

Department of Law & Public Safety
Office of the Attorney General



Division of Criminal Justice

2013
Annual Report

DCJ

Elie Honig, Director



2013 was a year of transition and progress for the New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice (the “Division” or “DCJ”). While several of the Division’s experienced leaders moved on during the year, we replenished our leadership ranks from within by promoting more than a dozen of our top attorneys to supervisory positions. We also added significant talent from outside the Division, as we hired over 35 new Deputy Attorneys General and Detectives in 2013. This influx of talent and energy has enabled the Division not only to continue performing its core mission of public protection, but also to take a leadership role in new, emerging areas of law enforcement.

Even while we made this transition as a Division, we continued to make cases that place us at the forefront of statewide law enforcement. In 2013, the Division obtained more state grand jury indictments and more accusations, thereby charging more defendants, than in any year since 2009. As reflected in the cases summarized below, we delivered not just quantity but also quality. In 2013, the Division brought high-impact cases targeted at areas that are fundamental to public protection: street gangs, gun and drug trafficking organizations, corrupt public officials, child predators, identity thieves, and crooks and fraudsters of all types. The Division also moved to the cutting edge to combat emerging criminal threats: post-Sandy fraud, cybercrime, human trafficking, and diversion of prescription drugs.

Beyond our trial work, the Division continued to lead the way on statewide development of law and public policy through our Appellate Bureau; through our supervision of, and partnerships with, the 21 County Prosecutors; and through our statewide law enforcement training programs. DCJ further provided vital law enforcement services -- including medical examiner services, victim-witness support, DNA database monitoring, and grant funding -- across the state.

To highlight the outstanding work we have done at DCJ, this report summarizes some of the leading cases that the Division has charged and prosecuted during 2013, and other accomplishments beyond the courtroom. This report includes many of the Division’s leading accomplishments, but it by no means captures all of them. There are many significant, ongoing cases and projects which could not be included simply as a matter of volume, and there are still more yet to come, which are not yet public.

We have some of the most talented and dedicated law enforcement professionals in the State, as reflected in the quality of the work summarized below. We will continue to prove ourselves worthy of the great trust that the people of this State have placed in us, and we will make New Jersey a better and safer place to live.

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Corruption Bureau

State v. Birdsall Services Group, et al. The Division indicted Birdsall Services Group, its CEO, and six other top executives for conspiring to subvert the state's Pay-to-Play Act by disguising illegal corporate political contributions as personal contributions of firm employees. Under the scheme, Birdsall and its executives utilized firm employees to make political contributions to candidates in amounts under the \$300 reportable threshold. The firm and its executives then illegally reimbursed the employees through purported bonus payments and other means. In total, Birdsall -- which holds millions of dollars in state contracts for engineering services -- made hundreds of thousands of dollars in illegal contributions to dozens of officials and candidates. Beyond the seven charged executives who were indicted, two former Birdsall employees pled guilty for their participation in the scheme. Further, Birdsall, as a corporate entity, pled guilty to a first degree money laundering charge and to a second degree charge of making false representations in government contracting. Birdsall also forfeited \$3.6 million to the State in criminal and civil forfeitures and penalties. DAsG Anthony Picione and Victor Salgado; Dets. Kiersten Pentony, Edward Augustyn, Janine Buchalski and Melissa Calkin.

State v. Albert Coutinho. The Division charged and convicted by guilty plea State Assemblyman Albert Coutinho on charges of theft by unlawful taking and filing false public records. Assemblyman Coutinho admitted that he stole over \$32,000 from a non-profit charitable foundation, and used that money for his own personal expenses. Assemblyman Coutinho also was convicted of filing false financial disclosure statements in connection with his position as an elected state official. Assemblyman Coutinho was sentenced to five years' probation. He forfeited his public office, and is permanently banned from holding public office or employment in New Jersey. Assemblyman Coutinho also was ordered to make full restitution to the foundation. DAG Jeffrey Manis; Lt. Dan O'Brien; Sgts. Harry Maronpot, Jim Scott and David Salzman; Dets. Janine Buchalski, Scott Donlan and Tim Heron; Analyst Kathy Ratliff.

State v. Joseph Spicuzzo, et al. The Division convicted Joseph Spicuzzo -- former Middlesex County Sheriff and political party chairman -- and two Sheriff's Deputies, Darrin DiBiasi and Paul Lucarelli, for their participation in a jobs-for-cash scheme. Under that scheme, Spicuzzo collected approximately \$112,000 in bribes from

individuals seeking positions or promotions in the Sheriff's Office. Spicuzzo pled guilty to bribery and was sentenced to nine years in state prison with two years parole ineligibility, mandatory forfeiture of pension, and mandatory forfeiture and permanent disqualification from public office. Both sheriff's deputies pled guilty to conspiracy to bribe a public official. They face probation conditioned upon 364 days county jail and permanent disqualification from public office. DAsG Anthony Picione, Michael Monahan, Vincent Militello, Perry Primavera and Veronica Allende; Lt. Gary Duffy; Sgts. Lisa King and Brian Murphy.

State v. Robert Schroeder. The Division continued its prosecution of State Assemblyman Robert Schroeder for defrauding investors and issuing bad checks in connection with various business dealings, causing a combined loss of over \$5 million. Assemblyman Schroeder was indicted by the State Grand Jury on charges including misconduct by a corporate official and theft by deception. The case is at the pretrial motion stage. DAsG Veronica Allende and Perry Primavera; Sgt. Brian Murphy; Dets. Patrick Squitieri and John Neggia; Analyst Kathleen Ratliff.

State v. Nadir Nassry and Joseph Ventrella. Two New Jersey State Troopers, Nadir Nassry and Joseph Ventrella, admitted their participation in an unauthorized, high-speed escort of sports cars to Atlantic City. Nassry pled guilty to a fourth degree charge of falsifying public records. Ventrella waived indictment, agreed to be charged with the same offense, and was permitted to apply for enrollment in a PTI program. Both defendants forfeited their jobs with the State Police, and will be permanently barred from future law enforcement employment. DAsG Michael Monahan and Cynthia Vazquez; Lt. Lisa Shea; Sgts. James Scott, Robert Feriozzi, David Salzman and Harry Maronpot; Dets. Paul Marfino, Scott Donlan, Timothy Herron, Janine Buchalski and Robyn Greene.

State v. Anna Taliaferro. The Division tried and convicted Anna Taliaferro, a former Paterson school district official, on official misconduct and other charges. Taliaferro, who worked as coordinator of a parent resource program for the Paterson school district, contracted on behalf of the school district with her own nonprofit corporation, and then overbilled the school district by over \$180,000. As a result of her trial conviction, Taliaferro faces five to ten years in state prison, including a minimum of five years without parole. DAG Veronica Allende; Sgts. James Scott, Thomas Culp and Warren Monroe; Det. Robyn Greene; Analyst Kathleen Ratliff.

State v. David Winkler, et al. The Division tried and convicted David Winkler, a former supervisor at the state Department of Treasury, for stealing over \$20,000 worth

of equipment from a state warehouse. The jury found Winkler guilty of official misconduct, theft by unlawful taking and other offenses. Winkler was sentenced to five years in state prison. DAsG Anthony Picione and Analisa Holmes; Dets. Melissa Calkin, Shaun Egan, Vincent Greene and John Cappetta; Analysts Nathalie Kurzawa and Alison Callery.

