

Contra Costa District
Attorney's Office

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Diana Becton



CONTRA COSTA DISTRICT ATTORNEY



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Diana Becton
District Attorney

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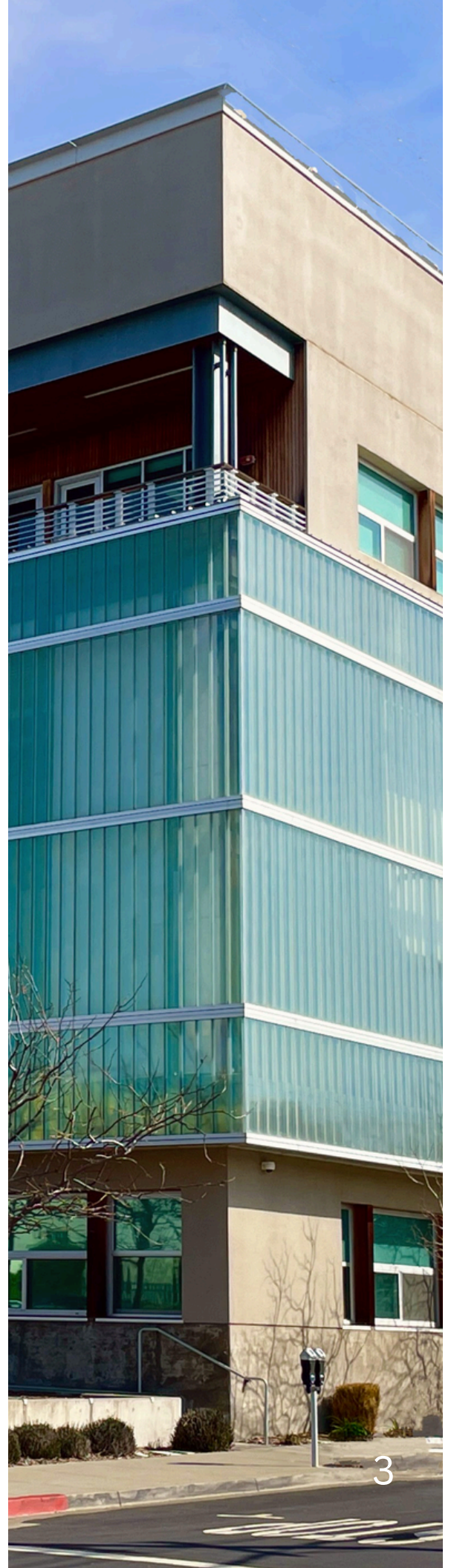
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CONTRA COSTA DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S EXECUTIVE TEAM



Diana Becton
District Attorney

- Appointed in 2017
- Elected in 2018
- Elected in 2022



Aron DeFerrari
Assistant
District Attorney

- Vertical Units Supervision
- Victim-Witness Unit Supervision



Simon O'Connell
Chief Assistant
District Attorney

- Supervisor of day-to-day criminal prosecution operations



Ryan Wagner
Assistant District
Attorney

- Recruitment and hiring of legal staff
- Supervisor of Advanced Litigation Unit



Arnold Threats
Chief of Inspectors

- Sworn personnel and investigations



Monica Carlisle
Chief of Administrative
Services

- Budget and personnel

DISTRICT ATTORNEY DIANA BECTON



MESSAGE

A PRACTICAL PATH TO JUSTICE WITH SOLUTIONS THAT DELIVER

It is a great honor to serve the people of this great county as your District Attorney. Together, we are making meaningful progress with a sharp focus on public safety, pragmatic solutions, and alternatives to a one-size-fits-all criminal justice system.

As District Attorney, I've led the office with a vision grounded in fairness, equity, and accountability – values that guide our work in service of the community.

Since 2018, my team and I have implemented forward-thinking programs and policies that center on public safety, promote justice, and protect victims' rights. We have advanced comprehensive reforms that reflect the evolving understanding of justice, expanding diversion opportunities while developing robust data-driven practices that inform our decision-making.

Central to our approach has been prioritizing victim-centered practices that ensure those harmed by crime receive the support, resources, and justice they deserve. Every decision is guided by accountability, public trust, and community safety, with data and evidence serving as the foundation for our strategic initiatives.

We have strengthened partnerships with law enforcement agencies, public officials, and community organizations to ensure public safety efforts are both effective and equitable. The professionalism and tireless commitment of our Deputy District Attorneys, Investigators, Victim Advocates, and Support Staff make this great work possible.

In this annual report, you'll see the results of that work in some of the following areas:

- ✓ Prosecuting serious and violent felonies and misdemeanors
- ✓ Implementing restorative justice programs for young people and adults
- ✓ Resolving cold cases – including unsolved homicides
- ✓ Creating prosecutorial units focused on community violence, retail crime, hate crimes, human trafficking, and public integrity
- ✓ Establishing an analytics team to identify crime trends, improve case outcomes, and allocate resources for more efficient crime prevention

The path to improving public safety is challenging, filled with setbacks, resistance, and obstacles. But despite these challenges, we've made real progress building a smarter, more effective justice system with solutions that work.

This is the kind of progress that moves beyond the status quo, toward a more just and safe community for all. Thank you for your continued trust.

Diana Becton
District Attorney
Contra Costa County

FACES BEHIND THE WORK

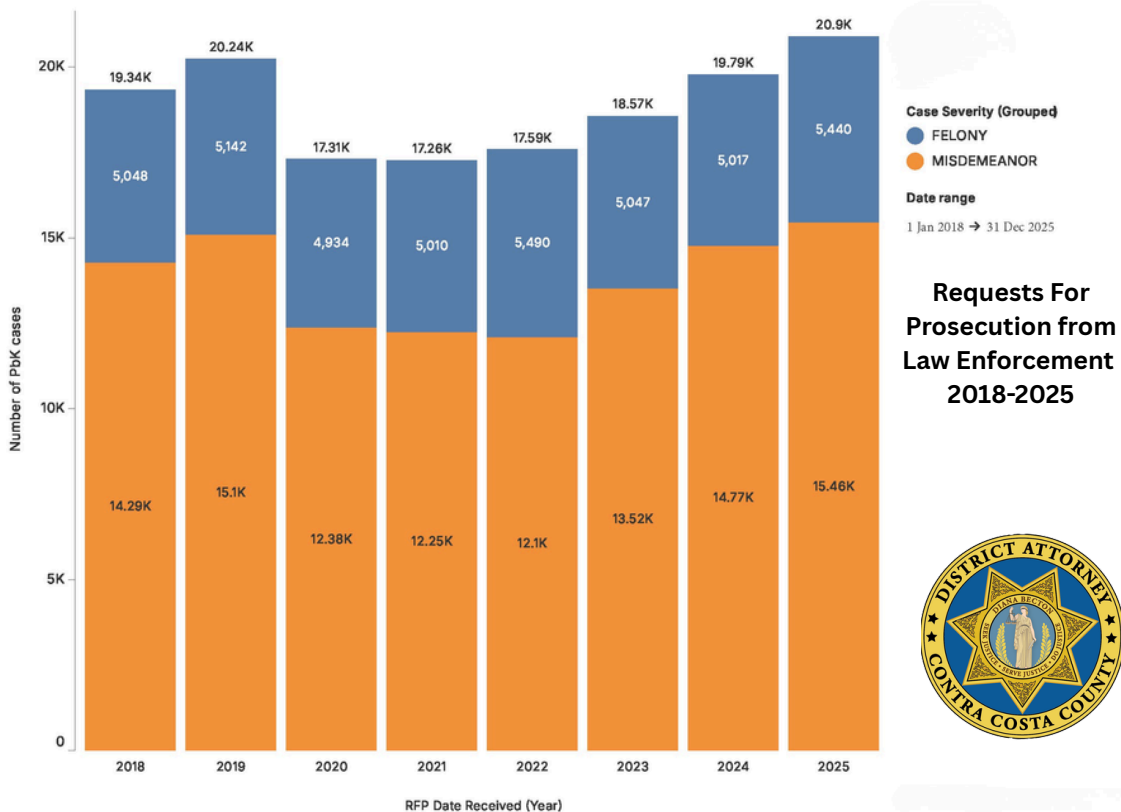
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25



