## INTRODUCTION

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## CASES OF INTEREST

## WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES
District Attorney Richard A. Brown was appointed interim Queens District Attorney by former Governor Mario M. Cuomo on June 1, 1991. He was elected to a full term in November 1991, and was re-elected in 1995, 1999, 2003, 2007, 2011 and 2015. He is Queens County’s longest serving District Attorney.

Although born in Brooklyn, District Attorney Brown has been a lifelong resident of Queens since age five. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Hobart College in 1953 and graduated from New York University School of Law in June 1956. He was admitted to the New York State Bar in October 1956.

Early in his career, District Attorney Brown demonstrated his dedication to public service, working in legal positions for the New York State Senate Assembly Leadership and at the 1967 New York State Constitutional Convention. He also served as New York City Mayor John V. Lindsay’s legislative representative in Albany from 1970 to 1973.

Appointed as a judge of the Criminal Court bench in September 1973, he served two years before becoming the Supervising Judge of the Brooklyn Criminal Court, assuming full operational and administrative responsibility for that court. He was designated an acting Supreme Court Justice in January 1976, and was elected the following year to a full term on the Queens County Supreme Court.

At the end of 1978, former Governor Hugh L. Carey summoned District Attorney Brown back to Albany to serve as his chief legal advisor.

District Attorney Brown returned to the Supreme Court in 1981 and, in 1982, Governor Carey designated District Attorney Brown as an Associate Justice of the Appellate Division, Second Department, a post to which he was twice re-designated by Governor Cuomo.

District Attorney Brown also serves as the Chair of the New York Prosecutors Training Institute and is a past President of the New York State District Attorneys Association.

District Attorney Brown and his wife, Rhoda, have three children – Karen, Todd and his wife Monica, and Lynn and her husband Bruce – and two grandchildren, Leah and Alana.
STATEMENT BY
QUEENS DISTRICT ATTORNEY
RICHARD A. BROWN

After almost six decades in public service, the last 27 years spent as District Attorney of Queens County, and after careful thought and consideration, I have made the decision to finish out my current term and not seek re-election.

It has been an honor and privilege to have served the people of Queens County – the most ethnically diverse county in the world – for these many years as district attorney. I am deeply appreciative and humbled to have had the trust and confidence that they have expressed by electing me to seven full terms in office and, in the process, making me the longest serving district attorney in Queens County history.

When I was appointed District Attorney by then Governor Mario M. Cuomo in 1991, one of my chief goals was to elevate the standards of professionalism in the office by hiring people on merit, not political connections. Without question, we have overwhelmingly achieved that goal. Whatever success I have attained over the years is due in large measure to the fact that from the very beginning I have surrounded myself with the most talented, capable and dedicated professionals imaginable – men and women of exceptional ability and commitment. Because of them, our office is among the best prosecutors’ offices in the State – indeed, the best in the country. I thank each of them for their loyalty and service to me and more importantly for their loyalty to the rule of law and service to the people of Queens County. Together with our law enforcement partners we have contributed greatly to the city’s historic reduction in serious crime and created safer neighborhoods for all our residents.

Apart, however, from our historic reductions in violent crime and auto thefts to name but a few, I am proud of our many innovations that have improved not only our criminal justice system but our entire community. I am grateful that the many specialty courts we pioneered – like having one of the State’s first Drug Courts, as well as a Mental Health Court and Veterans Court – have enjoyed enduring success and have been duplicated around the nation. One of our most innovative alternative sentencing programs, is the Queens Court Academy, a high school operated on our premises in conjunction with the NYC Department of Education. Young offenders are not only spared incarceration, but are given the opportunity to complete high school and avoid rearrest. There is no other similar program in New York State or, to my knowledge, in the country.

Our Queens Treatment Intervention Program (QTIP) is making great strides to address the scourge of opioid addiction by not only avoiding criminal convictions but by saving lives and providing treatment and counseling. We are national leaders in handling domestic violence prosecutions and have been on the forefront of innovative prosecutions to combat human trafficking and animal cruelty. In order to protect our immigrant population I created an Office of Immigrant Affairs to assist them in accessing and navigating our criminal justice system. Additionally, our in-house training programs for the professional staff have been utilized throughout the state.

