

# 2015

# ANNUAL REPORT



*Innovative. Results-Oriented. Fair.*



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 not only enhanced our efforts to combat illicit narcotics trafficking, public benefits fraud, and other crimes, but also instituted new community prosecution initiatives.

In 2015, our first priority continued to be combatting illegal narcotics. Drugs continue to be the number one crime driver for all types of crime. The drug trade devastates individuals, families, and communities. Overdose deaths from illicit drugs continue to claim too many lives. In 2015, my office established a protocol with the Police Chiefs' Association of Orange County and the Medical Examiner's Office to create a countywide database of overdose deaths. When I took office in 2014, I kept a campaign promise by forming the Orange County Drug Task Force, in conjunction with the Orange County Sheriff and Police Chief's Association of Orange County. The Task Force investigates drug trafficking and aids other law enforcement in investigating drug dealers in their jurisdictions. In 2015, the Task Force, staffed by police officers from a number of departments, continued to be run by a District Attorney's senior criminal investigator and a lieutenant from the Sheriff's Office. The Task Force makes more arrests for narcotics sales than any other law enforcement entity in the County. Importantly, the Drug Task Force works in all parts of Orange County, not just in the cities where previous narcotics interdiction efforts were almost exclusively concentrated. We have learned that narcotics trafficking and addiction is pervasive and that our enforcement efforts must address that reality. In addition to seeking strict prison sentences for drug dealers, we have continued to steer drug addicts to treatment courts that address the underlying cause of their criminality and drug abuse issues. Our efforts to ensure that people can obtain treatment to get off drugs included a drug sweep designed to stop dealers preying on individuals leaving a drug treatment clinic in Newburgh.

By all measures, the public benefits fraud initiatives that I promised when I ran for office, and that we started in 2014 and continued in 2015, have been a resounding success, and have had a measurable deterrent effect on welfare fraud. Since I took office, we have brought 112 welfare fraud cases involving over a million dollars in fraud. In 2013, before my tenure began, there were only seven such cases brought. The total future cost savings is measured in the millions of dollars. Importantly, the smaller dollar amounts of the fraud cases brought in 2015 reflect that those who game the system are being detected and prosecuted sooner, and that fewer people in Orange County are committing welfare fraud. Although we are New York's twelfth-largest county by population, we have been recognized by the New York State Department of Labor as being sixth in the state in recoveries of fraudulently obtained unemployment benefits.

In addition to vigorously prosecuting crime and raising our conviction rate to 96%, we have continued to prevent crime and be responsive to the needs of different communities. In 2015, we instituted the Narcotics Eviction Program, designed to allow law-abiding citizens to be free from neighbors who let their rental premises be used for illegal business purposes. In 2015,

we continued to receive awards for our public service announcements, notably for our anti-gun crime campaign. In 2015, we not only continued the SMART (Strategic Methods Aimed at Reducing Truancy) Program to help keep at-risk students in school, but were recognized by the White House as the sponsor of the first countywide *It's On Us* anti-sexual abuse site in the United States, an initiative that would not have been possible without the help of our many community partners, including educators throughout the County.

In 2014, we instituted a DWI policy, in consultation with the Police Chiefs' Association of Orange County and the New York State STOP-DWI chairperson. We continued that policy in 2015, and I believe that the policy is among the best in the state. I am honored that I and my office received the Dana Distributors' 2015 Recognition Award for alcohol awareness and public safety for our DWI initiatives.

The strides that my office has made have also been recognized statewide. I have been selected Third Vice President and a member of the Board of Directors of the District Attorneys Association of the State of New York, and have been selected as a member of the Board of Directors of the New York Prosecutors Training Institute, in recognition of the achievements that my office has made in the last two years. My office is the only district attorney's office in the state that administers the Gun-Initiated Violence Elimination (GIVE) grant, and for the first time in Orange County history, there is a project director on the staff of the District Attorney's Office whose job is to steer potential criminal offenders toward community resources, to break the cycle of crime and violence in the City of Newburgh.

