

**GORDON P. MCLAUGHLIN**  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

# 2023

## ANNUAL REPORT



**DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**  
*8TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT*  
**SERVING LARIMER AND JACKSON COUNTIES**





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*Gordon P. McLaughlin*
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# OVERVIEW

The 8th Judicial District Attorney's Office serves Larimer and Jackson counties, representing more than 360,000 residents in Northern Colorado. Elected District Attorney Gordon P. McLaughlin leads a team of more than 100 dedicated public servants working tirelessly to protect the community while improving the criminal justice system.



# MISSION

The District Attorney's Office serves to seek justice and ensure the safety of our community in an equitable manner. Every day we work to thoughtfully prosecute crime, protect victims of crime, address systemic bias, rectify injustice, and provide transparency about our work. We are zealous advocates for the truth and fair practitioners of justice.

# VISION

To protect and serve Larimer and Jackson counties, while creating a stronger community where the application of criminal justice is more equitable and no longer at odds with social justice.



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Last year, we produced our first-ever Annual Report highlighting the work in the 8th Judicial District Attorney's Office and ushering in a new era of transparency and accountability in our criminal justice system. For our second year, this report will help to contextualize a new year of significant accomplishment.

Again and again, in 2023, the prosecutors and staff in the District Attorney's Office upheld the mission of our office—seeking justice and protecting the community and victims. Beyond that, our vision to create a stronger community where the application of criminal justice is not at odds with social justice can only happen with a team of incredibly dedicated professionals.

While 2023 saw a small post-COVID rebound in both our misdemeanor and felony filings, overall criminal filings are down significantly from 2019. We have continued to prioritize reducing the time it takes to resolve cases and have seen a significant decline in the length of a case as well as the number of hearings it takes to conclude. These efforts ensure victims see justice sooner, defendants are held accountable and put on the road to rehabilitation earlier, and our work as public servants is more efficient.

Several significant cases concluded in 2023, some of which had taken years of work to successfully resolve. Additionally, our district was the first in the state to prosecute a case under the new law HB22-1326 making it a class 1 drug felony to sell fentanyl that kills someone. This case served as a major milestone for our community as we use inter-agency collaboration to combat the widespread fentanyl epidemic, seek justice for victims who are killed by the deadly drug, and target the worst actors. I am incredibly proud of our team's work in getting justice for this victim and helping to set a precedent for the rest of the state.

Over the last year, we have continued to grow our efforts in providing thoughtful solutions to the cases that come across our desks. This includes programming like our Juvenile and Adult Diversion programs and our increased collaboration with behavioral health treatment providers. In 2023, our Adult Diversion program had a success rate of 89%. That means that our participants are seeing success in forgoing traditional criminal justice outcomes and working with resources that address the root causes of their crimes.

In 2023, we were able to connect with the community in new and unique ways. We hosted our first Victim's Rights Week event in April and were able to highlight three truly courageous victims and bring together our community to uplift these survivors. We were also able to host two warrant clearance events, where individuals with lower-level offenses can clear their warrants, work towards case resolution, and connect with community resources and services. We also continued to prioritize transparency. The public data dashboard that was launched in 2022, was, and continues to be, a nation-leading resource in highlighting the trends that can allow us to evaluate our work in a data-based way. I also presented an annual update to every city council and town board in Larimer County, a first-of-its-kind effort, designed to reach out to the diverse interests and needs of our large county.

Finally, this year saw significant recognition for several of our employees for success in the work they do. These awards show the public what I already know, our office has some of the most dedicated and effective professionals working for our community. I hope you enjoy this report and get a glimpse of why I am so proud of my staff and the contributions they have made in the past year to building a safe and equitable community.

