

TARRANT COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S



2023

ANNUAL REPORT

DA Phil Sorrells

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A Message from Phil Sorrells

2023 was, without a doubt, a year of change.

No longer was I running County Criminal Court No. 10, as I had for 25 years.

In my first year as District Attorney, I made notable progress toward accomplishing my goals of reducing the backlog of cases, fully staffing this office, and, most importantly, seeking justice for all. My attorneys, investigators, and staff made this progress possible.

Covid restrictions led to a backlog of cases that existed when I took office. My office worked tirelessly to reduce the number of cases clogging the court system.

In 2023, we disposed of 52,337 cases.

We saw good rulings year-round.

Twenty-two defendants were sentenced to life in prison. Those men and one woman were convicted of crimes ranging from capital murder to aggravated sexual assault of a child. Other defendants received hefty sentences ranging from 70 to 90 years.

As for the worst of the worst, 482 murder and capital murder cases were pending in January 2023. One year later, 212 of those homicide cases have been resolved.

We are taking tough cases to trial – and working hard to find justice for everyone.

My office and I are dedicated to keeping Tarrant County safe. I'm proud to work with so many talented and dedicated attorneys, investigators, and staff.

Thank you for giving me the honor of serving as your District Attorney.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phil Sorrells". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Tarrant County District Attorney's Office



Phil Sorrells

was sworn in as Tarrant County's 15th elected Criminal District Attorney on January 1, 2023. He oversees this office, considered the county's largest "law firm," which handles criminal and civil matters.



Robb Catalano

serves as the First Assistant District Attorney, providing overall management of the office and assisting with strategic planning.

Tarrant County is the 15th largest county in the country and the third largest in Texas. There are 41 municipal police departments and 76 law enforcement agencies in Tarrant County. All these agencies file criminal cases with this office.

The Criminal Division

is the largest division in our office. Approximately 200 licensed attorneys in this division handle cases in the grand jury as well as in 11 felony and 10 misdemeanor courts. Each year, the office handles about 45,000 criminal cases. Rose Anna Salinas is the chief of the Criminal Division, assisted by four Deputy Chiefs: Allenna Bangs, Robert Huseman, Terri Moore, and Dale Smith. Bruce Beasley is chief of the Misdemeanor Division; Emily Kirby is the deputy chief.

The Civil Division

serves as the general counsel for Tarrant County and its elected and appointed officials, including the Commissioners Court, the sheriff, the tax assessor collector, and the district and county clerks. Craig Price is the chief of the Civil Division; David Hudson is the deputy chief.

The Investigative Division

is staffed by investigators, certified Texas peace officers, who assist prosecutors by evaluating and helping prepare cases for trial. Maria Hinojosa is chief of this division. Kyle Gibson and Marvin Brown are assistant chief investigators.

The Staff Division

is compiled of more than 100 non-lawyer, non-investigator employees who serve as our legal administrative staff. Jason Peters is chief of staff.

A Guiding Force

One of the first things Phil Sorrells did after taking office in 2023 was pull together an executive leadership team to help guide this office.

His team is made up mostly of attorneys who, combined, have dozens and dozens of years of legal experience.

At the top of that team is Robb Catalano, who served as judge of Criminal District Court No. 3 for more than a decade. Catalano, a former Tarrant County and federal prosecutor, is the First Assistant District Attorney who provides overall management of the office and assists with strategic planning.

Other members of the team include:

Rose Anna Salinas, chief of the Criminal Division. She worked as a Tarrant County prosecutor from 1989-1998, ultimately serving as the chief prosecutor in the Crimes Against Children Unit. After leaving the DA's Office, she worked more than 20 years as a defense attorney. She is a former president and board member of the Tarrant County Criminal Defense Lawyers Association.

Craig Price, chief of the Civil Division. Price served seven years in the civil division at the Grayson County Criminal District Attorney's Office. Before that, he practiced civil litigation and criminal defense in Denton and Tarrant counties for more than 25 years.

Maria Hinojosa, chief Investigator. This division is made up of certified Texas Peace Officers who help prosecutors evaluate and prepare cases for trial. A 12-year veteran of this office, Hinojosa was promoted to Chief Investigator in August 2021.

Jason Peters, chief of Staff. Peters has served Tarrant County for more than 27 years in various roles in the County Clerk's Office, Criminal Courts, and now the District Attorney's Office.