It is not the job of a prosecutor merely to seek convictions. Rather, a prosecutor must act ethically to ensure that the innocent are not prosecuted, and that all are treated fairly. To this end, in 2015 we instituted the Conviction Integrity Program, a protocol to review claims of actual innocence. That program places us in the vanguard of prosecutor's offices throughout the state that adhere to the highest ethical standards.

Thank you for the privilege of being Orange County District Attorney.

David M. Hoovler

## COUNTY COURT BUREAU

The County Court Bureau is composed of the Grand Jury Unit and the five specialized prosecution units that handle the felony caseload of the Orange County District Attorney's Office (OCDA).

<b><u>County Court Bureau Statistics</u></b>	<b><u>2015</u></b>	<b><u>2014</u></b>	<b><u>2013</u></b>
Felony Conviction Rate	96%	94%	94%
Felony Filings	804	811	791
Dispositions	763	914	850
Guilty Pleas	719	839	784
Felony Trials	8	23	17
Guilty Verdicts	8	18	18 (multiple defendants)
Acquittals/Dismissals	29	36	35
Other Dispositions	7	22	13
Cases Pending at Year-End	209	124	163

### Significant Cases

*People v. Mack and Wilson* – Defendant Wilson hid in the trunk of the car Mack was driving. Wilson got out and shot a man who had just been released from Otisville Correctional Facility. Both defendants were convicted after a jury trial. Mack was sentenced to a total of 25 years in prison for Attempted Murder in the Second Degree and other offenses; Wilson was sentenced to a total of 18 years in prison for Assault in the First Degree and other offenses.

*People v. Christian Benson* – The defendant recklessly killed his live-in girlfriend with a pistol that discharged while the couple were handling it. The defendant was convicted of Manslaughter in the Second Degree after trial and received a sentence of three to nine years in prison.

*People v. Alvaro Ramos-Lopez* – The defendant beat a man to death with a metal pipe outside of a City of Newburgh restaurant. The defendant pled guilty to Murder in the Second Degree and received a prison sentence of from eighteen years to life.

*People v. Leonard Salters* – Defendant stabbed his wife to death inside the couple's Highland Falls apartment. The defendant pled guilty to Murder in the Second Degree and is awaiting sentence.

*People v. Jennifer Molyneaux and Devin Giordano* – The defendants broke into an 81-year-old woman's Goshen home, beat her and strangled her to death, then set the home on fire.

Molyneaux pled guilty Murder in the Second Degree and is awaiting sentence. The case is still pending against Giordano.

*People v. Fredy Quizhpe* – While drunk, the defendant ran over a man three times, killing him, and hit and injured a second man. The defendant pled guilty Murder in the Second Degree and received a sentence of twenty years in prison.

## NARCOTICS AND GUN UNIT

The Narcotics and Gun Unit is responsible for prosecuting all felony drug sale cases as well as felony possession of drugs with intent to sell. In addition, the unit prosecutes gun cases when tied to drug and gang activity. Special emphasis is placed on drug sellers who sell narcotics on school grounds. In February, May, August, and November, 2015, the Unit participated with the Orange County Drug Task Force and local police agencies to conduct four narcotics enforcement actions, known as “sweeps,” targeting drug sellers throughout the County. The Unit also staffed the two County Court drug treatment courts. Although OCDA continues to seek strict prison sentences against drug dealers, the office continues to attempt to steer narcotics addicts into appropriate drug treatment programs.

The sweep in August was unusual, in that it targeted drug dealers that were accosting patients being treated at the Center for Recovery in the City of Newburgh. Those dealers preyed on addicts that were trying to get off drugs. The sweep entitled “Operation Clinically Addicted,” utilized undercover police officers from the Orange County Drug Task Force to purchase illicit drugs outside the clinic. The enforcement action was the result of complaints made by clinic staff members to law enforcement officials.

<u>Narcotics and Gun Unit Statistics</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Prosecution: Sale of Illegal Drugs	102	133	55
Guns Recovered	95	58	41
Value of Drugs Seized in Sweeps	\$163,000	\$85,000	\$6,960
Felony Narcotics Indictments and Superior Court Informations	286	269	128
Cases Presented to Grand Juries	227	227	81
Superior Court Informations	42	42	26
Defendants Charged With Selling Drugs On or Near School Grounds	11	11	0

## **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. Currently the police departments for the Village of Goshen, the Town of Wallkill, the Village of Washingtonville, and the Village of Monroe have assigned police officers to work on the Task Force. In 2015, the Task Force conducted four drug sweeps and led the County in narcotics-related arrests.

