residence via UPS delivery services. He pled guilty to first-degree possession of cocaine with intent to distribute and was sentenced to 10 years in state prison including 2 years of parole ineligibility. Former DAG Martin Steiner; NJSP Det. Marc Divalerio.

NJ Advance Media for NJ.com (3/1/17)

N.J. man had 120 pounds of pot, mail-order cocaine

Labor Crimes Unit



This Unit investigates and prosecutes individuals involved in committing frauds against the New Jersey Department of Labor, such as unemployment insurance and disability insurance fraud. Since 2011, the Department of Labor has been cracking down on unemployment insurance fraud, saving the New Jersey Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund more than \$750 million to date.

State v. Jose Crespo, et al. Delaware couple Jose and Marilyn Crespo were indicted on second-degree charges for stealing more than \$315,000 from the State of New Jersey by filing false claims for unemployment and temporary disability benefits. The defendants were charged with conspiracy, theft by deception, and other related crimes. Jose Crespo pled guilty to second-degree computer criminal activity, and is scheduled for sentencing in March 2018. Marilyn Crespo pled guilty to second-degree conspiracy, and was sentenced to drug court probation. Delaware resident **Craig Mallone**, who was also charged in the indictment for his role in the scheme, pled guilty to third-degree theft by deception, and was sentenced to 364 days in jail with 3 years of probation. DAsG Christopher Keating and Danielle Scarduzio; Dets. Glenn Stanton and Christine Sullivan; Analyst Bethany Schussler.



State v. Lusselenia Lopez, et al. Lopez, a former clerk for the State Department of Labor and Workforce Development, was sentenced to prison for stealing approximately \$56,000 in unemployment benefits. Lopez used her access to the Department’s computer system to fraudulently alter claims to provide benefits to family members who were not entitled to them, or, in one case, to steal benefits from a stranger by redirecting his benefits to her own bank account. She pled guilty to second-degree conspiracy to commit official misconduct, was sentenced to five years in state prison, and is barred from public employment in New Jersey. Lopez’s two daughters, who were involved in the

NJ Advance Media for NJ.com (3/24/17)
N.J. state worker sent to prison for giving her daughters fraudulent benefits

scheme as the recipients of the stolen benefits, were admitted into the PTI program. Lopez and her daughters must pay full restitution to the State. Deputy Bureau Chief Andrew Johns; DAG Gezim Bajrami; Det. Christine Sullivan.

Environmental Crimes Unit (ECU)

The ECU investigates and prosecutes violations of New Jersey’s water pollution, air pollution, hazardous waste, and solid waste laws, as well as traditional crimes that have an impact on public health and safety and the environment.

State v. Cardolite Corporation. The international chemical company, which formerly operated a plant in Newark, pled guilty to six fourth-degree charges of violating the Water Pollution Control Act by failing to accurately monitor and report the pH levels of its discharges into the public sewer system. The Division’s investigation began with a referral from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. Cardolite was ordered to pay a fine and restitution of over \$150,000. DAG Michael King; Sgt. Steven J. Ogulin.

NorthJersey.com (7/25/17)
South Brunswick company pleads guilty to water pollution violations

Motor Vehicle Commission Unit (MVCU)



The MVCU is responsible for investigating and prosecuting criminal conduct affecting the operation of the Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC). These investigations typically focus upon identity theft, computer fraud, and document fraud.

State v. David Dunaway, et al. Five individuals were indicted on first-degree charges of conspiracy and money laundering, and a variety of lesser charges, for engaging in various theft schemes in which they obtained car loans and cars by fraud and resold the vehicles after fraudulently removing liens from the vehicle titles. The value of the loans and cars involved totaled over half a million dollars. The defendants were indicted on charges of first-degree conspiracy, first-degree money laundering, second-degree identity theft, third-degree theft by deception, and other related offenses. The indictment also charged three additional defendants with third-degree crimes. DAG Michael King; former DAG Phillip Leahy; Det. Laura Catizone; Analyst Terri Drumm.



State v. Rodman Lora, et al. Lora, a former MVC clerk, and 9 co-defendants were indicted for a scheme in which Lora accepted thousands of dollars to allow over 220 people to obtain permits and licenses without passing required exams. Lora was indicted for second-degree charges of official misconduct, pattern of official misconduct, conspiracy, and computer criminal activity, and a third-degree charge of tampering with public records or information. Lora's co-defendants include four

NorthJersey.com (12/21/17)

**North Jersey residents
indicted in motor vehicle
commission scheme**

customers of the illegal scheme, three "runners" whom Lora utilized to recruit customers, and two co-conspirators who worked at the Lodi MVC Agency. DAG Christopher Keating; Sgt. Kelly Howard; Dets. Cecil Boone and Jessica Marcacci; Analyst Terri Drumm.

State v. Anthony Ferrer, et al. The Division charged Ferrer in a 43-count state grand jury indictment with conspiracy, official misconduct, computer theft, theft by deception, bribery, and use of personal identifying information of another, all in the second degree, and numerous third-degree counts of motor vehicle title offenses, tampering with public records or information, and forgery. Ferrer used stolen identities to obtain official identification documents from the New Jersey MVC. He used the stolen identities and official documents in a fraudulent scheme to obtain



new titles for vehicles in New Jersey and conceal liens totaling more than \$239,000 held by lenders that financed the cars. Former MVC employee **Yukeam Cousins** conspired to process two of the fraudulent titles for Ferrer. Cousins pled guilty to third-degree tampering with public records or information, and will be sentenced in early 2018. Ferrer's indictment resulted from a referral from the investigators involved with Operation Facial Scrub, an ongoing effort in which the Division charged a total of 228 defendants with identity theft, forgery, and document fraud. DAG Michael King; Lt. William Newsome; Det. Nicholas Olenick; Investigator Ruben Contreras.

State v. Lenny Roman, et al. Five people were indicted on charges that they fraudulently used a data simulator to generate false results for motor vehicle emissions inspections, which rely on data from onboard diagnostic systems. Defendants include Roman, who until recently was licensed to operate a private inspection facility in Paterson, and two current motor vehicle inspectors employed by Parsons Environment & Infrastructure Group, Inc., the contractor that operates central inspection facilities for the MVC. The scheme involved using the data simulator in place of the actual data from vehicles that had failed emissions inspections, enabling the cars to pass inspection. Clients whose cars failed inspection at the central inspection facilities were referred to Roman by his co-defendants.

NJ Advance Media for NJ.com (12/6/16)

**Dirty business: N.J.
motor vehicle
inspectors charged in
emissions scam**

Between October and December 2015, Roman falsified data for 131 emissions inspections involving 127 vehicles. Defendants face charges of second-degree official misconduct, tampering with public records, and violations of the federal Air Pollution Control Act. DAsG Michael King and Danielle Scarduzio; former DAG Phillip Leahy; Lt. William Newsome; Det. Nicholas Olenick; Investigator Ruben Contreras.



State v. Maria Frank, et al. This investigation began as an inquiry into a New Jersey identification card issued to Maria Frank under the name Shirley L. Frank. Through intensive efforts, state and federal detectives uncovered hundreds of thousands of dollars in Social Security fraud by both Maria Frank and her sister-in-law, co-defendant **Shirley Frank**. The investigation revealed an ongoing scheme by other members of the Frank family to evade hundreds of thousands of dollars in taxes related to their businesses located in Berlin and Pine Hill. Maria Frank and Shirley Frank each pled guilty to second-degree theft by deception and received two years of probation. *Asset Forfeiture:* The State conducted a parallel civil forfeiture investigation, which resulted in the defendants agreeing to forfeit \$1.1 million to pay restitution, back taxes, and penalties. The investigation was conducted in concert with agents from the Social Security Administration and the New Jersey Division of Taxation. DAsG Jeffrey Barile and Derek Miller; former DAG Brian Carney; Lt. William Newsome; Sgt. Andrea Salvatini; Det. Michael Duffield; Civil Investigator Debra Maiorano.

FINANCIAL AND COMPUTER CRIMES BUREAU

Bureau Chief: Michael Monahan
Deputy Bureau Chiefs: Julia S. Glass, Mark Kurzawa
Deputy Chief of Detectives: William Fredrick

Financial Fraud

Superstorm Sandy Fraud Cases.

Since 2014, the Division has charged 104 defendants with filing fraudulent applications to collect relief funds after Superstorm Sandy. The defendants applied for federal relief funds offered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) or the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) by submitting applications in which they falsely claimed that storm-damaged homes were their primary homes (a requirement under Sandy relief programs), or made other false claims. The defendants collectively stole or attempted to steal over \$6 million in Sandy relief funds.



A man stands outside the remains of a Normandy Beach home owned by his mother, who was 86 years old at the time of the storm and had resided in the home since 1963. Photo courtesy of New Jersey Monthly.

- **State v. Frank Russo.** The Brick resident pled guilty to third-degree theft by deception for receiving nearly \$200,000 in relief funds by claiming that an unoccupied home he owned in Toms River was his primary residence. He was sentenced to five years of probation, ordered to pay full restitution, and directed to list the Toms River home for sale as a source of restitution.
- **State v. Eric Seaberg.** The Ocean Township resident pled guilty to third-degree theft by deception for receiving approximately \$165,000 in relief funds for a rental property he owned in Point Pleasant Beach by falsely claiming it was his primary residence. He was sentenced to two years of probation and ordered to pay restitution.
- **State v. Jennifer Casey.** The Upper Saddle River resident received approximately \$174,912 in relief funds by claiming that an unoccupied home she owned in Toms River was her primary residence. She pled guilty to third-degree theft by deception and is scheduled for sentencing in early 2018.
- Numerous defendants fraudulently obtained more than \$100,000 each in relief funds for properties that were not primary residences.



Bureau Chief Michael Monahan; Deputy Bureau Chief Mark Kurzawa; DAsG Valerie Butler, Thomas Clark, William Conlow, Norma Evans, Peter Gallagher, Jonathan Gilmore, Derek Miller, John Nicodemo, Valerie Noto, Supriya Prasad, and Anthony Torntore; former DAsG Denise Grugan, T.J. Harker, Naju Lathia, and Mary Erin McAnally; Lt. David Nolan; Sgt. Fred Weidman; Dets. Michael Arduini, Terrence Buie, Matthew Burd, Mark Byrnes, Richard Loufik, Eric Ludwick, John Neggia, Roxanna Ordonez-Fresse, Thomas Page, John Pisano, and Sonya Sullivan; Special Civil Investigators Rita Binn, Amy Campbell, Jeff Gross, Scott Naismyth, James Parolski, Ronald Rauer, and Vicki Vreeland; former Analyst Alison Callery.

State v. Jeffrey Colmyer and Tiffany Cimino. The couple, who live together in Little Egg Harbor, was indicted for stealing hundreds of thousands of dollars from more than 20 victims who hired the couple’s home improvement companies after Superstorm Sandy. The victims, mostly using Sandy relief funds, paid the couple to repair, elevate, or rebuild their homes, but the couple either abandoned jobs or never even started the work, leaving many victims with uninhabitable homes. The couple diverted much of the money to gamble and buy luxury items, including cars and jewelry. They were indicted for



Volunteers in Sea Bright assist with the clean-up efforts in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy. People from all over N.J. and other parts of the country came to the hardest hit coastal towns in N.J. to assist residents and businesses with their recovery after the storm devastated the area. Photograph courtesy of FEMA.

conspiracy, theft by failure to make required disposition of property received, two counts of money laundering, and misconduct by a corporate official, all in the second degree, and financial facilitation of criminal activity (structuring), and tampering with public records or information, both third-degree offenses. The couple is also charged with various third-degree counts of filing fraudulent tax returns, failure to file tax returns, and failure to pay taxes. The Division of Consumer Affairs filed a civil action against the defendants, alleging numerous violations of the Consumer Fraud Act and seeking consumer restitution and civil penalties. DAsG Derek Miller and John Nicodemo; Lt. David Nolan; Sgt. Fred Weidman; Dets. Michael Arduini and Jordan Thompson; Investigator Debra Maiorano; former Analyst Alison Callery.

State v. Joseph Talafous. Following a six-week trial, a Hudson County jury found Talafous guilty of three counts of second-degree theft by unlawful taking, three counts of second-degree theft by failure to make required disposition of property received, and other related offenses. The Division indicted Talafous, an attorney, for stealing over \$1.5 million from 5 clients over the course of 10 years. Talafous used a power of attorney to make numerous unauthorized withdrawals from clients’ investment accounts, trust accounts, and estates. In one case, he stole more than \$400,000 from a young boy’s trust fund established after his father died in the workplace. He will be sentenced in 2018. DAsG Janet Bosi and Brandy Malfitano; former DAsG Joseph Glyn and Naju Lathia; Dets. Franco Cignarella, Roxanna Ordonez-Fresse, and Scott Stevens; Analyst Gabrielle Pichler.

<p>Asbury Park Press (1/10/18)</p> <p>Toms River lawyer guilty of stealing \$1.5M from dead clients, child</p>	
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State v. Naim Tahir, et al., a/k/a Operation Poison Oak. In a joint investigation with U.S. Postal Inspectors, the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Social Security Office of the Inspector General, and the New Jersey Division of Taxation, the Division charged Tahir and 11 others with first-degree money laundering and second-degree theft for their roles in an elaborate credit card “bust out” scheme involving approximately 100 fraudulent checking accounts or credit cards created through the use of “synthetic” identities. (A synthetic identity is created by pairing valid Social Security numbers, usually belonging to juveniles, with fictitious names and birthdates.) During the scheme, defendants opened fraudulent credit card accounts with “synthetic” identities and had collusive merchants initiate charges against the credit cards, usually up to their limits. The merchants then received payments from the victim credit card companies for those fraudulent charges, and the defendants ultimately failed to make payments on the cards (the “bust

out”). One defendant, who opened a Jersey City business with the sole purpose of defrauding financial institutions, conducted approximately \$1.6 million in fraudulent credit card transactions. Four defendants pled guilty to money laundering and are pending sentence. Four other defendants were indicted on charges including first-degree conspiracy and first-degree money laundering. *Asset Forfeiture*: As a result of this investigation, \$1.9 million in assets were seized. DAsG Lilianne Daniel and Anthony Torntore; former Lt. Harry Maronpot; Dets. James Gallo, Roxanna Ordonez-Fresse, and Katelyn Sake Prata.