State v. Juan Stevens. The Division indicted and convicted Juan Stevens, a New Jersey Department of Corrections officer, for posing as a police officer to coerce prostitutes into having sex with him for free. Stevens pled guilty to second degree official misconduct, and faces a sentence of five years in state prison with two years of parole ineligibility. Upon arrest, Stevens was required to provide a DNA sample, which provided the first DNA hit resulting from the State's new arrestee law, and which lead to the filing of additional sexual assault charges against him. DAsG Victor Salgado and Valerie Butler; Dets. Erick Goncalves and Anthony Carugno.

State v. Frank Capece, et al. The Division charged four defendants -- including an Elizabeth School Board member, a Board attorney, and the Board's outside counsel -- with filing false applications under the free school lunch program and with covering up the same conduct. The defendants were indicted on charges including theft by deception and falsifying and tampering with public records. DAG Veronica Allende; Sgt. Lisa King.

State v. Michelle Pumilia. The Division convicted by guilty plea Michelle Pumilia, a former Transportation Manager for the Piscataway and Hazlet School Districts. Pumilia admitted that she stole over \$330,000 in public funds that were under her official control, primarily by authorizing fictitious purchase orders on behalf of the school districts. Pumilia pled guilty to a second degree charge of official misconduct, and faces a sentence of eight years in state prison, including five years without parole. DAsG Jeffrey Manis, Michael Monahan and Heather Taylor; Dets. Lisa King and Patrick Squitieri.

State v. Audrey Bey. Audrey Bey, a former clerk with the City of Newark, was sentenced to eight years in prison for defrauding a federally-funded child nutrition program in a scheme involving over \$1 million in phony vouchers. Bey, who worked for the nutrition program at the time she committed the charged crime, pled guilty to first degree money laundering and agreed to a bar on future public employment in the State. DAsG Michael Monahan and Jeffrey Manis; Sgts. David Salzamann, James Scott and Harry Maronpot; Dets. Tim Herron, Scott Donlan and Michael Behar; Analyst Kathleen Ratliff.

State v. Marcella Friedman. A civilian employee of the State Police, Marcella Friedman, was arrested and indicted for posing as an inspector to coerce a vendor to give her a free generator following Hurricane Sandy. Friedman, who was a State Police communications systems technician, is charged with third degree theft by deception. DAsG Peter Lee and Valerie Butler; Sgt. Gary Sandes.

State v. Logan Holt. An Atlantic City inspector, Logan Holt, was indicted for taking cash bribes and for accepting sexual favors from licensee taxi cab drivers. Holt is charged with official misconduct and bribery, and faces a sentence of five to ten years in state prison, including five years without parole. DAG Peter Lee; Lts. John Redkoles and Karl Ulbrich; Dets. Matt Peeke, David Caracciolo and Anthony Carugno.

State v. Lisa Ayers. Lisa Ayers, Treasurer of the Mine Hill Fire Department, was charged with stealing over \$300,000 from the Department for her personal use. Ayers pled guilty to second degree theft charges, and faces a sentence of five years in state prison, plus restitution for the amount stolen. DAG Perry Primavera; Sgt. Lisa King; Det. Kenneth Lutz.

State v. Suliman Kamara. A Newark police officer admitted to falsely reporting to police that his personal vehicle had been stolen in order to fraudulently collect more than \$10,000 in insurance proceeds. Kamara pled guilty to third degree theft by deception and faces 364 days in county jail. Kamara also will pay full restitution, forfeit his job as a police officer, and be permanently barred from public employment in New Jersey. DAsG Veronica Allende and Michael Monahan; Sgt. Lisa King.

State v. Timothy Grossi, et al. The Division continued its prosecution of North Bergen Department of Public Works supervisors charged with official misconduct, theft and other offenses for using public funds to pay DPW workers to perform personal and political work on township time. DAsG Cynthia Vazquez and Michael Monahan; Det. Garrett Brown and Civil Investigator Joseph Salvatore.

Gangs & Organized Crime Bureau

Operation North Pole. The Division arrested 47 defendants who operated a massive, multi-million dollar drug distribution network in Camden. The defendants included case workers, supervisors, suppliers, and leaders of the drug network, including defendants with ties to Mexican drug trafficking cartels. The defendants face first degree racketeering charges and first degree and second degree narcotics distribution charges. During the arrests and related search warrants, the Division seized six illegal firearms, several ounces of cocaine and heroin, and over \$200,000 cash. DAsG Andy Johns, Darryl Richardson, Julia Glass, Rachael Weeks, Martin Steiner and Kristen Harberg; Lt. Rich Carlin; Dets. Peppi Pichette, Brian Woolston, James Blong, Jeffrey Lorman, Mike Gonzalez, Mike Raser, John Collins, Jon Norcia, Terry Shaw and Richard DaSilva.

Operation China White. This investigation, conducted with New Jersey State Police and DEA, involved multiple wiretaps that led to arrests of eight Camden-based defendants on first degree drug and money laundering charges. In connection with the case, the investigative team seized approximately nine kilograms of heroin and cocaine, approximately \$600,000 cash, and multiple weapons. The defendants have substantial ties to Mexican drug cartels. DAG Julia Glass.

Operation Billboard. The Division indicted 36 defendants -- including the entire hierarchy of a Camden-based narcotics trafficking organization tied to the Netas street gang -- on charges including first degree racketeering, narcotics trafficking, and other crimes. The drug distribution network trafficked in tens of thousands of dollars worth of heroin and cocaine every week, and commonly used guns and committed acts of violence to control turf within Camden. DAsG Andy Johns and Jill Mayer; Lt. Rich Carlin; Sgt. Andrea Salvatini; Dets. Peppi Pichette, Brian Woolston, James Blong, Jeffrey Lorman, John Collins, Scott Caponi, William Gonzalez, Mike Gonzalez, Richard DaSilva and Naike Kudlik.

State v. Yusuf Ibrahim, et al. Yusuf Ibrahim was charged with shooting two victims at point-blank range, cutting off their heads and hands, and burying the remains in a remote area of Atlantic County. After an extensive search, the headless bodies were recovered in a shallow grave, and the heads and hands were recovered in a separate grave nearby. Ibrahim was apprehended shortly thereafter. He faces charges including two counts of murder and desecrating human remains. DAsG Lauren Scarpa-Yfantis, Vincent Militello and Phil Mogavero.

State v. George Spyropolous. The Division arrested and indicted George Spyropolous, a co-owner of the Tick Tock Diner, for attempting to hire a hit man to torture and murder his uncle, who was a co-owner of the diner. After being introduced to an undercover police officer posing as the hit man, Spyropolous provided the purported hit man with a revolver, \$3,000 cash, a map to the uncle's house, and photographs of the uncle. Spyropolous was indicted on first degree charges of attempted murder and murder conspiracy. DAsG Lauren Scarpa-Yfantis and Annmarie Taggart.

State v. Derek Fuqua, et al. As a result of numerous DCJ wiretaps and other investigation, 26 defendants were arrested for narcotics and firearms offenses occurring primarily in New Brunswick. During the arrests and searches, police recovered two kilograms of heroin (worth over \$150,000), six firearms, and over \$150,000 cash. DAG Erik Daab.