CRIMINAL PROSECUTIONS

FELONIES AND MISDEMEANORS 2017-2025

While public narratives often treat crime as a single issue, it actually encompasses a wide range of different offenses with distinct characteristics. The Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office receives more misdemeanor than felony referrals from law enforcement annually. Misdemeanors involve violations like petty theft, DUI, and vandalism, punishable by up to one year in jail, fines, and probation. Felonies represent the most serious violations, including violent acts like homicide and armed assault, as well as major non-violent crimes such as fraud and drug distribution, carrying substantial prison terms and significant financial penalties.



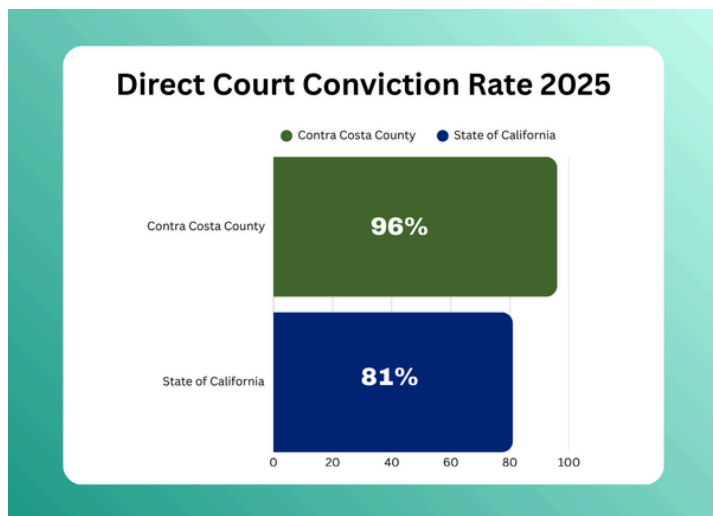
2025 CRIMINAL PROSECUTION FILING PERCENTAGES

Offense	Submitted	Filed	% Filed
Murder (PC 187)	30	27	90%
Robbery (PC 211)	447	351	78%
DUI (VC 23152)	3240	2668	82%
Reckless Evading (VC 2800.2)	231	195	84%

UNIT HIGHLIGHTS

DIRECT COURT UNIT

The Direct Court Unit prosecutes serious felony cases across Contra Costa County's three criminal courthouses in Martinez, Pittsburg, and Richmond, handling all phases from initial hearings through trial. This geographic approach fosters strong relationships with local law enforcement, courts, and communities while maintaining consistent countywide standards of justice.



Results

Over the past year, the Direct Court Unit tried 26 felony cases, securing guilty verdicts in 25—**a 96% conviction rate that exceeds the statewide rate of 81% by 15%.**

Three Main Categories of Crime



Notable Cases

- **People v. Kenneth Mclsaac** – On March 27th, a jury convicted Mclsaac of residential robbery and kidnapping for ransom after a violent home invasion in Lafayette. He was sentenced to 16 years to life in state prison on October 24th.
- **People v. John Earlywine** – Following a jury trial on July 2nd, Earlywine was found guilty of reckless evasion and vehicle theft involving a stolen motorcycle in Antioch. He was sentenced to two years in state prison.
- **People v. Antonio Alaniz** – A jury convicted Alaniz on July 22nd of repeat theft for shoplifting at Macy's in Concord's Sun Valley Mall. This was the first felony Proposition 36 trial in Contra Costa County, resulting in a two-year state prison sentence.
- **People v. Edgar Lopezperez** – On April 16th, a jury convicted Lopezperez of felony drunk driving causing great bodily injury after a head-on collision in Brentwood that injured two other drivers. He was sentenced to four years and four months in state prison.

UNIT HIGHLIGHTS

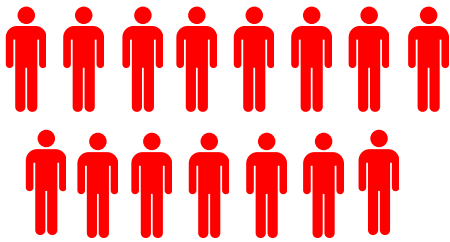
HOMICIDE UNIT

The Homicide Unit is dedicated to prosecuting serious and sensitive criminal cases in Contra Costa County. Prosecutors in this specialized team work closely with law enforcement, forensic experts, and victim families to ensure that every homicide investigation is handled with precision, integrity, and compassion.

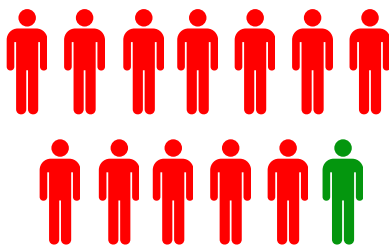
Impact

In 2025, the Homicide Unit continued to deliver strong results in some of the most challenging and emotionally charged cases handled by the District Attorney's Office. Each case represents not only a legal challenge but also a profound human story. Behind each conviction stands months of unwavering resolve and rigorous preparation to ensure that the victim's story – though silenced by violence – is powerfully told in the pursuit of justice.

15 Homicide Trials



12 Guilty of Murder. 1 Not Guilty



2 Guilty of Manslaughter



Notable Cases

- **People v. Phuc Hong Vo:** On May 20th, Phuc Hong Vo of San Pablo was convicted of double homicide and a multiple-victim special circumstance for killing his wife, Tho Ly, and mother-in-law, Que Tran. Living a secret double life with an overseas partner, he disposed of Tran's body in the Oakland Estuary. Ly's body was never found. Vo was sentenced to life without the possibility of parole.
- **People v. Brian Yacopetti:** Brian Yacopetti was convicted of first-degree murder and assault with a firearm, with personal use enhancements, on July 7th, after fatally shooting his ex-girlfriend and wounding her husband during a domestic dispute in Antioch in 2023. A repeat violent offender, he had been on parole for only nine months following a 15-year sentence when he committed the crime. He was sentenced to 125 years to life.
- **People v. Bobby Dee Dozier:** Convicted of first-degree murder with the use of a firearm and other gun-related charges on March 27th, Dozier carried out the shooting of the victim in Richmond during a chance encounter in 2022. He exited his vehicle, ordered the victim to the ground, and then shot him—possibly having mistaken the victim for someone else. He is currently serving 100 years to life.

UNIT HIGHLIGHTS

COLD CASE UNIT

The Cold Case Unit investigates and prosecutes unsolved homicides and major violent crimes when new evidence, technology, or information emerges. The team partners with law enforcement and criminalists, using advanced forensic tools—including DNA, genetic genealogy, and digital forensics—to resolve long-standing cases.

Impact

The Cold Case Unit delivers long-awaited justice through innovative investigation and advanced forensic analysis, solving cases once thought unsolvable and holding violent offenders accountable regardless of time passed.

