

**UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA
2015 ANNUAL REPORT**



**DEBORAH R. GILG
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY**



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MESSAGE FROM THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

2015 was a productive year within the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Nebraska. The District of Nebraska is fortunate to have one of the most productive criminal federal District Court benches, ranking 7th nationally and 2nd within the 8th Circuit. The United States Attorney's office is responsible for the majority of the judicial caseload.

For the year 2015, the United States Attorney's office filed 471 criminal cases involving 537 defendants. General criminal cases include child pornography, financial crimes, criminal immigration, identity theft, robbery, Indian Country major crimes, etc. The drug unit cases include drugs, guns, money laundering, structuring and interstate transportation in aid of racketeering. Between the two units, there were a total of 21 trials and 72 civil and criminal 8th Circuit court appeals. The median time for felony criminal cases from filing to disposition was 8 months.



*Deborah R. Gilg
United States Attorney
District of Nebraska*

In cooperation with federal and local law enforcement and prosecutors, Project Safe Neighborhoods continues to be a high priority of this office. In 2015, 1,126 guns were traced and tracked as part of Project Safe Neighborhoods. The Grand Jury returned numerous indictments which included firearms associated with the delivery or conspiracy to deliver controlled substance. As you will note elsewhere in this report, Project Safe Neighborhoods and the Omaha Police Department sponsored a Gun Amnesty event. 58 firearms and 800 pounds of ammunition as well as 800 pounds of fireworks were surrendered for destruction. In addition, 6 suppressors, 4 improvised explosive devices, one 20mm cannon round and numerous high capacity magazines to include numerous high capacity drum magazines were surrendered.

We recognize the threat that school violence poses to our teachers and children. We enlisted the help of the United States Secret Service in presenting a seminar to Omaha Metro public and parochial school administrators and teachers in early 2015. National trainers presented a day long presentation that assisted in threat assessment and behavioral assessment of the school shooter. The U.S. Secret Service did an extensive study and profile of the school shooter in the wake of the Columbine school shootings. Their profilers and experts have invaluable advice to assist schools. A similar presentation was conducted by the Secret Service in the Grand Island, Nebraska area a few years ago. If there are school districts that are interested in a similar presentation, do not hesitate to contact Joe Jeanette, our Law Enforcement Coordinator for assistance.

In May, we co-sponsored the Law Enforcement Coordination Conference with the Nebraska County Attorney's Association and Nebraska Sheriff's Association in Kearney, Nebraska. It is always a pleasure to have the opportunity to talk with so many of our county attorneys, police chiefs, sheriffs and Nebraska State Patrol

MESSAGE FROM THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY (CONT.)

leaders. It is important to keep the communication and collaboration strong with our state and local partners to enhance public safety. The speakers are always outstanding at this conference. The conference did end on a very tragic note when we received the news of the in line of duty death of Omaha Police Officer Kerrie Orozco. Officer Orozco epitomized all the qualities of an excellent law enforcement professional with her dedication to her job as well as her vigorous community engagement with at-risk kids. Her all-too brief life serves as a poignant reminder that everything we do counts every minute of the day.

As part of the U.S. Department of Justice “Smart On Crime” initiative, we were pleased to be awarded funding for an additional Assistant United States Attorney. In addition, each of our Assistant United States Attorneys is required to do community outreach with at-risk juveniles. As part of this community outreach, our office “adopted” the King Science Magnet Middle School in North Omaha. We have actively participated in mentoring children, participating in various school trainings with the students as well as judging the science fair and discussing the science projects with the students. I believe that it is important that our prosecutors be involved with younger at-risk children in order to understand their daily living issues as well as provide positive role models for the children. I know that each of us comes away from these contacts recognizing that we receive a lot of professional and personal satisfaction in this hands-on interaction.

A lot of planning, effort and work goes into the annual Save Our Children Conference which is held in co-sponsorship with the Omaha Children’s Hospital and Project Harmony. Over 600 attendees have an opportunity to learn from experts in the field of investigating and prosecuting child abuse, human trafficking and domestic violence. Having medical professionals attend the training has greatly enhanced our opportunity to network with our colleagues in the medical field that deal with the devastating physical, psychological and emotional trauma that child victims of these crimes endure. We always welcome comments about this conference as well as encourage attendance. In 2016, our Save Our Children Conference will be held at the Embassy Suites, LaVista, Nebraska on April 13-15, 2016.

We are especially proud that Nebraska is being recognized nationally by the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Association (HIDTA). The Lincoln Lancaster County Drug Task Force is receiving a national award for Outstanding Financial Investigative Effort and Lindsey Kilgore of the Nebraska Information Analysis Center (NIAC) is receiving the Outstanding HIDTA Analyst Award. This is the second consecutive year that our law enforcement in Nebraska is receiving either regional or national recognition for outstanding drug enforcement work.

Project Safe Childhood also remains a high priority for this office. In 2014, we collaborated with the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Division of the Department of Justice to bring a first in the nation case involving pedophiles using the TOR network. The scope of this investigation was global and required coordination not only with multiple other U.S. Attorney districts but also coordination with Interpol and other

MESSAGE FROM THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY (CONT.)

international law enforcement agencies. The hidden network was dismantled in and numerous convictions have been obtained but we are still pending more trials. This collaboration has strengthened our ability to maximize the punishment and deterrence of these crimes. Due to the number of defendants and the trials involved, the last of the defendants and trials were finished in 2015.

In calendar year 2015, we filed charges involving the receipt or production of child pornography against 42 people. In total, 45 people were convicted and sentenced in 2015 for charges involving child pornography. In addition, charges were brought against 23 people who failed to register as sex offenders. Indictments were also brought against several individuals for other crimes involving the exploitation of children via the Internet. Those indictments included charges for interstate travel to engage in sexual acts with a juvenile. The Nebraska Attorney General's office has collaborated with our office on child pornography cases and we have cross-designated certain assistant attorney generals to assist on bringing federal charges on individuals throughout the state.

On the Civil side, work on 204 civil cases and matters were completed in 2015. Included in that number are defensive cases in which the validity of federal laws, or the acts of federal agencies and employees, was challenged. Also included were affirmative cases brought to enforce federal statutory and regulatory requirements, and to collect debts owed to the United States. The chart on page 39 depicts the types of civil cases and matters completed during 2015.

The Internal Revenue Service, Housing and Urban Development, and Department of Justice, were the agencies involved in the largest number of civil cases in the District during 2015. There was a sharp rise in the number of condemnation actions filed this past year and a slight increase in the number of defensive employment litigation and affirmative actions pursued for several agencies under a variety of theories. The number of defensive tort and Social Security Administration appeals dropped sharply in 2015. As has been the case in recent years, foreclosure cases showed slight decreases from recent years. A variety of cases involving the agencies within the Department of Justice also made up a significant portion of the overall civil workload again this past year. The percentage of cases completed for various federal agencies is reflected in the chart on page 45.

A primary function of the Civil Division is to provide quality representation to the United States and its agencies and officers in defensive litigation in federal and state court. During 2015, Civil Division AUSAs defended a number of cases brought in federal court to set aside or modify the actions of federal agencies and officers. Civil Division AUSAs also handled several cases seeking damages for alleged negligence or other wrongful conduct by federal employees, as well as cases alleging discrimination in federal employment.

MESSAGE FROM THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY (CONT.)

In the area of affirmative litigation, the Civil Division continued its Affirmative Civil Enforcement (ACE) program, which involves various initiatives designed to collect civil monetary penalties and damages for violations of federal law, to recover costs incurred by agencies as a result of violations of federal statutes and regulations, and to obtain compliance with the requirements of federal law through civil litigation. In calendar year 2015, ACE cases resulted in monetary recoveries of approximately \$274,000.00. ACE cases also led to court orders directing various defendants to comply with federal laws and regulatory requirements

The United States Attorney's Office ACE program includes an active Health Care Fraud Task Force made up of civil and criminal AUSAs, Special AUSAs from the Nebraska Attorney General's Office, investigators from various state and federal agencies, and representatives of insurance providers and intermediaries. The task force approach enhances communication regarding the investigation of health care fraud in the District of Nebraska, and allows oversight agencies to pursue cases in the manner most effective to deter fraudulent activity and recover losses.

Another major area of emphasis in the ACE program is environmental enforcement. In 2015, the United States Attorney's Office worked with attorneys from the United States Department of Justice and the Environmental Protection Agency on civil environmental cases brought to recover civil penalties as well as response costs, and to obtain judgments requiring polluters to comply with environmental laws.

As in most years, Civil Division AUSAs also conducted a significant amount of litigation in 2015 to collect debts owed to the United States. Suits to obtain judgments for unpaid balances of delinquent loans made by agencies such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services comprise a significant portion of the Office's civil workload. Those cases are litigated in federal district court, in bankruptcy court, and in state courts throughout Nebraska. All told, the Financial Litigation Unit, within the Civil Division, collected slightly less than \$2.1 million dollars.

In recognition of the sovereignty and importance of Indian Country, we have compiled a separate 2015 Indian Country Annual Report. This report can be found online at: <http://www.justice.gov/usao-ne/publications>.

We recognize that it is our duty to protect national security and enforce the law for the benefit of all Americans. In order to do our jobs, we conduct outreach efforts with many local groups and individuals, including the Arab American and Muslim American communities as well as the Hispanic communities. This outreach is intended to improve our ability to perform our duties in a manner that is consistent with core American values such as respect for civil liberties, embracing diversity and

MESSAGE FROM THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY (CONT.)

commitment to religious freedom. These are values that are found in the Constitution and laws of the United States. We have initiated regular and continuing contact with the Mexican Consulate in Omaha. Also, in partnership with the FBI, we have engaged leaders of Arab American and Muslim American organizations to make sure that these groups are being afforded the full rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizens consistent with our American values.

Depriving criminal organizations of the fruits of their crimes continue as a priority. Law enforcement agencies in 2015 administratively forfeited cash, six vehicles and other property with a total value of just over \$1 million. In addition, the U.S. Attorney's office forfeited cash, 3 vehicles, 22 firearms and other property with a total value of over \$2 million.

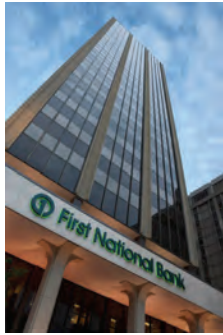
The summaries of case reports contained in this report are snapshots of a small portion of the cases handled by this office.

The accomplishments in this report are the product of enormous hard work of the entire staff of the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Nebraska and to all federal, state and local agencies that are vital to our joint success. We are proud to say we represent the United States of America!



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FAX: (402) 437-5390

ON THE INTERNET:



<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/ne/>



“[A PROSECUTOR] MAY PROSECUTE WITH EARNESTNESS AND VIGOR - INDEED S/HE SHOULD DO SO. BUT WHILE S/HE MAY STRIKE HARD BLOWS, S/HE IS NOT AT LIBERTY TO STRIKE FOUL ONES. IT IS AS MUCH HIS/HER DUTY TO REFRAIN FROM IMPROPER METHODS CALCULATED TO PRODUCE A WRONGFUL CONVICTION AS IT IS TO USE EVERY LEGITIMATE MEANS TO BRING ABOUT A JUST ONE.”

(gender references modified)

This is a famous quote regarding the duty of prosecutors. It comes from Justice Sutherland in *Berger v. United States*, 295 U.S. 78, 88 (1935).

“THE FUNCTION OF THE PROSECUTOR UNDER THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTION IS NOT TO TACK AS MANY SKINS OF VICTIMS AS POSSIBLE AGAINST THE WALL. HIS/HER FUNCTION IS TO VINDICATE THE RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE AS EXPRESSED IN THE LAWS AND GIVE THOSE ACCUSED OF CRIME A FAIR TRIAL.”

(gender references modified)

JUSTICE WILLIAM O. DOUGLAS

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

To enforce the law and defend the interests of the United States according to the law; to ensure public safety against threats foreign and domestic; to provide federal leadership in preventing and controlling crime; to seek just punishment for those guilty of unlawful behavior; and to ensure fair and impartial administration of justice for all Americans.

OUR CORE VALUES

Equal Justice Under the Law
Honesty and Integrity
Commitment to Excellence
Respect for the Worth and Dignity of Each Human Being



WELCOME TO THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA



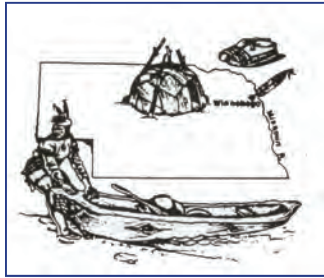
Nebbraska, the 16th largest state geographically, became the 37th state to join the Union on March 1, 1867. Its 77,000 square miles encompass 93 counties, and a population of over 1.9 million people. As one of the 26 states with only one federal judicial district, Nebraska boasts a diversity and variety of topography, geography, and economy. Nebraska is also unique in having a unicameral, non-partisan legislature. Nebraska has more underground water reserves than any other state in the continental U.S. The name Nebraska is from an Oto Indian word that means "flat water" (referring to the Platte River, which means "flat river" in French).

The Omaha and surrounding cities make up a population of over 880,000 which accounts for a large majority of the District's population. Lincoln, the state's capital, is home to over 268,700 residents. Much of the state, however, is rural, with over 90% of Nebraska's cities and towns having fewer than 3,000 people.



The state has a mixed economic base with substantial agricultural and agribusiness sectors, as well as significant manufacturing, technical and service sectors. More than 93% of Nebraska's land is in production agriculture with approximately 46,800 farms and ranches. The state is a national leader in production of beef, pork, corn, and soy beans. Other economic sectors include freight transport by rail and truck, manufacturing, telecommunications, information technology, and insurance. Nebraska is also known for its production of ethanol, accounting for an estimated 12 percent of the nation's operating production. Several Fortune 500 companies, including Berkshire Hathaway, Union Pacific, Mutual of Omaha, and Peter Kiewit & Sons, are headquartered in Nebraska, and many others such as TD Ameritrade, Valmont, Woodmen of the World, and Cabela's have substantial operations in the District. In 1974 Lincoln's Kawasaki Motors plant was established which manufactures various all-terrain, utility and recreational vehicles, along with passenger rail cars.

The United States Strategic Command is headquartered at Offutt Air Force Base, located just south of Omaha in Bellevue. Various other federal sites, including the Niobrara Scenic River, the Missouri National Recreational River, several national monuments, historic sites, National Wildlife Refuges, and U.S. Army Corp of Engineers recreational sites are located throughout Nebraska. The National Park Service Regional Headquarters is located along the Nebraska side of the Missouri River at Omaha. The U.S. Department of Agriculture operates several facilities in the District,



including research national forests, and a national grassland. Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo & Aquarium is home to the world's largest indoor desert, the largest indoor rainforest in the United States, and the largest zoo aquarium in the country.

In addition to the Veterans Affairs Hospital in Omaha, the Department of Veterans Affairs operates outpatient clinics in Lincoln and Grand Island, and the Indian Health Service operates a hospital in Winnebago.