Operation Guns III. In a sweep targeted at illegal gun traffickers, the Division indicted 65 total defendants for trafficking and/or possessing a total of 94 illegal firearms. Several of the cases involve importation of illegal firearms from other states into New Jersey. One indictment charges 11 defendants with smuggling 18 firearms, including assault rifles, from Ohio into New Jersey to be sold in Newark and Irvington. DAsG Andrew Fried, Michael Klein, Brandy Malfitano, Phil Mogavero, Darryl Richardson, Amy Seimenski, Cassandra Serentino, Annmarie Taggart, Rachael Weeks and Jacqueline Weyand.

Operation Capital City. Bernard Green -- leader of the Trenton-based Gangster Killer Bloods -- pled guilty to the 2005 homicide of Sharee Voorhees, a 22-year old bystander to a gang-related gunfight. Green also pled guilty to racketeering, admitting that he directed the gang's activities, including drug dealing and other shootings, during an ongoing conflict between his faction of the Bloods and rival gangs. Green was sentenced to 36 years in state prison, including 22 years of parole ineligibility. Green was the last of 16 defendants to plead guilty in the case. DAG Daniel Bornstein; Lt. Richard Nocella; Sgt. Keith Stopko; Dets. Cortney Lawrence, Scott Caponi, Edward Augustyn, Adam Mish, Donald Macciocca, Timothy Savage, Richard Aitken, William Gonzalez and Brian Keily.

Operation Citywide. The Division obtained a guilty plea from Kyle Ogletree, a reputed "five-star general" in a Camden-based Bloods operation, to first degree racketeering and narcotics distribution offenses. Ogletree, the head of a major drug trafficking network, will receive 15 years in state prison, including 13 years of parole ineligibility. Ogletree is one of 14 defendants indicted by the Division in the case, which targeted a prolific and violent gang based in Camden. DAG Jill Mayer; Lt. Rich Carlin; Sgt. Andrea

Salvatini; Dets. Peppi Pichette, Brian Woolston, James Blong, Jeffrey Lorman, Richard DaSilva and Naike Kudlik.

Operation Nine Connect. After a jury trial, the State convicted Carl Holdren, a member of the Nine-Trey Gangsters, of first degree murder and other charges. Holdren was one of 48 defendants charged in the case. Other charged defendants, including leaders of the Nine-Trey Gangsters, pled guilty to murder, racketeering, narcotics, and weapons charges. DAG Daniel Bornstein.

State v. Mark Fletcher, et al. The Division charged five members of a violent Trenton-based drug ring known as the G-Shine Bloods with attempted murder, racketeering, and heroin distribution offenses. Two of the defendants, Mark Fletcher and Keith Journigan, were charged with attempted murder after Fletcher ordered Journigan to shoot a rival drug dealer on the streets in Trenton. Journigan did in fact shoot the intended victim, who survived. Just ten days after the shooting occurred, the Division arrested all five defendants, including Fletcher and Journigan, on the attempted murder charges. DAG Erik Daab.

Operation White Silk. The Division arrested 20 defendants who operated a massive oxycodone distribution network, primarily based in Paterson. The defendants include ringleader Aurelio Rodriguez, as well as his network of brokers, dealers and runners. The defendants, who face first degree narcotics distribution charges, trafficked tens of thousands of oxycodone pills, which were sold for millions of dollars. DAG Ray Mateo; Dets. Kevin Weinkauff, Louis Renshaw, Travis Johnson, Toni Petreski, Miguel Rodriguez and Luis Cruz.

State v. Danni Rivera, et al. The Division indicted 30 defendants on racketeering, heroin distribution, kidnapping and other charges arising from the defendants' participation in a Perth Amboy-based gang known as the Netas. The leader of the Netas, Danni Rivera, pled guilty to first degree racketeering, and faces 20 years in state prison, including 17 years of parole ineligibility. Several other defendants entered pleas to first and second degree crimes requiring periods of parole ineligibility. DAG Russell Curley; Sgt. Keith Stopko; Dets. Scott Caponi, Edward Augustyn, Timothy Savage, Richard Aitken and William Gonzalez.

Operation Dismayed. The Division arrested and indicted 15 members of a Paterson-based heroin mill and distribution ring. The defendants' operation received, packaged, and distributed multiple kilograms of heroin -- worth hundreds of thousands of dollars -- per week. During the arrests, law enforcement officers seized four kilograms of

bulk heroin and over \$250,000 cash. The defendants face charges including first degree racketeering and second degree conspiracy to maintain a heroin production facility. Defendant Segundo Garcia, a leader of the drug trafficking network, pled guilty to first degree heroin distribution charges and faces a sentence of 15 years in state prison, including six years without parole. DAG Annmarie Taggart, Sgt. Ho Shin; Dets. Kevin Weinkauff, Louis Renshaw, Travis Johnson, Toni Petreski, Miguel Rodriguez and Luis Cruz.

Operation Jumpstart. Anthony Smith -- one of 28 defendants indicted in this case -- pled guilty to first degree racketeering and other narcotics and firearms offenses. Among other things, Smith sold an M-1 assault rifle to an undercover officer. Smith faces ten years in state prison and eight and a half years of parole ineligibility. Five of the other defendants charged in the takedown were sentenced to extensive state prison terms for racketeering, narcotics trafficking and firearms offenses. DAG Kristen Harberg.

Operation No Boundaries. The Division arrested six defendants, including ringleader Jose Cruz Romero-Flores, on first degree human trafficking and other charges. The defendants operated an international human trafficking ring that used fraud and coercion to lure young women from Mexico into the United States, where they were put to work as prostitutes in a network of brothels located in Lakewood and elsewhere. DAG Russell Curley; Lt. Lisa Shea; Sgt. Noelle Holl; Dets. Naike Kudlik, Eric Barnes, Terry Shaw, Christine Sullivan, Atem Ako and Brian Christensen.

State v. Mark Branch, et al. The Division arrested and indicted Mark Branch with first degree human trafficking and other offenses. Branch ran a male prostitution ring and used narcotics and threats to coerce numerous young men, some of whom were minors, to act as prostitutes. Branch further attempted to tamper with witnesses against him. DAG Russell Curley; Lt. Lisa Shea; Sgts. Noelle Holl and Keith Stopko; Dets. Naike Kudlik, Eric Barnes, Terry Shaw and Shawn Gorlin.

State v. Percival Williams, et al. The Division arrested and indicted Percival Williams with first degree human trafficking and other offenses. Williams used violence and threats to coerce numerous young women to work within a large-scale sex trafficking enterprise. After an extensive manhunt, Williams was arrested in Texas and extradited back to New Jersey for prosecution. The Division also charged Williams and another defendant, Asha Vaughn, with conspiracy to transport over \$500,000 in stolen diamonds. DAsG Russell Curley and Annmarie Taggart; Lt. Lisa Shea; Sgts. Noelle Holl and Keith Stopko; Dets. Naike Kudlik, Eric Barnes, Terry Shaw and Shawn Gorlin.