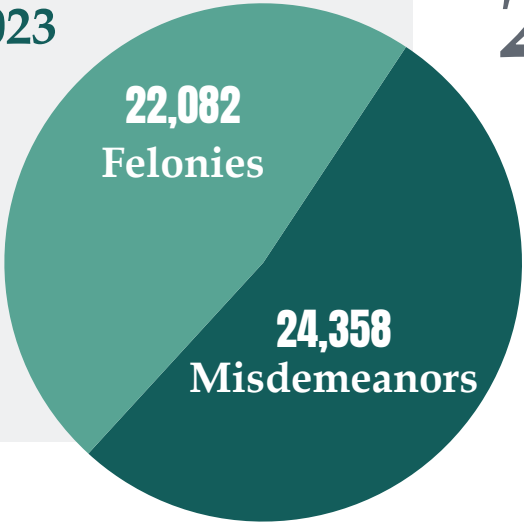


The DA's Executive Team

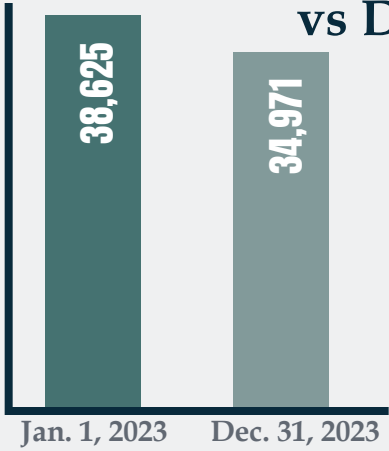
From left to right: Maria Hinojosa, Jason Peters, Phil Sorrells, Robb Catalano, Rose Anna Salinas, Craig Price.

2023 Highlights

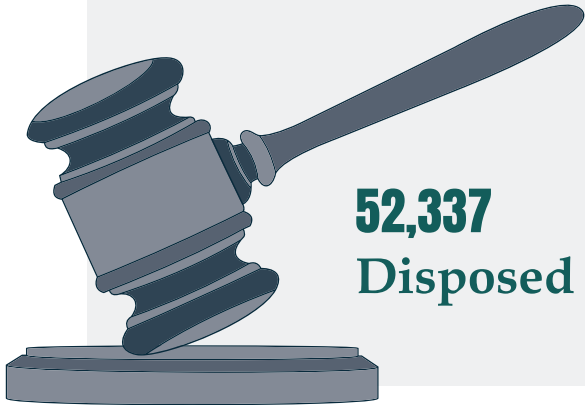
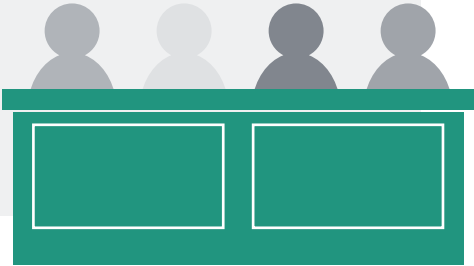
There were 46,440 cases filed in 2023