We have instituted technological changes that allow us to process arrests more quickly than any county in the City of New York, thus allowing police officers to get back on patrol sooner and defendants to be arraigned faster. From the time I was first appointed district attorney we have had a riding ADA program in which ADAs are on call 24 hours a day to respond to scenes of serious crimes and provide assistance to police. We are the only DA’s office to send an ADA to every lineup in the county to ensure that lineups are conducted properly and to minimize the risk of a misidentification. Our Crime Victims Advocacy Program provides critical assistance to the victims of crime and their families.

We have been a leading advocate for improvements in criminal justice legislation, including measures to ensure the recording of interrogations, enhanced identification procedures and for the sealing of old convictions.

As I finish my tenure as Queens District Attorney, I will continue to seek innovations to help all of our 2.4 million residents and ensure that I leave my office dedicated to the standard of excellence which has been our hallmark.

While it is difficult to say goodbye, I am comforted by the knowledge that I leave my office dedicated to the standard of excellence which has been our hallmark.

On behalf of my entire family, I offer my best wishes and warmest thanks.
THE ‘CLOSE RIKERS’ MISTAKE: GIVEN MOUNTING COSTS AND COMPLICATIONS, IT WOULD MAKE FAR MORE SENSE SIMPLY TO REBUILD THE ISLAND’S JAIL FACILITIES

By Richard A. Brown, Queens District Attorney

It was supposed to be so simple. Get all the turnstile jumpers, prostitutes and marijuana smokers out of jail, reducing Rikers’ population from upwards of 8,000 today to about 5,500. Set up some alternative-to-detention programs, refurbish local jails in the boroughs, move the remaining inmates into those jails and — voila! — we’ve closed Rikers.

Then reality set in. First, the cost. The Lippman Commission estimated it would cost $11 billion to build the new jail facilities capable of holding 5,500 inmates. (That’s if everything goes right and there are no delays, cost overruns or legal challenges.) That comes out to $2.2 million per cell.

But the real cost is probably more than $33 billion, adding the interest charges over 30 years, or $6 million per cell. Ironically, $33 billion is also what it would cost to rehabilitate all NYCHA developments, with 179,000 apartments.

Could you imagine what $33 billion could do for our subway system or schools? City Council Member Robert Holden has a bill to look at the cost of rehabilitating Rikers Island as a state-of-the-art jail. Can there be any sound reason to oppose that proposal?

Second, getting the population of Rikers down to 5,500 is not easy. There are almost no prostitutes, turnstile jumpers or marijuana smokers there; they’ve been successfully diverted over the years. Of the approximately 8,000 inmates on Rikers, 1,800 of them are sentenced prisoners, 2,000 are remanded with no bail and 1,000 are parole violators.

About 3,000 of the remaining prisoners are being held solely on bail. Fully 92% of them are charged with felonies. They average five felony arrests, one prior felony conviction, five misdemeanor arrests, five misdemeanor convictions and several bench warrants. Forty percent of the inmates from Queens have already been considered for, or been through, various alternative sentencing programs, apparently without success.

Reducing the population on Rikers means letting these career criminals out. Third, what do you do if crime goes up? There is no contingency plan to house more than 5,500 people. Rikers at one time held more than 20,000 inmates. What if later experience proves we need 8,000 cells?

Meanwhile, the plans for the new jails in the boroughs are facing tremendous, legitimate local opposition. Brooklyn and Manhattan facilities currently house between 600-800 prisoners each; they would be torn down to build new jails on those sites. While construction is underway, prisoners housed in them will be transferred to — where else? — Rikers Island. The current jails on Rikers will be rehabbed for these prisoners, only to be torn down when the new jails are finally ready.

What sense does this make?

