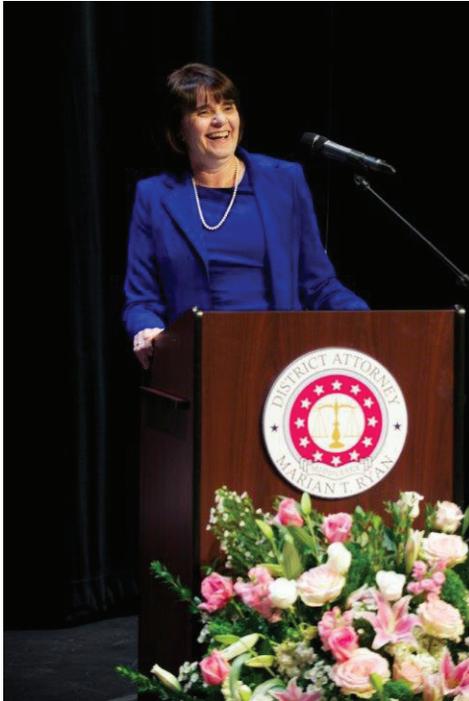




# Bi-Annual Report

*Fiscal Year 2015 and 2016*



**Marian T. Ryan**

District Attorney

Middlesex County





## Message from District Attorney Ryan

I am proud to say that I have spent my entire career serving the people of Middlesex County, prosecuting serious cases and fighting for victims. What I have learned from that experience is that, as important as prosecution is, prevention and education are equally important. As public servants charged with protecting the public, we must be proactive and innovative in creating solutions that address crime before it occurs. As such, we pride ourselves on being actively engaged in the 54 towns and cities of Middlesex County.

To highlight our work, both in and out of the courtroom, I am pleased to issue my first bi-annual report. In Fiscal Year 2015, we took significant steps to achieve our public policy goals, while staying true to our core mission by prosecuting approximately 40,000 cases a year. We have launched and expanded programs that address the public health crisis of opioid addiction; educated employers on the growing concerns of workplace safety; strengthened our commitment to the elderly population through new programs; and developed educational resources for parents and caregivers to support our children from birth through college. Additionally, our collaboration with Middlesex Partnerships for Youth, Inc., has empowered hundreds of girls and raised awareness with school faculty and staff on issues such as bullying, cyber safety, teen dating violence, sexting, and substance abuse. To achieve these goals, we have reinforced our partnerships with legislators, law enforcement, health care, schools, non-profit organizations, and the private sector to make meaningful impacts and reforms across the county.

Looking ahead, we have set our goals higher to achieve even more. We are expanding our opioid task forces by working with additional hospitals and law enforcement agencies to reach new communities; we are launching more partnerships with the business community to expand programs that address family violence and other health and safety issues; and we are closely working with legislators to pass meaningful legislation to help create a safer and healthier Middlesex County.

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about the Office of the Middlesex District Attorney. I am proud of what we have accomplished to date, and I look forward to doing more as your District Attorney.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marian P. Ryan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

# Table of Contents

Overview ..... PAGE | 2

Key Initiatives..... PAGE | 3

Commitment to Justice..... PAGE | 23

Beyond the Courtroom: Commitment to Community ... PAGE | 33

Contact Information..... PAGE | 40

**T**he Office's core mission is to protect and serve the people who work, live, and raise their families in Middlesex County.

**O**ur commitment extends to innovative crime prevention and intervention initiatives.

## Office Overview

The Middlesex District Attorney's Office serves the most populous county in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, with a population of approximately **1.6** million people spanning **54** towns and cities. Our staff is comprised of **250** lawyers, victim witness advocates, paralegals, and support personnel.

- 
- **12** district courts, **3** juvenile courts, **2** superior courts, and **4** specialized units
  - **40,000** criminal cases per year
  - **559** indictments in 2015; **496** indictments in 2016
  - **395** juvenile diversion referrals, resulting in **272** diverted in 2015; **503** juvenile diversion referrals, including young adults, resulting in **348** diverted in 2016
  - **275** police officers trained



District Attorney Ryan with the 2015 class of new assistant district attorneys.

# Key Initiatives

## **Confronting the Opioid Crisis:**

A Multipronged Approach

## **Child Protection:**

From Birth to College

## **Access to Justice:**

Engaging Newcomers and Communities of Color

## **Elder Protection:**

Care and Protection of Our Seniors

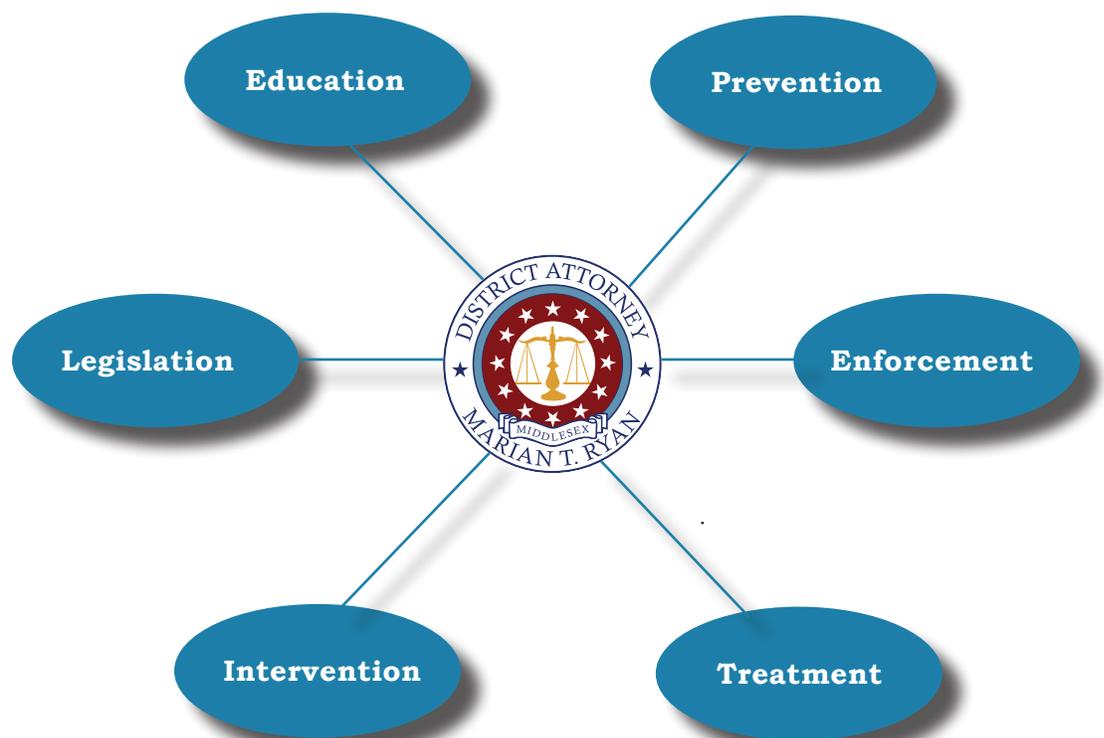
# Confronting the Opioid Crisis:

## A Multipronged Approach

As overdose rates continue to rise across the Commonwealth, MDAO remains steadfast in its commitment to promote sound policy solutions.

Our work in this regard emanates from the Office's multipronged policy approach, of which expansive strategic planning is at the core. As we continue to collaborate with community partners in an effort to curb this epidemic, we have been working to streamline undertakings at the county and state level, while helping to build community capacity to better support localized efforts.

The Office prides itself on being a leader in innovation, systems thinking, and programmatic development, and, over the last year, has advanced a number of initiatives which are making a difference in our communities.



## Middlesex Opioid Task Force

Recognizing that no community is immune to the opioid epidemic, we created two new regional opioid task forces: Eastern Middlesex in partnership with Hallmark Health System and State Senator Jason Lewis, and Central South Middlesex, in partnership with Emerson Hospital and MetroWest Medical Center.