In the past year, the unit achieved multiple convictions and resolutions in crimes from the 1990s through early 2000s, demonstrating the transformative power of DNA technology. Each success represents years—often decades—of tireless dedication to justice for victims and families.

Matthew Muller, 'American Nightmare' kidnapper, arraigned in alleged San Ramon home invasion

BAY AREA

Suspected Pittsburg killer identified 16 years after homicide

BAY AREA

Truck driver convicted of murdering Concord transgender woman

Notable Cases

- **People v. Mathew Muller:** Known as the “American Nightmare” kidnapper, Muller pleaded no contest on July 10th in a 2015 San Ramon kidnapping-for-ransom case that went unreported for nearly a decade. In spring 2015, Muller unlawfully held two John Does and one Jane Doe for ransom, forcing one victim to withdraw over \$30,000 to secure the release of the others. The crime surfaced only after Muller’s 2024 confession, made while serving a 40-year sentence for the kidnapping and rape of Denise Huskins.
- **People v. James Grimsley:** Nearly three decades after the brutal 1990s murder of 28-year-old Terrie Ladwig, a transgender woman in Concord, advanced DNA technology identified Grimsley as the killer. He was convicted of second-degree murder on August 29th and sentenced to 15 years to life, bringing long-overdue justice to a case that had haunted the community for years.
- **People v. Desante Blake:** For the 2007 fatal shooting of Larry Abercrombie Sr. in front of his Pittsburg home, Blake entered a change of plea on September 24th and received a 23-year state prison sentence on multiple charges, including manslaughter and attempted robbery. The nearly two-decade-old case was solved after touch DNA linked Blake to the crime, and the murder weapon was found hidden in a jacket pocket during a 2023 search of his home.

UNIT HIGHLIGHTS

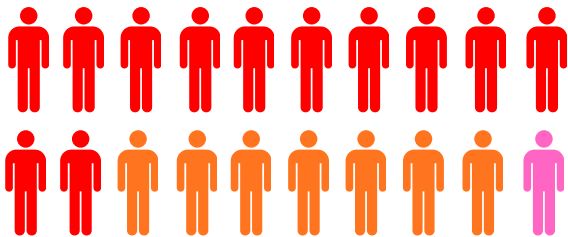
INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE

The Interpersonal Violence Unit prosecutes and prevents crimes involving intimate partner violence, sexual assault, and elder abuse. Using a trauma-informed approach, the unit works closely with victims, law enforcement, community partners, and victim advocates to ensure victim safety and hold offenders accountable.

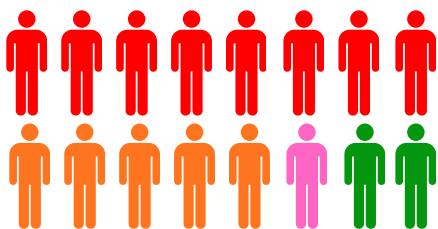
Impact

Through specialized expertise and victim-centered practices, the unit has strengthened community trust in the justice system and improved outcomes for survivors. Beyond prosecution, the unit works to prevent future harm and provide a coordinated systemic response to interpersonal violence.

20 Trials



14 Guilty Convictions. 2 Not Guilty



4 Mistrials



Key: Red = Sexual Assault Unit. Orange = Domestic Violence Unit. Pink = Elder Abuse Unit.

Notable Cases

- **People v. Parks [Domestic Violence]** Parks was tried and convicted of attempted murder with use of a deadly weapon and causing great bodily injury, along with related domestic violence offenses. The case was a defense of a particular vulnerable victim who suffered from extreme socio-economic hardship. Parks was sentenced to 12 years in State Prison.
- **People v. Jorge Silva [Sexual Assault]** Silva was tried and convicted of multiple felonies related to the sexual abuse of three female minors. The convictions stem from a pattern of abuse victimizing three minors that spanned nearly a decade. Silva will be sentenced to multiple life counts in state prison.
- **People v. Matthew Dorsey [Elder Abuse]** Dorsey and fellow assailants committed a string of robberies that violently targeted elderly victims at banks and ATMs. During the course of the coordinated robbery, one elderly victim was tased. Dorsey was tried and convicted by a jury on October 9 of elder abuse and two counts a robbery. He is scheduled to be sentenced in late December.
- **People v. Mosby [Sexual Assault]** On October 17, Nicholas Mosby, a teacher and cheer coach, was convicted by a jury of crimes involving inappropriate touching of multiple Jane Doe victims who were between the ages of 13 and 16 years old.

UNIT HIGHLIGHTS

SPECIAL OPERATIONS

The Special Operations Division prosecutes complex, non-violent white-collar and public integrity crimes through several specialized units: Auto Fraud, Consumer Protection (civil), Environmental Protection, Real Estate Fraud, Major Financial Crimes, Workers' Compensation Fraud, and Public Integrity.

Impact

The Special Operations Division safeguards public funds by deterring fraud in insurance, real estate, and social safety net programs, and protects community members from corporate misconduct and unfair business practices. Through the Public Integrity Unit it holds public officials accountable and promotes public trust. Beyond criminal prosecution and civil enforcement, the division provides community outreach and prevention training.



Notable Cases

- **People v. Clark Pet Control, et al** [Environmental Protection] On November 19, the Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office and joining counties secured a \$3.15 million settlement with Clark Pest Control, Orkin Services of California, and Crane Pest Control. In addition to the civil penalties and fees, the judgment also requires the companies to comply with a permanent injunction mandating significant operational reforms.
- **People v. Silva, et al** [Workers' Compensation Fraud Division] An investigation into Atlas Paver Company and Centrox Construction uncovered a scheme to conceal nearly all of Atlas' payroll through a shell subcontractor, Centrox, to evade insurance premiums. On October 23, 2025, Atlas' co-owners pled to multiple felonies and received county jail sentences, significant restitution orders, and ongoing quarterly payments. The bookkeeper and Centrox co-owners also entered pleas and received jail time, fines, and professional restrictions.
- **People v. Paul Burnside** [Auto Fraud] Charged in March, over the course of a preceding year, Burnside is alleged to have engaged in a series of auto thefts by way of fraud and burglary. The conduct included fraudulent credit applications, casing of dealerships, and subsequent release of stolen property. After stealing one vehicle, Burnside is alleged to have subsequently engaged in a transaction for a legitimately owned vehicle in exchange for the stolen car.

The Investigation and Evidence

The investigation began on March 22, 2022, when state and federal investigators obtained search warrants for several officers' cell phones. Examining the phones uncovered evidence of wrongdoing, including messages showing the officers had conspired to obstruct justice and to accept bribes. This digital evidence was central to building the cases and revealed the full scope of the criminal scheme.

Working with the FBI allowed our office to access additional resources and expertise that were key to building a strong case. The partnership led to both state and federal charges. One officer, Timothy Manly Williams, also faced a separate federal indictment based on additional violations uncovered during the joint investigation.

A Pattern of Misconduct

The bribery and conspiracy charges were serious, but the investigation uncovered other troubling behavior as well. When investigators reviewed the officers' messages, they found a large number of racist, sexist, and homophobic texts shared among more than a dozen officers.

These messages raised concerns about fairness in hundreds of criminal cases that those officers had worked on. Under California's Racial Justice Act (Penal Code Section 745), the state cannot pursue a conviction or impose a sentence based on a person's race, ethnicity, or national origin. As a result, our office reviewed hundreds of cases to determine whether the officers' bias affected the outcome.