The Omaha, Winnebago, and Santee Sioux tribes have reservations located in northeast Nebraska, and federal criminal jurisdiction has been retroceded to the United States for each. As a result, the United States Attorney's Office works closely with those tribes to address crime occurring on the reservations. It should be noted that the Ponca Tribe, although it does not have a reservation in Nebraska, is federally recognized.

Numerous federal law enforcement agencies maintain offices in Nebraska and work extensively with the United States Attorney's Office. These agencies include the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, U.S. Marshals Service, Secret Service, Internal Revenue Service, Postal Service, Department of Agriculture, Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security, National Park Service, Social Security Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, and others. The United States Attorney's Office also works with federal agencies located outside of Nebraska, such as the Department of Education, Environmental Protection Agency, Social Security Administration, and the Department of Health and Human Services.

In addition to its work with federal agencies, the U.S. Attorney's Office works very closely with state and local law enforcement agencies, addressing the needs of the District. For many years, the citizens of Nebraska have benefitted from the very cooperative relationships between federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies throughout the District. A number of multi-agency joint law enforcement task forces have been created to facilitate effective investigation and prosecution of criminal offenses, especially those involving drugs and violent crime, as well as civil enforcement in the areas of health care fraud and environmental enforcement. Some of the accomplishments of those groups are described in this report.

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA



The United States Attorney serves as the chief federal law enforcement officer in the District of Nebraska, and is responsible for coordinating multiple agency investigations within the District. The United States Attorney and her Assistants represent the federal government in virtually all litigation involving the United States in the District of Nebraska, including all criminal prosecutions for violations of federal law, civil lawsuits in which the United States is a party, and actions to collect judgments and restitution on behalf of victims and taxpayers.

Deborah R. Gilg was sworn in as the 32nd United States Attorney for the District of Nebraska on October 1, 2009. She is the first female United States Attorney for the District of Nebraska and a native of Omaha. Ms. Gilg is currently serving on U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch's Advisory Committee (AGAC). She also serves on Attorney General Loretta Lynch's Subcommittees on National Security and Terrorism, Civil Rights Enforcement, Native American Issues and Cyber/Intellectual Property Issues. She also chairs the Attorney General's Subcommittee on Child Exploitation and Obscenity Working Group.

Previously, Ms. Gilg served as the Keith County Attorney from 1987-2002. After relocating to the Omaha area, she worked in the Saunders County Attorney's Office as the chief felony prosecutor until 2009. Ms. Gilg has also served as a Special Prosecutor, Special Deputy County Attorney and/or County Attorney in 21 Nebraska counties as well as maintained a private civil practice. During several of her years as a county prosecutor, she was on the Board of Directors of the Nebraska County Attorney Association and served as President. She is the recipient of several public service awards including the Nebraska Women's Bar Association Outstanding Contributor to Women in the Law; Nebraska Bar Foundation Award for Outstanding Public Service; the Nebraska State Patrol Award for Exceptional Public Service and the Nebraska County Officials Association Award for Outstanding Public Service.

Ms. Gilg received her Juris Doctorate degree in 1977 from the University of Nebraska College of Law, and her Bachelor of Arts degree (major in Latin-American Studies) from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1974.

As United States Attorney for the District of Nebraska, Ms. Gilg oversees a staff of 26 Assistant U.S. Attorneys (AUSAs) and more than 32 support staff working in offices located in Omaha and Lincoln. Three attorneys from the County Attorney's offices, in Douglas and Hall Counties have offices in the U.S. Attorney's Office, one Tribal Special Assistant Attorney and 26 attorneys from the Northern District of Iowa, Nebraska Attorney General's Office, Internal Revenue Service, Social Security Administration, Small Business Administration and Judge Advocate General's Office also serve as Special Assistant U.S. Attorneys (SAUSAs) to assist with criminal and civil litigation in the District.

The Criminal Division of the office, which includes the General Crimes Unit and the Drug Prosecution Unit, prosecutes violations of federal criminal law. The attorneys in the General Crimes Unit are supervised by Jan Sharp, Criminal Chief, while John Higgins, Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) Chief, supervises the Drug Unit and Asset Forfeitures. Assistant United States Attorney Michael Norris is the Appellate Coordinator/Senior Litigation Counsel. The Civil Division is headed by Robert Homan, and Joseph Jeanette coordinates the Law Enforcement and Community Coordination (LECC) Unit, which maintains partnerships between law enforcement agencies, provides services to crime victims and witnesses, and coordinates training conferences. The Administrative Unit, which supports the operations of all components of the office, is supervised by Denise Smith, Administrative Officer. Robert C. Stuart, serves as First Assistant United States Attorney and functions as Chief of Staff and Chief Legal Advisor to the United States Attorney.

STRATEGIC GOALS

I. Prevent Terrorism and Promote the Nation's Security Consistent with the Rule of Law

Strengthen Partnerships to Prevent, Deter and Respond to Terrorist Incidents

II. Combat Crime, Protect the Rights of the American People and Enforce Federal Law

Combat the Threat, Incidents and Prevalence of Violent Crime

Prevent, Suppress and Intervene in Crimes Against Native Americans and Improve Services to Crime Victims

Combat the Threat, Trafficking, and Use of Illicit Drugs and the Diversion of Prescription Drugs

Combat Corruption, Economic Crimes, Fraud, Cyber-Crimes, Human Trafficking and International Organized Crime

Promote and Protect American's Civil Rights

Protect the Federal Monies and Defend the Interests of the United States

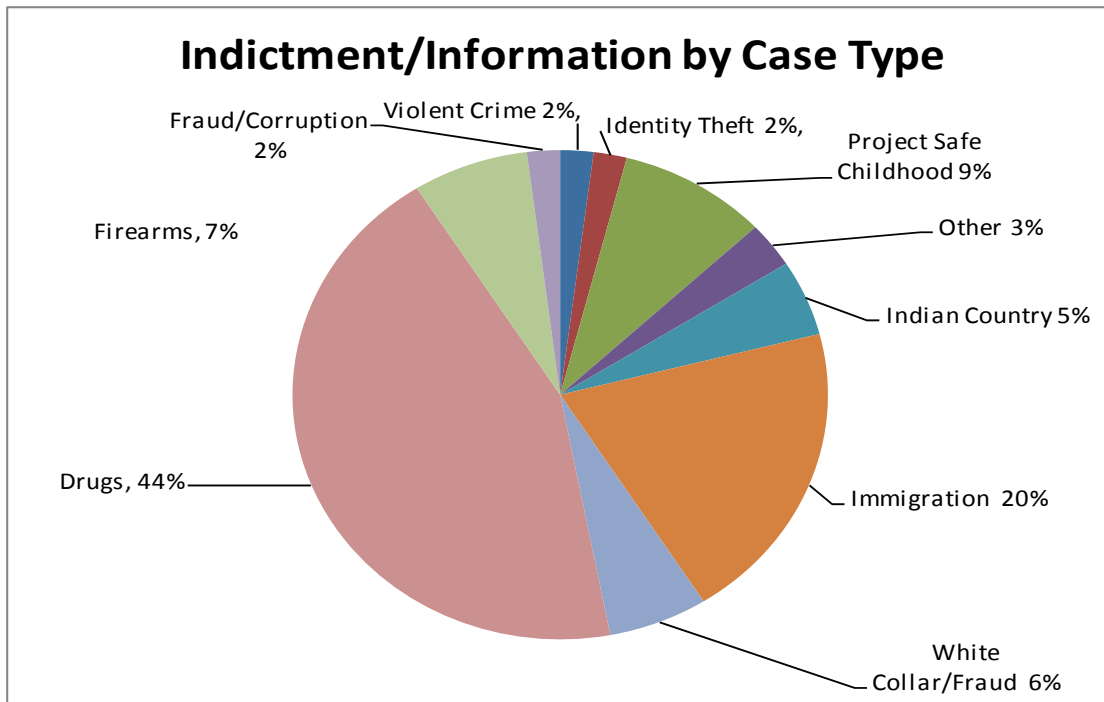
III. Ensure and Support the Fair, Impartial, Efficient and Transparent Administration of Justice at the Federal, State, Local Tribal and International Levels

CRIMINAL DIVISION



The Criminal Division in 2015 continued to focus its efforts on areas identified as national priorities by the Department of Justice; anti-terrorism, assuring the safety of our communities, and drug enforcement. Working closely with federal, state, tribal, and local law enforcement agencies, the 21 Assistant United States Attorneys and four Special Assistant United States Attorneys in the office’s general criminal and drug units prosecuted violations of federal criminal statutes in federal district courts in Omaha, Lincoln, and North Platte.

The number of defendants who faced federal charges in 2015 totaled 559 with the majority of these cases related to illegal drugs; however, firearms cases, immigration cases, and offenses involving identity theft and fraud comprised a significant portion of the criminal cases filed.



ANTI-TERRORISM

The fight against terrorism, both international and domestic, continues to be the first priority of the Department of Justice. The United States Attorney's Office Criminal Division, in the District of Nebraska, has committed significant resources to this effort. Working closely with the FBI and other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, office personnel continue their active membership in the Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) and the Nebraska Information Analysis Center (NIAC) to detect indications or warnings of terrorist activities, identify and protect potential targets of terrorist activities within the District, disrupt activities that support terrorism, and prevent, through aggressive prosecution, any crimes that may in some way contribute to terrorism. Other particularly notable efforts include: sponsorship of the United States Attorney's Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council (ATAC), co-hosting the annual Lt. Governor's Nebraska Infrastructure Protection Conference, chairing the multi-agency Suspicious Activity Report Review Team, and providing training to industry and Law Enforcement agencies across Nebraska.



The United States Attorney's Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council (ATAC), composed of nearly 70 government, industry and community partners, continues to foster information sharing and networking between various sectors through training presentations and open-source intelligence updates.





The Nebraska Infrastructure Protection Conference (NIPC) continues as to serve as a networking and educational resource to the private, non-profit and public sectors in Nebraska. The NIPC is co-hosted by Nebraska's Homeland Security Director - the Lieutenant Governor of Nebraska and the United States Attorney for the District of Nebraska, Deborah Gilg. This conference was designed to assist in information sharing, collaboration and networking with those protecting critical infrastructure assets. It fosters participation in Homeland Security initiatives and programs by partnering industry representatives with government personnel to share knowledge and expertise. It identifies mutual needs in the areas of joint response procedures, key asset surveillance, collaboration, information sharing regarding threats, contact lists and relationships and participation in response exercises. The conference attracts a wide variety of community members who focus on infrastructure protection and represent many sectors.

The District of Nebraska continues to chair the Suspicious Activity Report (SAR) Review Team. The difference between criminals and terrorists is that criminals' activities are motivated by acquisition of money, whereas, terrorists must have money to further their destructive ideologies. The SAR Review Team is comprised of members from over a dozen different federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. Monthly, each member reviews the previous month's SAR(s) through their respective organizational filters and shares information that arises from their investigative efforts. This has been successful in bringing investigative and prosecutorial resources to bear on individuals and entities engaging violations of the Bank Secrecy Act and de-confliction with ongoing investigations.

We continue to develop relationships through Counter Proliferation Task Force (CPTF). This effort combines the resources of the United States Attorney's Office, U.S. Dept. of Commerce, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and Defense Criminal Investigative Service (DCIS) to prevent sensitive weapons of mass destruction and other dual-use technology from falling into the hands of those who wish to harm America. An important aspect of the CPTF is assisting and participating in established outreach programs of our other federal law enforcement partners to assist industry to identify and mitigate attempts to inappropriately obtain such technology.

The United States Attorney's Office also serves as a member of the U.S. Strategic Command Threat Working Group, whose mission is to identify and mitigate threats to the command and it's supporting Department of Defense elements, including innumerable private contractors. Attenuation of these threats requires a concerted effort which includes information-sharing and networking among law enforcement personnel at every level. Elimination of a threat for this important partner only serves to protect the entire community.





Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) is a nationwide commitment to reduce gun and gang crime in America by networking existing local programs that target gun and gun crime and providing these programs with additional tools necessary to be successful. Since its inception in 2001, over \$2 billion has been committed to this initiative. This funding is being used to hire new federal and state prosecutors, support investigators, provide training, distribute gun lock safety kits, deter juvenile gun crime, and develop and promote community outreach efforts as well as to support other gun and gang violence reduction strategies. (BJA– Overview)

DOJ PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERS

U.S. Department of Justice The mission of the U.S. Department of Justice is to enforce the law and defend the nation's interests according to the law, ensure public safety against both foreign and domestic threats, provide leadership in preventing and controlling crime, seek just punishment for those found guilty of breaking the law, enforce drug and immigration laws, and ensure fair and impartial administration of justice for all Americans.



Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), a law enforcement agency within the U.S. Department of Justice, enforces the federal laws and regulations relating to alcohol, tobacco products, firearms, explosives, and arson. ATF's Office of Training and Professional Development provides enforcement training courses and specially designed classes tailored to meet the needs of jurisdictions that request training.



Criminal Division The Criminal Division of the U.S. Department of Justice develops, enforces, and supervises the application of all federal criminal laws except those specifically assigned to other divisions. The Division and the 93 U.S. Attorneys are responsible for overseeing criminal matters under the more than 900 statutes and certain civil litigation. In addition to direct litigation responsibilities, the Division formulates and implements criminal enforcement policy and provides advice and assistance.

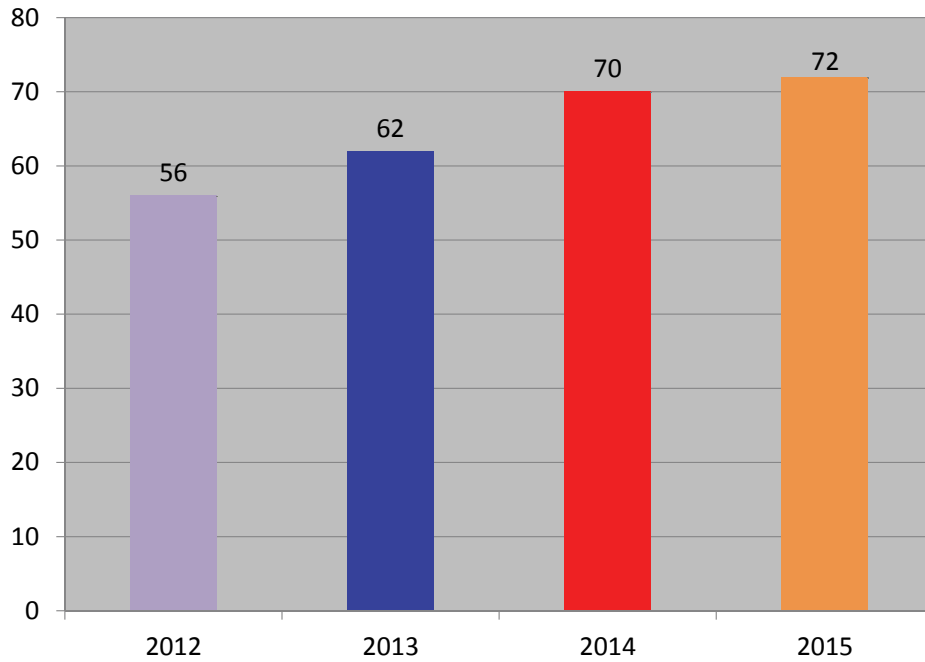
Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys The Executive Office for United States Attorneys (EOUSA) is the liaison between the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and the 93 U.S. Attorneys in the 50 states, District of Columbia, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands. EOUSA provides U.S. Attorneys with general executive assistance and direction, policy development, administrative management direction and oversight, operational support, and coordination with other DOJ components and federal agencies.

