



2015

Annual Report Executive Summary



Innovative. Results-Oriented. Fair.

A Message From District Attorney David M. Hoovler



I am proud to report that in 2015, the second year I have been privileged to be your District Attorney, my office has continued the initiatives that I promised to pursue when I ran for office. This report outlines innovations we have made in the District Attorney's Office, not only in criminal prosecution, but in crime prevention, and the results of those innovations. In 2015, we enhanced our efforts to combat illicit narcotics trafficking, public benefits fraud, and other crimes, while instituting new community prosecution initiatives.

Continued Special Projects & Community Affairs Bureau, composed of three attorneys, to enhance community prosecution initiatives

	2014	2015	% Change (2014 to 2015)
Appearances at town board meetings, schools & community events	160	225	40.6%

- Continued District Attorney’s Community Advisory Board (CAB), establishing seven regional boards, where community issues may be addressed more efficiently on a regional level
- Continued to operate the Orange County SMART (Strategic Methods Aimed at Reducing Truancy) Program, designed in partnership with school officials to use the authority of the District Attorney to help ensure that parents do not neglect their responsibility to see that their children get an adequate education

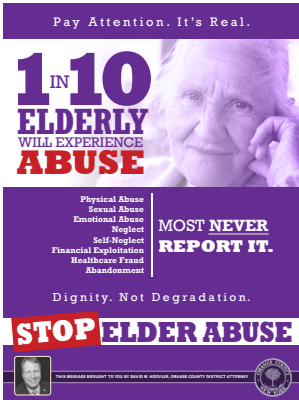
Total SMART Program Cases Referred	54
Cases Still Under Review	20
Cases Where Student Has Returned to Regular School Attendance	23
Cases Where Student Has Withdrawn From School	5
Cases Where Student Has Passed Compulsory Attendance Age	6

- Launched the OCDA’s Narcotics Eviction Program, designed to evict drug dealers and others running illegal businesses on rental property
- Began administering the District Attorney’s Conviction Integrity Program (CIP), designed to provide a mechanism to review cases where a convicted defendant claims to have been convicted of a crime that he or she did not commit, or to have been convicted of a crime that was grossly disproportionate to the criminal conduct that the defendant committed

Cases Reviewed by CIP	17
Cases Still Under Review	5
Cases Closed Without Further Action	12

COMMUNITY PROSECUTION

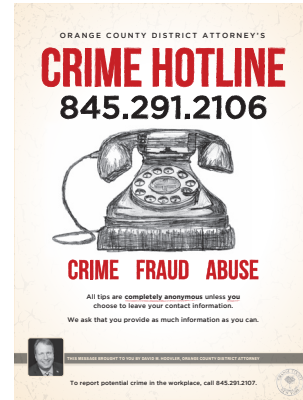
- Created a public service announcement series, designed to deter crime and increase reporting, for distribution to schools, businesses, etc., as part of an overall crime prevention strategy of education, treatment, and enforcement
- Themes included:



Elder Abuse

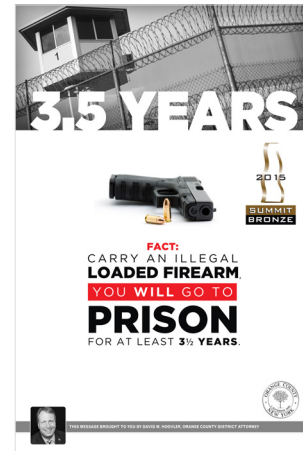


Labor Law Violations



Crime • Fraud • Abuse Hotline

- Public service announcement campaign earned Bronze Summit International Award for its 2014 anti-gun poster



- The OCDA Special Projects and Community Affairs Bureau launched the It's On Us Orange County, N.Y. initiative, a countywide effort designed to inspire everyone to see it as their responsibility to do something, big or small, to prevent sexual assault. It's On Us is an initiative founded by the White House in September, 2014, designed to create a cultural movement to fundamentally shift the way that Americans think about sexual assault.



Orange County joins the It's On Us movement as the first official White House-designated countywide It's On Us site in the United States.

DWI POLICY



In 2015, the OCDA continued its restructured DWI policy, which was created in consultation with the Orange County Police Chiefs and the New York State STOP-DWI chairperson. The policy encourages first-time offenders to receive alcohol and substance abuse evaluations and, if necessary, treatment, so that they might avoid becoming felons or killing people on the highways. **As a result of the policy, District Attorney Hoover and the OCDA received the Dana Distributors' 2015 Recognition Award for promoting alcohol awareness and public safety.**



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

In 2015, the “Misdemeanors Matter” program handled more than 500 domestic violence cases. The program, funded by state and federal grants, helps ensure that misdemeanor domestic violence cases are handled with the special attention and expertise that those serious cases deserve. In addition, the OCDA continued to enhance offender accountability by mandating that 128 defendants attend Domestic Violence Classes for Men as part of the disposition of their criminal case.