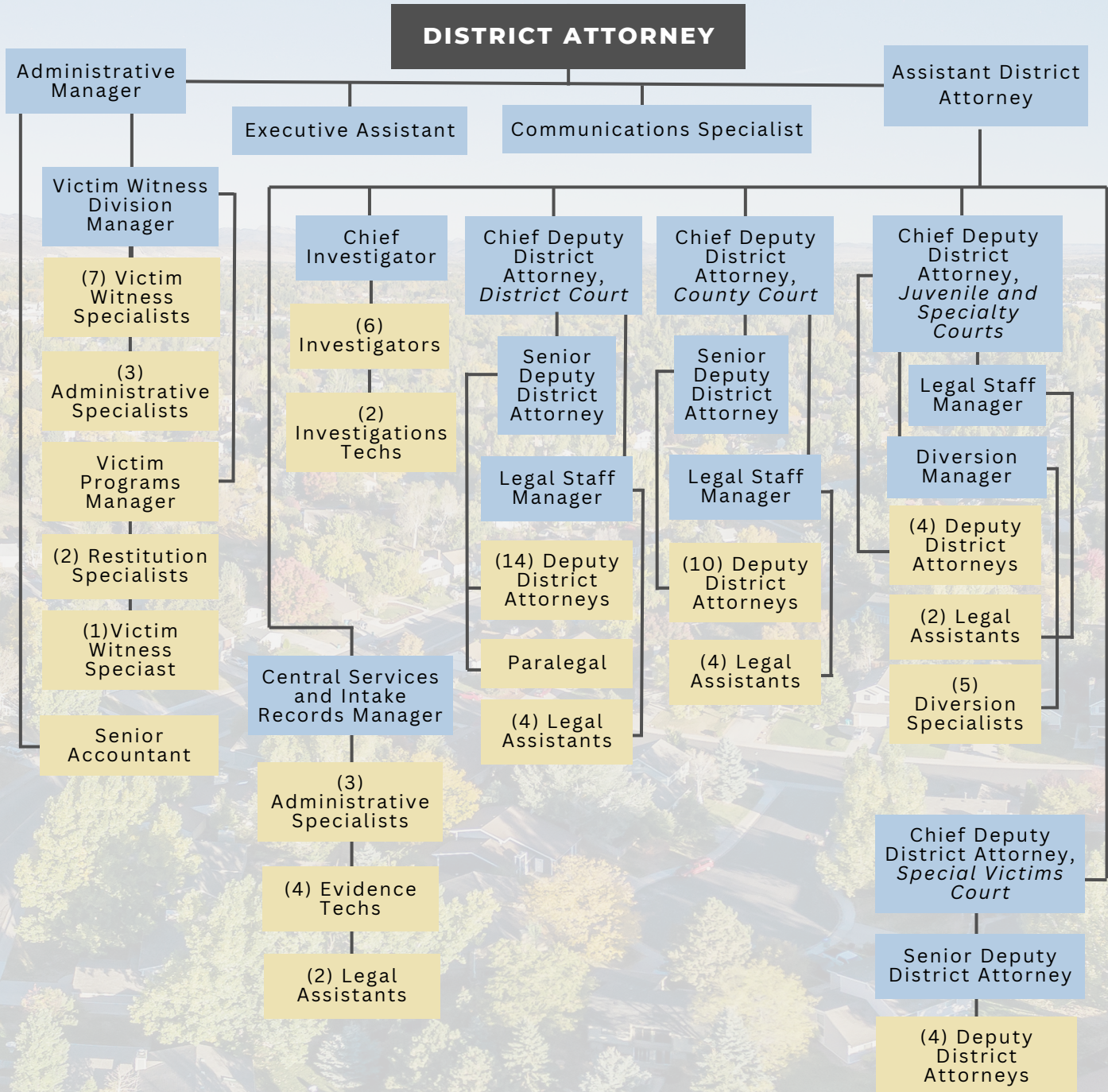


Gordon P. McLaughlin  
District Attorney for the 8th  
Judicial District of Colorado

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gordon P. McLaughlin". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue background.



# OFFICE BREAKDOWN





## The People of the State of Colorado vs. Andrea Branco

2022CR1363

In 2022, Andrea Branco was charged with selling fentanyl which resulted in the death of Kara Gorman, age 24. Our attorneys presented evidence to the Court showing Branco was distributing illegal drugs to multiple users and specifically began a conversation with Kara to entice her to purchase drugs, following Kara's successful completion of rehab. Branco ultimately sold her four fentanyl pills and provided the means to use them.

Our team secured a guilty plea to Distribution of a Controlled Substance-Fentanyl-Resulting in Death and she was sentenced to ten years in the Colorado Department of Corrections.

### Why is it important?

This case marked the first case for the 8th Judicial District under the new law of **C.R.S. 18-18-405**, but in fact the first in the State of Colorado. This law holds dealers who sell fentanyl resulting in someone's death responsible for homicide. This case has served as a model around the state to target dealers in our communities.

## The People of the State of Colorado vs. Roman Santiago III

2019CR1486

In 2019, Roman Santiago III was charged with kidnapping, tampering with evidence, as well as attempted murder and assault of a pregnant women following an incident in which Mr. Santiago attacked his then girlfriend for an extended period of time and transported her from New Mexico without her consent. This attack resulted in a miscarriage.

Our office secured a guilty plea to assault in the first degree-disfigurement and unlawful termination of a pregnancy, and Santiago was sentenced in October 2023 to 44 years in the Colorado Department of Corrections.

### Why is it important?

By concluding this case with a negotiated resolution, the victim did not have to testify in a trial and potentially be retraumatized, while still achieving a very significant sentence which the victim supported. Our Victim Advocate team also worked closely with the victim throughout the trial, even flying to another state to meet in person.

Finally, this case highlighted the importance of inter-agency collaboration even across state lines.



2018CR652

## The People of the State of Colorado vs. Christopher Parker

In 2015, a seemingly random shooting killed William Connole. After three years of investigation, Christopher Parker was arrested and charged with first-degree murder. Parker then spent 5 years within the competency system before being restored and legally able to stand trial. Our office secured a guilty plea to second-degree murder in the death of William Connole. Christopher Parker was sentenced to 39 years to the Colorado Department of Corrections on June 26, 2023.

### Why is it important?

The conclusion of this case gave a significant sense of relief to the community. Getting justice for the death of William Connole is incredibly important. This case also highlights the importance of an effective competency restoration process. Here, successful restoration by the state allowed for our office to hold the defendant accountable for his crimes.

2021CR231

## The People of the State of Colorado vs. Stephen McNeil

On February 6th, 2021, law enforcement found an 18-year-old woman with life-threatening injuries in a parking lot located in Fort Collins. The woman, Danielle Hopton, later died as a result of her injuries. Her ex-boyfriend was arrested and charged with her murder. McNeil had been previously arrested for assaulting Danielle.

In March 2023, our office secured a guilty plea of second-degree murder and the previous assault charge. He was sentenced to 40 years in the Colorado Department of Corrections.

### Why is it important?

This case garnered both local and national attention. Danielle's legacy inspired hundreds of donations to a GoFundMe that eventually was given to three local nonprofits. This case also highlighted the impact of domestic violence in our community and started a conversation on how to prevent senseless crimes like this case. Bringing Stephen McNeil to justice was an important chapter for the Fort Collins community. In 2024, our office is adding a specialized domestic violence team to concentrate on high risk cases.



## DIVERSION SUCCESS STORY

In May 2023, a 70-year-old male was referred to the Diversion Program following his arrest of harassing a King Soopers employee. It was determined that he had been going through a mental health crisis at the time of the incident. He entered the program agreeing to remain law abiding and engage in behavioral health treatment for 6 months. Since he has completed his successful diversion, he has not committed any additional offense.

Following completion, he had this to say about his time in the Diversion Program:

***"If it was not for the program, therapy would have never been something that I tried and would have never thought that it would be something that was actually helpful. Thank you so much! Therapy has been such a help and I'm so glad that I was able to do it. I really wanted to say thank you. I appreciate everything that this program has done for me."***

## JUVENILE DIVERSION

The purpose of juvenile diversion is to work with juvenile offenders who are willing to take responsibility for their actions and, if applicable, engage in treatment by working through our diversion program.

