

Pursuing Justice With Integrity **55** 



### **Table of Contents**

A Message from Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark
Overview: Crime in the Bronx
A Safer Bronx Through Fair Justice
Trial Division4
Special Victims Division
Investigations Division11
Strategic Enforcement & Intergovernmental Relations Division 16
General Counsel Division
Administrative Division/Community Affairs Unit
Administrative Division
In the Community
Executive Staff
Legal Managers
Administrative Managers

# A Message from Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark

This report is a proud record of the accomplishments of the Bronx District Attorney's Office in 2019 as we strived to increase safety for the people of the Bronx and provide justice for victims of crime and defendants.

Last year saw great hope and a continued sea change in the way our Office serves the Bronx, culminating in the announcement of my "A Safer Bronx Through Fair Justice" policy, which is outlined on page 3.

But as you read this, we are just coming back from an unprecedented time in our city's history: the COVID-19 epidemic that changed the way the courts operate and shut down our Offices to in-person work. But my staff did not miss a beat, prosecuting violent crimes and continuing our duties remotely. The 2020 Annual Report will chronicle a period of tragedy, but also a time of triumph over adversity to seamlessly serve the people of the Bronx.

As we review 2019, we see a decrease in homicides—84 murders compared to 91 in 2018. Rape incidents increased last year, by 3%, and robberies and felonious assaults increased by 9.7% and 0.9%, respectively. Crime complaints for burglaries, grand larcenies and auto grand larcenies decreased.

The Bronx saw 251 victims of gun violence in 186 non-fatal shooting incidents. We are working with the NYPD and our Cure Violence groups to address this other plague.

We continued with our efforts to divert low-level, non-violent crimes and those with drug addiction or mental health issues through Alternatives to Incarceration, taking about 1,400 cases from the justice system. In 2016, about 500 cases were diverted.

Our community outreach included our third "Another Chance" program. More than 300





people attended the event, clearing old summons warrants for low-level offenses and getting information on how to seal old convictions.

We had our third Child Safety Fair, and an Infant Safety Expo.

I was delighted to launch "Saturday Night Lights" in the Bronx in Autumn 2019. Hundreds of kids played soccer and basketball in a safe space on Saturday nights in an effort to prevent crime.

Keeping our communities safe is my top priority as your District Attorney and that will never change. Thank you for your support. I have tremendous hope for the future, and it comes from YOU.

Bronx District Attorney
Darcel D. Clark

Daniel D. Clark

### Overview: Crime in the Bronx

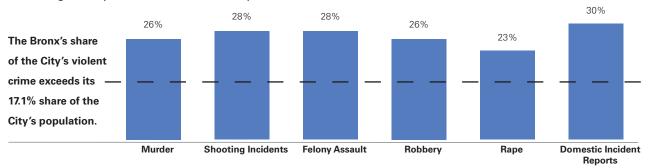
The Bronx saw a decrease in homicides in 2019—84 murders compared to 91 in 2018. Rape incidents increased last year, from 386 rapes in 2018 to 397 in 2019, nearly a 3% change. Robberies and felonious assaults increased in 2019, by 9.7% and 0.9%, respectively. Crime complaints for burglaries, grand larcenies and auto grand larcenies decreased in 2019 by 12%, 0.3% and 3.4%, respectively.

Among the five counties in New York City, in 2019 the Bronx had the second-highest rates of homicide and number of shooting incidents. There were **251** victims of gun violence in 186 non-fatal shooting incidents. The vast majority of non-fatal shooting victims, 93%, were males. Among the female victims, half of them could be classified as an innocent bystander.

The Bronx is home to about 17% of New York City's population, but accounted for 26% of the homicides in the City; 23% of the rapes; 26% of the robberies; and 28% of the felonious assaults.

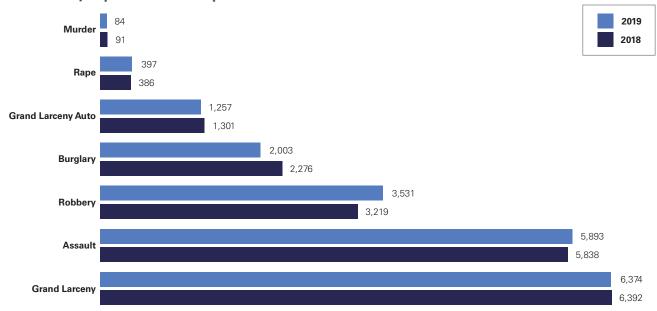
#### **Bronx Violent Crime 2019**

Percentage of Citywide Violent Crime vs. Population



Source: New York City Police Department

#### **Bronx County Reported Crime Complaints 2018–2019**



Number of Complaints

Source: New York City Police Department

### A Safer Bronx Through Fair Justice



or the past four years, the Office of Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark has made significant strides to best serve the people of the Bronx. Keeping communities safe continues to be the Office's top priority. The Office works to "Pursue Justice with Integrity" by protecting victims and providing fairness to defendants. The Office ensures public safety by seeking punishment for certain crimes and realizing when punitive measures do not advance justice. It means diverting people from the justice system and incarceration, especially those with drug addiction or mental health issues.

While January 1, 2020 was the day the new state criminal justice reform law took effect, the Office has been enacting reform for years.

In December 2019, District Attorney Clark announced her policy of "A Safer Bronx through Fair Justice." The policy reflects District Attorney Clark's personal beliefs and prosecutorial philosophy, which have been shaped by her years as an Assistant District Attorney, a Judge, her four years as District Attorney, and a lifelong Bronx resident. The policy is published on our website <a href="https://on.nyc.gov/3ioZ459">https://on.nyc.gov/3ioZ459</a>.

The basic tenet of the policy is that prosecutors should make all decisions with an eye towards the least restrictive means of ensuring public safety, at every step in a prosecution—from charging, to bail, and sentencing.

Because the Bronx suffers from a high rate of violence, we will focus our resources on those crimes and individuals that most threaten the safety of the people of the Bronx.

The illegal possession of a loaded gun is an inherent threat to public safety. Accordingly, it is the Office's policy to define the least restrictive disposition for carrying a loaded gun in the Bronx as two years in prison and two years of post-release supervision on a plea of guilty (if convicted after trial, mandatory minimum

sentence is three and a half years). As with every case, extenuating circumstances may affect this disposition.

While the Office seeks to help connect those with substance abuse to the services and treatment they need, we will also seek to aggressively prosecute those who bring fentanyl, opioids, and other deadly drugs into the Bronx.

Child and elderly victims, who are often unable to protect themselves and may be victimized by those who are supposed to protect them, deserve particular attention. Similarly, victims of domestic and sexual violence, who often face unique challenges as a result of their abuse, will continue to be a high priority for the Office. Victims and witnesses who put their safety at risk by coming forward to testify at trial will also be treated as "special victims."

