



2018 Annual Report

OFFICE OF THE
BRONX COUNTY
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
DARCEL D. CLARK

“Pursuing Justice With Integrity”



Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark

A Message from Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark

The third year of my term was all about criminal justice reform: both my Office's initiatives, and gearing up for reforms that would be passed by the New York State legislature in January 2019 and which will take effect in 2020.

Our mission of "Pursuing Justice with Integrity" continues, focusing on public safety, fairness for defendants, and compassion and security for victims of crime and witnesses.

We maintained our duty to seek justice, not just convict. My office is at the forefront of diverting people from the criminal justice system with programs like Overdose Avoidance and Recovery Program (OAR), which saw 65 people placed into drug treatment, and Project Reset/Bronx Community Justice, which enlists local volunteers to resolve petty crimes in their communities and saw 54 people diverted.

But we continued to handle an inordinate share of New York City's crime in 2018. The Bronx is home to 17 percent of the city's population, but nearly 25 percent of the city's murders, 25 percent of the robberies, and 30 percent of shooting victims, felony assaults and domestic incident reports.

There were 91 murders in the Bronx last year, up from 72 in 2017. Shooting incidents decreased slightly, to 227, but this amounted to 30 percent of citywide shootings. We are working with the NYPD to address gun violence.

But as always, hope prevails in the Bronx. Residents joined us in a Silent Peace March last summer down Castle Hill Avenue to the site



where three people were shot dead. We held our second Child Safety Fair, and our first Re-Entry Resource Fair to provide information to those returning to the Bronx from prison or jail.

We continued to target gun traffickers and opioid/heroin organizations. The mental health crisis in the city continued to affect crime and the justice system, and in 2019 it will be a priority for my Office to work with agencies to improve treatment and services for mentally ill people so they will not harm themselves or the public and end up in court and jail.

Thank you for your support and for the privilege of serving you. I look forward to a safer year ahead for the wonderful people of The Bronx.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darcel D. Clark".

Bronx District Attorney
Darcel D. Clark



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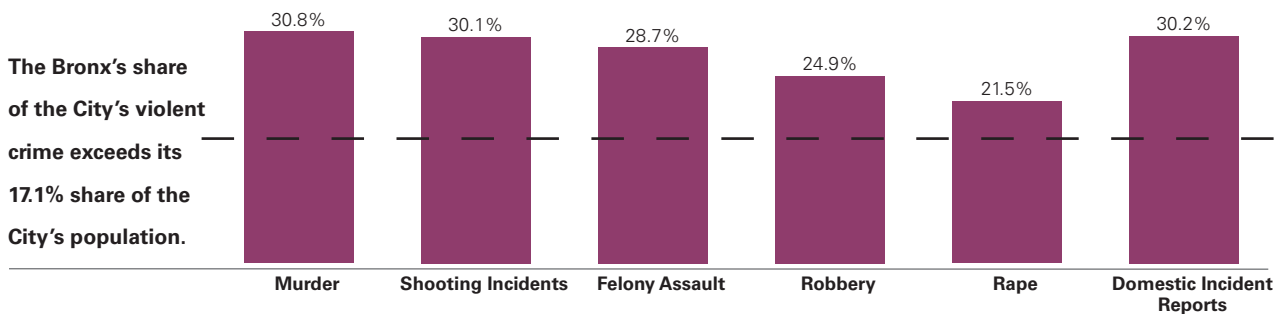
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Overview: Crime in the Bronx

The Bronx saw an increase in both homicide (26.4%) and rape (15.6%) from 2017 to 2018. Among the five counties in New York City, in 2018 the Bronx had the highest rates of violent crime, including murder, rape and felonious assault. The Bronx also had the highest rate of grand larceny auto. The Bronx is home to about 17% of New York City’s population, but accounted for 31% of the homicides in New York City; 22% of the rapes; 25% of the robberies; and 29% of the felonious assaults. Crime complaints for robbery and grand larceny decreased by 7.4% and 9.7% respectively from 2017 to 2018.

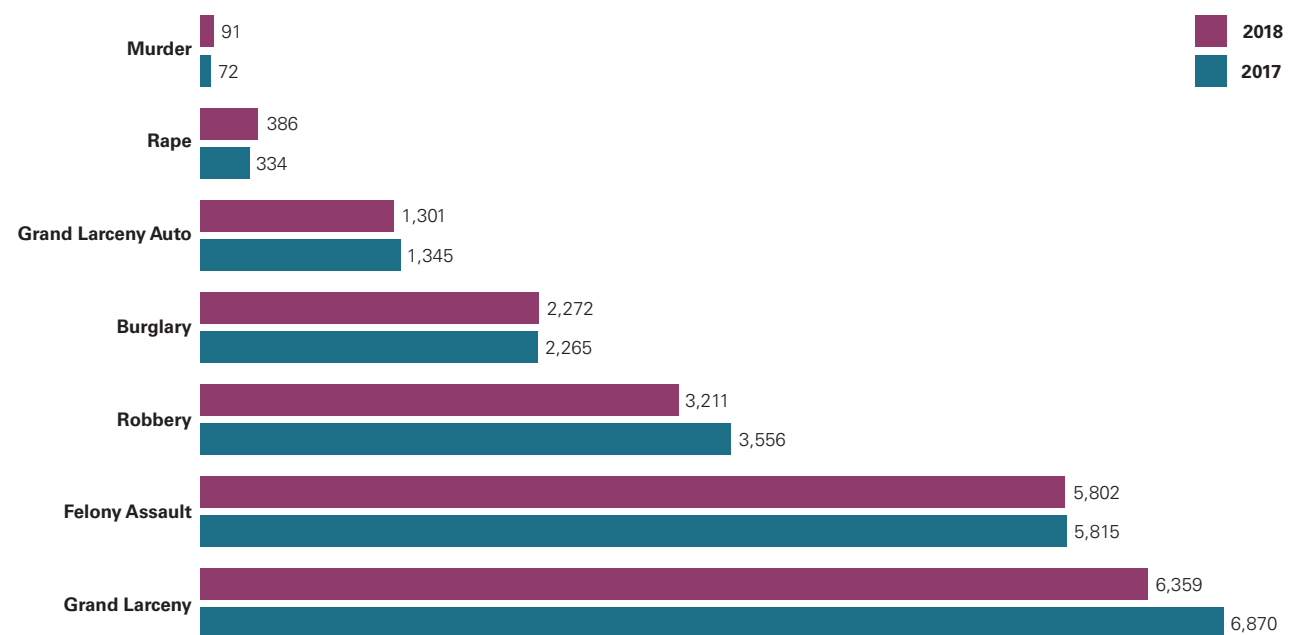
Bronx Violent Crime 2018

Percentage of Citywide Violent Crime vs. Population



Source: New York City Police Department and U.S. Census

Bronx County Reported Crime Complaints 2017–2018



Source: 2018 NYPD

Number of Complaints

21st Century Prosecution: Forging Ahead

Fairness for Defendants



In 2018, before the passage of criminal justice reform in Albany, the Bronx District Attorney's Office worked to bring cases to trial more quickly, reduce bail requests and provide early discovery in misdemeanor cases. We also addressed the inordinate arrests of Black and Hispanic people for low-level offenses.