### Types of Juvenile Diversion

- General Diversion
- Juvenile Behavioral Health
- Juveniles who Sexual Offend
- Teen Dating Violence
- Juvenile Sexting

### What cannot qualify for Juvenile Diversion?

- Class 1, 2, or 3 felony charges
- Serious assaults
- Serious crimes of violence
- Serious weapons offenses
- Impaired driving offenses
- Traffic only offenses
- Serious drug distribution offenses
- Offenses involving significant restitution

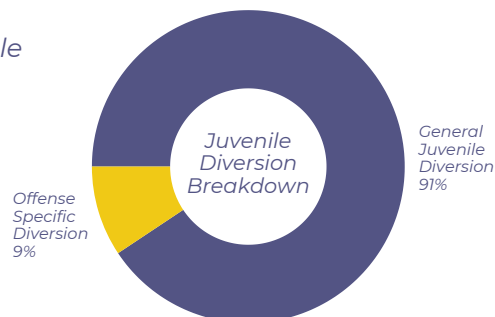
**453** TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES INVOLVING JUVENILE DEFENDANTS IN 2023

**165** NUMBER OF JUVENILE DIVERSION CASES IN 2023

Success Rate of Juvenile Diversion in 2023

**86.4%**  
Completed successfully in 2023

**40**  
participants are still active in the program into 2024



## ADULT DIVERSION

### Types of Adult Diversion

- Adult Behavioral Health
- Adult Unsupervised

### What cannot qualify for Adult Diversion?

- Class 1, 2, or 3 felony charges
- Serious assaults
- Serious crimes of violence
- Serious weapons offenses
- Bias motivated offenses
- Sexual offenses that would require registration if convicted
- Domestic violence offenses
- Impaired driving offenses
- Drug distribution or possession with intent to distribute offenses
- Traffic only offenses
- Offenses involving significant restitution

**1195** TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES SCREENED FOR ADULT DIVERSION IN 2023

**175** TOTAL NUMBER OF ADULTS ACCEPTED INTO ADULT DIVERSION IN 2023

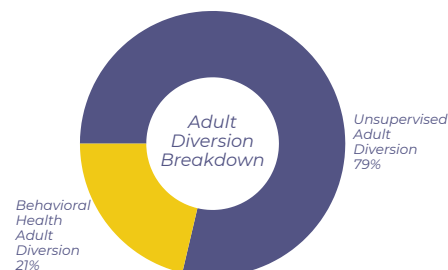
**153** SUCCESSFUL COMPLETIONS IN ADULT DIVERSION  
18 Participants are still active in the program into 2024

**96%**  
Unsupervised Adult Diversion

**87%**  
Behavioral Health Adult Diversion

**89%**  
Overall Adult Diversion

Success Rate of Adult Diversion in 2023



The work of the Diversion team is thanks in part to the funding provided by the Larimer County Behavioral Health Impact Fund.

## VICTIM ADVOCACY

In 2022, a then 17-year-old disclosed that she had been experiencing years of abuse at the hands of her stepfather. When dealing with any victim, but specifically with a child victim, our team takes several steps to walk with and prepare them for a trial.

In this case, our advocates met with the victim in person more than four times and had bi-weekly check-ins with her and her family to build trust and rapport leading up to the trial.

Part of our advocate's prep work is leading our victim through "Court School." This includes setting expectations, a courtroom walkthrough, and a mock trial with our victim in preparation. This practice session includes questioning and cross-examination on topics unrelated to the case from attorneys in our office so the victim can become more comfortable with the process.

On the day of the trial, our victim took the stand and fought through her nerves to be able to tell her story and put a close to the end of a long process.

# 5,466

## VICTIMS SERVED IN 2023

### Victims Rights Act

The Victim Rights Act ensures that victims of certain crimes be consulted during critical stages of a case.

# 2,362

## CASES IN 2023 THAT INCLUDED AT LEAST ONE VRA CHARGE

# 1,078

## OF THESE CASES HAD A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ENHANCER

### General Victim Services

# 3,824

## CASES THAT INCLUDED AT LEAST ONE VICTIM

*\*Note not all of these cases fall under VRA. And many cases have multiple victims*

### Charge Types of Victim Crimes

Arson	16	Disorderly Conduct	58	Reckless Endangerment	34
Assault 1	60	Driving/Traffic	326	Resisting	123
Assault 2	378	Drugs	128	Sexual Crimes	197
Assault 3	985	Failing to/False Report	23	Stalking	28
Attempted Murder	30	False Imprisonment	67	Violating Protection Order	295
Bias-Crimes/Hate Crimes	10	Harrasment	470	Violent Crime	45
Burglary/Theft/Robbery	388	Juvenile Crimes	8	Weapons	94
Crimes against Animals	11	Kidnapping	21		
Crimes against Children	343	Menancing	268		
Crimes on At-Risk Individuals	53	Murder	7		
Criminal Mischief	318	Obstructing	169		
Cyber Crimes	18	Other	159		

*These charges were against a total of 2362 defendants.*

### VICTIM ADVOCATE DAILY TO-DO LIST

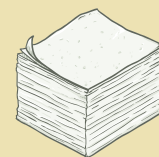
- Contact all victims in new cases and explain the legal process, their rights and how our office supports them.
- Run up to court to get updates for a victim's case
- Call victim to provide status on case and next steps
- Read through a victim's impact statement in preparation for trial
- Share victim feedback with the attorney
- Accompany victim to court
- Act as the liaison for victims between the attorney's, the office and the courts
- Ensure our victims are treated with fairness, dignity and respect.**

# 200

## The average caseload of a Victim Advocate

*Note: This is cases, not victims. Many cases have multiple victims.*

Approximately  
**20,000**



Number of Victim Notification Letters sent out in 2023

**\$661,417.13**



Amount of restitution ordered in 2023

# \$2,162,267

Total restitution principal and interest collected in 2023

# 937

Felonies

# 1425

Misdemeanor/Petty



# TIME TO RESOLUTION

It has been a priority for our office to work toward a reduction in the court process' average time to resolution for our cases. The growing time to resolution since 2017 among all districts in Colorado was identified through our nation-leading data transparency project, and listed as a priority for the judicial districts in the state. This effort ensures that, if possible, victims can heal and move on and defendants can be held accountable or rehabilitated sooner.

In February 2023, a Loveland man was arrested for assaulting his neighbor following an altercation. He pled guilty to second-degree assault and was given an 18-month deferred sentence.

As a part of this deferment, he was required to undergo both behavioral health evaluation and substance abuse evaluation, remain sober, perform 200 hours of community service, and pay restitution to cover the costs incurred by the victim.

By October of 2023, the defendant had completely all terms of his deferred sentence and was released early from his probation.

This story illustrates how efficient resolution can ensure a defendant faces appropriate consequences and prompt requirements to access rehabilitative resources. It also allows a victim to see accountability, receive restitution, and move on from the incident in a timely manner.