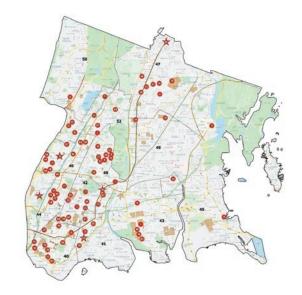
Prosecutors have an important role to play in diverting certain defendants away from the criminal justice system and connecting those in need to services and treatment that will help them become contributing members of the community. As we exercise our discretion, the Office will focus efforts on diverting people and declining to prosecute cases that are best handled outside of the criminal justice system.

### **Trial Division**

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

# The Homicide Bureau obtained convictions after trial against 80% of the defendants it tried in 2019.

- 2019 Homicides, as of 12/31/19 (84)
- **¬** Gun [37]
- / Stabbing [20]
- ∧ Other [22]
- ★ Reclassified (5)



Source: Crime Strategies Bureau

#### **NOTABLE CASES:**

### 5 Trinitarios Sentenced For Stabbing Death of Lesandro "Junior" Guzman Feliz.

On October 11, 2019, five Trinitario gang members were sentenced for the brutal stabbing death of Lesandro "Junior" Guzman Feliz. After a six-week trial, a jury found the defendants guilty of Murder, Conspiracy and Gang Assault on June 14, 2019.

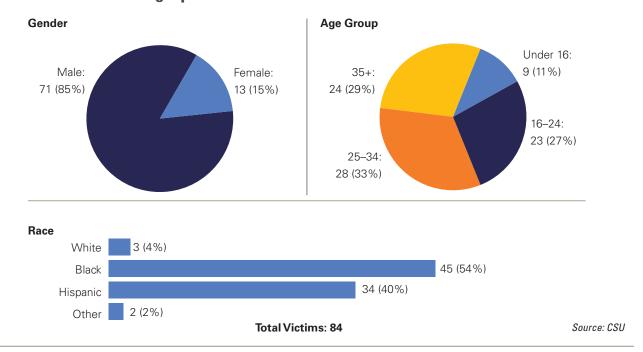
The defendants attacked the 15-year-old boy with knives and machetes outside a bodega in Belmont on June 20, 2018. The shocking attack was caught on surveillance video and was widely circulated through social media platforms and the media.

A judge sentenced Martinez Estrella, who plunged a knife into the victim's neck, to Life without Parole for first-degree Murder, 25 years to Life for second-degree Murder, 8 1/3 to 25 years for second-degree Conspiracy and 15 years in

prison and five years post-release supervision for second-degree Gang Assault. Three defendants—Jose Muniz, Elvin Garcia and Antonio Rodriguez Hernandez Santiago—were sentenced to 25 years to Life in prison for first-degree Murder, 25 years to Life for second-degree Murder, 8 1/3 to 25 years for second-degree Conspiracy, and 15 years in prison and five years post-release supervision for second-degree Gang Assault. Manuel Rivera was sentenced to 23 years to Life for first-degree Murder, 23 years to Life for second-degree Murder, 5 to 15 years in prison for second-degree Conspiracy and 15 years in prison and five years post-release supervision for second-degree Gang Assault.

**Junal Jordan, 43, was sentenced to 18 years in prison** after pleading guilty to second-degree Murder for mercilessly beating Bakary Darboe, a Bronx father

#### **Homicide Victim Demographics 2019**



of six inside an apartment building in Melrose. Jordan was shadowboxing near the building's elevator when he came upon the victim, a 46-year-old working man who was taking college classes. Jordan put the victim in a chokehold and hit him in the head multiple times with a cell phone. The victim was pronounced dead at the scene. An autopsy report showed he died of blunt impact injuries to the head and compression of the neck.

#### Nakia Bent, 39, was sentenced to 25 years in prison

for first-degree Manslaughter, three and a half years to seven years in prison for first-degree Reckless Endangerment, and five years in prison for second-degree Assault—to be served consecutively—after a jury found him guilty of the charges. The defendant stabbed his former landlady, Lilawate Ramsaran, 19 times in her home's basement. He then returned to the crime scene and attempted to conceal his actions by trying to blow up the victim's home, endangering the lives of three people. A week after the murder, he assaulted a NYPD Police Officer who had stopped him on the street. Bent bit the Officer on his arm, breaking the skin, causing him to seek medical attention at a hospital.

#### **Eustace James, 22, was sentenced to 20 years in**

prison and five years post-release supervision after pleading guilty to first-degree Manslaughter, second-degree Assault and second-degree Robbery. The defendant committed a series of crimes. On June 17, 2016, James fatally stabbed a teen boy while in the process of robbing him. The victim, Carluis Ducasse, was a straight-A student who was just days away from graduating high school. The incident happened in front of the teen's home while he was out buying ice cream with a friend. During a separate incident, the defendant went up to a 54-year-old man in a building stairwell and robbed him of his wallet, cell phone, cash and debit card, among other belongings. While on Rikers Island, the defendant punched a Department of Correction Officer multiple times in the neck and face.

#### **NOTABLE TRIAL BUREAU CASES**

#### Kemar James, 31, was sentenced to 11 years in

prison and five years post-release supervision after a jury found him guilty of first-degree Robbery and fourth-degree Grand Larceny. James stole his former co-worker's money while the victim was held hostage in a Bronx apartment. The victim was beaten and suffered a fractured

jaw. James took the victim's car keys, cell phone and wallet, and demanded his debit card's PIN number. He then withdrew funds from various ATMs across the Bronx.

#### Jose Lacen, 49, was sentenced to 15 years in prison

and five years post-release supervision after a jury found him guilty of Attempted Assault in the first degree and second-degree Robbery. Lacen inflicted a single stab wound to a 59-year-old cab driver that was millimeters from severing the victim's jugular vein. The victim survived. The defendant was caught thanks to surveillance video from the cab, as well as Lacen's DNA, which was left behind on the knife he used to stab the victim.



Jose Lacen in cab surveillance video.

#### Raymond Clarida, 38, was sentenced to 15 years in

prison and 5 years post-release supervision after a jury found him guilty of Attempted Murder in the second degree and second-degree Criminal Possession of a Weapon. Clarida shot into his ex-girlfriend's apartment door, endangering the lives of more than 10 people who were inside for a party. The gun jammed after three shots. There were no fatalities or injuries.

#### Reynaldo Nazario, 42, was sentenced to five to 10

years in prison after pleading guilty to three counts of third-degree Grand Larceny.

Nazario stole multiple vehicles from various neighborhoods in the Bronx within one week of completing a prison sentence for auto theft.