The Bronx experiences a large share of the city's crime, and much of it is fueled by poverty and other social ills. Jail no longer will be used as a tool for leverage or unfair advantage; neither will an accused's financial handicap be a reason for losing their freedom. We are working to implement the ending of cash bail before the new law takes effect in 2020. But we must also consider the safety of the public, and as such will continue to look at each case individually.

In the Bronx, Black and Hispanic people were a disproportionate number of arrests for marijuana, and DA Clark urged police to give DATs. Now, as we're on the cusp of legalization, the Office no longer prosecutes marijuana possession and smoking cases (PL 221.10(1) and 221.05). Assistant District Attorneys decline to prosecute an arrest where those marijuana charges appear

without any other charge. A prosecution may be appropriate where there is a demonstrated public safety threat.

We have the same policy for farebeating. We ask the police to issue DATs for theft of services (PL 165.15[3]). If these defendants come in as arrests, Assistant District Attorneys decline to prosecute where the theft of services charge appears without any other charge. Prosecution may be appropriate where there is a demonstrated public safety threat.

Having a criminal record adversely affects people's lives by hindering employment, housing and educational opportunities. The Bronx DA's Office has cleared more than 160,000 old summons warrants, for quality of life offenses, such as drinking in public and being in a park after dark, enabling Bronx residents to continue their lives without fear of arrest for a long-ago mistake.

We are exploring ways to expunge old convictions for offenses that have been decriminalized, and take other steps to relieve Bronxites of a criminal record due to committing a low-level offense.

Compassion for Victims, Security for Witnesses

In May I restructured crime victims' and witnesses' services, to provide comprehensive assessments, support, direct assistance and referrals, as needed, to increase safety and security. Witness intimidation is a very real problem in the Bronx. We need to make our victims and witnesses feel confident when they courageously agree to testify or cooperate in a prosecution.

The Witness Security Program is a necessary partnership between trained law enforcement and victim advocates. The program has dedicated Detective Investigators, charged with relocating



Survivor Diamond Dunne tells her story at “The Many Faces of Domestic Violence” event in October 2018.

victims and witnesses in misdemeanor and felony cases, transporting them to and from court, and monitoring their safety.

The Crime Victims Assistance Unit (CVAU) focuses on providing services to address the psychological and social needs that are brought on by the trauma that often accompanies crime.

The Witness Security Program provides support, direct assistance and referrals, as needed. Last year, some 250 witnesses/victims were assisted with everything from escorts to court, to relocation.

Last year 23 people—including witnesses or victims who were intimidated, and cooperators in cases—were assisted in relocation to temporary and/or permanent housing and other expenses.



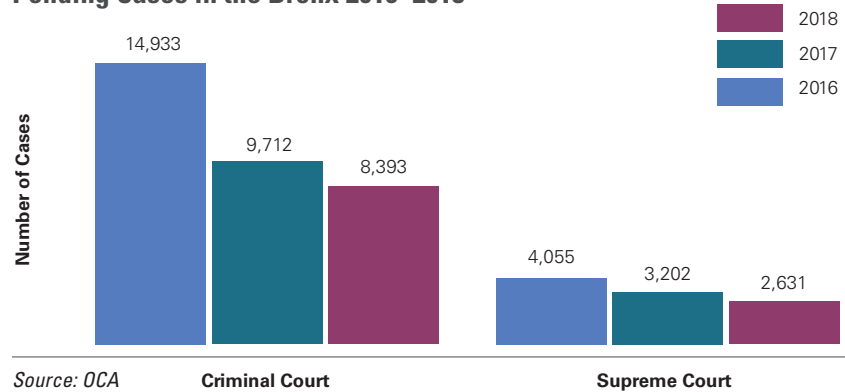
DA Clark and domestic violence survivor Sandra Pagan at the Bronx DA's 5K Run/Walk/Roll event on September 29, 2018.

Trial Division

The Trial Division is comprised of the Homicide Bureau, Trial Bureaus 20, 30, 40, 50, 60 and 70; the Vehicular Crimes Unit and the Hate Crimes Unit.

Vertical Prosecution, which was instituted in 2016, has improved efficiency.

Pending Cases in the Bronx 2016–2018



The Homicide Bureau obtained convictions after trial against 65.5% of the defendants it tried.

NOTABLE CASES:

Fatal Grow House Explosion

In August 2018, Garivaldi Castillo, 33, and Julio

Salcedo, 36, were sentenced to prison for creating conditions that led to a marijuana grow house explosion that killed FDNY Battalion Chief Michael Fahy. Castillo was sentenced to two to six years in prison and Salcedo was sentenced to one to three years in prison after pleading guilty to second-degree Manslaughter and first-degree Criminal Possession of Marijuana. Fahy, responding to the explosion resulting from pent-up gas due to sealed windows, was fatally struck by a piece of the roof. The case was an extremely rare instance in which someone is held accountable for conditions that caused the death of a city firefighter in the line of duty.

Howard Unger, 55, was sentenced to four to 12 years

in prison for killing a 10-year-old girl and two adults with his vehicle on Halloween in 2015. The defendant suffered an epileptic seizure while

driving his car after failing to take his medication as prescribed. The vehicle jumped the curb on Morris Park Avenue and hit the child, her grandfather and another pedestrian. A jury found Unger guilty of three counts of second-degree Manslaughter and False Statements.



Jonathan Jolivert, 49, was sentenced

to 25 years to life in prison after a jury found him guilty of second-degree Murder. Jolivert killed the mother of his child, Michelle Page, in 1993. The case was solved in 2015 thanks to DNA science.



Michelle Page-victim

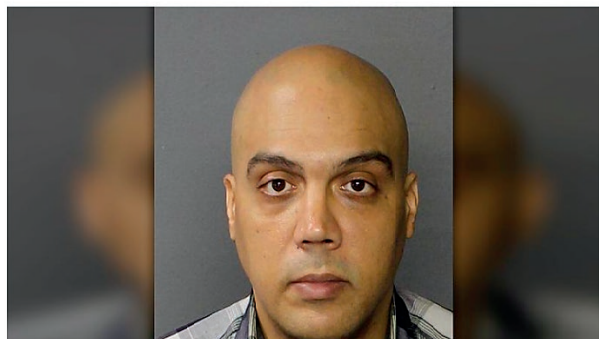
Scott Parrilla, 48, was sentenced to 25 years to life in

prison after a jury found him guilty of second-degree Murder for the 1989 death of a Bronx teen. Parrilla argued with 17-year-old Noelis Bayanilla after she refused to have sex with him. He then threw her off the roof of a five-story building. The case was solved in 2015 after fingernail scrapings of the victim matched Parrilla's DNA.