Office of Justice Programs Founded in 1984, the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) provides federal leadership in developing the nation's capacity to prevent and control crime, improve the criminal and juvenile justice systems, increase knowledge about crime and related issues, and assist crime victims. OJP's numerous bureaus and offices include the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). It is with the developmental and financial assistance of these organizations that OJP is able to successfully form partnerships among federal, state, and local government officials to address numerous criminal justice issues, including drug abuse and trafficking, neighborhood rehabilitation, gang violence, prison crowding, juvenile crime, and white-collar crime.

In addition to the normal prosecution of Federal gun violation cases, with the assistance of Project Safe Neighborhood and the OPD Bomb Squad, the Firearms Squad held a combined firearms and fireworks Amnesty Project in the Summer of 2015. These events resulted in the removal of 61 guns, 800 pounds of ammunition, four improvised explosive devices, and 800 pounds of fireworks from the streets of Omaha.



FEDERAL GUN INDICTMENTS

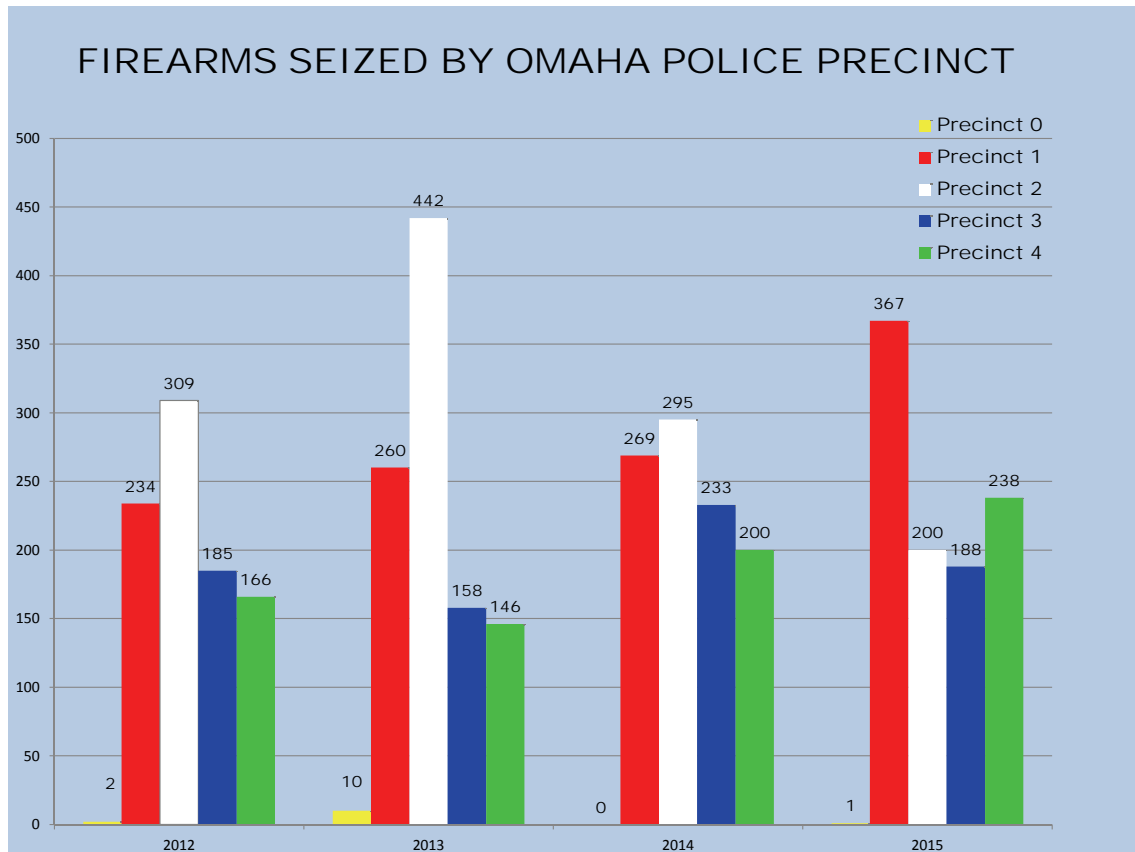


PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS FIREARMS TRACING AND TRACKING PROJECT 2015

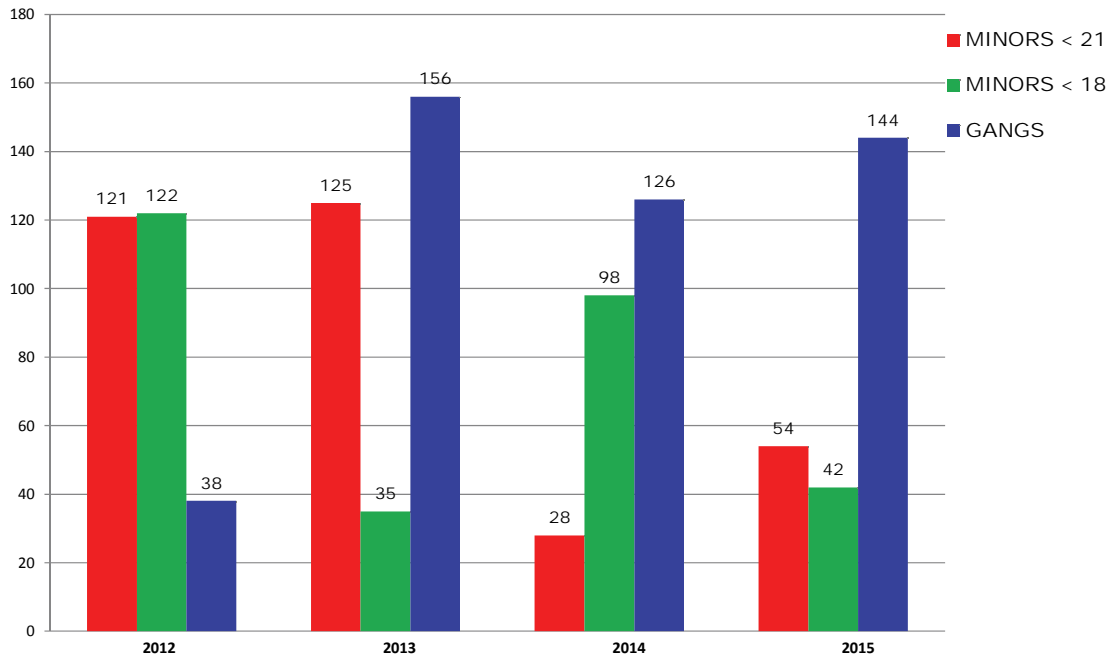
Gun Cases Reviewed	56	27	36	35	26	42	40	47	59	42	35	27	472
Cases Presented to USAO	1	1	4	4	2	6	4	4	8	10	9	9	62
Cases Presented to USAO w/other Units	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	4	8
Cases Presented to DCAO	23	9	14	17	12	24	20	16	30	26	20	14	225
Cases Presented to OCPO	13	7	14	9	10	11	14	22	21	5	6	4	136
Juvenile Cases	3	2	5	6	2	4	1	5	8	1	4	1	42
Guns Sent to ATF for Trace	105	73	85	73	77	93	150	145	75	69	84	97	1126

PSN FEDERAL GUN INDICTMENTS 2015

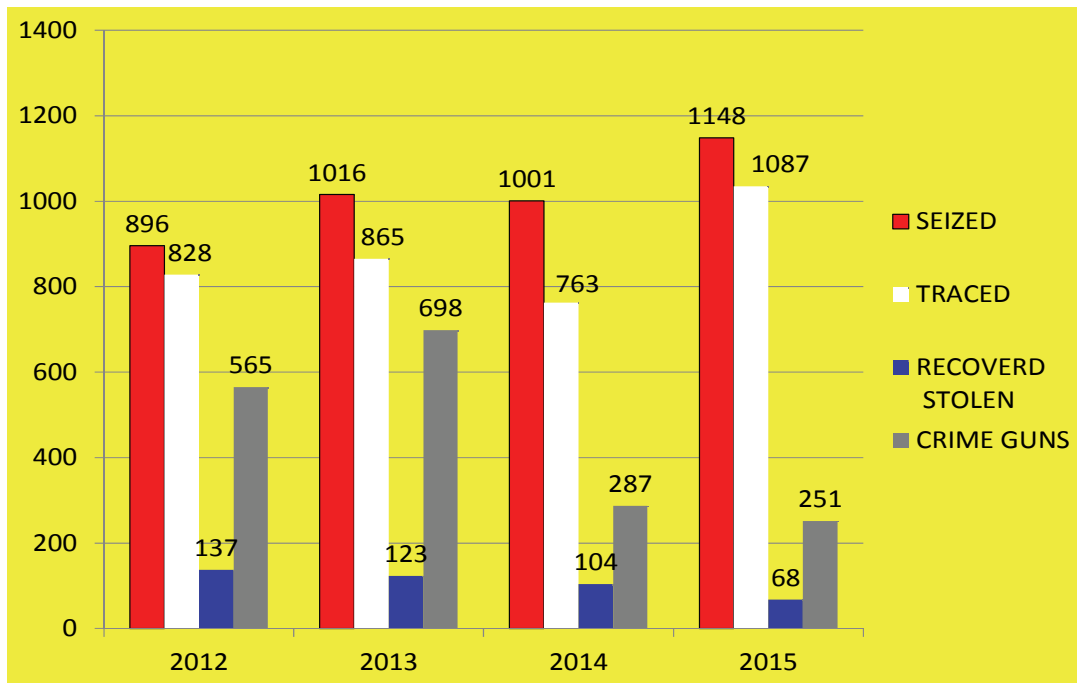
	Omaha PSN Cases	State PSN Cases	Alien with Gun Cases	PSN Cases 2005	PSN Cases 2006	PSN Cases 2007	PSN Cases 2008	PSN Cases 2009	PSN Cases 2010	PSN Cases 2011	PSN Cases 2012	PSN Cases 2013	PSN Cases 2014	PSN Cases 2015
JAN	4	1	0	16	16	8	8	13	8	5	2	1	5	8
FEB	1	1	0	18	23	23	13	13	11	6	4	7	2	6
MAR	3	0	0	13	8	19	5	20	6	5	8	5	3	6
APR	3	1	0	22	23	12	16	24	12	7	7	9	4	7
MAY	1	4	0	11	6	20	13	23	3	4	3	6	5	3
JUN	0	2	0	13	20	8	10	16	8	4	3	3	2	4
JUL	7	0	0	12	18	14	11	15	3	27	4	3	7	6
AUG	1	1	0	10	13	13	19	3	8	7	4	1	2	7
SEP	5	3	0	9	11	4	17	4	13	6	6	16	8	10
OCT	10	2	0	7	10	12	9	13	9	2	4	11	12	6
NOV	10	3	0	15	10	18	8	7	11	5	4	0	13	5
DEC	2	5	0	17	14	8	17	1	2	10	7	0	7	4
TOTALS	47	23	0	163	172	159	146	152	94	88	56	62	70	72



SEIZED FIREARMS TIED TO MINOR AND GANG MEMBERS / ASSOCIATES



FIREARMS SEIZED BY OPD FOR TRACKING



PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD CASES

The US Attorney's Office worked closely with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives (ATF) and the Omaha Police Department's Gang and Firearm Units to target gang members and others illegally in possession of firearms.

Javon Murry

An investigation by the ATF and the Omaha Police Department revealed that Javon Murry had purchased at least nine firearms between September 2013 and September 2014. Some of the firearms purchased by Murry were recovered at crime scenes and/or at locations associated with members of particular gangs in Omaha. Based on the pattern of the purchases and later recovery of the firearms in the possession of others, Murry appeared to be a straw purchaser. Murry was convicted of making false statements in the acquisition of firearms, based on false information he had provided in making certain of the purchases.

Nathaniel Middleton

Officers searched a home after a misdemeanor drug arrest and found defendant hiding in a bedroom underneath a mattress. When the officers removed the mattress, they found a .45 Colt Ruger revolver by defendant's hands. The defendant was a felon at the time of possession. This case was originally presented in State court where the defendant's motion to suppress was granted even though defendant was a visitor with no expectation of privacy in the residence. After conferring with the State court prosecutor, this office presented Defendant for indictment as a felon in possession of a firearm. Defendant did not challenge the search, pled guilty and was sentenced to 37 months in prison.

Kenneth Zimmerman and Nicholas Kmoch

In 2014 an officer with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission began investigating the illegal taking of deer by rifle during bow hunting season. The officer was able to identify Zimmerman and Kmoch as suspects. During a traffic stop in Western Nebraska the officer found both defendants to be felons in possession of a hunting rifle. The officer worked with Butler County Sheriff's deputies, obtained a search warrant for Zimmerman's residence and property and recovered found three revolvers and an assault rifle with a homemade silencer attached to it. Both defendants were convicted of federal firearms offenses.



PROJECT SAFE CHILDHOOD

Project Safe Childhood is a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May of 2006 by the United States Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices nationwide and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims.

OPERATION TORPEDO

The FBI was alerted to the presence of computer servers in Nebraska hosting three child pornography websites. The websites, PedoBook, PedoBoard, and TB2 were hidden servers on the Tor network.

Operation Torpedo was a first-of-its-kind investigation designed to penetrate the cloak of anonymity afforded to those individuals using the Tor to access, view and comment upon the sexual abuse of babies, infants, and prepubescent children. The use of Network Investigative Techniques, Title III intercepts, and other methods utilized for the first time in Operation Torpedo became the prototype of other Tor-based investigations.

The administrator of the websites and five other members received sentences ranging from 12 to 25 year's in prison for their roles. Three individuals, Aaron McGrath, Timothy DeFoggi, and Jason Flanary were the first individuals in the Eighth Circuit to be convicted of engaging in a child exploitation enterprise carrying a mandatory minimum 25 year's of imprisonment.

Thirteen individuals who were visitors but not members of the websites were convicted of accessing with the intent to view child pornography. They received sentences ranging from four to ten year's.

The prosecutors and agents involved in the investigation were recognized by the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation with the award for Outstanding Criminal Investigation. The team also received the 2015 Assistant Attorney General's Exceptional Service Award.