The defendant falsely filled out MV-35 DMV forms, sold the cars to scrap yards, and collected \$3,500 after selling the vehicles for \$250 each.

#### The last of six defendants were sentenced to prison

after pleading guilty to Gang Assault in the brutal beating of Souleymane Porgo, a Bronx street vendor who was trying to stop them from stealing his merchandise. The defendants attacked the 53-year-old victim, repeatedly kicking and punching him in the middle of a busy Bronx area, as he lay unconscious. The assault, which happened in front of the victim's wife and children, left him in a coma with life-altering injuries. Octavious Profit, 25, was sentenced to eight years in prison and five years post-release supervision. Richard Williamson, 35, sentenced to five years in prison and five years post-release supervision. Joshua Cruz, 24, sentenced to seven years in prison and five years post-release supervision. Jay Ortiz, 47, sentenced to two and a half years in prison and two years post-release supervision.

#### Julio Mendez-Santana, 23, was sentenced to 12

years in prison and five years post-release supervision after a jury found him guilty of Attempted Murder in the second degree.

Mendez-Santana got into an argument with the victim over the use of a fire hydrant and struck the victim with a baseball bat three times on the head. After the victim lay unconscious on the ground, the defendant backed his vehicle toward him and almost ran him over. The victim suffered severe brain damage, was in a coma for several months, and later awoke with significant seizure disorder and inoperable brain damage. The victim had to receive a plastic skull prosthetic to replace his crushed skull.



Surveillance cameras captured the entire incident on video.

### **Special Victims Division**

The Special Victims Division is composed of the Child Abuse/Sex Crimes Bureau, Domestic Violence Bureau, the Crime Victims Assistance Unit, and the Human Trafficking Unit, which was fully staffed and functional in 2019.

#### **Human Trafficking Unit**

The Bronx District Attorney's Office launched its Human Trafficking Unit under the Special Victims Division in May 2019. The Unit handles cases that involve the exploitation of vulnerable persons by forced labor and sexual slavery. It focuses on rescuing and providing social services and resources to victims, as well as investigating, apprehending, and convicting those who promote, profit from, or patronize the commercial sex trade. The Unit is staffed with five Assistant District Attorneys, including the Unit's Chief, a Trial Preparation Assistant and a Social Worker.

#### **HTU Arrest Numbers 2019**

- 16 arrests for promoting-prostitutionrelated offenses (including Compelled Prostitution, SexTrafficking, and Sex Trafficking of a Child). This number is up from 8 in 2018.
- 108 arrests for patronizing-prostitutionrelated offenses, down from 203 in 2018.
- 37 arrests for prostitution-related offenses, a 46% decrease from the previous year.
- 0 arrests for loitering for the purpose of prostitution.

In 2019, the Human Trafficking Unit received approximately 4.5 notifications of complaints to investigate each week.

#### **Domestic Violence Bureau**

The Domestic Violence Bureau continues to operate its Domestic Violence Complaint Room, the city's first when it opened in October 2016. The Unit is staffed by designated support staff, NYPD staff and specially trained Domestic Violence ADAs who meet with witnesses in a dedicated space. The Unit is open until 1 a.m., Monday through Friday, and refers witnesses to services and counseling at night, when DV incidents are more likely to occur.

There were 7 Domestic Violence homicides in the Bronx in 2019—
down from 10 homicides in 2018. Two of the 2019 deaths were classified as
double homicides/suicide. The suspect murdered his intimate partner and her
child and then caused injury to himself resulting in his death.

#### The Strangulation Initiative began in 2017, because

strangulation is the bellwether for homicide. DV Bureau ADAs and a Crime Victims Assistance Unit Strangulation Advocate work closely with NYPD to provide services and counselling to Domestic Violence victims who have been strangled (felony charge of Strangulation or a misdemeanor charge of Criminal Obstruction of Breathing). In 2019, the program handled 123 cases and provided 1,076 follow ups.

#### **NOTABLE CASES:**

#### Brandi Simmons, 46, was sentenced to 25 years to life

in prison after a jury found him guilty of seconddegree Murder. Simmons viciously stabbed his girlfriend more than a dozen times with an ice pick, striking her heart and lung. Simmons had attacked the victim with an ice pick a year before the fatal incident.

#### Diomedes Valenzuela, 50, was sentenced to 10 years

in prison and five years post-release after pleading guilty to Attempted Murder in the second degree, first-degree Assault, two second-degree Assault charges, Endangering the Welfare of a Child, third-degree Assault and Custodial Interference. Valenzuela, a former New Jersey cop and MTA employee, stabbed his wife, cutting her throat approximately 12 times. Valenzuela then fled the scene with their three-year-old daughter. Authorities issued an amber alert and both were found about two hours later in New Jersey. The child's mother miraculously survived.

#### Victor Mateo, 63, a Bronx pastor, was indicted for

second-degree Murder, first-degree Manslaughter, three counts of fourth-degree Criminal Possession of a Weapon and two counts of Endangering the Welfare of a Child for attacking his estranged wife on a Bronx street in front of her two young grandchildren. He allegedly struck the victim with his car, ran her over with her own car, and hacked her with a machete.

#### On October 5, 2019 the Bronx District Attorney's

Office hosted the second annual **5K Run/Walk/ Roll** event on the Grand Concourse to herald the start of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. It was held in partnership with the Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence and the New York Yankees.



Domestic Violence Bureau ADAs at the 5k race



DA Clark and participants at the Bronx DA's 2nd Annual 5K Run/Walk/Roll

#### **Child Abuse/Sex Crimes Bureau**

The Child Abuse/Sex Crimes Bureau (CASC) prosecutes all misdemeanor and felony sexual assault cases involving both child and adult victims, as well as most misdemeanor and felony physical child abuse cases, and all child abuse fatalities. At the Child Advocacy Center, ADAs work with advocates, the NYPD, Administration for Children's Services, and doctors in handling child sexual and physical abuse allegations.

In 2019, the Bureau had a total of 1,446 arrests. Of those arrests, 195 were child sexual abuse cases; 208 were child physical abuse cases, and 154 were adult sex crimes cases.

The Bronx District Attorney's Office held its third annual **Child Safety Fair** on April 27, 2019. The event, held during Child Abuse Prevention Month, allowed dozens of families to hear from experts about numerous topics, including bike safety, safe/unsafe touching, fire safety, and how to surf safely on the internet. The NYPD was onsite distributing free New York State Safe Child Identification Cards, which are used by the New York State AMBER Alert and Missing Child Alert programs. The event also included a live DJ, face painting, a bouncy castle, a raffle and free food.