District Attorney Ryan presides over an Eastern Middlesex Opioid Task Force meeting at Lawrence Memorial Hospital.

Modeled after our Lowell Opioid Task Force, launched in 2012, these task forces bring together representatives from law enforcement, healthcare, emergency medical services, social services, child welfare, schools, and government to identify community-based needs and opportunities. Meetings are held on a monthly basis. With the addition of these task forces, we have brought representatives from 26 additional cities and towns to the table to discuss and devise meaningful solutions to combat addiction in our communities.

## Mobile Public Policy Dialogue Forums

To ensure that the recovery community is given a prominent voice in shaping public policy, we created *“Crafting a Solution from the Inside,”* a county-wide initiative in which District Attorney Ryan leads “living room-style” conversations with a panel of individuals in various stages of recovery. Panel conversations were hosted in Lowell, Medford, and Framingham. The program encourages recovering users to share their personal experiences with key stakeholders, and to recommend ways to improve access to care and other critical services. Forums include an introductory presentation on the physiology of addiction and an overview of the different levels of care. *“Crafting a Solution from the Inside”* demonstrates our willingness to employ non-traditional measures to help curb the opioid epidemic; at the same time, it acknowledges and affirms that those most intimately familiar with addiction offer a unique and untapped perspective in combatting the problem.

This program is a bold and progressive undertaking from a sitting district attorney who is deeply committed to addressing the opioid problem. Unique to the program is how the traditional adversarial roles of prosecutor versus “addict” emerge to foster meaningful and enlightened dialogue while, at the same time, working to elicit important information to effect change.

*Dr. Brian O’Connor, Founder and President  
Middlesex Recovery, P.C.*

## Maternal Substance Use Disorders and Substance Exposed Newborns Collaborative

In partnership with Hallmark Health System and Jewish Children & Family Services, the MDAO has been at the forefront of developing a community-based continuum of care network known as the Care Collaborative. The network is a collaboration of professionals who offer critical support services to mothers, while working to address the related health and safety needs of their newborns. The network is comprised of healthcare providers, mental health clinicians, social service professionals, and child welfare advocates.

Recognizing that mothers and women of childbearing age are in need of more specialized intervention, treatment and education, the Care Collaborative has been meeting regularly to establish best practices for early intervention and comprehensive treatment to better serve families affected by maternal substance use disorders and Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome.

The need for this specialized focus is supported by recent data collected from the Massachusetts Ambulance Trip Record Information System (MATRIS), showing that from 2014 through June of 2016 licensed EMTs and paramedics responded to 794 opioid-related calls for women age 18-35 in Middlesex County -- an age group most likely to either have young children or who may become pregnant in the near future.

Through outreach, education, training, and technical assistance, the Care Collaborative promotes trauma-informed interventions and dyadic-focused approaches across all levels of the care continuum.



District Attorney Ryan and representatives from Hallmark Health, Winchester Hospital, and the Institute of Health and Recovery.

## Realtor Education Program

Open houses offer a convenient setting to seek and acquire opioids by accessing medicine cabinets; for this reason, we teamed up with RE/MAX Leading Edge to educate realtors from 12 communities about the opioid epidemic, and to encourage them to stress with their clients the importance of securing medication during the home selling process.

We also partnered with the Safe Homes Coalition to increase additional awareness through a county-wide media campaign in Middlesex communities, informing residents how to safely dispose of their unused prescription medications.



District Attorney Ryan and Middlesex public safety officials at the Safe Homes Coalition kick-off event in Framingham.



**38** drug collection boxes were donated to Middlesex Police Departments



District Attorney Ryan announcing Project C.A.R.E., a partnership among the Middlesex DA's Office, the Lowell Police Department, the Lowell Fire Department, Trinity EMS, and the Mental Health Association of Greater Lowell (MHAGL).

## **Project C.A.R.E.**

The sudden loss of a parent can cause significant trauma in young children, but finding one's mother or father deceased and having to independently seek help from an adult or first responder is likely to augment the trauma associated with that loss. In response to the growing number of fatal overdoses in the county witnessed by young children, we set out to create an early intervention program to help children cope with their trauma.

Launched in the spring of 2016, Project C.A.R.E. (Case Assessment Response Evaluation) is a partnership among the Middlesex District Attorney's Office, the Lowell Police Department, the Lowell Fire Department, Trinity EMS, and the Mental Health Association of Greater Lowell (MHAGL).

When one of the partner agencies responds to a fatal or near-fatal overdose in which a child is present or -- through one or more indicators -- a child exists but is not on scene, first responders activate Project C.A.R.E., a 24-hour, 7-day a week rapid response intervention.

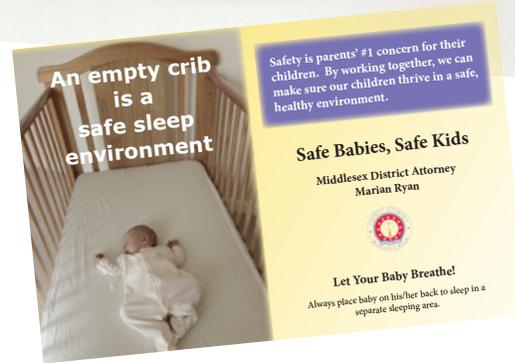
Upon activating Project C.A.R.E., a licensed mental health clinician triages the case and devises an intervention plan within the first 48 hours following an overdose. The clinician then communicates and coordinates, as needed, with the Department of Children and Families, the schools, and others to provide coordinated and comprehensive wraparound services to the child.

# Child Protection

## From Birth to College

The MDAO offers a spectrum of programming for parents and caretakers, beginning at birth and following children through their formative years.

Our community-based work in this area is anchored in the belief that parent and caretaker education is paramount to ensuring the health and safety of children.



### Safe Babies, Safe Kids Task Force

Safe Babies, Safe Kids (SBSK) is an MDAO-driven partnership that brings together the eight birthing hospitals in Middlesex County with other key stakeholders to develop effective measures to protect babies and young children. Task force members include representatives from healthcare, law enforcement, child welfare, and social services. SBSK works to develop cross-sector, multi-disciplinary strategies to keep children safe through education and prevention programs and systems change. Meetings occur monthly at area hospitals and are led by District Attorney Ryan.



District Attorney Ryan discusses safe sleep with a new mother at Winchester Hospital.

We are proud to work so closely with District Attorney Marian Ryan on many important issues affecting the health of our communities. It's especially rewarding to have her leadership in our joint efforts to protect infants and children through education on infant sleep safety, bathing safety, and car seat safety.

*Alan Macdonald, President and CEO of Hallmark Health System*



Regional meetings and dialogue sessions with hospital administrators, OB/GYNs, pediatricians, and nurses.

The launch of a dedicated sleep safety class for new and expectant parents in collaboration with Hallmark Health System.

A cable show that aired across the county, where medical experts discussed common risk factors for SUIDs and offered prevention tips.



District Attorney Ryan leading the discussion at a Safe Babies, Safe Kids meeting.

## Infant Safe Sleep

For the past two years, the MDAO has launched an Infant Safe Sleep Awareness Campaign hosted in partnership with Winchester Hospital and the Middlesex Safe Babies, Safe Kids Task Force. The campaign includes a series of events and activities to raise awareness with parents, grandparents, and caretakers about the risk factors for Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUIDs), the leading cause of death nationwide for children under the age of 12 months.

As part of the Campaign, we recruited high school students from the visual design and web development programs at Greater Lowell Technical High School to create and produce educational materials: a Nursery Poster that juxtaposes safe and unsafe sleep environments; a Sibling Story Book for toddlers, available in English and Spanish, which teaches big brothers and sisters how to be safe sleep “helpers”; and a Smartphone App, allowing parents and caretakers to gauge their knowledge about safe sleep through a ten question quiz, illustrated with graphics.

