

TRAVIS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE AT A GLANCE



2017 - 2019

"It is a privilege to represent the State of Texas and the people of Travis County, and our office never forgets that we work for the taxpayers and that we serve the cause of criminal justice. We are proud of the work we do and the mission we undertake. I believe our Mission Statement reflects our moral and legal duty to vigorously protect the rights of both victims and defendants, to ensure the law is followed, to pursue the appropriate operation of the justice system, to reflect the values of our community in reaching the resolution of cases brought by this office, and to be a prudent steward of the public's resources. I expect each of my employees to understand these obligations and work diligently to fulfill them."

-Margaret Moore, Travis County District Attorney

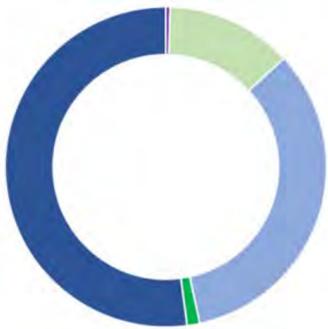
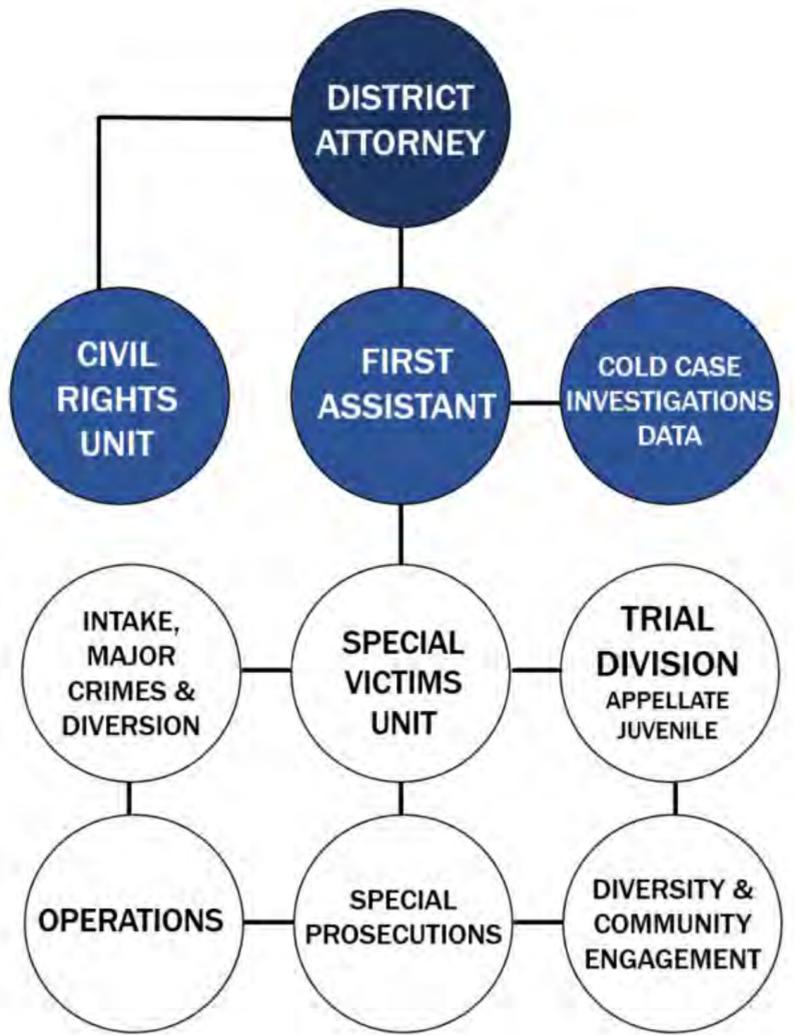


Data contained in this publication consists of calendar years 2017 - 2019. Additional information is available on our website.

