

**United States Attorney's Office
Northern District of Ohio**

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



**Steven M. Dettelbach
United States Attorney**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	A Message from Your United States Attorney	3
II.	Overview of the United States Attorney's Office	6
III.	National Security and Cyber Crime	12
IV.	Major and Organized Crime	16
V.	Narcotics Trafficking	22
VI.	Major Fraud and Corruption	26
VII.	Toledo Branch Office	34
VIII.	Akron Branch Office	40
IX.	Civil Rights Unit	43
X.	The Civil Division	52
XI.	Responsive to Community Needs	58
XII.	Office Locations and Contact Information	62

I. A MESSAGE FROM YOUR UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

Serving as your United States Attorney for the past 6 1/2 years has been the single greatest honor of my professional career. It has not only allowed me the privilege of leading the talented and dedicated staff of the United States Attorney's Office, but it has also meant that I had the privilege of working side by side with our partners in both the law enforcement and the broader community. Watching those professionals give their all every day, and seeing the results of those efforts, some of which are set forth in this report, has been astounding.

The last years have not been without challenges. But with each challenge came a new determination to seek justice and standard of excellence and integrity among the staff of this office to achieve those ends. We have seen our budget cut, sequestration and even government shutdown – despite the fact that this office has every single year brought in much more money to the United States Treasury than we spend. With each budget challenge, however, I have witnessed career prosecutors, support staff and federal agents respond with increased determination to serve and protect the public in so many ways.

Our nation weathered one of the worst financial crises in its history, and we responded by bringing civil cases against two large banks that resulted in both new reforms and recovering almost a quarter of a billion dollars to hold them accountable for their unlawful behavior. We also prosecuted the St. Paul Croatian Federal Credit Union COO and more than 20 other conspirators for fraud and bribery in causing in the single largest credit union collapse in U.S. history, resulting in

significant prison sentences for many of the wrongdoers.

We saw the unfortunate continuation of a trend of corruption cases that have dominated the last 20 years in this district. We also saw the continuation of zero tolerance for such behavior by federal law enforcement. Beginning with the incredible work done by the career Assistant U.S. Attorneys and agents in this office to bring more than 60 felons to justice in the Cuyahoga County corruption scandal, this office continued to handle a steady stream of bribery and public theft cases from Youngstown to Toledo. They involved corrupt individuals at all levels of government, including judges, police officers, council members, elected executives, nonprofit directors, high-ranking federal employees, city employees, school officials and the people and businesses that sought to bribe them. We also engaged the many honest members of the business community in helping to prevent future corruption by creating the Northeast Ohio Business Ethics Coalition, and training thousands of business people on the pitfalls that can lead to corruption.

We witnessed the myriad of national security threats, which tested our ability to keep up with the ever-changing faces of terrorism. Working side-by-side with our state and local partners, we did just that. We investigated and brought cases involving Hezbollah supporters, as well as al Qaeda- and Hamas-inspired terrorism. We also dealt with the real threat posed by domestic extremism, ranging from an anarchist attempt to blow up a busy bridge, to threats posed by numerous so-called sovereign citizens to both the physical and financial safety for the community. Finally, we saw the FBI successfully

investigate ISIL-inspired extremist actors and we brought cases against them as well.

We grappled with the “great unfinished business” of our nation, the quest for equal rights under law in light of bias and hatred. By forming a new Civil Rights Unit, the office was able to focus on hate crimes, human trafficking and law enforcement misconduct more effectively on the criminal side. On the civil enforcement side of the docket we brought and won more cases under the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Fair Housing Act, the Voting Rights Act and as pattern and practice law enforcement reform cases than had ever been done before in the district, helping to deliver on the promise to protect the civil and constitutional rights of all Ohioans. But we also engaged in outreach, creating a new position aimed at making the office more transparent and responsive to community and public concerns and holding or attending hundreds of community meetings on a wide range of subjects, from bullying to hate crimes to ADA compliance to police-community relations, to name a few.

We dealt with persistent gun violence that led to spikes in homicides and other violent crime in different parts of the district. Each time, from our V-GRIP efforts in Youngstown, to our enhanced summer initiative with the ATF in Cleveland, to the proper use of undercover storefronts in Warren and Mansfield, we used the data to target and respond to the threat. In all, we prosecuted more than 1,000 cases involving some of the most violent, armed offenders and felons, often sending them to federal prison for many years and thereby protecting the communities they had terrorized. In addition, we pressed through the Northern Ohio Violent Crime Consortium for new

and better uses of data to drive policing models to be smarter and more efficient.

We stared head on into a heroin and opioid epidemic, which led to thousands of overdose deaths of sons, daughters, mothers and fathers in this district. We responded with agencies like the DEA by investigating, prosecuting and disrupting more and better, large-scale, drug trafficking organizations than many districts twice our size. We also worked with state and local law enforcement to help to better investigate heroin death scenes and with local hospitals and treatment facilities to form a Cleveland-based task force that has been held up by national policy makers as a model for the rest of the country.

Finally, we turned towards the emerging cyber threat facing our nation and our community. Internally, we tasked additional prosecutors to address this threat alongside our agency partners in the FBI, Secret Service and the IRS in our National Security Unit. Externally, we partnered with the leaders of the business community to form the Northeast Ohio Cyber Security Consortium, a safe space for real-time threat stream information exchange designed to attract and protect business in this region as well as incubate cyber talent in Northeast Ohio.

Through it all, I have tried to lead our office to do the important cases, not just the easy ones. And we have sought to combine enforcement with outreach in each of our efforts, because we in law enforcement know all too well that the best cases are the ones that never occur because the crime is prevented. Through it all, I have been inspired by the unending dedication of the career staff in this office and in the federal law enforcement community, as well as our state and local

partners. Yes, we have faced great challenges and we will continue to face them, but I leave more optimistic than ever that this district is well positioned to succeed in meeting whatever public safety threats may emerge.

Steven M. Dettelbach
United States Attorney
February 2016



II. OVERVIEW OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO

The United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Ohio is responsible for enforcing federal criminal and representing the United States in Court for federal cases brought in Ohio's northern 40 counties.

The attorneys in the office serve as lawyers for the United States of America, representing the government's interests in the judicial district. This activity takes many forms, and the office is divided into the Criminal, Civil, and Administrative Divisions.

The Criminal Division works with many partners, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Internal Revenue Service, Drug Enforcement Administration, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Postal Inspection Service, Homeland Securities Investigations, Environmental Protection Agency, as well as local and state police and prosecutors, to investigate and prosecute violations of federal criminal law.

These cases include narcotics trafficking, firearms violations, financial fraud, public corruption, terrorism, health care fraud, hate crimes, illegal re-entry into the United States, bank robberies, Hobbs Act violations and racketeering, just to name a few. With our limited resources, we seek to pursue cases that either will have an impact on public safety or will support the work of our State and local partners.

The Civil Division pursues civil remedies to seek compliance with federal law and protect the taxpayers against waste, fraud and abuse. These cases include enforcing the False Claims Act, including bringing cases

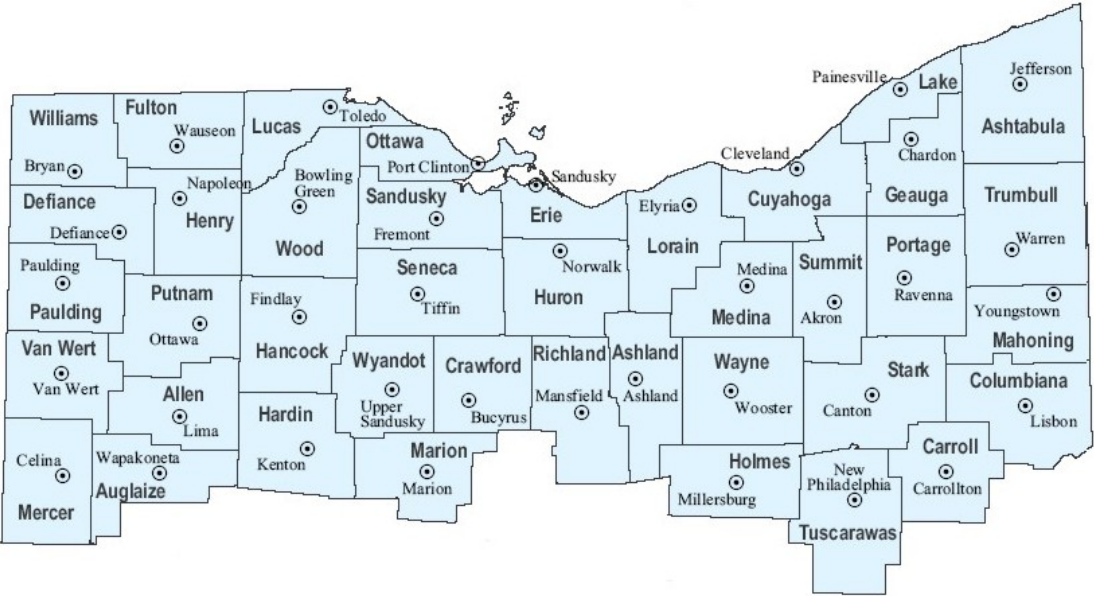
in which the United States is overbilled by a government contractor or under the Medicare or Medicaid programs, seeking compliance with the nation's civil rights laws, such as the Americans with Disabilities Act, or enforcing the environmental laws, such as Clean Air and Water Acts, and others. The office also defends the United States against scores of claims and lawsuits ranging from allegations of medical malpractice at Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities, lawsuits defending federal law enforcement agents who are sued in the course of their official duties and other suits brought against the United States.

The mission of the Administrative Division is to provide consistent and effective administrative services and support to the employees and programs of the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Ohio.

The Administrative Division is responsible for planning and executing a comprehensive range of administrative services that support the mission of the United States Attorney's Office. The Administrative Division provides guidance on the management and use of the District's financial, manpower, and physical resources, and on administrative policies, procedures, and practices. Administrative programs include: personnel management and human resources; financial management; space management; systems and information management; automated litigation support; case management and docketing; telecommunication services; procurement; mail; records; and document reproduction services.

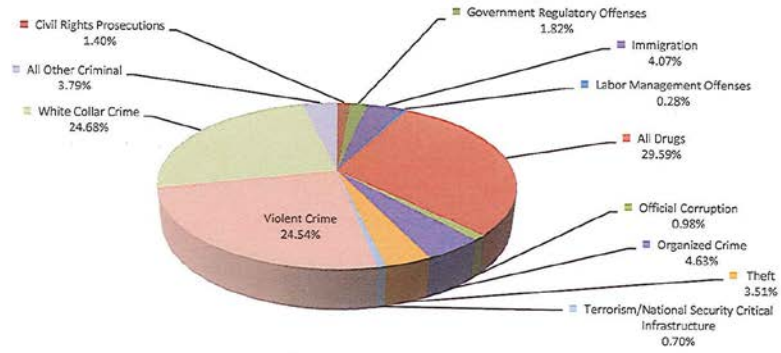


The district encompasses approximately six million people living across 18,000 square miles.



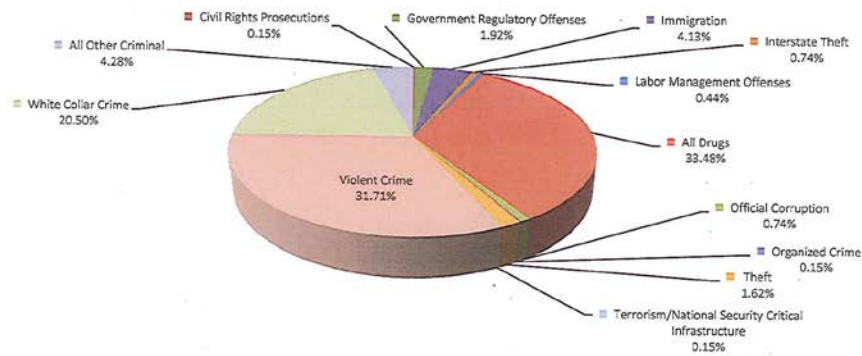
United States Attorneys -- Criminal Caseload Statistics
Northern District of Ohio
Defendants Filed by Program Category

Fiscal Year 2015



Total:
713

Fiscal Year 2014



Total:
678

Caseload data extracted from the United States Attorney's Case Management System.

FY 2015 numbers are actual data through the end of September 2015. FY 2006 and 2007 data may reflect a slight decrease in pending counts due to LIONS centralization.

The district includes large urban centers, suburbs and rural areas, and encompasses metropolitan areas including Cleveland, Toledo, Youngstown, Akron, Canton and Lima. The district also includes several large federal institutions, such as the Louis Stokes Veterans Administration Hospital, the Toledo and Canton Veterans Administration Outpatient Clinics, the NASA Glenn Research Center, the Cuyahoga Valley National Park and the Federal Correctional Institution at Elkton in Columbiana County.

The office, when fully staffed, includes nearly 80 Assistant United States Attorneys and an approximately equal number of non-attorney staff, working in offices in Cleveland, Toledo, Akron and Youngstown. For most of the last five years, the office has been compelled to operate with a significant vacancy rate because of budget cuts.

The office has filed 3,294 indictments and 592 criminal informations, charging 4,699 defendants since September 2009. Each year, the office's caseload shifts, in part driven by external crime trends. The leading category of cases filed by the office remains violent crime, white-collar crime and significant drug trafficking cases.

Between 500 and 700 defendants -- more than 70 percent of the defendants prosecuted by the office -- are sentenced to federal prison annually. About 35 percent of those defendants are sentenced to prison for five more years. About 24 percent are sentenced to between three and five years in prison. In other words, well over half the individuals prosecuted by the office receive significant federal prison time. The sentences in our criminal cases are determined by the federal judges hearing the cases, who hold lifetime appointments.

OFFICE STRUCTURE AND IMPROVEMENTS

The Honorable Steven M. Dettelbach has served as United States Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio since September 2009, when he was appointed by the President and unanimously confirmed by the United States Senate. Carole S. Rendon serves as First Assistant U.S. Attorney. Upon U.S. Attorney Dettelbach's stepping down, in February 2016, Ms. Rendon will assume the position of Acting United States Attorney. While the office has been recognized for many years as one of the strongest United States Attorney's Offices in the nation, the last years have seen further improvements, aimed at increasing public safety, efficiency and quality control. Some of those are set forth below.

In an effort to enhance transparency, the office has created a real-time public record, whether through a press release or otherwise, involving nearly every criminal case that it has pursued. While many such cases may be routine and not be deemed newsworthy, by being more transparent the office can be held publicly accountable to the taxpayers for its actions and decisions.

In another effort to be more transparent and connected to the broader community, the office created the position of Community Outreach Coordinator in 2010. The Community Outreach Coordinator works closely with the Law Enforcement Coordinator, whose job is to enhance partnership with state and local law enforcement agencies. The office has also encouraged its staff to participate in a variety of volunteer and outreach programs aimed at community service, including pro bono legal clinics, school tutoring and a special partnership helping students at Martin Luther King Jr. High School in

Cleveland, which began when U.S. Attorney held his public swearing in there in 2009.

In an effort to reduce bureaucracy and also enhance quality control, U.S. Attorney Dettelbach altered the indictment approval process. For more routine cases, the office now allows unit supervisors to approve indictments, plea agreements and other developments. More complex cases, however, now are subject to a checks and balances system designed to allow other experienced prosecutors to review key decisions. For the first time, the office requires prosecution memoranda in some such cases. In addition, significant cases are scrutinized by an Indictment Review Committee, a group of supervisors and AUSAs, some of whom were not previously involved in the investigation, who review the memoranda and the proposed indictments and meet with the prosecutors and agents handling the case to review the strength of the evidence, key legal questions and the charges they plan to seek. The

Criminal Chief, First Assistant and Appellate Chief, or a designee, sit on each such committee in order to add another layer of accountability and oversight and help ensure just outcomes in such cases.

The office has also created a dedicated Civil Rights unit to handle both criminal and civil violations of civil rights. Such matters range from enforcing the Shepherd-Byrd Hate Crimes Prevention Act, to the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Fair Housing Act, the Voting Rights Act, allegations of police misconduct and human trafficking cases, among others.