Rikers has serious problems that need to be fixed, properly and quickly. The best practices for modern penal design call for horizontal structures — not skyscrapers. The city could start building new jails on Rikers Island now. They could install all the new initiatives being recommended now. New jails could be built at a pace that coincides with what the actual jail population is and not a manipulated estimate that endangers public safety. They wouldn’t have to ram these jail towers into residential neighborhoods.

The argument is not about whether to rebuild; it’s about where to do it. It is a colossal waste of city time, energy, political capital and money to continue with this plan. Does anyone really think that a 50-story jail in Manhattan, a 40-story jail in Brooklyn and 30-story jails in Queens and the Bronx is a good idea? Does anyone really think it is going to happen within a reasonable time and budget? It is time to rethink this plan and discuss it seriously. It is time to take a fresh look at closing Rikers Island.
NYC is losing its last true prosecutor

By Post Editorial Board

January 9, 2019

Richard Brown’s announcement that he will retire this year after seven terms as the Queens district attorney means the city is losing arguably its last prosecutor who always understood that his main job was actually to prosecute criminals.

His retirement was widely expected: At 86, he’s been slowed by the effects of Parkinson’s. Three candidates, all running to his left, had already entered this year’s race.

Which means he’ll likely be succeeded by a self-styled reformer more interested in a “progressive” agenda and finding ways not to go after criminals. And unwilling to challenge even ridiculous progressive proposals.

Brown provided one last taste of that independence with a column Wednesday poking holes in the plan to close Rikers Island through mass releases, alternative-sentencing programs and the construction of new, smaller jails across the city.

Rikers, he noted, no longer houses low-level offenders. The jail’s remaining population includes some 1,800 people serving prison sentences, 1,000 parole violators and 2,000 no-bail detainees. The 3,000 or so detained on bail have records averaging five felony arrests and one prior felony conviction.

In short, getting the population down to 5,000, as the closure plans require, means “letting career criminals out.” Nor does the city have a contingency plan for handling a larger jail population if crime heads back up.

Since taking the DA job in 1991, during the era of record-high crime, Brown has remained focused on criminal justice rather than pandering to fads. Early on, he refused to allow those charged with felonies to plead to lesser charges merely to expedite cases.

To be clear, he was plenty forward-looking: Brown introduced his own alternative-sentencing programs, as well as such reform initiatives as an office to help immigrants and one of the earliest domestic-violence-crime bureaus.

But he always kept his priorities focused. And he has reason to be proud that Queens boasts the city’s highest conviction rate.

Though well-earned, DA Brown’s retirement is something all New Yorkers should regret. That will surely become even more obvious once he’s left office.
INITIATIVES
Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) are child-friendly, safe spaces that provide prevention, intervention, emotional support, and treatment services to physically and sexually abused children and their families, by using a child-focused team approach. CACs work to prevent re-traumatization and to ensure that a coordinated investigation is begun immediately. Counselors and clinicians work with law enforcement and legal representatives, medical service providers, and child protection agencies to provide a cooperative and coordinated approach to the investigation of child abuse cases, and to build the strongest possible case against the abusers.

Our multidisciplinary teams at the Queens CAC represent:

- The Queens District Attorney’s Office
- Safe Horizon
- The New York City Administration for Children’s Services
- NYPD
- NYC Corporation Counsel
- Medical providers, including Cohen Children’s Medical Center and Northwell Health

The Queens CAC is one of several Safe Horizon CACs that opens its doors to allegations of abuse against teenagers, 13 to 18.
In 1994, when Congress passed the Violence Against Women Act ("VAWA"), it provided more than $1 billion toward the investigation and prosecution of cases involving violence against woman. DA Brown, committed to addressing the problem of intimate partner violence, applied for and received one of the largest VAWA grants in the country.