<https://www.traviscountytexas.gov/district-attorney>

TCDA AT A GLANCE

The Travis County District Attorney's Office employs 236 attorneys, investigators, counselors and staff. The office prosecutes felonies ranging from the most serious crimes of murder, kidnapping, and sexual assault, to property crimes and drug possession.



<1% Native American
33% Hispanic
13% Black
52% White
1% Asian/Pacific Islander



TCDA trial team after verdict in 2018.

IN ADDITION TO THE EIGHT DIVISIONS WITHIN THE OFFICE, TCDA STAFF ALSO WORK WITH COMMUNITY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN MANY SPECIALIZED AREAS OF THE LAW.



Prioritizing Violent Crime Over Low-Level Drug Cases

“When I talk with jurors after trials, I hear their strong reactions to violent crimes that threaten our public safety, and I also hear their reasoning when they recommend community supervision. The results of our trials definitely inform the priorities of this Office. We are ensuring that ever-scarcer public resources are used to further public safety.”

-Travis County District Attorney Margaret Moore

18

Life sentences

obtained between 2017-2019 on violent crimes such as murder, sexual assault, aggravated robbery, and child abuse.

Pleas or findings of guilt in violent felony cases across the board in Travis County.

5,314

161

Violent crime cases tried in Travis County before juries or the judge.

VICTIM SERVICES

The Travis County District Attorney's Office promotes regular communication with those individuals who have been victims of crime. Our office strives to ensure that victims are informed of court proceedings, their statutory rights, and are connected with the appropriate resources to help them get through this difficult and stressful time.

For more information, see <https://www.traviscountytx.gov/district-attorney/victim-services>.

If you are a victim of crime needing assistance, you may contact the victim services section directly at **(512) 854-9449** or by email at **TCDAVictimServices@traviscountytx.gov**.

Progressive Prosecution

Multiple diversionary programs are used to divert defendants from a traditional prosecution track in hopes of reducing recidivism by addressing issues that may be driving their criminal conduct. Our office has expanded its use of diversion programs and fully supports resolving non-violent offenses in non-traditional ways. We are cognizant of the problems associated with mass incarceration and the impact it often has on underprivileged and minority communities.



2,293

Individuals served on diversion dockets at the felony level.

“When I took office, I knew we had to find a way to lessen the impact low-level drug and theft cases were having not only on those racking up those convictions but also on our whole felony court system.” –Travis County District Attorney Margaret Moore

State Jail Court June 2018 – May 2019:

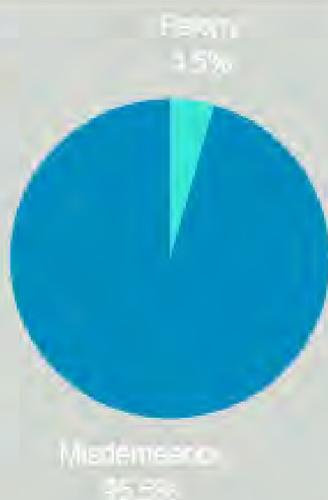
17 SJ felony sentences ↓91.5%
1 TDC/prison felony sentence ↓95.5%
7 12.44 (a) felony convictions ↓99.1%
16 felony pleas to supervision ↓85.5%

STATE JAIL COURT YEAR IN REVIEW

On June 1, 2018, the Travis County District Attorney's Office launched their State Jail Court (SJC) program to more effectively address low-level drug and theft-3rd offender cases, offenses which tend to represent public health issues rather than public safety concerns.

REDUCE FELONY CONVICTIONS

Felony convictions carry lifelong consequences. To alleviate the constraints on reentry, DA Moore has reduced 95% of SJC pleas to misdemeanors.



2,108 defendants spared from a felony conviction

SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT



APD Chief Brian Manley, DA Moore and Sheriff Sally Hernandez address a crowd during Child Abuse Prevention Month.

FAMILY VIOLENCE

In 2017, DA Moore created a family violence unit to address the overwhelming number of domestic abuse incidents in Travis County. From 2017- 2019, **4,333** cases were prosecuted by the unit now consisting of 11 assistant district attorneys.