Serial rapist sentenced in Bronx cold case murder from 1989



By MIKEY LIGHT and LEONARD GREENE | NEW YORK DAILY NEWS | DEC 19, 2018 | 2:30 PM



Scott Parrilla

Alexis Irizarry, 48, was sentenced to six years in

prison and five years post-release supervision after a jury found him guilty of second-degree Assault for stabbing John Kohler in the abdomen and back in 2016. The victim and the defendant, former friends, argued, after which the defendant stabbed the victim multiple times with a knife. The victim suffered life-threatening injuries and underwent multiple surgeries.

14 Alleged Trinitarios Gang Members Indicted

Fourteen alleged Trinitarios were indicted in the

June 20, 2018 killing of 15-year-old Lesandro "Junior" Guzman-Feliz. The defendants were charged with Murder, Manslaughter, Conspiracy and additional charges.

Five of the defendants—Jonaiki Martinez Estrella, Antonio Rodriguez Hernandez Santiago, Jose Muniz, Manuel Rivera, and Elvin Garcia—were indicted on first-degree Murder, under Penal Law 125.27 (1) (a) (x), intentional murder which included torture.

The defendants, part of the "Sures" set of the Trinitarios, allegedly gathered and planned to commit violence against a rival set called "Sunset." The defendants came upon the victim, who fled from them, running several blocks to a bodega in Belmont, where he tried to hide. The boy was dragged out of the store and repeatedly stabbed and slashed with knives and a machete. The defendants then allegedly met at a co-defendant's house after the attack to hide the weapons.

The slaying was captured on videos that went viral. Outraged community members provided information to police that led to arrests.

"We will not tolerate violence by gangs on our streets," said District Attorney Clark. "I urge the community to continue to be our partner to save our youth."



DA Clark and NYPD officials announce indictment of 14 alleged Trinitarios in connection with the murder of Lesandro "Junior" Guzman-Feliz.

Couple Indicted in Murder, Dismemberment of Bronx Woman

Daquan Wheeler, 31, and his girlfriend Ciara

Martinez, 30, were indicted in connection with the killing and dismemberment of Lisa Marie Velasquez, 25, a friend of Martinez', in August 2018. Wheeler allegedly struck the victim in the head with a hammer, causing her death. The defendants then allegedly cut up the victim's body and placed the remains in bags that were discarded in public parks in the Bronx. District Attorney Clark called the crimes "the ultimate degradation of a human being." Wheeler was indicted on Murder, Manslaughter and additional charges, and Martinez was charged with Criminal Facilitation and Hindering Prosecution.

The New York Times

Lisa Marie Velasquez Answered a Friend's Call for Help and Paid With Her Life



Lisa Marie Velasquez's aunt, Jacqueline Perez, cries on the shoulder of a friend at a vigil for Ms. Velasquez, held outside the Melrose Houses in the Bronx. Gregg Vigliotti for The New York Times

Jose DeJesus, 21, and Abel Martinez, 33, were

sentenced to 12 years and eight years, respectively, after each defendant pleaded guilty to Attempted Murder in the second degree for acting in concert with each other and nearly killing a 31-year-old man after striking him in the head multiple times with a baseball bat in April of 2017. The victim was

lured to the location by a female associate of the defendants via social media, and the victim was then blind-sided by the defendants, severely beaten, and robbed of his property. The victim suffered bleeding to the brain, multiple skull fractures, underwent several surgeries. He received extensive physical and occupational therapy.

Gilrael Ruperto, 28, was sentenced to 10 years, six

months in prison followed by five years of post-release supervision for two robberies committed in 2015 against elderly women in the Mott Haven area. In a building on East 153rd Street, the defendant stole \$50 from a 64-year-old woman after punching her repeatedly and ripping off her earrings. In another incident, he robbed a 72-year-old woman of her purse after throwing her to the ground. In both incidents, the defendant sprayed the women with an unknown substance. Ruperto pleaded guilty to second-degree Robbery as a Hate Crime. He also pleaded guilty to second-degree Promoting Prison Contraband for having a scalpel while jailed at Rikers Island, receiving a concurrent term of one year in jail.

A husband and wife team of burglars was

prosecuted for a string of break-ins in the "Hub" area (East 149th Street). Hector Rivera-Cordero, 38, and Liz Perez-Rodriguez, 32, broke into two pharmacies and stole pills, lottery tickets, and cash. They burglarized a nail salon twice and stole cash, manicure supplies, and an entire ATM machine. Rivera-Cordero also burglarized construction sites. He pleaded guilty in December to third-degree Burglary and was sentenced to two years in prison with two years post-release supervision, on an offer by the judge. Perez-Rodriguez pleaded guilty to Criminal Possession of Stolen Property and was sentenced to five years probation.

Special Victims Division

The Special Victims Division is comprised of the Child Abuse/Sex Crimes Bureau, Domestic Violence Bureau and the Crime Victims Assistance Unit. In 2018, the Office planned for the creation of a Human Trafficking Unit under this division, and it was staffed and implemented in 2019.

Human Trafficking Unit

The Office of the Bronx District Attorney is committed to tackling human trafficking in the borough. This Unit is comprised of dedicated Assistant District Attorneys who investigate and prosecute cases of human trafficking, including sexual exploitation. The Unit works to rescue victims, and apprehend and convict traffickers as well as those who patronize the commercial sex trade. Additionally, a social worker is assigned to the Unit to counsel and advocate for these traumatized victims.

Domestic Violence Bureau

In August 2018, the Office expanded the hours of the Domestic Violence Complaint Unit, which is operated with designated support staff and NYPD staff, to 1 a.m., Monday through Friday. Specially trained Domestic Violence ADAs can meet with witnesses in a dedicated space, and refer them to services and counseling, at night, when DV incidents are more likely to occur. The expanded hours allowed the Unit to process over 2,400 cases from August to December 2018.

The Bureau received an “Improving Criminal Justice Responses to Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking” Grant of \$900,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office of Violence Against Women. The grant represents a partnership among BXDA, the Borough President’s Office, Safe Horizon, the Department of Probation, the New York City Police

There were 10 Domestic Violence homicides in the Bronx last year.

Department and the Anti-Violence Project and provides funding for a dedicated advocate for DV victims at high-risk for homicide, and a Detective Investigator to assist in these cases. The goal is to address victim needs immediately after strangulation and other incidents with high-risk lethality factors, help victims manage their risk, hold offenders accountable and reduce the number of domestic violence homicide victims in the Bronx.

First 5K Race Sponsored by Bronx DA’s Office

On September 29, 2018 BXDA hosted a 5K Run/Walk/Roll event to herald the start of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The Mayor’s Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence, community members and DV survivors participated in the event on the Grand Concourse.



NOTABLE CASES:

Amauri Perdomo, 34, was sentenced to 50 years in prison after a jury found him guilty of first-degree Manslaughter, Attempted Murder in the second-degree and second-degree Criminal Possession of a Weapon. Perdomo killed his estranged wife, Jennifer Ortiz, as he fired shots at her and her friend while in a rage of jealousy. Perdomo had been stalking the victim, who was a mother of four, through a smartphone before he shot her in broad daylight.