State v. Michael Mendez. Michael Mendez pled guilty to narcotics offenses and to criminal restraint charges. When detectives searched Mendez's home in connection with a narcotics investigation, they found he had been keeping his girlfriend padlocked inside a bedroom for extended periods of time. Mendez was sentenced to five years in state prison with 18 months of parole ineligibility. DAG Annmarie Taggart.

Operation Pandora. Mohamed Hassanien, the leader of a multi-million dollar black market prescription pain pill ring, was sentenced to 11 years in state prison. During trial, Hassanien pled guilty to charges of racketeering and narcotics distribution. Hassanien admitted that he was the leader of a narcotics ring that sold approximately 40,000 oxycontin pills per week in New Jersey, New York and Massachusetts. Hassanien was the leader of the 19 defendants indicted by the Division in the case. DAsG Mark Eliades and Betty Rodriguez.

State v. Kwadir Felton, et al. A Hudson County jury convicted Kwadir Felton on all counts against him, including aggravated assault, firearms possession, and narcotics possession, after a five-week trial. Felton faces a maximum sentence of 40 years with 15 years parole ineligible. Felton was the only defendant to go to trial after multiple defendants entered guilty pleas, including Dempsey Collins and David Gilliens, who were the leaders of the operation and were sentenced to 20 years with 12 years parole ineligible and 20 years with ten years parole ineligible, respectively. DAsG Ray Mateo and Brandy Malfitano.

State v. Bobby Singletary, et al. The Division tried and convicted Bobby Singletary, a corrections officer at the state's correction facility for sex offenders, for smuggling heroin and marijuana into the facility. The State proved at trial that, over three years, Singletary smuggled narcotics into the correctional facility and received payment from inmates through a series of wire transactions. Singletary was convicted on all counts at trial, and faces a sentence of five to ten years in state prison, including a minimum of five years without parole. Five other co-conspirators were convicted before trial by guilty plea. DAsG Cassie Serentino and Erik Daab.

State v. Vincent Esposito, et al. The Division indicted Vincent Esposito -- a practicing doctor and former Madison borough councilman -- and pharmacist Srinivasa Raju with conspiring to prescribe thousands of oxycodone pills to individuals without a medical examination and without medical need. Esposito pled guilty to a second degree narcotics distribution charge, which can be reduced to a third degree charge upon sentencing. Raju similarly faces second degree narcotics distribution charges. DAsG Betty Rodriguez and Brandy Malfitano.

State v. Cesar Perez, et al. The Division indicted four defendants on first degree narcotics trafficking and money laundering charges for running a massive cocaine distribution operation in Bergen County. At the time of the arrests, the Division and State Police seized 40 kilograms of cocaine and \$1.1 million in cash from a warehouse controlled by the syndicate. DAG Phil Mogavero.

State v. Tuan Dang, et al. Two defendants, Tuan Dang and Ngoc Bui, pled guilty to charges relating to their operation of the largest indoor marijuana growing operation ever uncovered in New Jersey. Dang admitted that he ran an international drug trafficking syndicate that was growing a marijuana crop worth over \$10 million inside five houses in New Jersey. In a series of searches, the Division and State Police seized over 3,000 plants, 130 pounds of harvested marijuana, and \$66,000 in cash. Dang pled guilty to first degree charge of leading a narcotics trafficking operation, and received a sentence of 20 years in state prison with ten years of parole ineligibility. DAG Russell Curley.

State v. Mario Miller, et al. After the Division obtained search warrants and seized 51 kilograms of cocaine, Mario Miller and Jesus Rivera were indicted on first degree narcotics trafficking charges. SDAG Christopher Romanyshyn and DAG Vincent Militello; Det. Kevin Weinkauff.

State v. Reginald Brown. After a jury trial, Reginald Brown was found guilty of possessing firearms, cocaine and illegal prescription drugs. While executing search warrants in the case, State Police seized four firearms, two bags of cocaine and several hundred oxycodone pills. Brown was sentenced to 23 years in state prison, including 11 1/2 years of parole ineligibility. DAG Erik Daab.

State v. Javin Ward. Javin Ward was convicted at trial of second degree cocaine trafficking charges, and was sentenced to five years in state prison. DAsG Ray Mateo and Annmarie Taggert; Sgt. Ho Shin; Dets. Luis Cruz, Louis Renshaw, Kevin Weinkauff, Travis Johnson and Toni Petreski.

Operation Swarm. Brian Teel, an officer with the New Jersey Department of Corrections, pled guilty to official misconduct for smuggling a cellphone into New Jersey State prison on behalf of an imprisoned gang leader in this multi-defendant gang criminality prosecution. Teel faces a sentence of five years in state prison, and permanent forfeiture of his state employment and pension. Multiple other defendants entered guilty pleas to charges including murder conspiracy and gang criminality. DAG Christopher Romanyshyn.

State v. Jorge Avalos, et al. The Division indicted three defendants -- Jorge Avalos, Luis Hernandez, and Francis Bailey -- on first degree narcotics trafficking charges after law enforcement officers seized 21 kilograms of cocaine from a vehicle in Jersey City. The intercepted shipment of cocaine was worth over \$600,000 in street value. DAG Ray Mateo.

Financial & Computer Crimes Bureau

Operation Predator Alert. Working with federal law enforcement agents from the Department of Homeland Security Investigations, the Division arrested 14 defendants on charges of distributing and possessing child pornography over internet file-sharing programs. This case marked the first major utilization of the State's new, strengthened child pornography laws, which went into effect in August 2013. DAsG Kenneth Sharpe, Francine Ehrenberg, Jillian Carpenter, Lilianne Daniel, Denise Grugan, Marie McGovern, Anand Shah and Naju Lathia; Sgt. Thomas Turley; Dets. Abraham Aquino, Richard Loufik, Paul Marfino, Joseph McCray, John Neggia, Thomas Page and Cheryl Smith.

State v. Daryl Turner and Robyn Bernstein. The Division indicted and convicted Turner and Bernstein for defrauding hundreds of victims of over \$3 million by offering false vacation packages and promotions. The defendants owned and operated travel club companies that collected fees from victims for non-existent promotional trips and discount vacations. Turner pled guilty to second degree theft by deception, and faces a sentence of seven years in state prison, plus approximately \$2.6 million in restitution to his victims. Bernstein also pled guilty to theft by deception, and faces probation plus forfeiture of the family's home and numerous bank accounts. DAG Mark Kurzawa; Lt. David Nolan; Det. Richard Loufik; Analyst Alison Callery.

State v. David Ruddy. The Division indicted and convicted David Ruddy on charges that he preyed on victims of Superstorm Sandy by promising them low-cost housing or cars and then stealing their money. Ruddy, who at times claimed to work for the Attorney General's Office, collected purported down payments from victims who had been displaced by Superstorm Sandy, and then kept the money for himself. Ruddy pled guilty to stealing over \$55,000 from at least 13 victims, and was sentenced to five years in state prison and full restitution. DAsG Jillian Carpenter and Janet Bosi; Dets. Kim Allen and Scott Stevens.

State v. Germaine Theodore, et al. The Division charged and arrested Germaine Theodore, who ran a debt adjustment firm called TGC Movement, for defrauding hundreds of customers by promising them reductions in their monthly bills in return for up-front fees, but never delivering any debt relief or other service. Theodore is charged with stealing at least \$250,000 through the fraud scheme. Several other defendants were also arrested for their roles in the scheme. DAG Frank Brady; Det. Scott Stevens.