State v. Robert Novy. A prominent Ocean County attorney who hosted a radio show and taught seminars on elder law, Novy was arrested on charges for stealing more than \$1.2 million from 4

Jersey Shore Online (2/6/17)

**Novy Facing Criminal Charges,
Ethics Complaint, As State Seeks
Tips From More Families**

elderly clients. He faces charges of first-degree money laundering, second-degree theft, and second-degree misapplication of entrusted property. Novy stole funds from elderly and deceased clients who, in some cases, did not have a close relative to claim

their estate or challenge Novy’s actions, or in other cases suffered from cognitive deficits such as dementia. Novy gained control through his victims’ wills, powers of attorney, and trust documents, making himself the sole financial decision-maker for these clients. He excessively billed several clients without any supporting invoices, withdrew funds from trust accounts, and deposited funds into his personal bank account or his law firm’s operating account. The investigation revealed that he stole more than \$500,000 from one elderly woman, at one point writing himself a check for \$250,000 from the woman’s personal bank account and depositing it into his own personal account. *Asset Forfeiture*: As a result of this investigation, the Division seized approximately \$4.5 million in assets from the defendant. DAsG William Conlow, Peter Gallagher, and Derek Miller; Lt. David Nolan; Sgts. Anne Hayes and Fred Weidman; Dets. Michael Arduini, Naike Casciano, John Neggia, Jordan Thompson, and Michael Woods; Civil Investigators Wayne Cummings and Debra Maiorano; Analyst Terri Drumm; Paralegal Melanie Malewicz.

State v. Germain Theodore. Theodore was sentenced to 5 years in prison for stealing nearly \$300,000 from customers of his debt relief businesses in Maplewood and Jersey City. He defrauded hundreds of customers by promising them reductions in monthly bills in return for up-front fees, but never provided any debt relief or other service. In Essex County, Theodore pled guilty to second-degree theft by failure to make required disposition of property received and was sentenced to five years in state prison. In Hudson County, Theodore pled guilty to third-degree theft and received four years in state prison, concurrent to the Essex County sentence. He must also pay restitution to the customers. DAsG Janet Bosi, Jacalyn Estrada, and Anthony Torntore; former DAsG Frank Brady and Jacqueline Weyand; Lt. Lisa Shea; former Lt. Harry Maronpot; Dets. Mark Byrnes, James Gallo, Roxanna Ordonez-Fresse, and Scott Stevens; former Analysts Chrissy Garthwaite-Ratliff and Kim Geis.



Theodore used his Jersey City company, Save My Future, to scam people battling debt in Hudson County. He told them they could pay him 65% of their monthly bills upfront and Save My Future would then pay the bills in full. Photograph courtesy of NJ.com.

State v. Linda Miller. The Bergen County woman was sentenced to 6 months in county jail and 5 years of probation for stealing \$128,131 by fraudulently collecting Social Security benefits for her mother for nearly 8 years after her mother’s death. Miller pled guilty to second-degree theft by deception. DAG Anthony Torntore; Det. James Gallo.

State v. Artis Hunter, et al. The defendants carried out an elaborate identity theft and mortgage fraud scheme in which they stole nearly \$1 million from various lenders including Fannie Mae. Hunter, the alleged ringleader, pled guilty to first-degree money laundering and was sentenced to 10 years in state prison, including 40 months of parole ineligibility. Co-defendant **Laquan Jones** pled guilty to second-degree money laundering and was sentenced to drug court, with an alternate sentence of five



years in prison. Co-defendant **Melissa Phillip** pled guilty to third-degree money laundering and was sentenced to 2 years of probation, and 69 days in jail as time served. The charges resulted from a joint investigation by the OAG, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, ICE’s Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), and the Federal Housing Financing Agency Office of Inspector General (FHFA-OIG), assisted by U.S. Customs and Border Protection. DAG Anthony Torntore; former DAG T.J. Harker; Sgt. James Scott; Det. James Gallo; Sr. Special Agent Robert Manchak (from FHFA-OIG, assigned to DCJ).

State v. Stephanie Hand, et al. The Division continued its prosecution of 5 individuals, including Essex County attorney Hand, for their roles in a mortgage fraud scheme involving over \$800,000 in fraudulently-obtained loans. The defendants used stolen identities to file fraudulent loan applications, falsified settlement statements, and diverted loan proceeds. Hand was sentenced to eight years in prison after being found guilty by an Essex County jury on second-degree charges of conspiracy, money laundering, and theft by deception. Another defendant pled guilty to first-degree conspiracy to commit money laundering and received a 10-year prison sentence, while another pled guilty to second-degree theft by deception and received a 3-year sentence. The remaining two defendants pled guilty to third-degree conspiracy to commit money laundering and were sentenced to probation. DAsG Jillian Carpenter, Sara Quigley, and Anthony Torntore; former DAG Mary Erin McAnally; Dets. Mark Byrnes and Roxanna Ordonez-Fresse; Analysts Rita Gillis and Amy Patterson.



State v. Toni Ann Branca. The former administrative assistant for Apple, Inc., was indicted for second-degree theft by deception for embezzling approximately \$243,000 from the company, double-billing Apple for reimbursement of business expenses on her company credit card, and then using the resulting credit on the card to buy luxury items for herself. Branca had a company-issued credit card in her name and was authorized to pay for company expenses such as conference rooms and



employee parking. Instead, she used the account for personal retail spending, including purchases at Gucci, Victoria’s Secret, Louis Vuitton, and Home Goods. DAG Derek Miller; Sgt. James Scott; Det. James Gallo; former Analyst Chrissy Garthwaite-Ratcliff.

State v. Sylvia Wilkerson. The Hudson County woman was indicted for allegedly stealing \$272,223 by fraudulently collecting her father’s Social Security, permanent disability, and pension benefits for over 12 years after his death. Wilkerson, a Jersey City resident, was indicted on charges of second-degree theft by deception, second-degree theft by unlawful taking, and fourth-degree forgery following a collaborative investigation by the Division and the Office of the Inspector General of the U.S. Social Security Administration. DAG Jacalyn Estrada; Det. James Gallo.



DAG Thomas Clark (left) appears in court after the indictment of Richard Bernardi (third from left). Photograph courtesy of the Daily Record.

State v. Richard Bernardi. The Division indicted Bernardi and the company he owned and operated, Strategic Environmental Partners (SEP), on first-degree money laundering, second-degree theft by deception, and other related charges. SEP operated the Fenimore Landfill in Roxbury. To secure the contract to operate the landfill, Bernardi lied to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the former landowner about SEP’s capabilities and plans to close the landfill and develop the site into a solar farm. He also diverted \$5 million in tipping fees—fees paid to SEP to deposit materials at the landfill—for personal and unauthorized use. DAG Thomas Clark; former DAG Mary Erin McAnally; Lt. Lisa Shea; Dets. Kimberly Allen, Benjamin Kukis, and John Neggia.

State v. Tara Stokes and Lawrence Humphrey. Defendants, both New York residents, were indicted for using bad checks to purchase two homes in Gloucester County and one in Camden County. The couple wrote checks totaling over \$1 million for the three homes, drawing on fictitious bank accounts or accounts without sufficient funds. Each fraud was detected before the deeds to the homes could be recorded. They face charges of second-degree conspiracy, and multiple counts of theft by deception and passing bad checks. DAG William Conlow; Det. Richard Loufik.

West Deptford Patch (12/12/16)
NY Couple Wrote Bad Checks In Purchases Of 3 South Jersey Homes



Thomas Fagan.

State v. Thomas Fagan. The Division tried Fagan, the CEO of Energex Systems, Inc., a Bergen County biotech firm, for stealing over \$230,000 in investor funds from the business. Fagan used the stolen money to fund an extravagant personal lifestyle, and was charged with second-degree corporate misconduct, theft, and money laundering. Fagan was convicted at trial of multiple counts of tax evasion, but the Mercer County jury deadlocked on the more serious second-degree charges. DASG Peter Gallagher and Derek Miller; Lts. Edward Augustyn, Michael Fallon, and David Nolan; Sgt. Cheryl Smith; Dets. Richard Loufik and Eric Ludwick; former Analyst Alison Callery; Paralegal Melanie Malewicz.

State v. Darrell Williams. The defendant, a Maryland resident, was indicted on second-degree charges of impersonation, theft by deception, and money laundering. Williams is alleged to have used false identities to create a fictitious shell company in New Jersey and opened a bank account in the name of the shell company for the purpose of depositing a \$469,364 check stolen from a Georgia corporation. DAG Derek Miller; Det. James Gallo; Analyst Rita Gillis.

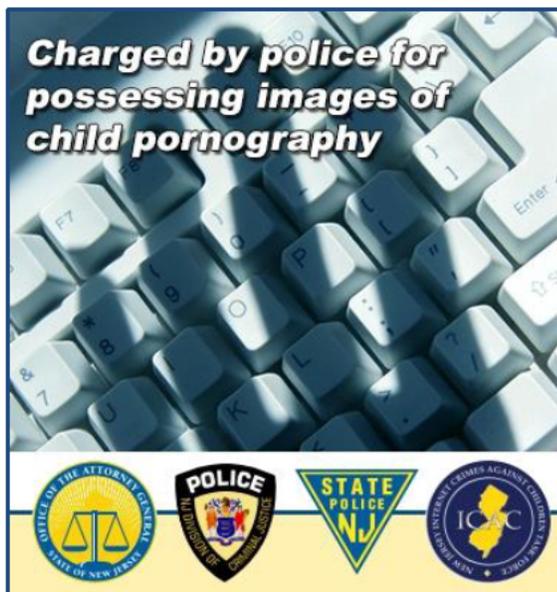
State v. Andrys Gomez, et al. Gomez, a Hudson County attorney, and 11 co-defendants were indicted on charges including first-degree money laundering and conspiracy, and second-degree theft by deception, for their roles in a mortgage fraud conspiracy. Gomez used her position as an attorney to file fraudulent mortgage applications and HUD settlement forms to obtain mortgage proceeds, which she then funneled through her attorney trust account. In total, Gomez and her co-defendants stole over \$1 million through the scheme. Four defendants were accepted into the Pretrial Intervention Program (PTI). Five defendants pled guilty to money laundering or theft, and all are scheduled for sentencing in 2018. *Asset Forfeiture:* As a result of this investigation, the Division seized approximately \$800,000 in assets and a brand new Corvette. DAsG Jillian Carpenter and Anthony Torntore; former DAG Mary Erin McAnally; Sgt. Anne Hayes; former Analyst Alison Callery.

State v. Richard Legemah, et al. Legemah, a resident of Georgia, was indicted along with his shipping company on second-degree charges of theft by deception, impersonation, and misconduct by a corporate official stemming from his sophisticated theft scheme which duped a New Jersey-based religious organization into wire transferring \$187,859 to a bank account believed to be that of a real vendor of the religious organization. Legemah also attempted the theft of an additional \$98,359 from the religious organization through the same deception. DAG Thomas Clark; Det. James Gallo.

Asset Forfeiture

In 2017, the Division seized approximately \$1.5 million in monetary assets. The Division also obtained judgments forfeiting over \$2.1 million in 2017. DAsG Alyssa Bloom, Derek Miller, and Susan Wolansky; Det. Naika Casciano; Civil Investigator Debra Maiorano; Administrative Analysts Kimberly Lynch and Sherri Wells; Paralegal Melanie Malewicz.

Cyber Crime – Child Pornography



In 2013, New Jersey strengthened its child pornography laws, bringing them closer in line with federal laws. The new laws included enhanced penalties based upon the number of items of child pornography (images or videos) possessed or distributed, a presumption of imprisonment for defendants convicted of possessing 100 or more items of child pornography, and a requisite 5-year mandatory minimum prison sentence without possibility of parole for defendants convicted of distributing 25 or more items of child pornography.

In 2017, New Jersey further strengthened its child pornography laws, which will take effect on February 1, 2018. The new laws include Leader of a Child Pornography Network, which may be graded up to a first-degree offense if the offense involves 100,000 or more items of child pornography. The new legislation also adds “child erotica” to the definition of “item depicting the sexual exploitation or abuse of a child.” Moreover, distribution of 1,000

or more items of child pornography is now a first-degree crime, as is possession of 100,000 or more items, while possession of at least 1,000 items is now a second-degree crime. Videos depicting child pornography now count as 10 images for aggregation purposes. The new legislation also expands the application of Megan’s Law and Parole Supervision for Life.