Christopher Coachman, 54, was sentenced to 25 years in prison after a jury found him guilty of first-degree Manslaughter. Coachman strangled his girlfriend in 2015. He spent 18 hours in the apartment with the victim's lifeless body and then called a friend saying he "did something bad."

Child Abuse/Sex Crimes Bureau

The Child Abuse/Sex Crimes Bureau prosecutes all misdemeanor and felony sexual assault cases involving both child and adult victims. The Bureau also prosecutes most misdemeanor and felony physical child abuse cases, and all child abuse fatalities. At the Child Advocacy Center, Assistant District Attorneys work closely with advocates, the NYPD, Administration for Child Services, and doctors in handling child sexual and physical abuse allegations.

In 2018, the Child Abuse/Sex Crimes Bureau processed 493 child abuse cases—which consisted of physical abuse and sex offense cases—and 135 adult sexual offense cases.

More than 300 children and caregivers attended the Bronx District Attorney's second Child Safety Fair on April 21, 2018. Attendees were given information on such topics as bike safety, bullying prevention, Internet precautions, safe sleeping, safe/unsafe touching and fire safety. The NYPD was also on site distributing free SAFE Child Identification cards. The Child Safety Fair, held during Child Abuse Prevention Month, included a DJ, face painting, bouncy castles, and crafts, a raffle and free food.



Child Safety Fair

In 2018, the Bureau investigated 98 child sex offense cases and 99 adult sex offense cases that stemmed from interviews at the Bronx District Attorney's Office or at the Jacobi Child Advocacy Center.

Bronx Safe Sleep Task Force



In September 2018, the Bronx District Attorney's Office held its first borough-wide Safe Sleep Task Force (BXSSTF) meeting.

The partnership between the Office and multiple City agencies was officially announced in May 2019. It aims to reduce sleep-related infant fatalities in the Bronx, where these incidents are most prevalent in the city, by educating about avoiding co-sleeping, excessive bedding and other unsafe sleeping situations.

There were 14 sleep-related infant fatalities in the Bronx in 2018.

NOTABLE CASES:

Carlos Rosario, 39, was sentenced to 20 years in prison after pleading guilty to first-degree Criminal Sexual Act for sexually abusing a six-year-old girl. The defendant abused the child in his home, after her mother was rushed to the hospital for emergency surgery and left the child temporarily in his care. The defendant took multiple photographs of the sexual acts he performed on the child and distributed them online.

Anthony Gonzalez, 38, was sentenced to eight years in prison after pleading guilty to first-degree Sexual Abuse and second-degree Course of Sexual Conduct against a Child. Gonzalez, who was a karate instructor, sexually abused a six-year-old girl who was taking karate classes at the center where he volunteered. During the course of the investigation it was discovered that Gonzalez also sexually abused a five-year-old girl at the school.

Oumar Fofana, 22, was sentenced to 9 to 12 years in prison for trying to rape a 41-year-old store owner in 2015, and for two cases that derived from his time at Rikers Island. Fofana went into the victim's store and attempted to rape her. A passerby called 911 after he saw the victim under attack. Fofana pleaded guilty to Attempted Rape in the first degree for the sexual assault case and second-degree Escape and fourth-degree Criminal Mischief for trying to escape from Rikers Island and for damaging property in jail.

Crime Victims Assistance Unit

In 2018, the Crime Victims Assistance Unit handled 1,455 new cases and 8,301 follow-ups, providing counseling and referrals to services for crime victims whether or not a criminal case is brought. An additional 130 new cases and 717 follow-ups were handled through the CVAU Satellite Office on White Plains Road.

Rape Crisis Program

CVAU's Rape Crisis Program handled 247 rape cases, 58 victim-related calls and provided 1,937 follow-ups in 2018. The Bronx is the only DA's Office in New York State that has a prosecutor-based Rape Crisis Program.



"Tree of Angels" event, in which angels and other mementos are placed on an evergreen in memory of those lost to homicide.

Therapy Program

The Bronx District Attorney's Therapy Program serviced 240 new therapy clients and completed 1,907 counseling sessions in 2018.

Complex Homicide Program

The Complex Homicide Program, which launched in March 2017, responds to homicide victims' family and loved ones within 24 to 72 hours. In 2018, the program handled 123 cases and provided 1,207 follow-ups. The Bronx program, which handles only gang and intra-familial cases, is one of seven locations throughout the nation that receive funding from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Victims of Crime.

CVAU's Early Victim Engagement (EVE) Program

EVE advocates reach out to victims of domestic violence immediately to inform victims on whether an abusive partner has been released or is in jail. EVE, which started in 2018, handled 2,549 cases and 3,404 follow-ups last year.



DA Clark and CVAU Staff at the 2018 NYC Crime Victims Candlelight Vigil.



"Operation Gift Giving" is a yearly event hosted by BXDA during the holiday season to bring some joy to crime victims and their families.

Investigations Division

This Division is comprised of the Criminal Enterprise Bureau, Economic Crimes Bureau, Rikers Island Prosecution Bureau, Public Integrity Bureau, Special Investigations Bureau, Narcotics and Gangs Investigation Bureau, Firearms Trafficking Unit, Tax and Organizational Fraud Unit and the Immigrant Affairs Unit.

Investigations opened in 2018 by Bureau:

Criminal Enterprise Bureau	77
Economic Crimes Bureau	306
Rikers Island Prosecution Bureau	131
Firearms Trafficking Unit.	49
Narcotics and Gangs Investigation Bureau . . .	16
Public Integrity Bureau.	108
Special Investigations Bureau	7

Rikers Island Prosecution Bureau

NOTABLE CASES

Steven Sidbury, 26, of Brooklyn, was sentenced to 25

years in prison after a jury found him guilty of second-degree Arson. While a Rikers Island inmate, Sidbury intentionally started a fire by lighting pieces of paper in the food slot of his cell in the George R. Vierno Center. Sidbury also prevented a Department of Correction Officer’s efforts to contain the fire, putting the lives of Officers and inmates in danger. The sentence runs consecutive to a 40-year prison term for a Brooklyn murder.

Alexandria James, 24, a Rikers Island inmate, was

sentenced to six and a half to eight years in prison after pleading guilty to third-degree Aggravated Sexual Abuse and Attempted Assault in the second degree. James sexually assaulted another female inmate for two days and beat two other female inmates. Additionally, James shoved, kicked, hit or choked six Correction Officers in separate incidents.

Rikers Island Inmates Sentenced

Five Rikers Island inmates pleaded guilty to taking part in a gang assault in the jail against a NYC Department of Correction Captain on Thanksgiving Day 2017. The defendants planned and carried out an attack against the DOC Captain, leaving him with multiple injuries including a laceration on his neck and multiple abrasions.

Lyemel Summerville and Maurice Hennegan pleaded guilty to Attempted Gang Assault in the first degree and were sentenced to 5 years in prison; Christian Martinez pleaded guilty to second-degree Obstructing Governmental Administration and was sentenced to 9 months incarceration; and Menelick McQuickin pleaded guilty to second-degree Assault. Jason Reid, who led the attack, was sentenced to eight years in prison after pleading guilty to first-degree Gang Assault.