Pending cases January 2023 vs December 2023



250 Jury Trials



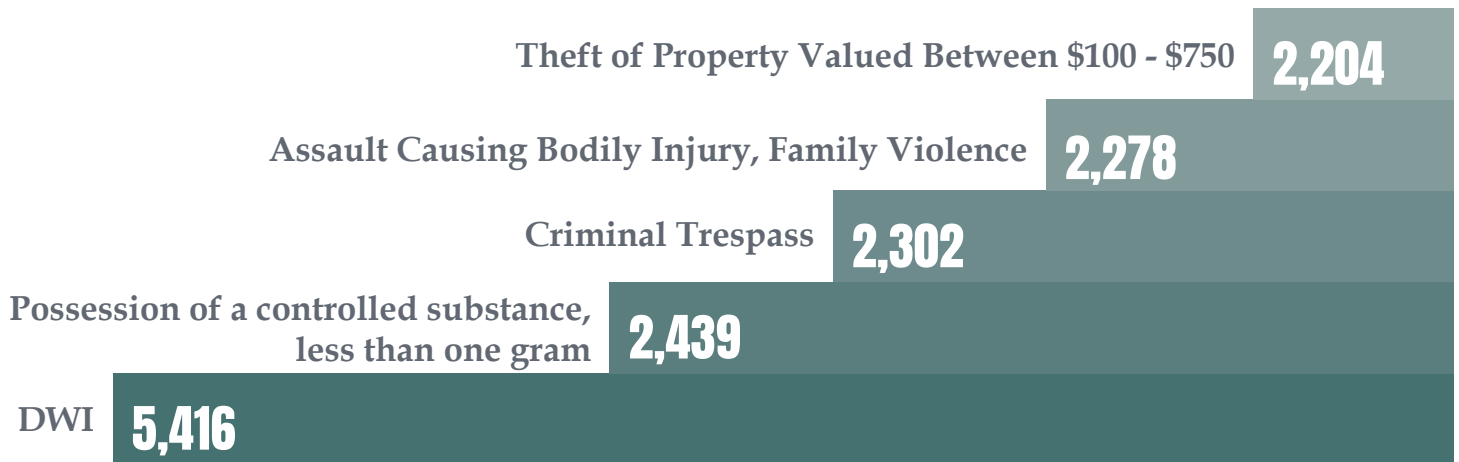
52,337 Disposed Cases

22 Defendants Sentenced to



LIFE in Prison

Top 5 Crimes in 2023

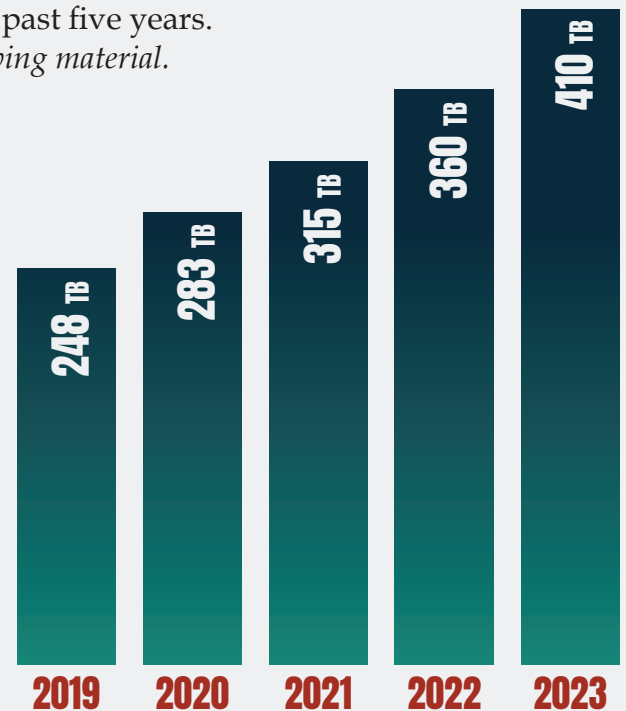


Electronic Evidence

Every year, our prosecutors review Digital Media Evidence, which includes video from police bodycams and dashcams, surveillance cameras, and cellphones. The amount of this evidence grows every year, taking more time to review and using costly computer storage space.

Here's a look at the amount of DME, measured by terabytes, that has been submitted to our office by law enforcement in the past five years.

Note: One terabyte of video contains about 500 hours of viewing material.



New Narcotics Unit

DA Sorrells created a new team to focus solely on crimes involving narcotics such as fentanyl, methamphetamine, cocaine, and heroin. Anyone caught making and/or dealing illegal drugs in Tarrant County will face the stiffest sentences and fines possible.



Fentanyl, a synthetic opioid, is highly addictive and lethal.

Just two milligrams, equivalent in size to only a few grains of salt, can be deadly.

Fentanyl Poisoning Related Deaths:

Increased in Texas from **891** in 2020 to **2,192** in 2022.

Increased in Tarrant County from **97** in 2020 to **172** in 2022.

The Narcotics Unit is staffed with three experienced prosecutors who are vigorously pursuing drug cases and working closely with law enforcement officers throughout Tarrant County.

The team has already used a new law passed by the Texas Legislature in 2023 that lets prosecutors charge individuals with murder if they make, sell, or deliver fentanyl to a person who dies from exposure to the drug. On December 14, a Grand Jury indicted the first such case in Tarrant County.



“We are going to get these people, and the poison they are selling, off our streets.”
-Phil Sorrells

Do Your Part!

DA Sorrells implored Tarrant County residents year-round to show up when called for jury duty.

Sorrells asked everyone to do their part and serve because juries ensure that justice is served in our community.

“We need jurors who want to keep our community safe. We need impartial citizens who can follow the law,” Sorrells stated.

The fact is, only a small number of those called for jury duty actually end up serving. In 2022, only:



“When you receive a jury summons, please serve. We need you.”



State of Texas
County of Tarrant
Juror Badge

JUROR

Texans also learned in 2023 that jurors will get a raise for their service.

A juror will now be paid \$20 instead of \$6 on the first day of service and \$58 instead of \$40 for every subsequent day, courtesy of a new law that went into effect September 1.