Operation Safety Net. Following a 9-month multi-agency investigation, 79 child predators and child pornography offenders were arrested, with arrests taking place in every county. To assist in the execution of search warrants, investigators deployed a new van equipped as a mobile cyber forensics lab and a new canine trained to sniff out electronic devices. Those arrested included 10 “hands-on” offenders, including those who attempted interstate trafficking of children for sex, sexual assault, luring, sending obscene images to a child, or manufacturing child pornography. Defendants ranged in age from 14 to 79, and included a camp counselor, a youth minister, a piano teacher, a police officer from Mercer County, and an IT professional from Morris County who possessed over 138,000 files of child pornography. Bureau Chief Michael Monahan; Deputy Bureau Chief Julia Glass; DAsG Alyssa Bloom, Brian Faulk, Thomas Huynh, Layli Khelafa, Brandy Malfitano, Marie McGovern, John Nicodemo, Joseph Remy, and Rachael Weeks; Lts. Jon Powers and Lisa Shea; Dets. Kimberly Allen, Abraham Aquino, Michael Arduini, Garrett Brown, Matthew Burd, Sonya Carney, Richard DaSilva, Scott Donlan, Celeste Dowd, Keith Franco, James Gallo, Shawn Gorlin, Carlos Hernandez, Suzanna Lopez, Kevin Madore, James Mahady, Kahlil McGrady, John Neggia, Charles Pusloski, Ho Chul Shin, Sandeep Singh, and Janet Thai; former Det. Laura Hurley; Executive Assistant Francine Venceller; New Jersey State Police (NJSP) Det. Sgt. Paul Sciortino; NJSP Dets. Jennifer Amato-Riddle, Katie Feehan, Brett Munch, and Joseph Santamaria.



Trooper Slawek Stepien and K-9 Mega, who is trained to sniff out computer storage devices. As electronic devices become smaller and easier to hide, the importance of dogs trained to detect them increases.

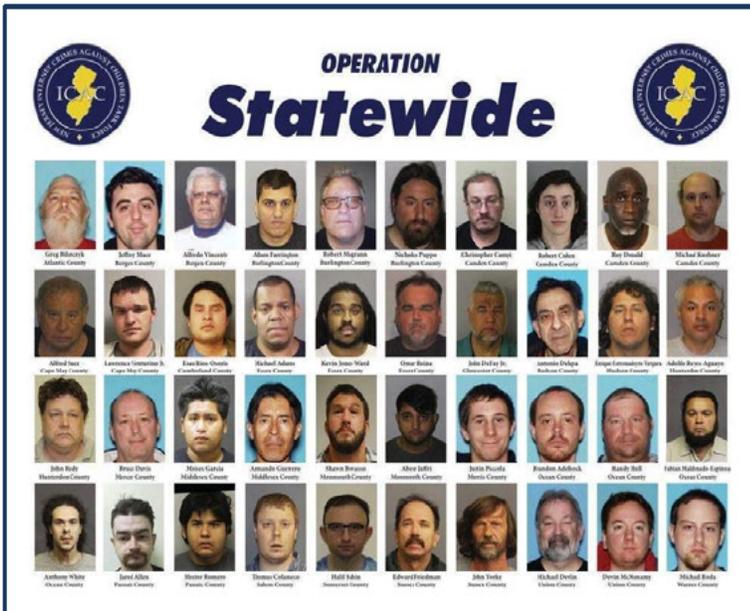
- **State v. George Castillo.** The California resident pled guilty to federal charges of transportation of a minor with intent to engage in criminal sexual activity and production of child pornography, for which his recommended sentence will be a cap of 25 years (of which he must serve 85%). He also faces a New Jersey charge of first-degree conspiracy to commit child trafficking for his solicitation of an undercover New Jersey State Police detective—who pretended to be trafficking children—to fly a four-year-old girl to Los Angeles so he could sexually assault her.

- **State v. Joseph Donohew.** The Indiana resident is charged in Indiana with attempted child molestation. He offered money to an undercover NJSP detective, whom he met on an instant messaging platform, to have sex with a nine-year-old girl. Donohew sent the detective \$100 as a down payment to bring the girl to Indiana for sex.
- **State v. Robert Elmi.** The Morris County resident was charged with second-degree luring a child after he placed an ad on Craigslist soliciting a relationship with a younger female. An undercover NJSP detective responded to the ad, posing as a 13-year-old girl. Elmi arranged to meet the “girl” at a diner for the purpose of taking her back to his apartment to engage in sex acts. He was arrested by the State Police when he appeared at the diner for the intended meeting.



DCJ staff stand in front of the new support van equipped as a mobile cyber forensics lab used for on-site forensic previewing.

Operation Statewide. The Division continued its prosecution of 17 men—among 40 arrested in the sweep, including at least 1 from every county—who were charged with possession of child pornography after a 6-month joint investigation by the Division, NJSP Digital Technology Investigations Unit (DTIU), ICE’s Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), and the NJ Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force. Defendants range in age from 20 to 72, and include a former teacher, construction workers, computer professionals, and a custodian in the Long Branch School District. Of the 40 arrested, 37 were charged with distribution. Those convicted of distributing more than 25 items of child pornography face a 5-year mandatory minimum prison sentence without the possibility of parole.

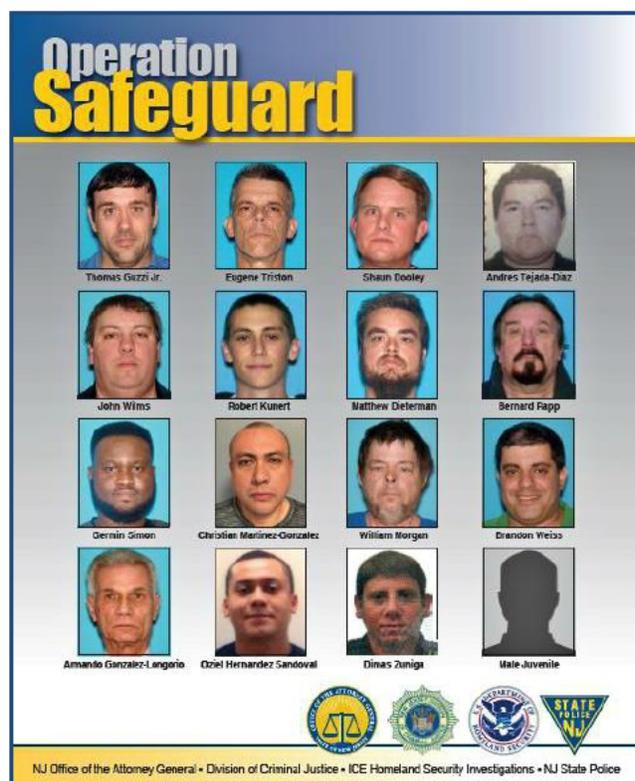


Bureau Chief Michael Monahan; Deputy Bureau Chief Julia Glass; former Deputy Bureau Chief Veronica Allende; DAsG Jillian Carpenter, Lilianne Daniel, Layli Khelafa, Marie McGovern, John Nicodemo, Joseph Remy, and Rachael Weeks; former DAG Denise Grugan; Lts. Jon Powers and Lisa Shea; Dets. Abraham Aquino, Richard DaSilva, Carlos Hernandez, Kimberly Allen, Michael Arduini, Keith Franco, John Neggia, and Kahlil McGrady; former Dets. Laura Hurley and Tiffany Lenart; Executive Assistant Francine Venceller; NJSP Det. Sgt. Christopher Camm; NJSP Dets. Katie Feehan, Brian Kearns, Brett Munch, and Joseph Santamaria.

- **State v. John DeFay, Jr.** The Gloucester County IT manager pled guilty to second-degree distribution of child pornography after he was found with over 76,000 videos and images of child pornography on his computer devices. DeFay was sentenced to 7 years in state prison with 2½ years of parole ineligibility, will be required to register as a sex offender under Megan’s Law, and will be subject to parole supervision for life.

- **State v. Bruce Davis.** The Ocean County resident pled guilty to second-degree distribution of child pornography after admitting he knowingly used file-sharing software to make multiple files of child pornography readily available for any other users to download from his “shared folder.” Davis was sentenced to 5 years in state prison with 2½ years of parole ineligibility, will be required to register as a sex offender under Megan’s Law, and will be subject to parole supervision for life.
- **State v. Fabian Maldonado-Espinosa.** The Ocean County resident was sentenced to 5 years in state prison with 2½ of parole ineligibility after he pled guilty to second-degree distribution of child pornography. He will be required to register as a sex offender under Megan’s Law and will be subject to parole supervision for life.

Operation Safeguard. The Division and HSI arrested 17 defendants who used online file-sharing networks to download and distribute child pornography, including videos of young children being raped. The defendants include an elementary school teacher from Vineland and a school bus driver from Sparta. All of the defendants were charged with both possession and distribution of child pornography, and all face 5 to 10 years in state prison under the strengthened child pornography laws that went into effect in 2013. Bureau Chief Michael Monahan; former Deputy Bureau Chief Veronica Allende; DAsG Jillian Carpenter, Lillianne Daniel, Marie McGovern, John Nicodemo, Joseph Remy, and Layli Khelafa; former DAsG Denise Grugan and Anand Shah; Lts. Jon Powers and Lisa Shea; Dets. Kimberly Allen, Abraham Aquino, Michael Arduini, Richard DaSilva, Carlos Hernandez, John Neggia, and Charles Pusloski; former Dets. Laura Hurley and Tiffany Lenart; Executive Assistant Francine Venceller.



- **State v. Dimas Zuniga.** The Union County man pled guilty to second-degree distribution of child pornography by admitting that he knowingly used a file-sharing program to make approximately 350 videos and images of child pornography readily available for other users to download from his “shared folder.” Zuniga was sentenced to five years in state prison. He will be required to register as a sex offender under Megan’s Law and will be subject to parole supervision for life.
- **State v. William Morgan.** The Monmouth County resident was sentenced to three years in state prison after pleading guilty to second-degree distribution of child pornography. Detectives monitoring a peer-to-peer network associated him with more than 200 files of suspected child pornography, many of which were available for other users to download using file-sharing software. Morgan will be required to register as a sex offender under Megan’s Law and will be subject to parole supervision for life.

Operation Predator Alert I and II. The Division continued its prosecution of 28 defendants who were arrested on charges of distributing and possessing child pornography over Internet file-sharing programs. These cases marked the first major utilization of New Jersey’s tougher child pornography laws, which went into effect in August 2013. Using advanced technology, investigators searched for telltale digital “fingerprints” of known child pornography files, as well as search terms used by those who download and share child pornography. Through these and other methods, investigators identified users who were downloading and making child pornography available to others in “shared folders” on their computers. Defendants include two school bus drivers from Mays Landing and a Merchantville church volunteer who sought to become a youth minister. Those who have been sentenced have received terms ranging from probation to 10 years in state prison with 8½ years without parole. The remaining defendants face charges of possession of child pornography, and most also face distribution

charges. Bureau Chief Michael Monahan; former Deputy Bureau Chief Kenneth Sharpe; DAsG Jillian Carpenter, Lilianne Daniel, Marie McGovern, and Joseph Remy; former DAsG Denise Grugan, Naju Lathia, and Anand Shah; Lt. Lisa Shea; Sgts. Paul Marfino and Cheryl Smith; former Sgt. Thomas Turley; Dets. Abraham Aquino, Richard Loufik, Joseph McCray, John Neggia, and Thomas Page; former Det. Tiffany Lenart.



State v. Thomas Pirretti. After being arrested on charges of possessing and distributing child pornography stemming from *Operation Predator Alert* (see above), Pirretti used the Nintendo Network to contact underage victims, including a 16-year old autistic California girl and an 11-year old Colorado girl. He repeatedly communicated with his victims and solicited them to send sexually explicit photos of themselves. Pirretti pled guilty to second-degree manufacturing of child pornography and five other second- and third-degree counts related to child pornography and debauching the morals of a child. Under the plea agreement, the State is expected to recommend a sentence of five years in state prison and he will be required to register as a sex offender under Megan’s Law and will be subject to parole supervision for life. He will be sentenced in early 2018. DAG Joseph Remy; former DAG Anand Shah; Lt. Lisa Shea; former Sgt. Thomas Turley; Dets. Abraham Aquino and Richard DaSilva.

Trentonian (12/14/17)
Flemington man pleads guilty to soliciting child porn from girl with autism

State v. Philip Carry. The Bergen County man was indicted for attempting to lure a 15-year-old girl into having a sexual encounter with him by sending her sexually explicit texts. He faces charges of second-degree luring a child, third-degree showing obscene materials to a person under 18, and third-degree attempt to show obscene materials to a person under 18. The second-degree charge carries a sentence of 5 to 10 years in state prison. DAG Joseph Remy; NJSP Det. Brian Kearns.

Operation Ever Vigilant. Following a three-month investigation conducted by the Division, the State Police DTIU, the U.S. Postal Service, and other members of the ICAC Task Force, the Division arrested 26 defendants on charges of distributing child pornography over the Internet through peer-to-peer file-sharing software. Several defendants had regular access to children in their jobs or otherwise. To date, 18 defendants have entered guilty pleas in this ongoing prosecution. Those who have been sentenced have received sentences ranging from probation to five years in state prison, and each must register as a sex offender under Megan’s Law. Former Deputy Bureau Chief Kenneth Sharpe; DAsG Jillian Carpenter, Lilianne Daniel, Marie McGovern, and Joseph Remy; former DAsG Denise Grugan, Naju Lathia, and Anand Shah; NJSP Det. Sgts. Christopher Camm, Christopher DeAngelis, Ryan Hoppock, and Paul Sciortino; NJSP Det. Michael Williams.



State v. Gustavo Idrovo. The Perth Amboy resident pled guilty to charges of second-degree photographing or filming a child in a prohibited sexual act and third-degree possession of child pornography after he admitted to secretly recording videos of an underage girl naked using a camera he hid in the bathroom of the apartment where the girl lived. Idrovo also pled guilty to possessing multiple files of child pornography on his computer. He was sentenced to five years in state prison, will be required to register as a sex offender under Megan’s Law, and will be subject to parole supervision for life. DAG Joseph Remy; NJSP Det. Joseph Santamaria.