Inmates held meeting to plan attack on DOC Captain

Public Integrity Bureau

Shakur Carrasquillo, 40, was sentenced to 16-22 years in prison after a jury found him guilty of Attempted Assault First Degree, second-degree Assault, Bribery of a Witness, Perjury and Conspiracy. Carrasquillo stabbed a woman on two separate occasions, seriously injuring her. When the victim was ready to serve as a witness against the defendant, Carrasquillo, in an effort to corrupt the criminal justice process, had a relative offer her a total of \$4,000 to lie about the incident in the grand jury.

A New York City Department of Correction officer, three inmates and two other individuals were indicted for smuggling marijuana into the Anna M. Kross Center in Rikers Island. The Officer allegedly accepted between \$500 and \$800 in exchange for bringing an ounce or more of marijuana into the jail on three occasions. District Attorney Clark said, "This officer allegedly betrayed his fellow officers, as well as fostered the criminal network inside and outside of Rikers Island that runs on contraband. Smuggling marijuana or any other item that fuels corruption and violence in jail is a serious crime, no matter who does it."

Economic Crimes Bureau

In 2018, the Bronx District Attorney's Office returned \$298,630 to the New York State Department of Labor in connection with unemployment insurance fraud prosecutions handled by the Economic Crimes Bureau. The Office returned over half a million dollars to taxing authorities in 2018 for taxes due, including corporate tax, cigarette tax, sales tax, motor fuel tax, and for the first time in many years, alcohol tax.

Tax Fraud Scheme Involving Cigarette Trafficking

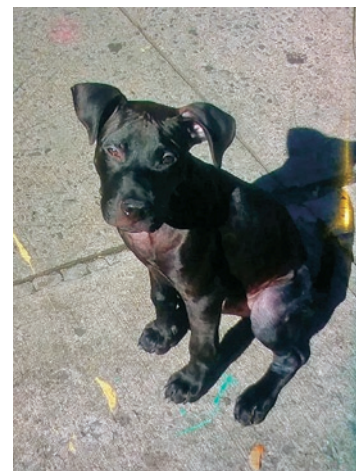
Twenty-one people were indicted in connection with a \$15 million tax fraud scheme. The defendants were variously charged with first and second-degree Criminal Tax Fraud, second-degree Money Laundering, first-degree Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument, first-degree Forgery, Cigarette and Tobacco Products Tax and fourth and fifth-degree Conspiracy for forging millions of cigarette tax stamps and trafficking in illegal cigarettes. The investigation was in partnership with the New York State Tax Department, Homeland Security Investigations and the New Jersey Treasury Office of Criminal Investigation. The takedown is believed to be the biggest forged stamp arrest in the history of New York State.

District Attorney Clark said, "Truckloads of cartons of cigarettes per week were brought from North Carolina, and the defendants put the stamps on the packs and sold them to stores throughout the metropolitan area. This scheme allegedly cheated the state and city out of more than \$15 million in taxes in the last six months alone. In addition, this scheme hurts law-abiding local businesses that cannot compete with stores illegally selling untaxed, cheap cigarettes."



Animal Abuse

Stephen Richardson, 34, was sentenced to one year in jail after pleading guilty to Aggravated Cruelty to Animals for fatally stabbing an 18-month-old pit bull dog in 2017. Richardson had been watching his friend's dog, Onyx, and when the owner went to Richardson's apartment to check on the dog, she found the canine dead in the bathtub. Richardson stabbed the dog more than 50 times, mostly in the face and neck.



Onyx

George Reid, 38, was sentenced to two years in prison after pleading guilty to Aggravated Cruelty to Animals for beating a small dog to death. Surveillance video showed Reid repeatedly punching, kicking and finally slamming the dog to the ground. He also grabbed the canine by neck and punched the dog in front of a young girl. The dog's body was found in a building's garbage bin.

Criminal Enterprise Bureau

Jermel Rosario, 43, was sentenced to 10 years in prison and 15 years post-release supervision after pleading guilty to second-degree Kidnapping and second-degree Rape. During the course of several months, the defendant induced the victim, a 14-year-old runaway, to have sex with men who paid him for the acts. Rosario also tied the victim up, raped her and held her in the apartment after he accused her of stealing property.

Steven Valdez, 29, was sentenced to one year in jail after pleading guilty to Endangering the Welfare of a Child. The defendant paid a 13-year-old trafficking victim for sex. The sentencing of a person who patronizes a prostitute (a "john") is rare and shows the Office's commitment to helping sex trafficking victims. The case derived from a November 2017 sentencing of a defendant who trafficked young girls, including the teen whom Valdez patronized.

Jorge Pichardo, 28, was sentenced to eight years in prison and five years post-release supervision after pleading guilty to first-degree Criminal Sale of a Firearm and second-degree Criminal

Possession of a Weapon, on an offer by the judge, related to a gun dealing operation that sold firearms to an undercover cop in the Bronx.

According to the investigation, the defendant allegedly sold 16 firearms to an undercover officer, including a Norinco SKS semi-automatic rifle. District Attorney Clark said, "Each gun intercepted is a life saved and we will vigorously prosecute anyone who promotes danger in our community."



Special Investigations Bureau

Twenty-nine alleged Mac Balla Gang Members Indicted

The alleged gang members were charged with

carrying out crimes on Bronx streets and in Rikers Island. The defendants were variously charged in seven indictments, with Attempted Murder, Conspiracy, Criminal Possession of a Weapon and other charges.

District Attorney Clark said, "The defendants allegedly stoked the violence inside the jails by smuggling in scalpels and meting out slashings to inmates. They allegedly stalked robbery victims they saw wearing jewelry on social media, and allegedly ran a crack cocaine business. In a cold-blooded incident, two defendants allegedly set out to shoot a man who had an altercation with the mother of a jailed gang member. Fortunately, investigators on this case got the information, the shooting was thwarted and a loaded firearm was recovered."



.357 Magnum pistol recovered in Mac Balla investigation

Narcotics and Gangs Investigation Bureau

This Bureau was launched in 2018 to prosecute all felony-level offenses and select misdemeanor offenses related to the unlawful possession and/or sale of controlled substances, and violent crimes related to gang activity. Assistant District Attorneys assigned to this Bureau work with various federal and state law enforcement agencies in long-term investigations and wiretaps.

In response to the death of FDNY Chief Michael Fahy at a marijuana grow house explosion, the Narcotics and Gangs Investigation Bureau and BXDA Detective Investigators were tasked with shutting down marijuana grow houses in the Bronx whose dangerous conditions could lead to fires. By the end of 2018, Detective Investigators shut down multiple grow houses throughout the borough and also conducted arrests and seized handguns. They dismantled 11 grow houses, and shut down 23 more grow houses in cooperation with the DEA and NYPD.