In partnership with Hallmark Health, we also launched an updated Infant Health and Safety Curriculum that educates new and expectant parents on safe sleep practices, safe bath time tips, and car seat safety. The inaugural course, titled “Baby Care Basics,” was held in Wakefield and was attended by 22 new and expectant parents.



District Attorney Ryan joined by Greater Lowell Technical High School students Sarah Gorski and Ashley Tran and Graphic Communications Instructor Briana Burtzell.



## Fire Safety

The MDAO in partnership with the Cambridge Police Department and the Cambridge Fire Department conduct an annual Fireworks Safety Demonstration prior to the 4th of July. This public safety alert serves as a reminder to residents

about the health risks and property costs associated with fireworks in addition to the illegality of possessing and transporting fireworks in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The annual demonstration features a controlled explosion engineered by the Cambridge Bomb Unit, which demonstrates the magnitude of a common firework.



District Attorney Ryan issuing a county-wide public safety alert on the dangers of fireworks in Cambridge.

## Boy Scout Merit Badge Clinic

The MDAO offers a merit badge program for Boy Scouts who live in Middlesex County, helping Scouts to attain merit badges in the following areas: Law, Crime Prevention, Safety, Fire Safety, Fingerprinting, and Search and Rescue. In addition, our program exposes Scouts to various law enforcement and public safety professions, giving Scouts an opportunity to interact and learn from experts in different fields that work closely with MDAO to keep our communities safe.



District Attorney Ryan and State Troopers from the Office of the State Fire Marshal with Middlesex County Boy Scouts.

In 2015 and 2016, we partnered with Simon Malls to host two Summer Safety Awareness Events, kicking off our Summer Safety Awareness Campaign at the Burlington Mall in 2015 and at The Shops at Chestnut Hill in 2016. Both events provided the MDAO with a forum to offer tips and resources on ways to prevent avoidable child deaths common in the summer months. Safety events were also held at the Stone Zoo in Stoneham, Cowabunga's in North Reading and at the public safety complex in Sudbury.



District Attorney Ryan with community partners at our North Reading Summer Safety Event.

## Summer Safety

The MDAO's Summer Safety Public Awareness Campaign aims to prevent accidental child deaths or serious injury by promoting water safety, preventing window falls, and reminding parents to never leave a child alone in a car, under any circumstances, for any amount of time.

As part of this effort, and in conjunction with our local police partners, complementary car seat inspections and installations were offered, and a series of educational activities for children were made available by our community partners.

In 2016, in an effort to reach more Middlesex County youth, we introduced approximately 750 campers at the Boys & Girls Clubs and YMCAs to Summer Safety Jeopardy, a fun and interactive way to engage youth in learning about how to keep themselves and others safe.



A firefighter from the Newton Fire Department talks with youngsters at our Newton Summer Safety Event.



District Attorney Ryan visiting the Arlington Boys and Girls Club to discuss summer safety.



District Attorney Ryan issuing a county-wide public safety alert in Wakefield to prevent drownings.

## Water Safety

As part of the Summer Safety Awareness Campaign, District Attorney Ryan has issued two county-wide water safety alerts since becoming District Attorney. The alerts communicated important tips to the public on how to prevent accidental water-related deaths, while raising awareness about the inconspicuous signs of drowning. In collaboration with the Massachusetts Environmental Police, the Wakefield Police Department, the Wakefield Fire Department, the Stoneham Police Department, the Stoneham Fire Department, Action Ambulance, and the Boys & Girls Club of Stoneham & Wakefield, the alerts coincided with two simulated drowning rescues. The rescue operations were organized by the District Attorney's Office and held at Spot Pond in 2015 and Lake Quannapowitt in 2016. District Attorney Ryan and leaders from the partner agencies also visited with families at the Spaulding Playground, the Hall Memorial Pool, and with day campers at the Boys & Girls Club to discuss water safety.



Wakefield firefighters prepare for a simulated drowning rescue operation.

## College Safety

Our continuum of programming is constant and continuous at all stages of a child's maturation. Recognizing that campus life requires significant adjustments and presents allurements to teenagers who may be living away from home for the first time, we work closely with the county's 26 colleges and universities to



help foster healthy and safe living and learning environments. Throughout the course of the year, District Attorney Ryan and staff speak at trainings and professional development seminars for college staff and faculty. The MDAO's flagship college initiative is our annual

Campus Safety Symposium, which was held at Newton Wellesley Hospital. The symposium, a day-long event, focused on the topic of sexual assault and included several presentations and facilitated panel discussions on the following areas: Interpreting Federal Mandates: The Intersection of Title IX, Clery, SaVE, and FERPA; Redefining Confidentiality; Due Process in the Civil and Criminal Context; and Understanding Investigations.

District Attorney Marian Ryan is committed to improving the response to campus sexual assault. She is dedicated to community collaborations in order to find solutions to a crime that disproportionately impacts our youth. We are honored to partner with the DA as she tackles these critical issues.

*Stacy Malone, Esq., Executive Director  
Victim Rights Law Center*

## Back to School

Each year with more than 233,000 children in Middlesex County beginning or returning to school, we recognize that children are bound to confront a series of new challenges and unfamiliar experiences. In an effort to promote safety, we urge parents and caretakers, at the start of the school year, to take a few minutes to talk about safety with their children, from safe travel to and from school to being safe on the Internet.



Police officers from Waltham and Wilmington helped to install over 50 car seats at the 2016 Back-to-School Safety Event.

As part of that effort, we have educated hundreds of children and their parents at our Back-to-School Safety Day held at our central office in Woburn. The event gives attendees an opportunity to explore emergency vehicles, interact with public safety officials, visit a teddy bear clinic, and more. In total, over 50 federal, state, and local public safety agencies participate in the event.



District Attorney Ryan and a youngster at our Back-to-School Safety Event in Woburn.



District Attorney Ryan and representatives from Portal to Hope at our 2016 Prom Expo.

## Focus on Teens

Too often we encounter situations where what should have been a joyous occasion turns tragic. Whether it is drunk driving, experimentation with drugs, teen dating abuse, or sexual assault, we have made it a priority to proactively address these issues with teenagers both in schools and in the community.

Recognizing that teens are more likely to seek help from a friend than an authority figure, we have utilized our partnerships with school districts across the county to educate teens about youth-based resources and to promote bystander intervention, social responsibility, and youth leadership.

Part of this effort involves our annual PSA initiative, in partnership with Middlesex Partnerships for Youth, where teens share positive messages through their own public service announcements and poster campaigns.

Additionally, our 2016 Prom Expo hosted with Empire Beauty School was designed to encourage students to enjoy prom season safely. The event included a fashion show put on by Empire Beauty School students and resource booths to educate attendees on healthy relationships and personal safety during prom season. In 2015 and 2016, the MDAO also provided grants totaling \$20,000 to public schools in Middlesex County for substance-free after-prom and graduation events.

This kind of outreach is critical to combatting teen dating abuse and sexual assault.

# Access to Justice

## Engaging Newcomers and Communities of Color

Massachusetts has become an increasingly diverse state over the last decade, with significant demographic shifts occurring especially in Middlesex County. These changes reflect a trend of newcomers who see Middlesex as a desirable place in which to live, work, and raise a family. Today, close to 20 percent of the county's population is foreign-born, five percent above the state average. Twenty-five percent of households in Middlesex County speak a language other than English at home. Of the ten most populated immigrant communities in the state, half are in Middlesex County. The MDAO has thus made a concerted effort to address the unique needs of immigrant communities. We have done so by developing innovative community-based programs aimed at building trust with immigrants and refugees, and we have taken steps to improve the Office's capacity to serve these communities with culturally sensitive and culturally competent practices.



District Attorney Ryan and members of the Refugee and Immigrant Support Coalition (RISC) in Lowell.