State v. Craig Wyatt. The Burlington County resident was sentenced to 5 years in prison—of which he will be required to serve 85% before he is eligible for parole—for stalking a 13-year-old girl on the Internet and threatening to kidnap her to coerce her into sending him sexually explicit photos of herself. A trial was held in August 2016 but ended in a mistrial. Wyatt subsequently pled guilty to first-degree manufacturing child pornography and third-degree possession of child pornography. He will be required to register as a sex offender under Megan’s Law and will be subject to parole supervision for



NJ Advance Media for NJ.com (9/8/17)
**Prison for ‘serial predator’
who got scared girl to
send nude photos**

life. Wyatt was previously convicted and served jail time for stalking young girls on the Internet and sending them threatening messages. DAsG Jillian Carpenter and Sarah Lichter; former DAG Denise Grugan; Analysts Terri Drumm and Rita Gillis; NJSP Det. Sgt. Christopher Camm.

State v. Justin Bozinta. The former East Orange middle school gym teacher and high school wrestling coach was indicted for possessing child pornography and operating a marijuana production facility. Bozinta uploaded images of child pornography to a Google+ photo account using a computer located at a school facility. While executing a search warrant at Bozinta’s home as part of the child pornography investigation, detectives found a major indoor marijuana growing operation, including 40 growing plants and packaging materials. Bozinta was indicted for third-degree possession of child pornography, first-degree operating a marijuana production facility, second-degree possession of marijuana within 500 feet of a public park, and other related charges. DAG Marie McGovern; Lt. Lisa Shea; former Sgt. Thomas Turley; Det. Richard DaSilva.

State v. Daniel Derringer, III. The former Union County resident used the Internet to blackmail five young teenagers across the country into posing nude and engaging in sexual conduct on web cameras while he recorded them. Derringer was sentenced to 12 years in state prison after he pled guilty to 2 counts of second-degree manufacturing child pornography, second-degree distribution of

NJ Advance Media for NJ.com (11/17/17)

Former NJ man admits tricking teen girls into sex acts on webcam

child pornography, and third-degree debauching the morals of a child. The investigation began when a 15-year-old girl in Minnesota reported to police that she had been coerced into engaging in sexual conduct on a webcam by a person who contacted her online through a social networking site, claiming to be another girl of the same age. That person was later identified as

Derringer. He will be required to register as a sex offender under Megan's Law and will be subject to parole supervision for life. DAsG Lilianne Daniel and Brandy Malfitano; NJSP Det. Michael Williams.

State v. John Terruso. The former chief of the Audubon Park Volunteer Fire Company pled guilty to charges of second-degree distribution of child pornography and third-degree possession of 100 or more files of child pornography, and was sentenced to 6 years in prison with 3 years of parole ineligibility. Terruso used a computer at the fire station to share child pornography online using a peer-to-peer file-sharing network. The investigation revealed more than 1,000 files of child pornography on computer equipment Terruso used. DAG John Nicodemo; Lt. Lisa Shea; former Sgt. Thomas Turley; Dets. Kimberly Allen, Richard DaSilva, and John Neggia.



Deputy Bureau Chief Mark Kurzawa and DAG John Nicodemo appear in court. Photograph courtesy of The Burlington County Times.

State v. Shawn Patrick Rose, Jr. The Cape May County man was arrested on a third-degree charge after he uploaded numerous videos and images of child pornography online. Rose also faces first-degree charges in South Carolina for soliciting a 13-year-old girl there to engage in sexually explicit conduct on a webcam. The multi-state investigation revealed that in addition to uploading child pornography, Rose targeted underage girls on social media sites, engaging in sexual chats and manipulating the South Carolina victim into providing him with sexually explicit images of herself. The third-degree New Jersey charge carries a sentence of three to five years in state prison. DAG Joseph Remy; Dets. Scott Donlan and Charles Pusloski.

State v. Oliver Beccerra De La Cruz. The Union County man was sentenced to state prison for distributing child pornography on the Internet. Numerous videos of child pornography, including child rape videos, were detected on his computer by detectives investigating individuals using a peer-to-peer network to share child pornography files. De La Cruz pled guilty to second-degree distribution of child pornography and was sentenced to 5 years in state prison with 25 months of parole ineligibility.

NJ 101.5 (11/11/17)

Summit man sentenced to 5 years for sharing child-rape videos

He will be required to register as a sex offender under Megan's Law and will be subject to parole supervision for life. DAG Joseph Remy; former Dets. Laura Hurley and Tiffany Lenart.

State v. Ethan Chandler.

The Belleville resident—who ran a video production company focused on youth sports out of his Essex County home—was indicted for second-degree luring of a child, second-degree sexual assault of a minor, and fourth-degree criminal sexual conduct after a joint investigation with the NJSP DTIU. Chandler placed an ad on Craigslist soliciting oral sex with a young man, and a State Trooper responded and communicated with Chandler via the mobile chat app Kik, posing as a 13-year-old boy. After Chandler engaged in sexually explicit chats with the “teen” and asked to meet him in person, NJSP executed a search warrant at his home. They found evidence that Chandler, on multiple occasions, had engaged in sex with a 14-year-old boy whom he met on a social media site. He faces up to 10 years in state prison on each of the second-degree charges. DAsG Layli Khelafa and Brandy Malfitano; NJSP Det. Sgt. Paul Sciortino.



General Porriño and Director Honig announce Chandler's arrest. Photograph courtesy of NJ.com.

State v. Johnny Sims. The North Brunswick resident pled guilty to second-degree distribution of child pornography and was sentenced to three years in state prison. Sims will be required to register as a sex offender under Megan's Law and will be subject to parole supervision for life. As a result of the investigation, numerous videos of child pornography, including child rape videos, were found on his computer. DAsG Lilianne Daniel and Anthony Torntore; Det. Michael Arduini.

! **Report Incidents to the ICAC Tip Line**

888-648-6007

- ! **Anyone who sends your child photos or videos containing obscene content**
- ! **Anyone speaking to your child in a sexual manner**
- ! **Anyone who asks your child to meet in person**

New Jersey Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force

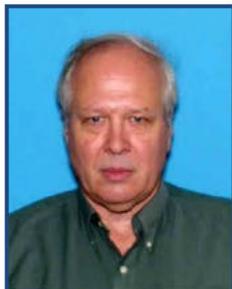
State v. Charles Diggs. The Roselle resident pled guilty to second-degree possession of child pornography with intent to distribute, and is scheduled to be sentenced in April 2018. Investigating a tip from the National Center for Exploited and Missing Children, officers connected Diggs to a Twitter account that had uploaded and distributed images of child pornography. A search warrant of his home computer equipment revealed an enormous collection of child pornography—more than 16,000 files of child pornography, including a large number of videos, many of which depicted the rape of very young children. DAsG Alyssa Bloom and Lilianne Daniel; NJSP Det. Brian Kearns.

State v. Steven Robinson. The Monmouth County man was arrested for using a file-sharing network to distribute approximately 100 images and videos of child pornography over the Internet from his home computer. He was charged with second-degree distribution of child pornography and third-degree possession of child pornography. DAG Brian Faulk.

State v. Michael Jimenez. The New York attorney was arrested for distributing child pornography through anonymous Twitter accounts that he created and accessed from his Milburn law office (he is not licensed to practice law in New Jersey). Search warrants revealed that Jimenez had more than 100 files of child pornography on devices seized from his home. He was charged with second-degree distribution and third-degree possession of more than 100 images of child pornography. The investigation began after the ICAC received a tip from the National Center for Exploited and Missing Children about three Twitter accounts that were used to distribute images of child pornography. Jimenez had more than 800 followers on Twitter who had received the images. DAsG Brandy Malfitano and John Nicodemo; NJSP Det. Brian Kearns.



State v. Phillip Heiney. The president of the Dunellen Board of Education was charged with second-degree distribution and third-degree possession of child pornography for using a file-sharing network to share videos of child pornography over the Internet. The charges stem from an investigation initiated by a NJSP DTIU detective assigned to the ICAC who identified a computer address that was offering multiple child pornography files for any user to download. The IP address sharing the child pornography was traced to Heiney's residence. After the case was referred from NJSP, the Division's investigation led to corroborating evidence from the Washoe County Sheriff's Office in Nevada, which had also downloaded a child pornography video from a shared folder at the same IP address that was linked to Heiney's home. After executing a search warrant, investigators seized more than 100 pieces of computer equipment from Heiney's home, including laptops, hard drives, thumb drives, and other storage devices. Heiney faces up to 10 years in state prison for the distribution charge. DAG Marie McGovern; former Det. Laura Hurley.



Phillip Heiney.

State v. Kevin Smith. A former executive assistant with the N.J. Division of Income Security, Smith was arrested on charges that he used his state computer to search for and view child pornography. He had more than 100 files of child pornography stored on optical disks and a thumb drive found in his cubicle at work. Smith was suspended from his position in June—and subsequently retired—after supervisors at the Department of Labor and Workforce Development received a tip that he was viewing inappropriate materials on his work computer. Smith was charged with third-degree possession of 100 or more files of child pornography, a charge that carries the presumption of incarceration even for first-time offenders. DAsG Brian Faulk and Layli Khelafa; NJSP Det. Brett Munch.

State v. Peifeng Meng. The Pennington resident was arrested for using file-sharing software to share child pornography videos and images over the Internet. During the search warrant execution on his home, Meng attempted to grab the handgun of one of the officers, but was subdued before he could take the gun. Two officers suffered minor injuries in the scuffle. Meng faces charges of second-degree distribution of 25 or more child pornography files, third-degree possession of child pornography, second-degree attempt to disarm a law enforcement officer, and third-degree aggravated assault on an officer. DAsG Jillian Carpenter and Brian Faulk; former Det. Laura Hurley.

Princeton Patch (12/15/16)

Man Tries To Steal Detective's Gun During Child Porn Investigation At His Home

Commercial Bribery Task Force (CBTF)

The new Task Force was formed in January 2016 to target commercial bribery in the healthcare industry.

The Task Force includes deputy attorneys general and investigators from DCJ's Financial and Computer Crimes Bureau and the Office of the Insurance Fraud Prosecutor.

NJ Advance Media for NJ.com (6/29/17)

Doctors raked in cash to push fentanyl as N.J. death rate exploded

State v. Manoj Patharkar, et al. The

Division indicted Patharkar, a medical doctor, and co-conspirator **Mohammed Shamshair** on first-degree money laundering and other charges for facilitating a sophisticated scheme to hide over \$3.6 million in income from Patharkar's medical practice, resulting in underpayment of over \$320,000 in taxes owed to

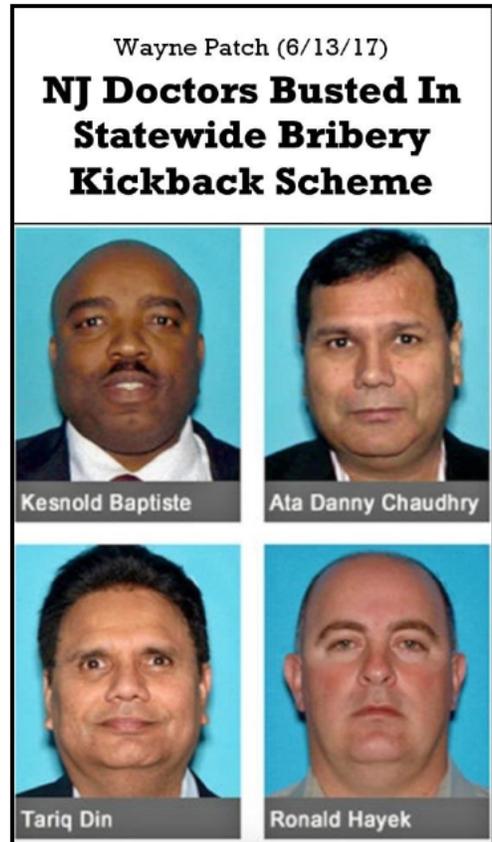
New Jersey. Patharkar initiated the scheme by fabricating employee payroll and wage expenses totaling over \$2.1 million and by diverting checks worth over \$1.4 million into his personal rather than business accounts. Defendants then conspired to use the laundered money for kickbacks to other doctors (including *Dr. Alexander Dimeo*, see below) in return for providing patient referrals worth millions of dollars. Shamshair pled guilty to first-degree money laundering, conspiracy, and second-degree conspiracy to commit commercial bribery, and admitted that he paid cash kickbacks totaling \$1.5 million on behalf of Patharkar in return for referrals to Patharkar's pain management clinics, located in Edison and Passaic. Shamshair faces a recommended sentence of eight years in state prison. Patharkar, both individually and on behalf of his pain management company, pled guilty to first-degree money laundering and conspiracy, and filing fraudulent tax returns and failure to pay taxes. He also pled guilty to an accusation charging him with conspiracy and commercial bribery. Patharkar faces a recommended sentence of 10 years in prison with 5 years of parole ineligibility. Under the plea agreement, Patharkar is required to pay an anti-money laundering penalty of \$500,000. Additionally, the State Board of Medical Examiners permanently revoked his medical license for indiscriminately prescribing a powerful oral spray painkiller approved only for use by certain cancer patients. DAsG Jillian Carpenter and Lilianne Daniel; former DAsG T.J. Harker and Bradford Mueller; Lt. Lisa Shea; Dets. Kimberly Allen, Natalie Brotherston, John Campanella, Anthony Correll, Cortney Lawrence, John Neggia, and Taryn Seidner; Analysts Rita Gillis and Bethany Schussler; former Analyst Kim Geis.