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SIGNIFICANT TORPEDO PROSECUTIONS

Timothy Defoggi, the former Acting Director of Cybersecurity at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, was sentenced to 25 years in federal prison for engaging in a child exploitation enterprise and related charges involving child pornography. DeFoggi was convicted following a jury trial. He solicited others to provide and distribute violent images of child pornography through PedoBook, a Tor-based child pornography website hosted

in Nebraska. He had also sought out other members to meet for the purpose of molesting an infant.

Joshua Welch was convicted after a jury trial of receiving and accessing child pornography. He was sentenced to concurrent 10-year sentences. Welch accessed PedoBook, a Tor-based child pornography website with more than 18,000 members and tens of thousands of images of child pornography. Welch believed his activities were completely anonymous due to his use of Tor and his belief that his Linux operating system was not subject to computer forensic

OTHER SIGNIFICANT CHILD PORNOGRAPHY PROSECUTIONS

In calendar year 2015, the United States Attorney's Office filed charges involving the receipt or production of child pornography against 42 people. In total, 45 people were convicted and sentenced 2015 for sentences involving child pornography. In addition, charges were brought against 23 people who failed to register as sex offenders. Indictments were also brought against several individuals for other crimes involving the exploitation of children via the Internet. Those indictments included charges for interstate travel to engage in a sexual act with a juvenile.

Christopher Brackett was convicted after a jury trial of producing, transporting, and possessing child pornography. He traveled from Nebraska to Ohio on two occasions and photographed a 16 year old engaged in sexually explicit conduct. When he requested more images, she ended their relationship. Brackett retaliated by posting advertisements on Craigslist inviting individuals to come to the juvenile's home to engage in sexual relations. Brackett, a registered sex offender, had a prior state conviction for sexual exploitation of a minor. Brackett

was sentenced to 30 years in federal prison to be followed by a 25-year term of supervised release.

Gregory Day was sentenced to 70 months in prison following his conviction for possession of child pornography. Day sought out young girls on teen chat sites and solicited pictures from them. The matter was reported to police who interviewed him. He provided consent to search his telephone and computer where officers located child pornography.

Levi Hallett was sentenced to 27 years in prison for production of child pornography. In November of 2013 the Federal Bureau of Investigation was advised of an ongoing child molestation investigation being conducted by the Sidney, Nebraska, police department. As part of that investigation, officers obtained search warrants which authorized the search of Hallett's cell phone, residence, and phone records. The cellular company records were analyzed and multiple images of child pornography were discovered. Hallett was interviewed by investigators and admitted to possessing child pornography. Hallett also admitted to producing images found on his cell phone involving two minors under the age of 12 and sending sexually explicit images of the victims to other individuals via text messaging.

Donald Harvey was sentenced to 70 months in prison following his conviction for receipt and possession of child pornography. Harvey, already in jail on other charges, arranged to have a friend pick up a laptop which had been seized by police. She later discovered child pornography on the computer and reported the matter to the authorities.

Anthony James Horton, also known as "AJ" Horton, was sentenced to 28 years in prison for production of child pornography. Horton had been previously convicted of sexual assault of a child and was already required to register as a sex offender. In October of 2014, based on numerous reports of sexual assaults and illegal drug activity, investigators executed a search warrant at Horton's residence in Stratton, Hitchcock County, Nebraska. During the execution of that search warrant, various items of computer and camera equipment were located. A later forensic examination of that equipment revealed numerous videos of sexually explicit conduct that Horton had produced of himself and a minor victim.

Richard Pitman was sentenced to fifteen years in prison following his conviction for production of child pornography. Pitman took explicit pictures of a small female child that he was babysitting.

VIOLENT CRIME

VIOLENT CRIME

Robert Davis was sentenced to four years', ten months' imprisonment for robbing an American National Bank branch.

Ivell Hagens was sentenced to 30 months in prison following his conviction for being a felon in possession of a firearm. Hagens, a member of the South Family Bloods street gang in Omaha, was a prohibited person based upon prior convictions for felon in possession of a firearm and terroristic threats against an Omaha Police Department officer's family. After the convictions, which made him a prohibited person, he was again found in possession of a firearm.

Liban Hassan was sentenced to 2 years', 9 months' imprisonment for acting as the lookout during the robbery of an Omaha convenience store.

Kevin Lee was sentenced to four years', nine month's imprisonment after pleading guilty to robbing an Omaha American National Bank and U.S. Bank branch.

Ronald Mockelman was sentenced to 9 months in prison upon his conviction for threatening an employee of the United States Department of Transportation. Mockelman, a truck driver, became angry at the DOT as it was attempting to impose a fine him for violation of DOT rules. He reacted by calling both the Lincoln and Chicago offices of the DOT and threatening to kill a specific employee, along with government employees and law enforcement officers in general.

Trent Nitzel was sentenced to 94 months' imprisonment upon his conviction for robbing a Centennial Bank branch in Omaha.

Jamie Speelman and **Anthony Aranda** were sentenced, respectively, to 12 years', 3 months' imprisonment and 10 years', 10 months' imprisonment following their convictions for affecting interstate commerce by robbery. Speelman and Aranda "carjacked" a vehicle at gunpoint and then used it to commit a robbery of a convenience store.

Paul Michael Tegeler was sentenced to 7 years in prison upon his conviction for coercion and enticement of a juvenile. Tegeler had been identified as an individual who had placed an advertisement on Craigslist looking for a sex slave. Law enforcement officials, using the persona of a 13-year-old female child, began communicating with Tegeler. During those conversations, Tegeler described sexually explicit conduct to the female child and invited "her" to meet him for sex. Also during those online conversations with the undercover deputy, Tegeler asked the female child to send him nude images via computer. The investigation culminated when Tegeler sent the female child a one-way bus ticket to travel from her home in Colorado to Lexington, Nebraska, so Tegeler could then take her to his residence in Overton, Nebraska and have sex with her. Tegeler was arrested by the Nebraska State Patrol when he arrived at a bus station in Lexington, Nebraska, expecting to meet the child.

CRIMINAL CASES (CONT.)

Shantoria Valentine was sentenced to five years', three months' imprisonment for robbing a Wells Fargo branch located in Ralston, Nebraska, by pretending to be carrying a bomb.

Louis A. Venditte was sentenced to 12 months' and a day of imprisonment upon his conviction for four federal felony prostitution-related offenses. From at least 2003 through October, 2013, he operated a club featuring "exotic dancers" who appeared on stage in bikinis or

similar attire, but in fact was operated as a prostitution enterprise. While operating as a prostitution enterprise, Venditte transported at least one female from the State of Iowa to the establishment with the intent she would engage in prostitution.

Phillip M. Weber was sentenced to 138 months in prison for having committed two bank robberies and for taking a car by force from an Omaha woman in preparation for one of the robberies.

OFFENSES BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS

James Clark was sentenced to a 4 year term of probation and ordered to pay restitution in the amount \$20,000 following his conviction for intentional misuse of funds taken from an agency receiving federal funding. Clark served as Comptroller and, later, as Director of Finance within the Business Office of Westside Community Schools District. Clark intentionally misapplied property of the Westside Community Schools district

when he used district funds to pay for purchases made on a credit card in his name. Clark's purchases were not properly authorized and included purchases for his personal use.

Rochelle Klug, an agent with the Santee Indian Reservation Housing Authority, embezzled approximately \$20,000 from the Housing Authority. She was sentenced to probation and ordered to make full restitution.

CRIMINAL CASES (CONT.)

INDIAN COUNTRY

Howard Bassette was sentenced to 12 months in prison after stabbing an individual during an argument on the Winnebago Indian Reservation.

Antonio Bertucci was sentenced to 35 months' imprisonment upon his conviction on two counts of habitual domestic violence. He was also sentenced to one year in prison for violating the terms of his supervised release imposed following his separate conviction for aiding and abetting the killing of a bald eagle. Bertucci had punched and kicked his live-in girlfriend after he had already received two previous convictions for domestic abuse assault in Iowa. In a separate incident, Bertucci was seen driving in a field shooting at eagles. After a brief chase by law enforcement, Bertucci was stopped and a bald eagle carcass was found in the trunk of his vehicle.

Kyle Bigbear was sentenced to 10 years in prison upon his conviction for being a felon in possession of a firearm. Bigbear was driving on the Winnebago Indian Reservation while in possession of a rifle. When he got into a dispute with a Winnebago resident he pointed the rifle at him. Bigbear was a convicted felon at the time having previously been convicted of possession with the intent to distribute methamphetamine.

Terry Harlan was sentenced to 41 month's imprisonment upon his conviction for habitual domestic abuse. Harlan assaulted his girlfriend several times at his residence on the Omaha Indian Reservation. Harlan had prior tribal convictions for domestic assault and a federal conviction for assault with a dangerous weapon against his prior girlfriend.

Victor Miller was sentenced to five years' probation upon his conviction for negligent child abuse. Miller was taking care of his 14 month old daughter on the Omaha Indian Reservation. He negligently left methamphetamine within reach of the child and she ingested it while he was showering requiring emergency medical treatment.

Roman Perales was sentenced to 41 months' imprisonment following his conviction for assault with intent to commit damage to real or personal property. Perales fired a handgun at a house and car on the Winnebago Indian. The homeowner and his family were inside the residence at the time of the shooting, and one bullet entered the home near where the family was sitting.

WHITE COLLAR CRIME

John Arrington was sentenced to 5 years in prison, **Michael Kratville** to 4 years in prison, and **Michael Welke** to 3 years in prison following their convictions for wire fraud. The defendants, doing business as Elite Management Holding Corporation, defrauded approximately 100 individuals out of approximately \$4 million in a high yield investment fraud scheme. The monies solicited from the victims purportedly were traded in commodity futures contracts and foreign currency contracts. Defendants misrepresented the trading returns on these investments and lied about the success of the trades. Defendants misappropriated a significant amount of the invested funds and converted the for their own personal use. All three defendants were ordered to pay restitution.

LaTosha Bolton was sentenced to 15 months' imprisonment following her convictions for theft of government property and mail fraud. From 1993 until 2013, Ms. Bolton was receiving Supplemental Security Income benefits on behalf of one of her children. While it was clear the child did have a disability, Bolton did not use the money for the benefit of her child as required by law. Ms. Bolton received \$124,960.00 of government SSI funds which she was also ordered to repay.

Gerald Bryce was sentenced to 18 month's imprisonment after pleading guilty to mail fraud charges. He was an insurance agent and would collect premium payments from customers so that they could be sent to the insurance

company providing the customers' coverage. However Bryce did not forward the monies and customers' policies lapsed for nonpayment. Bryce was also ordered to pay \$107,591.51 in restitution.

Dylan Donnelly was sentenced to 12 months in prison and ordered to pay approximately \$75,000 in restitution following his conviction for bank fraud. Donnelly obtained five loans from a small town bank totaling \$75,600 by presenting false information to the bank regarding the intended use of the loan proceeds, and the existence of collateral for the loans.

Magalita Gelin was sentenced to five years' probation with eight months' home confinement and five years' probation with 12 weekends in jail and was ordered to pay restitution in the amount \$56,508 following her conviction for assisting in the filing of multiple fraudulent tax returns. She assisted in the filing of 31 false tax returns between February 2009 and August 2010, receiving a total of \$56,508 in bogus refunds.

William Knutson was sentenced to 5 years' probation following his conviction for theft of government property. Knutson pocketed the Social Security benefits of a deceased friend for whom he had previously served as a caretaker, resulting in an order of restitution to the Social Security Administration in the amount of \$193,297.60.

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Corey Lavigne, Mitchell Morey, and Austin Asche were convicted of conspiracy to produce false identification documents. The defendants created a website to sell fake New York drivers licenses to customers under 21 years of age who wanted the identification to help them secure entrance into bars and liquor establishments. All three defendants were sentenced to 4 years of probation which required each defendant to spend 16 consecutive weekends in jail, and to forfeit over \$375,000 worth of vehicles, investment and savings accounts, and cash to the United States.

Susan Marr was sentenced to five years of probation and ordered to perform 200 hours of community service and pay restitution of \$38,171 for her separate convictions for social security fraud and theft from a tribal casino. Marr applied for Supplemental Security Income benefits from the Social Security Administration for her disabled son. However, she failed to list all of her household income and resources and subsequently failed to tell the SSA about her marriage and the related income and resources of her husband. As a result, the SSA paid approximately five years of SSI benefits she was not eligible to receive on behalf of her son. After Marr was indicted, she was terminated from her position as manager of the Lucky 77 Casino in Walthill. Under the guise of showing her replacement how to do payroll, she caused three checks to be issued for wages and vacation time that she had not earned.

Myron Plummer was sentenced to 4 years in prison and ordered to pay restitution in the amount \$196,000 following his convictions for mail fraud

and aggravated identity theft. Plummer, doing business as FCR Global LLC, would “reload” victims of fraud, (that is, re-contact individuals that he learned had been previously defrauded), related to the sale of timeshares and tell them that, for an upfront fee, he would be able to recover the monies they had lost and, in turn, would be able to resell their timeshare units. Plummer convinced 17 individuals to send him approximately \$196,000.00 on the promise that he would recover the losses incurred by the victims. In fact, he did nothing for them.

Melissa Prentice-Erickson was sentenced to five years’ probation, six month’s house arrest, and ordered to pay full restitution in the amount of \$192,762 following her conviction for health care fraud. Prentice-Erickson was a mental health therapist with a private practice in Aurora, Nebraska. Between November 2009 and July 2014 she submitted claims to Nebraska Medicaid for therapy sessions which never occurred, and was reimbursed a total of \$192,762.00.

David V. Roberts was sentenced to 41 months’ imprisonment following his conviction for wire fraud and ordered to make restitution in the amount of \$91,707.81. Roberts sent emails to various individuals located throughout the United States offering to buy goods or services advertised by victims for sale to the public. Once a purchase price was agreed upon, a check was mailed to the victims for payment of the advertised material, product, or services for sale. The checks were not legitimate and were fraudulently created. From at least June, 2011, and continuing through at least February, 2012, Roberts personally accepted more than fifty fraudulently obtained electronically wired monetary

payments from victims located outside the District of Nebraska in the total amount of \$91,707.81.

Thomas Schropp was sentenced to 15 years in prison and ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$7,610,778.50 following his convictions for arson, mail and wire fraud charges. Schropp, the owner of PK Manufacturing, hired a person to burn down his failing farm implement manufacturing company in 2008 in an attempt to collect insurance proceeds.

Erick Tukes was sentenced to 25 months in prison and ordered to pay full restitution in the amount of \$78,880, **Mary Merkel** was sentenced to time served, and ordered to serve five years' supervised release, and pay \$20,000 restitution, and **Dani Allison** was given a time-served sentence, five years' supervised release, and ordered to pay \$16,111 restitution following their convictions for bank fraud. The three defendants traveled from Florida to Nebraska and other states, stealing and forging and passing checks along the way. During two trips to Nebraska in 2012 they passed 41 forged checks for a total of \$78,880. They engaged in similar conduct in Arkansas totaling \$23,560.