Operation Ever Vigilant. As the result of a collaborative effort with State Police, the Division arrested 25 defendants on charges of distributing child pornography over the internet. In total, the case involved the distribution, copying and sharing of thousands of images of child rape and sexual abuse. Several of the charged defendants had regular access to children in their jobs or otherwise. DAG Kenneth Sharpe.

State v. Vito Grippo and Frederick Grippo. The defendants pled guilty in a scheme to defraud struggling homeowners of over \$1.3 million. Under the scheme, the defendants promised to rescue homeowners who were facing foreclosure, but instead sold the homes to unwitting investors. Vito Grippo faces a sentence of ten years in state prison, and Frederick Grippo faces a sentence of four years in state prison. DAsG Francine Ehrenberg and Mark Kurzawa; Sgt. Robert Walker; Dets. Eric Ludwick and Martin Farrell.

State v. Thomas Fagan. Thomas Fagan, the CEO of Energex Systems, Inc., a large biotech firm based in Bergen County, was indicted for stealing over \$230,000 in investor funds from the business. Fagan used the stolen money to fund an extravagant personal lifestyle, and now faces second degree charges of corporate misconduct, theft and money laundering. DAG Peter Gallagher; Lts. David Nolan and Michael Fallon; Dets. Edward Augustyn and Cheryl Smith; Analyst Alison Callery.

State v. Irving Fryar and Allene McGhee. The Division charged Irving Fryar and Allene McGhee with theft by deception for committing a \$690,000 mortgage fraud. Under the scheme, the defendants obtained five home equity loans over a six-day period, all using the same property as collateral and without disclosing the existence of any other liens or loans. The defendants then used loan proceeds for their own personal uses. DAsG Mark Kurzawa and John Nicodemo; Det. Kim Allen.

State v. Stephanie Hand, et al. Three individuals, including Stephanie Hand, an attorney practicing in Essex County, were indicted for their roles in a mortgage fraud scheme involving over \$800,000 in fraudulently-obtained loans. The defendants used stolen identities to file fraudulent loan applications, falsified settlement statements, and diverted the loan proceeds. DAsG Jillian Carpenter and Mary Erin McAnally; Dets. Roxanna Ordonez; Analysts Rita Gillis and Amy Patterson.

State v. Gulf Coast Polymer Services and David Bryant. David Bryant and his company, Gulf Coast Polymer Services, conspired to rig bids for seven public con-

tracts issued by the New Jersey Department of Corrections. Both Bryant and Gulf Coast pled guilty to a second degree charge of false representation for a government contract. Bryant faces a sentence of five years in state prison, and is debarred from public contracts. DAsG Jeffrey Manis, Perry Primavera and Analisa Holmes; Det. Benjamin Kukis; Analyst Nathalie Kurzawa.

Operation Watchdog. Charles Jones, a former Morristown Public Works Administrator, was one of 27 defendants arrested on charges including distribution of child pornography images over the internet. As of December 2013, nine other defendants have entered guilty pleas in this ongoing prosecution. DAG Kenneth Sharpe.

State v. Aaron DeBerardinis. Aaron DeBerardinis was indicted and pled guilty to possession and distribution of child pornography. DeBerardinis possessed over 12,000 images and videos on his computers. He offered an aggregate total of 1,310 videos and images to other P2P users. He faces up to five years in state prison at sentencing. DAG Kenneth Sharpe; Sgt. Tom Turley.

State v. Daniel Allen, Jr. In a joint investigation with Homeland Security Investigations, the Division arrested Allen for posting photographs of adolescent girls on a website frequented by pedophiles who transformed the images, at Allen's urging, into child pornography using graphics software. The defendant entered a guilty plea to second degree manufacturing and second degree distribution of child pornography, and faces seven years in state prison. DAG Kenneth Sharpe.

State v. Bronthie Charles, et al. Acting on a referral from TD Bank Corporate Security, the Division indicted Charles, a TD Bank teller, and six others on charges of second degree conspiracy, theft by deception and identity theft for their roles in a ring that used account information from customers of TD Bank to steal more than \$150,000 from several TD Bank locations. An eighth defendant was arrested in New York and charged on a criminal complaint. DAG Peter Gallagher; Det. Richard Loufik.

State v. Mark Niemczyk and Thomas Scalgione. The Division indicted Niemczyk and Scalgione on theft charges for operating a bogus charity that falsely purported to raise money for 9/11 victims. The defendants collected tens of thousands of dollars in charitable donations and, rather than disbursing those donations to the families of 9/11 victims, kept the money for their own use. DAG Sarah Lichter; Det. Roxanna Ordonez.

State v. Maxwell Smith. Maxwell Smith, a financial advisor who defrauded investment clients of \$9.8 million in a Ponzi scheme, was convicted of first degree money laundering. Smith was sentenced to 15 years in state prison, with five years of parole ineligibility. DAG Andy Fried; Det. Louis Matirko.

State v. Louis J. Macaluso. The defendant, the owner/operator of Affinity Title Agency, Inc., entered a guilty plea to second degree charges of theft by failure to make required disposition of property received and misconduct by a corporate official, for failing to pay off 34 outstanding mortgages on properties worth more than \$5.3 million. Consent judgments have been executed and entered for the full value of the loss to the victims. Macaluso has made an initial restitution payment of approximately \$700,000 and has surrendered his New Jersey insurance producer's license. Macaluso will be subject to a ten year state prison sentence. DAG Frank Brady; Det. Kimberly Allen.

State v. Raulin Lopez, et al. The Division charged five Paterson residents with stealing over \$100,000 in checks from mailboxes and then laundering the money through various personal bank accounts. The defendants face charges including second degree conspiracy, second degree money laundering, and third degree receipt of stolen property. DAG Marysol Rosero; Sgt. Robert Walker; Det. Nelson Trujillo.

Operation Black Money. The Division, in a joint sting operation with the FBI, arrested two defendants, Nyondah Blay and Carl Jenkins, for perpetrating a "black money" scam aimed at defrauding victims of at least \$80,000. The defendants solicited money from the intended victims to purchase a chemical to be used to clean hundreds of thousands of dollars in U.S. currency that purportedly had been dyed black to avoid detection as the money was smuggled out of Liberia. Both defendants pled guilty. DAG Peter Gallagher; Det. Anne Hayes.

State v. Albert Paramito. Albert Paramito, a Burlington County-based con artist, was sentenced to state prison for defrauding victims of over \$500,000 by falsely promising them millions of dollars in venture capital. Paramito's company also entered a guilty plea, and Paramito agreed to pay hundreds of thousands of dollars to his victims in restitution. DAG Betty Rodriguez; Sgt. Robert Walker.

State v. Brian Lyles, et al. Brian Lyles, Sasha Cortes, BKL Property Management, LLC, and VIP Title Agency, LLC were charged in an indictment with first degree conspiracy and money laundering, and with second degree theft by deception and misconduct by a corporate official. These charges are part of a complex mortgage fraud utilizing

a short sale scheme to defraud lenders. Cortes entered a guilty plea and faces five years in state prison. Another defendant, a Jersey City firefighter, has forfeited his public employment as a condition of his guilty plea. DAG Mike Rappa; Det. Abe Aquino.