State lawmakers also raised the age that Texans may be exempt from jury duty from 70 to 74 years of age; however, older Texans may always choose to serve and not claim that exemption.

Making A Difference



Our office was proud to take the lead in one of the biggest cases to go before the U.S. Supreme Court in 2023. The case was the federal government's appeal of United States v. Rahimi, which originated in Arlington.

Zackey Rahimi went on a shooting spree – five shootings in and around Arlington between December 2020 and January 2021 – after being placed under a protective order by Tarrant County.

Because of allegations that Rahimi threatened his child's mother and committed domestic violence, a protective order preventing Rahimi from having a gun was issued. In fact, he was warned that possessing one could be a felony under federal law. In September 2021, Rahimi pled guilty to a federal offense and was sentenced to prison.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the federal statute preventing domestic violence offenders under protective orders from possessing guns is unconstitutional.

The federal government appealed the decision to the Supreme Court.

Our office filed an amicus brief arguing that the Fifth Circuit's decision puts domestic violence victims at even more risk. More than a dozen district attorneys in Texas cosigned the brief.

"For those who are subject to a protective order, the overwhelming evidence establishes that their firearms are not for self-defense," our amicus brief stated. "They are weapons of intimidation, fear, and control."

The U.S. Supreme Court heard the case November 7, 2023. Three of our prosecutors – Fredericka Sargent, Kim D'Avignon, and Emily Kirby – traveled to Washington, D.C., to hear the arguments in person.

An opinion from the Supreme Court is expected by June 2024.



A Magnet for Crime

Temptations Cabaret – a strip club on Highway 80 West – was long a magnet for crime.

But a 2023 Memorial Day weekend shooting that left one dead was the final straw.

After that shooting, this office filed a public nuisance lawsuit against Temptations on behalf of the State of Texas. The goal: shut down the club.

On June 20, Tarrant County’s sexually oriented business license and review board revoked the operating permit for Temptations. In response, the club owned by RCI Hospitality Holdings filed a federal lawsuit claiming it was unfairly targeted by the county. The lawsuit challenged all the new regulations placed on sexually oriented businesses located in unincorporated areas of Tarrant County.

Ultimately, the court issued a permanent injunction against Temptations, which is permanently closed.

Not only that, but there was a legal resolution in 2023 to one of the crimes that occurred at the fully nude strip club. In July, Treveon Wilson, 29, pled guilty to two charges of murder for killing two Temptations employees during a fight in March 2018.

“That is not acceptable”

Two Tarrant County school shooting cases went to trial in 2023. Prosecutors asked juries in both cases to send a message to the community that these shootings should not happen – and that there will be accountability for this type of behavior. Jurors determined that both teenage shooters should be locked up for years.

First In July, 19-year-old Timothy Simpkins was sentenced to 12 years in prison after a jury found him guilty of attempted capital murder for a 2021 school shooting at Timberview High School in Arlington. Simpkins was 18 when he fought in his classroom on October 6, 2021, with Zacceaus “Zac” Selby, who was 15 at the time.

Teachers broke up the fight, and seconds later, Simpkins pulled out a gun and shot Selby. Students began running away and Simpkins continued shooting, hitting English teacher Calvin Pettit in the back, piercing his lung. The bullet lodged near Pettit’s heart.

Simpkins went into the hallway and kept firing the gun, grazing a female student in the hip. Finally, he found Selby, who was crawling away, and continued shooting him. Selby was shot three times. He survived.

“We take school shootings seriously,” Assistant District Attorney Lloyd Whelchel said. “That should not be the norm of our society.”



Second In September, a 16-year-old boy was sentenced to 40 years behind bars by a jury for capital murder and attempted capital murder in a 2023 school shooting at Arlington Lamar High School. He admitted he was the shooter and asked a jury to determine his sentence.

On March 20, 2023, this juvenile took a shotgun to school. Before the first bell rang, he fired the shotgun outside into a group of students. Ja’Shawn Poirier, 16, was killed and a 16-year-old girl was hit in the face by shrapnel.

The teen shooter was sent to the Texas Juvenile Justice Department. Before his 19th birthday, the judge will determine whether the boy, whose name isn’t being released because he is a minor, should go to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to serve the rest of his sentence.

Prosecutors said they hoped this sentence sends a message to anyone thinking about shooting at a school or into a crowd of students.

“That is not acceptable,” Assistant District Attorney Lee Sorrells said. “We, as a society, will not stand for that to happen again.”



Election Integrity



County Judge Tim O'Hare, Sheriff Bill Waybourn, and DA Phil Sorrells announced the formation of an Election Integrity Task Force in 2023.