The 2019 Child Safety Fair

#### **NOTABLE CASES:**

#### Unga Smith, 41, was sentenced to 14 years in prison

and 20 years post-release supervision after pleading guilty to first-degree Rape. Smith followed the victim, an elderly woman who used a walker to get around, into her Norwood building and elevator, and forced himself into her apartment. The defendant raped her while threatening to kill her.

#### Lynneke Burris, 31, of Brooklyn, was sentenced to

18 years in prison and 20 years post-release supervision after pleading guilty to first-degree Criminal Sexual Act. Burris followed the victim into an elevator and put her in a chokehold, causing her to lose consciousness. He then dragged her to a stairwell, brutally raped her, and performed other sexual acts while threatening to kill her.

In 2019, 1,587 investigations originated from the Bronx Child Advocacy Center, including approximately 250 adult sex crime investigations.

#### **Bronx Safe Sleep Task Force**



In May 2019, the Bronx District Attorney's Office announced the launch of the Bronx Safe Sleep Task Force to curb infant fatalities in the borough due to suffocation from co-sleeping in

a bed, excess bedding in cribs, and unsafe sleep positions.

On June 13, 2019, BXDA held a free **Infant Safety Expo** at the New Settlement Community Center for parents and caregivers of children under the age of one year, where pediatricians and nurses provided them with information.

In 2019, there were 14 sleep-related infant fatalities in the Bronx.

#### **Award**



DA Clark with Assistant District Attorney Astrid Borgstedt, Trial Counsel in the Child Abuse/Sex Crimes Bureau, at the ceremony where she received the Thomas E. Dewey Medal from the New York City Bar Association on December 10, 2019.

#### **Crime Victims Assistance Unit**

In 2019, the Crime Victims Assistance Unit, including the CVAU Satellite Office on White Plains Road, handled 1,360 new cases and 8,970 follow-ups, providing counseling and referrals to services for crime victims. Services were provided whether a criminal case was brought or not.

#### **Rape Crisis Program**

CVAU's Rape Crisis Program handled 198 rape cases, 98 victim-related calls, and provided 1,236 follow-ups last year. The Bronx is the only DA's Office in New York State that has a prosecutor-based Rape Crisis Program.

#### **Therapy Program**

The Bronx District Attorney's Therapy Program serviced 253 new therapy clients and completed 2,351 counseling sessions in 2019.

#### **Complex Homicide Program**

The Bronx District Attorney's Office launched the Complex Homicide Program in 2017. The program responds to homicide victims' family and loved ones within 24 to 72 hours after the crime has occurred. In 2019, the program handled 293 cases and provided 1,901 follow-ups. The BXDA program is one of seven locations in the U.S. 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. In 2019, EVE provided services to 3,578 clients and provided 6,577 follow-ups.

#### **Enough is Enough Coordinator**

Enough is Enough (EIE), is an initiative that aims to curb sexual assault on campuses. The EIE Coordinator partners with universities and colleges in the Bronx to provide services to their communities regarding campus sexual assault and interpersonal violence.

In 2019, the EIE Coordinator facilitated presentations, trainings and workshops to students and staff. The material covered various topics, such as domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The EIE Coordinator also provided direct services to students and facilitated education groups such as healthy relationships.



DA Clark and survivors at the 2019 NYC Crime Victims Candlelight Vigil.

### **Investigations Division**

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

#### **Investigations opened in 2019 by Bureau:**

Violent Criminal Enterprise Bureau 44
Economic Crimes Bureau
Rikers Island Prosecution Bureau 336
Firearms Trafficking Unit
Narcotics Bureau
Public Integrity Bureau
Special Investigations Bureau 8

#### **Special Investigations Bureau**

### Major Heroin Traffickers Linked to Mexican Cartel

#### On June 5, 2019, District Attorney Darcel D. Clark,

New York City Police Commissioner James P. O'Neill, Drug Enforcement Administration Special Agent in Charge Ray Donovan, and Homeland Security Investigations New York Special Agent in Charge Angel M. Melendez announced 22 people were indicted for the distribution of heroin and fentanyl in the Bronx. More than 50 pounds of fentanyl were seized during the joint 20-month long investigation dubbed "Operation Getting Paid." Defendants trafficked several kilograms of fentanyl and heroin monthly, and sold it in bulk to distributors in the Bronx, Philadelphia, Albany, and other cities in the northeast. The traffickers were linked to the Sinaloa Cartel in Mexico.

District Attorney Clark said, "This organization allegedly spanned street dealers in the South Bronx to significant suppliers in Mexico linked to the Sinaloa cartel. These indictments charge traffickers whose poison kills an average of 20 Bronxites a month. Fortunately, 23 kilos (50 pounds) of fentanyl were intercepted before it





22 people indicted for trafficking heroin and fentanyl

could wreak havoc. The stamp on many of the heroin packs says it all: PAID. But with our law enforcement partners, we will pursue those at every level of the illegal narcotics trade who put money above human beings."

### Major Cocaine Smuggling Case On May 9, 2019, District Attorney Darcel D. Clark,

along with New York City Police Commissioner
James P. O'Neill, Homeland Security
Investigations New York Special Agent in Charge
Angel M. Melendez and Drug Enforcement
Administration Special Agent in Charge Raymond
Donovan announced 19 people were indicted for
trafficking cocaine and club drugs in the Bronx.
Through the joint operation, 176 pounds of
cocaine—with a street value of nearly \$3 million—
were recovered, making it the largest seizure in
New York City in recent years.

District Attorney Clark said, "We will stop traffickers of any illicit drugs that devastate lives and neighborhoods. These defendants allegedly distributed large amounts of cocaine sold on the streets of the Bronx, and peddled dangerous 'date rape' drugs that wind up in bars and nightclubs. As always, I stand ready to work with my local and federal law enforcement partners to target drug dealers."

Alvon Pierre, 45, one of the defendants, was sentenced to 12 years in prison on November 18, 2019 after pleading guilty to Operating as a Major Trafficker and third-degree Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance. Seven other defendants have also pleaded guilty to various narcotics possession charges.



19 people were indicted for trafficking cocaine and club drugs in the Bronx.

### **Public Integrity Bureau**

#### **NOTABLE CASES**

#### Carlos Negron, 57, a physical therapist who worked

at Rikers Island, was indicted on multiple charges for sexually abusing a former inmate in the jail. The defendant allegedly forced the 26-year-old male victim to perform a sexual act on him and threatened to get him in trouble with the guard if he didn't comply.