Another recent office change has been the prioritization of cyber-crime enforcement and placement of such cases with the National Security Unit. These changes to reflect the evolving and increasing nature of the cyber threat, which now encompasses state-sponsored cyber attacks, economic espionage, so-called “hacktivists” and theft of personal identifying information, to name a few.

**United States Attorneys Criminal Caseload Statistics
Northern District of Ohio
Number of Guilty Defendants**



Caseload data extracted from the United States Attorneys' Case Management System.
FY 2015 numbers are actual data through the end of September 2015. FY 2006 and 2007 data may reflect a slight decrease in pending counts due to LIONS centralization.

In order to effectively represent this community, the office must seek to understand community needs. This means that the office must hire the highest qualified prosecutors and staff without fail. It also means that enhancing the diversity of the office is critical. Seventy percent of the attorneys hired since 2010 have been exceptionally talented women and/or minorities, ranging from African-Americans, to Latinos, to Asian-Americans and members of the LGBT community, among others. The office has also

demonstrated a deep commitment to honoring the service of veterans, as nearly 20 percent of the people hired since 2010 have served our nation in the armed services. This commitment to diversity was honored by the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association's Diversity and Inclusion Pacesetter Award. The citation read that the office "has demonstrated success in creating and/or contributing to the creation of a genuine culture of inclusion within the greater Cleveland workforce and/or community."

III. NATIONAL SECURITY AND CYBER CRIME

The National Security and Cyber Crime Unit is responsible for the investigation and prosecution of cases involving national security, terrorism plots, and sophisticated cyber thefts and attacks. This unit works closely with the Joint Terrorism Task Force in Cleveland and Toledo and with agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Homeland Security Investigations and other agencies.

National security remains the Justice Department's top priority. Northern Ohio, like everywhere else in the country, faces a multitude of national security threats: attacks from people inspired by al Qaeda, ISIL or their affiliates; homegrown violent extremism, ranging from white supremacists to those who self-radicalize; members of the sovereign citizen movement, and others who would commit or threaten violence in order to advance their ideological or political beliefs.

These matters have taken the form of prosecutions involving acts of terrorism, terrorism financing and material support, the creation or use of weapons of mass destruction, espionage, export control violations, and thefts of trade secrets by both private or government actors. Over the past five years, the emphasis in counter-terrorism cases in the district has included both funding of foreign based terrorist organizations and the investigation and prosecution of homegrown violent extremists.

There has also been greater emphasis on the increasing threat posed by cyber crimes, such as Internet-based fraud schemes, system intrusions by criminal enterprises, state-sponsored companies and so-called hackers, among others.

In response to that threat, the office has increased its resources devoted to cyber-crime, moved the responsibility for those crimes to the National Security Unit and convened the daylong Cyber Security & Resiliency Conference in 2015, in which FBI Director James Comey detailed the growing threat from cyber crime to our national security and our national economy. The conference was attended by more than 350 people, and focused on increased awareness of the cyber threat to our region and ways to work collaboratively and proactively to combat cyber crime. The conference also marked the launch of the Northeast Ohio Cyber Consortium, formed by more than a dozen of the region's leading institutions, including the U.S. Attorney's Office, key corporate actors and leading educational and civil organizations to focus on regional, cross-sector approaches to preventing and prosecuting cyber crime.

Notable cases prosecuted by the National Security and Cyber Crime Unit in recent years include:

NATIONAL SECURITY

U.S. v. Akl, et al: Hor and Amela Akl were married and lived Toledo. They were charged with conspiring to provide material support to Hizbollah, a designated foreign terrorist organization. The Akls had been engaged in multiple schemes for raising and sending money to Hizbollah. They were caught attempting to send \$200,000 in cash to Hizbollah in Lebanon that was to be concealed in the side panel of the door of a car that was to be shipped to Lebanon.

Both Hor and Amela Akl pleaded guilty. Hor Akl was sentenced to more than six years in prison and Amela Akl was sentenced to more than three years in prison.

To read more:

<http://www.toledoblade.com/Courts/2012/05/22/Toledo-man-sentenced-in-bid-to-aid-terrorists.html>

U.S. v. Levenderis: Jeff Levenderis was charged with the possession of ricin for use as a weapon. Levenderis manufactured a highly lethal form of ricin at his residence in the Akron area. He possessed enough ricin to deliver over 500 lethal doses.

Investigators obtained evidence that Levenderis intended to use the ricin against first responders as part of an elaborate suicide scheme or to poison his stepfather. Levenderis went to trial, was convicted in 2014, and was sentenced to six years in prison.

U.S. v. Wright, et al.: Douglas Wright, Brandon Baxter, Anthony Hayne, Connor Stevens, and Joshua Stafford were all charged with the attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction for their efforts to blow up the Route 82 bridge that spans the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. The five defendants were self-described anarchists and plotted to commit an act of destruction in Cleveland, discussing bombing government buildings and destroying commercial property. They eventually decided to destroy a bridge south of the city. They attempted to detonate what they believed to be a bomb that had been placed on the bridge. Fortunately, the bomb was inert, as it had been obtained from an FBI undercover agent.



Wright, Baxter, Hayne, and Stevens pled guilty, while Stafford was convicted after a jury trial. Wright was sentenced to 11 years in prison, Baxter to nearly 10 years, Hayne to six years, Stevens to eight years and Stafford to 10 years in prison.

To read more:

<http://www.cnn.com/2012/11/20/justice/ohio-bridge-plot-sentencing/>

U.S. v. Amawi et al.: Mohammad Zaki Amawi, Marwan Othman El-Hindi and Wassim Mazloum, all of Ohio, were sentenced to prison terms ranging from more than eight years to 20 years in October 2009 for conspiring to commit terrorist acts against Americans overseas, including U.S. military personnel in Iraq, and other terrorism-related violations. A jury convicted Amawi, El-Hindi, and Mazloum of conspiring to kill or maim persons outside the U.S., including U.S. military personnel serving in Iraq, and conspiring to provide material support to terrorists. Amawi and El-Hindi were also convicted of distributing information regarding the manufacture or use of explosives, including suicide bomb vests and Improvised Explosive Devices.

As part of the conspiracy, the defendants conducted firearms training and accessed and copied instructions in the construction and use of explosives – including IEDs and suicide bomb vests. In addition, the

defendants conspired to recruit others to participate in jihad training; researched and solicited funding sources for such training; and proposed sites for training in firearms, explosives and hand-to-hand combat to prospective recruits.

Amawi knowingly distributed a guide describing the step-by-step process for manufacturing chemical explosive compounds, as well as a video entitled, "Martyrdom Operation Vest Preparation," which described the step-by-step construction and use of a suicide bomb vest. Amawi distributed these materials with the intent that they be used for training others to commit a crime of violence, including the killing of U.S. nationals overseas.

To read more:

http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/news/nation/2009-10-21-military-plot_N.htm

U.S. v. Schmidt: Richard Schmidt, a man from Toledo with a prior manslaughter conviction, pleaded guilty to a variety of firearms charges after investigators found him in possession of 18 firearms, body armor and more than 40,000 rounds of ammunition. Evidence presented in the case showed Schmidt was tracking the movements of African-American and Jewish civil rights leaders in Ohio and Michigan. Schmidt was sentenced to more than six years in prison.

To read more:

http://investigations.nbcnews.com/_news/2013/02/21/17046951-feds-say-neo-nazi-with-guns-was-tracking-community-leaders

U.S. v. Al-Ghazi: Amir Al-Ghazi, of Sheffield Lake, was indicted on charges of providing material support to Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), as well as firearms and narcotics violations. Al-Ghazi is alleged to have pledged his support to

ISIL and Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi via social media in 2014. From July 2014 to June 2015, Al-Ghazi made multiple statements trying to persuade others to join ISIL. He also expressed his own desire to perpetrate an attack on the United States and had attempted to purchase an AK-47 assault rifle. Al-Ghazi has communicated with individuals he believed to be members of ISIL in the Middle East and took steps to create propaganda videos for ISIL, according to court documents. His case is pending.

To read more:

<http://www.wkyc.com/story/news/local/cleveland/2015/07/16/sheffield-lake-man-indicted-for-providing-support-to-isil/30237317/>

U.S. v. Mohammad, et. al.: Yahya Farooq Mohammad, Ibrahim Zubair Mohammad, Asif Ahmed Salim and Sultane Room Salim were each indicted for conspiring to travel to Yemen to provide thousands of dollars to support violent jihad against the United States. The four men conspired between 2005 and 2012 to provide at least \$22,000 in cash, equipment and other support to Anwar Al-Awlaki, a key leader of Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, according to court documents. Their case is pending.

U.S. v. McNeil: Terrance McNeil, of Akron, was indicted for with soliciting the murder of members of the U.S. military. McNeil professed his support on social media on numerous occasions for the Islamic State of Iraq and Levant (ISIL), a designated foreign terrorist organization. In 2015, McNeil used a Tumblr account to reblog a file with the banner "Islamic State Hacking Division," followed by "Target: United States Military" and "Leak: Addresses of 100 U.S. Military Personnel." The .gif file urged ISIL sympathizers to behead and stab members of the military in the United States. The file

then looped several dozen photographs, purportedly of U.S. military personnel, along with their respective name, address and military branch. The final image looped is a picture of a handgun and a knife with text that reads "...and kill them wherever you find them..." McNeil's case is pending.

To read more:

<http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/ohio-man-called-deaths-u-s-military-members-article-1.2432943>

CYBER CRIME

U.S. v. Frost: Mitchell L. Frost, of Bellevue, Ohio, was sentenced to 30 months in prison for hacking into the University of Akron computer system and then launching cyber-attacks on various web sites, including national news personalities. Frost, while a student at the University of Akron, used the school's computer network to access IRC channels on the Internet to control other computers and computer networks. He did this with computers intentionally infected and taken over, known as "BotNet" zombies, in 2006 and 2007. Frost gained access to other computer networks by scanning the Internet searching for computer networks which were vulnerable to attack or

unauthorized intrusion, gaining unauthorized access to and control over such computers, and fraudulently obtaining user names and passwords for users on such systems. Frost used compromised computers to spread malicious computer codes, commands, and information to even more computers, all for the purpose of harvesting and obtaining information and data from the compromised computer networks, including user names, passwords, credit card numbers, and CVV security codes, and for the purpose of launching denial of service attacks on computer systems and Internet websites. Frost admitted that he initiated these attacks on www.joinrudy2008.com, www.billoreilly.com, and www.anncoulter.com, among others, temporarily interrupting operation of the websites. He also initiated denial of service attacks against the University of Akron computer server, which caused the entire University of Akron computer network to be knocked off-line for a day.

To read more:

<http://www.computerworld.com/article/2514135/security0/student-who-hacked-bill-o-reilly-gets-30-months.html>

IV. MAJOR AND ORGANIZED CRIME UNIT

The Major and Organized Crime Unit is responsible for the prosecution of a diverse range of cases involving violent crime, child exploitation, environmental crime, fraud-related offenses, organized crime and firearms offenses.

Violent crime, much of it perpetrated using firearms, remains an urgent problem in Northern Ohio. The district includes several large metropolitan areas that face serious economic challenges, struggling school systems and a loss of population. As happens across the country, these problems sometimes manifest themselves in the form of gang activity, drug trafficking, robberies and related violent crime.

Cleveland often is listed as one of the most violent cities in the country – as measured by violent crimes per 100,000 residents – in annual FBI data, and several other large cities in the district have violent crime rates higher than the national average.

In response to this threat, the office has made combating violent crime a priority. This has been done through aggressive enforcement and a variety of innovative programs in which we partner with the FBI, ATF, U.S. Marshal, local law enforcement, state agencies and others.

The office has implemented effective Project Safe Neighborhoods programs designed to fit the specific problems faced by each city. Often this has come in the form of task forces made up of federal, state and local law enforcement officials to review and refer gun cases to the appropriate prosecutor's office, either federal or state. The goal is to bring together all appropriate law enforcement agencies to ensure a uniform and comprehensive approach to reducing violent crime.



These programs have resulted in a hundreds of federal indictments, firearms seized, strengthened partnerships and renewed emphasis on keeping firearms out of the hands of those who are forbidden from possessing them. These indictments have been for felons in possession of firearms, straw purchases and illegally trafficking in firearms, among others.

Nearly 1,100 firearms indictments have been filed since 2010, with the average defendant receiving a sentence of more than six years in prison.

The Major and Organized Crime Unit also aggressively prosecutes child exploitation and abuse cases and, working with various agencies, identifies and rescues child victims. In addition to such cases, the office engages in significant outreach to youth groups, including hosting an innovative Sexting Town Hall Meeting. The meeting, done in partnership with WVIZ Ideastream in March 2010, was viewed by students at nearly 100 schools across the country.

The office also partners with the EPA to prosecute criminal violations of environmental laws, including the Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act. The unit also works with relevant agencies to prosecute provable immigration cases presented to the office.

ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS

V-GRIP: One of the office's signature successes is the Violence and Gun Reduction Interdiction Program (V-GRIP). This initiative began in Youngstown and later expanded to include Warren and the entire Mahoning Valley. It was then replicated in both Toledo and Cleveland. V-GRIP brings together federal and state prosecutors, local police, federal agents and state agencies as part of a targeted gun suppression action, then partners with community and neighborhood groups to offer alternatives to crime. An editorial in the *Youngstown Vindicator* stated: "The announcement that V-GRIP has returned this summer is such encouraging news for the Mahoning Valley. The criminals are on notice that they may be able to run, but they can't hide. Indeed, they got a taste of what's coming last weekend when 18 scofflaws were arrested on outstanding warrants, several were nabbed for new offenses and one assault rifle was seized. It was good start to a summer of hope for the residents of communities that have been held hostage by criminals. Having law enforcement officials from so many agencies participate means attention will be paid to high-crime neighborhoods... There will be increased patrols in neighborhood hot spots, targeted enforcement, cooperation on federal, state and local levels, training for law enforcement and an increase in federal prosecution. Dettelbach did not mince words when he issued this warning to the lawless: 'Either you take a break and stop what you're doing, or we're prepared to arrange an extended break for you in prison.'" The

VGRIP program, which targets the worst of the worst violent criminals for federal prosecution has had demonstrable effects on lowering crime when it has been utilized.

To read more:
<http://fox8.com/2012/11/28/policebeefupfigh/>

To read more:
<http://www.vindy.com/news/2010/sep/24/v-grip-takes-credit-for-homicide-reducti/>

To read more:
<http://www.tribtoday.com/page/content.detail/id/558095/VGRIP-program-is-back.html?nav=5021>



Operation Samson: Cleveland was selected for the ATF's summer anti-violence initiative, Operation Samson, in 2014, after Cleveland's Mayor reached out to the U.S. Attorney's Office seeking help combatting gun violence in the city. ATF agents and Cleveland police officers worked collaboratively with the U.S. Attorney's Office and the Cuyahoga County prosecutor for a multi-pronged strategy, which incorporated undercover purchases, testing of recovered shell casings and inspections of licensed firearms dealers in the area. It resulted in 60 convictions and 110 firearms seized.

To read more:

http://www.cleveland.com/court-justice/index.ssf/2014/10/feds_announce_gun_law_crackdown.html

Undercover stores: The office has worked with ATF agents to operate two stores in which undercover agents purchased illegal firearms, ammunition and narcotics and prosecuted over 100 cases. The 2011 operation in Mansfield resulted in 60 indictments and 70 weapons seized, as well as seizures of cocaine, heroin and more than 1,300 prescription painkillers. The 2013 operation in Warren resulted in 42 indictments and 155 weapons seized. These programs were uniformly praised and led to hundreds of illegal weapons being removed from the streets.