State v. Carrie Ann Manerchia, et al. Carrie Ann Manerchia and Lisa Marie Matto were charged in an indictment with second degree receiving stolen property and money laundering. The defendants fraudulently obtained 36 fraudulent New Jersey Gross Income Tax refund checks and 20 U.S. Treasury checks, worth a total of more than \$95,000. DAG Denise Grugan.

State v. Thomas Muza. The defendant, the former bookkeeper for the Triangle Club, a theater troupe at Princeton University, was arrested and charged with second degree theft for stealing over \$100,000 from the Club's bank account. DAG Mark Kurzawa; Det. Ben Kukis.

Specialized Crimes Bureau

Operation Blok Buster. The Division charged 28 defendants in a case targeting the Atlantic City-based gang known as “800 Blok.” The gang used violent tactics to control drug trafficking turf within the Back Maryland section of Atlantic City. As part of the investigation, the Division detected and prevented an alleged murder plot before the murder could occur. During the case, the Division seized tens of thousands of dollars worth of narcotics and four firearms from the charged gang members and associates. DAG James Ruberton; Special DAG Erik Bergman; Sgt. James Nelson; Dets. Brian Graybill, Errick Davis, Todd Watkins, Nicole Eiker and Jon Norcia.

State v. Todd Halpern, et al. The Division indicted 15 defendants who stole over \$700,000 in state taxpayer funds from the Department of Labor through a massive unemployment fraud scheme. The lead defendant, Todd Halpern, engineered a scheme whereby false unemployment claims were filed on behalf of numerous accomplices who, in turn, collected tens of thousands of dollars each in unemployment benefits to which they were not entitled. Halpern pled guilty and faces a sentence of 12 years in state prison, including four years without parole. DAsG Valerie Noto and Anthony Torntore; Det. Lynn Fitzgerald.

Operation Facial Scrub. In 2013, the Division charged 91 defendants with identity theft, forgery and document fraud offenses as part of Operation Facial Scrub. Using high-tech facial recognition software, the Division, together with MVC and State Police, identified 91 individuals who had applied for and obtained driver’s licenses under false names. Numerous defendants had extensive DUI records and several also possessed valid commercial driver’s licenses under the fraudulent name. One defendant was a registered sex offender with a DUI history and a commercial driver’s license. DAsG Debra Conrad, Lilianne Daniel, Jacqueline Olivadoti, Anthony Torntore, Mary Erin McAnally, Valerie Noto, Jeffrey Barile, John Paone, Michael King, Brian Carney and Martin Steiner; Lt. Bill Newsome; Dets. Cecil Boone, Franco Cignarella, Michael Duffield, Sean Egan, Christian Harden, Kelly Howard, Joseph McCray, Nicholas Olenick and Civil Investigator Ruben Contreras.

State v. Harry Mansmann and William Mowell. Two top officials with the East Orange Water Commission, Harry Mansmann and William Mowell, were indicted for

official misconduct, violations of the New Jersey Safe Drinking Water Act, and other offenses for conspiring to falsify official water test results by shutting down contaminated wells prior to testing. The defendants also were charged with unlawful discharge of contaminated water into the Passaic River. DAG Phil Leahy; Sgt. Steve Ogulin; Dets. Matt Schneiderman, Dawn Ryan and Michael Klumpp.

State v. Jonathan Olin, et al. The Division charged four defendants with using fraudulent titles to sell cars that had been damaged by Superstorm Sandy to unsuspecting customers. The defendants obtained cars that had been flooded during the storm and then auctioned by an insurance company for salvage purposes only. Through a co-defendant who worked inside the Motor Vehicle Commission, the defendants obtained fraudulently-issued “clean” titles enabling the cars to be sold to customers who were not told of the prior flood damage. DAG Paul Salvatoriello; Det. Sean Egan; and Civil Investigator Ruben Contreras.

State v. Nasir Salaam, et al. Four defendants pled guilty to participating in the 2007 murder of a gas station attendant during a robbery in Atlantic County. One defendant, Nasir Salaam, was sentenced to 40 years in state prison, including 30 years without parole. Another defendant, Darrick Hudson, was sentenced to 25 years in state prison, including 21 years without parole. DAG Kerry DiJoseph; Sgt. Kenneth Crane.

State v. Johnny Cobb, et al. Johnny Cobb and 21 other defendants were indicted on second degree charges of racketeering and theft by deception for gaining access to legitimate JP Morgan Chase bank account information; utilizing that information to open up fictitious accounts; linking the two accounts; and withdrawing money from the fictitious accounts at various Atlantic City casinos. In total, the defendants stole over \$400,000 from 14 legitimate account holders. DAG Yvonne Maher.

State v. Janice Allen, et al. The Division tried and convicted two defendants, Allen and her daughter Janice Dilligard, for their roles in a scheme to defraud the State of over \$600,000 by filing false unemployment insurance claims. The defendants were convicted by the jury of second degree theft and other charges, and face sentences of five to ten years in state prison. The Division previously convicted by guilty plea five other co-defendants who participated in the scheme. DAsG Phil Leahy and Anthony Torntore; Dets. Kim Allen and Eric Ludwick.

State v. Michael Geiger. Michael Geiger, a former CEO of two manufacturing companies, pled guilty to first degree money laundering for stealing more than \$2.3 million from the companies he ran. Geiger was sentenced pursuant to his plea to ten

years in state prison, including three and a half years without parole. Two other defendants were charged along with Geiger, one of whom has pled guilty. DAG Valerie Noto; Det. Lynn Fitzgerald.

Edison MVC Investigation. From 2011 through 2013, the Division indicted and prosecuted over 60 defendants in six multiple-count indictments for committing fraud upon several motor vehicle agencies. The final case involved four “brokers,” who worked with an MVC employee at the Edison Motor Vehicle Agency to renew driver’s licenses for illegal immigrants for a fee of between \$5,000 and \$7,000. Several of the defendants received state prison sentences including one MVC employee who was sentenced to six years in state prison with two years parole ineligibility. DAsG Debra Conrad and Paul Salvatoriello; Det. Nicholas Olenick, Civil Investigator Ruben Contreras; Analyst Kathy Ratliff.

State v. Donald Capriotti and Chinyere Gardner. ACTF members executed a search warrant at the residence of Donald Capriotti and his wife, Chinyere Gardner. The detectives recovered two loaded guns and cocaine. Gardner was on parole at the time of the arrest after having served a nine year sentence for the death of her infant child, who had been starved to death by neglect. Capriotti recently had completed parole for a first degree manslaughter conviction. The Division indicted Capriotti and Gardner for narcotics and weapons offenses. DAG James Ruberton and Special DAG Erik Bergman; Sgt. James Nelson; Dets. Todd Watkins and Errick Davis.

State v. Ruben Sewell and Lavelle Davis. The Division indicted Ruben Sewell and Lavelle Davis for first degree cocaine distribution offenses and second degree weapon offenses. These charges were a result of a fugitive warrant being executed at their residence, which uncovered large quantities of narcotics, packaging materials, a 40-caliber handgun and over \$32,000 in cash. DAG James Ruberton and Special DAG Erik Bergman; Sgt. James Nelson and Det. Brian Graybill.