<b>Orange County Drug Task Force Statistics</b>	<b>2014-15</b>
Number of Cases	628
Number of Drug Purchases	195
Number of Search Warrants Executed	6
Number of Targets Arrested	96

## **SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT AND CRIMES AGAINST REVENUE PROGRAM**

The Special Investigations Unit is responsible for investigating and prosecuting a variety of criminal conduct, including arson felonies, certain vehicular crimes, financial elder abuse cases, and special assignments from the District Attorney or the Chief ADA. The unit also prosecutes complex crimes that require significant investigation prior to presenting the case to the grand jury, including large-scale white-collar larcenies, public corruption, police misconduct, computer crimes, and Internet child pornography cases. The Unit is also responsible for making appropriate referrals to other agencies when criminal prosecution is inappropriate.

In June and November, 2015, OCDA, in conjunction with the Orange County Department of Social Services and the Orange County Sheriff’s Office, conducted welfare fraud enforcement actions, known as “sweeps.” Those enforcement actions resulted in 55 new criminal cases. The continued efforts of the OCDA and its welfare-fraud-enforcement partners in investigating and prosecuting public benefits crimes resulted in restitution of \$271,414.38 having been returned to the state.

In addition, in 2015 OCDA was determined by the New York State Department of Labor to be the sixth-highest county in New York in terms of the amount of funds recovered in Department of Labor cases. That statistic is remarkable, in that Orange County is the twelfth-largest county, by population, in New York, and OCDA’s recoveries in Department of Labor cases exceeded the recoveries achieved by several counties with much larger populations.

<u>Special Investigations Unit Statistics</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Welfare fraud cases investigated	123	115	71
• Handled as civil matters	68	48	64
• Criminally prosecuted	55	67	7
• Fraud represented	\$556,000	\$748,000	\$503,354
• Estimated avoided costs	\$4.8 million	\$4.3 million	\$2.15 million
• Voluntary recoveries	\$66,357	\$108,485	< \$12,643
• Intentional program violations	105	54	49

The figures for intentional program violations represent civilly handled cases where overpaid program recipients agreed to pay back money and agreed to be disqualified from DSS programs. The marked increase shows the deterrent effect of the welfare fraud sweeps.

### **Significant Cases**

*People v. David Schermerhorn* – The defendant, driving a vehicle with four times the normal dosage of Clonazepam in his system, drove off a roadway in the Town of Goshen and struck a tree, killing his passenger. Schermerhorn pled guilty to Manslaughter in the Second Degree and is awaiting sentencing.

*People v. Andre Laquan Davis* – The defendant, driving a vehicle on State Route 17M with a blood-alcohol level of .15%, drove off the road and struck a large promotional Adirondack chair, killing his passenger. Davis pled guilty to Vehicular Manslaughter in the Second Degree and was sentenced to 2 1/3 to 7 years in prison.

*People v. Scott Duffie* – The defendant, an electrical contractor, was convicted of Tax Law crimes as a result of, among other things, his repeated failure to file tax returns and workers compensation insurance violations. The defendant pled guilty to Tax Law and Workers Compensation Law felonies, and is awaiting sentencing. Notably, the case came to OCDA as a result of District Attorney Hoovler’s initiative to enhance investigation and prosecution of labor crimes.

*People v. John A. Ravert* – The defendant, the operator of a tax service, took over a quarter of a million dollars from fourteen clients on the pretense that he would remit the money to the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance and to the Internal Revenue Service. Instead, he pocketed the money. The defendant pled guilty to Grand Larceny in the Second Degree, was sentenced to two to six years in prison, and was ordered to pay restitution.

## VIOLENT CRIMES UNIT

The Violent Crimes Unit prosecutes all violent felonies, including felonious assaults, robberies, residential burglaries, possession and use of loaded guns, and making terroristic threats.