To read more:

http://blog.cleveland.com/metro/2011/08/undercover_operation_removes_g.html

To read more:

<http://www.vindy.com/news/2013/apr/18/feds-indict-42-warren-area-drug-weapons-charges/>

Northern Ohio Violent Crime Consortium:
The Northern Ohio Violent Crime

Consortium (NOVCC) was started by the office and brings together representatives from eight of the largest police departments in the district -- Akron, Canton, Cleveland, Elyria, Lorain, Mansfield, Toledo and Youngstown -- with county, state and federal agencies.

The office organizes and conducts the monthly meetings in which we discuss trends, share intelligence and talk about best practices, including community policing initiatives designed to break down barriers between police and the community. For example, Canton police, federal agents and our office worked together to successfully identify, investigate and prosecute the Rated R street gang, which brought firearms, heroin and cocaine into Canton from throughout the Midwest.

NOVCC was recently selected as one of three sites in the country to be a Nationwide Crime Analysis Capability Project. This Safer Communities Through Smart Policing initiative's primary objectives are: to expand the crime-analysis capacity of participating departments; to increase data sharing among participants; to establish standardized reporting protocols, and to utilize evidence-based responses to regional crime problems. A tool kit will be designed that will be shared as a national model.

Based on its high performance, the group recently received a Smart on Crime grant to expand crime analysis and intelligence-led policing beyond our eight member cities and into outlying suburbs and sheriff's departments. All of this work is done with an emphasis on community engagement and strengthening the bonds between the police and the people.

SAMPLE CASES

FIREARMS CASES

U.S. v. Alexander et al.: Kali Alexander, Rasheam Nichols, Justin Maxwell, Terrance Chappell and Kenneth Flowers were convicted of conspiring to conduct an armed robbery of a drug stash house. An undercover agent posed as a disgruntled drug courier who sought a robbery of a drug stash house. Alexander, a previously convicted felon, agreed to conduct a robbery. He recruited the other members of the conspiracy, who all agreed to conduct an armed robbery of the stash house where they expected nearly 20 pounds of cocaine. All members of the conspiracy with the exception of one were previously convicted felons, and three were convicted of a previous armed robbery. The defendants discussed in numerous recorded conversation they would conduct the robbery, and agreed to shoot anyone if necessary. The defendants were arrested in possession of five loaded firearms. At trial, the defendants were convicted on all counts of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine, use of a firearm during a drug trafficking crime, and felon in possession. They each received sentences of 15 years in prison.

To read more:

<http://www.wkyc.com/story/news/local/cleveland/2015/09/01/drug-ring-leader-sentenced-planning-rob-drug-house/71534926/>

U.S. v. Clements: Raymone Clements was sentenced to nearly 23 years in prison after a jury found him guilty of one count each of being a felon in possession of a firearm and being a felon in possession of ammunition. Clements was shot a dog in a park in Cleveland Heights and has possession of a firearm and ammunition, despite 15 felony

convictions, including rape, drug trafficking and aggravated robbery.

To read more:

<http://www.clevescene.com/scene-and-heard/archives/2013/04/04/raymone-clements-convicted-of-firearms-ammo-possession>

VIOLENT CRIME

U.S. v. Lewis: In 2005, Antun Lewis set the deadliest house fire in Cleveland history, torching a house on East 87th Street that was hosting a child's birthday sleepover party. Eight children and one adult were killed. Lewis eluded justice for years, despite the dogged investigation of federal, state and local law enforcement. The office agreed to prosecute Lewis in federal court, with a case built on phone records and the testimony of jailhouse informants. A jury convicted Lewis in 2011 of intentionally setting the fire, but the judge ordered a new trial, citing lingering doubt. Again, the office prosecuted the case, and in 2013 a jury again convicted Lewis on all counts. Lewis was sentenced to 35 years in federal prison.

To read more:

<http://time.com/2908228/cleveland-man-fire/>



U.S. v. Dye: U.S. Attorney Dettelbach personally prosecuted the case in which Kevin Dye firebombed Mansfield City Hall and Municipal Courthouse as well as a local Mansfield business. Dye was convicted following a trial and was sentenced to 60 years in federal prison.

CHILD PROTECTION

U.S. v. Thomas: Robert W. Thomas, of Cuyahoga Falls, was sentenced to 30 years in prison for attempting to purchase a 10-year-old girl. He was found guilty of offering to buy a child, enticement and receipt and distribution of visual depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct. He was arrested in 2014 after attempting to purchase a female child to keep and use for sexual purposes. The man had posted on an online site asking for anyone willing to arrange a “marriage” of their daughter to him. Undercover law enforcement officers responded and Thomas agreed to a meeting with them to purchase for \$400 what he believed to be a 10-year-old child. Thomas and the officer, acting in an undercover capacity, met in a business establishment in Alliance and then went outside to complete the “transaction.” Thomas was arrested as the two approached the undercover officer’s vehicle. He had \$400 cash in his hand.

To read more:
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/01/13/robert-thomas-buys-girl_n_4590774.html

U.S. v. Koch: William T. Koch was sentenced to 20 years in prison for production of child pornography, child exploitation, extortion, identity theft and related crimes. Koch, of Columbia Station, attempted to coerce more than a dozen minors to engage in sexually explicit conduct between 2010 and 2013 for the purpose of producing child pornography.

To read more:
<http://chronicle.northcoastnow.com/2014/10/14/man-sentenced-for-trying-to-extort-nude-photos-from-teens/>

U.S. v. Cavna: Christopher Cavna, of Youngstown, was sentenced to 90 years in prison for producing, distributing and receiving child pornography. Cavna, in 2013, permitted two minors under the age of 10 to engage in sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of producing a visual depiction of such conduct, and such visual depiction was produced using materials that had been mailed, shipped, and transported in interstate or foreign commerce by any means, including by computer.

U.S. v. al Malaki: Malek M. Al Maliki, Jr., of Cleveland, was sentenced to 24 years in prison after a jury found him guilty of traveling abroad to illegally engage in illicit sexual conduct with children. Al Maliki, a U.S. citizen, traveled to Syria in 2010 and engaged and attempt to engage in illicit sexual conduct with two children.

ENVIRONMENTAL CASES

U.S. v. Lupo et al.: Benedict Lupo, his company Hardrock, and two employees were charged with making illegal discharges in the Mahoning River. Lupo directed the employees to empty waste liquids from oil and gas drilling operations into stormwater sewer located at the Hardrock facility. The liquids then flowed into a tributary of the Mahoning River, and eventually into the Mahoning River. Cleanup of the tributary cost approximately \$3.2 million. Lupo was sentenced to more than two years in prison.

To read more:
<http://www.cantonrep.com/article/20130214/NEWS/302149810>

U.S. v. Montorsi et al.: A Strongsville company and the company owner's wife pleaded guilty for their roles in the dumping of a drum of liquid cyanide into a storm drain that flowed into the Rocky River, resulting in the death of more than 30,000 fish. Kennedy Mint paid \$300,000 to the Cleveland Metroparks and \$30,893 to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources -- \$1 for every fish killed by the illegal discharge. The money was used to restock the river with steelhead trout. In 2012, company employees punched a hole in a drum that included a poison label featuring a skull and cross bones. After punching the hole, liquid cyanide in the drum was discharged into the storm drain and eventually the East Branch of the Rocky River.

To read more: <http://www.news-herald.com/general-news/20130829/woman-husbands-firm-to-pay-330000-after-rocky-river-fish-kill>

U.S. v. Gattarello et al.: Christopher Gattarello was found guilty of fraud, money laundering and violating the Clean Air Act by failing to remove asbestos prior to demolishing a former factory in Cleveland. Gattarello owned and controlled several municipal garbage-hauling businesses. He leased an old factory located near many homes and a school. Gattarello had paper, cardboard and municipal garbage delivered to the facility for recycling. Most of the facility was eventually filled with garbage. Gattarello entered into a contract to purchase the facility. Gattarello intended to demolish the facility and sell any metal removed as scrap. Company officials submitted a notice of demolition with the Cleveland Division of Air Quality falsely stating there was no asbestos in the facility. The city rejected the notice. Gattarello has the building demolished anyway, releasing asbestos fibers into the environment. His sentencing is pending.

V. NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING

The Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF Unit) handles the narcotics trafficking cases in the district, and continues to be one of the elite performers nationally. The office's OCDETF program features prosecutors and investigators working side-by-side in shared office space, in close consultation from the start of the investigation to the finish.

The investigators form the Northern Ohio Law Enforcement Task Force, a long standing multi-agency task force funded through the federal High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area initiative. They include members of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Cleveland Division of Police, Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority, Drug Enforcement Administration, Internal Revenue Service, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation, Cleveland Heights Police Department, Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Office, Euclid Police Department, Regional Transit Authority Police Department, Lakewood Police Department, Westlake Police Department and Shaker Heights Police Department.

The synergy created by having the investigators housed with the prosecutors is one of the reasons the program outperforms much larger cities across the nation.

The district faces a series of daunting challenges when it comes to combating drug trafficking. The district has three major airports, Cleveland, Akron-Canton and Toledo, plus large airports nearby in Detroit and Pittsburgh, which offer organized drug trafficking organizations myriad choices for flying their drugs into the region. The district also shares miles of an open lake border with Canada. The port in Cleveland also has direct access from Europe. With

Interstates 71, 75 and 77 running north and south and Interstates 80 and 90 running east and west, Mexican cartels can ship their drugs to Northern Ohio from Texas, Arizona, California, Illinois and other source states. Caribbean drug trafficking organizations do the same from New York and Florida. Ohio has the eighth-largest national highway system, which carries the seventh-highest volume of traffic in the nation, allowing drug transporters to blend in with the natural flow of traffic.

Since fiscal year 2011, the OCDETF Unit has indicted 1,455 people and earned 1,385 convictions. In 2014, for example, only the units in Miami and Los Angeles indicted and convicted for more people.

Statistics from the Ohio HIDTA 2015 Threat Assessment & Strategy confirm that heroin distribution controlled by affiliated Mexican cartels is the single greatest drug threat within our district. Heroin overdose deaths in Cuyahoga County more than tripled, from 64 in 2009 to 196 in 2014, for example, and surrounding areas saw a similar increase.

In response to this epidemic, the United States Attorney's office brought together partners from the law enforcement, medical, treatment and drug prevention communities for two summits at the Cleveland Clinic.

The first, in 2012, focused on effective strategies to reduce the diversion of prescription painkillers from legitimate medical need to recreational use. The second summit, in November 2013, focused more broadly on opioid abuse, including heroin. The participants developed, drafted and implemented a Community Action Plan aimed at combating the scourge of heroin and opioid abuse in the region.

To read more: <http://www.news-herald.com/article/HR/20131122/NEWS/131129818>

<http://www.newsnet5.com/news/local-news/cleveland-metro/summit-on-heroin-crisis-in-northeast-ohio-aims-to-develop-plans-to-combat-addiction>

The U.S. Attorney's Office, Cleveland Division of Police, Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Office, Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office, Medical Examiner's Office, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation, and FBI combined to devise a coordinated law enforcement response to the heroin epidemic. These partners created the Heroin Involved Death Investigation Teams, which respond to every heroin overdose (fatal and non-fatal) occurring in Cuyahoga County. The team consists of officers, who have been designated as TFOs by the FBI, from the Cleveland Division of Police and the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Office, a prosecutor from the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office as well as one of the Medical Examiner's Office's investigators. Team members respond to the location of a heroin overdose and process the location as a crime scene, attempting to preserve all available evidence and interview as many witnesses as possible with the overall goal of identifying the source responsible for selling the heroin to the overdose victim.

A similar initiative is being started in Lucas County, supported in part through a federal grant.

Some of the noteworthy OCDEF cases in recent years:

U.S. v. Hazelwood, et al.: Nine people were convicted in one of the largest Internet pill diversion cases in the country and the first in the district. The case involved James Hazelwood and doctors prescribing and

dispensing hundreds of thousands of pills to people who contacted them via web sites Hazelwood controlled. In addition to the cash and property forfeited, the various Internet domain names were also forfeited and closed.



U.S. v. Hackett, et al.: LSP was a violent gang that terrorized the historic Idora Park neighborhood in Youngstown since 2003. The gang controlled an entire neighborhood with violence and threats. During the investigation, members of the gang shot at the lead case agent with a high-powered rifle, threatened witnesses and tried to murder an informant. The gang's income came from narcotics trafficking, armed robberies, auto thefts and burglaries. The LSP investigation included dozens of controlled buys of drugs and guns and multiple federal and state search warrants. In 2012, members of the gang were indicted in the first racketeering conspiracy indictment in the Northern District of Ohio targeting a street gang. In all, 22 members of the LSP gang were convicted of RICO conspiracy and related charges. The four lead defendants are serving more than 115 years combined incarceration. As a result of this case, the Idora Park neighborhood is once again being enjoyed by its residents, free from worries of violence and intimidation from LSP.



U.S. v. Ugochukwu, et al.: Operation Little Wren involved the use of multiple Title III applications, GPS orders, search warrants, and telephone tracking orders. The investigation culminated in the indictment of 27 people, all but one of whom was convicted. One Colombian national remains at large. The investigation began with Christopher Sapp, a known heroin trafficker in Cleveland, and quickly expanded Sapp's suppliers. Ultimately, Christopher Ugochukwu was determined to be the leader of this organization. Ugochukwu imported heroin from the Middle East through body carriers from Nigeria. Search warrant raids yielded approximately 17 kilograms of heroin, \$1.2 million in cash in a safe bolted to a basement floor and hundreds of thousands of dollars in other locations. The 17 kilogram seizure is believed to be the largest heroin seizure ever in Ohio. The cash and multiple residences, including a \$1 million home in Solon, were all seized and forfeited. Ugochukwu was tried, convicted and sentenced to more than 26 years in prison.

U.S. v. Martin, et al.: Operation Northwest Express involved the use of six separate Title III interceptions resulting in the recording of 36,999 drug calls and the execution of 11 search warrants. The

investigation culminated in the indictment of 73 federal defendants and 18 state defendants in 2012. The 72-person conspiracy charge was the largest federal narcotics indictment in Ohio. The indicted drug trafficking organization was responsible for bringing millions of dollars of cocaine into Ohio from Georgia and Kentucky. Several high-ranking members of the 22 Boys Gang from Kentucky were convicted and sent to prison for their role in robbing and shooting an informant used in the case. All 91 defendants pleaded guilty. Agents conducted more than 60 proffers with the defendants that ultimately helped local police solve several violent assaults and home invasions as well as a previously unsolved murder in the Cleveland area.

U.S. v. Ricks, et al.: Operation Fox Hound involved the use of 11 Title III applications, seven vehicle GPS orders, five search warrants and seven telephone tracking orders. The investigation culminated in the indictment of 60 federal defendants and 32 state defendants in September 2013. The investigation was particularly significant because the individuals arrested included Keith Ricks, Maceo Moore and their associates. Ricks and Moore had been investigated for years by Cleveland Police and the FBI's Violent Crime Squad for a series of violent home invasions and homicides. Ricks and Moore frequently robbed drug dealers and then sold the stolen drugs. Using federal drug statutes, their crew was completely dismantled. Moore pleaded guilty and was sentenced to more than 17 years in prison. Ricks went to trial, where he was convicted and sentenced to life in prison. This one long-term investigation dismantled an entire network of drug dealers and stopped a stream of violence that had plagued the community for several years.

U.S. v. Garcia, et al.: Operation Black Widow involved the use of 14 pen

register/trap and trace, three vehicle GPS orders, two search warrants, 30 controlled drug buys and four telephone tracking orders. The first phase of the investigation culminated in April 2015, when search warrants were served in two locations and almost one kilogram of black tar heroin and a firearm were seized. Victor Morales

Garcia and his two partners were indicted in a multi-count federal indictment charging narcotics and firearm offenses. This trafficking organization was responsible for a significant amount of highly potent and dangerous black tar heroin flowing into the district.

VI. MAJOR FRAUD AND CORRUPTION

The Northern District of Ohio has several unique characteristics that present crime challenges for the office. Several national media outlets including *The New York Times* and 60 Minutes have called Greater Cleveland “ground zero” for the foreclosure crisis that followed a wave of mortgage fraud and the collapse of the housing market. Northern Ohio has an older population and was hit disproportionately hard by the recession, which left some more susceptible to financial fraud. At the same time, Cleveland is a global leader for healthcare, with thousands of people traveling to the region annually for examinations, surgeries and other medical procedures.