Legal Framework and Charges

The charges filed reflect the seriousness of the officers' alleged actions. Under California Penal Code Section 182(a)(5), conspiring to harm the public is a felony. This recognizes that coordinated wrongdoing causes harm that goes beyond individual victims. The bribery charges, under Penal Code Section 68, address the fact that public officials who accept bribes betray the trust placed in them.

UNIT HIGHLIGHTS

PUBLIC CORRUPTION



These laws exist to protect public institutions and ensure that people in positions of authority cannot abuse their power for personal gain. The alleged conduct in this case strikes at the heart of equal justice under law, creating a system where favorable treatment could be purchased rather than earned through lawful conduct.

Conclusion

All six cases against Timothy Manly Williams, Calvin Prieto, Adrea Rodriguez, Ben Padilla, and Jean Earnesto Mejia-Orozco ended in guilty pleas. The officers also faced administrative hearings with the City of Antioch, and some lost their law enforcement certifications as a result of their criminal convictions.

"Prosecuting public servants for corruption is never easy, but accountability is essential to maintaining public trust," said District Attorney Diana Becton. "While public corruption cases can be difficult for the affected communities, holding officials accountable ultimately preserves the integrity of our government and helps reinforce the community's faith in justice — which is essential to a functioning democracy."

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS



The Bureau of Investigations is our law enforcement arm, providing crucial investigative support that helps us secure justice.

Across our five county locations, the Bureau of Investigations includes Senior Inspectors—career sworn peace officers serving as the District Attorney’s primary criminal investigators—alongside Assistant Investigators and a Program Manager. Working in close partnership with Deputy District Attorneys, our investigative personnel conduct thorough, prosecution-driven investigations across a wide range of critical public safety areas, including domestic violence, elder abuse, homicide, financial crimes, human trafficking, and technology-facilitated offenses.

This collaborative model ensures careful case preparation, victim-centered service, and accountability throughout the criminal justice process.

Attorneys, specializing in a wide array of critical areas, from domestic violence and elder abuse to complex cases of fraud, homicide, and high-tech crime.

Furthermore, our Bureau of Investigations extends its expertise to assist our law enforcement partners. It conducts thorough investigations into law enforcement-involved fatal incidents within Contra Costa County, underscoring our commitment to both effective prosecution and impartial inquiry.



Chief of Inspectors Arnold Threats (Center)
(L-R) Lieutenant Eddie Sousa, Adjutant Senior Inspector Larry Wallace, Lieutenant Don Hendershot, and Lieutenant John Conaty

MAJOR CRIMES TASK FORCE

PARTNERING TO COMBAT CRIMINAL ENTERPRISES



The MCTF is a cooperative team led and directed by the District Attorney, bringing together the expertise and resources of the Contra Costa County Office of the Sheriff (CCCSO), the Contra Costa County Probation Department (CCCPD), and the police departments of Concord (CPD), Pittsburg (PPD), Hercules (HPD), San Pablo (SPPD), Richmond (RPD), and Walnut Creek (WCPD). This strategic partnership is specifically designed for the cooperative investigation and prosecution of a wide range of serious offenses.

The Major Crimes Task Force is a multi-agency partnership focused on violent crime suppression and complex investigations, ranging from organized retail theft to homicide. During the reporting period, Task Force personnel conducted 81 targeted operations, resulting in 85 arrests.

Investigators executed more than 100 search warrants and seized dozens of illegally possessed firearms. These coordinated enforcement efforts disrupted criminal activity, removed dangerous weapons from our communities, and enhanced regional collaboration in the interest of public safety.

Furthermore, the task force plays a vital role in the apprehension of suspects, assisting in the execution of search and arrest warrants to bring perpetrators to justice. Once investigations are complete, the MCTF prepares and submits their findings directly to the CCCDAO for prosecution, ensuring a strong and unified legal front. The MCTF also strategically coordinates with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies as needed, expanding their reach and impact.



INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN TASK FORCE

FROM AWARENESS TO ACTION: ICAC TASK FORCE LEADS LOCAL EFFORT TO PROTECT CHILDREN ONLINE

The Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office leads and coordinates local investigative efforts as part of the Silicon Valley Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (SVICAC), a regional partnership spanning 11 counties. This collaborative task force is dedicated to identifying, investigating, and prosecuting technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and other internet crimes against children, addressing an evolving and increasingly sophisticated digital threat landscape.

SVICAC, part of a national network of over 3,500 law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies, provides crucial support to state and local partners addressing these complex crimes. This support includes forensic and investigative resources, specialized training, technical assistance, victim services, and proactive prevention and education initiatives.

The task force addresses critical issues such as the luring and grooming of children online, the increasing trend of predators requesting and distributing Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM), and the dangerous practice of online predators creating fake personas to exploit and endanger youth.

As part of these efforts, investigators arrested 41 individuals on federal and state charges involving child sexual abuse material or attempted sexual exploitation of minors.



These cases reflect the Task Force's ongoing commitment to protecting children from online predators and holding offenders accountable.

"The internet presents new and evolving dangers to our children, and we must work collaboratively to address these threats effectively," said District Attorney Diana Becton. "Our participation in SVICAC provides us with essential resources and partnerships to investigate and prosecute these heinous crimes and to protect our community's youth."

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

(In alphabetical order)