The Supervisor of the Violent Crimes Unit is also directly responsible for day-to-day administration of the Gun-Involved Violence Elimination (GIVE) grant. OCDA's GIVE partners include the City of Newburgh Police Department, the Orange County Sheriff's Office, the Orange County Department of Probation, the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, Catholic Charities, and parole authorities with the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision. In 2015, OCDA became the first and only District Attorney's Office in New York to take the lead on administering the GIVE initiative. Accordingly, in 2015 OCDA hired a Program Manager to administer the Group Violence Intervention (GVI) component of the GIVE strategy. Furthermore, in October, 2015, OCDA, in conjunction with its GIVE partners, held the first Newburgh GVI call-in. At the call-in, several members of the City of Newburgh's most-violent groups appeared and listened to various presentations designed to help in reducing gun violence in the City, and to offer services to group members and their families. Following the call-in, several members of Newburgh's violent groups contacted social services representatives to seek assistance.

<b><u>Violent Crimes Unit Statistics</u></b>	<b><u>2015</u></b>	<b><u>2014</u></b>	<b><u>2013</u></b>
Cases/Defendants Screened	313/374	260/310	284/338
Indictments Filed	78	81	77
Superior Court Informations Filed	43	43	44

### Significant Cases

*People v. Tyahnjah Legette* – The defendant shot a City of Newburgh man in the face, chest, and arm with a .32 caliber revolver. The defendant pled guilty to Attempted Murder in the Second Degree and was sentenced to fifteen years in prison.

*People v. Monroe, Degroat, Cardona, and Reed* – Three of the defendants, armed with knives, committed a home invasion by breaking into a Mount Hope home, beat the homeowner and threatened his family, while the fourth defendant waited outside in the getaway car. All four defendants pled guilty to Burglary in the First Degree and received prison sentences ranging from seven to fifteen years.

## SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT

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 Unit provides a coordinated response to those designated cases, in order to more effectively prosecute those cases and to lessen the trauma a victim suffers. The SVU also oversees Sex Offender Registration Act hearings, which are held to determine the sexual offense registry level of a convicted sex offender.

<b><u>Special Victims Unit Statistics</u></b>	<b><u>2015</u></b>	<b><u>2014</u></b>	<b><u>2013</u></b>
Cases Screened	476	397	409
Indictments Filed	39	41	44
SCIs Filed	17	17	15

### Significant Cases

*People v. Jagminder Sawhney* – Following a domestic argument, the defendant tried to burn down his Blooming Grove home, while his wife and daughter were inside. The defendant pled guilty to Attempted Arson in the Second Degree and was sentenced to five years in prison.

*People v. Peter Donnery* – The defendant abducted a woman from a City of Newburgh street and raped her. The defendant pled guilty to Rape in the First Degree and was sentenced to eighteen years in prison.

*People v. Anthony DiValentino* – The defendant ran his former girlfriend’s car off Interstate 84, and then conspired with a fellow Orange County Jail inmate to kill her. The defendant was convicted after a jury trial of Attempted Assault in the First Degree and other charges, and was sentenced to an aggregate sentence of up to 35 years in prison.

## GENERAL CRIMES UNIT

The General Crimes Unit prosecutes felonies that are not assigned to other specialized prosecution units, where defendants are held in jail after arraignment or where the cases are screened and sent to the Unit by the Local Criminal Court Bureau supervisors. Cases that the Unit handles include 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.

<u>General Crimes Unit Statistics</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Cases Screened	745	735
Cases Indicted	118	131
Superior Court Informations Filed	127	112
Leandra's Law Cases Filed	23	20

### **THE APPEALS BUREAU**

Primarily, the Appeals Bureau handles all matters pending in New York's appellate courts, including the New York Court of Appeals; the Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Second Department; and the Supreme Court, Appellate Term for the Ninth and Tenth Judicial Districts. Bureau attorneys also handle litigation that relates to OCDA cases in federal courts, including the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, and the United States Supreme Court. Bureau attorneys assist other OCDA attorneys in Orange County Court and various local criminal courts; are assigned to the Orange County Animal Abuse Task Force; draft search warrants in assistance of police agencies and OCDA attorneys; and provide legal advice and training to OCDA staff and to Orange County police agencies. Finally, the Appeals Bureau Chief is also designated as the OCDA's Records Access Officer, and together with the Chief of the Special Projects and Community Affairs Bureau, is responsible for responses to Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) requests.