Prosecuting the crimes that accompany these challenges often falls to the Major Fraud and Corruption Unit.

It is responsible for prosecuting a wide range of financial and white-collar crime, including health care fraud, securities fraud, mortgage fraud and public corruption. These cases typically involve analyzing bank records, complex financial transactions and tax records. Prosecutors work with agents from the FBI, IRS, Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Health and Human Services, and others.

The office also organized a Health Care Fraud Task Force for law enforcement and government agencies to meet quarterly to discuss trends and pending cases. Participating agencies include the FBI, HHS-OIG, Department of Defense, Ohio Bureau of Worker’s Compensation, Ohio Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, Postal Service, Ohio Medical Board, Ohio Board of Pharmacy, Social Security Administration, Federal Trade Commission, Ohio Chiropractic Board and IRS. Prosecutors

also meet regularly with investigators from private insurance companies to discuss trends and suspicious activity.

Since 2010, the office has recovered more than \$217 million in fines and restitution related to health care fraud, consistently several times the entire budget needed to run the United States Attorney’s Office.

This unit was also responsible for prosecuting public corruption and graft throughout the district. Most prominently in the last several years, these included a group of cases that came to be known as the Cuyahoga County corruption investigation, which dismantled a corrupt, political machine operating in Ohio’s largest county. The behavior uncovered in the investigation and exposed at trial is considered a major factor in the Cuyahoga County electorate voting to establish a new form of government.

SAMPLE CASES

Public Corruption

The Cuyahoga County Corruption

Investigation: From 2009 through 2015, a team of Assistant U.S. Attorneys and agents of the FBI, IRS-CI, VA OIG and the Department of Labor prosecuted 66 public officials and business executives in Cuyahoga County. This series of cases ended a corrupt regime in Ohio’s largest county. It was the largest public corruption case in the nation.

The team proved at several trials that County Commissioner Jimmy Dimora orchestrated a decade-long racketeering conspiracy involving 19 separate bribery schemes and more than 100 bribes. This team’s efforts convinced judges to impose

message-sending sentences for Dimora (28 years) and County Auditor Frank Russo (22 years).

Once two of the most powerful local elected officials in Ohio, Dimora and Russo accepted hundreds of bribes in the form of cash, home improvements, travel, sexual services, and campaign contributions -- in exchange for corrupting nearly every aspect of their elected positions. They rigged an election, fixed court cases, steered public contracts, approved public grants and loans, hired and promoted friends and cronies, and fixed property valuations.



The team also obtained convictions of two state court judges, the director of Cleveland's Veterans Affairs Medical Center, two union leaders, nine attorneys (including five former prosecutors), two school board presidents, a school district treasurer, a housing authority director, a Port Authority board member, two city council

members, a community development director, two senior executives at MetroHealth Medical Center, 11 other county employees, and approximately 30 business owners and employees. Sadly, the case involved corruption in nearly every part and at every level of local government, but the dedicated men and women who prosecuted the case restored, for many, faith that public servants could fight for the people.

To read more:

<http://www.cleveland.com/countyincrisis/>

http://www.cleveland.com/opinion/index.ssf/2012/02/frank_russo_and_jimmy_dimora_o.html

<http://fox8.com/tag/county-corruption/>

U.S. v. Schatz: William B. Schatz, of Moreland Hills, pleaded guilty to bribery and tax counts. Schatz, who was the general counsel of the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS), took bribes totaling approximately \$682,130 from Robert J. Kassouf, a contractor on NEORS's Mill Creek Tunnel project. The defendants used a third person, Stanley Lojek, as an intermediary for the bribes.

In addition, Schatz embezzled approximately \$166,940 from the NEORS. Finally, for four consecutive years, Schatz failed to report on his federal tax returns nearly \$700,000 in income from his private law practice and from his bribery and embezzlement schemes. Schatz was sentenced to nearly six years in prison, Kassouf was sentenced nearly five years in prison and Lojek was sentenced to one year in prison.

U.S. v. Smith: Gerald Smith, Jr., the former police chief of Kirtland Hills, was sentenced to two years in prison for defrauding the

village out of at least \$80,000 by making unauthorized purchases of clothing, tools and goods for his own personal use. Smith, while chief, used village credit cards to partially furnish his Florida condominium, including ceiling fans, plumbing supplies, vacuum cleaners, children's lunch boxes and story books, clothing, televisions, book shelves, personal hygiene items, firearms, car repairs and more. He concealed these purchases by making false entries on receipts to make it appear they were made by others or made for official police business.

U.S. v. Middleton: Jacqueline K. Middleton, the former head of a Cleveland-area anti-poverty agency, was sentenced to 30 months in prison for accepting more than \$23,000 in cash, home renovations and other things of value in exchange for steering work to specific contractors. Middleton served as president and chief executive officer of the Council of Economic Opportunities of Greater Cleveland, which was organized with the purpose of serving low-income people of Cuyahoga County and Greater Cleveland. Middleton used her official position to enrich herself by soliciting and accepting gifts, payments and other things of value from contractors who did business with CEOGC.

U.S. v. Suarez: Benjamin Suarez was sentenced to 15 months in prison for obstruction of justice. Suarez, of Canton, was convicted on one count of obstruction of justice following a jury trial. He was acquitted on seven counts related to campaign finance laws.

U.S. v. Watkins: Bernard Watkins, the technical supervisor for safety and security with the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, was convicted following trial of taking a \$7,000 bribe from a vendor. He was sentenced to six years in prison.

U.S. v. Alatrash, et al.: Faisal Alatrash, a project superintendent for the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, was sentenced to more than eight years in prison following his trial for taking bribes from contractors and steering work to his wife's cleaning company. His wife, who was convicted in the same trial for lying to the FBI, was sentenced to nearly two years in prison.

U.S. v. Lee: Summit County Councilwoman Tamela Lee was charged with taking cash bribes and other things of value in exchange for official actions, including help with court cases, impeding a pending IRS investigation and assistance obtaining a liquor license. Lee allegedly solicited and accepted things from owners of Akron-area convenience stores, including money, loans, campaign contributions, home improvements, home maintenance and consumer goods in return, for performing official acts. Lee's case is pending.

Health Care Fraud

U.S. v. Persaud: Dr. Harold Persaud, a Westlake cardiologist, was sentenced to 20 years in prison for performing unnecessary catheterizations, tests, stent insertions and causing unnecessary coronary artery bypass surgeries as part of a scheme to overbill Medicare and other insurers by \$7.2 million. He defrauded Medicare and other insurers over six years. He selected the billing code for each customer submitted to Medicare and private insurers, and used codes that reflected a service that was more costly than that which was actually performed; he performed nuclear stress tests on patients that were not medically necessary; he knowingly recorded false results of patients' nuclear stress tests to justify cardiac catheterization procedures that were not medically necessary; he performed cardiac catheterizations on patients at the hospitals

and falsely recorded the existence and extent of lesions (blockage) observed during the procedures; he recorded false symptoms in patient records to justify testing and procedures on patients; he inserted cardiac stents in patients who did not have 70 percent or more blockage in the vessel that he stented and who did not have symptoms of blockage; he placed a stent in a stenosed artery that already had a functioning bypass, thus providing no medical benefit and increasing the risk of harm to the patient and he performed medically unnecessary stent procedures, aortograms, renal angiograms and other procedures and tests, among other activities.

To read more:

http://www.cleveland.com/court-justice/index.ssf/2015/09/jury_finds_westlake_cardiologi.html

U.S. v. Iskander: Dr. Hany Iskander, who defrauded public and private insurers of millions of dollars based on his claimed performance of medically unnecessary pain management injections, was sentenced to a 3 1/2 years in prison. Iskander shredded documents and attempted to flee the country when he learned of the criminal investigation. He was found guilty of health care fraud and obstruction. Iskander forfeited almost \$7 million, which was returned to the victims in this case. Iskander will be deported to Egypt after serving his sentence.

U.S. v. Chilyan, et al.: The leaders of an international organized crime ring that stole identities of doctors and patients in an effort to bill Medicare for more than \$40 million worth of fraudulent charges were each sentenced to lengthy prison sentences in 2012 following their guilty pleas.

Karen Chilyan was sentenced to eight years in prison while Eduard Oganessian was

sentenced to 11 years in prison. These California men were believed to be part of an Armenian organized crime enterprise. The case was part of a nationwide sweep in which 73 people were indicted in five states.

The group, led by Chilyan and Oganessian, unlawfully obtained personal identifier information of 12 medical doctors, including their dates of birth, Social Security numbers and medical licensing information. Oganessian and others then leased office space to establish false front practice locations for doctors or businesses purportedly employing the doctors whose identities were stolen. Chilyan and others then submitted Medicare Provider Applications in the names of the doctors whose identities were stolen, according to the court records.

Chilyan, Oganessian, and others then opened bank accounts in the names of those doctors, all for the purpose of receiving the proceeds from false and fraudulent billings to Medicare. The group also unlawfully obtained the identities of hundreds of Medicare recipients, which they then used to submit false and fraudulent bills to Medicare for services that were never provided. The defendants submitted bills for more than \$48 million worth of false services to Medicare, nearly \$13 million of which were paid out, according to the court records.

U.S. v. Ward, et al.: Sharon Ward was sentenced to nearly eight years in prison and ordered to pay \$18 million in restitution. Ward was excluded from Medicare and Medicaid because of an earlier health care fraud conviction. But she continued to own and work at a home health care company in violation of her exclusion. She attempted to avoid detection by using a stolen identity. Ward pleaded guilty to health care fraud and aggravated identity theft.

U.S. v. Satava: Joseph Satava, the manager of credit and collections for insurance giant Medical Mutual, used sophisticated means and vulnerabilities in accounting procedures to embezzle nearly \$3 million from his employer over a decade. Satava pleaded guilty and was sentenced to nearly six years in prison.

Securities and Investor Fraud

U.S. v. Villalba: Enrique Villalba, a Beachwood investment manager, was sentenced to nearly nine years in prison for defrauding 27 investors of more than \$30 million. Villalba represented to investors that his “Money Market Plus” investment methodology provided a conservative approach to futures market trading. He represented to investors that he would put stop orders in place to protect their principal investments. Villalba did not put the stop orders in place as he represented and, as a result, lost millions of dollars of investor money. Villalba also converted millions of dollars of investor money for his own purposes, which included funding his “Rico Latte” coffee shops in Hudson and Stow, purchasing property in Vermillion and making Ponzi-type payments to some of his investors.

To read more:

<http://www.ohio.com/news/falls-investor-accused-of-bilking-clients-out-of-nearly-30-million-1.191576>



U.S. v Beachy: Monroe Beachy operated an investment company named A&M Investments in Sugarcreek from 1990 through 2010. Beachy told investors A&M would invest in risk-free U.S. government securities or bonds. He represented these investments were safe and would provide investors with consistent interest income. He also invested money for the Amish Helping Fund, established to assist members of the Amish community with the purchase of land, building, etc. Beachy was the treasurer of the fund. Beachy did not invest the money as he represented to investors. Instead, he placed their money in other government bond funds, corporate bond funds, individual stocks, and mutual funds including high yield or junk bond funds which investments were subject to market fluctuation. Beachy mailed false investment statements to A&M investors, which led investors to believe they were earning interest and had an account balance that was much higher than their actual assets. Beachy invested \$33 million from nearly 2,700 investors in 29 states. In June 2010, less

than \$18 million remained. Beachy pleaded guilty to mail fraud and was sentenced to more than six years in prison.

To read more:

http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2012/06/ohios_amish_bernie_madoff_gets.html

U.S. v. Bartoli: Eric Bartoli was indicted in 2003 and a fugitive for more than a decade when he was arrested in Peru last year. Bartoli is accused of operating a massive Ponzi scheme from 1995 through 1999. He created and operated a company by the name of Cyprus Funds, Inc., which was based in Doylestown, Ohio, and incorporated in Central America and Belize. Bartoli and his co-conspirators allegedly operated Cyprus to sell certificates of deposit and unregistered mutual funds. Cyprus raised approximately \$65 million from about 800 investors. He faces charges of conspiracy, securities fraud, selling of unregistered securities, wire fraud, mail fraud, money laundering, and attempted income tax evasion. His case is pending.

U.S. v. Harriett: David Harriett represented himself and his company as approved “project managers” for the construction of new McDonalds and Pioneer Chicken franchise restaurants in several states. He pleaded guilty to defrauding approximately 200 investors of approximately \$7 million and was sentenced to nearly six years in prison.

U.S. v. Zucker, et al.: Attorney Dale Zucker fraudulently induced approximately 19 of his clients to invest in businesses that did not exist, and further lulled these investors into a false sense of security by mailing them promissory notes that guaranteed the return of their initial investments at an interest rate of 10 to 25 percent, knowing that he would not be able to repay them. Zucker diverted

the investments for his own personal use, which included paying earlier investors, the expenses of his law practice, and his own expenses. The loss in this case was approximately \$700,000. Zucker was sentenced to nearly eight years in prison.

U.S. v. Thomas: Raymond Thomas was sentenced to six years in prison for running a Ponzi scheme. Thomas was a police officer with the Warrensville Heights Police Department when he began his fraudulent activity. He defrauded approximately 25 investors, many of whom included Cleveland area police officers and firefighters. He misappropriated investor funds for his own purposes and personal use, using investor funds for unauthorized purposes, including to make Ponzi payments to previous investors, and unlawfully commingling their funds.

U.S. v. Occhipinti: Carmen Occhipinti defrauded dozens of investors over nearly a decade by inducing them to invest over \$2 million in a granite business through fraudulent misrepresentations and omissions regarding the nature of the investments. He was sentenced to more than 10 years in prison.

U.S. v. Davian: Anthony Davian was found guilty of securities fraud, mail fraud, wire fraud, and money laundering. The defendant promoted and sold securities related to his hedge fund, Davian Capital Management, to more than 20 investors across several states from 2008 through 2013. Davian induced people to invest by misrepresenting the size and scale of his hedge funds, touting his high returns and false trading strategies, and sending fictitious letters and client statements misrepresenting the clients’ true positions. Davian defrauded investors out of nearly \$2 million. He was sentenced to nearly five years in prison.

Financial Institution Fraud

St. Paul Croatian Federal Credit Union cases: The collapse of the St. Paul Croatian Federal Credit Union is the largest credit union failures in U.S. history. More than 20 people were convicted and sentenced to prison for fraudulent activity that led to a total loss of \$170 million.

Chief Operating Officer Anthony Raguz was sentenced to 14 years in prison and ordered to pay \$72 million. Koljo Nikolovski was sentenced to 18 years in prison. Eddy Zai was sentenced to seven years in prison and ordered to pay \$23 million. Svetislav Vujovic was sentenced to nine years in prison.

Raguz, of Mentor, issued more than 1,000 fraudulent loans totaling more than \$70 million to over 300 account holders at St. Paul from 2000 to 2010. He accepted more than \$1 million worth of bribes, kickbacks, and gifts in exchange for the fraudulent loans.

Nikolovski, of Eastlake, fraudulently obtained several loans from St. Paul and Raguz, totaling approximately nearly \$6 million that were not repaid. He gave Raguz \$100,000 in exchange for approving and facilitating the fraudulent loans.

Zai, of Pepper Pike, submitted false loan documents and got loans approved in exchange for cash bribes paid to Raguz. Zai operated several companies, including the Cleveland International Fund. Prosecutors worked out a unique deal to accept restitution payments from the Cleveland International Fund without closing the fund, which would have jeopardized funding for several development projects in Cleveland.

Vujovic, of Brunswick, received fraudulently loans totaling about \$3 million

from the credit union. He obtained these loans by making false representations and promises, and he received many of those loans after having already defaulted on previous loans issued to him by the credit union. Vujovic corruptly gave Raguz \$20,000 in cash to induce and reward him for approving and facilitating the approval of the fraudulent loans.