Scott Usher was sentenced to 84 months in prison and his wife Robin Usher was sentenced to five years' probation following their convictions for wire fraud and being an accessory. In addition, Scott Usher was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$519,230.02 while Robin Usher was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$85,878.55. Scott Usher solicited money from numerous investors by representing he had developed numerous technological

advances which various governments and corporations wanted to purchase at great profit. All of Mr. Usher's representations, in fact, were lies. He had not developed the technologies he said he had created and he had not been in negotiations with any companies or prominent purchasers. **Robin Usher** was convicted as an accessory for corroborating Scott Usher's false stories to investors.

Brenda Warta was sentenced to 33 months' imprisonment and ordered to pay \$245,344 in restitution following her conviction for bank fraud. Warta was an owner/operator of Family Auto, Inc., a used car dealership in Grand Island, Nebraska. Under the terms of a floor plan arrangement with Platte Valley State Bank and Trust Company, the dealership was to notify the bank whenever any automobile listed as collateral was sold and to repay the principal portion of the line of credit secured by that automobile. When the line of credit was first obtained from Platte Valley State Bank, Warta pledged several cars as collateral which had already been sold and Warta further periodically failed to notify the bank when existing cars were sold. When the bank came to check on the inventory, Warta represented the missing cars were at auto auctions and even created false documents purporting to be records from the auto auctions.

Chet Lee West was sentenced to 51 months' imprisonment following his conviction by jury for three counts of felony tax evasion relating to tax year's 2007, 2008, and 2009. West was also ordered to make restitution in the amount of \$439,515.81. An investigation determined that from 2007 through 2009

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West earned taxable income of approximately \$272,224.00 while living and working in Omaha, Nebraska. West willfully evaded his personal income taxes by failing to file Federal Individual Income Tax Returns on that earned income.

Thomas Whitlow was sentenced to 9 years in prison following his conviction for conspiracy to commit wire fraud and wire fraud. In addition to the prison term, Whitlow was ordered to pay restitution of \$17,521, to the victims of the scheme to defraud. Whitlow was convicted by a federal jury which heard that between May of 2011 and November of 2013, Whitlow was a member of a group which schemed to defraud elderly victims. Mr. Whitlow would contact the elderly victims, purporting to be a family relative or a person acting on behalf of that relative. He would then solicit money from the elderly victims under a false pretense, such as a motor vehicle accident or some other type of fabricated emergency. The victims were then instructed to obtain a

money order and to have it sent to a specific person. Over the course of the conspiracy Whitlow and his co-defendants obtained approximately \$20,000.00 from their victims.

Donald James Wilson was sentenced to 41 months in prison, **Charles V. Garcia** to 12 months and one day in prison, and Jose L. Sanchez, Jr., to 5 months' imprisonment following their convictions for conspiracy to commit wire fraud and wire fraud. Garcia and Wilson were each ordered to make restitution in the amount of \$605,592.53. Beginning in 2007 and continuing through 2011, Wilson, Garcia, and Sanchez submitted false invoices to ConAgra representing that Wilson, an employee of ConAgra, was performing certain marketing services on behalf of the company. The representations were false because the services were not provided and the defendants were converting the funds to their own purposes.



AUSA Russell X. Mayer and AUSA Donald J. Kleine were recognized by the Postal Inspection Service for their stellar work on the Schropp arson/mail fraud case.

IMMIGRATION

IMMIGRATION

The United States Attorney's Office prosecutes numerous individuals for immigration related offenses every year. Those offenses can involve charges of illegal reentering the United States after removal, identity theft, possession of false documents, or distributing false documents. During 2015 the United States Attorney's Office charged 108 offenders charged with immigration offenses. Numerous others were convicted of identity theft offenses, many of which cases had an immigration component to them.

Faustino Suastegui-Villalva was sentenced to a total of 54 months in federal prison for his role in the production of counterfeit identification documents. Federal agents executed a search warrant at the residence of Suastegui and discovered equipment used in a document manufacturing operation including various computers on which images of counterfeit identification documents were located. The computer equipment contained over one-hundred fraudulent counterfeit identification documents.



NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT UNIT

The fight against illegal drug trafficking continued to be a major priority of the United States Attorney's Office in 2015. Nebraska is a significant trans-shipment area for drug traffickers due to its location in the central United States, between western drug sources and eastern drug markets, and with a large number of major interstate and other highways which pass through the State. Omaha, Lincoln, Grand Island, and other Nebraska cities serve as redistribution points for drug markets within Nebraska and neighboring states and markets, and to smaller rural communities within the District.

The coordinated efforts of Assistant United States Attorneys (AUSAs) and Special Assistant United States Attorneys (SAUSAs) addressed the comprehensive threat posed to the United States and the District of Nebraska by the trafficking, diversion and abuse of illegal drugs. SAUSAs from the Douglas and Hall County Attorney's Offices have multiplied the prosecutorial resources dedicated to this effort. Attorneys who prosecuted drug cases were supported by the cooperative investigative efforts of federal, state and local enforcement agencies throughout the District.

To address the issues related to the investigation and prosecution of drug-related offenses. The United States Attorney's Office filed approximately 213 indictments charging 278 defendants in 2015.

Some of the more significant cases prosecuted in the last year include:

SYN-is-ter

Starting in the spring of 2014, the Lincoln/Lancaster County Drug Task Force (which includes the Lincoln Police Department, Lancaster County Sheriff's Department and University of Nebraska – Lincoln Police Department), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Department of Homeland Security (HSI) and the Nebraska State Patrol conducted an investigation of Dirt Cheap and Island Smokes, two related head shops in Lincoln. The investigation was later designated as OCDEF case SYN-is-ter. Through the use of informants and undercover officers, investigators learned that the stores sold drug paraphernalia and synthetic cannabinoids, some of

which were found to contain Schedule I controlled substances. The investigation included the operation's finances, tracing the money made from the sale of synthetic cannabinoids and drug paraphernalia. In April of 2015, a search warrant was executed at the sole remaining store. Investigators seized synthetic cannabinoids, drug paraphernalia, and business records. This led to the closure of that store. The investigation ended in August of 2015 with the unsealing of a 14-count Indictment charging three persons and two corporations with conspiring to distribute controlled substances, misbranded drugs and drug paraphernalia and seeking forfeiture of bank accounts,

NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT UNIT CASES (CONT.)

vehicles, certain real property and money judgments. Two individuals and the corporations were also charged with mail fraud and related financial crimes. During the execution of a search warrant at one defendant's residence, officers found over \$260,000 in cash as well as collectible coins and precious metals valued at over \$14,000. The investigation received both regional and national recognition from HIDTA in the category Outstanding Financial Investigative Effort. This case is currently pending with a status conference scheduled for March 1, 2016.

Misty Harbor

This investigation was led by the FBI and the DEA. It targeted a drug trafficking and money laundering organization operating between Mexico and Omaha. The primary local distributor arranged for large quantities of methamphetamine and marijuana to be transported to Omaha from Mexico. The source of supply was a Mexican cartel. Local sales of methamphetamine most commonly occurred by the pound. The primary local distributor also convinced his suppliers to send him \$1,000,000 worth of marijuana. His suppliers were persuaded to do so because a local businessman who owned a legitimate business was willing to be liable for the payment. Seven defendants, including the local businessman, have been convicted of drug trafficking. Four of those same defendants also were convicted of money laundering. Sentences ranged from probation to 262 months.

Operation Pure Breed

Operation Pure Breed was an OCDEF case that came to conclusion in 2015 and resulted in the conviction of 15

defendants. This organization was responsible for the distribution of hundreds of pounds of cocaine, methamphetamine, and heroin in Nebraska and other states and the movement of money via bulk cash and funnel accounts. The case concluded with a two week jury trial for the final two defendants. Witnesses from different states testified about large quantities of drugs and cash the group was responsible for delivering across the United States. The verdict was split, however the defendant who was acquitted has since been indicted in California for drug distribution. Agencies conducting the investigation including the DEA, Nebraska State Patrol and Homeland Security Investigations.

Mexican Seafood

Mexican Seafood is an OCDEF case targeting methamphetamine traffickers in Central and Western Nebraska. During the course of the investigation, investigators recovered a large quantity of methamphetamine through confidential informant buys, traffic stops and search warrants. In 2015, a second round of indictments were obtained against 25 defendants. Of the cases which have concluded, sentences ranged from 30 months to 131 months. The investigation required the cooperative effort of federal, state and local law enforcement from various counties in Central and Western Nebraska.

Jacob Deng

This defendant was sentenced to 235 months in prison after a jury convicted him of drug trafficking and being a felon in possession of a firearm. The evidence at

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trial showed that defendant was a methamphetamine distributor in the South Sioux City area who used at least one minor child to deliver drugs on his behalf.

Operation Q

Investigation and prosecution in the OCADETF case Operation Q continued in 2015. The investigation and prosecution targeted a methamphetamine distribution and money laundering organization operating in Phoenix, Arizona and Lincoln, Nebraska. Two previously indicted methamphetamine sources from Phoenix were sentenced. One received 168 months and the other 210 months in prison for their parts in conspiracies to distribute methamphetamine and launder money. One of the previously indicted defendants was located, arrested and has pled guilty in 2015. He awaits sentencing. Four additional defendants were indicted in 2015, including a source from Phoenix, Arizona. Two of those indicted in 2015

are fugitives. This case is being investigated by the Lincoln Police Department and the FBI. Investigative techniques included electronic surveillance and interceptions, controlled buys and search warrants.

Marijuana Trafficking And Money Laundering

An investigation led by the DEA and the Douglas County Sheriff's Office targeted a marijuana distribution and money laundering organization which operated between California and Omaha. The case came to conclusion in 2015. The primary participants in Omaha and in California were each convicted of drug trafficking and money laundering. One defendant was convicted by plea and the other following a jury trial. A forfeiture money judgment was entered against each defendant for proceeds of the trafficking and/or for property involved in the money laundering. An appeal is pending.

Prescription Drug Diversion

The pattern of abuse and diversion of prescription medications continued in 2015. The DEA's Diversion Task Force in Omaha coordinated with pharmacies and with State and local law enforcement to interdict those obtaining and distributing prescription controlled substances unlawfully.

In addition, the DEA Diversion group focused in 2015 on several doctors and pharmacists who were either diverting narcotics for personal use or to sell to others. Prosecuting these individuals not only stopped the diverting of pills, but each doctor and/or pharmacist had to surrender for life his or her DEA Certificate of Registration of Controlled Substance Privileges. This resulted in each doctor or pharmacist no longer having authorization to order, manufacture, distribute, possess, dispense, administer, prescribe or engage in any other controlled substance activities. In addition, DEA Diversion worked with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services to assist in suspending and/or revoking of the professional licenses of these individuals. These cases highlight the need for those in the medical community to be aware of professionals who may be involved in diverting narcotics.

2015 Civil Forfeiture Highlights

In 2015, the Department of Justice implemented new asset forfeiture policies which effectively required additional federal involvement in seizures and forfeitures initiated by State and local partners. The U.S. Attorney's Office coordinated with State, local and federal investigating agencies to implement the new policies.

This was a continuation of efforts in this District to strike a proper balance between protecting public safety by depriving criminal enterprises of the fruits of their crimes while safeguarding the exercise of personal freedoms. Innocent travelers may transport large amounts of cash. Simply transporting cash, of course, in and of itself is not a crime.

The U.S. Attorney's Office also requested and received additional investigative efforts by law enforcement partners to determine whether assets were furnished or intended to be furnished to obtain controlled substances or were proceeds from such transactions. Where the evidence did not support this conclusion, our office declined to pursue forfeiture.

With an effective and thorough investigation, cases which originally started from a cash seizure can lead to evidence supporting a criminal prosecution. The following is an example of one such case.

Jon Moore

This case involved a series of traffic stops in three States, all of which ultimately were resolved in 2015. The Nebraska portion involved a traffic stop on I-80 in January, 2013 during which \$73,260.00 was recovered from a vehicle. Jon Moore, one of the people in the vehicle, claimed the money was his and was derived from legitimate income. Remarkably, Moore was also involved in two traffic stops in other states during which substantial amounts of cash were discovered. In a December 2012 traffic stop in Salt Lake City, Utah, Moore was found in possession of \$84,974.00. In November 2013, Moore was involved in a traffic stop in California which resulted in the seizure of \$48,120.00 and over 100 pounds of marijuana. All three seizures—and Moore—were the subject of a criminal investigation conducted by the DEA in Salt Lake City, Utah. Ultimately, Moore pled guilty in Utah federal court to conspiring to distribute marijuana and agreed to the forfeiture of all the money seized in the three traffic stops as either proceeds of or facilitating property for marijuana distribution.

In December, 1996, the Office of National Drug Policy (ONDCP) designated counties in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and South Dakota as the Midwest High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA). In February, 1999, designated counties in North Dakota joined the Midwest HIDTA. The goal of the Midwest HIDTA is to enhance and facilitate the coordination of regional drug-control efforts among local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies in order to reduce drug trafficking and its harmful consequences in critical markets in the region.



Co-located with the United States Attorney's Office's LECC Unit is the Nebraska Office of the Midwest HIDTA. The Midwest HIDTA State Coordinator located in this office, facilitates working relationships between local, state, federal law enforcement agencies and the US Attorney's Office. The Midwest HIDTA's intelligence center in Kansas City, Missouri offers state of the art technology to develop and share intelligence in Nebraska, Midwest HIDTA adjoining states, and nationally.

In 2015 the Lincoln Nebraska HIDTA Drug Task Force and Assistant U.S. Attorney Sara E. Fullerton received a National HIDTA Award for their work on case "Syn-ister".

**2015 Midwest HIDTA Award for
Outstanding Financial Investigative Effort
Lincoln-Lancaster Drug Task Force**

The Lincoln/Lancaster County Narcotics Task Force initiated an investigation into the sale of synthetic cannabinoids from local head shops as a result of community complaints associated with medical emergencies and overdose deaths.

Investigations of synthetic substance violations are frustratingly complex and demanding. Throughout the course of this investigation various strategies were employed in an effort to address the problem. However, no perfect strategy existed within the context of local and state laws. Citing users of synthetic cannabinoids for infraction or misdemeanor violations alone had little to no impact. Local ordinances and state statutes also lacked significant effect. In the meantime, Lincoln and other nearby communities began to experience increased medical emergencies and overdose deaths of young adults.

Narcotics Task Force investigators were contacted by criminal investigators from the Food and Drug Administration. They had experienced good results by incorporating Food and Drug Administration offenses into shared strategies with local and state law enforcement. Offenses associated with the mislabeling and misbranding of substances were incorporated into current controlled substance investigations. As the shared strategy came into focus, additional information and evidence was developed by investigators from the Nebraska State Patrol. It soon became clear that two head

shops in particular were responsible for crimes associated with mislabeling and misbranding of substances, controlled substance violations, the sale of drug paraphernalia, and associated financial crimes. The investigation also attracted the attention of the U.S. Attorney's Office. A combined effort was suggested and developed into an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force investigation dubbed "Syn-ister" based upon the target drug classification. Assistant U.S. Attorney Sarah Fullerton was assigned to the case. Two local head shops, Dirt Cheap and Island Smokes, were identified as the primary sources of synthetic cannabinoids.