State v. Dr. Alexander Dimeo. The Morris County chiropractor admitted to taking more than \$250,000 in illegal kickbacks from doctors and others in return for referring patients to their practices, clinics, and medical imaging centers. He admitted that he accepted approximately \$56,000 from *Manoj Patharkar* (see above). Dimeo pled guilty to an accusation charging him with conspiracy, money laundering, commercial bribery, and related offenses. He also pled guilty to an accusation filed by the Office of the Insurance Fraud Prosecutor charging him with a single count of third-degree conspiracy and was sentenced to probation. Dimeo must pay an anti-money laundering penalty of up to \$250,000 and restitution to the State for any taxes he owes for kickbacks not reported on his tax returns. DAsG Crystal Callahan, Jillian Carpenter, and Colin Keiffer; former DAG T.J. Harker; Lts. Anthony Butler and Lisa Shea; Dets. Kimberly Allen, Wendy Berg, John Campanella, Anthony Correll, John Neggia, and Grace Rocca; Analysts Rita Gillis and Bethany Schussler; former Analyst Kim Geis.



DAG Crystal Callahan appears in court. Photograph courtesy of NJ.com.

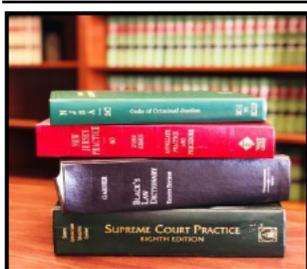
State v. Dr. Kesnold Baptiste, et al. The Division arrested Baptiste, a North Jersey chiropractor, for accepting tens of thousands of dollars in illegal kickbacks from medical imaging centers in return for referring patients. Baptiste is accused of accepting bribes from **Ata “Danny” Chaudhry** and **Tariq Din**, both medical imaging facility owners who were involved in a statewide healthcare-related bribery conspiracy involving dozens of doctors, lawyers, and medical facility operators. Both Chaudhry and Din pled guilty to second-degree conspiracy, money laundering, commercial bribery, and corporate misconduct for paying more than \$850,000 combined to over 15 physicians and other professionals in exchange for referrals to their imaging facilities. The 2 men are each scheduled to be sentenced in 2018. **Dr. Ronald Hayek**, a Totowa chiropractor, also pled guilty to charges stemming from his acceptance of kickbacks from imaging facility owners, and is pending sentencing. DAsG Crystal Callahan, Jillian Carpenter, and Colin Keiffer; Lts. Anthony Butler and Lisa Shea; Dets. Kimberly Allen, Wendy Berg, John Campanella, Anthony Correll, John Neggia, Grace Rocca, and Jason Volpe; Analysts Kelley Celenza, Rita Gillis, and Bethany Schussler.



APPELLATE BUREAU

Bureau Chief: Daniel I. Bornstein

Deputy Bureau Chiefs: Carol Henderson, Frank Muroski



Since its inception in 1970, the Division of Criminal Justice has included the Appellate Bureau, which is charged with the mandate to represent the State in criminal appeals before the Supreme Court and Appellate Division. The Appellate Bureau participates in approximately 80% of all criminal appeals before the New Jersey Supreme Court, either as counsel for the State or as amicus curiae.

In addition to handling criminal appeals, the Appellate Bureau files answers to petitions for writs of habeas corpus and forfeiture-of-office complaints. The Appellate Bureau also coordinates, advises, and assists county prosecutors in handling appeals and provides legal advice and assistance on criminal issues to the Attorney General, county and municipal prosecutors, and other state departments and agencies.

In **State v. Robinson**, 229 N.J. 44 (2017), the New Jersey Supreme Court granted the State’s motion for leave to appeal and reversed an Appellate Division decision requiring broad discovery in advance of pretrial detention hearings. The Court revised the pretrial detention discovery rule to require the State to provide statements and reports relating to the Affidavit of Probable Cause or otherwise relied on by the prosecutor at the detention hearing. These obligations are substantially more narrow than the obligations that had been imposed on the State under the Appellate Division’s interpretation of the former rule. Director Elie Honig; DAG Claudia Demitro.



Director Honig argues the Robinson case before the New Jersey Supreme Court.

NJ Advance Media for NJ.com (8/1/17)

N.J. Supreme Court gives prosecutors a win in bail reform fight



DAG Claudia Demitro argues the Ingram case before the New Jersey Supreme Court.

In **State v. Ingram**, 230 N.J. 190 (2017), the New Jersey Supreme Court adopted the State’s position that a prosecutor can proceed by proffer at a pretrial detention hearing, and that a live witness is unnecessary for the State to satisfy its burden. The ruling ensures the efficiency of pretrial detention hearings and prevents harassment of victims and witnesses who would otherwise have to come to court to testify and be cross-examined within days of the crime. DAG Claudia Demitro (representing the Attorney General as amicus curiae).

In **State v. Dunbar**, 229 N.J. 521 (2017), the New Jersey Supreme Court agreed with the State that a dog sniff of the air surrounding a vehicle is not a search in the constitutional sense and can be conducted without particularized suspicion of wrongdoing. The Court held that an officer can subject a lawfully-stopped vehicle to a drug-canine sniff without particularized suspicion so long as the canine sniff does not prolong the stop beyond the time required to complete the stop’s mission. Deputy Bureau Chief Frank Muroski.

NJ Advance Media for NJ.com (7/12/17)
Fed standard for canine sniffs passes smell test, N.J. Supreme Court rules

In **State v. Harper**, 229 N.J. 228 (2017), the New Jersey Supreme Court accepted the State’s interpretation of New Jersey’s gun-amnesty law, L. 2013, c. 117, which provided that any person who unlawfully possessed a firearm on the effective date of the law could “retain possession” of that firearm for a period of “not more than 180 days.” The law further provided that, during the 180-day time period, the possessor of the firearm must (1) transfer that firearm to any person lawfully entitled to own or possess it, or (2) voluntarily surrender that firearm pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2C:39-12. The Court accepted the State’s position that the Legislature never intended to afford blanket immunity for all illegal gun possessors for a six-month period. Rather, the Legislature simply intended to encourage compliance with our gun laws by creating a way for those already possessing illegal guns at the time the law took

NJ Advance Media for NJ.com (6/6/17)
N.J. high court says gun amnesty law isn’t a get out of jail free card

effect to have a means by which they could lawfully dispose of their illegal weapons prior to arrest, in no more than 180 days, without fear of prosecution. The Court also accepted the State’s position that a defense under the gun-amnesty law, like any other affirmative defense, must be raised prior to trial lest it be deemed waived. DAG Jennifer Kmiecik.

In **State v. C.H.**, 228 N.J. 111 (2017), the New Jersey Supreme Court agreed with the State’s position that State v. Hernandez, 208 N.J. 24 (2011), should be modified to prohibit defendants from receiving windfall benefits from double jail credit on multiple consecutive sentences. The Supreme Court held that when a defendant is sentenced to consecutive sentences on two separate indictments, he is not entitled to double credit so long as he receives the optimal credit for time spent in pre-sentence custody. Bureau Chief Daniel Bornstein.

In **State v. Nance**, 228 N.J. 378 (2017), the New Jersey Supreme Court agreed with the State that only an Assignment Judge or his or her designee is authorized to grant a Graves Act waiver, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2C:43-6.2, and that an individual sentencing judge has no discretion to grant a Graves Act waiver that has not been agreed to by the Assignment Judge or his or her designee. The Court also agreed with the State that if a defendant is charged with a second-degree Graves Act offense, the presumption of imprisonment applies, and thus a court cannot sentence a second-degree Graves Act offender to probation without finding that the presumption of imprisonment has been overcome. Bureau Chief Daniel Bornstein.



Bureau Chief Daniel Bornstein (left, with Director Honig) was honored by the County Prosecutors Association of New Jersey (CPANJ) with the Career Service Award.

In **State v. Benjamin**, 228 N.J. 358 (2017), the New Jersey Supreme Court agreed with the State that when the State refuses to give the Graves Act mandatory minimum term under the Graves Act



Deputy Bureau Chief Carol Henderson argues State v. Joe before the New Jersey Supreme Court.

escape valve, N.J.S.A. 2C:43-6.2, the defendant is not entitled to discovery from unrelated cases in which the State agreed to a waiver under the escape valve.

Deputy Bureau Chief Carol Henderson.

In **State v. Joe**, 228 N.J. 125 (2017), the New Jersey Supreme Court held that a defendant is not entitled to jail credit in New Jersey for pre-sentence time served in another jurisdiction on charges from that other jurisdiction.

Deputy Bureau Chief Carol Henderson.

In **State v. Dorn**, Docket No. 078399, the Court accepted briefs and heard oral argument on the following issues: (1) whether an indictment was properly amended prior to trial to upgrade a drug charge from third-degree to second-degree, and (2) whether the State properly authenticated a map depicting drug-free zones and whether defendant waived his right to object to same. DAG Lila Leonard.

In **State v. Wilson**, 227 N.J. 534 (2017), the New Jersey Supreme Court held that admission into evidence of a county-adopted drug-zone map, without testimony from the map's preparer, does not violate a defendant's right of confrontation under Crawford v. Washington, 541 U.S. 36 (2004), because drug-zone maps are not testimonial within the definition of the U.S. Supreme Court. The Court did recognize, however, that such maps are not self-authenticating, and that if a defendant challenges authenticity, the State must present testimony from someone who can testify to the methodology of the map's creation and its margin for error. The Court referred the matter to the Criminal Practice Committee to draft a notice-and-demand rule to guide practitioners in such cases; adoption of that rule is currently pending before the Supreme Court. DAG Sara Quigley.



In **State v. Young**, Docket No. 078862, the New Jersey Supreme Court granted the State's petition for certification and accepted briefs on the issue of whether the prohibition on unauthorized release of confidential child-abuse records in N.J.S.A. 9:6-8.10 applies to someone who receives such records from a third party. Deputy Bureau Chief Carol Henderson (representing the Attorney General as amicus curiae).

In **State v. Miles**, 229 N.J. 83 (2017), the New Jersey Supreme Court clarified the methodology for analyzing whether two offenses are the "same offense" for double-jeopardy purposes. The Court accepted the State's position that the same-elements test should be the sole test for evaluating such claims, and discarded the same-evidence test as a separate means of establishing double jeopardy. Former DAG Joseph Glyn.

In **State v. Ross**, 229 N.J. 389 (2017), the New Jersey Supreme Court affirmed defendant's murder conviction, holding that the trial judge did not commit plain error in extensively questioning most of the witnesses at defendant's trial. DAG Emily Anderson (representing the Attorney General as amicus curiae).

In **State v. Terrell**, 231 N.J. 170 (2017), the Supreme Court affirmed defendant's convictions for four murders and other crimes. The Court held that the trial judge did not err in limiting the testimony of a defense expert from testifying about ear-witness identification. DAG Sarah Elsasser (representing the Attorney General as amicus curiae).

Forensic Magazine (12/8/17)
'Earwitness' Testimony Upheld by NJ Supreme Court in Grisly Quadruple Homicide

In **State v. Kucinski**, 227 N.J. 603 (2017), the New Jersey Supreme Court affirmed defendant's murder conviction, ruling that the prosecutor's cross-examination of defendant about defendant's lack of detail in his statement to police, and the prosecutor's argument on summation, were appropriate. The Court held that inconsistencies between the statement and the trial testimony, and lack of details in the statement, went to defendant's credibility and was not an improper comment on defendant's right to remain silent. DAG Sarah Elsasser (representing the Attorney General as amicus curiae).

In **State v. S.B.**, 230 N.J. 62 (2017), the New Jersey Supreme Court reinstated a Megan's Law defendant's indictment for prohibited participation in a youth-serving organization. The defendant, a convicted sex-offender, supervised children in a youth ministry associated with his church. The Court ruled that the dismissal of the indictment was erroneous because a youth ministry associated with a church or religious organization is covered under the definition of a "youth serving organization" that Megan's Law offenders are prohibited from participating in. DAG Claudia Demitro.

Law.com (7/20/17)
Indictment Reinstated Against Sex Offender Working at Youth Camp

In **State v. Lunsford**, 229 N.J. 252 (2017), the New Jersey Supreme Court clarified that its prior holding applied only to telephone toll-billing records and was not intended to change prior holdings applicable to bank and Internet service provider (ISP) records that are traditionally obtained by grand jury subpoena. Deputy Bureau Chief Frank Muroski.

In **State v. Bacome**, 228 N.J. 94 (2017), the New Jersey Supreme Court held that police officers were justified in ordering a passenger out of a lawfully stopped car because the police demonstrated a heightened awareness of danger. Deputy Bureau Chief Frank Muroski.

In **State v. Jones**, Docket No. 077964, and **State v. Twiggs**, Docket No. 077686, the New Jersey Supreme Court granted the State's petition for certification, accepted briefs, and heard oral argument on the issue of whether the DNA statutory tolling provision in N.J.S.A. 2C:1-6 applies only when the State identifies the defendant due to a link between defendant's DNA profile and DNA found at the crime scene, or whether the tolling provision also applies when DNA testing reveals a codefendant's identity or the victim's identity and the State uses that evidence to learn of defendant's involvement. Bureau Chief Daniel Bornstein; DAG Sarah Lichter; former DAG Joseph Glyn.



Deputy Bureau Chief Frank Muroski, with Director Honig, was honored for Excellence in Appeals at the Attorney General's Awards Ceremony in 2015 and 2017.

In **State v. C.W.**, 449 N.J. Super. 231 (App. Div. 2017), the Appellate Division granted the State’s motion for leave to appeal and reversed a trial court’s decision to release a sex offender pretrial. In doing so, the Appellate Division held that a trial court can consider a defendant’s prior juvenile record and Megan’s Law classification in evaluating the State’s application for pretrial detention. The Appellate Division also held that the abuse of discretion standard is the standard of review for appellate courts reviewing pretrial detention decisions. DAG Claudia Demitro (representing the Attorney General as amicus curiae).