To read more:

http://blog.cleveland.com/metro/2011/04/credit_union_collapse_shakes_c.html

<http://www.crainscleveland.com/article/20131014/FREE/131019928/cleveland-international-fund-is-rehabilitated-relocated>

Taupā Credit Union Cases: Alex Spirikaitis, the former manager of the Taupa Credit Union in Cleveland, pleaded guilty to a conspiracy to commit bank fraud that caused the credit union to collapse. Spirikaitis embezzled \$4.2 million from the credit union and assisted others in defrauding the credit union, causing a total loss of \$15 million. Eight people were found guilty and sentenced to prison. Spirikaitis was sentenced to nearly 10 years in prison.

Mortgage Fraud

U.S. v. Coppenger, et al.: Coppenger was the leader of a 53-member mortgage fraud conspiracy. He conceived the scheme, involving defendants in Ohio and Florida, recruited straw buyers and managed the mortgage brokers. The scheme involved paying straw buyers to make false statements on mortgage loan applications concerning their finances, their ability to pay, their intent to live in the properties and the source of their down payment funds. In all, financial institutions lost approximately \$40 million. Coppenger was sentenced to more than eight years in prison.

U.S. v. Lesniak, et al.: Ten people were convicted in a case involving \$50 million in fraudulent loans and hundreds of residential properties in Northeast Ohio. Tony Viola was sentenced to more than 12 years in prison and Uri Gofman was sentenced to eight years.



U.S. v. France, et al.: Thomas France, a real estate agent, and six others were convicted of defrauding financial institutions in a mortgage fraud scheme involving six luxury properties in Medina. The financial institutions lost approximately \$4 million. France was sentenced to 10 years in prison.

Foreign Corrupt Practices Act Case

U.S. v. Diebold Inc.: Diebold Inc., the Ohio-based provider of integrated self-service delivery and security systems, including automated teller machines, paid a \$25.2 million criminal penalty because it violated the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act by bribing government officials in China and Indonesia and falsifying records in Russia in order to obtain and retain contracts to provide ATMs to state-owned and private banks in those

countries. The company reported its own misconduct and agreed to have an outside monitor in order to enhance its global compliance efforts.

Tax Cases

U.S. v. Zakarian: Richard Zakarian was sentenced to 17 1/2 years in prison and ordered to pay more than \$4.4 million in restitution for financial crimes that victimized nearly 100 clients. Zakarian, of Vermilion, was a certified financial planner and a self-employed tax preparer who owned and operated several business ventures. He operated two schemes – one to defraud investment clients (many of whom were also clients of his tax-preparation business) and another to defraud clients whose payroll taxes he handled through a company known as Ben Franklin Payroll Service. Many of the payroll tax victims were churches, charities and other non-profit organizations that Zakarian lured as clients through purported grants from charity he claimed to operate.

U.S. v. Jacobs: Cleveland attorney Leslie W. Jacobs, was sentenced to one year and one day in prison for false income taxes from 2004 through 2007. He evaded taxes of approximately \$75,000. Jacobs had been the president of the Ohio State Bar Association and was a partner in a large Cleveland law firm. He prepared his tax returns without the assistance of a professional tax preparer and underreported the income earned from his firm, and falsely inflated his law firm business expense deductions.

VII. TOLEDO BRANCH OFFICE

The Toledo office handles all government criminal, civil and bankruptcy litigation in the western part of the district, which consists of 21 counties in northwest and west-central Ohio.

This territory is a mix of the Toledo metropolitan area, rural areas that rely on agriculture, medium sized cities with industrial bases, including Marion and Lima, and suburban areas. Like all of Ohio, this region was particularly hard hit by the foreclosure crisis and recession, with unemployment rates higher than the national average.

The urban areas face crime challenges that most large cities do – gang-related crime, drug trafficking and firearms violence. Toledo has been hypothesized to be a hub for human trafficking because it is at an intersection of major highways running across the country east-west (Interstate 80/90) and north-south (Interstate 75).

The Toledo area and Marion have been particularly hard hit by the heroin and opioid crisis, which is at epidemic levels throughout Ohio and the country.

Between 2010 and 2015, the Toledo office filed 516 indictments and criminal informations charging 675 people. The prosecutions reflected the crime threats facing the region: large-scale drug trafficking, financial institution fraud, health care fraud, violent crimes and firearms violations.



The office also handled numerous prosecutions involving human trafficking and crimes against children (including receipt, distribution and production of child pornography) and the Toledo FBI has housed one of the first and most active human trafficking task forces in the nation.

Toledo civil attorneys handled a wide variety of substantive cases including torts, health care, environmental, and affirmative litigation. In addition, the high volume areas of bankruptcy, Medicare and state foreclosure cases – again, reflecting the region’s economic challenges -- occupied a substantial amount of attorney time.

Several defensive litigation cases in the areas of employment discrimination, personal injury and medical malpractice provided challenging opportunities for the attorneys of the Civil Division. Toledo civil attorneys also had an active affirmative civil rights docket.

The Toledo office collected more than \$17 million in criminal and civil asset forfeitures, state foreclosures, affirmative

civil enforcement and bankruptcy cases during fiscal years 2010-2015.

The following is a brief representative sampling of the cases handled in the Toledo branch office in 2010 through 2015.

SAMPLE CASES

DRUG TRAFFICKING

U.S. v. Hernandez, et al.: The Hernandez drug organization was responsible for the distribution of 20 kilograms of heroin throughout in the Toledo area for years. The leader of the drug conspiracy, Lupe Hernandez, Jr. obtained heroin from suppliers in California and Mexico, and then distributed the drugs in the Toledo area. Nineteen people were convicted for their roles in the conspiracy. Hernandez was sentenced of 12 years in prison.

U.S. v. Perez, et al.: Lionel Perez and 27 other people were charged for their roles in importing and distributing cocaine and marijuana throughout the Northwest Ohio. Perez coordinated the transportation of more than 1,000 kilograms of cocaine and 100 kilograms of marijuana via semi-tractor trucks from Mexico, through Texas, to for Toledo. Ultimately, 26 of the 28 defendants pleaded guilty and were sentenced, while two remain fugitives. Perez was sentenced to 13 years in prison. This investigation and prosecution yielded the forfeiture of more than \$1 million, vehicles and firearms.

U.S. v. McDuffey: Michael J. McDuffey sold heroin to a confidential informant in 2014. Agents of the Toledo Metro Drug Task Force then executed search warrant at McDuffey's residence and found various amounts of heroin, cocaine, and marijuana and two loaded, semi-automatic firearms. McDuffey pleaded guilty to possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking

crime and three counts of possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute. He was sentenced to more than eight years in prison.

FINANCIAL FRAUD

U.S. v. Huebner, et al.: Brad Huebner and Charles Emmenecker devised an Iraqi dinar "revaluation" scam involving \$24 million in sales and approximately 1,600 victims between 2010 and 2012. Huebner and Emmenecker sold Iraqi's currency, called dinar, claiming that Iraq would instantaneously "revalue" its currency, making a \$1,000 dinar purchase worth as much as \$3 million. The defendants sold "seats" in non-existent hedge funds that would purportedly invest in Iraq. The men made numerous false claims about the dinar, including a claim that the U.S. Government owned 3.7 trillion dinar, which would eliminate the entire federal debt once the revaluation occurred. The defendants also promoted the scheme by claiming that co-conspirator Rudolph M. Coenen was a currency trading expert and decorated Marine Corps veteran wounded in the 1991 Gulf War. Coenen pleaded guilty to the hedge fund fraud and testified against the defendants at trial. Huebner and Emmenecker were convicted by a jury of conspiracy and wire fraud. Huebner was sentenced to more than seven years in prison while Emmenecker was sentenced to nearly three years in prison.

To read more:

<http://nbc24.com/news/local/toledo-area-men-sentenced-for-roles-in-24m-iraqi-currency-scheme?id=1116530>

U.S. v. Kraus: Dr. David J. Kraus was a New York psychiatrist who operated Kraus Winery, Inc. (also known as Sand Hill Winery and Hermes Vineyards) in Sandusky. Between 2005 and 2010, the

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Services Agency (USDA-FSA) made nearly \$600,000 in various loans to Kraus through the USDA Direct Loan Program for operation of the vineyard. USDA-FSA later discovered that Kraus was selling juice and wine without reporting the sales. The subsequent investigation revealed that Kraus filed false reports of his sales with the USDA-FSA, which exaggerated his losses and did not reflect the profits he kept for himself. Kraus first became delinquent on his loan repayments in 2007, stopped paying USDA-FSA altogether in 2009 and filed for bankruptcy protection in 2010. Kraus pleaded guilty to one count of false statements. He was sentenced to 15 months' imprisonment and ordered to pay \$447,406 in restitution.

U.S. v. Bratton: Robert L. Bratton was convicted of theft involving a program receiving federal funds. The theft occurred while Bratton was the elected sheriff of Ottawa County. Bratton served as the county sheriff from November 2004 through his resignation in September 2011. During that time, he administered a fund that was designed to promote law enforcement interests, but Bratton instead used the money for personal expenses, including amusement park tickets, prescription medication and clothing. Bratton pleaded guilty to the theft and was sentenced to probation.



CHILD PROTECTION

U.S. v. Jackson: Brady D. Jackson, Jr. was sentenced to 15 years in prison in 2014, after being convicted by a jury of two counts of sex trafficking of children. Jackson served as a pimp to a 15-year-old runaway and a 16-year-old girl. Jackson posted both girls on [www.backpage.com](http://www backpage.com) under the adult escort session and took them to a Motel 6 in Toledo to wait for customers. The first “John” was an undercover Toledo Police Detective. Both juveniles were recovered that evening and a federal investigation was initiated.

U.S. v. Willoughby: Anthony Willoughby repeatedly forced into commercial sex a 16-year old runaway girl in 2009. Willoughby constructed scripts for the girl to follow in making calls to various clients and instructed her on how much to charge, what false names to use, and how to avoid undercover police officers. Willoughby maintained control over the girl by occasionally beating her. Eventually, she broke free and told the FBI about her ordeal. Agents obtained a search warrant for Willoughby's house where they found his customer lists, solicitation scripts and rap verses proclaiming his status as a pimp. A jury convicted Willoughby of sex trafficking

of a minor and he was sentenced to 30 years imprisonment.

To read more:

<http://www.toledoblade.com/Courts/2012/07/04/30-year-prison-term-ordered-in-teen-s-trafficking.html>

U.S. v. Michaelis: Dr. Thomas W. Michaelis was a gynecologist/obstetrician in Toledo. Sylvania Police initiated a child pornography investigation in 2014 which revealed files matching suspected child pornography hash values were located on a computer using an IP address assigned to Michaelis. A search warrant was conducted at Michaelis' home in Sylvania, which resulted in the seizure of a computer and external hard drives. Michaelis pleaded guilty to two counts related to child pornography and was sentenced to 15 years in prison.

U.S. v. Palm: Andrew Palm's home in Perrysburg was searched in 2013. Several computers, hard drives, telephones and other electronic items were seized from the residence. The agents also interviewed Palm, who admitted to taking pictures of the minor female child observed on the image hosting website and posting them to the website as a lure to get more child pornography images from other persons. Agents conducted a forensic review of Palm's computers and related equipment, and discovered over 5,000 images and 150 movies of child pornography. Palm pleaded guilty, to one count of production of child pornography and one count of receipt of child pornography. He was sentenced to 25 years in prison. The conviction of production of child pornography resulted in the forfeiture of his home in Perrysburg.

U.S. v. Harmon: Theodore R. Harmon, a 54-year-old convicted sex offender living in Napoleon, Ohio, posted an ad on a sexually-

oriented website seeking sexual encounters with young females. An undercover Homeland Security agent in Florida responded to the ad, posing as the father of a 14-year-old girl. Over the next several days, Harmon asked the agent to offer his daughter for sex. He sent the undercover agent numerous graphic e-mail and text messages. Harmon arranged to meet the agent and the fictional girl at a Toledo-area hotel, where the undercover agent arrested him. Harmon gave a full, recorded confession. Harmon was convicted of using interstate communications to entice a minor to engage in illegal sexual activity and sentenced to 14 years in prison.

HEALTHCARE FRAUD

In re Fremont Memorial Hospital: This healthcare fraud case resulted in payment by Fremont Memorial Hospital of \$8.5 million in restitution and damages for submission of false claims to Medicare and Medicaid in violation of the False Claims Act. Memorial is an acute care hospital. It disclosed that between 2000 and 2012 it had submitted false claims to Medicare and Medicaid as a result of non-compliance with the federal Anti-Kickback Statute.

In re Hanco Ambulance, LLC: Hanco, an ambulance company in Findlay, disclosed that between 2007 and 2010 it had improperly billed Medicare and Medicaid for non-emergency transportation. This healthcare fraud case resulted in the payment by Hanco Ambulance of \$492,873 in restitution and damages for submission of false claims to Medicare and Medicaid in violation of the False Claims Act.

EMBEZZLEMENT AND THEFT

U.S. v. Wymer, et al.: Michael Wymer, the head of a multi-state cargo and truck boosting operation, and 13 associates and

family members, stole semi-trucks, trailers, and cargo from locations in Michigan, Indiana and Ohio. The crew then dismantled the trucks, trailers and cargo and sold them to various scrap yards for cash. Fourteen defendants were charged in 2013 with conspiracy. All 14 people were convicted. Michael Wymer was sentenced to 27 years in prison with his next in command receiving a 10-year prison sentence. Many of the other defendants received statutory maximum sentences of five years in prison. The sentences included a restitution order for the 73 identified victims for more than \$2.2 million.

U.S. v. Awwad et al.: Twenty-six people, most of them from the Toledo area, were indicted in their roles in a wide-ranging conspiracy in which stolen computers, smart phones and other electronics were fenced at stores in Toledo and resold in Michigan and the Middle East. Some members of the conspiracy used firearms, threats and violence as part of their operation. Others illegally cashed millions of dollars' worth of checks at their stores. Others sold counterfeit clothing from their stores. And members of the conspiracy worked together at various Toledo stores to launder money, according to court documents.

U.S. v. Pioch et al.: Three Toledo residents were indicted for their roles in a conspiracy in which they are accused of forging a will to fraudulently gain control of an estate worth approximately \$2.2 million. Susan M. Pioch, Margaret L. McKnight and Kurt L. Mallory are accused of defrauding Martin E. Fewlas. He owned a Toledo duplex, and lived in the lower half while McKnight and Mallory lived together in the upper half. Fewlas died on Aug. 28, 2010, leaving an estate worth approximately \$2.2 million. On Sept. 2, 2010, McKnight, Mallory and Pioch – an attorney who had previously done legal work for McKnight and Mallory – allegedly

forged a will in Fewlas' name. The forged will was drafted by Pioch and named McKnight as the executor and sole devisee of Fewlas' assets. Pioch filed the forged will with the Lucas County Probate Court on or around Sept. 2, 2010. McKnight identified herself as executor of the estate and Pioch identified herself as attorney for the executor in probate court documents, according to the indictment. By filing the forged will and concealing its fraudulent nature, Pioch, McKnight and Mallory succeeded in obtaining Probate Court authority to take possession of Fewlas' assets. After obtaining those assets, they disbursed the assets to themselves for their own enrichment, according to the indictment. The case is pending.

CIVIL RIGHTS

Lucas County/City of Toledo Trash

Removal: The office conducted an investigation and an Americans with Disabilities Act compliance review of Lucas County, the City of Toledo, and Republic Services, regarding trash removal services provided to citizens living within in Toledo. This came after a complaint from a local disability-rights advocacy organization. The office worked with the parties to draft and implement an accommodation plan for trash removal. This plan provides assistance for the removal of trash for persons with mobility impairments who could not maneuver the automated trash bin to the curb. Republic Services also created a policy for requests for accommodation by persons with disabilities to be used nationwide as a result of the investigation.