In the spring of 2015, Lincoln and Lancaster County experienced approximately 120 medical emergencies and overdoses associated with the use of synthetic cannabinoids. Other nearby communities experienced similar overdoses and possibly one related death. The two to four week period reached near epidemic proportions and the public demanded and deserved a strong response. Search warrants were served at two Lincoln head shops that investigators were able to link to the synthetic cannabinoid overdoses. As a result more than 1,200 packages of synthetic cannabinoids were seized as well as thousands of pieces of drug paraphernalia. The medical emergencies and overdoses came to a stop. Historically, the pattern of conduct after similar law enforcement operations resulted in head shops returning to business as usual. For that reason, investigators continued with their long term solution plans.

The long term goal was to dismantle the local drug trafficking organization. That goal also included identifying and prosecuting any and all co-conspirators from national sources in California, Illinois, Nevada and New York as well as international sources, if possible, in China and India. The overall strategic goal was anchored in the belief that the organization needed to be financially dismantled such that they could not continue business and to send an equally strong message to other similar retail stores regarding the consequences of such illegal activities.

Key investigative steps included undercover drug purchases and reverses, controlled deliveries, cultivation and use of informants, investigative grand juries, search warrants, subpoenas, import records research, and financial crime analysis as well as mail covers, trash pulls, and various methods of surveillance. Thousands of pages of financial records obtained via the grand jury process were analyzed.

The Lincoln Lancaster County Narcotics Task Force was the primary investigative agency, responsible for undercover buys, search warrants at the businesses, and code enforcement. The Food and Administration conducted the financial investigation and provided support as it pertains to drug branding and illicit drug categorizing. Homeland Security Investigations focused on the companies involved with the importation of the drugs from China and India. The Nebraska State Patrol conducted laboratory examinations of the synthetic cannabinoids and provided operational staff to serve warrants and make arrests. The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of

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Nebraska prepared legal documents including search and arrest warrants, civil processes, grand jury subpoenas, and provided legal and investigative oversight.

In late August 2015, as a result of the long term investigation, three persons were indicted for various federal controlled substance violations, related Food and Drug Administration violations, and financial crimes including Investment of Illicit Drug Profits, Conspiracy to Commit Mail Fraud, Conspiracy to Structure, and Conspiracy to Money Launder. The three persons arrested include the head shop owner, the manager, and one of the retail employees. In addition, five real properties (including the two businesses) were seized along with three motor vehicles, four bank accounts, precious metals, and more than \$265,000 cash. Total value of all seizures is estimated to be in excess of \$1.2 million dollars. There have been no further medical emergencies or overdoses associated with synthetic cannabinoid use in Lincoln or Lancaster since then. Active follow-up investigation continues. Investigators and prosecutors believe that the drug trafficking organization has been disrupted if not locally dismantled and most certainly financially crippled.

Operation 'Syn-ister' is an example of determined police work combined with technical and complicated employment of existing laws by a dynamic group of task force investigators, lab technicians, and attorneys collaborating for the purpose of dismantling this organization.



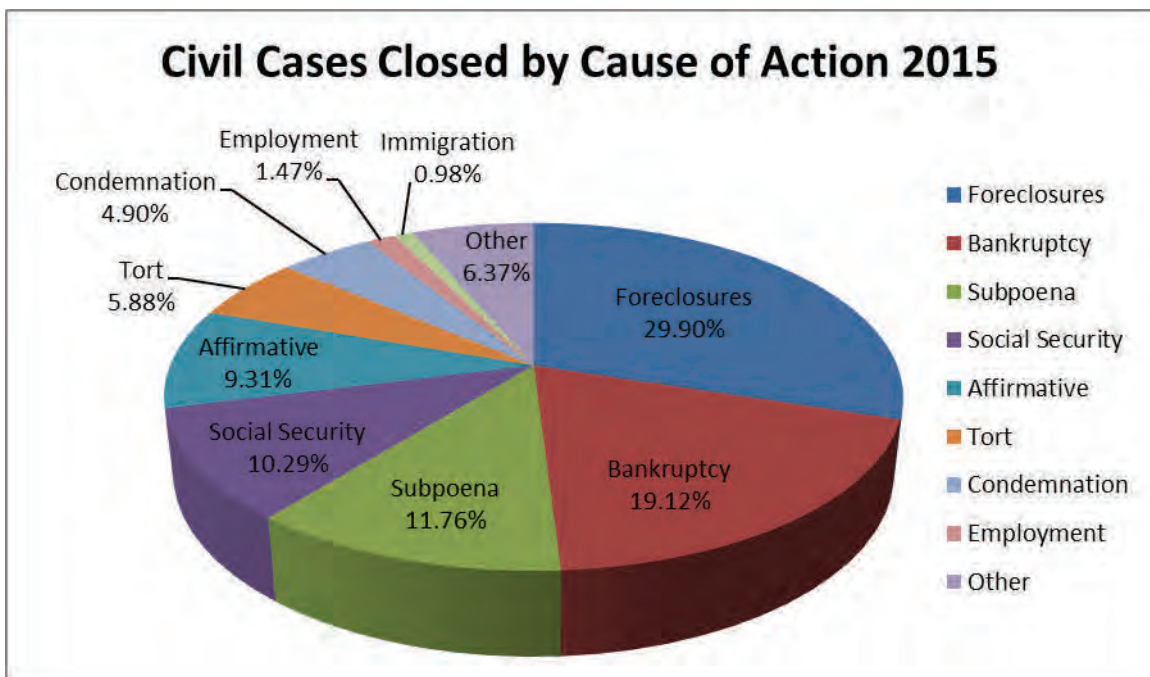
*AUSA Sara E. Fullerton and the Lincoln
Lancaster County Narcotics Task Force*

CIVIL DIVISION - CIVIL LITIGATION



Attorneys in the Civil Division of the United States Attorney’s Office represent the United States, as well as federal agencies, officers, and employees, in civil litigation in federal and state courts throughout Nebraska. Civil Division AUSAs work closely with lawyers from the federal agencies involved in each case to develop and present the position of the federal parties to the suit. Attorneys from the Department of Justice also assist in some civil litigation in the District of Nebraska.

Work on 204 civil cases and matters were completed in 2015. Included in that number are defensive cases in which the validity of federal laws, or the acts of federal agencies and employees, was challenged. Also included were affirmative cases brought to enforce federal statutory and regulatory requirements, and to collect debts owed to the United States. The chart below depicts the types of civil cases and matters completed during 2015.



The Internal Revenue Service, Housing and Urban Development, and Department of Justice, were the agencies involved in the largest number of civil cases in the District during 2015. There was a sharp rise in the number of condemnation actions filed this past year and a slight increase in the number of defensive employment litigation and affirmative actions pursued for several agencies under a variety of theories. The number of defensive tort and Social Security Administration appeals dropped sharply in 2015. As has been the case in recent years, foreclosure cases showed slight

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decreases from recent years. A variety of cases involving the agencies within the Department of Justice also made up a significant portion of the overall civil workload again this past year. The number of cases completed for various federal agencies is reflected in the chart on page 45.

A primary function of the Civil Division is to provide quality representation to the United States and its agencies and officers in defensive litigation in federal and state court. During 2015, Civil Division AUSAs defended a number of cases brought in federal court to set aside or modify the actions of federal agencies and officers. Civil Division AUSAs also handled several cases seeking damages for alleged negligence or other wrongful conduct by federal employees, as well as cases alleging discrimination in federal employment.

In the area of affirmative litigation, the Civil Division continued its Affirmative Civil Enforcement (ACE) program, which involves various initiatives designed to collect civil monetary penalties and damages for violations of federal law, to recover costs incurred by agencies as a result of violations of federal statutes and regulations, and to obtain compliance with the requirements of federal law through civil litigation. In calendar year 2015, ACE cases resulted in monetary recoveries of approximately \$274,000.00. ACE cases also led to court orders directing various defendants to comply with federal laws and regulatory requirements.

The United States Attorney's Office ACE program includes an active Health Care Fraud Task Force made up of civil and criminal AUSAs, Special AUSAs from the Nebraska Attorney General's Office, investigators from various state and federal agencies, and representatives of insurance providers and intermediaries. The task force approach enhances communication regarding the investigation of health care fraud in the District of Nebraska, and allows oversight agencies to pursue cases in the manner most effective to deter fraudulent activity and recover losses.

Another major area of emphasis in the ACE program is environmental enforcement. In 2015, the United States Attorney's Office worked with attorneys from the United States Department of Justice and the Environmental Protection Agency on civil environmental cases brought to recover civil penalties as well as response costs, and to obtain judgments requiring polluters to comply with environmental laws.

As in most years, Civil Division AUSAs also conducted a significant amount of litigation in 2015 to collect debts owed to the United States. Suits to obtain judgments for unpaid balances of delinquent loans made by agencies such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services comprise a significant portion of the Office's civil workload. Those cases are litigated in federal district court, in bankruptcy court, and in state courts throughout Nebraska. All told, the Financial Litigation Unit, within the Civil Division, collected slightly less than \$2.1 million dollars.

CIVIL LITIGATION CASES

2015 SIGNIFICANT CASES

AFFIRMATIVE CIVIL ENFORCEMENT

AFFIRMATIVE CIVIL FRAUD

U.S. v. Tran - In the largest health care fraud case to date for this United States Attorney's Office (USAO), the United States secured a temporary restraining order (TRO) freezing all assets of a pharmacist who defrauded Nebraska Medicaid in excess of \$14 million over a period of approximately six years. The pharmacist submitted hundreds of false claims for payment related to a prescription drug used in the treatment of cystic fibrosis. The pharmacist falsely claimed physicians prescribed the drug which the pharmacist did not order or dispense. The law authorized injunctive relief to protect the public interest. Subsequently, the TRO was converted to a preliminary injunction in a continuing effort to preserve assets for forfeiture of those assets in a companion criminal case. As a result of the injunction, the assets were preserved so as to enable a substantial monetary recovery which will occur in 2016, in connection with resolution of the pending criminal case.

AFFIRMATIVE CIVIL RIGHTS

In its continuing commitment to Department of Justice's (DOJ) Barrier Free Health Care Initiative, the USAO investigated two separate complaints against a single medical facility that it failed to provide appropriate auxiliary aids and services needed for effective communication with individuals who are deaf due, in part, to the hospital's reliance

on video remote interpreting. As a result of the investigation, the hospital implemented and provided staff training on a policy for ensuring effective communication and posted notices in conspicuous locations and on its official website informing patients and the public that auxiliary aids and services for persons with disabilities were available, free of charge, upon request.

AFFIRMATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL LITIGATION

The United States negotiated a consent decree in a Clean Air Act case against two chlorine repackaging facilities whose systems of storing and processing chlorine and other chemicals were alleged to be non-compliant with Risk Management Program regulations. The Environmental Protection Agency noted the deficiencies during site inspections. The alleged violations were resolved through the payment of a \$199,000 civil penalty, performance of comprehensive audits by third parties, and the automation of certain systems to reduce the likelihood of chlorine releases.

DEFENSE IMMIGRATION LITIGATION

Rajasekaran v. Hazuda (Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals) - The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) revoked a I-140 petition and denied plaintiff's I-485 adjustment of status application. The case was dismissed by the District Court for lack of jurisdiction, and brought under 28 U.S.C. § 1291, to the Circuit Court of Appeals. Plaintiff, a

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CIVIL LITIGATION CASES (CONT.)

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native and citizen of India, was working in the United States in the computer science industry. When his original job was eliminated, he attempted to ‘port’ his I-140 status to three successive employers. It is possible to port job status to a new employer if the work to be performed is the same field, and is the same or similar to the specialty area for which petitioner was granted I-140 status. In this case, plaintiff attempted to port his I-140 status, however, it was determined that at least one of his alternative employers provided inaccurate information to USCIS, and failed to verify that the job plaintiff was hired to perform met the requirement that his position was the same or similar to his job or classification in the technology field. The court found that plaintiff no longer worked in his specified field, and could not port his I-140. In light of the fact his I-140 was not valid to begin with, plaintiff was found to be ineligible to adjust status.

DEFENSE OF TORT LITIGATION

(The following cases were filed in District Court seeking damages under the Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA)).

Fatal Accident – Plaintiffs were the widow and surviving grandson of the deceased. The victim was fishing on the bank of the Missouri River at the Gavins Point Dam in Northeast Nebraska, when a pickup came out of gear, rolled down the riverbank striking and killing the victim. Plaintiffs brought a wrongful death suit against the United States, alleging that the United

States Army Corps of Engineers was negligent in failing to timely replace guardrails along the riverbank that had been removed shortly before the accident, and was otherwise negligent in failing to inspect the parking area above the river, and for failing to warn the public of a dangerous condition. In 2014, prior to any discovery, the United States moved for dismissal of the case, arguing the discretionary function exception of the FTCA supported the government’s managerial decisions with respect to replacement of the guardrails, because no mandatory regulations directed replacement, and also because the decisions were otherwise grounded in policy. The District Court dismissed the case, ruling that the discretionary function exception completely barred the claims of the surviving plaintiffs. In 2015, the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed the decision of the lower court and upheld dismissal of the claims.

Bicycle Accident – Plaintiff brought a FTCA claim after she sustained personal injuries following a bicycle accident in Lake Zorinsky Park. Plaintiff claimed multiple injuries, including injuries to her face that required surgical treatment. The United States filed a Motion for Summary Judgment claiming plaintiff’s claims were barred by the independent contractor and discretionary function exception to the FTCA. The United States also argued plaintiff’s claims were barred by the immunity provisions of the Nebraska Recreational Liability Act. Plaintiff

provided no response to the United States' Motion and voluntarily dismissed the United States from the lawsuit.

Medical Malpractice – Plaintiff brought a FTCA claim alleging he received negligent medical care while a patient at the Veterans Affairs (VA) Hospital in Omaha. The United States disputed the allegations. After conducting extensive discovery, plaintiff voluntarily dismissed the lawsuit without payment of any settlement monies by the United States.

Medical Malpractice – Plaintiff brought a FTCA claim alleging he received negligent medical care while a patient at the VA Hospital in Omaha. The United States disputed the allegations. The primary issue was whether the plaintiff had received timely notice and treatment for the existence of a brain tumor by VA providers. After conducting extensive discovery in the case and with the use of court authorized mediation, the parties were able to resolve the matter without the necessity of trial.

Slip and Fall - Plaintiff brought a FTCA claim after she sustained personal injuries while visiting a patient at the VA Hospital in Omaha. Plaintiff claimed to have sustained multiple injuries while riding in an elevator which she contended suddenly dropped several floors before reaching an abrupt stop. She also claimed a failure on the part of those from the VA who came to assist her in providing her with timely medical assistance. After a series of preliminary motions were advanced and some written discovery was conducted in the case, the matter was resolved without the necessity of trial.