State v. James Curtis. James Curtis, a security manager for an Atlantic City casino, was charged with obstructing an investigation and with promoting prostitution. As security manager, Curtis received advance notification about the presence of undercover detectives inside the casino conducting prostitution details. Curtis forwarded the information to a woman he knew was a prostitute in an effort to obstruct the investigation. DAG Kelly Biringer.

State v. Patricia Garcia. The Division indicted Patricia Garcia for using state computers to divert over \$18,000 in unemployment insurance benefits for her own per-

sonal use while she was an employee of the State Department of Labor. The indictment charged Garcia with official misconduct, computer theft, and theft by deception. DAG Anthony Torntore; Det. Lynn Fitzgerald.

State v. Darren Rebel. The Division charged Darren Rebel with attempted murder and aggravated assault after he ran over a State Police trooper and rammed the car of an off-duty State Police captain following a traffic stop in Deptford. Rebel faces 20 years' imprisonment on the attempted murder charge. DAG Andrew Taff.

Operation CEI. The Division charged four defendants -- James Ramos, Juan Bernal, Ernesto Ovalles and Davahn Johnson -- with theft for stealing approximately 12 pallets of perfume from Cosmetic Essence Inc, Holmdel, New Jersey, worth more than \$100,000. All four defendants pled guilty. Ovalles faces a sentence of five years in state prison. DAG Debra Conrad.

Operation Tidalwave. Wesley Starr, an employee of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission, was charged with official misconduct. Starr processed and issued approximately 378 fraudulent MVC titles for 29 businesses and/or individuals through "brokers" who charged a fee. This scheme resulted in nine separate indictments charging 15 individuals. All of the defendants have entered guilty pleas. AAG Louise Lester and DAG Jacqueline Olivadoti.

Appellate Bureau

In **Chaidez v. United States**, 133 S.Ct. 1103 (2013), the United States Supreme Court held that its decision in Padilla v. Kentucky, 559 U.S. 356 (2010) (imposing an affirmative duty on defense counsel to advise their clients as to the deportation risks of pleading guilty), does not apply retroactively to defendants whose convictions became final before Padilla was decided. DAG Frank Muroski wrote an amicus brief on behalf of 28 states.

In **State v. A.R.**, 213 N.J. 542 (2013), the New Jersey Supreme Court held that the trial court did not commit structural error when it granted the jury's request to review both defendant's and his victim's video-recorded pretrial statements. Although repeating its general disapproval of granting jurors "unfettered access" to such recorded statements in the jury room rather than in open court, the Court found here that neither the trial's structure nor defendant's confrontation rights were impaired. DAG Brian Uzdavinis.

In **State v. Rockford**, 213 N.J. 424 (2013), the Supreme Court reinstated defendant's drug convictions in a case involving police use of a "flash-bang" when executing a knock-and-announce search warrant. The Appellate Division had reversed after applying a bright-line test precluding the use of flash-bangs in executing knock-and-announce warrants absent unanticipated exigent circumstances. The Supreme Court disagreed, finding the officers' conduct in executing the warrant to be objectively reasonable. DAG Deborah Bartolomey.

In **State v. Campfield**, 213 N.J. 218 (2013), the Supreme Court found an adequate factual basis for defendant's guilty plea to aggravated manslaughter. Defendant admitted that he forced an injured, intoxicated, and barely-clothed victim into the woods on a cold January night, understood that his actions recklessly exposed the victim to the possibility of death, and consciously disregarded that substantial and unjustifiable risk. The Court also held that restoring the original charges is the appropriate remedy when reversing a guilty plea. DAG Ashlea Thomas.

In **State v. Bishop and Torres**, 429 N.J. Super. 533 (App. Div.), certif. granted, 216 N.J. 14 (2013), the Appellate Division held that the State did not irrevocably waive a mandatory extended term when it agreed to defendants' admission into Drug Court. Originally sentenced to special probation under N.J.S.A. 2C:35-14, defendants failed in that program and were re-sentenced to mandatory extended terms as repeat drug offenders, as their initial plea agreements provided. The mandatory sentencing provisions survive Drug Court probation, and remain applicable at re-sentencing if revocation occurs. DAG Jennifer Kmieciak.

In **State v. Gomez**, 430 N.J. Super. 175 (App. Div. 2013), the Appellate Division reversed a trial court order compelling an alleged aggravated assault victim to undergo an eye examination by a defense doctor. Before ordering a victim or witness to submit to a non-invasive physical or mental examination, a trial court must consider: (1) whether defendant demonstrated a "compelling or substantial need"; (2) "whether the order will risk 'intimidation, unnecessary annoyance, harassment or embarrassment' to the victim or witness"; and (3) "whether the length of time between the incident and the requested examination has diminished the likelihood of finding probative evidence." Then, viewing all the circumstances, the trial court must engage in a due process balancing test and "order the discovery only if the defendant's right clearly outweighs the victim's or witness's rights with respect to the specific discovery sought and its purpose." DAG Deborah Bartolomey.

In **State v. Brewster**, 429 N.J. Super. 387 (App. Div. 2013), the Appellate Division affirmed the denial of defendant's PCR petition alleging ineffective assistance of counsel regarding the deportation consequences of defendant's guilty plea. Defense counsel never assured defendant that he would not be deported if he pled guilty, and advising that he may be deported was correct advice in 1998; in fact it might have been incorrect to have advised defendant that he would be deported and potentially cause him to forego a favorable plea offer. DAG Frank Muroski.

In **State v. Hinton**, 216 N.J. 211 (2013), the Supreme Court ruled that New Jersey's doctrine of automatic standing, articulated in State v. Alston, 88 N.J. 211 (1981), does not equate to a finding that a defendant has a reasonable expectation of privacy in either the place searched or the item seized. Rather, the fact that a defendant has a possessory, participatory or proprietary interest in certain physical evidence merely allows him or her to file a motion to suppress. DAG Emily Anderson.

In **State v. Handy**, 215 N.J. 334 (2010), the Supreme Court overruled the use of bifurcated trial procedures in cases where a defendant raises dual defenses of insanity and

self defense. If a defendant mounts a substantive defense (like self defense) and an insanity defense, all issues must be resolved in a unitary trial, not in a bifurcated proceeding. The Court expressly overruled State v. Khan, 175 N.J. Super. 77 (App. Div. 1980), which had mandated the bifurcated trial procedure. DAG Ashlea Thomas.

In State v. O’Driscoll, 215 N.J. 461 (2013), the Supreme Court affirmed a conviction for refusal to submit to a breathalyzer test, notwithstanding a police officer’s error in reading an outdated standard statement to inform defendant of the consequences of refusing to provide a breath sample. The Court held that minor deviations between the outdated standard statement and the amended standard statement, which concerned the amount of the potential fine and the minimum period of license suspension, could not have reasonably affected the defendant’s choice not to provide a breath sample. Former AAG Boris Moczula.

In State v. Earls, 214 N.J. 564 (2013), the Supreme Court held that the New Jersey constitution protects an individual’s privacy interest in the location of his or her cell phone. Police must obtain a warrant, based on probable cause, or demonstrate the applicability of an exception to the warrant requirement, to obtain tracking information through the use of a cell phone. DAG Brian Uzdavinis.