### **Refugee and Immigrant Support Coalition (RISC)**

District Attorney Ryan and community partners from 28 public, nonprofit, and private agencies announced the establishment of RISC, a new initiative in the City of Lowell for immigrant and refugee victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Recognizing that immigrants and refugees face complex and unique barriers to accessing help, MDAO collaborated with The Center For Hope and Healing, the University of Massachusetts Lowell, and over two dozen agencies from the Greater Lowell Evaluation and Advocacy Network (GLEAN), to obtain a grant from the state Department of Public Health.

Through this grant, we forged a partnership with clergy leaders in Lowell in an effort to raise awareness with immigrant communities about legal rights and resources. In addition, we organized three community forums for Lowell's Cambodian, Latino, and Brazilian communities, which allowed residents to ask questions and interact with law enforcement and local service providers. Moreover, the grant supported a research study, conducted by the School of Criminology and Justice Studies at the University of Massachusetts Lowell; the study involved interviews and focus groups with immigrants and was designed to elicit data to inform the practices of law enforcement and other stakeholders to better address violence in immigrant communities.



District Attorney Ryan with Rev. Traci Jackson Antoine (Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts) and Isa Woldeguiorguis (The Center for Hope and Healing) at the RISC kickoff event in Lowell.

District Attorney Ryan visited our church as part of the RISC Project. Her presence was such an empowering and reassuring moment to our immigrant congregation, many of whom are women, about the rights and protections that exist to keep them safe from domestic violence and sexual assault. I have no doubt that many participants left the meeting feeling empowered. The clergy members from other Hispanic congregations who attended also obtained valuable information and resources, commissioning them to carry the District Attorney's message back to their respective communities of faith.

*Pastor Cecilio Hernandez  
Iglesia Cristiana Ebenezer, Lowell*

## The RIGHTs Project: Reaching Immigrants, Gaining Trust

Many immigrants fear and distrust law enforcement based, in large part, on experiences that occurred in their native countries (e.g., corruption and brutality committed by police and government officials). In addition, immigrants are often unfamiliar with local laws defining crime, making themselves highly vulnerable to being victimized by strangers, neighbors, co-workers, employers, or family members.



District Attorney Ryan speaks to volunteer tutors at English-at-Large in Woburn.

The RIGHTs Project engages nontraditional stakeholders (tutors) in a nontraditional setting (classrooms) to raise awareness about domestic abuse, sexual violence, and human trafficking, and the corresponding rights, relief and resources available to victims. Citizenship and ESL tutors build close, longstanding relationships with their students; and often times, they are the only non-immigrant with whom students have a relationship. To immigrants, tutors are seen as “helpers”; in fact, it is not unusual for students to ask their tutors to assist with unrelated matters, such as filling out a job application or locating a doctor, dentist, or daycare provider. Moreover, immigrants tend to share personal information with their tutors, sometimes of a sensitive nature. Thus, the RIGHTs Project provides the MDAO with a window of opportunity to reach immigrant victims by empowering tutors with the knowledge and resources to help protect their students. Tutors become ambassadors in helping to demystify the criminal

justice system, dispelling many of the myths that prevent immigrant victims from accessing help.



District Attorney Ryan at the Immigrant Learning Center in Malden.

# Elder Protection

## Care and Protection of Our Seniors

We offer a wide range of safety, health, and wellness programs for seniors across Middlesex County. Senior citizens deserve to be treated with dignity and respect; however, far too often they find themselves the victims of abuse, neglect, and exploitation, many times at the hands of a family member or caretaker. Seniors may also be vulnerable to deceptive business practices from legitimate or purported contractors, tradesmen, or other service providers; and they often fall victim to extortion. Through education and prevention programs, MDAO works to ensure that seniors are safe in their homes, and that the epoch of their lives is marked by happiness, tranquility, and security.

District Attorney Ryan has set a benchmark for combatting elder abuse at the community level. Through education, prevention programs, and public-private-partnerships, the Middlesex DA's Office is on the forefront of addressing this troubling problem. With exponential growth expected among the state's senior population over the next decade, DA Ryan had the vision and foresight to establish a number of unique initiatives sooner rather than later.

*State Representative Paul Brodeur*

### **Personal and Financial Safety**

Our Senior Protection Seminars alert seniors to common scams and schemes that target the elderly, while conveying tips on ways to safeguard finances from financial exploitation. Seminars are held at senior centers across the county and are facilitated by District Attorney Ryan. Staff from the District Attorney's Elder Protection Unit, representatives from local police departments, protective service workers, and bank employees participate in a panel presentation, followed by a question and answer session with seniors led by the District Attorney.



Middlesex Senior Health and Safety Partners, L to R:  
Armstrong Ambulance CEO Richard Raymond, Lexington Police Chief Mark Corr,  
Bedford Police Chief Robert Bongiorno, District Attorney Ryan, Arlington Police Chief Fred Ryan,  
Burlington Police Chief Michael Kent and Medford Police Chief Leo Sacco.

## Middlesex Senior Health and Safety Initiative

In the summer of 2014, MDAO launched the Middlesex Senior Health and Safety Initiative, a comprehensive training program for EMS, police, and fire personnel that examines the association between trips and falls and elder abuse. The program uses trip and fall data from the Gerontology Institute at the University of Massachusetts Boston's McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies to inform its efforts. The goal of the program is to provide first responders with the necessary tools to identify the less conspicuous signs of abuse or neglect and, upon doing so, to activate a rapid response intervention. The program was originally launched in partnership with Armstrong Ambulance Service and piloted in Arlington, Bedford, Burlington, Lexington, and Medford.

## Waltham Abuse in Later Life

Waltham Abuse in Later Life (WALL) is supported by a \$375,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women. WALL is a coordinated community response team created to address elder abuse in Waltham through community outreach, public awareness, stakeholder training, and collaborative case reviews. Team members include MDAO, the Waltham Police Department, REACH Beyond Domestic Violence, Springwell Protective Services, and Newton Wellesley Hospital.

WALL is one of only nine programs in the United States selected for funding by the Department of Justice. Funding was awarded in October of 2014 and will support the project through 2017.

## Grandparent Program

In 2016, we launched a new initiative specifically for seniors to raise awareness about the risks and impacts of the opioid crisis. Approximately 34,000 grandparents in Massachusetts are raising grandchildren. According to a survey conducted by the Commission on the Status of Grandparents Raising Children, 80 percent of these cases are because of opioid use or the opioid-related death of a son or daughter.



District Attorney Ryan at the Scandinavian Living Center for the launch of our Grandparent Program.

The Grandparent Program provides an essential understanding of the opioid epidemic, educating seniors on the origin of the problem and how it has intensified over time. The program also provides seniors with tips on how to identify signs of a substance use disorder in the family, recognizing that children and grandchildren may not only be in need of help, but may also be stealing from seniors to support an addiction. In addition, the program educates seniors on how to safeguard medication from theft and how to properly dispose of unused or expired medication.

# Commitment to Justice

## Case Highlights

- Commonwealth v. Clyde Howard
- Commonwealth v. Alejandro Done
- Commonwealth v. Eugene Tate
- Commonwealth v. William Santos
- Commonwealth v. Nilce Coffey
- Commonwealth v. Howard Barter
- Commonwealth v. Essie Billingslea

## On Appeal

- Commonwealth v. Scott Foxworth
- Commonwealth v. John C. Depiero
- Commonwealth v Jeffrey McGee

# Commitment to Justice

The Middlesex District Attorney's Office is committed to investigating and prosecuting criminal matters that come before us, particularly homicides. Where there is an uncharged homicide, this leaves families and friends, communities, and loved ones seeking answers and resolution.

Within the Office, a team -- consisting of an assistant district attorney, a victim witness advocate, and a State Police detective -- is assigned to each uncharged homicide case to oversee and manage the ongoing investigation. Each team, working in close collaboration with local law enforcement, continually reviews and evaluates the case, determines new leads and methods, pursues evidence, and ensures that all appropriate follow up is done.