CRIMES AGAINST REVENUE

	2013	2014	2015	% Change (2014 to 2015)
Welfare fraud cases investigated	71	115	123	7.0%
Handled as civil matters	64	48	68	41.7%
Criminally prosecuted	7	67	55	-17.9%
Fraud represented	\$503,354	\$748,000	\$556,000	-25.7%
Estimated avoided costs	\$2.15 million	\$4.3 million	\$4.8 million	11.6%
Voluntary recoveries	< \$12,643	\$108,485	\$66,357	-38.8%
Intentional program violations	49	54	105	94.4%

- In 2015, the OCDA prosecuted its first labor violation case under DA Hoover's Labor Law initiative, on a tip from a union, where a contractor was defrauding the state.
- In 2015, the OCDA was 6th in NYS in recovery of fraudulently obtained unemployment benefits, and per capita, has one of the highest welfare fraud prosecution rates in NYS.

FELONY CONVICTIONS

	2013	2014	2015	% Change (2014 to 2015)
Felony conviction rate	94%	94%	96%	2.1%
Cases pending at year-end	163	124	209	68.5%

NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT

	2013	2014	2015	% Change (2014 to 2015)
Prosecution: sale of illegal drugs	55	133	102	-23.3%
Guns recovered	41	58	95	63.8%
Value of drugs seized in sweeps	\$6,960	\$85,000	\$163,000	91.8%
Felony narcotics indictments & Superior Court informations	128	269	286	6.3%

Orange County Drug Task Force

In 2014, the Orange County District Attorney's Office, the Orange County Sheriff, and the Police Chiefs' Association of Orange County created the Orange County Drug Task Force. The Task Force is supervised by a senior criminal investigator from the District Attorney's Office and a lieutenant from the Sheriff's Office, and is composed of personnel from those agencies and other Orange County police departments. In 2015, the Task Force conducted four drug sweeps and **led the County in narcotics-related arrests.**



2014-15

Cases	628
Drug purchases	195
Search warrants executed	6
Targets arrested	96

VIOLENT CRIMES

	2013	2014	2015	% Change (2014 to 2015)
Cases/defendants screened	284/338	260/310	313/374	20.4%/20.6%
Indictments filed	77	81	78	-3.7%
Superior court informations filed	44	43	43	0%

SPECIAL VICTIMS

The Special Victims Unit handles cases involving sexual abuse, domestic violence, elder abuse, child victims of violence, victims with emotional or special mental needs, and all felonies between family members or current or former intimate partners. The SVU also oversees Sex Offender Registration Act hearings, which are held to determine the sexual offense registry level of a convicted sex offender.

	2013	2014	2015	% Change (2014 to 2015)
Cases screened	409	397	476	19.9%
Indictments filed	44	41	39	-4.9%
SCIS filed	15	17	17	0%

GENERAL CRIMES

The General Crimes Unit prosecutes felonies that are not assigned to other specialized prosecution units, including felony charges of driving while intoxicated, commercial burglaries, grand larcenies, forgeries, identity theft, promoting prison contraband, and many other crimes. Among the cases that the Unit handles are cases involving violations of Leandra's Law, which makes it a felony to drive while intoxicated by alcohol or impaired by drugs while a child is present in the vehicle.

	2014	2015	% Change (2014 to 2015)
Cases screened	735	745	1.4%
Cases indicted	131	118	-9.9%
Superior court informations filed	112	127	13.4%
Leandra's Law cases filed	20	23	15.0%

APPEALS BUREAU

	2013	2014	2015	% Change (2014 to 2015)
Total matters handled	679	556	599	7.7%
Animal cruelty cases reviewed	19	19	19	0%
Search warrants drafted	11	12	24	100%
Training sessions conducted	8	16	19	18.8%

LOCAL CRIMINAL COURT BUREAU

The Local Criminal Court Bureau is responsible for all operations in the local criminal courts in Orange County's 20 towns, 19 villages, and three cities, many with multiple judges comprising a total of 74 separate local criminal court parts. Attorneys in the Bureau are also responsible for operations in several of Orange County's specialty courts (drug courts, veterans' court, mental health, and domestic violence courts), and for referring appropriate cases to various diversion programs throughout Orange County.

In 2015, the Bureau prosecuted approximately 21,000 cases, representing more than 90% of the OCDA's total caseload.

BUDGET/GRANTS

	2014	2015	2016 (projected)	% Change (2015 to 2016)
Annual budget	\$9,519,498	\$9,191,427	\$9,342,670	1.6%
Grants	\$351,215	\$520,665	\$545,465	4.8%