Prisoner Case - Plaintiff brought a FTCA claim after she allegedly sustained various personal injuries while in the custody of the Bureau of Prisons, following a conviction for felony fraud. In 2014, the District Court dismissed the case granting the government's motion to dismiss for failure to exhaust administrative remedies, among several other grounds for dismissal. In 2015, the matter was appealed by plaintiff to the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals who affirmed the lower court's ruling and upheld dismissal of all claims. Plaintiff's subsequent request for *en banc* review was also denied by the Circuit.

Prisoner / Constitutional Torts – Plaintiff brought a *Bivens* lawsuit against many individuals, including two Special Deputy United States Marshals, asserting multiple causes of actions following his arrest in December of 2010. After a pre-answer dispositive motion filed by the Marshals disposed of three of four causes of action against them, the discovery process commenced. Following the discovery phase of the litigation, the Marshals filed a Motion for Summary Judgment as to plaintiff's remaining claim of excessive force. The Court granted the Motion for Summary Judgment finding no credible, objective evidence to support Plaintiff's remaining claim. Accordingly, all claims alleged by plaintiff against the Special Deputy United States Marshals were dismissed.

Constitutional Torts – Plaintiff, a convicted felon serving a lengthy sentence on federal drug charges, filed a civil lawsuit alleging that three members of the Greater Omaha Safe Streets Task Force and others had violated his Constitutional

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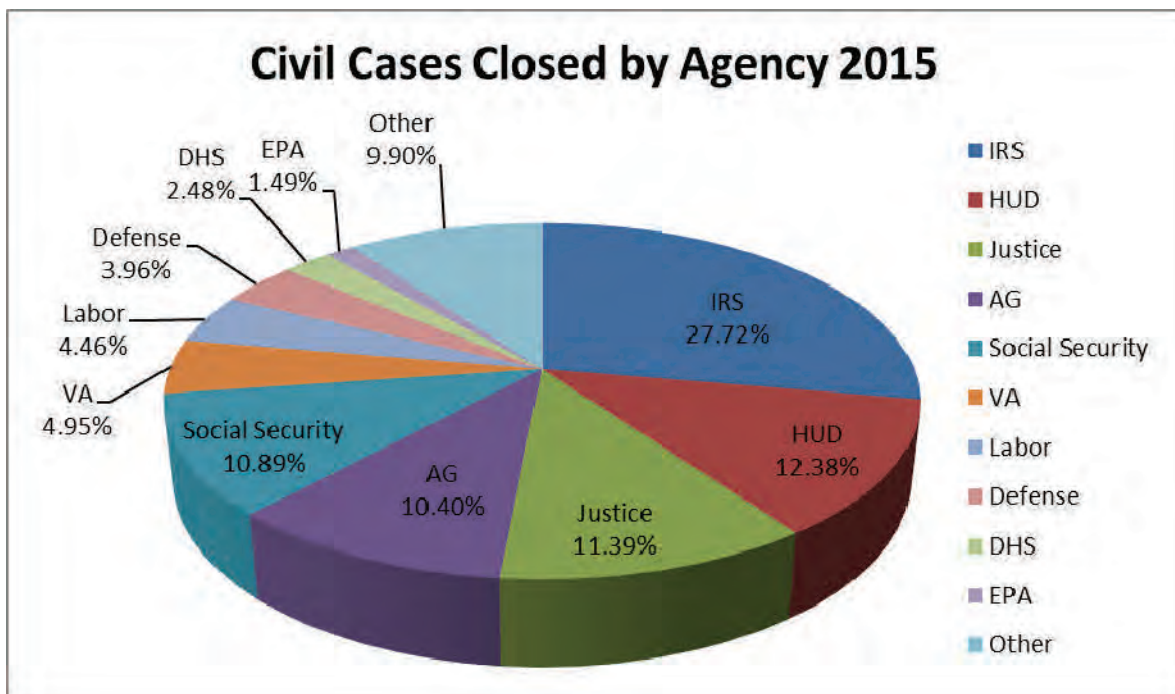
rights in a criminal investigation which resulted in his conviction on drug related crimes. The USAO represented the three officers from Omaha and Bellevue, Nebraska, who were sued in their official capacity and in their individual capacity. The District Court granted summary judgment and dismissal of all claims against the three officers and the official capacity claims were dismissed because of sovereign immunity. The District Court reasoned that most of the individual capacity claims were barred by collateral estoppel or appropriate for dismissal because they were a collateral attack on the validity of plaintiff's criminal conviction. The Court found that the officers did not violate plaintiff's Sixth Amendment right to counsel by recording his calls to an attorney. The Court also denied plaintiff's motion for discovery and an evidentiary hearing. Plaintiff has filed an appeal to the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals.

DEFENSE OF PROGRAM LITIGATION

Robert Ray Baker v. Colvin – Plaintiff suffered primarily from back pain, and the VA had previously found Plaintiff was partially disabled. The Social Security Administration (SSA) found Plaintiff was not disabled because he could perform past relevant sedentary work. The Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed the SSA denial of benefits to plaintiff. The Eighth Circuit found the SSA properly considered and discounted the underlying medical evidence used by the VA in its disability determination. The Eighth Circuit also found the SSA did not err in the weight it gave to opinions by plaintiff's treating physician and a physician assistant.

Keystone XL Pipeline Condemnation Cases (Various Nebraska State Courts) – TransCanada commenced numerous condemnation proceedings in various state courts throughout Nebraska seeking the right to condemn properties in the path of their state-approved oil pipeline route. TransCanada named the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) as one of many party defendants to these actions given the existence of USDA real estate liens which were filed of record by USDA to secure loans made to landowners who were borrowers of the Farm Service Agency, an agency of the USDA. The USAO worked with plaintiff's counsel to request a stay of these proceedings pending a determination in other related litigation concerning the pipeline route in Nebraska. Ultimately, the Executive Branch of the federal government determined that the construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline would not be approved and thus, the condemnation cases in Nebraska were rendered moot and appropriate for dismissal.

Robert Peterson v. USDA (District Court - Nebraska) – Plaintiff challenged a final agency decision by the USDA's National Appeals Division that had determined plaintiff was not eligible to receive crop disaster payments under USDA's SURE program for crop year 2010. The Agency determined plaintiff had not met the necessary "good farming practices" requirement to be eligible for the disaster benefits. Prior to the parties' briefing of cross-motions for summary judgment in this judicial review proceeding, and after considerable negotiation, the parties were able to reach an agreement and resolve the case without the need for further litigation.



DEFENSE OF EMPLOYMENT LITIGATION

Wrongful Termination, Age Discrimination and Retaliation – Plaintiff filed suit against the Secretary of the Army over his termination from the Omaha District of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (“Corps”), alleging the Corps fired him without sufficient cause, and in retaliation for his protected activities under Title VII and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act. The District Court granted summary judgment for the government, finding the agency decision to terminate plaintiff’s employment was supported by substantial evidence and his removal was reasonable. The Court found plaintiff failed to show the removal decision was reprisal for whistleblowing or retaliation for his grievance activity. Further, the Court found that the agency did not retaliate against plaintiff due to his prior EEO lawsuit, or his representation

of another Corps employee in the EEO process. The Court dismissed plaintiff’s remaining claims.

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION

Heinrich v. USA (District Court – Nebraska) - A probate matter was initially filed in state court in which Internal Revenue Service (IRS) asserted a claim for unpaid taxes against decedent Clayton Heinrich’s estate in the amount of \$250,801.81. The estate’s personal representative filed a ‘Notice of Disallowance of IRS Claim’, which this USAO removed to federal court under 28 U.S.C. § 1442(a)(1). The law authorizes the removal of a civil action to federal court from a state court action which involves the United States or its agencies. Following removal, the United States sought relief in federal court seeking allowance of the IRS claim in

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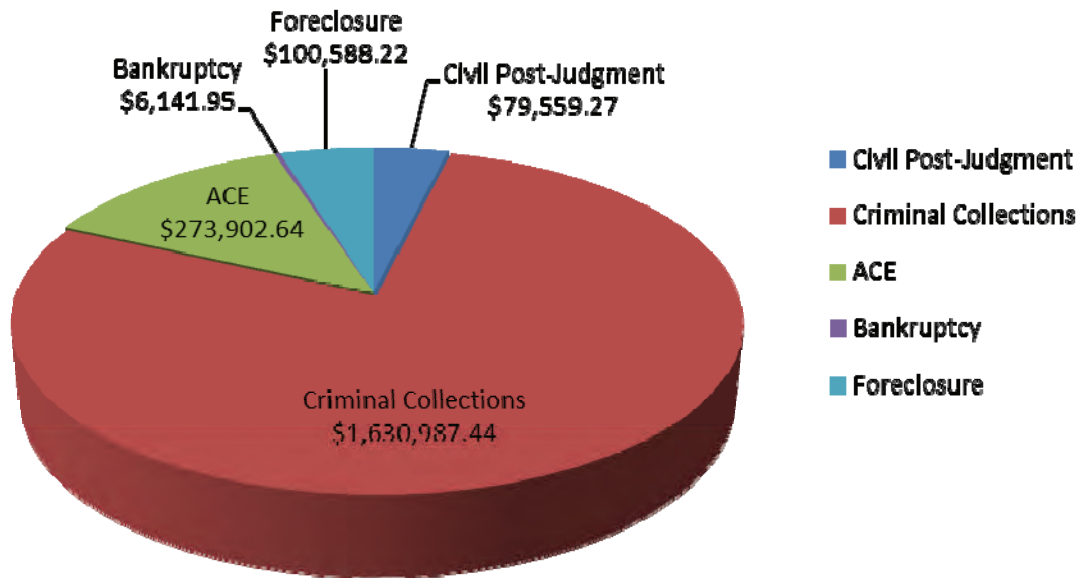
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order to properly adjudicate the IRS's state court probate claim. The personal representative attempted to remand the case back to the state court contending that proper jurisdiction of the administration or probate of a decedent's estate lies exclusively before the state probate court. The District Court rejected the estate's motion to remand, and held that the adjudication of plaintiff's liability for unpaid federal taxes was properly before the federal district court. The issues involved in the case were issues of first impression in this district.

U.S. v. Mary Wong (District Court – Nebraska) - Mary Wong was convicted of a fraudulent scheme and an ordered to pay significant restitution to several private victims. While incarcerated, Wong's attorney received money on her behalf from a distribution in a separate bankruptcy matter in which Wong was a creditor. The USAO Financial Litigation Unit, a component of the USAO Civil Unit, garnished the funds in the possession of her attorney. Wong's counsel filed an objection to the garnishment, stating that the bankruptcy distribution was paid under a settlement agreement in the bankruptcy adversary proceeding. The settlement provided that Wong's share of the settlement funds would be paid to her clergyman. Wong claimed, but for the efforts of the clergyman, she would not have entered into a settlement and thus, would not have received the bankruptcy payment. The United States successfully resisted Wong's efforts to pay the funds to the third party clergyman – and persuaded the district court that the government's judgment lien and execution on that judgment held priority over any claim made by a third party to the proceeds.

(Bankruptcy Court – Nebraska) – This Chapter 7 Bankruptcy Adversary proceeding involved a debtor who commenced the action requesting a “hardship discharge” for student loan debts which were owed to five separate lenders totaling approximately \$200,000. Of that total, the Department of Education was owed \$27,045.19, plus accruing interest. The debtor was in her twenties, single, without dependents, in good health and had graduated from a private university earning a degree in Theatre Arts and English. She was also employed by the state of Nebraska earning about \$18.00 an hour, plus benefits. The debtor had very little savings and was engaged to be married. After expenses, it was determined the debtor had \$213.89 in monthly disposable earnings. The Bankruptcy Court found that only the Department of Education's loan was not discharged. The Court applied the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals' ‘totality of the circumstances’ test, and determined the debtor did not have sufficient past, present or reasonably reliable future income or resources to repay the loans to the majority of her student loan creditors, but the Department of Education debt, however, was not discharged because it offered somewhat flexible repayment options, and it was reasonable for the debtor make those payments under a long term repayment plan.

Collections 2015 By Type



LAW ENFORCEMENT AND COMMUNITY
COORDINATION

The mission of the United States Attorney's Office Law Enforcement and Community Coordination (LECC) and Victim Unit is to assist criminal justice agencies throughout the District of Nebraska, and to facilitate community-based efforts on issues related to criminal justice and community restoration. The Unit manages or facilitates a number of programs designed to support and coordinate the objectives of the criminal justice system at various levels, provides services to victims of federal crime, conducts training, and appraises the community at large about issues related to the criminal justice system. In 2015, the Unit continued its work to maintain strong collaborative partnerships with federal, state, tribal, and local law enforcement agencies to maintain the effectiveness of law enforcement in the District.

The Unit staff works with the Nebraska Sheriff's Association, the Police Officers' Association of Nebraska, the Police Chiefs' Association of Nebraska, Nebraska Coalition for Victims of Crime and the Nebraska County Attorneys Association to develop and present training on subjects related to criminal justice and victim assistance. A three-day criminal justice conference hosted by the United States Attorney's Office and co-sponsored by the Nebraska County Attorneys Association is held in Kearney each year. Awards recognizing accomplishments in law enforcement presented at the 2015 conference are described in the following section of this report.

Trainings and conferences are held throughout the year across the state at various venues. The trainings hosted by the U.S. Attorney's Office in 2015 focused on a number of topics, many of which were held more than once and at several venues across the district.

- Speaking of Children Annual Conference
- Nebraska Infrastructure Protection Conference
- Victim Services Training and Academy
- Issues in Indian Country
- Darkness to Light Training
- VALOR Training
- Firearms and Explosives
- Abusive Head Trauma
- Asset Forfeiture for Financial Managers
- Crime Victim's Training
- School Safety Issues

In 2015 we continued our partnership with Project Harmony and Children's Hospital & Medical Center to host the annual Speaking of Children conference and luncheon. This conference provides training on the most current issues regarding crimes against children; specifically child sexual/physical abuse, on-line enticement, and child pornography.

The conference features national and local experts in these fields, and is an excellent opportunity for various disciplines to build partnerships with local, state and federal agencies to benefit child victims, and contribute to a more effective investigation and prosecution of the offenders. This annual conference is designed to address the needs of law enforcement, prosecutors, victim service providers, social workers, probation/parole/correctional officers, judges, child advocates, therapists, educators and health care providers. The conference addresses the priority initiatives of the Department of Justice, through *Project Safe Childhood*. Specific breakouts are featured for the various disciplines engaged in assisting children victimized by sexual abuse.

There is also invaluable financial support from other governmental and non-governmental agencies from Nebraska for this training. Funding is obtained from the Department of Justice, through the Office of Victims of Crime (OVC); for lodging scholarships for state and local attendees outside of the commuting area. The financial assistance received through these many partnerships is instrumental in delivering a very quality and affordable training.