In State v. Andrews, ___ N.J. ___ (2013), the Supreme Court revisited the bright-line remedy established by State v. Gilmore, 103 N.J. 508 (1986), and determined that trial judges should be given more flexibility in fashioning a remedy to address the constitutionally impermissible use of peremptory challenges. Whereas the Gilmore Court required trial judges to dismiss the already-selected jurors, quash the remaining venire, and re-start the jury selection process with a different venire, judges may now choose from a broader set of remedies on a case-by-case basis, e.g., reseating wrongfully-excused juror(s) and ordering forfeiture by the offending party of his or her improperly exercised peremptory challenge(s), requiring challenges to prospective jurors outside the presence of the jury, and/or granting additional peremptory challenges to the aggrieved party. Former DAG Frank Ducoat.

Statewide Task Forces

In 2013, DCJ created and chaired three new statewide Task Forces aimed at specific, emerging law enforcement challenges, including: (1) the Human Trafficking Task Force, which focuses on investigating and prosecuting human trafficking cases and on statewide outreach, awareness, and training; (2) the Statewide Sandy Fraud Working Group, which coordinates statewide intake and investigation of Sandy-related criminal investigations and prosecutions; and (3) the Heroin and Opiates Enforcement Task Force, which brings together statewide law enforcement and administrative resources to combat the growing epidemic of heroin and pills trafficking and overdoses.

Forfeiture

In 2013, the Division seized over \$10.3 million in forfeited monetary assets, plus over 35 vehicles. In total, the Division forfeited more cash, and more total assets, in 2013 than in the prior three years combined. DAsG Derek Miller and Susan Wolansky; Analyst Debra Maiorano.

Fugitive Safe Surrender

In November 2013, DCJ coordinated a Fugitive Safe Surrender program in Jersey City. In total, over 4,500 fugitives resolved outstanding warrants, making it the largest Fugitive Safe Surrender program ever held in New Jersey, and the third-largest ever held in the United States. AAG Phil Aronow and DAsG Analisa Holmes, Denise Hollingsworth, Norma Evans, Marie Pirog, Sarah Lichter and Alyssa Schwab; Lt. Richie King.

DCJ Academy

The DCJ Academy in Sea Girt is the only training academy in the state authorized to host the Basic Course for Investigators (“BCI”), the required basic training class for detectives in DCJ and in all County Prosecutors’ Offices. This year, the Academy graduated 77 detectives and investigators, over two classes. In 2013, the Academy expanded the BCI training curriculum to include a Modified Basic Course for Investigators, a Basic Course for Arson Investigators, an Arson Investigation In-Service Course, and various specialty and management development courses not generally available at other police academies.

Law Enforcement Training

In 2013, the Division provided live, in-service training to over 2,200 law enforcement officers on topics including arson investigation, corruption investigation, human trafficking investigation, internal affairs, radar operation, and white collar investigation. DCJ also developed and posted on-line training programs on the NJ Learn server on topics including domestic violence training, controlled energy devices, and DNA training. In total, over 34,000 law enforcement officers statewide viewed and completed the NJ Learn programs.

DCJ Litigation Academy

DCJ created and ran its own Litigation Academy, which provides newly-hired DAsG with 20 sessions of in-house legal instruction from experienced DCJ instructors on all aspects of the criminal justice process, from investigation to trial to appeal.

Police Training Commission

DCJ staff, on behalf of the Police Training Commission (“PTC”), oversees basic training in 16 Police and Corrections Academies across the state. These academies graduated approximately 3,200 police officers in 2013. PTC staff audited and entered 3,891 Trainee Record Cards, issued 242 general instructor certifications, issued 77 firearms instructor certifications, and issued initial and updated instructor vehicle operations instructor certifications. The PTC staff conducted 154 unannounced academy inspections. In addition, the staff prepared for, hosted, and processed the paperwork resulting from six PTC meetings conducted during the year.

Combined DNA Index System (CODIS)

The Combined DNA Index System (“CODIS”) Compliance Unit (“CCU”) monitors and enforces compliance with the DNA Database and Databank Act of 1994. DNA samples are collected throughout the State with the assistance of the Administrative Office of the Courts, the Department of Corrections, the Department of Human Services, the County Sheriff’s Offices and county jails. The New Jersey database contains over 286,000 offender profiles, and 8,231 crime investigations have been aided to date, including 1,325 sexual offenses, 3,894 burglaries, 1,684 robberies or thefts, and 396 homicides.

The most recent expansion to the Act took effect on February 1, 2013, requiring the collection of DNA samples from persons arrested for certain violent crimes. The

CCU implemented the new DNA arrestee law by training law enforcement agencies statewide on standardized DNA collection techniques. Since passage of the new law, the CCU has collected approximately 1,600 arrestee samples, which generated seven hits. The first hit on an arrestee sample occurred when DCJ arrested Juan Stevens for sexual assault and collected a DNA sample under the new law. That DNA sample resulted in a hit to an unsolved sexual assault from 2011.

Grants and Program Development

The Program Development Section and the State Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy (SOVWA) currently manage approximately \$105 million in open grants among ten different programs. Specifically, Program Development manages \$61 million among seven different grant programs, while the SOVWA manages \$44 million among three different grant programs. Since 2009, these offices have been responsible for administering the Federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 grant of \$29 million, which successfully closed this year. Also in 2013, the Program Development Section applied for and won a highly competitive grant for \$353,000 from the Bureau of Justice Assistance to support implementation of justice information sharing solutions to support crime-fighting strategies in the “hot spot” area of the Route 21 Corridor.

Regional Medical Examiner’s Offices

DCJ operates two Regional Medical Examiner’s Offices, which currently provide medical examiner services to seven counties. The Northern Region serves Essex, Passaic, Hudson and Somerset Counties. The Southern Region serves Cape May and Cumberland Counties, and in 2013 more than doubled its capacity by expanding to include Atlantic County. The Atlantic County expansion allows for restructuring of personnel and equipment to ensure better utilization of resources, and eliminates redundancy while establishing a foundation for new and more effective initiatives. Budget analysis for this current expansion project reveals cost savings for all counties.

In 2013, the Medical Examiner coordinated and hosted a Regional Catastrophic Planning Team Mass Fatality Exercise in Bergen County. The exercise simulated the response to a radiological mass fatality event during a high-profile football game at a major arena in New Jersey. More than 20 state, national, and federal partners attended the exercise.

The Medical Examiner also published a Superstorm Sandy After-Action Report detailing the preparation, coordination, partnerships, and response to the storm. The Assistant State Medical Examiner presented these findings at the National Association of Medical Examiners Annual Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Victims of Crime Compensation Office (VCCO)

The Victims of Crime Compensation Office (VCCO) provides compensation and services to victims of crime for expenses incurred as a result of personal injury or death. In FY 2012, the office processed over 3,000 claims and provided nearly \$10 million to victims.

In October 2013, VCCO met a major goal of its three-year planning by implementing an online, paperless claims processing system. The next phase is to develop the online tracking of claims and payment status. The office continues to develop new operational efficiencies while ensuring that all statutory and regulatory mandates are met.

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