#### A New York City Department of Correction Officer, a

Rikers Island inmate and a Bronx resident were indicted for smuggling heroin and tobacco into the jail. The defendants, Jason Prieto, 40, a Correction Officer for three years; Anthony Rusielwicz, 41, an inmate; and Luz Pagan, 54, were charged in an indictment with Conspiracy charges, Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance charges, Attempted Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the third degree, second-degree Promoting Prison Contraband, and third-degree Bribery. Prieto was additionally charged with Bribe Receiving and Official Misconduct. The three allegedly conspired to, and successfully brought in, contraband to the Eric M. Taylor Center in Rikers Island. Prieto was caught with 11 glassines of heroin, loose tobacco, and rolling papers by a narcotics-detecting canine.

#### **Economic Crimes Bureau**

In 2019, the Bronx District Attorney's Office returned \$160,065 to the New York State Department of Labor. The money came from prosecutions on unemployment insurance fraud handled by the Economic Crimes Bureau. Additionally, the Office returned approximately \$525,000 to taxing authorities in 2019, for taxes due, including corporate tax, cigarette tax, sales tax and motor fuel tax.

#### **NOTABLE CASES**

#### Robert Byrd, AKA Saul Roberto, 67, was sentenced

to prison for posing as an attorney and defrauding an undocumented immigrant couple. Byrd promised the victims green cards and extended Visas in exchange for more than \$106,000. He threatened to have them deported when they couldn't come up with the money. Byrd was sentenced to six to 12 years in prison for second-degree Grand Larceny, two to four years for first-degree Scheme to Defraud, and one year for Practicing/Appearing as an Attorney-at-Law Without Being Admitted after a jury found him guilty of the charges. All sentences to run concurrently. The Judge also imposed a civil order of restitution for \$106,603.21 and a permanent order of protection.

#### Earnestine Russell, 69, was sentenced to one year in

jail with a \$61,098.00 order of restitution by civil judgment after pleading guilty to third-degree Grand Larceny. An investigation by the Bronx District Attorney's Office and the New York State Comptroller's Office found Russell, a former longtime director of the Baychester Youth Council, stole money that was meant to support afterschool programs for middle school children in the Bronx.

#### **Animal Abuse**

#### Dwayne Smith, 28, was sentenced to two years in

jail after pleading guilty to Aggravated Cruelty to Animals. The defendant cannot own an animal for ten years and must register with the NYC Animal Abuse Registry. Smith kicked a small 10-year-old dog named Pooches in the head with tremendous force, sending her up in the air for several feet until she hit a brick wall. Pooches then fell to the ground unconscious with her right eye bleeding and bulging out of its socket. The dog suffered a fractured cheekbone, extensive bruising, and had to have her eye surgically removed.



## Violent Criminal Enterprise Bureau FIREARMS TRAFFICKING UNIT

Frankie Esperanza, 35, was sentenced to 10 years in

prison and five years' post-release supervision after pleading guilty to first-degree Criminal Sale of a Firearm. The defendant sold 14 firearms to an undercover NYPD detective on eight separate occasions between August 8, 2018 and January 28, 2019, at several locations in the Throgs Neck area of the Bronx. Among the weapons the defendant sold to the undercover detective were revolvers, pistols, two semi-automatic rifles, a high-capacity magazine and ammunition.

Two Florida men were indicted for trafficking semi-

automatic pistols and numerous high-capacity magazines to the Bronx. Andre Smithson, 24, of Kissimmee, Florida, and Isaiah Jones, 22, of Haines City, Florida, were indicted on 128 counts of Criminal Sale of a Firearm, Attempted Criminal Sale of a Firearm, Criminal Possession of a Firearm, and Criminal Possession of a Weapon. The investigation, dubbed "Operation Hollywood," was handled by the Bronx District Attorney's Violent Criminal Enterprise Bureau, the NYPD Firearms Suppression Section, and the NYPD Firearms Investigation Unit.

District Attorney Clark said, "The defendants transported from Florida to the Bronx 16 handguns and, even more alarming, drum magazines that enable someone to fire 50 shots from a 9-mm pistol without reloading. The defendants allegedly brought these firearms to the Bronx, where a courageous undercover NYPD detective met with them and intercepted weaponry that could have caused carnage on our streets. With our law enforcement partners, we will aggressively pursue and prosecute those who undermine New York's strict gun laws."



# Rikers Island Prosecution Bureau NOTABLE CASES

#### **Evan Zachary, 27, was sentenced to six years in prison**

after pleading guilty to second-degree Assault. The defendant, an amateur boxer, punched a DOC Officer in the head, splitting his forehead open.

#### Three Rikers Island inmates were sentenced to

prison for assaulting a DOC Officer. The defendants, acting in concert with each other, repeatedly punched the victim. Melquan Moore, 31, was sentenced to three years in prison and five years' post release supervision, and Oshone Fyffe was sentenced to two years in prison and five years' post-release supervision after they both pleaded guilty to second-degree Assault. Luis Torres was sentenced to one and one third to three years in prison after pleading guilty to Attempted Assault in the second degree.



#### Three Rikers Island inmates were sentenced to

prison after pleading guilty to charges in connection with a vicious assault against a DOC Officer inside the George Motchan Detention Center on February 10, 2018. The defendants brutally beat the victim and left him with a fractured spinal column. Steven Espinal, 19, pleaded guilty to first-degree Gang Assault and was sentenced to 10 years in prison and five years post-release supervision. Samson Waltson, 19, pleaded guilty to first-degree Gang Assault and was sentenced to five years in prison and five years post-release supervision. Devin Burns pleaded guilty to second-degree Assault and received three years in prison and three years' post-release supervision.

#### Tariq Hargorve, 22, was sentenced to three and a

half years in prison and five years post-release supervision after pleading guilty to Assault on a Peace Officer and second-degree Assault. The defendant punched a DOC Officer in the face for no apparent reason. The officer had to get a plate implanted in his jaw, and a molar that was knocked loose by the punch had to be removed. He required physical therapy and suffered considerable pain and difficulty speaking as a result of his injuries.

#### **Gangs Narcotics Bureau**

#### 15 alleged gang members, including leaders of the

"280 Gangsta Crips," were indicted for gun violence in the Claremont/Morrisania neighborhood, District Attorney Clark and the NYPD announced on January 30, 2019. The defendants allegedly conspired to commit two non-fatal shootings, seven incidents of shots fired, and one stabbing. The alleged gang members recruited young boys to carry out shootings.

District Attorney Clark said, "This case is the epitome of gang culture—violence, retaliation, the 'Don't Snitch' credo, the recruitment of kids

to commit crimes that turn our neighborhoods into battle zones. Some of the gunfire happened around a Junior High School, even in the playground of the school. One shooting occurred on a Sunday morning, when a family with young children ran down the block and crouched against a building in terror. The shootings have to stop. The cooperation has to start. We will continue to work with our NYPD partners and the community to stem the violence in the 44th Precinct and anywhere in the Bronx where gang members think they hold sway."