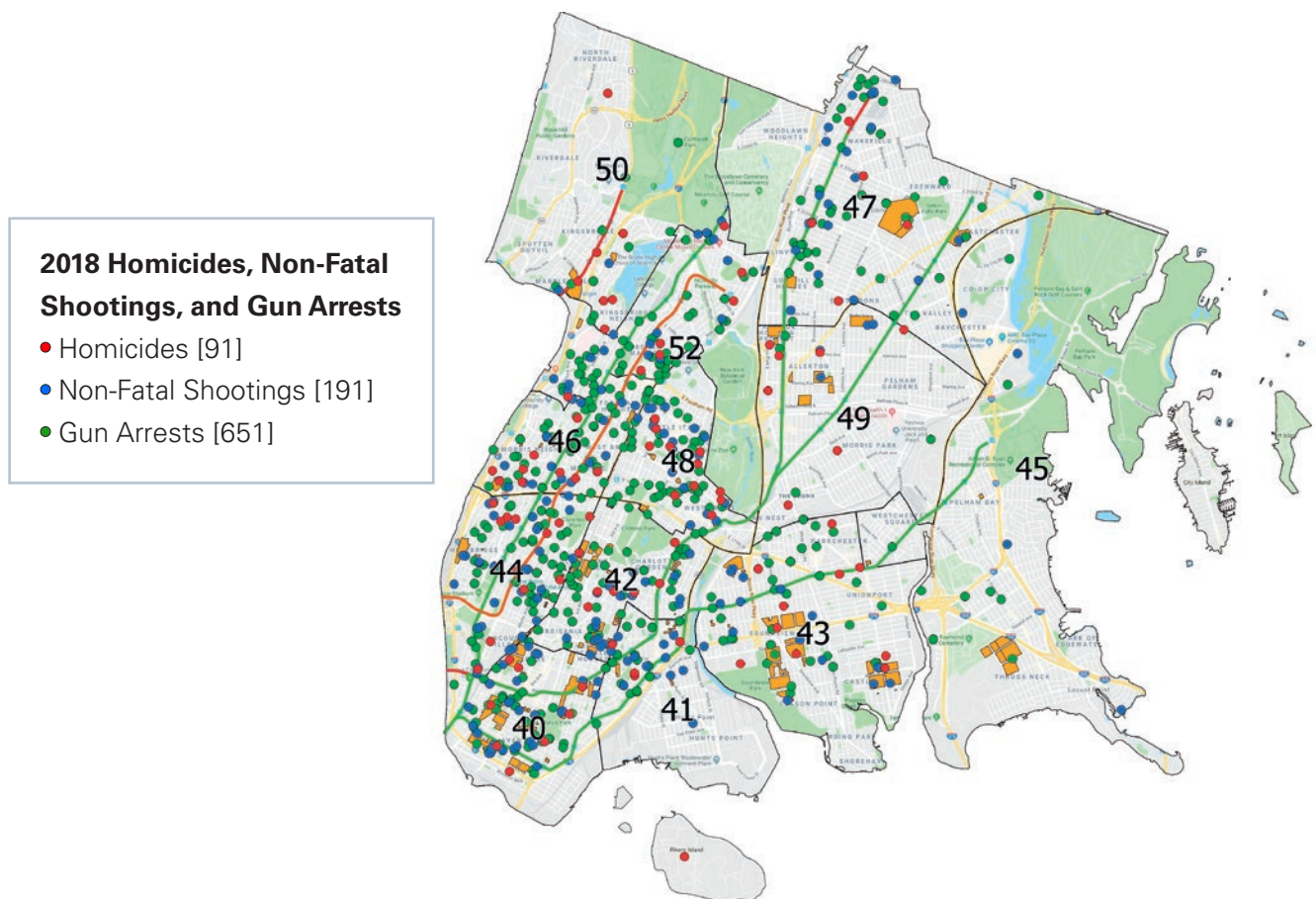
Marijuana seized at grow houses

Strategic Enforcement & Intergovernmental Relations

Crime Strategies Unit

The Crime Strategies Unit works to improve public safety by utilizing innovative resources, including the latest technology, data science and other information sharing techniques. Last year, which saw a rise in homicides, was the first year CSU tracked every homicide and non-fatal shooting—even when a person was not charged. Throughout 2018, CSU collected data for investigations of violent crimes by the Criminal Enterprise Bureau and the Narcotics and Gangs Investigation Bureau.

CSU works with other agencies and organizations to develop and implement strategies to reduce crime. In 2018, CSU worked to establish positive relationships with NYPD Officials across the Bronx by going to all precincts and meeting with Commanders, Squad Lieutenants and Field Intelligence Officers. The Unit also attended community meetings.



Bronx Community Assisted Mapping System (BronxCAMS)

CSU launched the Bronx Community Assisted Mapping System, known as BronxCAMS, in October 2018. BronxCAMS is a confidential interactive map that lists the locations of registered security cameras across the Bronx and makes it easier for Assistant District Attorneys to

quickly request or subpoena footage directly from the source. Community members and business owners have listed their cameras voluntarily to the database. BronxCAMS include NYPD and NYCHA cameras. Since it launched, BronxCAMS has registered approximately 4,000 cameras.

Digital Forensic Lab

The Digital Forensic Lab carries out forensic examinations and provides legal and technical assistance to Assistant District Attorneys with regards to electronic evidence. The Digital Forensic Lab is tasked with processing body-worn camera footage. In 2017, the Lab processed 3,704 body-worn camera videos. That number soared in 2018 to 31,404 videos—nearly 10 terabytes of data. Additionally, the Bronx DA's Video Lab has duplicated over 2,000 body-worn camera videos through pre-trial discovery and have made redactions in nearly 100 cases.



Bronx DA Crime Strategies Unit

Alternatives to Incarceration Bureau

Project Reset: Bronx Community Justice

This groundbreaking diversion program for low-level offenders has defendants and volunteers who live or work in the community take part in restorative “circles”—discussions held in community centers and public libraries that aim to resolve the immediate concern and restore balance to the community. It started in three Bronx precincts in February 2018 and was expanded to all precincts in early 2019.

Nearly 80 people from all walks of life—including a barber, a pastor, a truck driver and

stay-at-home parents - were trained by the Center for Court Innovation to conduct the circles. The Center also worked with the NYPD to train police officers in how to properly identify and screen cases. From May to December 2018, 54 people successfully completed the program.

District Attorney Clark said, “Bronx Community Justice has already kept dozens of people from having a stain on their record over a low-level crime and allowed them to move on with their lives without fear of repercussions.”

Overdose Avoidance and Recovery (OAR)

The Bronx District Attorney's Office has a duty to stem the opioid overdose crisis in the Bronx by addressing defendants who cycle through the criminal justice system because of crimes fueled by drug abuse. In December 2017 the Office launched the Overdose Avoidance and Recovery program, the first court-based program of its kind in New York City to offer treatment in lieu of incarceration for offenders with substance abuse, in an effort to combat the scourge that has ravaged the Bronx far too long and ruined hundreds of lives.