This grant allowed QDA to revolutionize its approach to domestic violence cases. While domestic abusers had been exercising power and control over their victims in the home through intimidation and fear, they would no longer to able to use those same tactics to control the outcome of the criminal cases against them. As we moved forward through uncharted waters, QDA found new ways to prosecute intimate partner violence cases -- even when we had reluctant or uncooperative witnesses. Some of the tools that our office began utilizing were evidence-based prosecutions, hearings to determine whether defendants had intimidated victims into becoming unavailable, domestic incident reports to memorialize victims’ early statements about the defendants’ violent acts, recordings of defendants’ jail-house calls, digital photography of victims’ injuries, and electronic signatures so that victims would not have to travel to sign documents.

More and better tools meant that QDA needed a bigger and better domestic violence operation – and so what was originally a small unit of four misdemeanor ADAs and one paralegal grew to a full-sized bureau of 15 ADAs and six paralegals, handling both misdemeanor and felony cases.

The Domestic Violence Bureau is housed in the Queens Family Justice Center at 126-02 82nd Avenue, Kew Gardens, behind the Queens courthouse. The FJC is a walk-in, integrated service center for domestic violence victims and their children. It provides safe and caring one-on-one support for domestic violence survivors with lawyers, police, prosecutors, counselors, clergy, and other service providers all under one roof. Services are free and are available to all victims regardless of their immigration status or what language they speak.

Since its opening in July 2008, the FJC has served over 95,717 clients. In 2018 alone, the FJC served 5,304 clients who made a total of 13,450 client visits.
### QUEENS YOUTH PART

Males ages 14 through 21 years old who have been arrested for a felony for the first time and have a minimal criminal history are eligible for diversion through the Queens Youth Part (QYP). Participants must undergo treatment or other services for a minimum of one year and return frequently for court monitoring of their progress. Through 2018, 519 young men have been placed through QYP. Of these, 352 have graduated, 52 are still participating and 87 failed to complete the program. The program’s retention rate is 78%.

### SECOND CHANCE

Primarily young offenders arrested for a first time misdemeanor offense are eligible for our Second Chance program. A panel of community leaders helps monitor a program of individualized services for each offender designed to address their special needs. Those participants who successfully complete the program receive an adjournment in contemplation of dismissal (ACD).

### QUEENS MENTAL HEALTH COURT (QMHC)

Queens Mental Health Court provides an alternative to incarceration for felony offenders whose criminal activity is related to an underlying mental health issue. Participants must have a major depressive diagnosis and agree to engage in a one year treatment regimen that includes extensive psychological support and wrap-around services. The goal is medication compliance and maintenance. Queens TASC’s mental health unit facilitates most of the assessments and the treatment plans for participants. More than 420 offenders have been placed and 268 graduated to date.

### USING TECHNOLOGY TO COMBAT DRUNK DRIVING

Drunk drivers pose a substantial threat to public safety. To reduce the number of alcohol-related injuries and deaths, QDA takes a two-pronged approach to drunk driving cases where incarceration is not warranted: (1) provide treatment for the defendant’s alcohol abuse problem, and (2) use technology to help insure that a driver who is intoxicated cannot continue to drive.

In a typical case, the defendant pleads guilty and enters treatment for at least 16 weeks (misdemeanor) to one year (felony). At the same time, the defendant is required to wear a SCRAM (Secure Continuous Remote Alcohol Monitoring) bracelet or submit regularly to Soberlink Breathalyzer testing to monitor whether they are using alcohol. If the defendant successfully completes the program, the charges may be reduced.

The SCRAM bracelet, provided at the defendant’s expense and worn on the ankle, automatically captures transdermal alcohol readings twice an hour, 24 hours a day, by sampling perspiration collected from the air above the skin. The system allows data to be accessed by computer, and generates alerts and reports of offender activity. This allows a court to determine accurately whether a defendant is obeying court mandates or is instead using alcohol.

Soberlink is a small portable Breathalyzer linked to a smartphone that measures breath alcohol concentration (BAC). Several times over the course of the day, the offender receives a text message saying, “BA test now.” The offender looks into a camera and blows into the Breathalyzer. The linked smartphone sends the blood alcohol level, the offender’s photo, and his or her GPS information instantly to a monitoring service, who in turn notifies us of any significant test results so that we can alert the court.