There is no statute of limitations for homicides, and we continue to actively pursue new information and employ the use of developing technologies wherever appropriate. A high percentage of these uncharged cases occurred prior to the advent of DNA testing and usage which became more widely accepted in the late 1990s. As investigative techniques have developed and been validated in their respective fields, these have led to developing credible leads in cases where there had been none. In other instances, the passage of time may cause a person who was involved or has intimate knowledge of the crime to come forward and that information may give us a new vantage point from which to develop an investigation and pursue charges many years after a crime has occurred.

It may take years, but we never give up. This year we finalized an appeal of a case that went uncharged for more than a decade; in 2008, we were finally able to charge the defendant with the murder he had committed in 1994.

This case was successfully prosecuted because of the incredible dedication and commitment of the investigative teams that pursued every lead and every new technological advance, along with the families of the victims, who never gave up hope that the person who killed their loved one would someday be held accountable.

# Case Highlights

## **Brookline Man Convicted of Murdering His Coworker**

Clyde Howard, 71, of Brookline, was found guilty of first degree murder in connection with the January 28, 2009 shooting death of Maurice Ricketts, 33, of Malden, during a workplace dispute.

On the morning of January 28, 2009, Howard entered a warehouse on Smith Place in Cambridge armed with a gun. Following a verbal altercation, he pulled out his gun and proceeded to shoot Ricketts multiple times. Howard then fled the scene. Cambridge Police responded and located the victim outside the business suffering from multiple gunshot wounds, including two shots to the head. The victim was then transported to Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

An investigation by authorities found that the defendant and the victim, who were co-workers at the Bay State Pool Supply Company, had an ongoing dispute of a personal nature.

On February 4, 2011, a Middlesex Superior Court jury found Howard guilty on the charges of first degree murder, illegal possession of a firearm, illegal possession of ammunition, and discharging a firearm within 500 feet of a dwelling; he received a sentence of life without the possibility of parole. In October of 2014, the Supreme Judicial Court overturned the murder conviction, leaving open the option of a retrial. Once again, Clyde Howard was convicted on the charge of first degree murder.

The prosecutors assigned to this case were Assistant District Attorney John McEvoy, Assistant District Attorney Lisa Fuccione, and Assistant District Attorney Nicole Nixon. The Victim Witness Advocate was Helena Clark.

## **Former Uber Driver Sentenced on Rape Charges**

Alejandro Done, 47, of Boston, pled guilty to charges of aggravated rape, kidnapping, and assault and battery.

On December 6, 2014, at approximately 7:30 p.m., Alejandro Done was stopped on Tremont Street in Boston, where a young woman was waiting for a pre-arranged ride-sharing driver. The victim entered the defendant's vehicle, believing him to be her pre-ordered ride. Once inside the car, she told the driver her destination, and he instructed her that he would need cash payment. The defendant then stopped the vehicle while the woman went to an ATM to get cash and then returned to the car.

The defendant then drove to a secluded location, pulled over and climbed into the backseat where she was sitting. He struck her with his hands, strangled her, locked the car doors so that she could not escape, and covered her mouth to prevent her from screaming. During an ensuing physical struggle, the defendant sexually assaulted the woman.

The prosecutor assigned to this case was Assistant District Attorney Kate Kleimola. The Victim Witness Advocate was Helena Clarke.

## **Malden Man Found Guilty of First Degree Murder**

Eugene Tate, 21, of Malden, was convicted of the first degree murder of 27-year-old Joseph Puopolo. The jury also found the defendant guilty of armed robbery, armed assault in a dwelling, and illegal possession of a firearm.

At 12:19 a.m. on July 3, 2013, Stoneham Police responded to reports of gunshots on Micah's Pond Way in Stoneham. When officers arrived, they found two males suffering from gunshot wounds. One of those men, Joseph Puopolo, had gunshot wounds to the chest and wrist. He was transported to Lahey Clinic where he was pronounced dead. The second victim suffered a gunshot wound to the abdomen but survived.

Puopolo had been invited to the Micah's Pond Way home where a drug deal was scheduled to take place. When Tate arrived, he and his co-defendant, Jessie Williams, drew guns and demanded drugs and money before shooting the victims.

This case was investigated by the Stoneham Police Department and Massachusetts State Police assigned to the Middlesex District Attorney's Office.

The prosecutors in this case were Assistant District Attorney Tom O'Reilly and Assistant District Attorney Doug Nagengast. The Victim Witness Advocate was Beth Lane.

## **Lowell Man Sentenced in Connection with 2005 Murder**

William Santos, 51, of Lowell, pled guilty to second degree murder in connection with the 2005 shooting death of Luis Daniel Rodriguez, 21, of Lowell, during a robbery in Lowell.

On July 26, 2005, at approximately 5:30 p.m., the defendant arranged to meet the victim at School Street and Pawtucket Street in Lowell, armed with a gun with the intention to rob the victim. Santos stole the victim's gold and ruby crucifix and shot him. The victim died outside of the Pawtucket Pharmacy shortly thereafter.

In April 2008, a Lowell Superior Court jury found Santos guilty of first degree murder under the theory of felony murder, and he received a sentence of life. In August of 2012, the Supreme Judicial Court overturned the defendant's murder conviction and the case was remanded for a new trial.

The case was investigated by the Lowell Police Department and Massachusetts State Police assigned to the Middlesex District Attorney's Office. This case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Beth Dunigan and Assistant District Attorney Jessica Noble. The Victim Witness Advocate was Dora Quiroz.

## **Woman Pleads Guilty to Forging More than \$229,000 Worth of Checks**

Nilce Coffey, 61, of Acton, pled guilty in Middlesex Superior Court to charges of larceny over \$250 from a person over 60 years of age, forgery, and trespassing in connection with the theft of blank checks from a household where she worked. Coffey had then forged names on the checks, and cashed them in order to collect more than \$229,000.

In April of 2009, Coffey forged a check taken from a residence where she worked as a housekeeper. Coffey was confronted and admitted to forging a signature in order to cash the check for \$6,000. The employer decided not to press charges, and Coffey was released from his employment.

Authorities say several years later, on September 5, 2013, the alarm system in the home was triggered. The security company called the residence, and the person who answered the phone could not provide a password. Police were sent to the property and found the intruder gone. The security company provided a recording of the phone conversation, and the family identified the voice as belonging to Coffey.

Later, in October of 2013, the family reported to law enforcement that numerous checks had been drawn from the household's bank account and that they were forged and cashed. The total amount of the 44 checks that were forged and cashed was \$229,892.58. One month later, police executed a search warrant at Coffey's home, found checks belonging to the family that had been victimized and Coffey was arrested.

The prosecutor assigned to this case was Assistant District Attorney Doug Nagengast. The Victim Witness Advocate was Lori Riccio.

## **Tewksbury Man Pleads Guilty in Prescription Drug Scheme**

Howard Barter, 33, of Tewksbury, pled guilty on November 16, 2016 in Middlesex Superior Court to distributing a counterfeit substance, four counts of uttering a false prescription for a controlled substance, and conspiracy to distribute Oxycodone.

From June to December of 2012, the defendant hired opioid users to fill forged Oxycodone prescriptions in exchange for cash or drugs. After the prescriptions were filled, the defendant would then sell the Oxycodone. The scheme resulted in the unlawful diversion of at least 3,000 pills with a black market value of \$90,000. The forged prescriptions were filled at pharmacies in Billerica, Burlington, Lowell, Malden, Tewksbury, Waltham, Watertown, and Wilmington.

This case was investigated by the Middlesex District Attorney's Office, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and drug task force officers from the North Andover and Burlington Police Departments.

The prosecutor assigned to this case was Assistant District Attorney Graham Van Epps.