SEXUAL ASSAULT

DA Moore has increased staffing to create an adult sexual assault unit within the office. With renewed focus and reallocated resources, TCDA has increased the prosecution of adult sexual assault cases in Travis County.

From 2014 - 2016, the TCDA indicted **141** and tried **7** adult sexual assault cases to a jury. In the next three years, between 2017 - 2019, this office indicted **203** such cases and tried **23** adult sexual assault cases to a jury. Focused prosecution has increased indictments by **43%** and increased trials more than twofold.

The District Attorney's Office partners with local police departments, probation officials, representatives of local and state labs, as well as SAFE Alliance on the **Interagency Sexual Assault Team**. DA Moore helped create ISAT in 2017 to increase the effectiveness of this community's systemic response to adult sexual assaults.

CHILD ABUSE

From 2017 - 2019, the Office prosecuted approximately **1,134** child abuse cases. Travis County prosecutors tried **45** child abuse jury trials and obtained pleas or findings of guilt in **673** cases. Additionally, **1,879** petitions were filed for termination of parental rights.



In 2019, DA Moore convened the first Sexual Assault Roundtable where prosecutors from across the state gathered to discuss common issues involved in the prosecution of sexual assault cases.



SVU staff accepting an award from the Center for Child Protection.

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

In 2017, the Travis County District Attorney's Office formed its Civil Rights Division. The Civil Rights Division is comprised of two units—the Civil Rights Unit (CRU) and the Conviction Integrity Unit (CIU)

77
Cases reviewed by the Civil Rights Unit in the last three years.

28
Officer Involved Shootings that the Civil Rights Unit responded to in the last three years.



District Attorney Margaret Moore standing with community leaders announcing the formation in 2017 of the Civil Rights Division within the Travis County District Attorney's Office

DIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Director of Diversity and Community Engagement is a liaison with community leaders, non-profit agencies, neighborhood associations, and other groups within and around Travis County. The Director also plays an active role in the recruitment of law students for potential employment opportunities within the DA's Office with an emphasis on diverse backgrounds, ethnicities, and life experiences.



Spread the word as we prepare for the Travis County Expunction Expo on **February 29, 2020.**

TCDA is partnering with other county departments to help wipe the slate clean!

SPECIAL PROSECUTIONS

The Special Prosecutions Division focuses on the prosecution of cases involving organized crime, public corruption, white collar fraud, and human trafficking.

Since taking office, Margaret Moore's Special Prosecutions Division has secured **168** criminal convictions against defendants accused of various types of fraud and obtained restitution orders in the amount of

\$8,970,284

to be paid back to victims of fraud.



Back Row: Chief Investigator, Norris McKenzie; Director of Civil Rights Unit, Dexter Gilford; Director of Intake and Diversion, Dayna Blazey; Assistant Director of Trial over Appellate, Scott Taliaferro; Director of Diversity and Community Engagement, Rickey Jones; Executive Assistant, Nancy Williams; Director of Trial Division, Guillermo Gonzalez; Director of Special Prosecutions, Don Clemmer
Front Row: Director of Operations, Gregg Cox; First Assistant, Mindy Montford; District Attorney, Margaret Moore; Assistant Director of Special Victims Unit, Efrain De La Fuente; Director of Special Victims Unit, Beverly Matthews

Mission Statement

The Travis County District Attorney's Office mission is to see that justice is done, by protecting the constitutional and statutory rights afforded to every person in our county without respect to race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status.

We will support our community's values by re-imagining the traditional role a prosecutor should play. We will vigorously prosecute violent and habitual offenders and protect the innocent, but we are also committed to crime prevention by implementing innovative programs to break the cycle of crime for youthful, first-time, mentally ill, and drug-addicted offenders.

Our office will maintain the highest level of honesty, integrity, and transparency. We will be models of ethical and professional conduct. As public servants, we are committed to diversity, hard work, and accountability. We will be careful stewards of our taxpayers' resources.

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@traviscountyda

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