DA Sorrells joined Tarrant County Judge Tim O'Hare and Tarrant County Sheriff Bill Waybourn in early 2023 to announce the creation of an Election Integrity Task Force.

The three men wanted to give voters confidence in local elections by ensuring this task force was in place to investigate election concerns and prosecute any people committing voter fraud in Tarrant County.

Sorrells appointed Glynis McGinty to lead the new Election Integrity Unit in the DA's office.

A state audit has shown that Tarrant County "administers a quality, transparent election."

Sorrells said the goal is to make sure local elections remain that way.

"There are quite a few people that have some concerns," Sorrells said when announcing the creation of the Task Force. "We want to either prove that there are faults in our elections or prove that there aren't."

Anyone who has an election-related concern or tip should call (817) 884-1213 or send an email to: electionconcerns@tarrantcountytx.gov. Complaints can be filed online at <http://tinyurl.com/yeuebym3> or scan the code



"There is no place for voter fraud, harvesting operations, or any violations of our Election Code here in Tarrant County," a joint statement from Sorrells, Waybourn, and O'Hare stated. "If you engage in these activities, we will find you and bring you to justice."



Glynis McGinty speaks to community groups about election integrity.

Sentenced to Life

DA Sorrells said long before he was sworn into office that he would be tough on crime. Case after case went to trial in 2023. Many defendants found guilty were sentenced to decades in prison. Twenty-two defendants were given life sentences.

Here are their stories...



Benjamin Allen Bengé, 45

He was found guilty in July of indecency with a child for sexually assaulting his 9-year-old daughter. He previously was convicted and sent to prison for sexual assault of a child on the victim's mother when she was just 14 years old. Years later, when Bengé got out of prison, he married the girl he was originally convicted of assaulting. Just hours after he and his wife won back custody of their 9-year-old daughter, he assaulted the child at their home in Hurst.



Braylin Brown, 22

He was found guilty in November of murder. Brown was in the Tarrant County jail when he ordered a hit on his father, Kevin, who was shot and killed while checking the mailbox outside his home on January 25, 2022. Brown, who has been documented by Fort Worth police as a Crips street gang member, has an extensive criminal record.



Tyrone Coleman, 40

He was convicted in April of aggravated assault and aggravated robbery. Coleman took a woman to a secluded location to assault her on August 26, 2021. She escaped his car, but when she reached back to get her cell phone, he trapped her arm in the car window and dragged her body, running over her with his car. Coleman has a 15-year history of arrests and investigations for sexual assault where he similarly took women to secluded locations to assault them.



Jeffery Cory, 44

He was convicted in February of killing Erik Fernandez, 43, in 2019. He told different stories, but the facts are that he murdered Fernandez in the home the two shared. Cory shot Fernandez in the living room, rolled him up in a rug, and dragged the rug to Fernandez's bedroom. He lived with his roommate's body for days before he called the police.



Rickey Wayne Edwards, 54

He was found guilty in October of capital murder for killing his wife Portia Williams-Edwards and stepson Kameion Kitchen. Edwards and his wife were moving into their new home in 2020 when his wife called her father and son saying Edwards was acting crazy. She said he hit her, pulled a gun on her, and threatened her. Her son drove to the house and confronted Edwards. Edwards shot Kitchen 10 times with his Glock pistol. He also shot his wife twice in the head.



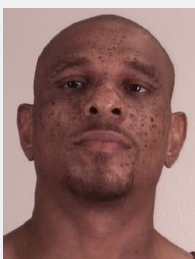
Eric Fobbs, 50

He was found guilty in June of sexual assault of a child and indecency with a child. He went to prison in 1994 on similar charges of sexual assault and indecency with a child.



Jarvis Franklin, 40

He pled guilty in May to murdering his girlfriend, Karen Finney, in 2019. Franklin, who had an extensive criminal history, shot Finney several times, including twice in the face, at her east Fort Worth home. Three of Finney's four children were home at the time.



Lovo Graves, 43

He was convicted in November of manslaughter. On May 7, 2022, Graves was driving his Dodge Ram pickup faster than 90 mph in a 45-mph zone when he t-boned a GMC pickup truck turning into the Rose Hill Cemetery. Killed were Lauren Richardson, 19, and Kennedy Young, 18, who were going to the cemetery to leave flowers on their grandmother's grave for Mother's Day.