### **Arlington Rape Defendant Sentenced Under Melissa's Law**

Essie Billingslea, 46, of Boston, was sentenced to life without the possibility of parole on charges of aggravated rape, armed assault in a dwelling, and home invasion. A jury found the defendant guilty of the charges on January 15, 2016. The defendant was subsequently deemed a habitual offender under "Melissa's Law," the section of the 2012 Crime Bill that increased penalties for repeat violent offenders. The law requires that serious violent offenders serve the maximum penalty for their third conviction of a violent crime, without the possibility of parole.

On June 1, 2014, at approximately 8:13 p.m., Arlington Police received a request from a concerned friend of the victim for a well-being check. When authorities arrived at the residence, they encountered two individuals. One, a male, later identified as the defendant, was observed by officers before he fled the building and was apprehended nearby. The second, a female, the homeowner, appeared injured and was in obvious distress. The Middlesex District Attorney's Office and Arlington Police began an immediate investigation during which they learned that earlier in the evening the defendant had forced his way into the victim's home and sexually assaulted her.

Billingslea had a long history of violent and sexual assaults and had been twice before convicted of serious sexual assaults that classify him as the type of offender targeted by Melissa's Law.

The defendant was sentenced to 10 years in state prison on the charge of kidnapping and 20 years in state prison on the charge of assault with intent to rape, the maximum terms for each offense.

The prosecutors assigned to this case were Assistant District Attorney Kate Kleimola and Assistant District Attorney Jessica Langsam. The Victim Witness Advocate was Helena Clarke.

# On Appeal

## ***Commonwealth v. Scott Foxworth***

On January 13, 2006, at approximately 7:45 a.m., Scott Foxworth shot Ed Schiller in the head shortly after he arrived at the parking garage at his place of employment in Newton, killing him. This was a contract killing in which the defendant was hired by James Brescia, the defendant's codefendant, to kill the victim, who had been dating Brescia's wife.

The defendant was held in lieu of bail pending trial. At one point the defendant shared a cell with an inmate who would go on to testify against him. The defendant told the inmate that he intended to do anything he could to prevent another witness from testifying against him. He also informed the inmate that he had a map with the murder scene highlighted, and he needed to get rid of it before investigators found it. The inmate was promised no benefit from the Middlesex District Attorney's Office and was therefore not a government agent which would have barred his testimony.

The defendant was convicted of first-degree murder by deliberate premeditation and conspiracy to commit murder. On appeal the defendant challenged the denial of his motion to suppress statements that he made to a jailhouse informant whom he alleged to be an agent of the Commonwealth; the admission in evidence, allegedly in violation of the spousal disqualification rule, of statements his alleged coconspirator made to the coconspirator's spouse; the admission in evidence of his prior incarceration; a statement by the prosecutor in closing argument that the defendant contended was improper comment on his right not to testify; and the adequacy of the judge's instruction concerning the jury's consideration of the testimony of an immunized witness. The defendant requested a new trial.

The defendant argued on appeal that his prior prison record was inadmissible and prejudicial. However, the witness who put the defendant and codefendant in contact did so due to the defendant's past prison record, which served as an incentive for the codefendant to hire the defendant for the murder of Ed Schiller. The Supreme Judicial Court also found that the immunized witness in this case, who had introduced the two codefendants, was properly identified as a cooperating witness to the jury.

On appeal the defendant argued that the inmate to whom he disclosed information about the homicide during his incarceration acted as an agent of the Commonwealth in exchange for a reduced sentence, in violation of the defendant's Sixth Amendment rights. The Supreme Judicial Court found that there was no evidence that the inmate was an agent of the Commonwealth. The inmate was repeatedly told by investigators during interviews that they had no authority to enter into any agreement with the inmate, that no promises were being made, and that the inmate had no authority to act on behalf of the Commonwealth to obtain information from the defendant. The Supreme Judicial Court ruled that there was no evidence to support an inference that the Commonwealth had promised anything to the inmate, and as a result there was no basis for determining he was an agent of the Commonwealth.

The defendant also argued on appeal that comments Brescia had made to his wife were subject to marital privilege and therefore inadmissible. The defendant further argued that these comments were erroneously admitted and violated the law which prohibits spouses from testifying to private conversations with the other. These comments were made in front of Brescia's children and therefore deemed by the Supreme Judicial Court to not be private conversations.

The Supreme Judicial Court also found that, at a murder trial, no reasonable juror could have understood a statement by the prosecutor in closing argument to be an improper comment on the defendant's failure to testify and that the judge's general instruction on credibility and her instruction that a guilty verdict could not rest solely on the testimony of an immunized witness were sufficient; the absence of an instruction that the jury should scrutinize the testimony of an immunized witness with great care did not result in prejudice to the defendant, and the absence of an instruction that the Commonwealth was not vouching for the witness's truthfulness did not give rise to a substantial likelihood of a miscarriage of justice.

As a result of these factors, the first degree murder conviction of Scott Foxworth was upheld and the Supreme Judicial Court declined to reduce the degree of guilt or order a new trial.

### ***Commonwealth vs. John C. Depiero***

On August 11, 2011, at approximately 2:00 a.m., a Massachusetts State Police Trooper was dispatched in response to a 911 call reporting a drunk driver whose vehicle was swerving on Memorial Drive in Cambridge. The State Police Dispatcher's conversation with the reporting party resulted in the description of the motor vehicle and the license. The dispatcher called over to the Trooper and explained that a call had been received for "erratic operation" of a motor vehicle. The dispatcher provided the vehicle make, color, and registration number. The dispatcher also stated that the vehicle in question was registered to an individual who was on probation for drunk driving.

The Trooper responded to the defendant's home address in Belmont and witnessed the driver turn into his driveway. The Trooper did not see the defendant driving erratically, but the Trooper pulled the defendant over and conducted a field sobriety test which the defendant failed, and the defendant's blood alcohol content was found to be over twice the legal limit. In January, 2013, after a bench trial, the defendant was convicted of operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, second offense.

On appeal, the defendant argued that the trial judge should not have denied the defendant's motion to suppress, arguing that the evidence was obtained during an unlawful motor vehicle stop.

The Supreme Judicial Court found that even though the call was made anonymously, and that the defendant was pulled over near the address at where his car was registered, the Commonwealth had demonstrated that the stop was legal. When contacted, the State Police Trooper knew he would be unable to stop the suspect car between the

defendant's home in Belmont and the location on Memorial Drive where the erratic driving was taking place. Shortly after the Trooper's arrival, the defendant arrived in a vehicle that matched the caller's description. The Trooper being advised that the defendant was on probation for driving under the influence also provided additional merit to the legality of the traffic stop and subsequent field sobriety test.

As a result, the operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol conviction was upheld.

### ***Commonwealth v Jeffrey McGee***

Jeffrey McGee was found guilty of first degree murder on the theory of deliberate premeditation in connection with the November 20, 2007 murder of his wife Christine McGee. The defendant had strangled and stabbed the victim. The only witness was the couple's three and a half-year-old son. The defendant did not dispute that he had killed the victim, but instead argued that there was not deliberate premeditation and that instead occurred in the heat of passion.

The defendant began dating the victim in 2003, and after learning she was pregnant, he married the victim in May of 2005. By 2006, tensions had begun to emerge in the relationship, and by 2007 he was physically abusing her. This led to a separation during which time the victim began seeing other men. In November of 2007, the couple began to reconcile.

On the day of the murder, the defendant expressed to a friend his anger that he believed the victim was seeing another man. That evening, the defendant, victim, and their three and a half-year-old son were sleeping at the defendant's apartment. The child testified that that evening he heard his parents arguing. Later on the child awoke when he heard his mother crying. The child walked into the living room and saw the victim being strangled by the defendant. The defendant then grabbed two knives from the kitchen, which the child was able to describe to police, and stabbed the victim multiple times.