Asbury Park Press (3/21/17)
Judge ordered to reconsider pedophile’s release



In **State v. Moore**, 450 N.J. Super. 578 (App. Div. 2017), the Appellate Division held that police and prosecutors are not required to complete a Preliminary Law Enforcement Incident Report (PLEIR) when applying for pretrial detention. DAG Claudia Demitro (representing the Attorney General as amicus curiae).

In **State v. Stewart**, Docket No. A-0562-17, the Appellate Division held that a defendant does not have an unfettered right to call an adverse witness at a pretrial detention hearing. Instead, if a defendant intends to call an adverse witness he must first proffer the witness’s anticipated testimony and demonstrate that testimony is expected to negate the State’s presentation of probable cause or clear and convincing evidence warranting detention. DAG Claudia Demitro (representing the Attorney General as amicus curiae).

In **State v. Dickerson**, ___ N.J. ___ (2018), the New Jersey Supreme Court held that the State was not required to produce an affidavit in support of a search warrant as discovery in connection with a pretrial detention application, and is not generally required to produce such affidavits in pretrial detention discovery as a matter of course. The Court also ruled that it was improper for the trial judge to order defendant’s release as a “sanction” for what the court viewed to be a discovery violation, indicating that release would have been inappropriate even if the search warrant affidavit had been required to be produced in discovery. DAG Sarah Lichter.

In **State v. Travis**, Docket No. 080020, the New Jersey Supreme Court considered whether Rule 3:4A(b)(5) is inconsistent with the New Jersey Criminal Justice Reform statutes because it creates new statutory presumptions of detention by allowing a judge to detain a defendant based solely on a recommendation of no-release by Pre-Trial Services when that recommendation may be based only on the nature of the crime charged, regardless of whether that charge carries a statutory presumption of detention. DAG Sarah Lichter (representing the Attorney General as amicus curiae).



DAG Sarah Lichter argues before the New Jersey Supreme Court.

In **State v. S.N.**, ___ N.J. ___ (2018), the New Jersey Supreme Court determined the proper standard of appellate review for a pretrial detention decision under the Criminal Justice Reform Act. The Court held that the proper standard is whether the trial court abused its discretion by relying on an impermissible basis, by relying upon irrelevant or inappropriate factors, by failing to consider all relevant factors, or by making a clear error in judgment. DAG Sarah Lichter.

In **State v. Mercedes**, Docket No. 079995, the New Jersey Supreme Court accepted briefs and heard oral argument on whether the trial court abused its discretion in denying the State’s application for pretrial detention in a case where defendant was charged with aggravated assault based on a shooting in connection with a road-rage incident, as well as possession with intent to distribute heroin found in his car when he was arrested for the first incident. DAG Sarah Hunt (representing the Attorney General as amicus curiae).

In **State v. Wint**, Docket No. 079660, the New Jersey Supreme Court granted the defendant’s petition for certification and the State’s cross-petition for certification. In this case, Pennsylvania detectives interviewed a defendant about a Pennsylvania murder six months after he had invoked his right to counsel concerning a Camden murder. While confessing to the Pennsylvania detectives regarding the Pennsylvania murder, defendant blurted out that he had committed the Camden murder. The New Jersey Supreme Court will determine whether the confession was tainted by defendant’s initial invocation of his right to counsel, and whether Maryland v. Schatzer—which requires police to wait two weeks before re-interrogating a defendant who has invoked his right to counsel—is satisfied when the defendant is not released from custody before he is questioned again. DAG Sarah Lichter.

NJ Advance Media for NJ.com (3/20/17)
**Conviction of man in
child sex assault case
reinstated by N.J.
Supreme Court**

In **State v. Garrison**, 228 N.J. 182 (2017), the New Jersey Supreme Court reinstated defendant’s convictions for aggravated sexual assault of a child after determining that the trial judge properly admitted evidence of sexual conduct committed in another state under N.J.R.E. 404(b). DAG Sarah Elsasser (representing the Attorney General as amicus curiae).

In **State v. J.R.**, 227 N.J. 393 (2017), the New Jersey Supreme Court held that expert testimony on Child Sexual Abuse Accommodation Syndrome (CSAAS) did not exceed the permissible scope of such evidence. DAG Sarah Elsasser (representing the Attorney General as amicus curiae).

In **State v. J.L.G.**, Docket No. 078718, the Court is considering whether New Jersey courts should continue to permit expert testimony regarding CSAAS in child-sexual assault cases. To resolve this question, the Court will consider whether CSAAS is generally accepted among the relevant scientific community. DAG Sarah Elsasser (representing the Attorney General as amicus curiae).

In **State v. Hagans**, Docket No. 078014, the Supreme Court accepted briefs and heard oral argument as to whether a motorist’s consent was valid when the trooper truthfully informed her that police would “apply for a warrant” and that her refusal was “just kind of going to prolong the inevitable.” In deciding this question, the Court is considering whether Fifth Amendment constitutional requirements should be inserted into Fourth Amendment consent jurisprudence. DAG Jane Schuster.

In **Lunney v. State of New Jersey**, the United States Supreme Court denied defendant’s petition for a writ of certiorari. DAG Jane Schuster.



DAG Jane Schuster argues before the New Jersey Supreme Court.

In **State v. McGuire**, Docket No. A-2150-14, the Appellate Division affirmed the denial of defendant's petition for post-conviction relief. Melanie McGuire, who was tried and convicted following a trial prosecuted by DCJ, is serving a life sentence for the murder and dismemberment of her husband. Bureau Chief Daniel Bornstein.

NJ 101.5 (8/7/17)
Appeal denied for NJ woman who threw husband's dismembered body into bay



Bureau Chief Daniel Bornstein appears in court. Photograph courtesy of The Times of Trenton.

In **State v. S.S.**, 229 N.J. 260 (2017), the Supreme Court re-examined the appropriate standard of review when a trial judge rules on the admissibility of a video-recorded statement based solely on the video-recording without hearing testimony. The Court rejected the *de novo* standard previously espoused in **State v. Diaz-Bridges**, finding that a non-deferential standard conflicts with traditional principles limiting appellate review of factual findings. DAG Sara Quigley.

In **State v. Hummel**, Docket No. 078476, the New Jersey Supreme Court denied defendant's petition for certification but granted the State's cross-petition for certification on the issue of whether officers conducted a lawful inventory search of defendant's purse after she threatened to accuse them of stealing money from it while they were removing it from the interview room when questioning her about a murder. DAG Sara Quigley.

In **State v. Martinez**, Docket No. 078462, the Supreme Court dismissed defendant's petition for certification as improvidently granted following briefing and oral argument. The Court thus did not disturb the Appellate Division's opinion affirming defendant's murder conviction on the theory that he did not invoke his right to remain silent or his right to counsel prior to speaking with police about the crime. DAG Jenny Hsu.

In **State v. Gathers**, Docket No. 079274, the New Jersey Supreme Court granted the State's motion for leave to appeal and issued a stay of an Appellate Division decision holding that the State was not entitled to compel the defendant to provide a buccal swab for DNA testing because (1) the State had not established that any evidence from the crime scene contained DNA that could be used to compare against defendant's DNA, (2) defendant had a prior conviction so it could be presumed that his DNA profile was already in CODIS, and (3) the affiant included hearsay in his affidavit in support of the motion to compel defendant to provide a buccal swab. DAG Lila Leonard (representing the Attorney General as *amicus curiae*).



In **State v. Fisher**, Docket No. A-5411-15, the Appellate Division affirmed defendant's convictions and sentence in an opinion that explored the contours of the rule requiring that police knock and announce their presence before entering a dwelling to execute a search warrant. DAG Arielle Katz.

In **State v. Fuqua**, Docket No. 079034, the New Jersey Supreme Court accepted briefs addressing whether a defendant must cause actual harm to a child to be convicted of endangering the welfare of a child under N.J.S.A. 2C:24-4a(2). DAG Sarah Brigham (representing the Attorney General as *amicus curiae*).

In **State v. Hester, et al.**, Docket No. 079228, the New Jersey Supreme Court granted the State's petition for certification, accepted briefs, and heard oral argument on whether application of the amended version of N.J.S.A. 2C:43-6.4 (upgrading a violation of Community Supervision for Life (CSL) from a fourth-degree to a third-degree crime and requiring imposition of Parole Supervision for Life upon conviction) violates the prohibition against ex post facto laws when the defendant committed the predicate sex offense that resulted in his CSL sentence prior to the change in the law. DAG Jennifer Kmiecik.

NJ Advance Media for NJ.com (4/25/17)

**Court denies appeal
of N.J. man who tossed
baby from Driscoll Bridge**

In **State v. Abdur-Raheem**, Docket No. A-2077-12, the Appellate Division affirmed defendant's conviction and life sentence for the murder of his baby. The New Jersey Supreme Court denied defendant's petition for certification. This case was prosecuted by the Division of Criminal Justice. DAG Jennifer Kmiecik.

In **State v. Camander**, Docket No. A-4302-15, the Division of Criminal Justice is defending the constitutionality of the Jessica Lunsford Act, which encompasses the recent amendments to the aggravated sexual assault statute, N.J.S.A. 2C:14-2, namely the mandatory sentencing provisions pertaining to cases involving victims under age 13. DAG Jana Robinson.

In **State v. Terry**, Docket No. 077942, the New Jersey Supreme Court accepted briefs and heard oral argument as to the constitutionality of the driving-documents exception to the search-warrant requirement. DAG Steven Yomtov (representing the Attorney General as amicus curiae).

In **State v. Zalberg**, Docket No. 078308, the New Jersey Supreme Court accepted briefs and heard oral argument regarding the constitutionality of a warrantless blood draw in a vehicular-homicide case. DAG Steven Yomtov (representing the Attorney General as amicus curiae).

In **State in the Interest of J.A.**, Docket No. 077383, the New Jersey Supreme Court accepted briefs and heard oral argument in a case addressing various search-and-seizure issues, including the protective sweep, exigent circumstances, hot pursuit, and consent exceptions to the search-warrant requirement. The Court will also consider the applicability of the third-party intervention and attenuation doctrines. DAG Steven Yomtov.



DAG Steven Yomtov argues before the Supreme Court while the Court sits in Veterans Courthouse in Newark. Photograph courtesy of The Star Ledger.

In **State v. Evans**, Docket No. 079144, the New Jersey Supreme Court granted the State's petition for certification and accepted supplemental briefs in a case addressing the plain-feel exception to the search-warrant requirement and the parameters of New Jersey's strip search statute, N.J.S.A. 2A:161-1 et seq. The Court will address whether the police complied with the strip-search statute when an officer discovered a bulge during the course of a search incident to an arrest for an outstanding warrant, believed that the bulge contained drugs based on its plain feel, and subsequently reached into defendant's underwear to retrieve the drugs at police headquarters. DAG Steven Yomtov.

In **State v. Alexander**, Docket No. 078515, the New Jersey Supreme Court accepted briefs and heard oral argument on whether aggravated assault is a lesser-included offense of first-degree armed robbery, and whether the judge committed plain error in failing to sua sponte charge second-degree aggravated assault as a lesser offense of armed robbery. DAG Sarah Hunt (representing the Attorney General as amicus curiae).

In **State v. Prall**, ___ N.J. ___ (2018), the New Jersey Supreme Court reinstated defendant's convictions for the arson murder of his brother and attempted murder of his brother's girlfriend. The Court reviewed the errors in defendant's trial "in light of the overall strength of the State's case," and was convinced that those errors, singly or collectively, did not "raise a reasonable doubt" as to whether they affected the result reached by the jury. DAG Jennifer Kmiecik.

NJ Advance Media for NJ.com (1/31/18)
**Supreme Court reinstates convictions
of man who killed brother in fire**

In **State v. Cole**, 229 N.J. 430 (2017), the New Jersey Supreme Court held that a trial court did not err in allowing the State to introduce portions of a videotape in which the defendant, after being left alone in an interview room following questioning, adopted a different demeanor and started muttering to himself while mouthing obscenities toward the video camera and the location where officers had been sitting. The Court found that the conduct depicted in the video was relevant to the jury's assessment of defendant's credibility when giving this statement to police. DAG Jennifer Kmiecik (representing the Attorney General as amicus curiae).

In **State in the Interest of A.R.**, Docket No. 078672, the New Jersey Supreme Court granted the State's petition for certification and accepted briefs on the issue of whether the trial court properly permitted the State to introduce an out-of-court statement from a special-needs child sexual-assault victim under the tender-years exception to the hearsay rule, given that the child was found incompetent to testify. The Court will consider whether the tender-years statement was testimonial, for purposes of the Confrontation Clause, and if so whether confrontation was satisfied by defendant's opportunity to confront and cross-examine regardless of whether the witness is deemed incompetent. Deputy Bureau Chief Frank Muroski.



Nine members of the Appellate Bureau were among those honored at the 2017 Attorney General's Awards Ceremony for their Outstanding Contribution to a Special Project: Criminal Justice Reform. Pictured at the Awards Ceremony with Lt. Brad Cherry, General Porrino, and Director Honig, are award recipients (L to R) DAG Joseph Walsh (Prosecutors Supervision & Training Bureau), Appellate Bureau Chief Daniel Bornstein, Laura Simone and Dr. Kristin Golden (OLEPS), DAsG Arielle Katz, Sarah Elsassner, Sarah Brigham, Claudia Demitro, Sarah Hunt, and Jana Robinson, and Chief of Staff Jennifer Stonerod. Award recipients not pictured: AAG Geoffrey Soriano and DAsG Sarah Lichter and Sara Quigley.