<u>Appeals Bureau Statistics</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Total Matters Handled	599	556	679
State Appeals	34	43	54
Federal Habeas Responses	8	3	3
Motion Responses	342	305	387
Appellate Arguments	11	11	17
Post-Judgment Hearings	6	10	8
FOIL Responses	120	123	160
Animal Cruelty Cases Reviewed	19	19	19
Search Warrants Drafted	24	12	11
Training Sessions Conducted	19	16	8

### **Significant Cases – Orange County Animal Abuse Task Force**

*People v Sylvia Panetta* – The defendant neglected seventy Rottweilers that were living on her Town of Wallkill property. Many of the dogs had untreated injuries, and many were living outside in pens that were strewn with debris and feces, and without adequate shelter. The defendant was convicted after a jury trial of several counts of animal cruelty and sentenced to ninety days

in jail. The defendant is also required to register on the Orange County Animal Abuser Registry, which was created in 2015.

*People v Melinda Ramos* – The defendant had chained six dogs to a baseboard in a filthy room inside of her City of Newburgh apartment. The dogs smelled of urine and feces, and one dog had an untreated open gash from where its collar had cut into the its neck. The defendant pled guilty to animal cruelty. The defendant is also required to register on the Orange County Animal Abuser Registry.

### **SPECIAL PROJECTS AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS BUREAU**

The Special Projects and Community Affairs Bureau continued to reach out to Orange County’s communities, and to administer other special initiatives of the District Attorney’s Office. In 2015, Bureau members:

- Made over 225 appearances at town board meetings, schools and community events, as compared to approximately 160 such appearances in 2014.
- Continued to coordinate the District Attorney’s Community Advisory Board (CAB), focusing on establishing the CAB’s 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 to bring the authority of the District Attorney to bear on parents of truant students when those parents refuse to cooperate with efforts of school officials to remedy the causes of their children’s truancy. So far, officials in several of Orange County’s school districts have referred 54 cases to OCDA, and the Program has been a resounding success. In every instance where OCDA would have been able to pursue a SMART Program case, the student has returned to regular school attendance, and it has not been necessary to charge any parents with crimes as a result of a lack of cooperation in remedying their children’s truancy.

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. Under the CIP, an Executive Assistant District Attorney, acting as the CIP Coordinator, reviews claims of innocence and over-conviction, and in cases where a plausible claim is made, refers those cases to the CIP Committee. In 2015, the CIP Coordinator began review of seventeen cases. Twelve of those cases were closed without referral to the CIP Committee. The other five cases remain under review.
- Launched the *It's On Us Orange County, N.Y.* initiative. *It's On Us* is a campaign begun by the White House in 2014, to raise awareness about sexual assault on college campuses. The initiative seeks to provide college students, instructors, and administrators with tools to assist them in recognizing sexual assault as it is happening, and in intervening to prevent sexual assault before it happens. *It's On Us Orange County, N.Y.* brings together representatives of SUNY Orange, Mount Saint Mary College, and the United States Military Academy; the Orange County Rape Crisis Program; Orange County Safe Homes; the Orange County Department of Mental Health; school superintendents; business leaders; and law enforcement, to bring to Orange County the message of the *It's On Us* campaign. In fact, Orange County was designated by the White House as the first countywide *It's On Us* cite in the United States.

In addition in the area of community outreach, in 2015 OCDA received a Bronze Award from the Summit International Awards Organization, as a result of OCDA's anti-gun public service announcement campaign poster, which was released in 2014.

### **LOCAL CRIMINAL COURT BUREAU**

The Local Criminal Court Bureau is responsible for all operations in the local criminal courts in Orange County's twenty towns, nineteen villages, and three cities, many with multiple judges comprising a total of 74 separate local criminal court parts. Local criminal courts meet both in the daytime and at night, and handle misdemeanor and petty offense cases, as well as exercising preliminary jurisdiction over most felony cases. In 2015, the Bureau prosecuted approximately 21,000 cases, representing more than 90% of OCDA's total caseload.