The next day, the defendant left the home with his son in his car. While driving in Methuen at approximately 10:30 a.m., the defendant's car collided with a large dump truck that had been approaching from the opposite direction. When first responders arrived they found the child in the front seat without shoes, socks or a coat despite the snowy weather. First responders noticed that the defendant had cuts on his wrist and puncture wounds to his chest. He told emergency personnel that the injuries were self-inflicted and that he wanted to die and had intentionally tried to cause the collision.

When the child was being treated by first responders he told the emergency personnel that, "daddy killed mommy." The Essex County charges relating to the motor vehicle crash were subsequently transferred to Middlesex County following the defendant's indictment for murder.

On appeal the defendant argued that the judge improperly allowed the defendant's son to demonstrate the manner in which he had witnessed the death of his mother by permitting the prosecution to bring a couch in the courtroom for the child to show the way his mother was lying while the defendant strangled her. A Middlesex Superior Court judge ruled that bringing the couch in for demonstrative purposes was not unfairly inflammatory and that allowing the child to demonstrate his mother's position on the couch provided relevant evidence.

On the night of the murder, the defendant argued that he had spoken to one of the trial witnesses, who had relayed to the defendant a conversation he had with the victim. The defendant argued that the victim and witness had discussed the victim's interest in an extramarital affair. The defendant argued that if the witness had relayed this information to him it might have resulted in him losing control. In a police report, the witness had told officers about the conversation, but there was no evidence to suggest that the witness had relayed his conversation to the defendant in the police report. As a result, the trial judge denied the defendant's request to use the police report to refresh the witness's memory of the events leading up to the murder.

The Supreme Judicial Court rejected both arguments on the grounds that the jury was instructed to use the inclusion of a couch for demonstrative purposes for its evidentiary and not to be swayed by any emotional effect resulting from the demonstration. The Court also found that where there was no showing that the defendant was aware of the victim's supposed sexual overture to the witness, and where the defendant did not lay a proper foundation to use the report to refresh the witness's memory on that point, the judge was correct to limit the defense's use of that report.

After a review of the entire record the Supreme Judicial Court declined to exercise their power to reduce the defendant's conviction to a lesser degree of guilt or to order a new trial.

# Beyond the Courtroom: Commitment to Community

**Community Based Justice**

**Juvenile Diversion**

**Cut It Out Middlesex**

**Middlesex Update**

**Cyber Safety**

**Domestic Violence High-Risk Assessment  
and Rapid Response Teams**

**Asset Forfeiture**

**Restorative Justice**

**Middlesex Partnerships for Youth, Inc.**

# Beyond the Courtroom: Commitment to Community

## Community Based Justice

Community Based Justice (CBJ) is a program that effectively brings together local institutions that work daily with at-risk youth to intervene in their lives when necessary, prevent involvement in criminal matters, and divert and remediate when they make bad choices that impact schools, communities, and others. CBJ is a school-based program that works with school personnel, public safety professionals, and health and social service providers in each community. Through frequent CBJ meetings, we have created a comprehensive system to focus on the youth of Middlesex County and to assist schools in keeping students safe by providing information about court involved youth, training, and crime prevention information and support.

CBJ programs are a critical tool that allows partnering agencies to collaborate on efforts to address youth violence and school safety. The mission of CBJ is to work proactively, collaboratively, and consistently with schools, law enforcement officials, social service agencies, probation representatives, court representatives, and where appropriate, Department of Youth Services, Department of Children & Families, and Department of Mental Health to promote public safety and social responsibility of students.

Approximately 50 times each month in various communities across the county, prosecutors meet with CBJ partners to collaborate on initiatives that focus on preventing violence among middle and high school aged youth. Each multi-disciplinary CBJ meeting is represented by one juvenile and one district court prosecutor from that community. Through this collaboration, prosecutors become familiar with the character of each city or town, focusing on the trends of violence, drug use, gang involvement, cybercrimes, and other criminal activities particular to that community.

Importantly, youth-specific information provided to the school by the MDAO and law enforcement assists the school and police in determining which students are court-involved, at-risk or may pose a risk to others. Youth who are court-involved have their cases handled by assistant district attorneys who attend the CBJ meeting in their town or city so that assistant district attorneys view the cases and their potential community impact in the fullest way possible. A prosecutor's involvement with the youth's community provides a knowledge base to propose individualized sanctions that can deter the offender from further criminal involvement. As a result, not only does CBJ help address the needs of those court involved students, but the programs also foster a safer learning environment for all youth.

## Juvenile Diversion

The MDAO Juvenile Diversion Program is designed to work with first-time juvenile offenders under the age of 18 as an alternative to prosecution. Participation in the diversion program is completely voluntary and begins prior to arraignment. The Diversion Program allows the juvenile the opportunity to complete a remedial program and/or community service instead of formal prosecution. If the juvenile satisfies all of the requirements of diversion, there will be no further proceedings in the criminal justice system related to the matter.

The goals of the Juvenile Diversion Program are to foster acceptance of responsibility and consequences, to keep the juvenile out of the criminal justice system, to prevent a criminal record, and ultimately to reduce recidivism. The hope is that by giving young people a chance to preserve their record and to accept responsibility they will see the benefit of good citizenship and the importance of behaving lawfully, for themselves and for others.

Many offenses, including school-based and non school-based crimes, are eligible. Our program is available in every region in the county and has been accessed by young people in every region. We have had participation from eligible juveniles in almost every city, large and small, and town throughout our county.

## Cut It Out Middlesex

By virtue of their work, salon professionals are in a unique position to observe physical injuries on their clients' heads, faces, arms and hands,

signs that may point to domestic violence. Salon professionals build long-standing relationships with their clients and may even serve as a confidantè. With training from the District Attorney's Office, hair stylists, makeup artists, estheticians, and massage therapists learn how to spot domestic violence and safely refer clients to community-based domestic violence service organizations.



District Attorney Ryan joined by students at the Elizabeth Grady School of Esthetics and Massage Therapy in Medford.

The program provides trainings to staff at private salons as well as to students who attend Empire Beauty School, Elizabeth Grady, and technical high schools across Middlesex County. *Cut It Out Middlesex* also provides women from local domestic violence shelters with an opportunity to receive free haircuts and makeovers from high school cosmetology students trained in the program. Through assistance offered by students from the schools' marketing education programs, survivors also "shop" for new complimentary business clothes to assist them in preparation for job interviews as they transition from emergency shelter to independent living. While visiting the high schools, survivors are given a free gourmet lunch prepared by the schools' culinary arts programs. To date, *Cut It Out Middlesex* has trained over 1,800 salon professionals and students.

## Middlesex Update

"Middlesex Update" is a cable show produced by the Office of Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan which focuses on timely topics, news, and events vital to residents in the 54 towns and cities of Middlesex County and beyond. The show is produced by Belmont Media and shared across the county online and with other local access stations.

Each episode features guests who are on the leading edge of crime prevention and intervention. Past episodes have focused on elder abuse, workplace safety, infant safe sleep awareness, teen dating, and summer safety.



District Attorney Ryan on the set of Middlesex Update.  
L to R: Dr. Brian O'Connor of Middlesex Recovery, North Reading Police Chief Michael Murphy, and State Senator Jason Lewis.

## Cyber Safety

The Cyber Protection Program is a team of assistant district attorneys, Massachusetts State Police detectives, and civilian forensic investigators who focus on the predatory abuse of the Internet, cell phones, and other communication devices. The team investigates and prosecutes cases where computers have been used either to commit crimes or to store evidence of crimes. Cases include the sexual exploitation of children and financial scams aimed at the elderly.



The team also conducts prevention and intervention trainings for law enforcement, schools and community groups.