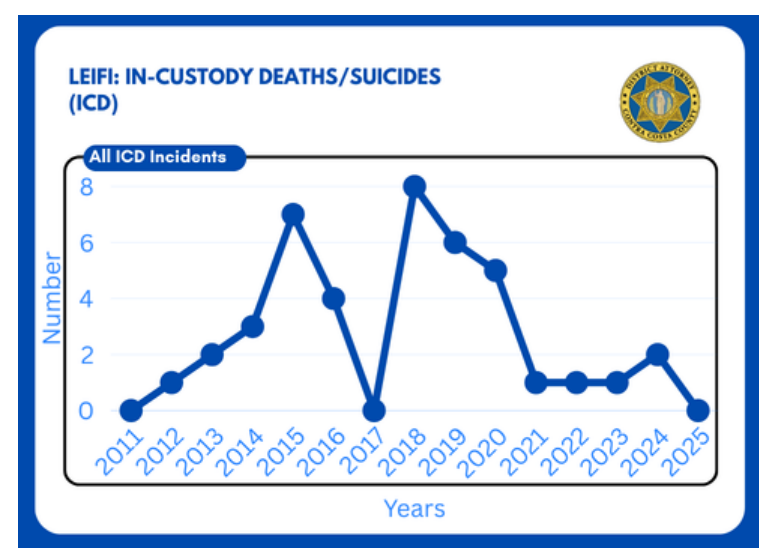
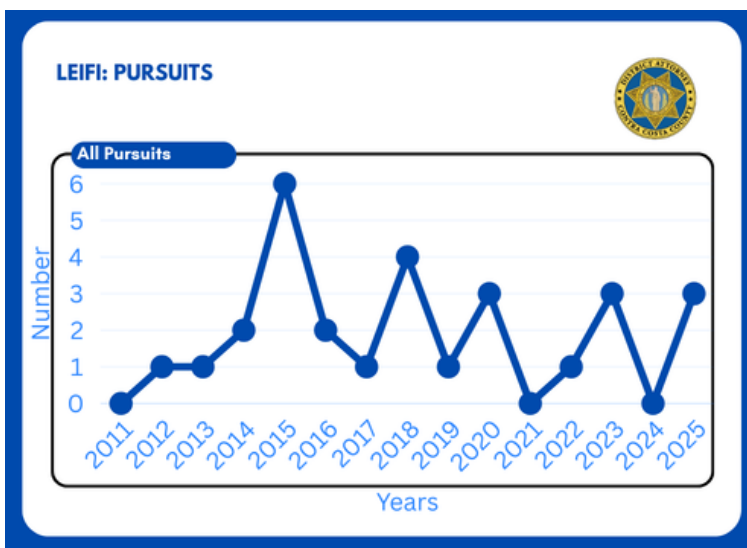
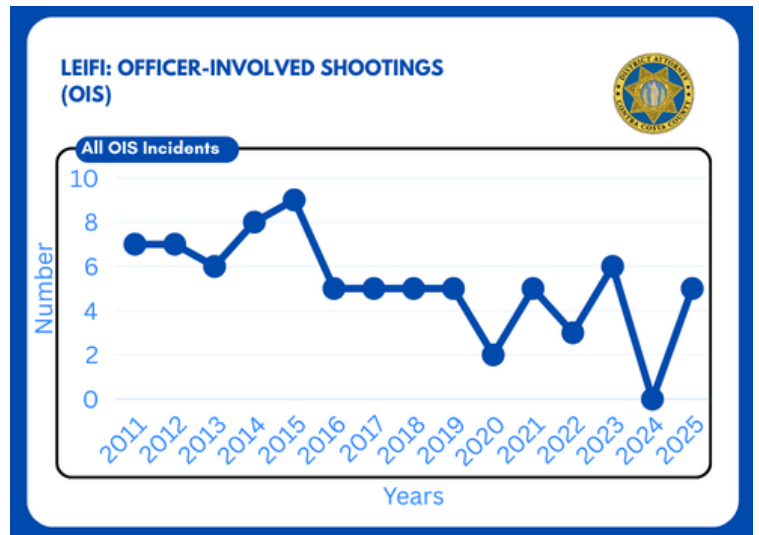
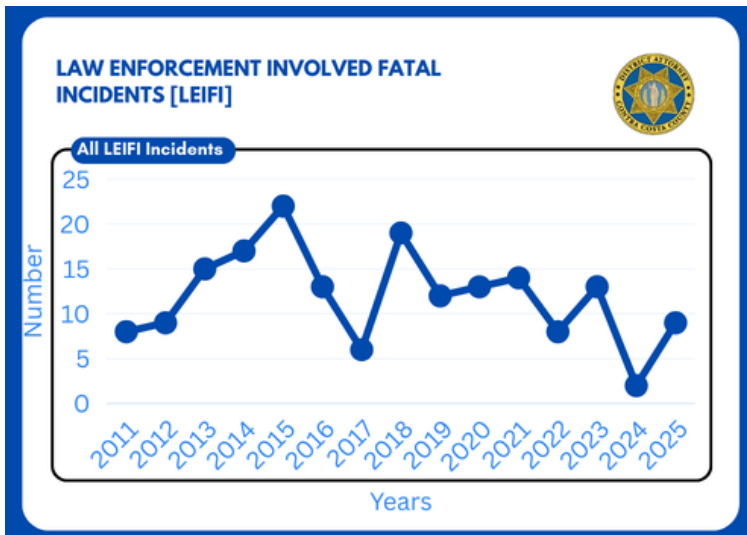
- Brentwood Police Department
- Concord Police Department
- Contra Costa County Probation Department
- Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office
- Homeland Security Investigations
- Martinez Police Department
- Moraga Police Department
- Oakley Police Department
- Pleasant Hill Police Department
- San Pablo Police Department
- San Ramon Police Department
- United States Postal Inspection Service
- United States Secret Service
- Walnut Creek Police Department

LAW ENFORCEMENT INVOLVED FATAL INCIDENTS: 2011 - 2025

When an officer or civilian is killed during law enforcement encounters in Contra Costa County, the Law Enforcement Involved Fatal Incidents (LEIFI) protocol is activated. LEIFI incidents include officer-involved shootings, in-custody deaths, and vehicle pursuits.

As part of the LEIFI protocol, the CCCDAO conducts independent criminal investigations to determine if criminal liability exists beyond

a reasonable doubt. In 2018, District Attorney Becton implemented a comprehensive transparency policy requiring the publication of detailed LIEFI reports on the District Attorney's [website](#) when charges aren't filed, ensuring the public receives thorough documentation of these incidents.





NRP
**NEIGHBORHOOD
RESTORATIVE
PARTNERSHIP**

RESTORING NEIGHBORHOOD STABILITY THROUGH PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Neighborhood Restorative Partnership Program is a vital program where participants find community-based paths to rehabilitation before a case gets filed with the court. Since 2022, this innovative initiative offers a transformative approach to addressing low-level misdemeanor offenses, diverting individuals from the traditional criminal justice system and fostering healing within our neighborhoods.

At its core, the Neighborhood Restorative Partnership emphasizes community-driven solutions over punishment. The program brings together harmed parties, responsible parties, and community members to collaboratively determine how to repair the harm caused. This restorative justice approach focuses on accountability, understanding, and restoration for all involved.

NRP relies on trained volunteer community panelists from Contra Costa County who facilitate constructive dialogues and help

develop community-based solutions.

Empowered by the District Attorney's Office under Penal Code §14150-14156, these panelists adjudicate certain infraction and misdemeanor offenses.

Trained facilitators guide the restorative justice process to ensure a fair and productive environment for all.

Data from the NRP's three-year history shows strong outcomes. Of 288 cases referred since 2022, 119 participants have completed the program, and 59 remain actively enrolled.

On the following page, data from the Contra Costa District Attorney's Office shows that among the 119 individuals who completed the NRP program, recidivism incidents^[1] total 1% — or only one person. In contrast, CDCR data shows California's misdemeanor recidivism incidents total 21.1%^[2].

[1] California measures recidivism — commonly defined as relapsing into criminal behavior — using a statewide definition proposed by then-Attorney General Kamala Harris in 2014. This definition was adopted by the California Department of Correction and Rehabilitation and codified into law in 2015 through AB 1056. In a memo issued on October 16, 2014, Attorney General Kamala Harris's statewide definition of recidivism as "An arrest resulting in a charge within three years of an individual's release from incarceration or placement on supervision for a previous criminal conviction." The arrest resulting in a charge is for offenses at the felony and misdemeanor levels. Moreover, the individual must have been booked by a law enforcement agency, resulting in the filing of a criminal charge or charges in an accusatory pleading by a prosecutor or grand jury. See, https://oag.ca.gov/system/files/attachments/press_releases/Recidivism%20Definition%20Letter%2C%20AG%20Harris.pdf