# 10,059

## CASES RESOLVED IN 2023

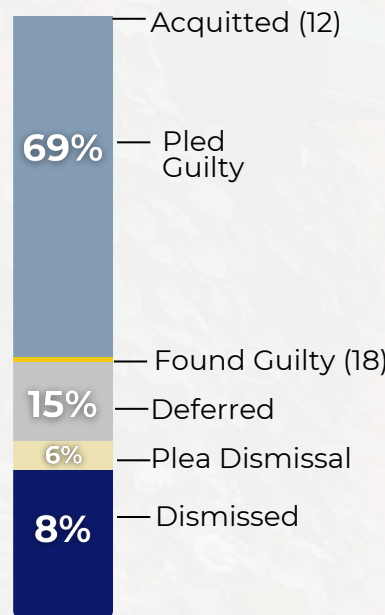
2023 vs 2022 Average Number of Hearings per Felony Case

2023	2022
9.45	10.08

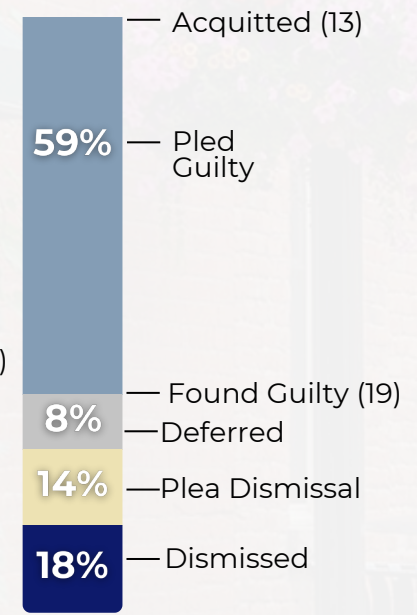
Lengthy cases take more criminal justice resources without improving public safety and are unnecessarily detrimental to victims and defendants.

**↓ 6.25%** This represents a significant decrease in the amount of hearings required to resolve a case.

### Felony Cases Resolved



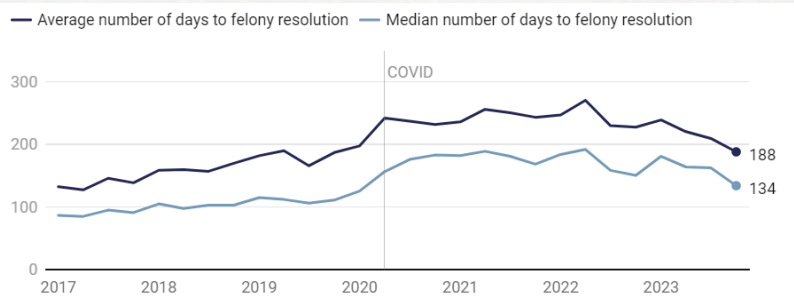
### Misdemeanor Cases Resolved



Percentages of less than 1% are represented with raw numbers.

## Time to Felony Resolution

This chart shows the number of days from felony case filing to resolution. Lengthy court cases cause hardship for victims and defendants, require unnecessary expenditures, and add to system backlogs. The timeliness of the case is influenced by the DA's Office as well as the defense and the judge.





# IMPACT OF FENTANYL IN THE COMMUNITY

In 2023, the 8th Judicial District became the first district in the state to convict a defendant under the new Colorado law, **C.R.S. 18-18-405**. This law made it a level-one drug felony to distribute fentanyl that results in someone's death.

Even with progress in combatting fentanyl, our district, like the entire country, continues to see rising impacts of fentanyl. Misdemeanor charges generally represent drug possession cases, where our goal is to direct defendants toward treatment. Felony charges generally represent distribution cases, where we are committed to seeking criminal accountability.

Our office works closely with the Drug Court process to ensure that those who need a higher level of support can be referred. Treatment courts exist to help defendants stop the cycle of addiction while taking responsibility for crimes.

# 501

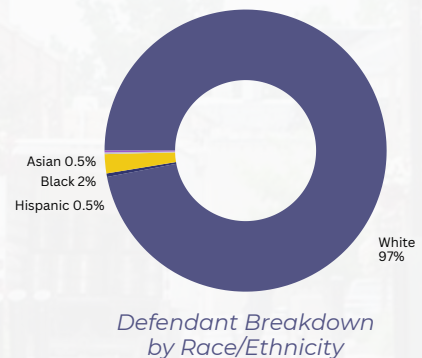
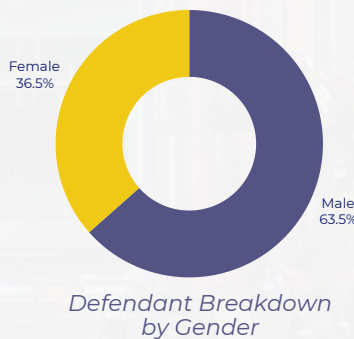
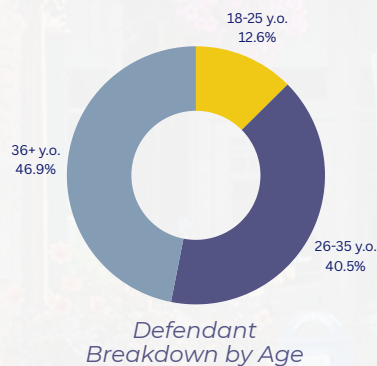
## CHARGES THAT INVOLVED FENTANYL IN 2023



## DID YOU KNOW?

*Our office has been trained on the use of Narcan to help prevent overdoses and save lives.*

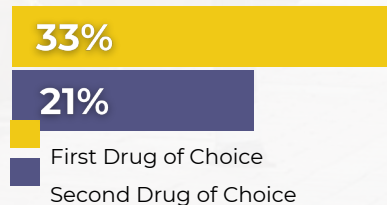
Types of Cases Filed



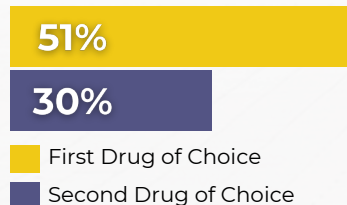
## THE FOLLOWING DATA IS FROM THE 8TH JUDICIAL DRUG COURT

### Drug Court participants in 2023 reported

Opioids as Drug of Choice  
\*Fentanyl is an opioid



Methamphetamine as Drug of Choice



### 2023 vs 2022 Drug Court Graduations



### 2023 vs 2022 Drug Court Terminations



Participants report using the combination of opioids and methamphetamine so regularly that they see them as basically the same.