## Domestic Violence High-Risk Assessment and Rapid Response Teams

The MDAO has played a leadership role in the development of nine Domestic Violence High-Risk Assessment and Rapid Response Teams (HRTs). Regional teams operate in Ayer, Cambridge, Concord, Framingham, Lowell, Malden, Somerville, Stoneham, and Waltham. The model places a premium on collaboration and information sharing among law enforcement, the courts, and community-based service providers. By using an evidenced-based risk assessment tool to conduct lethality assessments, team members identify, and respond to cases of domestic violence that pose the greatest risk for lethality. HRTs refine and tighten existing lines of communication among stakeholders. Recognizing that no one agency is capable of addressing the multitude of needs that victims present, HRTs value and rely on the areas of specialty that its members bring to the team. Such collaboration assures that optimal safety planning measures and service plans are effectuated without delay and with the highest level of quality.

## Asset Forfeiture

In some circumstances, drug dealers are ordered to forfeit the proceeds of their criminal activity. Massachusetts G.L. c. 94C, § 47(d), the drug forfeiture statute, authorizes law enforcement to donate a portion of forfeiture funds to non-profit organizations that offer drug rehabilitation, drug education, and other anti-drug or neighborhood crime watch programs.

Over the past two years, proceeds from the sale of forfeited cell phones alone (approximately \$2,800) were donated to Transition House, Voices Against Violence,

and Alternative House, three community-based domestic violence advocacy organizations in Middlesex County.

The cell phones, obtained through the drug forfeiture process, are priced and recycled for parts. The money collected from these phones allows the MDAO to purchase pre-paid calling cards for victims of domestic violence to support Project Lifeline.



District Attorney Ryan and Ronit Barkai of Transition House in Cambridge.

## Restorative Justice

We are committed to utilizing Restorative Justice partnerships to further the goals of intervening in the lives of at-risk youth to prevent crime, reduce juvenile delinquency, and to provide youth with opportunities for positive change.

Through partnerships with both Communities for Restorative Justice (C4RJ) of Concord, and Our RJ of Lowell, we are working to expand the opportunities for restorative justice practices to be utilized throughout the county. Already the programs have been welcomed by police and schools alike, and participants largely report a substantive learning experience beyond what they had expected of the court experience.

Information sessions and trainings about Restorative Justice practices continue to be conducted throughout Middlesex County to familiarize those who work directly with at-risk youth.

## Middlesex Partnerships for Youth, Inc.

Middlesex Partnership for Youth, Inc. (MPY) is a non-profit organization affiliated with the MDAO. Established in 1988, MPY fosters collaboration among community leaders, public safety agencies, including fire and police departments, and educators to safeguard students in Middlesex County. Every public school district in Middlesex County is a member of MPY as well as nearly two dozen charter, private, and special needs schools.

Over the past two years, MPY's student-based initiatives have greatly expanded to include poster and public service announcement projects focusing on topics like healthy relationships and the dangers of opioid and substance use.



District Attorney Ryan and Nashoba Valley Technical High School Student Cheyanne Thistle, winner of the 2016 Poster Contest "Self Confidence."

The MDAO, along with MPY Inc., also sponsors conferences, trainings and in-service programs throughout the school year for middle and high school students, teachers, guidance and adjustment counselors, administrators and parents. Two of MPY's featured events include:

- "Empowering Girls" a program attended by hundreds of young women in both middle school and high school, allowing each group to explore topics related to their specific age group. The program is designed to encourage confidence-building, self-assertion and goal-setting through compelling speakers and interactive presentations; and
- "SECURE" (Safe and Effective Community Understanding and Response to Emergencies) program. SECURE was created in 1999 as a pilot program in Newton designed to provide participants with an opportunity to experience hands-on training in school and community-based emergency situations. Now in its nineteenth year, SECURE is part of our ongoing efforts to bring educators, law enforcement officials, and community members together to keep students safe.



District Attorney Ryan and high school students at the 2016-Empowering Girls Conference in Cambridge.

# Office Information

## Contact Us

### General Information

Main Phone: (781) 897-8300

Main Fax: (781) 897-8301

MA Toll Free: (877) 897-8333

Press Office: (781) 897-8325

### Main Office

Office of the Middlesex District Attorney  
15 Commonwealth Avenue  
Woburn, MA 01801

### Regional Offices

Cambridge/Malden Region  
Woburn Central Office  
15 Commonwealth Avenue  
Woburn, MA 01801  
(781) 897-8300; Fax: (781) 897-8501

Framingham Region  
Framingham Regional Office  
63 Fountain Street, Suite 404  
Framingham, MA 01702  
(781) 897-8800; Fax: (781) 897-8801

Lowell Region  
Lowell Regional Office  
151 Warren Street  
Lowell, MA 01852  
(781) 897-8900; Fax: (781) 897-8901

## Middlesex District Courts

Ayer District Court  
25 East Main Street  
Ayer, MA 01432  
(781) 897-8750

*Communities served by the Ayer region: Ashby, Ayer, Boxborough, Dunstable, Groton, Littleton, Pepperell, Shirley, Townsend, Westford, Devens Regional Enterprise Zone*

Cambridge District Court  
4040 Mystic Valley Parkway  
Medford, MA 02151  
(781) 897-8550

*Communities served by the Cambridge region: Arlington, Belmont, Cambridge*

Concord District Court  
305 Walden Street  
Concord, MA 01742  
(781) 897-8775

*Communities served by the Concord region: Acton, Bedford, Carlisle, Concord, Lexington, Lincoln, Maynard, Stow*

Framingham District Court  
600 Concord Street, P.O. Box 828  
Framingham, MA 01701  
(508) 875-7461

*Communities served by the Framingham region: Ashland, Framingham, Holliston, Hopkinton, Sudbury, Wayland*

Lowell District Court  
41 Hurd Street  
Lowell, MA 01852  
(978) 459-4101

*Communities served by the Lowell region: Billerica, Chelmsford, Dracut, Lowell, Tewksbury, Tyngsborough*

Malden District Court  
14 Summer Street  
Malden, MA 02148  
(781) 897-8675

*Communities served by the Malden region: Everett, Malden, Melrose, Wakefield*

Marlborough District Court  
45 Williams Street, 2nd Floor  
Marlborough, MA 01752  
(781) 897-6775

*Communities served by the Marlborough region: Hudson, Marlborough*

Natick District Court  
600 Concord Street  
Framingham, MA 01701  
(508) 620- 9110

*Communities served by the Natick region: Natick, Sherborn*

Newton District Court  
Newton Police Department Annex  
25 Chestnut Street  
Newton, MA 02465  
(781) 897-8625

*Communities served by the Newton region: Newton*

Somerville District Court Office  
175 Fellsway  
Somerville, MA 02145  
(781) 897-8575

*Communities served by the Somerville region: Medford, Somerville*

Waltham District Court  
38 Linden Street  
Waltham, MA 02452  
(781) 897-8650

*Communities served by the Waltham region: Waltham, Watertown, Weston*

Woburn District Court  
30 Pleasant Street  
Woburn, MA 01801  
781-897-8725

*Communities served by the Woburn region: Burlington, North Reading, Reading, Stoneham, Wilmington, Winchester, Woburn*



*Acton ! Arlington ! Ashby ! Ashland ! Ayer ! Bedford ! Belmont ! Billerica  
Boxborough ! Burlington ! Cambridge ! Carlisle ! Chelmsford ! Concord ! Dracut  
Dunstable ! Everett ! Framingham ! Groton ! Holliston ! Hopkinton ! Hudson  
Lexington ! Lincoln ! Littleton ! Lowell ! Malden ! Marlborough ! Maynard  
Medford ! Melrose ! Natick ! Newton ! North Reading ! Pepperell ! Reading  
Sherborn ! Shirley ! Somerville ! Stoneham ! Stow ! Sudbury ! Tewksbury  
Townsend ! Tyngsborough ! Wakefield ! Waltham ! Watertown ! Wayland  
Westford ! Weston ! Wilmington ! Winchester ! Woburn*

*Visit us online  
[middlesexda.com](http://middlesexda.com)*



*Follow us on Twitter  
[@DA Marian Ryan](https://twitter.com/DA_Marian_Ryan)*