Northern Ohio Medical Specialists: The office conducted an investigation and participated in DOJ's Barrier-Free Health Care Initiative after receiving a complaint from a deaf patient who was not provided an interpreter by her doctor. The patient had

made a request for an interpreter to be present at her appointment with a doctor at Northern Ohio Medical Specialists (NOMS). Under the Americans with Disabilities Act, denying an interpreter to a person who is deaf and seeking access to health care services results in discrimination on the basis of disability. The office negotiated a settlement with NOMS that required NOMS to provide appropriate auxiliary aids and services, including qualified interpreters, to patients who required aids for effective communication, mandatory ADA training of employees and staff members, and a three-year monitoring period.

MISCELLANEOUS

U.S. v. One Etruscan Black-Figured Kalpis, Circa 510-550 B.C.: This civil forfeiture case resulted in the forfeiture of an artifact housed at the Toledo Museum of Art. The Kalpis, a work of the Micali Painter, dates to approximately the sixth century B.C., and originates from the region of Italy populated by the Etruscan

civilization, generally corresponding to modern day Tuscany. After an investigation by Homeland Security Investigations, the United States alleged that looters illegally exported the Kalpis out of Italy in violation of Italian patrimony, exportation and smuggling laws. After extensive discussions with the museum, the Court in 2012 granted the Government's motion and issued an Order of Forfeiture for the Defendant Kalpis. On May 27, 2015, the Associated Press reported that U.S. authorities repatriated the Kalpis to Italy, along with 24 other looted artifacts from U.S. museums, universities and private collections. The United States Attorney hailed the museum's decision to repatriate the vase as an example of ethical behavior.

To read more:

<http://www.entlawdigest.com/2012/06/22/1562.htm>



VIII. AKRON BRANCH OFFICE

Over the last six years, the United States Attorney has restructured and enhanced the size and nature of the office in Akron, placing a seasoned and well-known career prosecutor at its helm and assigning more attorneys there. The Akron office serves 10 counties in the southern half of the district. This includes rural agricultural areas as well as cities including Akron, Canton and Medina. The office sees a wide range of crime, including financial fraud, drug trafficking and firearms violence.

In addition to federal partners, this office works closely with the Canton police department as well as the Akron Safe Streets Task Force, made up of members of the Akron Police Department, the Summit County Sheriff's Office and the FBI.

SAMPLE CASES

FINANCIAL FRAUD

U.S. v. Palazzo, et al.: Joseph Palazzo was the Cuyahoga Heights School District's IT manager, where he was responsible for purchases of hardware and software. He diverted \$3.3 million from the school district for his personal use, the use of his brother and others. Palazzo submitted false invoices that purported to be for legitimate IT-related products. He approved the false invoices himself or forged the signature of others. These invoices were for services never performed, fictitious software and hardware, products never received or already purchased by the school district from another source. Relying on these invoices, the school district issued checks to shell vendor corporations established by Palazzo's brother Dominick and others working with the Palazzo brothers. Dominick Palazzo and the others kept approximately half of the stolen money and

funneled the rest back to Joseph Palazzo. Joseph Palazzo was sentenced to more than 11 years in prison. Dominick Palazzo's case is pending.

To read more:

<http://www.newsnet5.com/news/local-news/oh-cuyahoga/former-cuyahoga-heights-school-district-employee-sentenced-for-theft-of-34-million-from-district>

U.S. v. Ceroni, et al.: J. Richard Ceroni founded Carnegie Career College with his wife, Adale Ceroni in 2000 in Suffield, Ohio, and later established branch campuses in Canton. The private not-for-profit college offered associate degrees and various certificate programs. The Ceronis engaged in a scheme where they recruited students who had not earned a high school diploma or a G.E.D. certificate -- and who were thus not eligible to receive federal financial aid -- to enroll at Carnegie College. The Ceronis told students they could get a high school diploma and their college degree at the same time, and then instructed the students to apply for financial aid. More than \$2.3 million was sent directly to Carnegie College, and the Ceronis applied it to tuition and related fees. They obtained fake high school diplomas and transcripts for the ineligible students from online entities that sold such documents. These fake diplomas were put into the student files and used as proof of the student's eligibility for financial aid. As a result, students who would not otherwise qualify for federal aid or entrance into college at all received federal funds to attend Carnegie College and pay for their purported education and related expenses. Richard Ceroni was sentenced to nearly six years in prison while Adale Ceroni was sentenced to nearly five years in prison.

To read more:

<http://www.cantonrep.com/article/20150311/NEWS/150319865>

U.S. v. Sidikov et al.: Twenty-eight people were indicted for their roles in a nationwide check cashing scheme that targeted trucking companies. They used stolen identities of truck drivers to access and cash fraudulent checks, with the proceeds then sent overseas. One defendant remains a fugitive, the other 27 were convicted.

DRUG TRAFFICKING

U.S. v. Harper, et al.: Dr. Adolph Harper and two of his employees illegally prescribed thousands of doses of painkillers to customers who had no legitimate medical reason for the drugs. This took place for four years and continued even after Harper learned some of his customers/patients died from overdoses. Harper was sentenced to 10 years in prison.

To read more:

<http://www.newsnet5.com/news/local-news/investigations/akron-pill-doctor-sentenced-to-10-years-in-prison-following-exclusive-5-on-your-side-investigation>

U.S. v. Carter, et al.: Fifteen people were convicted for their roles in a conspiracy that brought heroin from Chicago for sale in Akron and Ravenna. Conspiracy leader Rashid Carter was convicted of distributing heroin and being a felon in possession of a firearm and sentenced to 15 years in prison.

U.S. v. Tarver et al.: This group was responsible for bringing hundreds of pounds of heroin, cocaine and marijuana from Columbus to Youngstown. Twenty-nine people were convicted and ringleader Terrance Tarver was sentenced to nearly 13 years in prison.

U.S. v. Perez, et al.: This investigation targeted a methamphetamine and cocaine organization headed Gerardo Perez, a local supplier who brought substantial amounts of methamphetamine, cocaine and marijuana from Chicago and distributed it in rural parts of Stark and Wayne counties. Perez was convicted of drug trafficking and sentenced to nearly 10 years in prison.

U.S. v. Bowden: The DEA commenced an investigation into longtime Akron cocaine trafficker Kevin Bowden and his associates. A Columbus man was arrested in 2011 with \$140,000 in cash and 10 kilograms of cocaine destined for Bowden. In all, more than 300 pounds of cocaine was funneled from Houston through Bowden to customers in Akron and Pittsburgh. Bowden was convicted of conspiracy to distribute cocaine and sentenced to 10 years in prison.

U.S. v. Phelps, et al.: This organization brought heroin, cocaine and methamphetamine from Mexico to Akron in tractor-trailers with hidden compartments. Investigators seized 51 kilograms of cocaine from a tractor-trailer in 2014. About \$500,000 in cash was seized and 20 people were convicted. Diere Dejournett sentenced to 20 years in prison and with local distributor Garland Phelps was sentenced to 17 years in prison.

U.S. v. Branch et al.: Dante L. Branch obtained cocaine and marijuana from an organization headed by twins Dale and Darryl Colbert in California, and marijuana from a separate California to Ohio group involving commercial tractor-trailer courier Jeremy Duncan. Wiretaps revealed the Colberts were responsible for supplying approximately 300 pounds of cocaine to the Akron/Canton area and the Duncan group sent regular tractor-trailer shipments of marijuana to Akron. Fourteen people were convicted, with the Colbert brothers

receiving prison sentences of 18 years each, Branch receiving 12 years in prison and Duncan sentenced to six years in prison.

FIREARMS

U.S .v. Slugmasters, Inc., et al.: The owner of a firearms store sold firearms and

ammunition to convicted felons through straw purchases. The store's firearms license revoked. The corporation and two employees were convicted related to not recording sales of firearms and unlawful sales of ammunition to felons.

IX. CIVIL RIGHTS UNIT

The Civil Rights Unit was formed in 2015 to respond to a critical need in the district, but the office pursued a wide variety of civil rights cases, both criminal and civil, even before the formation of a stand-alone unit.

The office has focused attention on the scourge of human trafficking, both labor trafficking and sex trafficking. Office personnel have worked with law enforcement, nonprofits and non-governmental organizations to raise awareness. This includes hosting conferences, training law enforcement and working with support agencies.

It also includes working with task forces in Cleveland (FBI, Cleveland Police and the Cuyahoga County Sheriff) and the Northwest Ohio Violent Crimes Against Children Task Force (FBI, Toledo Police Department, Perrysburg Township Police Department, Lima Police Department, Oregon Police Department, Fulton County Sheriff's Office, Ottawa County Sheriff's Office, Ohio State Highway Patrol, and the Bureau of Criminal Investigation).

That mix of collaboration and raising awareness has resulted in federal charges being filed against nearly 50 people for human trafficking and related offenses. The office had not filed human trafficking charges prior to 2010.

The unit also handles hate crimes cases, color of law violations, compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, police pattern and practice investigations, and Fair Housing Act matters.

Prior to the creation of the unit, criminal civil rights cases were supervised by the chief of the National Security, Human Rights and Organized Crime Unit, while

civil matters were supervised by the chief of the Civil Division. Now all civil rights matters are reviewed and addressed by a core group of dedicated attorneys. These attorneys are heavily involved in community outreach, law enforcement working groups and coordinating with non-governmental organizations.

Criminal civil rights prosecutions have more than tripled in the last five years. This trend is expected to continue as awareness rises and additional complaints are made to law enforcement.

Criminal Civil Rights Prosecutions

Unfortunately, the new Civil Rights Unit has been extremely busy prosecuting a wide array of cases.

SAMPLE CASES

LABOR TRAFFICKING

U.S. v. Callahan, et al.: In 2010, a developmentally impaired woman and her 3-year old child moved into the home of Jordie Callahan and Jessica Hunt believing that Callahan and Hunt would prevent them from being homeless. What occurred over the next two years is a harrowing realization of human cruelty. The adult victim and her toddler were forced to live in a squalid basement without a bathroom or running water. They were only permitted to come upstairs when the adult victim was ordered to clean and do chores around the home. The defendants' coercive tactics included repeated violent attacks, withholding food, water and restroom facilities, sexual assault and threats of additional violence involving knives, guns and reptiles.

Callahan and Hunt were able to recruit two additional defendants, Jessica Silsby and Daniel Brown, to help control, maim and injure the victims. Both were found guilty and sentenced to prison. Callahan and Hunt were convicted of conspiracy to engage in forced labor and substantive forced labor convictions following a trial. Callahan was sentenced to 30 years in prison and Hunt was sentenced to a 32 years in prison.

To read more:

<http://www.mansfieldnewsjournal.com/story/news/local/2014/07/24/hunt-gets-years-human-trafficking-case/13124025/>

U.S. v. Castillo-Serrano, et al.: In December 2014, FBI and HSI agents learned of allegations of international human trafficking involving Guatemalan minors were forced to work at a Marion, Ohio, egg farm. After being smuggled here under the guise of a better life and schooling opportunities, the minors and some adult victims were forced to work at the egg farm to pay off the “debt” they owed to their smuggler. The smuggler, Aroldo Castillo-Serrano, would obtain the deed the victims’ family property and would threaten to take that property if the victims did not continue working at the farm. Shifts at the farm could be as long as 12 hours, with the victims being driven back to a trailer park by Castillo-Serrano’s associates. The trailers were in deplorable conditions, with some lacking heat and running water.

Federal law enforcement agents raided the trailer park in December 2014. As a result of the evidence uncovered during that raid and from other sources, six defendants were charged with a range of offenses including forced labor, encouraging illegal re-entry, making false statements and obstruction. To date, five defendants have pleaded guilty.

To read more:

https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/failures-in-handling-unaccompanied-migrant-minors-have-led-to-trafficking/2016/01/26/c47de164-c138-11e5-9443-7074c3645405_story.html

<http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2015/07/12/workers-trafficked-for-ohio-egg-farms-had-little-contact-lived-in-poverty.html>



SEX TRAFFICKING

U.S. v. Mack, et al.: Jeremy Mack was released from a 10-year term in federal prison in 2012. A year later, he was selling drugs, including to minor girls. The drug trade was not enough for Mack, however, and he began forcing -- with violence, threats and coercion -- girls to engage in commercial sex acts for his benefit. Mack also solicited the help of Ashley Onysko to control the girls. The defendants would not permit the girls to leave the house unescorted (with few exceptions) and terrorized them with firearms and tantrums in which Mack screamed “I’m gonna kill a bitch.”

Mack went to trial and was convicted of all counts: conspiracy to engage in sex trafficking and drug trafficking; four

separate counts of compelled sex trafficking, with one of those victims being only 16 years old; two counts of obstruction; and two counts of drug trafficking. Mack was sentenced to life in prison.

To read more:

<http://www.wkyc.com/story/news/local/lorain-county/2014/06/12/elyria-man-could-face-life-for-human-trafficking/10373407/>

U.S. v. Robinson, et al.: Brandon Robinson and Anniesha Whitt were indicted in 2010 on charges of sex trafficking of a minor and interstate transportation of a juvenile for prostitution. The charges related to a 14 year-old victim who was a runaway from foster care. The victim met Robinson, who took her to his apartment and engaged Whitt, an adult prostitute living with and working for Robinson, to train the victim in providing sexual services to truckers at truck stops in Michigan, and along I-75 in Ohio. Robinson and Whitt provided the victim with clothing, drugs, a script for contacting truckers on CB radio, a cell phone, condoms, lubricant, and a false identity and birth date. The victim was instructed to turn over all proceeds of the activities to Robinson at the end of each evening, when he would pick the victim up at each truck stop. Robinson and Whitt were found guilty. Robinson was sentenced to eight years in prison and Whitt was sentenced to nearly two years in prison.

U.S. v. Tutstone: Eric Tutstone contacted a woman said he had a 16-year-old girl whom he would be able to sell to the witness for sexual services. Tutstone believed the woman was a “madam,” who was involved in providing prostitutes to customers. In recorded conversations over the next two days, Tutstone agreed to sell the girl to the madam for \$300. Tutstone arranged for the “sale” to take place at a Starbucks in downtown Cleveland. Tutstone was arrested

outside Starbucks and convicted of sex trafficking of a minor and financially benefitting from juvenile sex trafficking. He was sentenced in 2012 to more than 11 years in prison.

HATE CRIMES

U.S. v. Linn: Randolph Linn, armed with gas cans and a handgun, drove from his home in Indiana to the Islamic Center of Greater Toledo in Perrysburg, Ohio on September 30, 2012. The Islamic Center is the largest mosque in Northwest Ohio. After Linn walked throughout the Islamic Center armed with a handgun, he exited the building and returned with a gas can. Linn entered the prayer room on the second floor and poured gasoline on the prayer rug, a large oriental-style rug used by members of the Islamic Center during their prayer services. The ensuing fire resulted in more than \$1.4 million of damage, displaced the congregation and a full-time elementary school and caused a wave of fear to spread through the Muslim community in Northwest Ohio. Less than three months after the fire was set, Linn pleaded guilty to damage to religious property, use of fire to commit a felony and use of a firearm to commit a crime of violence. On April 16, 2003, Linn was sentenced to 20 years in prison for these hate crimes.

To read more:

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/12/20/randy-linn-burn-mosque-revenge_n_2337514.html

U.S. v. Mullet, et al.: In the nation’s first prosecution under the Mathew Shepard-James Byrd Hate Crimes Prevention Act for religiously-motivated assaults, 16 members of an Ohio community in Bergholz were convicted at trial of four separate religiously-motivated assaults and conspiracy to commit those assaults and

obstruct justice. Three others, including the community's leader, Samuel Mullet, Sr., were convicted of substantive obstruction counts. Mullet, Sr. was also convicted of lying to the FBI.