The struggle with fentanyl has impacted both the rate of graduations and terminations significantly.



# VICTIMS' RIGHT WEEK



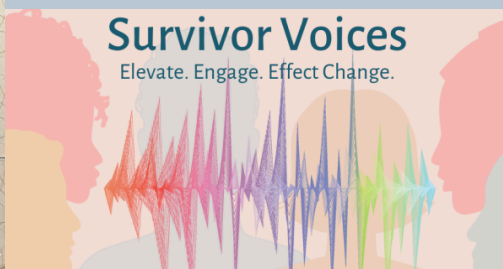
(L.-R) District Attorney, Gordon McLaughlin, Victim/Witness Division Manager, Kate Perrill, Zion the Facility Dog, Assistant District Attorney, Matt Maillaro, and Victim Programs Manager, Candace Smith.

The District Attorney's Office hosted a Victims' Rights Week event in 2023. We brought together members of the community, and partner agencies to honor the survivors in our community.

Each of our survivors was introduced by a member of law enforcement including:

- Ann Marie Doolittle, mother of Ashley Doolittle, a Berthoud teen killed by her ex-boyfriend, and founder of the Ashley Doolittle Foundation. Ann Marie was introduced by Larimer County Sheriff, John Feyen.
- Melissa Myers, mother of Gavin Myers a 13-year-old killed by a drunk driver in Loveland. Melissa was introduced by Loveland Police Chief, Tim Doran.
- Eilish Poe, an elementary school teacher who survived being stabbed 16 times by her ex-boyfriend in Fort Collins. Eilish was introduced by Fort Collins Police Chief, Jeff Swoboda.

The event concluded with a candlelight vigil to honor all victims impacted by crime in our communities.



# CITIZENS ACADEMY



2023 marked our second annual Citizens Academy, a free four-week curriculum to promote transparency and educate the public on what happens from the time someone is arrested all the way through resolution. The course culminates with a mock trial to help illustrate the court process for participants.



This year's class had a total of 23 participants and included presenters from every department of the District Attorney's office.

Participants received a certificate of completion upon their graduation from the program.



# WARRANT CLEARANCE EVENTS

The 8th Judicial District which included the District Attorney's Office, the Office of the State Public Defender, Community Justice Alternatives, and the Judicial Branch, hosted two warrant clearance events in Larimer County.

The goal of these events is to allow individuals who have outstanding warrants on lower-level offenses to clear their warrants, work towards case resolution, be held accountable for their crimes, and connect with community resources and services.

Throughout the spring and fall events, over 125 people were able to clear their warrants without spending unnecessary and costly time in jail and get back on track in the court system.



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Members of our team at the Prairie Vista Youth Detention Center in Brighton, CO.



Victim /Witness Division Manager, Kate, and Zion the facility dog visiting the Thompson Valley Rotary Club.



Denim Day 2023, raising awareness for survivors of sexual assault.



District Attorney, Gordon McLaughlin speaking to the Fort Collins Rotary Club.



District Attorney employees participating in the City of Fort Collins Bike to Work Day.



The District Attorney's community kickball team.



# STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## LYNZI MAAS AWARDED PROSECUTOR OF THE YEAR BY THE COLORADO DRUG INVESTIGATORS ASSOCIATION

Deputy District Attorney and Major Cases prosecutor Lynzi Maas was honored with the Prosecutor of the Year Award by the Colorado Drug Investigators Association (CDIA). Maas, whose Major Cases position was created in 2022 through a grant from the Larimer County Board of Commissioners, was nominated by the Northern Colorado Drug Task Force (NCDTF) for her trailblazing work on cases of fentanyl distribution causing death as well as dedicated narcotics prosecution.

“Targeting the dealers killing members of our community with fentanyl has been a priority for our office,” said District Attorney Gordon P. McLaughlin. “Deputy Maas's work has led the state as a model for holding the worst actors accountable and finding justice for victims.”



## AMANDA DUHON AWARDED PROSECUTOR OF THE YEAR BY THE COLORADO DISTRICT ATTORNEYS' COUNCIL

Chief Deputy District Attorney Amanda Duhon was awarded the Prosecutor of the Year, Robert R. Gallagher Award by the Colorado District Attorneys' Council. Selected from over 800 prosecutors across Colorado, she was presented with the award at the 2023 annual conference by District Attorney Gordon P. McLaughlin.

In presenting the award, McLaughlin remarked, “Chief Deputy Duhon is a shining example of what it means to be a prosecutor, a leader, and a public servant in the modern world of criminal justice. She demonstrates an unwavering dedication to victims, the community, and her colleagues. Her thoughtful approach to criminal justice serves to inspire a new generation of prosecutors and she is truly deserving of this recognition.”





## KATE PERRILL HONORED AS 45TH JUDGE CONRAD L. BALL WINNER

The Judge Conrad L. Ball Award is given each year to a recipient who has significantly contributed toward improving the quality of criminal justice in Larimer County.

This year, Kate Perrill, our Victim Witness Division Manager, was selected as the winner. She has worked for the DA's Office since 2017 and helps support the Victim Witness Division in their duties. Each year, the Victim Witness team serves about 6,000 victims. Kate also spearheaded the effort to get Zion, the 8th Judicial District's first facility dog, to help provide additional emotional support for victims, witnesses, and family members involved in the criminal justice system.

This award highlights Kate's dedication to the victims in our community.



## HANNAH FRENCH NAMED JUNE 2023 LARIMER COUNTY EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

In June 2023, Hannah French, an Administrative Specialist II for the District Attorney's Office, was named the Larimer County Employee of the Month.

This award recognizes employees throughout the entire county and Hannah was selected out of more than 2200 employees.

Hannah was nominated by several members of our office for her professional demeanor and willingness to go above and beyond for our office and members of the public.

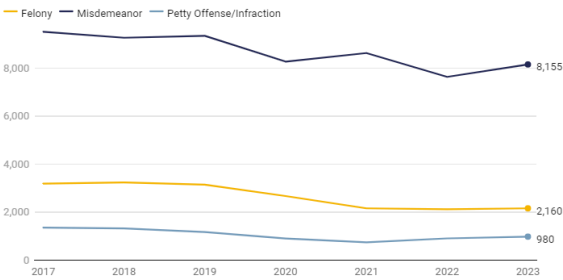


# 2023 AT A GLANCE

# 11,291

## CASES FILED IN 2023

Number of Cases Filed, by Year and Charge Level



The charge level represents the most serious charge filed in a case. Cases grouped by filing date.