Defendants charged with seventh-degree Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance are offered the opportunity to take part in OAR and are admitted to the program if they meet the requirements. The program gained momentum throughout 2018, with 2,471 cases screened and 252 defendants accepted. Fifty participants "graduated"—they successfully completed the program and picked up their lives.

OAR is a partnership with the New York State Courts. Chief Judge Janet DiFiore expanded the program in 2018 and it is a court part set to function in other boroughs in New York City.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

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NEW YORK | CRIME Bronx Drug Court Aims To Help Opioid-Addicted Defendants

The court is the first in NYC that coordinates drug treatment for nonviolent misdemeanor offenders without requiring them to plead guilty, officials say



Supervising Judge George Grieco of the Bronx County Criminal Court addressed Carmen Alcántara of Bronx Community Solutions and Maysa Graham of Bronx Legal Aid during a court appearance on Monday. PHOTO: CAITLIN OCHS FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

By Corinne Ramey
Jan. 29, 2018 4:23 p.m. ET

Capstone Research Report

In partnership with the city's Special Narcotics Prosecutor Bridget Brennan and Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs, the "Bronx Opioid Epidemic Needs Assessment" was conducted to fully understand the extent of the opioid crisis in the Bronx. It takes a data driven approach and deep dive into this epidemic. With this report, we are able to focus with surgical precision on the areas where we can have the most impact on our community.

This report will serve as a blueprint for the Office and our partners' responses to the opioid epidemic in our county. We now have a guide on how to improve treatment access, the continuum of care, and prevention programming, all with the eye towards reducing overdoses.

We are going to begin to implement the recommendations. Our Opioid Working Group—representatives from city agencies, treatment providers, law enforcement—will collaboratively develop solutions.

Bronx County Re-Entry Task Force

The Bronx District Attorney's Office hosted the Bronx County Re-Entry Task Force Resource Fair on September 20, 2018. The fair, held in partnership with city agencies and community organizations, provided resources on jobs, housing and healthcare to the community and to those returning to the Bronx from prison or jail.



DA Clark speaks to an attendee at the Bronx County Re-Entry Task Force Resource Fair on September, 20, 2018.

General Counsel Division

This Division is comprised of the Appeals Bureau, Civil Litigation, Conviction Integrity Unit, Litigation Training Bureau and the Professional Responsibility Bureau.



Appeals Bureau

The Appeals Bureau had an overall success rate of 94% in state, federal and appellate level litigation (350 won, 24 lost). The Appeals Bureau also agreed to 36 requests to re-plead to an alternative crime, primarily due to immigration concerns.

People v Rafael Perez, 31 NY3d 964 (2018), reaffirmed important principles of search and seizure law and secured the affirmance of a conviction of a man who brought a machete into a public housing building.

Civil Litigation Bureau/Asset Forfeiture Unit

The Asset Forfeiture Unit works primarily with the Investigations Division to ensure that criminal defendants do not profit from their unlawful conduct. In 2018, the Unit assisted in twelve investigations for crimes such as elder abuse, narcotics, prostitution, tax related offenses, money laundering and other financial frauds. It commenced 82 forfeiture actions and obtained judgments of forfeiture in 49 of those cases. The Unit forfeited \$468,842 in assets.

The U.S. Department of Justice and U.S. Department of Treasury administer a federal adoptive forfeiture program wherein the federal agency commences either an administrative or judicial forfeiture action against the currency on behalf of state and/or local law enforcement. As a result of this program, the Bronx District Attorney's Office received \$334,786.



A BXDA Detective Investigator is assigned to the federal/state/local El Dorado Task Force (EDTF), which targets money laundering and criminal organizations in the New York/New Jersey area. As a result of our participation in the task force, the Office received \$47,301.

Conviction Integrity Unit

In 2018, the Conviction Integrity Unit vacated its fourth conviction.

On January 29, 2018, District Attorney Clark announced that, at her request, Administrative Judge of Supreme Court Hon. Robert E. Torres vacated the conviction and dismissed the indictment of a Bronx man in a 1996 murder, after a review of the case by the District Attorney's Conviction Integrity Unit determined that the defendant did not receive a fair trial.

District Attorney Clark said, "Larry McKee was serving 24 years-to-life for murder, but the Conviction Integrity Unit has uncovered potentially exculpatory evidence that was not provided to the defense at the time of trial. Because of this, I asked the Court today to vacate McKee's conviction in the interest of justice so he can be freed as soon as possible, and to dismiss the indictment.

"The Conviction Integrity Unit did an exhaustive re-investigation of this case, which involved the killing of Theodore Vance, a 29-year-old man shot and killed on February 19, 1996. Once again, our Conviction Integrity Unit has corrected a wrong from the past. We will never stop in our quest to ensure fairness and integrity in the criminal justice system."

McKee, 46, was sentenced to 24 years-to-life in prison after a trial in Bronx Supreme Court in 1997. He was convicted by a jury of second-degree Murder. The CIU investigation discovered grand jury testimony of a witness who had heard the victim's last words, which indicated "a Spanish guy." The evidence raised a question as to whether the shooter had been correctly identified because McKee is Black. The testimony had not been turned over to the defense. McKee was freed from prison; he had served 20 years of his sentence.

The New York Times

'Robbed' of His Life by a Wrongful Conviction, He's Now Free, and Bewildered



Larry McKee at the Bronx corner where a fight derailed his life. Mr. McKee, 47, spent two decades in prison for a murder there, which he has maintained he did not commit.
Demetrius Freeman for The New York Times

By Edgar Sandoval

Litigation Training Bureau

In 2018, the Bureau conducted 27 programs of Continuing Legal Education courses for BXDA attorneys. The Bureau also trained 66 new Assistant District Attorneys, providing three months of intensive instruction consisting of lectures on criminal court practice and professional responsibility, courtroom observation and experiential courtroom training.



Litigation Training session "Arrest to Sentencing"

Administrative Division/ Community Affairs Unit

The Community Affairs Unit is dedicated to serving the people of the Bronx through special programs, workshops and events focused on crime prevention and education of the criminal justice system.



Students during the Bronx DA's YTAP program in 2018.

Youth Trial Advocacy Program (YTAP):
The YTAP program gives Bronx high school students the chance to explore a career in law. The students enrolled in the weekly program are divided into teams and assigned to an Assistant District Attorney. During the program, held from December through May, the groups of students learn how to develop advocacy skills in preparation for the courtroom setting in a moot court competition. The YTAP student with the best attendance and best overall mock trial performance is awarded an internship opportunity with the Office of the Bronx District Attorney.

Adult Workshops
BXDA's Community Affairs Unit sponsors multiple workshops across the borough that adults can participate in. The workshops allow community members to learn about various issues, like the 2018 Domestic Violence Awareness Workshop: "Love Shouldn't Hurt," held during Domestic Violence Awareness Month. In the workshop, community members learned about preventing domestic violence and signs of abuse.

Explorers Program

The Office of the Bronx District Attorney launched the Explorers

Program in November 2018. The program teaches young people about the different career opportunities offered within the Office of the Bronx District Attorney. The program is offered to high school students throughout the five boroughs and is strictly voluntary. Forty-four students enrolled in the six-week program in 2018.