The Victim Specialists serve an integral part of the USAO. They provide direct services to victims of federal crime from the time of the occurrence of the crime through the completion of the prosecution. They are responsible for notifying victims of the status of investigations and developments in cases accepted for prosecution. They work directly with the victims and prosecutors to provide a voice to victims through victim impact statements or allocution in court.

In 2015, the VNS provided 23,607 notices to victims of federal crime in Nebraska. There were 94 new victim cases involving 630 new victims of federal crime identified and entered into the system during 2015. There are currently 132 active victim cases providing notice and services to 830 victims. Services include information and assistance with travel and lodging related to court appearances, courtroom support, and referrals to other agencies for counseling, shelter, and other assistance. The Victim Specialists provides oversight and coordination to the Multi-disciplinary Child Abuse Investigation Teams located on the three Tribal Reservations.

During Crime Victim's Rights Week in April 2015, the Victim Specialists, along with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Nebraska Alliance of Child Advocacy Centers and the Nebraska Coalition for the Victims of Crime, held the 11th Annual Crime Victims' Rights Conference. This conference provides training for victim service providers, mental health professionals, law enforcement and corrections personnel on coordinating and enhancing services to victims. The theme for the 2015 CVRW Conference was "Engaging Communities - Empowering Victims." The conference agenda featured a special presentation by Tonier Cain, a survivor of domestic violence, drug addiction and growing up in a home filled with chaos. Ms. Cain spoke about her encounter, while in prison, with a service provider who was trained in Trauma Informed Care. The conference was attended by 95 participants.

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The United States Attorney's Office, in partnership with Creighton University and University of Nebraska at Kearney, held the third annual of the Nebraska Victim Assistance Academy (NEVAA). Creighton University, the OVC grant award recipient, houses the academy coordinator and provided in-kind services. The overall goal of this project is to create a comprehensive, foundation level victim assistance curriculum with a focus on victimology, victims' rights, and victim services that reflect the laws and practices of the state, specifically for Nebraska. NEVAA is available to victim service providers, prosecutors, educators, clergy and all allied professionals who routinely assist crime victims.

Nebraska Completed the third year of a three-year grant through the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, to provide an Indian Country Special Assistant United States Attorney (Tribal SAUSA) to address domestic violence, sexual assaults, child and domestic violence physical assaults and dating violence on the Winnebago, Omaha and Santee Sioux Indian reservations. The goals of the project are to increase coordination among the three tribes and local, state, and federal investigators and prosecutors, bridge gaps in jurisdictional coverage, establish cohesive relationships between federal prosecutors and tribal communities, and improve the quality of violence against women cases through effective case management, through the promotion of higher quality investigations and improved training.

The Tribal SAUSA works in close coordination with the Tribal Police, BIA and FBI to ensure cases are prepared appropriately for prosecution on all levels, and prosecutes cases in both federal and tribal court. The Tribal SAUSA is co-located at the Winnebago Reservation and the United States Attorney's Office. This program has been very successful in coordination of cases prosecuted both federally and in tribal court and the Department of Justice has agreed to extend this grant to fund the Tribal Special Prosecutor for an additional year.

Co-located with the United States Attorney's Office's LECC Unit is the Nebraska Office of the Midwest HIDTA Initiative. The Midwest HIDTA focuses on decreasing the importation, distribution, manufacture, and demand for illegal drugs within the Midwest Region, which includes Nebraska and neighboring states. Intelligence information on drug activity is compiled and disseminated through the Nebraska Law Enforcement Intelligence System (NELEIS), maintained by the State Patrol. The HIDTA Initiative, in addition to supporting law enforcement and prosecution, has developed a number of drug abuse prevention programs.

2015 LECC AWARDS

AWARD OF VALOR

Sergeant Jim Bills – Nebraska State Patrol
Trooper Mike Mallery – Nebraska State Patrol
Trooper Tyler Kroenke – Nebraska State Patrol
Officer Drew Behn - Schuyler Police Department
Officer Joshua Loontjer – Columbus Police Department
Jeff Uhl - Columbus Police Department

At approximately 0100 hours on Friday, June 20, 2014, an armed male subject assaulted and took a young female hostage in Columbus, Nebraska. The female escaped her captive and contacted Platte County authorities.

Trooper Kroenke observed a vehicle that matched the description and initiated a traffic stop on a rural county gravel road outside Columbus. As Trooper Kroenke began conversing with the lone driver, the subject began to fire several rounds at the officer.

Trooper Kroenke drew and fired his service pistol. The subject fled the scene and he initiated a pursuit of the vehicle. The vehicle was ultimately lost by the Trooper due to a lack of visibility from roadway dust.



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Valor Award (Cont.)

Continued from Page 51

Trooper Mallery initiated a second pursuit of the vehicle along with units of the Columbus Police Department and the Platte County Sheriff's Office. The pursuit travelled into Colfax County where additional law enforcement units from the Schuyler Police Department and Colfax County Sheriff's Office became involved.

Nebraska State Patrol Sergeant Jim Bills, from Columbus, as well as Nebraska State Patrol's Aviation Support Division personnel and aircraft were also notified to respond to the area to assist.

Just west of Schuyler, the suspect made contact with a marked Platte County Sheriff Officer's patrol unit with its emergency equipment activated. The deputy had exited his vehicle and taken cover in a nearby cornfield. The suspect pointed his weapon at the deputy's unit, and yelled for the deputy to come out, not realizing that the deputy was not inside the unit.

At this time these officers strategically parked their patrol vehicles approximately 75 yards behind the suspect's vehicle. The suspect then suddenly accelerated his vehicle in reverse, purposely striking several patrol vehicles and causing officers to scramble out of its path to avoid being injured and/or struck. These officers and troopers were required to use deadly force to protect themselves and stop the aggression of the suspect and end the incident. For their heroic actions and bravery, these individuals were awarded the **Award of Valor for 2015**.

Law Enforcement Officer Award Fremont Police Detective Aaron Howe

On May 9, 2014 representatives of the security division of Gavilon Grain, LLC came to the Fremont Police Department to request assistance with what they believed to be internal theft going on at a grain elevator owned by their company located in Fremont.

Fremont Police Detective Aaron Howe was assigned to the case. Detective Howe, along with local FBI agents were able to review documents that had been provided by Gavilon Grain, LLC and found that a total of 307 fraudulent incidents, dating from 2007 to 2013 for a total of almost 2.5 million dollars, had occurred.

Detective Howe was able to obtain a complete confession from the suspect. Detective Howe learned that once the checks were sent to the supervisor's relatives and that the supervisor would go to the relative's home, have the relative endorse the check and then go cash the checks. For their part in the scheme, he would pay a percentage to the relatives and others involved.

With this information, Detective Howe was able to secure arrest warrants for state charges on three different individuals. All three were arrested, but the main suspected supervisor died prior to going to trial. Nebraska Department of Revenue Investigators continued the investigation pursuing tax evasion charges and the Fremont Police and Dodge County Attorney's Office are still pursuing additional suspects in the case.

Detective Howe's dedication and insight drove this case from the beginning. Detective Howe dove into the details of this case to find out what really happened and ended up putting a stop to a conspiracy that defrauded a company of almost 2.5 million dollars. His work and the cooperation from others led to the justice done, regardless of where the acclaim fell. Detective Howe was honored as the 2015 Local Law Enforcement Officer of the year.



Outstanding Group Investigation Award

BOOKER DRUG TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATION INVESTIGATION

SA Matthew Kessler - Drug Enforcement Administration
Bellevue Police Dennis O'Connor DEA Task Force Officer
Deputy Douglas County Attorney John David Wear
Nebraska State Probation Officer Nicholas Lurz
Nebraska State Probation Officer Bob Blanchard
Nebraska State Probation Officer Keirna Ostwald
Chemist Christine Gabig - Douglas County Crime Lab
Shanon Tysor - Douglas County Crime Lab

In March of 2014, a DEA Confidential Source (CS) provided information that Enrique NAJAR was selling LSD in the Omaha Metro area. The CS was able to purchase 100 dosage units. The Douglas County Crime Laboratory was able to analyze the supposed LSD and determine that it actually was Phenethylamine also known as 25B-NBOMe and on the "street" as N-Bomb or SMILES. This is a synthetic form of LSD that is more potent and has contributed to at least 21 reported deaths in the United States.

Investigators were able to determine that Brett BOOKER was the Source of Supply of the LSD to NAJAR. This was accomplished through numerous hours of physical surveillance, the use of GPS trackers, pen registers on both suspect's phones, and the exploitation of social media.

In September 2014, investigators learned that both NAJAR and BOOKER were on State of Nebraska probation. Investigators contacted their respective probation officers and discovered both of them had a search clause as a condition their probation. A Nebraska State Patrol unit conducted a traffic stop on NAJAR on his way to delivery 1000 dosage units. In conjunction with the Nebraska State Probation Office, investigators searched NAJAR's vehicle and located the 1000 dosage units. Investigators and state probation officers conducted a searches of properties of NAJAR and BOOKER. Investigators seized another 1000 dosage units of the LSD at the business and over \$19,000 in United States Currency at BOOKER's apartment.

Both NAJAR and BOOKER have been indicted federally in the District of Nebraska.

The dismantlement of the BOOKER DTO is directly attributed to the excellent coordination and collaboration and professionalism of every agency involved. Every agency involved did an outstanding job of ensuring that 4500 dosage units of 25B-NBOMe LSD did not make it into the hands of any Omaha Metro area young adults and no family had to deal with the potential overdose of a loved one.



Prosecutor of the Year: Brenda Beadle, Chief Deputy Douglas County Attorney's Office

Deputy Chief Brenda D. Beadle has devoted her entire legal career to doing what she believes in, that is seeking justice for those who have been victims of crime and protecting the public from those that society needs to be protected from. She has worked tirelessly on many of the highest profile cases in Douglas County, particularly in the area of homicide, child victim and sexual assault.

Ms. Beadle played an important role in the development of technology in the courtroom in Douglas County beginning with her role in the trial and conviction of Roy Ellis in the murder of twelve year old Amber Harris. In the past twelve months she has convicted Nikko Jenkins and Erica Jenkins, convicted Tracy Parnell for the murder of sixteen year old Eriana Carr and convicted Anthony Vaughn a serial rapist. Currently she is preparing for the Anthony Garcia murders and is working closely with the homicide unit on many other ongoing investigations.

Recently, Ms. Beadle, in her role as president of the Nebraska County Attorney's Association, lobbied State Senators regarding current crime issues. She has set a prime example with her hard work and passion for justice for all prosecutors.



State Criminal Justice Professional Sergeant Monty Lovelace, Nebraska State Patrol

Sgt. Monty Lovelace of the Nebraska State Patrol has helped secure the **federal** convictions of dangerous predators in South Dakota, Rhode Island, Florida, and Pennsylvania in the past two years alone. All of his cases originated from Gering, Nebraska, but have a much wider reach.

Sgt. Lovelace has used undercover identities ranging from a fourteen-year-old girl to the mother of a four-year-old girl interested in arranging her daughter's first sexual experience. Using these identities he patrols the darkest part of the web, places like motherless.com, looking for individuals who seek to sexually exploit children. Frequently, these individuals will send child pornography or graphic pictures of themselves to Sgt. Lovelace's undercover identity to demonstrate their intent to travel or obtain images from a child.

Sgt. Lovelace's dedication and industrious work is phenomenal, particularly at a time when it is difficult to recruit investigators into this difficult area. His efforts have removed a number of predators from our communities and made children in Nebraska and throughout the United States much safer.



Sustained Achievement Award

Sergeant Tom Meola, Nebraska State Patrol

Investigator Rich Lutter, Nebraska State Patrol

Investigator Mark Plowman, Nebraska State Patrol

Douglas County Deputy Jarrod Wineinger

William Stollberg, Analyst Assigned to NSP/CIU

In 1997, the Nebraska State Patrol (NSP) created the Commercial Interdiction Team (CIU) to confront the problem of people transporting large shipments of controlled substances. Through the years, there have been many local, county and federal agencies that have participated or been assigned to CIU.

Currently, NSP works daily with the Douglas County Sheriff's Office. CIU has been tasked with criminal interdiction operations at all major transportation hubs located in the Omaha Metro area. They include but are not limited to: Eppley Airport, AmTrak, a regional bus line, and commercial shipping companies.

In 2014 Investigators executed search warrants on 22 packages and 24 search warrants on suspected drug properties. In all, 62 suspects were arrested resulting in a 93 % clearance rate. Investigators seized 172,610 grams of marijuana, 1,146 grams of cocaine, 14,908 grams of methamphetamine, 7,992 grams of Heroin and seized 25 guns during arrests and search warrants. CIU has set and maintained a high performance and leadership standard that stretches almost two decades in proactive and reactive criminal interdiction efforts. The investigators in this unit should be commended for their achievements and recognized for their dedication, enthusiasm and determination to disrupt and destroy criminals and organizations whose purpose is to distribute drugs and rationalize their behavior with violent acts.

This award recognizes these individuals for their significant, lasting, and consistent contributions in drug eradication and making Nebraska a safer place to live.



WEBSITES OF INTEREST



Other U.S. Attorney's Offices: <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/>

Department of Justice: <http://www.usdoj.gov/>

Federal Bureau of Prisons: <http://www.bop.gov>

Federal Bureau of Investigation: <http://www.fbi.gov/>

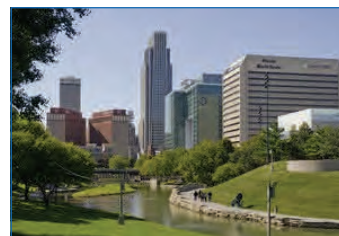
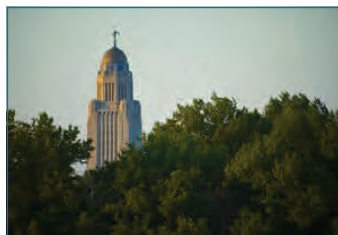
Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services: <http://www.uscis.gov/>

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement: <http://www.ice.gov/>

U.S. Marshals Service: <http://www.usmarshals.gov/>

U.S. Department of Homeland Security: <http://www.dhs.gov/>

Extensive list of official Federal Government web sites: <http://www.usa.gov/>



Photos courtesy of The Nebraska Tourism Commission

When you teach a man to hate and fear his brother, when you teach that he is a lesser man because of his color or his beliefs or the policies he pursues, when you teach that those who differ from you threaten your freedom or your job or your family, then you also learn to confront others not as fellow citizens but as enemies.

We must admit the vanity of our false distinctions among men and learn to find our own advancement in the search for the advancement of all. We must admit in ourselves that our own children's future cannot be built on the misfortunes of others. We must recognize that this short life can neither be ennobled nor enriched by hatred or revenge.

Robert F. Kennedy



**U.S. Attorney's Office
District of Nebraska
2015 Annual Report**