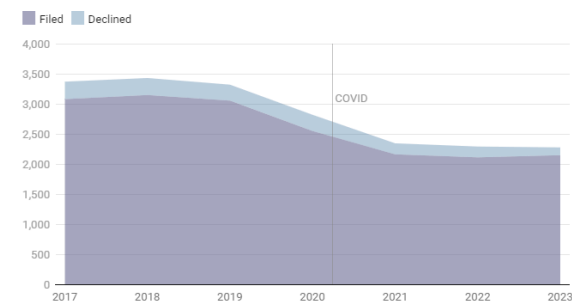
## 2023 vs 2022 FILINGS

**FELONY FILINGS** ↑ 2%  
**MISDEMEANOR FILINGS** ↑ 7%

## 2023 vs 2022 Felony Charge Referrals

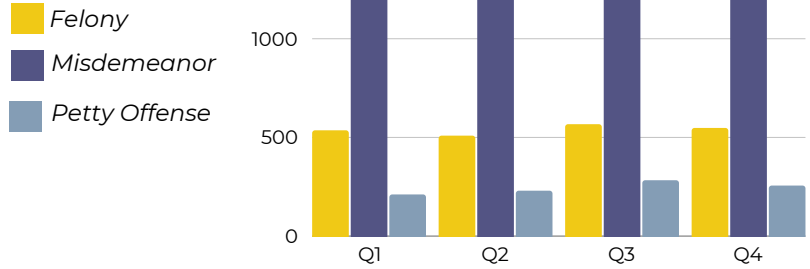
2023	2022
2,285	2,294

Number of Felony Referrals Filed and Number Declined

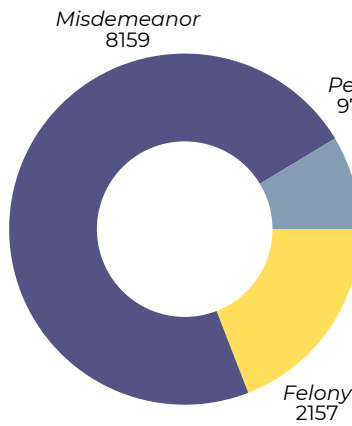


This chart excludes misdemeanor, juvenile, or traffic cases referred. Cases grouped by referral date.

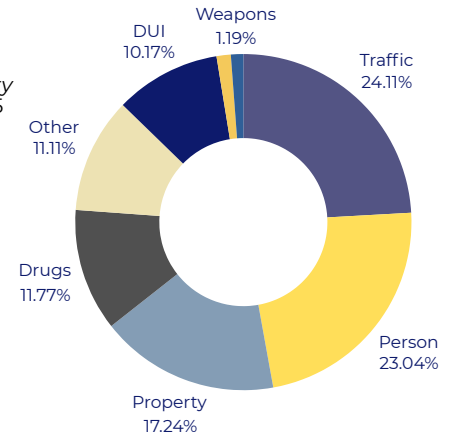
Cases filed in each Quarter



## Types of Cases Filed



## Charge Types of Cases Filed



## Amount of Digital Evidence Processed in 2023

**67.60** TERABYTES OF DATA  
 1 TERABYTE = 1000 GIGABYTES

THAT EQUALS:

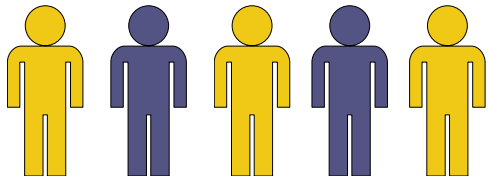


## KEY FINDINGS

In 2023, we saw a minor increase in misdemeanor filings that represents a small rebound toward pre-COVID norms. Felony filings have remained similarly low, down 32% since the pre-COVID year 2019. Greater caseloads have the potential to extend timeframes for case resolution, which makes our successful work on decreasing the time to resolve cases (see page 9) even more important.

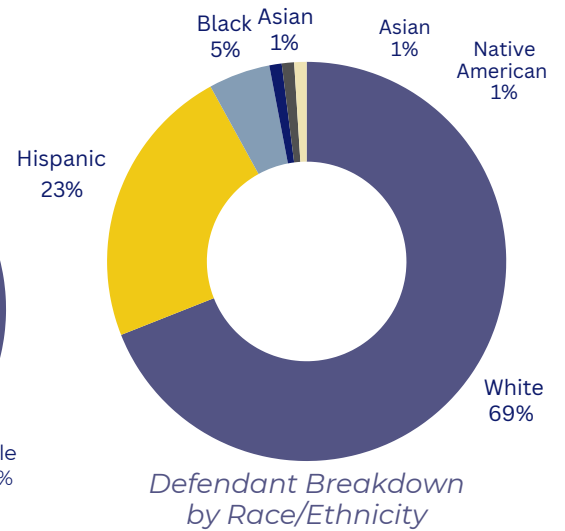
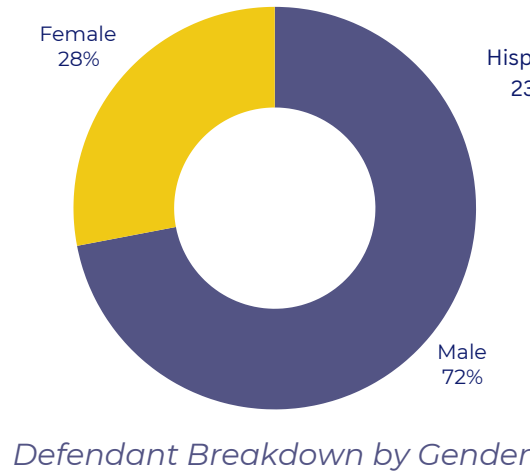
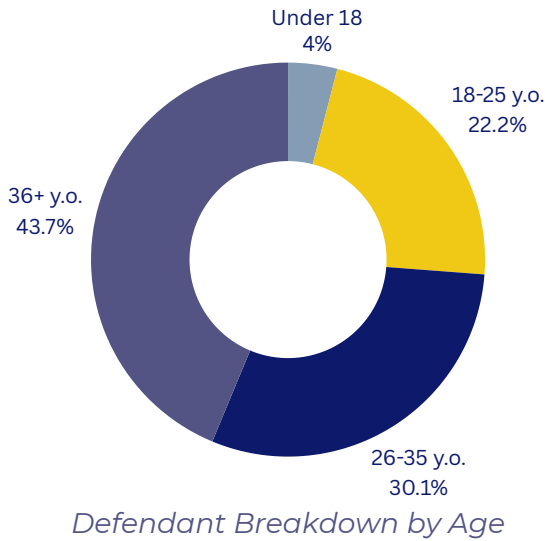
Our public data dashboard contains statistics dating back to 2017. Over the course of the seven years of data, most categories of crime have remained relatively consistent and we have seen a significant decrease in property crimes.