# Strategic Enforcement & Intergovernmental Relations Division

The Strategic Enforcement and Intergovernmental Relations Division is composed of the Alternatives to Incarceration Bureau, Crime Strategies Bureau, Technical Investigation Bureau, Forensic Science Unit, Information Technology, and the Planning and Analysis Unit.

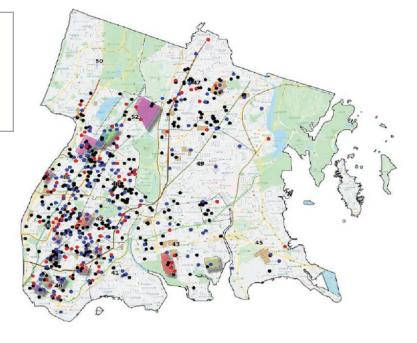
#### **Crime Strategies Bureau**

The Crime Strategies Bureau (CSB) develops and implements an intelligence-driven prosecution model to focus the Bronx District Attorney's Office resources on reducing and preventing crime, especially violent crime. CSB's senior prosecutors and analysts focus on criminal activity in their assigned geographical area, and work with

law enforcement and local residents by sharing timely information to analyze trends and solve problems. CSB also partners with other bureaus within the Office to enhance prosecutions of drivers of violent crime using innovative technologies and data science.

#### Youth Crew Territories, Homicides, Non-Fatals, Shots Fired (2019)

- Homicides [84]
- Non-Fatal Shootings [186]
- Shots Fired [387]



#### **Bronx Community Assisted Mapping System (BronxCAMS)**

CSB continued to add cameras to the Bronx Community Assisted Mapping System, known as BronxCAMS, throughout 2019. It 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. Since BronxCAMS launched, it has registered 5,002 Private cameras, 3,400 NYCHA cameras, and cameras in 212 NYPD locations.

### **Technical Investigations Bureau**

#### **Digital Forensic Lab**

The Digital Forensic Lab handles forensic examinations and provides legal and technical help to Assistant District Attorneys in regard to electronic evidence. This includes USBs, cell phones, tablets, surveillance cameras and other devices. In several cases, examination of a device for evidence of a certain crime has led to the discovery of evidence of other crimes, like child pornography or identity theft.

The lab received many more devices for examination in 2019 than it did in 2018.

The Body Worn Camera Unit is also tasked with processing body-worn camera videos. The NYPD fully deployed body-worn cameras among

#### YTD 2018 vs 2019 - Overall Stats

	2018	2019
# Devices Received	90	182
# of Consent Devices	62	76
# Warrant Devices	23	99
# Decedent Phones	2	4
Other Legal Authority	3	3

all NYPD Officers in February 2019. Since then, it has processed approximately 8,000 body-worn camera videos per month—much more than what the lab processed in 2018, when it handled 31,404 videos in total, and in 2017, when it processed 3,704 videos.

Trial of Five Defendants for Murder of Lesandro "Junior" Guzman:
In 2019, the Lab compiled footage from 13 different surveillance cameras into a single video, to help the jury understand the chronology of events.

The jury returned guilty verdicts on the five defendants who went on trial in 2019.

#### **Alternatives to Incarceration Bureau**

The Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI) Bureau manages innovative diversion programs. In 2019, the ATI Bureau screened approximately 7,000 cases for potential ATI programming.

#### **Project Reset: Bronx Community Justice**

Project Reset diverts individuals charged with low-level crimes from the criminal justice system. This program has defendants and volunteers who live or work in the community take part in restorative "circles"—discussions held in community centers and public libraries to talk about the impact of low-level crime and how to make amends. The

Office will decline to prosecute an individual's case once the program is completed. In 2019, 2,035 cases were screened for Project Reset eligibility, of which 1,319 (65%) of the cases were eligible. Out of those people, 504 were accepted into Project Reset and successfully completed the program.

Project Reset started in three Bronx precincts in February 2018 and was expanded to all precincts in early 2019.

### Heroin Overdose Prevention and Education (HOPE) Program

The Heroin Overdose Prevention and Education (HOPE) program is a pre-arraignment diversion program for individuals who are arrested for a misdemeanor drug possession desk appearance ticket (DAT). HOPE, which launched in March 2019, aims to reduce overdoses and increase the number of individuals meaningfully engaged in healthcare services, while diverting them from the criminal justice system. People who complete the HOPE program must go through an initial assessment and must engage in services. When they comply with both requisites, the Office declines to prosecute their case.

#### **Bronx County Re-Entry Task Force**

The Bronx District Attorney's Office held 12 collaboratives in 2019, for people who were returning home from prison, or were being sentenced to probation. During these collaboratives dozens of people were connected to services.

#### Overdose Avoidance and Recovery (OAR)

The Bronx District Attorney's Office continued its commitment to tackling the opioid overdose crisis in the Bronx throughout 2019 with its Overdose Avoidance and Recovery (OAR) diversion program. OAR, which launched in 2017, focuses on putting an end to the cycle of substance abuse, as well as the continuous arrests related to opioid abuse, with the primary goal of saving 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.

In 2019, the ATI Bureau screened 3,672 cases for OAR eligibility, of which 1,250 (34%) were offered an opportunity to participate in the program. In 2019:

- 160 people accepted the offer to participate in arraignments.
- 20 individuals successfully completed the OAR program and had their cases dismissed and sealed.

 The average age at time of arrest for all individuals who were screened for OAR was 38 years of age.

#### **Bronx Opioid Crisis 2019 Numbers:**

#### 362 Overdose deaths in the Bronx in 2019.

Fentanyl present in 225 overdose deaths (62%)

#### **Planning and Analysis Unit**

This unit is responsible for the research, submission, implementation, and reporting associated with all federal, state and local grant applications. These grants help with the Office's prosecutorial practices and interactions with victims and Bronx residents. In 2019 the Office received:

- A \$261,366 grant from the New York
   State Division of Criminal Justice Services
   to reestablish the Bronx County Reentry
   Task Force.
- A three-year cooperative agreement beginning October 1, 2018, from the U.S.
   Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, for \$900,000. Funds go to the OAR program.
- A two-year \$360,000 grant from the
   U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of
   Justice Assistance through the Innovative
   Prosecution Solutions for Combatting
   Violent Crime program. This helps the Crime
   Strategies Bureau identify crime hot spots.
- A one-year grant for \$160,100 through the Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program from the U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice. This grant will assist the Digital Forensic Lab.

### **General Counsel Division**

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

#### **Appeals Bureau**

The Appeals Bureau handles all post-conviction litigation for the Bronx District Attorney's Office. The Bureau had an appellate success rate of 92 percent in 2019, prevailing in 229 out of 248 cases. The Appeals Bureau had a 100 percent success rate in litigating People's appeals in the state's highest court.