CONCEPT (Creating Opportunities Necessary to Create Empowered Positive Teens)

The CONCEPT program is a school-based

curriculum taught by instructors from BXDA's Community Affairs Unit that helps children develop life skills, create healthy relationships with their peers and authority figures, allows them to obtain a realistic view of criminality, and teaches them how to enhance their decision-making. The program is made up of 45-minute weekly sessions and involves fun and engaging, educational activities, including role-playing exercises, decision-making assignments and constructive debating. The students also practice a mix of life skills that assist them with handling realistic situations. The goal of the 19-week program is to steer children away from delinquency and to develop critical-thinking skills. The program has two educational levels, one for grades 6-9 and parent workshops. From October 2017-August 2018, more than 5,000 students and parents or guardians participated in CONCEPT.

Read to Me

The Office of the Bronx District Attorney, in

partnership with the Marshall England Early Childhood Learning Center and the Richard Mangum Learning Center, delivers the Read to Me Program for young children in the borough. Through this program, Assistant District Attorneys and BXDA staff members volunteer to read storybooks to children ages two to four-years-old in their classroom.



DA Clark and the Community Affairs Unit.

Administrative Division

BXDA DETECTIVE INVESTIGATORS

The Bronx District Attorney's Detective Investigators assist in long-term investigations, arrests, extraditions, and witness security.

COMPLAINT ROOM/DAT/ARRAIGNMENTS

This unit works with all the divisions and has assigned Assistant District Attorneys and support staff to ensure that cases are handled appropriately at the stage of inception.

HUMAN RESOURCES

This unit oversees labor relations, benefits and compliance, as well as support staff hiring of the Office, recruiting managerial, administrative and clerical personnel and ensuring effective transition of new employees to the Office. The Unit also disseminates all pertinent policy information to staff and maintains important employee records. The Unit processed 202 new applicants in 2018.

LEGAL RECRUITMENT

This Bureau recruited 66 Assistant District Attorneys in 2018, and brought in 52 law school and college students from across the nation to the BXDA Summer Internship Program. Throughout the internship, students saw first-hand how the justice system operates in the Bronx. Under a Student Practice Order, law school interns can perform some tasks of an attorney in court. Interns were assigned to various bureaus throughout the Office.

OPERATIONS

This unit works behind the scenes to provide a professional work environment. It is responsible for maintenance, mail delivery, moving furniture and managing case file storage.



DA Clark with her Detective Investigators at Gun Buyback hosted by the Bronx DA's Office and the NYPD on October 13, 2018.



DA Clark and Security Staff in August 2018.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

This office responds to media inquiries and provides information to government agencies and individuals. It maintains the Office website and social media accounts.

SUPPORT STAFF TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

This unit provided numerous sessions of training on subjects ranging from Structure and Procedure of the District Attorney's Office to drafting complaints and evidence recovery. It keeps the staff up to date on administrative procedures and practices.

In the Community

The Bronx District Attorney's Office held a "Silent Peace March" on July 25, 2018, which called for unity and solidarity against violence in communities. Scores of residents joined BXDA staff, NYPD, elected officials, clergy and community leaders in a walk down Castle Hill Avenue to the site of a triple homicide that occurred on June 21, 2018. Speakers noted other violent crimes that had marred the summer.



Peace March

In the Community



DA Clark, Executives, ADAs and Staff wear orange during National Gun Violence Awareness Day in June 2018.



Office staff joined NYPD officials, elected officials and community members for National Night Out Against Crime on August 7, 2018.



DA Clark at barbecue with NYCHA residents.



Youth Town Hall Against Gun Violence



DA Clark with New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio discussing the opioid epidemic in 2018.



DA Clark with Bronx Police Officers at the 2018 Gun Buyback

Executive Staff

Teresa Mason	Chief of Staff
Julian Bond O'Connor	General Counsel
Derek Lynton	Chief Assistant District Attorney
Odalys Alonso	Executive Assistant District Attorney for Operations & Budget
Ben Rivera	Deputy Executive ADA for Operations & Budget
Theresa Gottlieb	Chief of Trial Division
Jean T. Walsh	Chief of Investigations Division
Joseph Muroff	Chief of Special Victims Division
Kerry Chicon	Chief of Strategic Enforcement and Intergovernmental Relations Division
Gina Mignola	Deputy General Counsel
Maria Cortese	Deputy Division Chief for Operations & Budget
James Brennan	Deputy Chief of Trial Division
Tarek A. Rahman	Deputy Chief of Investigations Division
Carmen Facciolo	Deputy Chief of Strategic Enforcement and Intergovernmental Relations Division

Legal Staff

Alternatives to Incarceration	Aisha Greene	Immigrant Affairs	Miriam Bell-Blair
Appeals	Nancy Killian	Legal Recruitment	Sherry Cohen
Arraignments/Complaint Room	Rene Aponte	Litigation Training	Pishoy Yacoub
Child Abuse/Sex Crimes	Rachel Ferrari	Narcotics & Gangs Investigation	Gary Heavner
Civil Litigation	Beverly Ma	Public Integrity	Omer Wiczzyk
Conviction Integrity	Gina Mignola	Rikers Island Prosecution	Deanna Logan
Crime Strategies	Vladimir Kocheulov	Special Investigations	Diego Hernandez
Criminal Enterprise	James Goward	Tax and Organizational Fraud	W. Dyer Halpern
Digital Forensics Lab	Peter Kennedy	Trial Bureau 20	Meredith Holtzman
Domestic Violence	Adrienne Giunta	Trial Bureau 30	Julie DeLeon
Economic Crimes	William Zelenka	Trial Bureau 40	Catherine Davis
Forensic Science Unit	Raymond Valerio	Trial Bureau 50	Lawrence Piergrossi
Grand Jury	Nina Carlow	Trial Bureau 60	Susanna Imbo
Homicide	Christine Scaccia	Trial Bureau 70	Jeffrey Glucksman

Administrative Staff

Frank Chiara

Chief of Detective Investigators

Cicely Harris

EEO Officer/Career Counselor

Bethann Holzhay

Director of Crime Victims Assistance Unit

Patrice O'Shaughnessy

Director of Communications

Karen Primack

Chief of Human Resources

Barbara Robles-Gonzalez

Director of Litigation Training

Jeannette Rucker

Chief of Support Staff Training
and Professional Development

Nate Simmons

Director of Operations

L. Christopher Standora

Chief Financial Officer

Javier Valentin

Lt. C.O. of NYPD DA Squad

Raymond Vazquez

Director of IT

Meiling Viera-Delgado

Director of Community Affairs





2018 BXDA Basketball Tournament Winners



Egg-and-Spoon Race at BXDA Office Picnic in June 2018



BXDA Staff in Complaint Room



BXDA Information Technology Staff Members



BXDA Staff during the Office's Ugly Holiday Sweater Contest in December 2018



Bronx District Attorney's Office at 198 East 161 St.
bronxda.nyc.gov

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