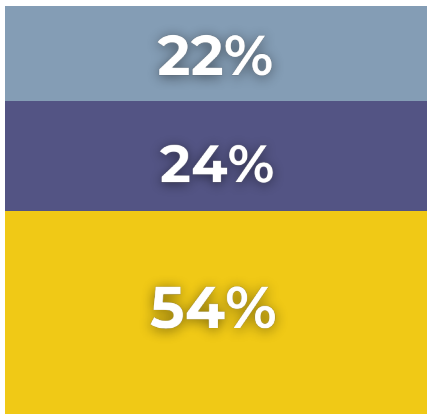


**81% OF DEFENDANTS HAD A NON-FELONY CHARGE**

# DEFENDANTS



- No prior convictions
- Prior misdemeanor convictions ONLY
- At least one prior felony conviction



### Escalation in Criminal Behavior

This chart shows the percent of individuals convicted of a felony who have prior convictions. Fewer cases involving an escalation in criminal behavior indicates that cases are resolved in a manner that addresses the individual's needs and deters future criminal behavior.

### 2023 vs 2022 Escalation in Criminal Behavior

	2023	2022
At least one prior felony conviction	973	995

**↓ 2%**

A 2% decrease in criminal behavior escalation signifies that resolved cases are addressing individual needs of defendants.

## KEY FINDINGS

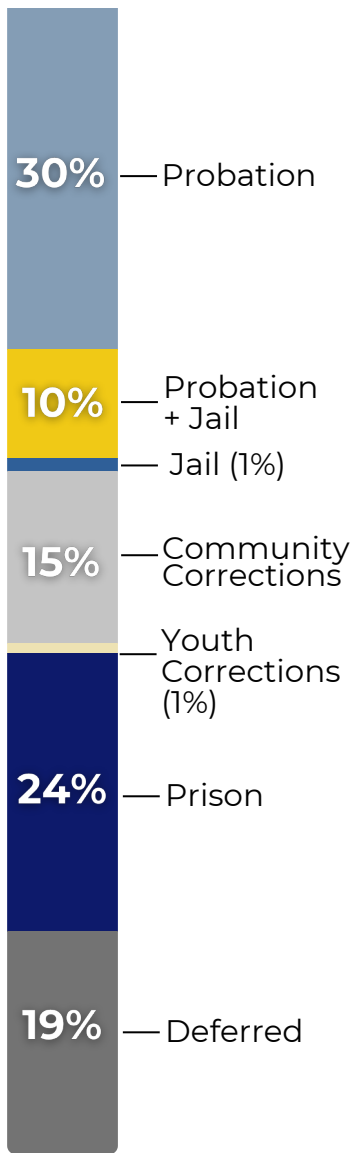
In 2023, the majority of defendants were 36 years old or older, followed by 26 – 35-year-olds and 18–25-year-olds. Most defendants were male (72%) and white (69%). Juveniles (defendants under 18) only made up 4% of cases. Juvenile filings have declined as we have worked with law enforcement, schools, and community partners to address juvenile behavior outside of the criminal justice system.

In regard to criminal history, of people who received a felony conviction from our office in 2023, over 78% had a criminal history (54% with prior felony convictions and 24% with prior misdemeanor convictions). This illustrates that permanent felony convictions are frequently reserved for those who have already been given other opportunities and were not successful or those committing more serious crimes. Our goal is to continue to reduce recidivism through the promotion of sentences that hold defendants accountable in ways that address underlying causes of crime.