Decision of Note: People v. Victor Thomas, 2019 WL 6312521 (2019), upheld the People's ability to condition a guilty plea on the defendant's waiver of the right to appeal.

#### **Civil Litigation Bureau**

This Bureau is composed of Asset Forfeiture, FOIL, Property Release, Subpoena Compliance and Eviction Units.

#### **Asset Forfeiture Unit**

This unit ensures that criminal defendants do not profit from their unlawful conduct, thereby deterring further criminal activity. The Unit works primarily with the Investigations Division to expose criminal enterprises by tracing revenue flow and determining the assets derived from criminal activity. In 2019, the Asset Forfeiture Unit assisted in six investigations for crimes such as elder abuse, narcotics, prostitution, tax-related offenses, money laundering and other financial frauds. In 2019, the Unit successfully obtained forfeiture of \$468,232 in assets pursuant to authority granted by CPLR Article 13-A.

#### 2019 Highlights:

 The United States Department of Justice and Department of the 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. Through this program, the Bronx County District Attorney's Office received \$65,291 in 2019.

- The Bronx DA's Office is involved in the El Dorado Task Force (EDTF), which is operated by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency of the Department of Homeland Security. As a result of our participation in the task force, the Office received \$69,951 in 2019.
- The Unit worked with the Special Investigations Bureau on "Operation Getting Paid," which resulted in the commencement of two Orders to Show Cause seeking forfeiture of over \$1.7 million.

The proceeds from criminal activity that are obtained by the Unit are used to fund treatment and educational programs sponsored by the New York State Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS), and to supplement law enforcement revenue for all District Attorney's Offices and Police Departments. Civil forfeiture law also provides restitution to victims of criminal activity.

#### **FOIL Unit**

The FOIL (Freedom of Information Law) Unit responds to lawful requests made to the Office by citizens and others. Last year the Unit received 713 requests for documents.

#### **Litigation Training Bureau**

In 2019, the Bureau conducted over 50 programs of Continuing Legal Education courses for BXDA Assistant District Attorneys. The Bureau trained 74 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. In preparation for the sweeping changes to the New York State criminal justice system at the start of 2020, the Bureau carried out a series of courses last year. Over 800 BXDA Assistant District Attorneys and Trial Preparation Assistants were trained on upcoming discovery reform.





#### **Conviction Integrity Unit**

In 2019, the Conviction Integrity Unit vacated its fourth conviction.

On January 24, 2019, District Attorney Clark announced that, Bronx Supreme Court Justice Steven Barrett granted the motion by attorneys of the Innocence Project to vacate the conviction and dismiss the indictment against Huwe Burton, 46, for the 1989 fatal stabbing of his mother, after a review of the case by the District Attorney's Conviction Integrity Unit. The Unit determined that Burton's confession to the murder as a 16-year-old is not reliable based on new expert information about the phenomena of false confessions, as well as contradictions in the proof presented at Burton's trial.

District Attorney Clark said, "Mr. Burton served 19 years in prison and since his release in 2009 has led a law-abiding life. He has maintained his innocence for almost 30 years and now we will clear his name of this brutal killing. The interests of the community are best served by dismissing this indictment so he can move on with the rest of his life."

"After a request by the Innocence Project attorneys, over a two-year period, the Conviction Integrity Unit worked with them to conduct a comprehensive reinvestigation of the case, which drew headlines during a time of crack



DA Clark after a judge exonerated Huwe Burton

cocaine-fueled violence in the city. Now, police and prosecutors use different techniques to interview suspects, and solve and try crimes, and we believe that Mr. Burton might not have been convicted using today's standards in law enforcement and the criminal justice system. I thank the Innocence Project for giving us the time to thoroughly investigate. The Conviction Integrity Unit will review any application and is prepared to review any conviction where there are legitimate concerns about the reliability of a confession."

Burton was sentenced to 15 years-to-life in prison after a trial in Bronx Supreme Court in February 1992. He was convicted by a jury of second-degree intentional murder and fourth-degree weapon possession for stabbing his mother, Keziah Burton, 59, in her bed in their apartment on Eastchester Road on January 3, 1989. The CIU reviewed transcripts and case files, interviewed witnesses and inspected the quality of evidence used to convict Burton. Scientific evidence not available until recently has identified flawed interview techniques as well as other factors, such as youth, that increase the likelihood that a confession is untrue.

The New York Times

He Spent 19 Years in Prison for

Murder. Now Prosecutors Say His Confession Was Coerced.



Huwe Burton, who served 19 years in prison for murder, hugs a friend on Thursday after his conviction

Apart from Burton, the Conviction Integrity Unit exonerated two additional people in 2019. Those cases are now sealed.

### **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.

#### **Saturday Night Lights**

#### The Bronx District Attorney's Office launched

"Saturday Night Lights" in the Bronx in Autumn 2019. The program provides kids with constructive, enjoyable activities in a safe space on Saturday nights year-round, in an effort to prevent crime. SNL, funded by the Manhattan District Attorney's Office, allows children to socialize with other kids and form a bond with law enforcement.

Nearly 300 children ages eight to 18 participated in SNL between September 2019 and December 2019 at the two Bronx sites. City in the Community has soccer through the New York City Football Club at the Hostos-Lincoln Academy of Science, while basketball, kickboxing, step and cardio is offered at the PAL Webster Center in Fordham.









### Youth Trial Advocacy Program (YTAP): Through the Bronx District Attorney's Youth Trial

Advocacy Program (YTAP), Bronx high school students get a chance to explore a career in law. In 2019, 46 students signed up for the program. Students learned from ADAs, Support Staff, and Judges about advocacy skills in preparation for a moot court competition. Two teen girls were declared winners in 2019 and were awarded a summer internship with the Office. All students who completed the program were awarded certificates.





#### **CONCEPT**

#### **CONCEPT**, which stands for *Creating Opportunities*

Necessary to Create Empowered Positive Teens, is a 18-week long BXDA program that trains middle-school children and parents about how to develop healthy relationships, formulate a realistic view of crime, and enhance their problem-solving skills. The program's goal is to promote positive thinking and create behavioral changes. There were 3,014 participants in 2019.



#### Read to Me

#### BXDA partners with the Marshall England Early Childhood Learning Center and the Richard Mangum

Learning Center for the Read to Me Program. In 2019, 23 BXDA Assistant District Attorneys and staff members volunteered to read storybooks to approximately 150 children ages two to five in their Bronx classrooms.