Attorneys in the Bureau are also responsible for operations in several of Orange County's specialty courts, including:

- Middletown Drug Court
- City of Newburgh Drug Court
- City of Newburgh Veterans' Court
- Middletown Mental Health Court Connections Program
- Port Jervis Mental Health Court Connections Program
- Integrated Domestic Violence Court
- City of Newburgh Domestic Violence Court

Attorneys in the Bureau are also responsible for referring appropriate cases to various diversion programs throughout the County. Those programs include:

- Dispute Resolution Center – sponsoring a number of programs to mediate differences between parties
- Orange County John School – A program for non-violent sex offenders arrested for soliciting prostitutes, where health and law enforcement officials and community members discuss a variety of topics
- Women's Enrichment Program – A program designed to provide information and support to at-risk women, to educate them and to enhance their self-esteem
- Shoplifting Prevention Program
- Teen Victim Impact Panel – Group session held for defendants under 21 years of age, where defendants listen to victims of crimes and share how alcohol-related offenses have affected their lives

## **DWI POLICY**

In 2015, OCDA continued its restructured DWI policy, which was created in consultation with Orange County police chiefs and the New York State STOP-DWI chairperson. The policy, among other things, compels first time offenders, in order to be eligible for a guilty plea to a reduced charge, to receive alcohol- and substance-abuse evaluations and, if necessary, treatment, so that they might avoid becoming felons or killing people on the highways. Statistics reflect that approximately 10% of first-time DWI offenders require some form of treatment. As a result of the policy, among other things, District Attorney Hoovler and the OCDA received the Dana Distributors' 2015 Recognition Award for promoting alcohol awareness and public safety.

## **MISDEMEANORS MATTER DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INITIATIVE**

During 2015, OCDA continued to emphasize misdemeanor domestic violence cases, through the Misdemeanors Matter Program, which OCDA created in 2014 to ensure that misdemeanor domestic violence cases are handled with the special attention and expertise that those serious cases deserve. For 2015, the Misdemeanors Matter Program was funded by two grants, one state and one federal. The District Attorney's Office was the recipient of a New York State legislative member-item grant sponsored by State Senator William Larkin, as well as a grant through the federal Violence Against Women Act Formula Grant Program. Those grants funded the ADAs responsible for work under the Misdemeanors Matter Program. Two ADAs were specifically assigned to handle domestic violence caseloads, with special emphasis and training placed on prosecuting cases without the victims' testimony, a strategy known as "evidence-based prosecution."

In 2015, the Misdemeanors Matter Program handled more than 500 domestic violence cases. In addition, OCDA continued to further enhance offender accountability by mandating that defendants attend and successfully complete the program of Domestic Violence Classes for Men. That program consists of either 26 or 52 weeks of classes that provide offenders with an opportunity to learn about the harmfulness of behaviors that they have perpetrated against their partners. In 2015, 128 defendants were mandated to attend Domestic Violence Classes for Men as part of the disposition of their criminal case.

## BUDGET/GRANTS

	<u>2016</u> <u>(projected)</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Annual Budget	\$9,342,670	\$9,191,427	\$9,519,498	\$9,236,241
Grants	\$545,465	\$520,665	\$351,215	\$203,600
• Gun-Involved Violence Elimination (GIVE) Grant	\$213,465	\$213,465	\$213,465	N/A
• Domestic Violence Grant	N/A	\$75,000	N/A	\$37,500
• Impact	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$94,500
• Byrne Justice Assistance Grant	\$15,000	\$25,000	N/A	N/A
• Crimes Against Revenue Program (CARP) Grant	\$89,000	\$100,000	\$25,000	N/A
• GVI Project Manager	\$85,000	N/A	N/A	N/A
• Video Recording of Statements	N/A	N/A	\$41,150	N/A
• Violence Against Women Formula Grant	\$35,600	\$35,600	N/A	N/A
• Aid to Prosecution Grant	\$107,400	\$71,600	\$71,600	\$71,600

NOTE: With respect to the Significant Cases described above, a criminal charge is merely an allegation that a defendant has committed a violation of the criminal law, and it is not evidence of guilt. All defendants are presumed innocent and entitled to a fair trial, during which it will be the State of New York's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.