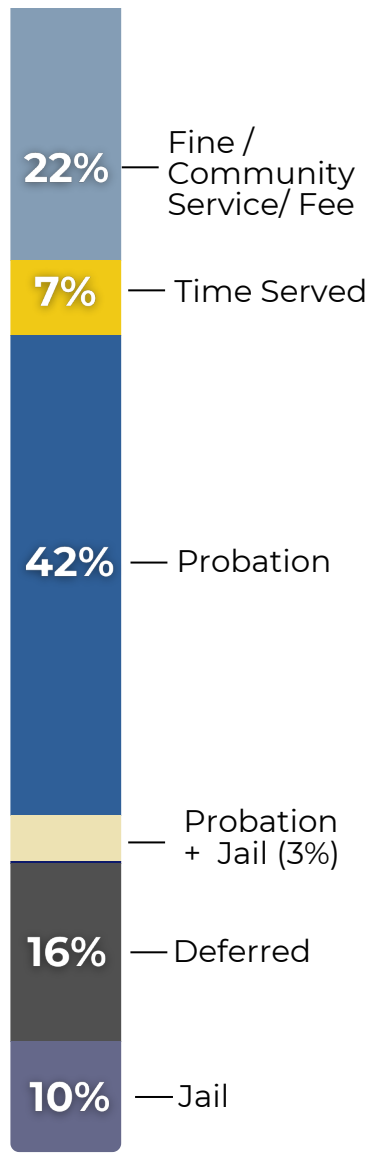


# SENTENCING

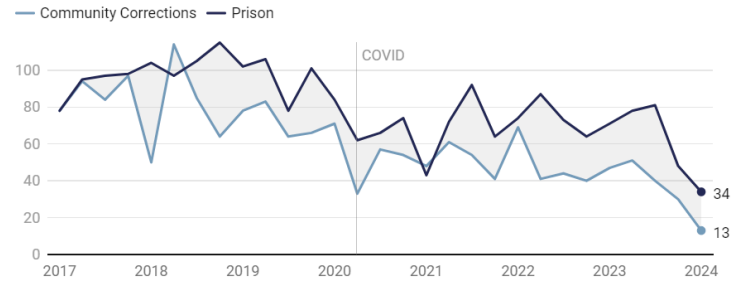
## Felony Sentences Imposed



## Misdemeanor Sentences Imposed

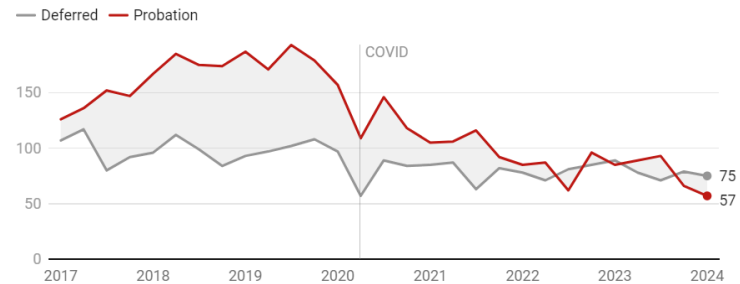


## Community Corrections as Alternative to Prison



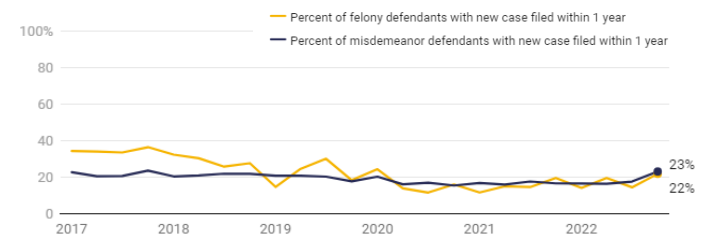
This chart displays the number of felony convictions that were sentenced to community corrections and the number that were sentenced to prison. When appropriate, community correction sentences minimize incarceration while targeting underlying causes of crime.

## Deferred Judgment as an Alternative to Traditional Probation for Felonies



This chart displays the number of felony cases resolved by deferred judgment and the number felony convictions sentenced to traditional probation. When appropriate, deferred judgment avoids unnecessary criminal records, while targeting underlying causes of crime. We would like to see the deferred rate keep steady, even as felony numbers decrease.

## Recidivism After Non-Incarcerative Sentences



This chart displays the percent of individuals who were charged with a new non-traffic criminal case (misdemeanor or felony) within 12 months from the date of their initial sentence.

## KEY FINDINGS

In 2023, 48% of felony sentences included long-term incarceration (Community Corrections, Youth Corrections, and Prison). The remaining 52% of felony sentences were made up of short-term incarceration (Jail) and Probation.

Keeping recidivism low among those receiving non-incarcerative sentences indicates we are offering the right opportunities to the right defendants and reducing crime without unnecessary incarceration.

We have also prioritized deferred probationary sentences in relation to traditional probation sentences. Deferred sentences allow a defendant a chance to have their felony conviction dismissed and record sealed if they successfully complete the conditions of their probation.



## WHAT IS A GRAND JURY?

A grand jury is a group of local citizens who decide whether a criminal suspect should be charged ("**indicted**") with a felony crime. Grand juries make their decision based on evidence that prosecutors present to them.

## 12 MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY WHO SIT ON THE GRAND JURY

Once selected the members of the grand jury serve a one year term\*

### Grand Jury Process

#### SELECTION

The judge seats the grand jury following the selection by the District Attorney's Office for a one-year term.

The grand jury can be summoned as many times as necessary in that year.

#### PRESENTATION

The prosecution uses the grand jury as an investigation tool to ensure they have sufficient probable cause to move forward with indictment.

The prosecution presents evidence to show that the suspect has committed the crime in question.

#### DECISION

The grand jury makes a decision based on the evidence presented.

Unlike jury trials, grand juries **DO NOT** have to be unanimous, but just a majority.

If they find probable cause, they issue an indictment for the suspect.

#### ARREST

If an indictment is issued, law enforcement then executes arrests on the suspect or suspects.

#### ARRAIGNMENT

Following arrest, the criminal case begins and proceeds like a traditional case within the judicial district.

## "OPERATION BUY-IN"

The 2023 Grand Jury indicted **11 individuals** as part of a long-term narcotics investigation led by the Northern Colorado Drug Task Force (NCDTF) into a drug trafficking organization operating in Northern Colorado.

#### ARREST RESULTS

This indictment led to the following charges:

- Distribution of Controlled Substance
- Conspiracy to Distribute a Controlled Substance
- Illegal Firearm
- Child Abuse
- Reckless Endangerment

#### EVIDENCE SEIZED

**3.4** POUNDS OF COCAINE  
(\$64,000 STREET VALUE)

**3.3** GRAMS OF FENTANYL

**17** FIREARMS  
1 SUSPECTED GHOST GUN

**\$44,000** IN US CURRENCY

**340** TABS OF LSD

**500** XANEX TABS

**5** POUNDS OF PSILOCYBIN MUSHROOMS

AND NARCOTICS DISTRIBUTION EQUIPMENT

#### WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A GRAND JURY AND TRIAL JURY?

##### Purpose

- Whether a suspect is charged
- Whether a suspect is guilty

##### Standard of Proof

- Probable Cause
- Beyond a reasonable doubt

##### Decision Making

- A majority to indict
- Unanimous to convict

##### Public Allowed

- No
- Yes (usually)



The Northern Colorado Drug Task Force is an inter-agency task force made up of members from all local law enforcement agencies.

Including two members from the 8th Judicial District Attorney's Office.

## VICTIM ASSISTANCE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT BOARD

The Colorado Legislature approved a bill that created the Victim Assistance and Law Enforcement (V.A.L.E.) program in 1984. The legislation generates funds in each of Colorado's twenty-two judicial districts. The intent of the V.A.L.E. fund is to provide programs and services for crime victims and to assist law enforcement.

**By state statute, the fund is administered by the District Attorney's Office and governed by a five-member board appointed by the Chief Judge of District Court. The fund provides grant money to assist agencies providing direct victim services in both Larimer and Jackson counties.**

IN 2023:

**\$841,084** Total number of grant dollars distributed

**20** Number of local agencies funded by the VALE grant

## COLORADO CRIME VICTIM COMPENSATION (8TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT)



Crime can have a devastating and lasting impact on your finances, which is why the Crime Victim Compensation Act was written into law in 1982.

Crime Victim Compensation (CVC) offers financial assistance to victims and/or their family members who have suffered physical/emotional injury and residential property damage as a result of certain crimes.

IN 2023:

**591** Victims applied for Crime Victim Compensation

**\$582,758** Total number of dollars distributed on behalf of victims of crime.





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