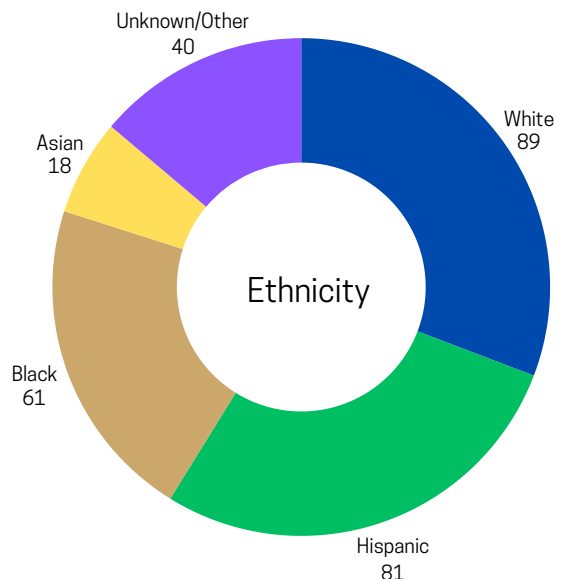
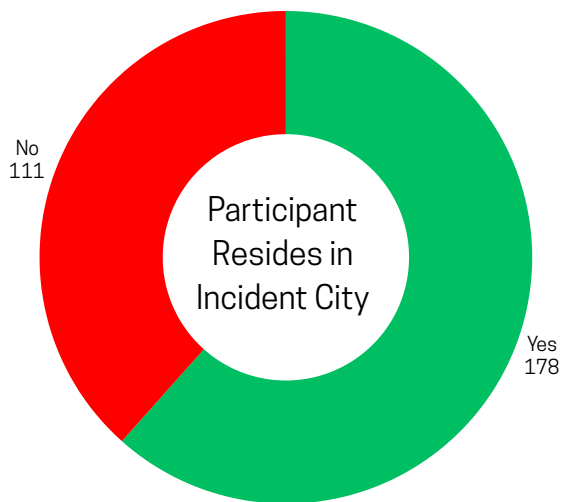
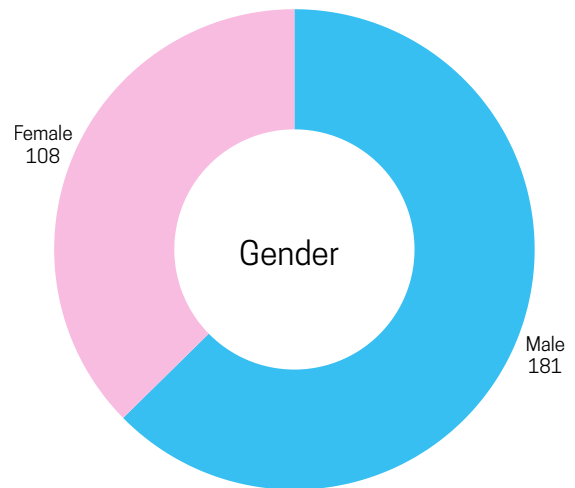
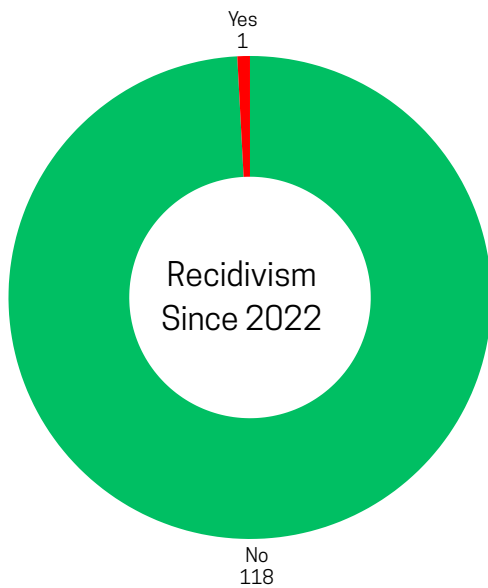
[2] California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Office of Research. *Recidivism Report for Individuals Released from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation in Fiscal Year 2018-19*. February 2024. Available at: <https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/research/wp-content/uploads/sites/174/2024/02/Statewide-Recidivism-Report-for-Individuals-Released-in-Fiscal-Year-2018-19.pdf>



NRP
NEIGHBORHOOD
RESTORATIVE
PARTNERSHIP

RESTORING NEIGHBORHOOD STABILITY THROUGH PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

NRP Data



VICTIM WITNESS PROGRAM

A HISTORY OF BALANCING JUSTICE AND PROVIDING SUPPORT



Experiencing or witnessing a crime can be traumatic. The emotional, physical, and financial toll often extends long after the incident itself. To support those affected, the Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office offers a vital service: the Victim Witness Assistance Program, led by Shannon Mahoney.

Established in 1983 under California Penal Code §13835.5, the program was created to reduce the trauma victims and witnesses often encounter in the criminal justice system. Our trained victim advocates provide compassionate guidance through every stage of the legal process, ensuring that victims are informed, supported, and never alone.

Advocates help with court accompaniment, restitution claims, emergency assistance, and referrals to counseling, shelters, and supportive services. Their role is both practical and deeply personal, recognizing that healing takes time, care, and community.

The Victim-Witness Program receives most of its funding from a combination of state and federal grants -- a vital support system for

victims that are built into the justice process itself.

Today, while progress has been made, our office remains committed to ensuring that victims are treated with dignity, compassion, and respect.





FENNER AND BEAR PROVIDE COMFORT FOR THOSE IN CRISIS

In 2025, Fenner became the second facility dog at the Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office, joining Bear, who has been serving crime victims since August 2019. Both dogs came to us through Canine Companions, a nonprofit that provides trained dogs at no cost.

Bear and Fenner provide support to crime victims throughout the criminal justice process, especially children at the Children's Interview Center. The dogs' specialized breeding ensures optimal temperament for high-stress environments, including courtrooms and office facilities. Since they met, Bear and Fenner have become best friends.

Assistant Inspector Janet Wright is Bear's handler, a role she assumed after completing extensive training. Their pairing was determined through supervised interactions during the training process. Fenner's handler is Victim Assistance Program Supervisor Jackie Vizcarrondo.

Like Janet, Jackie went through a similar training process with Fenner.

Since her birth on May 4th, 2023, in Clayton, CA, she has learned 45 commands that are integral to her job at the District Attorney's Office. Unlike many dogs who run hot, Fenner is sensitive to cold temperatures and loves wearing her fleece pajamas. Jackie says their team song is "Can't Take My Eyes Off of You" by Lauryn Hill, explaining, "From day one, her gaze has been fixed on me, and it never wavers."

Wright agrees by noting, "The handler doesn't pick the dog, the dog picks you. Being partnered with Bear has brought a sense of calm to the environment we work in. Observing the change he instantly makes in a victim's life makes me grateful to be partnered with him." Born April 17, 2017, Bear responds to commands in English and Spanish and enjoys apples and carrots as treats.

Through this partnership with Canine Companions, handlers Janet and Jackie continue providing support to those navigating the criminal justice system.

BUILDING BRIDGES: THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S COMMUNITY ACADEMY FOSTERS UNDERSTANDING AND TRUST

The Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office remains steadfast in its commitment to transparency and to fostering a deeper understanding of our work among the residents we serve. Recognizing the vital role of community engagement in achieving justice for victims of crime, we proudly established the Community Academy, a no-cost, 10-week program designed for adults who live or work within Contra Costa County.

This initiative reflects our belief that informed communities are empowered communities. The Community Academy offers participants a comprehensive overview of our criminal justice system through engaging weekly sessions. Attendees gain insights into how cases are filed, the crimes we investigate and prosecute, and our multifaceted role beyond simply prosecuting cases.

But the Community Academy offers more than just classroom learning. We believe in providing practical, firsthand experience.



Participants hear from police chiefs, department heads, the Public Defender, and the Chief Probation Officer. They tour the Martinez Detention Facility and meet with a Superior Court judge, gaining a glimpse into the daily realities of these crucial components of our justice system.

The Community Academy is led by a diverse group of professionals dedicated to serving our community. Participants hear directly from key justice system figures, including the District Attorney, Public Defender, a Judge, prosecutors, and police chiefs. This direct engagement provides a balanced perspective and fosters open dialogue.

For those interested in embarking on this informative 10-week journey, the application process involves completing a straightforward application and undergoing a background check. We are committed to ensuring a safe and productive learning environment for all participants. Those interested in applying, go to contracostada.org.