Rudolph Guy, 60

He pled guilty in March to seven aggravated robberies committed at gas stations and one sandwich shop across Tarrant County between August and December 2018. He threatened cashiers with his gun, demanded cash from the register, and at times took beer, cigarettes, and food. Prior to sentencing, Guy fled the state and was found in Arizona before he was brought back to Texas to serve his time.



Keith Haynes, 33

He was found guilty in December of capital murder for killing his ex-girlfriend Kenishia Walker, a 25-year-old single mother who was pregnant with his child. On April 14, 2017, he shot and killed Walker in her bed at her Arlington home. Her 8-year-old son discovered her body.



Keith Anthony Hubbard, 49

He was found guilty in March of continuous sexual abuse and indecency with a child between 2013 and 2018. He repeatedly sexually assaulted his stepdaughter.



Jillian Johnson, 44

She pled guilty in October to killing mother and daughter Gloria Prince, 71, and Gloria Booker, 53. On October 25, 2020, Johnson was living at the Grand Prairie home of Prince and her daughter. She was told to move out due to her behavior. Johnson became angry and stabbed both women to death.



Cameron Marble, 26

He pled guilty in May to murdering David Allen Plotts, 26. Plotts was shot during a home invasion robbery in June 2019, when masked intruders, including Marble, broke into the apartment he was visiting. Marble and the two other men fled; Plotts was taken to the hospital where he died. Police tracked down the intruders in the following days and arrested them.



Edward James Murray, 57

He was found guilty in November of murder. On September 17, 2020, Murray went to the home of his neighbor Antonio Edward Robinson, complaining about toys in their shared walkway. He threw them at Robinson's door until Robinson came outside. When Robinson went outside, Murray shot and killed him.



Quincy Neighbors, 36

He was convicted in August of aggravated sexual assault of a child and indecency with a child. Neighbors wore a security guard uniform and badge in 2022 and took advantage of a 12-year-old runaway girl looking for help at a Fort Worth bus station. He coaxed her into his car and drove her to a nearby park where he raped her.



Lucious Newhouse III, 59

He was convicted in September of murdering a woman and dumping her body in Sulphur Springs. Newhouse killed Rochelle Mims, 34, by shooting her in the head at their Fort Worth home. Her body was found in September 2018 on private property more than 100 miles northeast of Fort Worth.



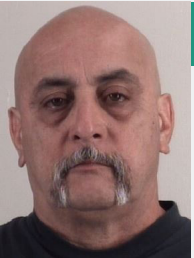
Kevin Norris, 43

He was convicted in October for the continuous sexual assault of a child. His repeated sexual assaults of his stepdaughter began when she was 8 years old and continued for seven years.



Larry Pedersen, 43

He was found guilty in February of murder. In 2019, while visiting a south Fort Worth apartment complex, Pedersen shot two people – Austin Tomlinson, who died, and Robert Watkins, who was injured.



Hector Peralez, 60

He was convicted in August of two charges of aggravated sexual assault of a child. He had spent time in prison for two previous convictions of sexually assaulting children. He was arrested by Fort Worth Police in July 2022 for committing the same crime against his girlfriend's granddaughter.



Tyrico Simpson, 23

He was convicted in September of aggravated robbery and burglary of a habitation with intent to commit aggravated assault. On September 6, 2019, Simpson and another man went to the apartment of Anthony Brown, 27, and attacked him with a rock and a knife. While he lay on the floor bleeding, Simpson and his accomplice took a gun and drugs from the apartment. The jury sentenced Simpson to two life sentences, to be served consecutively.



Marquis Sypho, 26

He was found guilty in March of capital murder for killing a man during an armed robbery at a former Save A Lot grocery store in Fort Worth. On January 11, 2018, Sypho and another man entered the store to rob the clerks and empty the safe. Raymond Huerta – who had taken dinner to his wife, Jackie, a clerk at the store – was shot multiple times. After he fell, Jackie ran toward Sypho to defend her husband. Sypho brutally beat her, then went back to emptying the safe. Raymond died.



Joseph Matthew Welborn, 31

He pled guilty in June to injury to a child causing serious bodily injury regarding the death of his 10-week-old son, Christian. Welborn was home alone with Christian on December 21, 2018. When Christian's mother and grandfather returned home, they found the baby unresponsive and unconscious. They called the police. The baby was taken to the hospital where he was pronounced dead. Prosecutors said Welborn slammed the baby's head onto a hard surface and then concocted stories about how the baby could have been hurt. An autopsy showed Christian suffered blunt force trauma to the head and had two complex skull fractures.

Honoring Victims

The voices of victims often are silenced.

