

# District Attorney's Office

2013

# State law requires that we

- To attend each session of the superior courts;
- To attend on the grand juries, advise them in relation to matters of law, and swear and examine witnesses before them;
- To draw up all indictments or presentments, when requested by the grand jury, and to prosecute all indictable offenses;
- To prosecute or defend any other civil action in the prosecution or defense of which the state is interested;
- To attend before the appellate courts when any criminal case emanating from their respective circuits is tried, to argue the same, and to perform any other duty therein which the interest of the state may require;
- To advise law enforcement officers concerning the sufficiency of evidence, warrants, and similar matters relating to the investigation and prosecution of criminal offenses;
- To collect all money due the state;
- To collect all claims of the state which they may be ordered to collect by the state revenue commissioner and to remit the same within 30 days after collection; and on October 1 of every year to report to the state revenue commissioner the condition of the claims in their hands in favor of the state, particularly specifying:
  - To assist victims and witnesses of crimes through the complexities of the criminal justice system and ensure the victims of crimes are apprised of the rights afforded them under the law;
  - To perform such other duties as are or may be required by law or which necessarily appertain to their office.

# Other such duties

- Multi-county Review Team (all child abuse)
- Child Fatality Review Team (death of child)
- Sexual Assault protocol
- Special investigations support

# On January 1, 2014

- We will take over all stages of prosecution of Juvenile Cases in the three county circuit
- RC Juvenile criminal cases
  - 2011 892
  - 2012 1370
  - 2013 312 (through 6/30)
- RC Juvenile traffic
  - 2011 147
  - 2012 134
  - 2013 66 (through 6/30)

# Juvenile Court

- Requested staff\*:
  - 1 Attorney
  - 1 Investigator
  - 1 Advocate
  - 1 Support staff

\*Minimum required to be running on January 1

\*Cannot be inexperienced

# Our case count

**2012 = 4329 (New) defendants**

- RC → 2404 (56%)
- CC → 1632 (37%)
- BC → 293 (7%)

**2013 = 3271 (New) defendants**

- RC → 1772 (54%)
- CC → 1279 (39%)
- BC → 220 (7%)

# Cases

- Come from law enforcement agencies
- 3 county sheriffs, GBI, GRU, DNR, GSP, Boards of Education, Hephzibah, Grovetown, Waynesboro, Blythe, Harlem, Sardis, FBI, DEA, ATF, Marshal's Office, Fire depts., State Fire Marshall, DOC

# Weekly

- Trial sessions (57 juries sworn)
- Grand jury (80 sessions/yr)
- Sentencings
- Revocations
- Juvenile Courts (5 wk'ly sessions minimum)
- Asset forfeitures (\$439,250 plus physical property in 2012)
- Appeals (90% of all trials + other issues)
- Bonds
- Arraignments (weekly in RC/monthly in others)
- Drug court (2 meetings per week + admin mtgs)
- Preliminary hearings (wk'ly RC/monthly otw)
- Draft indictments (daily)



# Accountability Courts

- Drug Court → about 100 cases
- Cases take 3+ years to resolve
- Mental Health Court
  - Work with Serenity and American Works
  - Ongoing review of closed cases
  - Veteran's Court?? Attempted for several years

# STAFF

- Currently 20 ADAs; one left for private practice 8/30 (3rd attorney since April to leave);
- 3 without bar licenses began on 8/19 and will be paid as non-lawyers until their Bar results are returned at the end of October.
- Starting salary for NEW attorney is \$52,101 + benefits

# Attorney comparison

- ADA HIRED/PASSED BAR 2008 MAKES \$56,600
- COUNTY ATTORNEY PASSED BAR 2008 MAKES \$80,500
- DIFFERENCE IS \$23,900

# STAFF

- Secretaries (11 – but one departing Friday)
- Lowest paid is \$27,200 (1 year experience) which puts her below salary grade for job

# Advocates

- 4 positions funded (one vacant since mid-summer)
- One advocate hired 9/2009 makes \$29,416
- Solicitor's Office advertising for one with starting pay of \$31,283
- Difference is \$1868

# Request

- 5% across board raise for personnel
- New positions beginning November 1, 2013 for Juvenile Court
- Salary equalization study and implementation