EMPOWERING PARENTS IN THE DIGITAL AGE: THE VIGILANT PARENT INITIATIVE

In today's digitally saturated world, safeguarding our children requires a proactive and informed approach. The increasing presence of online technology necessitates that parents, educators, and community members remain vigilant against potential online harms. Children need the knowledge and skills to navigate the digital landscape safely, avoiding pitfalls such as cyberbullying, online shaming, encounters with predators, the risks of sharing private information, and the dangers of sexting.

The Vigilant Parent Initiative (VPI) addresses this need through a targeted two-hour program for parents of middle schoolers and professionals working with this age group. Led by experts from the Contra Costa District Attorney's Office and Silicon Valley Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, VPI provides practical skills in a dynamic classroom setting.

A key component involves teaching parents to recognize warning signs of risky online situations. Through interactive learning, participants explore popular apps such as Instagram, TikTok, and Snapchat, gaining an understanding of the terms, slang, and coded language that children encounter in these digital spaces.

VPI underscores the important message that technology itself is not inherently harmful. Smartphones, the internet, and social media apps offer valuable tools and opportunities. However, cultivating safe online habits is paramount. Early and ongoing communication about online safety, coupled with staying informed about the ever-evolving digital landscape, forms an essential aspect of responsible parenting in our connected era.

The Vigilant Parent Initiative (VPI) presentation was exceptionally impactful and well-received by parents, students, and staff alike. The information shared was eye-opening, highly relevant, and provided practical tools families can use immediately to help keep children safe online. The format was engaging, the perspective was insightful, and the hands-on support provided by staff highly valuable. Most importantly, following the student assembly, several students came forward who were either being actively targeted or were concerned about friends who may have been targeted by online predators. This presentation truly made a difference and played a direct role in helping protect and support our students.

*--Aurelia Buscemi
Director, Enrollment Services
Mt. Diablo Unified School District*



THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE 175 YEARS OF BEING A SHIELD FOR JUSTICE IN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

OVERVIEW

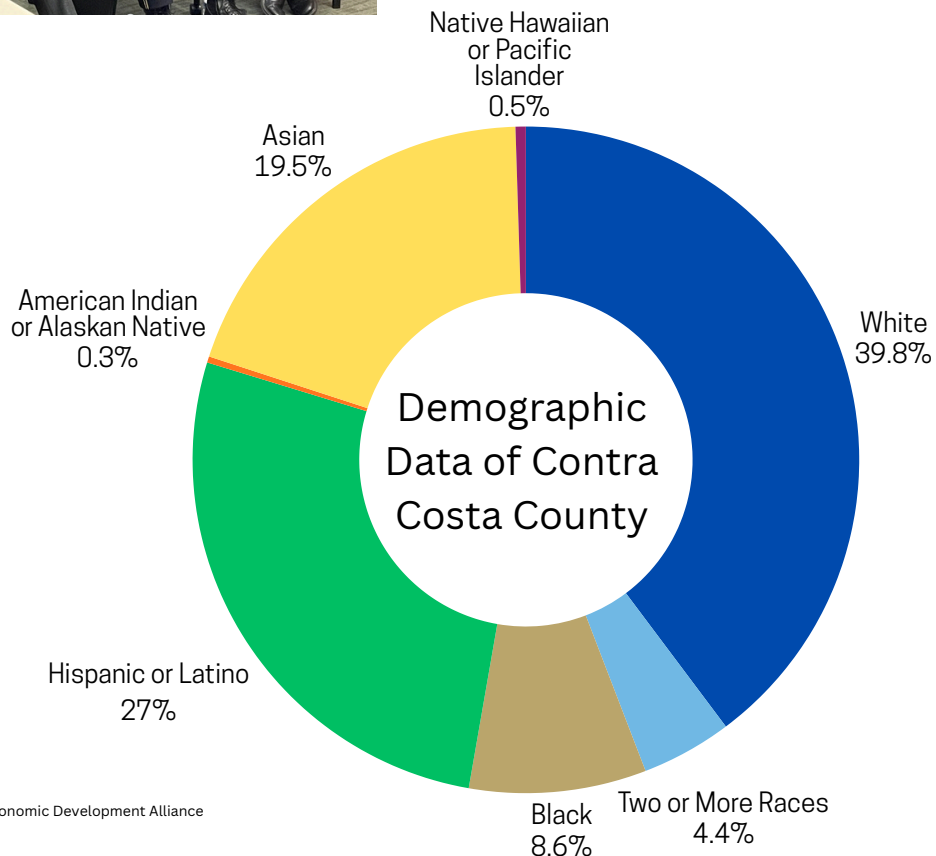
Serving a diverse population of 1.15 million residents, the Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office was established in 1850. Over 175 years, the office has grown to a team of approximately 240 employees, including attorneys, inspectors, victim-witness advocates, legal assistants, and case preparation analysts.



WHAT WE DO

In 2025, the Contra Costa District Attorney's Office strengthened public safety by modernizing its infrastructure. We opened a Pittsburg branch and launched specialized units for impaired driving, retail theft, and child fatalities.

Our work extends beyond prosecution. We've led in statewide efforts on ethical AI and launched the Underserved and Unserved Survivor Program. The office expanded trauma-informed support for victims—particularly those impacted by gun violence and unsolved crimes. Our superpower is protection with purpose, combining innovation, data, and human care to seek justice for victims while preventing future harm.



Data Source: The East Bay Economic Development Alliance Dashboard

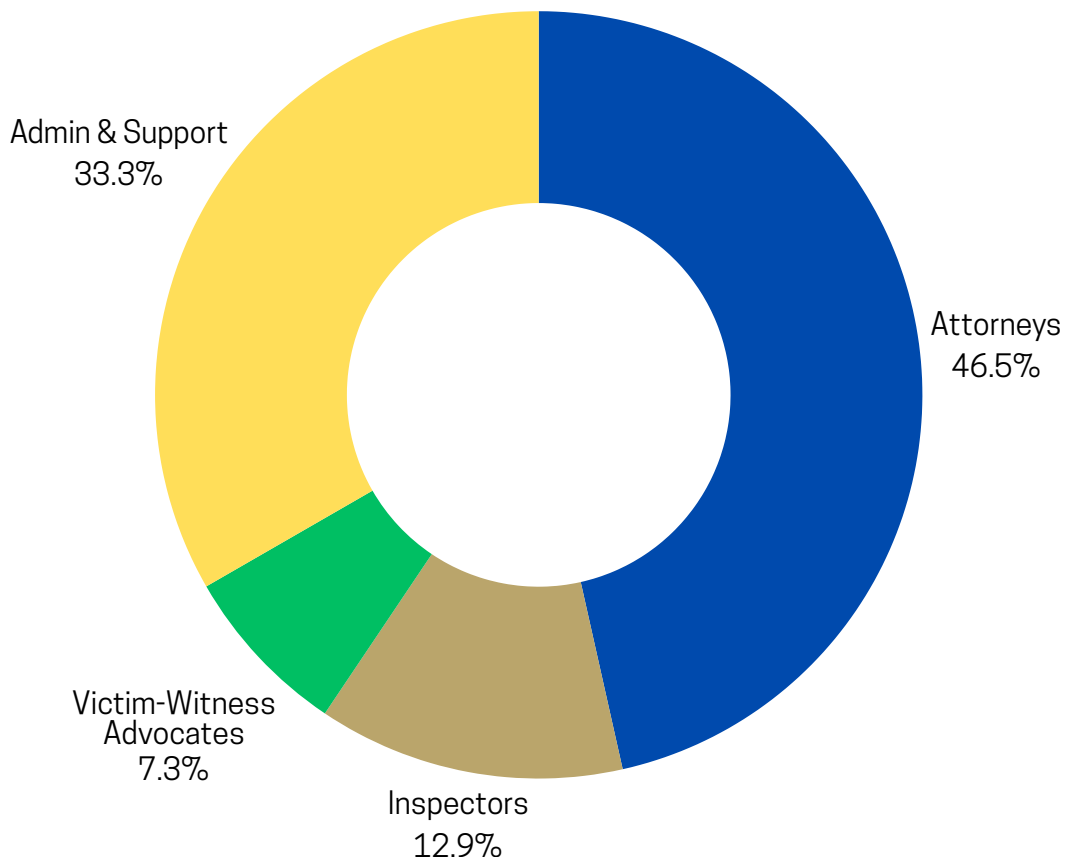
STAFFING

The District Attorney's Office staff is made up of a group of professionals of approximately 250 staff members. They include attorneys, investigators, victim-witness advocates, clerks, legal analysts, and other staff members who support the office's mission.