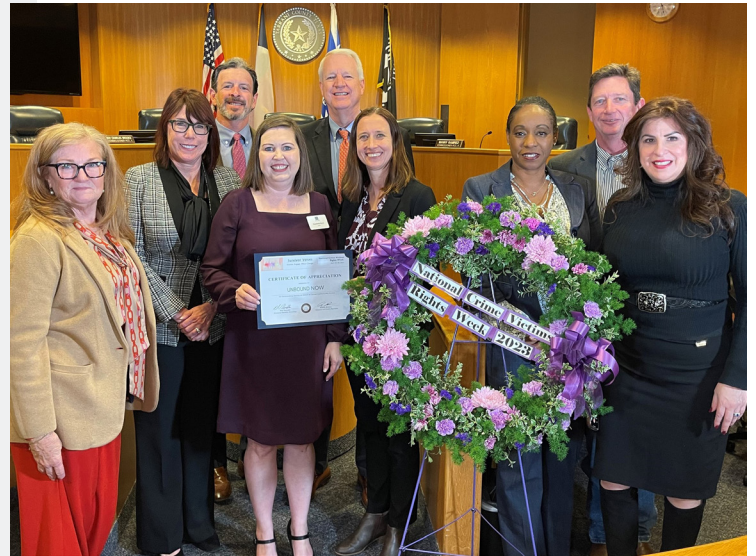
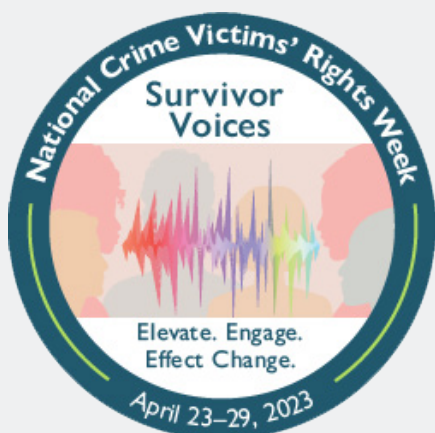
That's why our office works so hard to make sure that they are heard.

Each year, our office observes National Crime Victims' Rights Week by displaying wreaths in county buildings. We are working to promote awareness about crime victim rights and to honor survivors.

Our team of victim assistance coordinators work with victims, listening to them, going to court with them, and making sure they understand everything that is happening during trials. They also make sure victims understand their rights and have access to services that can help them.

"We support victims' rights throughout the year," DA Sorrells said. "We help victims through some of the most difficult days of their lives."

This annual week-long victim recognition began in 1981. The 2023 theme was "Survivor Voices: Elevate. Engage. Effect Change."



From left to right: Victim Assistance Coordinator Carma Anderson, ADA Lindy Borchardt, First Assistant DA Robb Catalano, COO of Unbound Stephanie Byrd, DA Phil Sorrells, Executive Director of Unbound Sandy Hennip, Director of Victim Services Allison Bowen, Director of The Underground Drop-in Center Chris Cage, and Victim Assistance Coordinator Laura Flores.



From left to right: ADA Emily Dixon, ADA Deanna Franzen, Tarrant County Commissioner Gary Fickes, Victim Assistance Coordinator Carrie Farley, and ADA Sarah Sherman.

Accolades



ADA Lindy Borchardt was awarded the Three Key Award from Unbound Now, a group that supports survivors and resourcing to fight human trafficking. Borchardt was recognized for her work prosecuting human trafficking cases. The award honors those who demonstrate constant leadership to end human trafficking in the United States.

ADA Lori Varnell was honored with an Unsung Hero Award from the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services Adult Protective Services Division. This award is given to community partners who demonstrate outstanding work for the Adult Protective Services program or its clients. Varnell was honored for her work to protect vulnerable citizens in Tarrant County from financial exploitation.



DA Sorrells was recognized as one of Fort Worth Inc. Magazine's 400 most Influential People in Fort Worth.

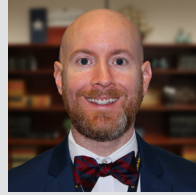
Eight of our prosecutors were named to the prestigious Top Attorneys in Tarrant County list in 2023.



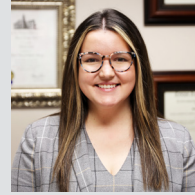
Allenna Bangs



Bruce Beasley



Aulstin Gardiner



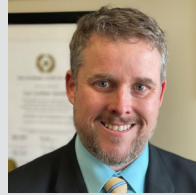
Madeline Jones



William Knight



Kyle Morris



Lee Sorrells



Jessica Theriot



ADA Dylan Morgan, pictured on the right, was sworn in July 19 as a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserve and a JAG officer. He will continue to serve as a prosecutor for our office. As a JAG officer, he will handle legal matters involving the military.