After months of preaching to his followers that Amish "hypocrites" needed to be forcefully purged of their beards or head hair, Mullet, Sr.'s followers began organizing group assaults and ambushes on unsuspecting Amish practitioners throughout the state. During these assaults, Mullet's followers usually attacked at night by violently pulling the victims out of their beds or homes. They then screamed things to their victims about not being devoted enough to their Amish faith. In one particularly violent assault on the Hershberger family, five of Mullet's followers attacked Raymond Hershberger, a 77-year old bishop, his son, Andy, a preacher, and his other son, Levi. They screamed at Bishop Hershberger for overturning Mullet's excommunication orders. When the assault was over, and the assailants ran back to their waiting van, Bishop Hershberger said: "I'd rather be beaten black and blue than to have lost my beard and hair." While he sustained physical injuries, Bishop Hershberger was devastated to have had his religious symbols of Amish devotion – his beard and hair – robbed from him.

That same night, the five assailants, with a whole flock of encouraging community members in tow, drove to another bishop's house for the same purpose. Once there, the assailants forcefully dragged Bishop Myron Miller from his home, attacked him and took his beard.

While this appeal was pending, the Supreme Court issued the *Burrage* decision, which changed the meaning of the words "because of" in the statute. The hate crimes

convictions were overturned and remanded. The court then resentenced all 16 defendants based on the remaining convictions of conspiracy to obstruct (all defendants), obstruction (four defendants) and making false statements to federal law enforcement (Mullet), with Mullet again receiving the stiffest penalty of 15 years of incarceration.

To read more:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/03/us/prison-terms-reduced-for-amish-convicted-in-beard-cuttings.html>



U.S. v. Pudder: The First Azusa Apostolic Faith Church of God is the only predominantly African American church in Conneaut. On May 20, 2010, at approximately 4:30 a.m., a neighbor called the fire department and reported that the church was on fire. When firemen arrived, flames had engulfed the entrance doors of the church, and a side door was also on fire. Firemen noted a heavy smell of gasoline on the doors, and on the wooden sidewalk leading to the side door.

Police and fire officers noticed a silver Hyundai twice drove by the church while the officers were on the scene. Police

stopped the vehicle, which was being driven by Ronald Pudder, 23. He was shirtless, in 45-degree weather, and police recovered from the car a gas can, lighter, and gloves. Police also obtained a video from the gas station near the church that showed Pudder purchased \$2 worth of gas at 3:18 am. Pudder was arrested and admitted he set the fire by pouring gas on the doors and igniting the fire.

Pudder initially denied a racial motivation for the fire, although he could not explain why he drove by five other churches on his way from the gas station to the church, without setting those churches on fire. Subsequent searches of Pudder's home revealed white supremacist literature and racist inscriptions on the basement walls ("100% White," "One Pure Race"). There was a swastika on the front door, and music CDs with white supremacist songs. The investigation further disclosed that Pudder associated with individuals with white supremacist and racist views, and that Pudder shared those views.

Pudder was indicted on September 16, 2010, for damaging and destroying religious real property because of the race, color, and ethnic characteristics of individuals associated with that property. He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to more than four years in prison and ordered to pay restitution of \$19,243 to the church's insurance company.

To read more:

http://blog.cleveland.com/metro/2011/03/religious_leaders_join_prosecu.html

U.S. v. Jones: Daniel Lee Jones, a Portland, Ore., white supremacist, was sentenced to 18 months in prison for threatening the president of the Lima chapter of the NAACP by mailing him a noose. Jones admitted to mailing F.M. Jason Upthegrove a

hangman's noose to Upthegrove's home. Jones stated in the plea agreement that he mailed the hangman's noose in order to convey a threat to Upthegrove because he was an African-American who publicly advocated for better police services for African-Americans in Lima. Upthegrove had spoken out in the media against Jones's white supremacist group's mailing of hate flyers related to the shooting of an African-American woman by a member of the Lima Police Department.

COLOR OF LAW

U.S. v. Telb et al.: Former Lucas County Sheriff's Sergeant John E. Gray was sentenced three years in prison for civil rights violations and records falsification relating to the in-custody death of a pretrial detainee at the Lucas County Jail. Former Lucas County Deputy Jay M. Schmeltz was sentenced to one year and one day in prison for writing a false report about the incident. Gray and Schmeltz were found guilty by in 2010 after a month-long trial. Lucas County Sheriff James A. Telb and Internal Affairs Investigator Robert E. McBroom were acquitted on charges relating to an alleged subsequent cover-up of the role that jail personnel played in the 2004 death of Carlton Benton. Evidence at trial showed Gray assaulted Benton in a cell at the Lucas County Jail and left Benton lying unconscious without seeking medical help for him. Thereafter, according to trial evidence, Gray and Schmeltz wrote false reports concealing the incidents.

To read more:

<http://www.toledoblade.com/local/2011/01/29/2-sentenced-in-death-of-Lucas-County-jail-inmate.html>

U.S. v. Taylor: Former Lorain County corrections officer Marlon Taylor was sentenced to serve 18 months in prison after

pleading guilty to one count of deprivation of rights under color of law.

Taylor, of Vermilion, was working as a corrections officer in Lorain County Jail in 2012 when he assaulted an inmate by striking him repeatedly. These actions caused bodily injury to the inmate and deprived the inmate of the right to be free from cruel and unusual punishment.

To read more:

<http://chronicle.northcoastnow.com/2014/01/14/former-lorain-county-jail-guard-gets-18-months-attacking-inmate/>

Civil Enforcement Matters

The office has a very active civil, civil rights enforcement docket. For the last five years, civil enforcement matters have included pattern and practice investigations in Warren and Cleveland, Voting Rights Act cases in Lorain and Cuyahoga counties, Fair Housing Act investigations in Stark County, as well as cases involving disparate treatment in schools, bullying, and ADA compliance reviews. Below are just a few of the important civil enforcement matters the office has handled in the last five years:

POLICE REFORM

U.S. v. City of Cleveland: In 2013, the office opened an investigation (with the Civil Rights Division's Special Litigation section) into the Cleveland Division of Police. The investigation was a response, in part, to several high-profile incidents of alleged police misconduct.

In 2014, the office issued findings that CDP engages in a pattern or practice of constitutional violations, including the excessive use of both lethal and less-than-lethal force. It was determined that there were many factors contributing to these

violations, including a failure to hold officers accountable for misconduct, poor training and inadequate equipment, among other issues.



In May 2015, a comprehensive consent decree was executed with the City of Cleveland that will reform the police department and ensure that it delivers effective, constitutional policing. The 105-page consent decree, which has been described as “among the most far-reaching and specific” that some experts have seen, covers such topics as use of force, crisis intervention with the mentally ill, community engagement, bias-free policing, search and seizure, accountability, training, equipment and staffing. On October 1, 2015 a monitoring team was appointed to oversee compliance with the consent decree.

A *Plain Dealer* editorial stated: “The consent decree negotiated by the city and the U.S. Department of Justice promises comprehensive, compelling and unprecedented systemic rebood of the Cleveland Police Department...Layer upon layer of data-driven accountability and an exhaustive list of best practices that requires detailed reports of compliance – it’s all there.”

To read more:

http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2015/05/cleveland_consent_decree_provi.html

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/27/us/cleveland-police-accept-use-of-force-rules-in-justice-dept-deal.html>

U.S. v. City of Warren: The Justice Department and the U.S. Attorney's Office reached a settlement agreement with the Warren Police Department in 2012 following an extensive investigation. The parties reached an agreement that required the police department to continue to develop and implement new use of force policies and protocols; systems to ensure that uses of force are documented and evaluated; systems to track citizen complaints and ensure they are investigated promptly; and officer training on conducting effective and constitutional policing.

VOTING RIGHTS

Cuyahoga County and Lorain County bilingual ballots: In 2010, the office entered into a consent decree with the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections requiring that all elections materials, including ballots, be in both English and Spanish. In 2011, the office entered into a similar consent decree with Lorain County. Both are home to one of the 10 largest off-island populations of U.S. citizens born in Puerto Rico. Section 4(e) of the Voting Rights Act ensures that these Americans are afforded the right to vote in their native language. While the consent decrees expired in 2014, but both counties have maintained their bilingual voting programs.

To read more:

<http://wcpn.ideastream.org/news/cuyahoga-county-provide-bilingual-ballots-spanish-speaking-residents>



NAACP v. Husted: The office in 2014 filed a statement of interest in a challenge by a civil rights group to a state law curtailing early voting and same day-registration. The Justice Department's brief contested the state of Ohio's interpretation of the standards set forth by Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act. In the statement of interest filed in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio, the department made clear that Section 2 prohibited the state of Ohio from imposing any voting qualification, prerequisite to voting, or any standard, practice or procedure that would result in the denial or abridgement of the right to vote on account of a person's race, color or membership in a language minority group.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

U.S. v. Glenbeigh Hospital: The office negotiated a settlement with one of the region's leading substance abuse treatment providers in response to allegations that it refused to treat a man with HIV, in violation of the ADA. The settlement resulted in the facility revising its admissions policies and staff training programs.



Public accommodations compliance

reviews: The office has undertaken ADA compliance reviews at a number of large, public venues in the district, including Quicken Loans Arena, Progressive Field, First Energy Stadium and casinos in Cleveland and Toledo.

The reviews found a number of ADA violations at these facilities, and as a result of sustained and effective negotiations, these venues have come into compliance or will come into compliance with the ADA. One notable result has been the agreement by all three major sports teams to provide closed captioning on their scoreboards. The next phase of our ADA compliance review program will focus on hotels and restaurants, in anticipation of the 2016 Republican National Convention.

To read more:

http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2012/12/cavs_strike_settlement_with_us.html

U.S. v. Kent State University: Kent State University agreed to pay \$145,000 to settle a civil rights lawsuit alleging that the

university had maintained a policy of not allowing students with psychological disabilities to keep emotional support animals in university-operated student housing. Under the settlement agreement, which must still be approved by the U.S. District Court, KSU will and adopt a policy that will allow persons with psychological disabilities to keep animals with them in university housing when such animals provide necessary therapeutic benefits to such students and allowing the animal would not fundamentally alter the nature of the housing. The proposed settlement would resolve a lawsuit in which the Justice Department alleged KSU violated the Fair Housing Act when, in 2010, it denied a request to allow a student with a psychological disability and her husband to keep an emotional support dog in their university-operated student apartment. Under the proposed settlement, KSU has agreed to change its policy to accommodate similar requests going forward.

To read more:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/grade-point/wp/2016/01/04/there-is-a-dog-in-this-fight-college-will-allow-emotional-support-animals-in-dorms-after-justice-department-alleges-discrimination/>

FAIR HOUSING

U.S. v. Ruth and Penson Properties: The office filed a complaint alleging housing discrimination in which the main defendant, John Ruth, was alleged to have discriminated against existing and prospective tenants who were African-American and/or families with children. Seven former managers claim that they were instructed to so discriminate when they were hired. The defendant owned approximately 150 housing units in the Massillon area. The lawsuit was settled with a consent decree providing for new management of the

properties and the payment of more than \$1 million in damages.

To read more:

<http://www.newsnet5.com/money/consumer/>

troubleshooter/massillon-landlord-to-pay-850000-in-penalties-for-discrimination-against-african-americans



X. THE CIVIL DIVISION

The Civil Division is made up of four units – Collections, Foreclosures, Bankruptcy (which collectively comprise the Financial Litigation Unit) and Social Security. These units require the Civil Division’s involvement in thousands of cases.

The Civil Division is responsible for the litigation of all civil cases involving the United States and its agencies throughout the Northern District of Ohio. This representation spans diverse practice areas, including torts, civil fraud, immigration, employment discrimination, contracts, labor, civil rights, environmental law, health care, eminent domain and fair housing.

The division both defends actions brought against the United States, its agencies and employees, and also represents the United States as plaintiff in affirmative litigation where the United States initiates suit to enforce a claim.

These actions could come in the form of defending a federal law enforcement agent against a lawsuit, defending a doctor at a VA hospital sued for medical malpractice, or defending the Postal Service if one of its mail carriers is involved in a car accident on company time, for example.

On the affirmative side, cases can involve filing lawsuits to recover money for federal programs or agencies that were defrauded, seeking to bring companies or institutions in compliance with federal law, or seeking financial penalties for misconduct, to name a few.

COLLECTIONS

The U.S. Attorney’s office every year serves as a profit center for taxpayers, bringing in millions of dollars in excess of the office’s

annual budget. The office has collected more than \$800 million since 2010 (see breakdown below), or nearly 10 times the office’s budget during the same period.

This money comes as a result of aggressive civil prosecution of fraud, program abuse and violation of environmental laws, among others. In addition to the dollar recoveries, this office seeks compliance and other remedies from individuals and entities dealing with the United States and the programs it funds. These efforts have had effects far greater than the dollars recovered. For example, Medicare and Medicaid health care settlements under the False Claims Act emphasize the need for medical providers to adhere to billing rules and regulations and to establish compliance programs to prevent recurrences of similar conduct. Lawsuits filed by private citizens on behalf of the United States, or “whistleblowers” are reviewed and investigated by Civil Division attorneys in conjunction with case agents from various federal agencies.

The money collected is used to compensate crime victims, is distributed to state and local law enforcement partners who participate in investigations and is returned to federal agencies for losses sustained by their programs, including the Medicare and Medicaid programs, and to the general treasury.

2015: \$41 million

2014: \$568 million

2013: \$24 million

2012: \$80 million

2011: \$49 million

2010: \$42 million

2009: \$18 million

2008: \$37 million

2007: \$64 million

2006: \$80 million

2005: \$51 million

2004: \$22 million

SAMPLE CASES

FINANCIAL FRAUD

U.S. v. U.S. Bank: U.S. Bank paid \$200 million to resolve civil allegations that it violated the False Claims Act by knowingly originating and underwriting mortgage loans insured by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) that did not meet applicable requirements. As part of the settlement, U.S. Bank admitted that, from 2006 through 2011, it repeatedly certified for FHA insurance mortgage loans that did not meet U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development underwriting requirements. U.S. Bank also admitted that its quality control program did not meet FHA requirements, and as a result, it failed to identify deficiencies in many of the loans it had certified for FHA insurance, failed to self-report many deficient loans to HUD, and failed to take corrective action required under the program. U.S. Bank further acknowledged that its conduct caused FHA to insure thousands of loans that were not eligible for insurance and that the FHA suffered substantial losses when it later paid insurance claims on those loans.

U.S. ex rel. Kleen v. Cellural Technology: The office settled this intervened qui tam procurement fraud case for \$1.4 million. The relators claimed their former employer,

CTL, had defrauded the National Institutes for Health by overcharging for work on a scientific research contract. The federal investigation substantiated allegations that CTL had billed for many hours more than its employees actually spent on the contract.

U.S. v. SunPower: This company billed NASA for unallowable organization costs associated with the pursuit of a new business venture to government contracts. The matter was settled and resulted in a recovery of \$1.2 million.

U.S. v. Anthony Allega Cement Contractors Inc.: The Cleveland-based company paid \$500,000 to resolve claims that it knowingly submitted false claims related to the federally funded construction project at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport. The company misrepresented its use of disadvantaged business enterprise subcontractors.

HEALTHCARE

U.S., ex. rel. Gale v. Omnicare Inc.: Omnicare Inc., the nation's largest provider of pharmaceuticals and pharmacy services to nursing homes, paid \$124 million for allegedly offering improper financial incentives to skilled nursing facilities in return for their continued selection of Omnicare to supply drugs to elderly Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries. Approximately \$116 million of the settlement resolved allegations in a lawsuit brought under the whistleblower provisions of the False Claims Act that Omnicare submitted false claims by entering into below-cost contracts to supply prescription medication and other pharmaceutical drugs to skilled nursing facilities and their resident patients to induce the facilities to select Omnicare as their pharmacy provider.

U.S. ex rel Loughner v. EMH, et al.: EMH Regional Medical Center paid \$3.8 million and North Ohio Heart Center Inc. paid \$541,870 to resolve allegations that they performed unnecessary cardiac procedures on Medicare patients. Specifically, the office alleged the two entities performed angioplasty and stent placement procedures on patients who had heart disease but whose blood vessels were not sufficiently occluded to require the particular procedures at issue.

U.S. v. Omnicare Inc.: Omnicare, Inc. paid a \$50 million civil penalty to resolve claims that its various pharmacy facilities improperly dispensed controlled substances to patients at long-term care facilities across the country, such as routinely dispensing controlled substances to residents of long-term facilities without a prescription signed by a practitioner.