### **Administrative Division**

#### **BXDA DETECTIVE INVESTIGATORS**

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

The Detective Investigators serving in the Witness Security Program, partnering with the Crime Victims Assistance Unit, assisted 211 victims and witnesses with safety concerns. Additionally, the Detective Investigators oversee the BXDA Explorers program, which launched in 2018. The program is open to high school students throughout the five boroughs and is strictly voluntary. Staff teach students about different career opportunities BXDA has to offer. The Office held two sessions of the Explorers program in 2019—one ran from April 30, 2019 through June 5, 2019 and another from October 8, 2019 to November 19, 2019. Approximately 70 students attended the program last year.



#### **DAT/COMPLAINT ROOM/ARRAIGNMENTS**

This unit works with all the divisions and has dozens of assigned Assistant District Attorneys and support staff to ensure that cases are handled appropriately at the stage of inception. In the Complaint Room, Assistant District Attorneys and support staff must have cases crafted and submitted to Arraignments within 24 hours after an arrest is made. They work quickly within that timeframe and access evidence, and interview witnesses and NYPD Officers. The Complaint Room/DAT Unit operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Staff and ADAs cover various shifts, ranging from early morning and late night, including weekends and holidays.



#### **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. Human Resources also disseminates all pertinent policy information to staff and maintains important employee records.

#### In 2019, the Unit processed 236 new applicants.

#### **LEGAL RECRUITMENT**

In 2019, the Legal Recruitment Bureau oversaw the hiring of 77 entry level Assistant District Attorneys, as well as recruitment for lateral and high-level positions. The Bureau also coordinated the summer internship program, in which 40 law students from across the country and 15 local college students participated. Through a practice order, the law students performed many of the tasks of an attorney in court while college students aided in the preparation of cases for trial. Interns were assigned to various bureaus throughout the Office and all received meaningful, hands-on experience in criminal justice.

#### **OPERATIONS**

This unit works behind the scenes to provide a professional work environment. It is responsible for maintenance in the BXDA building, as well as BXDA offices in the Hall of Justice and Criminal Court. The Unit is also in charge of the switchboard, mail delivery, moving of furniture and manages case file storage.

### SUPPORT STAFF TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

This unit provides 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.

#### COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC INFORMATION

This office handles all external and internal communications, responds to media inquiries, and provides information to government agencies and individuals. It maintains the Office website and social media accounts.

### In the Community

The Bronx District Attorney's Office held two Town Halls in 2019. One was held at the Bartow Community Center Co-op City on April 24, 2019, and another at the PAL New South Bronx Center in Longwood on June 19, 2019. District Attorney Clark addressed questions from Bronx residents, and listened to their crime and safety concerns. Community leaders and elected officials were also present at the meetings. Additionally, the Office held its first annual Faith Leaders Breakfast on February 13, 2019, where religious leaders of the Bronx met with District Attorney Clark and heard about the Office's mission for the Bronx.







#### **ANOTHER CHANCE**

The Bronx District Attorney's Office held its third "Another Chance" event on October 26, 2019 at a mobile court set up in the Thessalonia Worship Center in Longwood. More than 300 people attended the event—105 came for information on how to seal old convictions, and 57 people were able to clear old summons warrants for low-level offenses like drinking alcohol in public, littering or riding a bike on the sidewalk. The event included a resource fair, where residents obtained information on health care and social services from a vast array of organizations. Volunteer Assistant District Attorneys and staff, and attorneys from The Legal Aid Society handled cases, and Honorable Bahaati Pitt, Criminal Court Judge, presided. District Attorney Clark herself stood on cases and petitioned to dismiss warrants, helping people move on with their lives.

REGIONAL AID FOR WEERING AND

District Attorney Clark said, "I want to thank our partners from the Courts and Legal Aid, and Rev. Malobe Sampson, pastor of Thessalonia Worship Center, as well as the volunteers from my Office, for all their hard work to make this a success. I am happy to provide this service to members of the community, and to show them the direct impact of criminal justice reform on their lives."







### **Executive Staff**

Odalys Alonso	Chief of Staff
<b>Derek Lynton</b>	nt District Attorney
Julian Bond O'Connor	. General Counsel
Ben Rivera	erations & Budget
L. Christopher StandoraChi	ef Financial Officer
Patrice O'Shaughnessy Director of	of Communications
Theresa Gottlieb	nief of Trial Division
Wanda Perez Maldonado	stigations Division
Joseph Muroff	ial Victims Division
Kerry Chicon	Relations Division
Gina MignolaDeput	y General Counsel
Maria Cortese Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Op	erations & Budget
James Brennan	nief of Trial Division
Tarek A. Rahman	stigations Division
Carmen Facciolo Deputy Chief of Strategic Enforcement and Intergovernmental	Relations Division

# Legal Managers

Alternatives to Incarceration Aisha Greene	Litigation Training Bureau Justin Braun
Appeals	Narcotics
Arraignments/Complaint Room Rene Aponte	Public Integrity Omer Wiczyk
Child Abuse/Sex Crimes Rachel Ferrari	Rikers Island Prosecution Francis Alberts
Civil Litigation Beverly Ma	Special Investigations Diego Hernandez
Conviction Integrity	Tax and Organizational Fraud <b>W. Dyer Halpern</b>
Crime StrategiesVladimir Kocheulov	Technical Investigation Bureau Peter Kennedy
Domestic Violence	Trial Bureau 20 Meredith Holtzman
Economic Crimes William Zelenka	Trial Bureau 30 Julie DeLeon
Grand Jury Nina Carlow	Trial Bureau 40 Catherine Davis
Homicide	Trial Bureau 50 Lawrence Piergrossi
Human Trafficking Stephen Knoepfler	Trial Bureau 60 Susanna Imbo
Immigrant Affairs Miriam Bell-Blair	Trial Bureau 70 Jeffrey Glucksman
Legal Recruitment Sherry Cohen	Violent Criminal Enterprise Julie Trivedi

### **Administrative Managers**

#### Frank Chiara

Chief of Detective Investigators

#### **Ricardo Granderson**

EEO Officer

#### **Karen Primack**

Chief of Human Resources

#### **Barbara Robles-Gonzalez**

Director of Litigation Training

#### Javier Valentin

Lt. C.O. of NYPD DA Squad

#### Raymond Vazquez

Director of IT

#### **Meiling Viera-Delgado**

Director of Community Affairs



Chief of Support Staff Training and Professional Development



**Nate Simmons** 

Director of Operations
Part of BXDA family for 30 years.



## **BXDA Family**



DA Clark and BXDA Staff and their families at a New York Yankees game on June 25, 2019



BXDA Staff during the Office's Ugly Holiday Sweater Contest in December 2019



BXDA Office Picnic in June 2019



BXDA Staff take part in Denim Day in April 2019.







**Bronx District Attorney's Office at 198 East 161 St.** 

bronxda.nyc.gov