Allison Bowen, our Director of Victim Services, was elected to a one-year term – from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024 – as the Texas District & County Attorneys Association’s Key Personnel-Victim Services Board Vice-Chairperson. While on the board, she will represent victims of Tarrant County, help develop operational procedures, standards, training, and educational programs, coordinate programs, and address other matters dealing with victim assistance programs and key personnel services.



ADA Hilary Wright was inducted into the Texas Prosecutors Society. She and other prosecutors were honored on the practice field at the Dallas Cowboys Star Center in Frisco. She joins an exclusive group in the Texas District and County Attorneys Foundation that is committed to improving prosecution and training in Texas.



A Good Cause

This office is proud to support The Women's Center of Tarrant County and its anti-violence initiatives.

That's why about two dozen DA employees and their family members showed up to the Victory Over Violence 5K walk/run in Fort Worth in early 2023.





The DA's office was well represented at the Victory Over Violence 5K walk/run in Fort Worth in April 2023.

This annual walk and run benefits The Women's Center, where workers tirelessly help survivors of violence. Each year, the center helps more than 150,000 victims of sexual assault, child sexual assault, and other violence – women, children, and men – overcome crisis and find hope.

It is an honor to work alongside the center as we prosecute those who commit domestic violence.

The 2023 walk raised money for the center's initiatives, such as counseling, trauma training, and a 24-hour crisis hotline. This is all important work.

Hope truly does start here.



Community Outreach



The DA's Office attended the annual Blue Tie and Boots formal ball for the Brotherhood for the Fallen. From left to right: Grayson Ezzell, Jason Peters, Marvin "Mo" Brown, Kyle Gibson, Robb Catalano, Phil Sorrells, Tim Rodgers, Allyson Kucera, Dale Smith, Kate Hinojosa, Matt Hinojosa, Olivia Stoner, Jonathan Simpson, Bruce Beasley, Dan Monte, Glynis McGinty.



DA Sorrells, Deputy Chief Allenna Banks, County Judge Tim O'Hare, and SafeHaven CEO Kathryn Jacob



ADAs Delonia Watson (top) and Steve Lund along with County Administrator Chandler Merritt (bottom right) were among those donating blood for the Tarrant County Blood Draw in late 2023.

Community Outreach



Members of the District Attorney's Office participated in the first annual Tarrant County Young Lawyers Pickleball Tournament. First Assistant Robb Catalano and Assistant DAs John Kleinwachter and Zach Ashford took home first place.

DA Phil Sorrells and First Assistant Robb Catalano toured The Women's Center of Tarrant County in 2023. They met with Laura Hilgart, CEO and president, and Lei Testa, chair of The Women's Center Board of Directors.



DA Sorrells and ADA Bill Vassar met with Alliance for Children CEO Julie Evans and Clinical Supervisor Angelica Noel.



DA Sorrells spoke at the annual Peace Officers Memorial Service, commending those who protect and serve.



Unique Constituents

Soon after taking office, DA Sorrells began meeting with people throughout Tarrant County. His goal was to share the word about work being done in this office and learn more about his constituents.

He ended up meeting with two groups of Fort Worth police officers who work with animals – the Mounted Patrol and the K9 unit.

The Mounted Patrol

At the Mounted Patrol Equestrian facility in northwest Fort Worth, Sorrells and a group of prosecutors and staff toured the sprawling, nearly 10-acre property that includes stables and an administration building.

They walked through the barn, meeting, petting, and even giving carrots to the geldings who stay there. Police mainly use these horses to patrol downtown Fort Worth and the Stockyards and visit children at schools.

Most of the 14 horses at the facility are mature, older animals. One was a spirited racehorse, Cooper.



One interesting fact: the horses eat square bales of hay because they would overeat if they consumed round bales.



The K9 Unit

At the K9 Unit, which is across town in the Bob Bolen Public Safety Complex, Sorrells and another group of prosecutors and staff met narcotic sniffing dogs.

Front and center was Duke, a 6-year-old, 67-pound German Shorthaired Pointer who impressed our team by running through training exercises.

Sorrells learned that it can cost up to \$20,000 to train each dog. And the K9s live with their handlers.

“They are in great health, they are well taken care of, and they are happy,” Fort Worth Police Sergeant Charles Hubbard told Sorrells.