The office reflects the communities we serve and aligns with what voters in Contra Costa County want from a District

Attorney's Office, which is one dedicated to community safety, reform, and restoring trust in our public institutions.

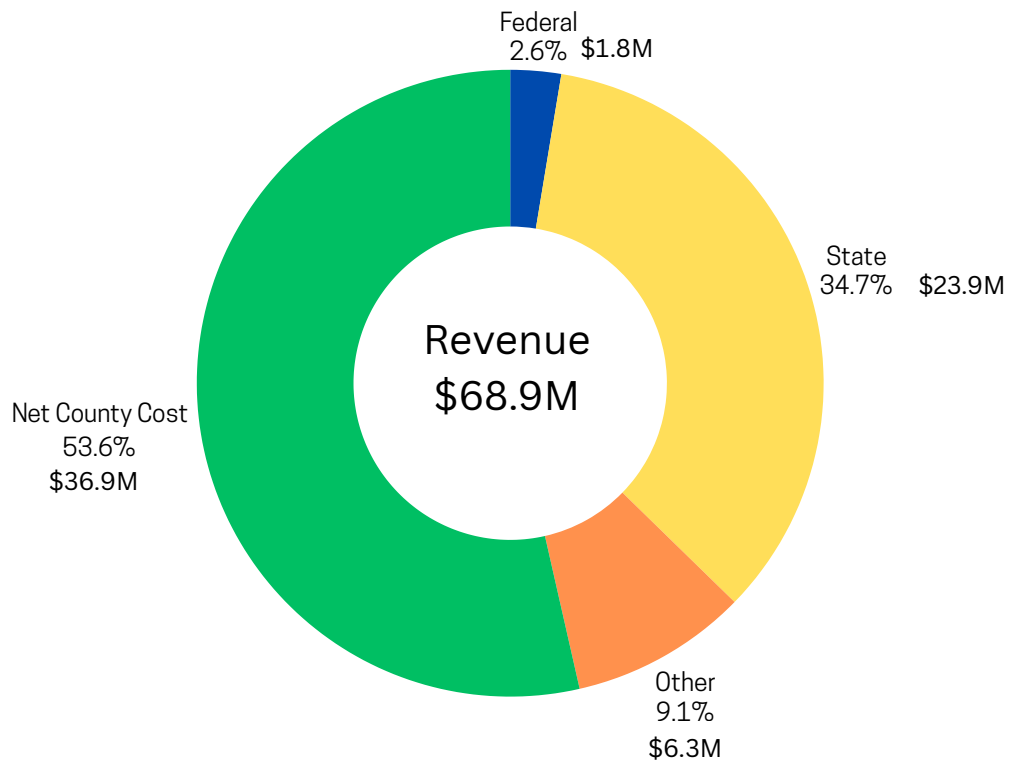
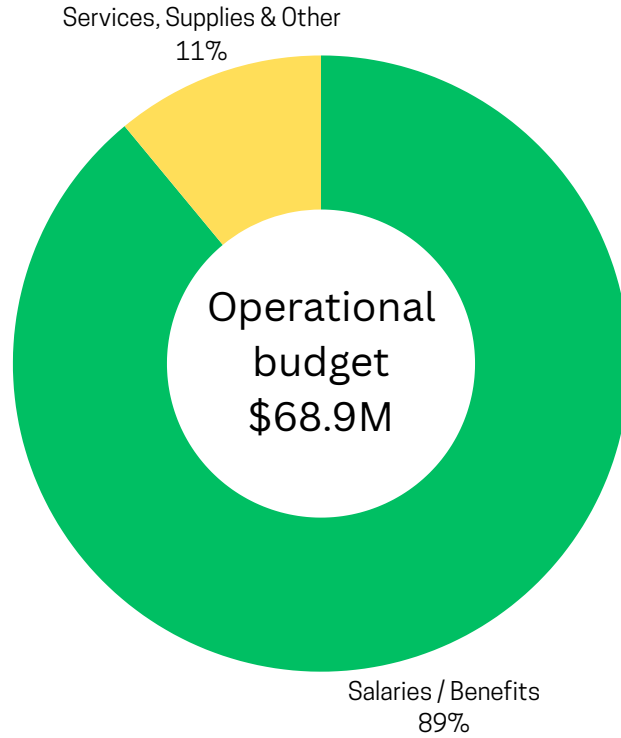
To do that, the District Attorney's Office operates under the principles of fairness, transparency, being forward-thinking in our policies and procedures, and above all, is committed to safeguarding all communities from crimes that threaten our well-being, health, and livelihood.



EXPENDITURES AND REVENUE

FY 2025 - 2026

Budget





DA OPENS PITTSBURG BRANCH OFFICE



District Attorney Diana Becton cut the ribbon on December 15th at the grand opening of the Contra Costa District Attorney's newest branch office at 3890 Railroad Avenue in Pittsburg, bringing justice services directly to East County residents after two years of planning.

"The idea is simple but powerful," Becton said at the ribbon-cutting ceremony. "It strengthens collaboration with our local law enforcement partners, it improves our efficiency, our casework and court operations, and it will allow us to respond to the needs of victims and families in real time right here. It also sends a message that East County matters, and the people who live and work here deserve accessible and responsive justice."

Housing approximately 30 staff members including attorneys, case filers, and victim advocates, the new branch office gives East County residents greater access to the District Attorney's Office and law enforcement partners.

District 5 Supervisor Shanelle Scales-Preston reinforced a core principle at the opening: "Access to justice should not depend on geography." Mayor Dionne Adams said the office reinforces Pittsburg's role as a regional hub for public services, while Police Chief Steve Albanese highlighted how the local presence strengthens coordination: "When police and district attorneys' offices work side by side, we are better positioned to ensure professionalism at every step."

The ceremony included remarks from community leaders celebrating a milestone that District Attorney Becton said was made possible through the dedication of her staff and community partners.

OFFICE LOCATIONS



Central Operations

900 Ward Street
Martinez, CA 94553
Phone: 925-957-2200
Fax: 925-646-2566
TTY: 711



Special Operations & Juvenile Unit

10 Douglas Drive, Suite 130
Martinez, CA 94553
Phone: 925-957-8540
Fax: 925-646-2524
or 925-646-4174
TTY: 711



Eastern Operations

3890 Railroad Ave.
Pittsburg, CA 94565
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Fax: 925-655-1434
TTY: 711



Western Operations

100 37th Street, Room 220
Richmond, CA 94805
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