U.S. v. Forum Hospital System: Forum Health owns Western Reserve Care System and Trumbull Memorial Hospital. Forum identified in a self-disclosure a total of 664 cases at Western Reserve and 278 cases at Trumbull that were overpaid when patients left the hospital because a discharge code was incorrectly billed when a transfer occurred from 2003 through 2009. The total settlement was for \$4.1 million.

U.S. v. Rural Metro Corporation: Physicians Ambulance, now owned by Rural Metro Corporation, had a high error rate for medically unnecessary ambulance services. A settlement was reached resulting in the recovery of \$2.4 million and a corporate integrity agreement.

U.S. v. Marion General Hospital: The hospital improperly provided free services to physicians admitting patients to its hospital including answering services, coverage by temporary physicians when the doctors were out of town, and other items. The matter was settled with a recovery of \$1.2 million.

U.S. v. University Hospitals: The hospital used an incorrect patient condition code for patients discharged to home health services between 2007 and 2011. A settlement for \$1.4 million was recovered.

U.S. v Memorial Hospital: Memorial Hospital, an Ohio nonprofit corporation that operates an acute care hospital with its main campus in Fremont, disclosed two compliance issues in violation of the federal anti-kickback statute. One matter involved Medicare claims for patients a specific doctor from whom the hospital was purchasing goods at a markup. The second matter involved a joint venture between another doctor and the hospital in which the physician referred patients to Memorial and the joint venture while Memorial was paying for the physician's share of certain expenses. The matter was settled with a recovery of \$8.5 million.

U.S. v. Robinson Health System, Inc.: Robinson Health System Inc. paid \$10 million to settle claims that it violated several statutes by engaging in improper financial relationships with referring physicians. Robinson is a nonprofit corporation based in Ohio that operates health care facilities in Portage County,

including Robinson Memorial Hospital. The settlement involved Robinson's financial relationships with several referring physicians that allegedly violated laws that restrict the financial relationships hospitals may have with doctors who refer patients to them. These physicians allegedly failed to provide sufficient bona fide management services to have justified the payments they received. Robinson disclosed these issues to the government.

ENVIRONMENTAL

U.S. v. Kennedy Mint: Kennedy Mint paid more than \$330,000 arising from the company's illegal dumping of cyanide into the Rocky River, which resulted in the death of more than 30,000 fish. The court ordered restitution to the Cleveland Metroparks and Ohio Division of Natural Resources to restock the river with fish under the terms of the plea agreement.

U.S. v. Cleveland Thermal LLC: The Cleveland-based company will replace three coal-fired boilers with new natural gas-fired boilers which will significantly reduce sulfur dioxide emissions under a settlement reached between the company and the office. Cleveland Thermal owns and operates a facility that houses three coal-fired boilers that generate steam for distribution to customers in downtown Cleveland. The U.S. alleged that Cleveland Thermal undertook major modifications to two boilers, in 2005 and 2006, but failed to obtain the necessary permits and use the best available control technology for sulfur dioxide and achieve the lowest emission rate for nitrogen oxides. Significant amounts of excess sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides were released into the air. These pollutants harm public health and the environment, contributing to premature mortality, asthma attacks, acid rain, smog and other adverse effects. Under the agreement the company

will shut down the three coal-fired boilers and three fuel oil-fired boilers. Cleveland Thermal will replace the lost capacity with new natural gas-fired boilers and have the option to install and operate a new natural gas-fired cogeneration facility. The injunctive relief is estimated to cost \$16 million and sulfur dioxide emissions are estimated to be reduced by approximately 900 tons per year. Cleveland Thermal will pay a penalty of \$75,000 and perform an Environmental Mitigation Project worth \$350,000.

U.S. v. Dover Chemical Corp.: This case involved Dover Chemical Corporation under the Toxic Substances Control Act at Dover Chemical's facilities in Hammond, Indiana, and Dover, Ohio. The case was settled for a recovery of \$1.4 million.

RECOVERIES FOLLOWING CONVICTIONS

U.S. v. Martinez: Dr. Jorge Martinez, a Bath Township physician sentenced in 2006 to life in prison because the massive doses of painkillers he prescribed led to the deaths of two patients. Martinez, an anesthesiologist, prescribed OxyContin, Zoloft and Valium only after patients he saw at his clinics in Mansfield, Lima, Parma and Boardman agreed to receive injections to treat pain. He then billed Medicare, Medicaid, the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation and private insurers for the injections. He was convicted of health care fraud. An injunction was obtained to freeze approximately \$7 million in various bank accounts and property owned by Martinez. The office obtained a judgment in a foreclosure action against the defendant's \$800,000 residence. The property was sold and the proceeds were paid to the clerk's office to partially satisfy the restitution order. Martinez's conviction and restitution order were affirmed on appeal and the

district court ordered the approximately \$7 million in frozen assets to be transferred to the clerk to be distributed to the victims of his crimes.

U.S. v. Schneider: William Schneider defrauded investors and spent the money on luxury goods and vacations including a painting by actor Anthony Hopkins. Schneider purchased the painting for \$20,000 while vacationing in Hawaii. The United States learned that the painting was still in Schneider's home and obtained a court order permitting seizure and sale of the painting. This was accomplished and the painting was sold and the proceeds paid to Schneider's victims.

Cuyahoga County Prosecutions: More than 60 people were convicted of various crimes arising from their duties as public employees, elected officials or companies that did business with Cuyahoga County or other local government entities. Many of the defendants were ordered to pay restitution to various victims including Cuyahoga County, the City of Cleveland and MetroHealth Medical Center. More than \$4.8 million has been collected to date and paid to the victims of the fraud as restitution.

U.S. v. Telluri: Ravindra Telluri, of Brecksville, forfeited \$1 million after conspiring to hire undocumented workers. The forfeited money constituted the proceeds from his criminal conspiracy.

BANKRUPTCTY

The Bankruptcy Section represents the interests of the United States in voluntary and involuntary bankruptcy cases filed in the bankruptcy court for the Northern District of Ohio. Its client agencies include, but are not limited to, the IRS, the Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Small Business Administration, the Department of Housing

and Urban Development, the U.S. Department of Education, and the Department of Health and Human Services.

FORECLOSURE

The Foreclosure Section is responsible for protecting the government's interest in foreclosure proceedings. It initiates foreclosure actions in the district court to collect federal loans in default which are secured by mortgages on real property and/or security interests in personalty. Primary client agencies are the Department of Agriculture, the Small Business Administration, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development.



The Foreclosure Section is also responsible for asserting the government's secured interest and collecting amounts owed the United States in state court actions brought by other entities, typically the first mortgage holder. The Foreclosure Section in Cleveland opened an average of 1799 state foreclosures and closed an average of 1883 cases annually in Fiscal Years 2011-2015. At the close of the fiscal year, there were 1620 state foreclosure cases pending. The

total foreclosure efforts during that time resulted in recovery of more than \$4.6 million.

SOCIAL SECURITY

The Social Security Unit handles the defense of appeals to the district court from administrative decisions before the Social Security Administration denying claimant applications for disability and supplemental

Social Security benefits. The Unit works in conjunction with the General Counsel's Office of the Social Security Administration.

The Unit opened 295 new cases and closed 267 cases during Fiscal Year 2015. At year's end, 450 remained pending. The Social Security Unit has been instrumental in preserving the integrity of the Social Security Administration's various benefit programs.

XI. RESPONSIVE TO COMMUNITY NEEDS

One of the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Ohio's core missions is to vigorously prosecute criminal cases. But the best kind of crime is the one that doesn't happen. With that in mind, the office has long embraced a comprehensive approach to combating crime that encompassed enforcement, prevention and reentry strategies. The office understands that prevention and reentry efforts make good fiscal sense, as well as being integral parts of a comprehensive crime-fighting strategy.

The region faces several unique crime threats which factor into the district's enforcement priorities. As with most areas with high rates of poverty and unemployment, violent crime is a problem, which manifests itself in firearms violence, gang activity, narcotics trafficking and armed robberies. The office has a robust human trafficking docket, prosecuting both sex trafficking and labor trafficking cases. The district has seen a sharp increase in both heroin trafficking and related fatalities.

The NDOH has made huge strides to improve the lives of people in the district over the past few years. We aggressively enforce the law, but we also work to collaboratively and substantially prevent crime. All of these efforts bring together a wide swath of the community under the leadership of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Ohio. But in all of them, we bring together federal, state and local law enforcement partners, as well as advocacy groups, philanthropy groups, service providers, medical professionals and community activists.

The district has pulled together key stakeholders, both in law enforcement and the broader community, to lead efforts

designed to combat these types of crimes through prevention. Among them:

STAND TOGETHER AGAINST NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME EVERYDAY

STANCE was established by the office in 2006, when Cleveland was one of six cities across the nation selected as a pilot program for a Comprehensive Anti-Gang Initiative. We coordinate more than 40 representatives, including public officials, community leaders, educators, public safety and law enforcement, juvenile justice officials and foundations, faith-based organizations and members of the private sector.



The program targets specific high-risk neighborhoods in Cleveland by focusing on prevention, enforcement and re-entry initiatives. Strategies include promoting community-wide solutions to preventing gang violence, helping ex-offenders transition into productive community members, organizing neighborhood call-ins for at-risk individuals and creating partnerships among law enforcement and other agencies to implement data-driven strategies to investigate and prosecute violent gang activity.

Through STANCE, Cleveland was recently selected as a National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention site. This forum is a network of community groups and federal agencies that will work together to build local capacity to prevent and reduce violence.



THE NORTHEAST OHIO BUSINESS ETHICS COALITION

The Business Ethics Coalition was developed by the office with partners in the business community in the wake of the Cuyahoga County corruption scandal. The goal was to provide ethics training to companies and vendors while also sending a clear message to the broader community that cutting corners would not be tolerated by the region's leading employers. Nearly 1,000 companies underwent daylong training about acceptable practices when doing business with private- and public-sector entities.

DEFENDING CHILDHOOD

The U.S. Attorney chairs the Cuyahoga County Defending Childhood Initiative, in

which 16,000 children have been screened and provided services after being exposed to violence. In this role, the office has brought together physicians, hospitals, social workers, police, academics and others in an effort to break the cycle in which children exposed to violence are far more likely to be violent themselves. This is done through a variety of programming, such as police referring children who witness violence for screening and treatment, a dedicated 2-1-1 phone line for people seeking social services, and a public awareness campaign about the need to get help for children who witness violence.

THE U.S. ATTORNEY'S HEROIN AND OPIOID TASK FORCE

The office also created and leads the U.S. Attorney's Heroin and Opioid Task Force, which has become a model replicated across the state and country. In 2013, we brought together many of Northern Ohio's leading institutions for a daylong summit in an effort to find solutions to the region's heroin epidemic. More than 700 people attended this event at the Cleveland Clinic.

A Community Action Plan was formulated over the course of several planning meetings and finalized during the summit. The purpose of this document is to serve as a guiding master plan as we move forward as a community. The Action Plan is divided into four specific areas: Prevention and Education, Healthcare Policy, Law Enforcement and Treatment. This action plan was developed based upon input from the representatives of the U.S. Attorney's Office, the Cleveland Clinic, the Cuyahoga County Executive, MetroHealth Medical Center, University Hospitals, Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court, the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office, the Ohio Attorney General, the Cleveland Division of Police, the Drug Enforcement

Administration, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Ohio State Medical Board, the Ohio State Pharmacy Board, the Cuyahoga County Board of Health, the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner, the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Department, the ADAMHS Board, the Westshore Enforcement Bureau and others.

The Task Force has had several victories. Members successfully advocated for Naloxone to be made more readily available to parents and relatives of addicts, resulting in twice as many lives being saved by the heroin antidote last year. They created and implemented of new protocols for police to use when someone dies from a heroin overdose, resulting in at least 10 manslaughter or death-specification indictments. And they raised awareness about the scope of the problem and the need for comprehensive solutions by organizing meetings at schools, libraries and community centers attended by nearly 20,000 people so far. They were also part of a public awareness campaign including television public service announcements, radio spots and billboards, educating doctors about the dangers of over-prescription of painkillers. The group meets regularly and continues with its work.

To read more:
<http://fox8.com/2014/02/14/heroin-hits-home-what-weve-learned/>

CRIME VICTIM SERVICES

The office's crime victim/witness specialists provide invaluable services to more than 1,000 people a year who are victims of crime and/or are called to testify in criminal trials. These services include accompanying the victim to court, keeping victims apprised of developments in their case, working to obtain specialize visas if appropriate, intervening with the victim's

employer or creditor if financial hardships arise from the crime or having to testify and working with law enforcement to make sure crime victims are safe before, during and after the criminal trial, among other services.

REENTRY

Our office's Law Enforcement Coordinator was the prime developer of the original Greater Cleveland Reentry Strategy and continues to serve as a committee chair. One of the direct results of this strategy was the creation of the Cuyahoga County Office of Reentry, which was one of the first of its kind in the country. The office of reentry helps support the reentry component with Second Chance Act funding for returning offenders who were designated while incarcerated as gang-involved individuals. The office participates in all four federal reentry courts in the district.

The office also hosted a conference in 2012 focused on the challenges faced by people returning home from prison, the opportunity they provide to employers and why having a reentry strategy is an essential component of a comprehensive crime-reduction strategy.

To read more:
http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2012/06/ohio_officials_encourage_reent.html

THE CIVIL RIGHTS WORKING GROUP

The Civil Rights Working Group is made up of leaders from the region's diverse racial, religious, ethnic, disability-rights, LGBTQ and other groups, who come together to discuss relevant issues with law enforcement. The goal is to build relationships and demystify ourselves to each other. The group also comes together to

speak in a unified voice against hate crimes, such as when a predominantly African-American church was set on fire by a white supremacist.



ARAB AND MUSLIM OUTREACH

The office operates a vigorous Arab and Muslim outreach effort in both Cleveland and Toledo. This includes organizing town hall meetings, speaking at and participating in interfaith events, computer safety training, discussions about homegrown violent extremism and organizing and hosting “Civics Day” at the courthouse, where Arab and/or Muslim teens meet with prosecutors, federal agents and judges.

To read more:
<http://www.cleveland.com/opinion/index.ssf>

[/2011/04/ohios_muslim_arab_neighbors_de.html](#)

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The office leads regional human trafficking efforts, including hosting a conference attended by hundreds of professionals to receive training, as well as convening meetings and formulating strategies that call for not just aggressive enforcement, but also fulsome prevention efforts and obtaining assistance for rescued victims.

To read more:
http://blog.cleveland.com/metro/2012/03/human_trafficking_hiding_in_pl.html

BULLYING

The office in 2011 organized a Town Hall Meeting on Bullying at IdeaStream. The event – which featured a panel discussion of high school students, moderated by U.S. Attorney Dettelbach, discussing bullying, strategies for eliminating it, and how to be an ally to those being bullied – was streamed to thousands of students in 13 states.

To read more:
http://www.cleveland.com/opinion/index.ssf/2011/12/come_together_to_protect_our_k.html

XII. OFFICE LOCATIONS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Headquarters Office Cleveland:

Office of the United States Attorney
United States Court House
801 West Superior Avenue; Suite 400
Cleveland, Ohio 44113-1852
Tel: (216) 622-3600
TTY: (216) 522-3086

Toledo:

U.S. Attorney's Office
Four Seagate, Third Floor
Toledo, Ohio 43604
Tel: (419) 259-6376
TTY: (419) 259-3721

Akron:

U.S. Attorney's Office
2 South Main Street
Akron, Ohio 44308
Tel: (330) 375-5716
TTY: (216) 522-3086

Youngstown:

U.S. Attorney's Office
100 Federal Plaza East
Youngstown, Ohio 44503
Tel: (330) 746-7974
TTY: (330) 746-0696

The Public Information Officer, Mike Tobin, can be reached at: 216-622-3651, or
michael.tobin@usdoj.gov