PROSECUTORS SUPERVISION & TRAINING BUREAU (PSTB)

*Bureau Chief: Analisa Sama Holmes
Deputy Bureau Chief: Robert Czepiel*

Prosecutors Supervision

The Prosecutors Supervision & Training Bureau (PSTB) serves multiple roles for the oversight, counseling, and training of the 21 County Prosecutor’s Offices, County Prosecutors Association of New Jersey (CPANJ), New Jersey Police Training Commission (PTC), State Parole Board/Division of Parole, County Narcotics Commanders Association (CNCA), and other law enforcement agencies. On behalf of the Attorney General, PSTB manages the Community-Law Enforcement Affirmative Relations (CLEAR) Continuing Education Institute. PSTB coordinated the transition of six County Prosecutors when leadership changes occurred at various County Prosecutor’s Offices.

In 2017, PSTB assisted the Attorney General with the implementation of 4 new or amended directives and guidelines, including Attorney General Directive 2016-6 v3.0, introducing the ODARA domestic violence risk assessment tool which became mandatory on November 1, 2017, and modification of Attorney General’s “Internal Affairs Policy and Procedures.”

This year, PSTB coordinated with the Office of the Attorney General, NJSP, Camden, Essex, and Mercer County Prosecutor’s Offices, and Camden County Metro and Newark Police Departments to assist with the State’s largest gun buyback program to date. An unprecedented number of guns—nearly 5,000—were turned in from the 3 simultaneous 2-day buybacks in Newark, Trenton, and Camden. New Jersey residents turned in a total of 4,775 guns for cash. The total number of weapons collected at all 3 locations were 1,973 handguns, 1,142 shotguns, and 1,025 rifles. The buybacks yielded a total of 129 assault weapons.



General Porrino, Acting U.S. Attorney William Fitzpatrick, and other officials and community leaders announce that nearly 5,000 guns were collected in August 2017 during the most successful gun buyback in NJ history.

PSTB also took the primary role in developing the Statewide Prosecutor’s Veterans Diversion Program pursuant to L. 2017, c. 42. PSTB conducted workshops for the County Prosecutor’s Offices to assist in their respective programs, developed a website at <http://www.nj.gov/oag/vdp>, and launched the Division’s statewide Veterans Diversion Program.

In concert with the Office of the Attorney General, the Bureau coordinated the annual New Jersey Chaplains Conference, which was attended by 400 participants and included a dozen workshops. PSTB also hosted the third Annual Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Symposium.

Office of the Attorney General ♦ Division of Criminal Justice

As part of Bureau operations this year, PSTB resolved 91 citizen complaints, initiated files for 44 domestic violence incidents involving state law enforcement officers, completed 60 authorization requests for on-duty or full-duty firearms use, and monitored 75 referrals from the New Jersey Department of Human Services for potential Tara's Law violations. PSTB reviewed 146 supersession requests for matters involving a potential conflict of interest among the various County Prosecutor's Offices, administered 154 Oaths of Office to various assistant prosecutors for cross-county authority to prosecute matters, processed 12 requests to approve forfeiture fund disbursements and 16 bid waivers, and reviewed 9 requests for Petitions for Immunity from the County Prosecutor's Offices.

Three of the Bureau's DAsG are assigned as National Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutors (TSRP) for New Jersey. These DAsG provided education, training, technical assistance, and litigation support to prosecutors and law enforcement on drug- and alcohol-impaired driving. PSTB held regular meetings with liaisons representing the County Prosecutor's Offices who specialize in municipal prosecutions and domestic violence, sex assault, and Megan's Law crimes; juvenile matters; drug court; and expungement law. Bureau DAsG also filed 13 briefs on these issues in the state appellate and supreme courts. Additionally, PSTB consolidated training and coordination of the various state law enforcement agencies and state agencies vested with limited law enforcement authority.

Community Policing and Outreach

PSTB actively participated in and assisted the County Prosecutor's Offices with organizing faith-based and community outreach meetings with clergy, government officials, and citizens in support of the Attorney General's Use of Force Policy and community justice and outreach efforts. PSTB worked collaboratively with the Attorney General's Office of Community Justice on notable topics such as prevention of juvenile delinquency, domestic violence, addiction recovery, mass violence, anti-bias and cultural diversity, and coordinating programs (such as the One-Voice Program, Crisis Response Program, and the Chaplaincy Program) to better prepare law enforcement and clergy in assisting communities in crisis.



General Porrino and Director Honig toured the Essex County Family Justice Center, which assists those affected by domestic violence.

Bias Crime Reward Program
Apply here for up to \$25,000
Report It!

To REPORT a Bias Incident:

- Contact Your Local Police or County Prosecutor
- Contact the NJ Attorney General's Office:
 - ♦ Bias Hotline at 1-800-277-BIAS (2427)
 - ♦ E-mail: NJBIAS@NJDCJ.org
 - ♦ Online: www.nj.gov/oag/bias

PSTB met regularly with Prosecutor's Offices' Community Outreach Liaisons to share information and concepts on community outreach initiatives, and participated in many of the community coalition meetings throughout the state. Bureau members provided training to community outreach liaisons and the various Municipal Youth Planning Boards, and participated in over 120 outreach events throughout the state. PSTB sponsored events for faith-based organizations around New Jersey to discuss bias crimes and incidents, cultural diversity training, community preparedness, and officer-involved shooting simulator demonstrations.



DCJ detectives at the Winslow Township National Night Out, designed to support police and community partnerships.

To compliment community outreach efforts, PSTB hosted Bias Crimes/Incidents Liaison Working Group meetings, comprised of members from each County Prosecutor's Office, in an effort to provide law enforcement training on how to respond, recognize, and report a bias crime or incident. PSTB is collaborating with NJSP and OHSP to deliver a unified, electronic reporting process for bias crimes/incidents through a centralized database and communication and notification system.

Due to increased active shooter events nationwide, PSTB coordinated an Attorney General Active Shooter working group to develop a uniform active shooter response program and best practices for New Jersey law enforcement. Partners in this project include NJSP and federal, county, and

municipal police agencies. In conjunction with the Office of the Attorney General, PSTB is partnering with the Global Peace Foundation to develop cross-cultural community events to bring awareness to counter violent extremists.

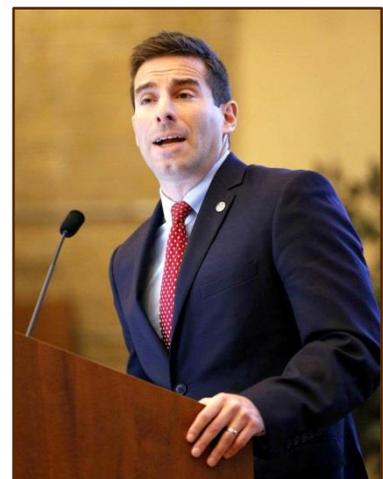
Law Enforcement Training



This year the Division, through PSTB, provided specialized, live in-service training to more than 5,000 law enforcement officers and prosecutors throughout the state. Topics included domestic violence and sexual assault, train-the-trainer law enforcement response and de-escalation techniques for individuals with special needs/mental health issues, and the Attorney General's domestic violence risk assessment tool (Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment, or ODARA) for domestic violence liaison officers, assistant prosecutors, and victim advocates.

Highlights in 2017 included:

- 34,541 law enforcement officers completed NJ Learn on-line training programs developed in partnership with OHSP on a variety of OHSP and Attorney General programs. These courses meet law enforcement training requirements (including Attorney General Law Enforcement Directives and Guidelines) on Prevention of Domestic Violence (5,859), Human Trafficking Investigation and Prosecution (366), Developmental Disabilities Awareness (3,298), Conducted Energy Devices (1,067), Less Lethal Ammunition (57), Internal Affairs Policy & Procedures (995), DNA Arrestee Buccal Swab (1,954), Police Body-Worn Cameras (343), Law Enforcement Naloxone Program (1,397), Heroin-Opiate Investigation and Prosecution (3,030), ODARA Training (15,562), and Criminal Justice Reform (2,097).



Director Honig discusses Criminal Justice Reform before an audience of judges, prosecutors, attorneys, and members of law enforcement. Photograph courtesy of NJ.com.

- In 16 statewide programs, PTSB trained 1,564 law enforcement and mental health professionals on de-escalation techniques for individuals with special needs/mental health issues. This training resulted from coordinating with the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services, crisis intervention training, NJSP, OHSP, PTC, CPANJ, NJSACOP, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, The Arc, and various other mental health care professionals and service providers.
- In cooperation with CPANJ and CNCA, 400 law enforcement officers and prosecutors graduated from the **Top Gun** Program (basic course for the interdiction and prosecution of gangs, guns, and drug cases), **DELTA** (supervisor and leadership training), and **UNIT** (undercover narcotics investigation training) schools.
- 752 domestic violence liaison officers, assistant prosecutors, and victim advocates were trained.
- TSRP (Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutors) trained 513 officers and prosecutors on drug-impaired driving prosecution, alcohol-impaired driving, drug recognition experts, and radar operation.
- Hosted the third annual domestic violence and sexual assault symposium and provided training for 150 prosecutors and law enforcement officers who attended.
- In conjunction with NJSACOP, provided orientation training for all new chiefs of police throughout the state.
- Provided in-service training for all Division detectives.



Police Training Commission (PTC)

Administrator: John Cunningham

Past Acting Administrator: DAG Joseph Walsh



DCJ trainees receive firearms training at the Joint Base MDL range.

The Division of Criminal Justice is statutorily charged with all administrative functions on behalf of the PTC, which PTC staff conduct as part of PSTB. These functions broadly include the regulation and oversight of basic training in the 16 police and corrections academies across the state. These academies graduated a total of 5,567 law enforcement officers in 2017. PTC staff audited and entered 5,965 record cards for trainees, and issued 413 general instructor certifications, processed 220 firearms instructor certifications, 73 radar instructor certifications, and 37 initial and updated vehicle operations instructor certifications. In addition, PTC staff processed 1,077 instructor renewal requests. The staff also conducted 383 unannounced academy inspections and responded to 38 requests for curriculum documents. Over 1,616 notice of new appointment

forms were processed and 435 requests for waiver-of-training requirements were received. The PTC issued 60 Merit Awards to trainees who exemplified the ideals of leadership and professionalism. PTC staff prepared for, hosted, and processed the paperwork resulting from six Commission meetings conducted during the year. This year, PSTB members authored, and the PTC approved, the training and appointment process for the Special Law Enforcement Officer, Class III, to serve in schools throughout the state.

As counsel to the PTC, PSTB DAsG received 67 notices of appeals from dismissed academy recruits. After legal review and consultation with the PTC, 41 appeals were referred to the Office of Administrative Law for a contested hearing, and another 10 initial judicial determinations were reviewed and presented to the PTC for final conclusions and orders. PSTB DAsG also reviewed 36 appeals of recruit dismissals that were subsequently dismissed or withdrawn.



Recruits run strength-training drills at the DCJ Academy in Sea Girt.

Division of Criminal Justice Academy

Academy Director: Lt. Cheryl Smith

Approved by the PTC in 1980, the DCJ Academy has a proud history of graduating detectives. In 2017, the Academy welcomed Lt. Cheryl Smith as the Academy's fifth Director. The Academy twice conducted the Basic Course for Investigators, which graduated 61 detectives/criminal investigators. Each 21-week course provided basic law enforcement training for state investigators, including DCJ and OHSP, investigators and detectives from the County Prosecutor's Offices, officers from the



First Dep. Chief of Detectives Fred Moore, Director Honig, and Chief of Detectives Paul Morris (left to right on stage) attend the DCJ Academy graduation ceremony.

Division of Parole, and special agents from the New Jersey Department of the Treasury and Department of Corrections (Special Investigations Division). Additionally, the Academy offers 41 in-service and PTC-approved courses such as Patrol Rifle Instructor, Firearms Instructor, Basic Course for Humane Law Enforcement Officers, Money Laundering, White/Collar Corruption Investigation and Prosecution, Basic Course for Arson Investigators, Trial Testimony, and Criminal Procedure Updates. A total of 799 attendees participated in Academy courses.

The Academy is also responsible for compliance auditing of all firearms programs conducted at each of the PTC-approved law enforcement academies throughout New Jersey, and 55 firearm range audits were conducted across the state.

LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES

CODIS Compliance Unit (CCU)

Manager: Andrew DeMuth

CODIS (Combined DNA Index System) is the program by which New Jersey collects, categorizes, and stores DNA taken from criminal offenders. The CODIS Compliance Unit (CCU) oversees the collection and information-processing side of the program and ensures that New Jersey is compliant with all state and federal laws surrounding CODIS. The CCU works closely with the CODIS Unit from the NJSP Office of Forensic Sciences and is also responsible for all statewide training. The CODIS program is a vital component of the criminal justice system as it assures accurate identification of criminal offenders. It can also help law enforcement with missing persons, unidentified remains, and crime scene investigations.



As of December 1, 2017, the national database contained in excess of 16,000,000 offender DNA profiles including more than 300,000 from New Jersey. As a result, the [CODIS program averaged over 60 DNA hits per month](#). Since the inception of the program, CODIS has aided approximately 12,000 investigations in New Jersey and has become an invaluable resource for our statewide criminal investigation and law enforcement efforts. On July 1, 2017, a new law went into effect requiring DNA collection at the time of conviction for certain “specified disorderly persons offenses.” This expansion will help build our database and assist in clearing even more unsolved crimes.

In 2017, the CCU continued its robust training program. We closed the year with more than [60 training presentations in 17 counties](#) including 5 regional sessions at police academies. For 2018, we have expanded the regional training with 13 sessions planned throughout the state, making our program more efficient and convenient for our law enforcement partners. This past fall, we held our 9th Annual CODIS Collector’s Conference over 2 dates where attendees received a more comprehensive presentation on the CODIS program; preparations are underway for the [Spring 2018 CODIS Conference for Prosecutors](#).



Members of the CCU at the 31st Annual Police Security Expo in Atlantic City in June.

For 2018, we expect to roll out [eDNA](#), a new program that integrates the fingerprinting process with the DNA collection process. Ultimately, it will help reduce paperwork for law enforcement agencies while enhancing quality control.

The [Fingerprint Compliance Committee](#) and [Subcommittee](#), both established by CODIS, initially began with the purpose of identifying issues and developing uniform resolutions to matters pertaining to fingerprinting and DNA collection. Both committees evolved into working groups that were instrumental in advancing the efforts of Criminal Justice Reform.

Victims of Crime Compensation Office (VCCO)

Executive Director: AAG Alvin Ricardo Little

Deputy Director: AAG Louise Lester



The Victims of Crime Compensation Office (VCCO) operates under authority of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act, N.J.S.A. 52:4B-1 et seq. (“CICA”), and provides compensation to violent crime victims for some of the expenses they incur because of personal injury or death that results from criminal offenses. In FY 2017, the VCCO awarded just over **\$8.3 million to crime victims and their family members**. 3,619 new claims were received by VCCO during that period, for an average of about 300 new applications per month. The total number of benefit applications VCCO processed in FY 2017—including supplemental claims requests—was 4,063. Among the various types of compensation available to claimants, the benefits most often requested and awarded during the past several fiscal years have been for relocation costs, medical/dental expenses, loss of earnings, economic support for dependents, and funeral expenses.

In FY 2017, VCCO again increased the amount of time and energy it expended on emergency relief requests. The vast majority of the emergency applications VCCO received in 2017 involved victims who are particularly vulnerable, i.e., victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or child abuse. The most frequently requested benefit in emergency cases was for relocation expenses. During FY 2017, VCCO awarded nearly \$1.3 million in relocation expense benefits. **VCCO emergency claims** were, on average, **processed within 23 days**. And although CICA requires that a benefit determination be made within 6 months of VCCO’s receipt of the completed application, VCCO made over 84% of its determinations within 4 months, and 76% of all cases were decided within 90 days. Thus, emergency and regular claims were handled with alacrity in FY 2017.

In addition to being sure to promptly handle emergency and conventional claims, VCCO also increased its efforts to make its services and processes better known to the public at large. Consequently the VCCO outreach initiative intensified in FY 2017. Overall the agency’s **outreach events increased by 64%** compared with the previous fiscal year. Outreach to victim services organizations increased by 63%, and VCCO participation at community events increased by 73% as VCCO staff attended events in Morris, Cape May, Monmouth, Burlington, and Essex Counties. The agency also conducted training sessions in Passaic, Essex, Union, Middlesex, Camden, Hudson, Bergen, and Warren Counties. Additionally, VCCO senior managers conducted CLE classes regarding CICA and the VCCO regulatory scheme in Mercer, Camden, Middlesex, and Hudson Counties. The agency also began attending so-called “roundtable” discussions sponsored by the Newark Community Street Team. During such discussions, VCCO Director Alvin Ricardo “Rick” Little explained VCCO benefits, policies, and practices to members of the Newark South Ward



VCCO Director “Rick” Little speaks with a community member during National Crime Victims’ Rights Week.

community and to attending Newark Police Force leaders. While the agency attempted to forge new relationships with organizations such as the Newark Community Street Team, it also continued its work with traditional partners, such as County Prosecutor’s Offices, the County Victim-Witness Advocates throughout the state, and various victims’ services agencies in New Jersey.



The ties between those types of agencies and the VCCO were plainly evident during the **National Crime Victims’ Rights Week** ceremony sponsored by VCCO and the State Office of Victim Witness Advocacy (SOVWA). The event—held in April 2017 at the Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex—brought together crime victims, crime victim advocates, victim services organizations, and law enforcement. Attendees and event participants were there to learn about and recognize outstanding individual and collective efforts that have been made in New Jersey to heal victims and facilitate the rebuilding of victims’ lives and the lives of victim family members and the community at large. The theme for the Crime Victims’ Rights Week was “Strength, Resilience, Justice”; the diverse panels of speakers and other presenters all delivered messages that were commensurate with that theme. Moreover, each of

the four New Jersey Crime Victims’ Rights Week award recipients had personal and professional histories that inspired those in attendance to remain committed to aiding their fellow citizens in working through the stages of victimization, and helping crime victims and their communities to be strong, resilient, and equipped to obtain justice.

Later in FY 2017, VCCO began preparing proposed amendments to its administrative rules that will **increase the monetary amounts available to claimants** for some of the most frequently sought benefits, such as relocation expenses, mental health counseling costs, transportation costs, and funeral expenses. Those proposed benefit increases are expected to be available in early 2018. The agency also developed a **Spanish language electronic application** platform in FY 2017, and also implemented technology that allows applicants to track the status of their claims online.

Throughout FY 2017, VCCO worked purposefully to provide compassionate service to crime victims and their family members who seek victim compensation benefits. The agency also continued to explore ways to strengthen its ties with victim service agencies and others who are committed to ensuring that New Jersey crime victims are provided the compassion, support, dignity, and respect called for by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act and the New Jersey Constitution.



State Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy (SOVWA)



Victim-Witness Coordinator: Melissa Miller

Counsel: DAG Kara Webster

The State Office of Victim Witness Advocacy saw a big year in 2017 as it set in motion the office's plans for expansion with the addition of DAG Kara Webster to work alongside Victim-Witness Coordinator Melissa Miller. SOVWA's goal is to further expand in an effort to increase victim resources and services. SOVWA continues to help victims and witnesses in DCJ cases throughout the state, which includes providing assistance with navigating the criminal justice system, offering transportation to court proceedings, and keeping in close contact with victims and witnesses to assist with issues related to housing, school, community resources, etc. As the need arises, SOVWA is there to help. SOVWA is looking to increase its ability to serve as a statewide resource with future expansion.

In 2017, SOVWA also embarked on increased community outreach. In collaboration with the Victims of Crime Compensation Office (VCCO), SOVWA led a statewide public awareness campaign to increase visibility of the victim services available at DCJ, in our County Offices of Victim Witness Advocacy, and at non-profit victim service agencies. SOVWA and VCCO hosted another successful *National Crime Victims' Rights Week*, which focused on domestic violence and featured a panel discussion which dispelled the "norms" of domestic violence. The week concluded with a training workshop geared toward new victim service providers and effective provision of services.



Chief of Staff Jennifer Stonerod serves on a panel during Crime Victims' Rights Week.

As Chairperson of the Human Trafficking Faith Based Committee, Melissa Miller continued statewide outreach by hosting a series of faith-based human trafficking roundtables in various counties. The *Attorney General's First Interfaith Summit on Human Trafficking* was held in March. In July, Melissa was invited to the International Pastors and Ministers five-day Conference where she represented the Faith Based Committee.

Additionally, SOVWA continued its work in policy and program development. SOVWA spearheaded the revision of the Attorney General's Standards for Providing Services to Victims of Sexual Assault. After nearly 2 years of gathering input from a diverse cross-section of stakeholders, the Standards are set to be finalized in 2018. SOVWA also finalized the new *Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Four-Year Implementation Plan for New Jersey*, which rested upon the cooperation and expertise of many state and local entities and is primed to provide the state with much needed training, prevention and public awareness efforts, and increased services for underserved victim populations, including cultural minorities. Moreover, SOVWA was invited to participate in the Division on Women's Working Group for Domestic Violence Statewide Plan, the Governor's Advisory Council Against Sexual Violence, and the Understanding Drug Addiction Working Group.

Finally, SOVWA helped develop several new services programs, including the "Victim Assistance for Elderly Incapacitated Victims of Crime" through the Office of the Public Guardian, the "College Sexual Assault Initiative" through Rutgers University, and the enhancement of the statewide Human Trafficking Victims' Services project.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE

Chair: AAG Tracy M. Thompson
Program Coordinator: Kathy Friess



The Task Force's goals are to:

1. Train and assist law enforcement in methods of identifying victims and signs of trafficking in order to disrupt and interdict this activity
2. Coordinate statewide efforts in the identification and provision of services to victims of human trafficking
3. Increase the successful interdiction and prosecution of trafficking of human persons

The mission of the New Jersey Human Trafficking Task Force (HTTF) is to combat human trafficking through *education, collaboration, and prosecution*. The HTTF is comprised of five committees: Outreach & Awareness, Training & Education, Victim Services, Faith-based Initiatives, and Law Enforcement. Under the auspices of the HTTF, these committees work to develop a cohesive strategic plan to prevent trafficking and related activity; protect victims and survivors; and prosecute the traffickers and similar predators.

While law enforcement has the primary responsibility for detecting human trafficking crimes, they cannot do it alone. To this end, the HTTF partnered with the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey to co-host the *first NJ Interfaith Summit on Human Trafficking*. This full-day symposium for faith-based leaders, social justice ministries, and related youth organizations provided an overview of human trafficking in New Jersey with an emphasis on the role of the faith-based community in devising and implementing a comprehensive, sustainable anti-trafficking strategy throughout their respective communities. The day included discussion on the importance of collaboration and working with law enforcement, non-governmental organizations, and victim service providers in this effort. The symposium inspired many of the attendees—especially those who were unaware of the extent to which trafficking occurs in New Jersey—to host their own future education and awareness events at their houses of worship or community centers.



Program Coordinator Kathy Friess speaks to a group of hotel employees about how to identify victims of human trafficking. Photograph courtesy of Mel Evans, Associated Press.



AAG Tracy M. Thompson speaks at the Annual Human Trafficking Prevention & Awareness Month Event.

The highlights of our mid-year events were *two conferences* focused on training law enforcement in detecting, investigating, and prosecuting human trafficking. Held for a full day in New Jersey's northern and southern regions, the conference agenda provided case studies, undercover operations, and investigative techniques on residential brothels and gangs. Additionally, *DreamCatcher*, New Jersey's statewide human trafficking victim service provider, showcased how providing victim services is critical to successful prosecution.

Every January, we recognize National Slavery & Human Trafficking Prevention Month. This is a time set aside to reflect upon the successes of the year and renew our commitment to creating a community free from slavery and exploitation. The *2018 Human Trafficking Awareness Event* brought poignant remarks from General Grewal, and the keynote speaker, Jerome Elam, a child sex-trafficking survivor, who recounted his journey from tragedy to triumph to a standing-room only crowd. Audience members were visibly moved by Elam's story and were grateful for the insight and knowledge on how we can prevent such crimes from recurring.

This year's event had particularly special significance as Director Honig announced the creation of an annual award to honor those committed to the fight against human trafficking. The award is named after DCJ Sergeant Noelle Holl, a true pioneer in the field. Sgt. Holl, now retired, is battling ALS. During her time in the Human Trafficking Unit, she always went above and beyond to help victims and bring their offenders to justice. Sgt. Holl was—and remains—an inspiration to members of law enforcement across the state as a great leader in the fight against this horrendous crime. And so it was only befitting that the first award not only be given first to Sgt. Holl, but also be named the "*Sergeant Noelle Holl Award*." Sgt. Holl and her family were present to accept the inaugural award. Her son, a member of the Delaware State Police, accepted the award from Director Honig on Sgt. Holl's behalf.



Director Honig presents the First Annual "Sergeant Noelle Holl" Recognition Award to Sergeant Holl's son, in recognition of his mother's outstanding efforts to combat human trafficking in New Jersey.

COMMUNITY POLICING AWARDS AND GRANT PROGRAM

Community policing fosters relationships of collaboration, trust, and understanding between law enforcement agencies and their communities. Only with meaningful public support and engagement can law enforcement agencies effectively protect and serve the public.

In May, Attorney General Porrino presented the [first Attorney General's Community Policing Awards](#) to more than 30 law enforcement agencies and individual officers in New Jersey. The awards recognized outstanding achievements and innovation in community policing throughout the state, and honored successful approaches to fostering relationships of collaboration, trust, and understanding between police departments and community groups. The ceremony included video presentations from agencies showcasing pioneering initiatives, such as one agency's program featuring a newly-painted police cruiser for clergy members who join police officers to visit local business owners and residents at their homes, schools, and hospitals. Leaders in law enforcement participated in a panel discussion highlighting programs that could be duplicated and serve as models for other police departments.



Director Honig moderates a panel of law enforcement experts at the first Attorney General's Community Policing Awards.



Detective Matthew L. Tarentino.

In 2017, the “[Detective Matthew L. Tarentino Community Policing Grant Program](#)” was created, which provides grants to police departments for innovative programs aimed at fostering strong police-community relations. The program is named in honor of Summit Police Detective Matthew L. Tarentino, who tragically lost his life in a motor vehicle accident only days after the Community Policing Awards Ceremony. Detective Tarentino epitomized the goals of community policing and demonstrated a deep commitment to community outreach, particularly to the D.A.R.E. program, helping the Summit Police Department to become a 2017 recipient of the Attorney General's Outstanding Community Policing Award.

For the first round of grants, the Attorney General availed \$121,000 from criminal forfeiture funds, to honor Detective Tarentino's badge #121. However, the General Porrino increased the funding by nearly \$100,000, to [\\$219,122](#), after receiving a tremendous response. The [funds were awarded to 28 Police Departments](#) from across the state. Funding under the grant program is allocated to help pay for non-enforcement related community engagement activities and programs.



Attendees at the Attorney General's Community Policing Awards Ceremony on the Rutgers-Piscataway Campus.