New York law also requires that individuals convicted of misdemeanor or felony drunk driving charges install, at their own expense and for a minimum of six months, an ignition interlock device (IID). This is essentially a car Breathalyzer installed on a vehicle’s dashboard and connected to the ignition system. The vehicle cannot be started or driven unless the driver passes the device’s breath alcohol test. The IID’s usage history can be downloaded and provided to the appropriate monitoring authority.

Since 2010, QDA’s retention rate for defendants placed on a monitoring device has been 91%, and the successful completion rate has been 91%.
The Queens Misdemeanor Treatment Court (QMTC) helps eligible defendants break the cycle of addiction by referring them to appropriate treatment and providing positive alternatives to drug use. The program targets non-violent misdemeanor offenders with at least three prior arrests whose continued criminal activity is related to alcohol or substance abuse. Participants must have a drug or alcohol diagnosis and must agree to enter treatment for a minimum of one year.

Instead of jail or probation, QMTC will help these offenders enter and stay in a drug or alcohol treatment program. The QMTC program includes regular court appearances and supervision by the QMTC judge.

Participants have found their lives taking a positive upturn after receiving treatment. As one successful participant put it, “I don’t have a non-caring attitude anymore.... I decided to get treatment to change the way I live.... [Completion of the QMTC program] would be one of the first things I accomplished in my life.”

Another participant said that the program “has made me a better mother, wife, and human being.... My life is no longer unmanageable.”

Since QMTC began operations in January, 2002, over 1,400 individuals have been screened. Of these, more than 800 have successfully completed the program, and more than half of those who took pleas in 2018 remain in treatment.

In December 2010, Queens County added to its growing list of alternative to incarceration programs by establishing a Veterans Court to assist returning veterans and their families. The Court is premised on the recognition that some of our returning veterans who witnessed first-hand the horror and devastation that war brings have unfortunately brought back with them deep emotional and psychological scars as a result of their experiences. The goal of the Veterans Court is to ensure that when veterans become involved in the criminal justice system and are in need of alcohol, substance abuse or mental health services that they receive needed treatment as an alternative to incarceration.

The Veterans Court identifies nonviolent veteran offenders and provides outreach, specialized support services and treatment; offers peer support to sustain engagement in services; and facilitates the exchange of information between legal, clinical and community resources. Since its creation, 92 otherwise jail-bound veterans have been diverted through the Queens Veterans Court. Those who successfully complete the year-long program have the charges against them dismissed or reduced.

### QUEENS TREATMENT COURT (QTC)

Designed in 1998 for first-time non-violent felony offenders in need of substance abuse treatment, Queens Treatment Court has proven to be one of the most successful treatment courts in New York State. To date, over 2,295 defendants have been placed with the court which has a 79% retention rate. Upon successful completion of the required minimum of one year substance abuse treatment, felony charges are dismissed and sealed.

### QUEENS COURT ACADEMY

The Queens Court Academy, a NYC Department of Education alternative school, helps young first offenders charged with non-violent crimes continue their education in a supervised and supportive environment. Run from the Queens District Attorney’s Office in Borough Hall, this alternative high school is the only one of its kind overseen by, and operated in partnership with, a District Attorney’s office and the NYC Department of Education. Since 2011, 317 students have been enrolled and 48 have earned their GEDs.


**YOUTH ENRICHMENT PROGRAM**

A partnership with the Queens Library, the Youth Enrichment Program targets 16 to 19 year olds who have committed non-violent, first-time misdemeanors and, in conjunction with the DA’s Second Chance program, affords the opportunity to avoid prosecution by participating in a 12 week program offering training in computers and job skills as well as motivational guest speakers.

**COURT TOURS**

The courthouse is open to the public, but it’s difficult to know where to go and understand what’s going on without some guidance. The DA’s office offers guided tours to classes of students from the fifth grade and up. When the classes arrive at the courthouse, members of our staff meet them and bring them to the different parts of the courthouse, showing them arraignments and various courts where proceedings are occurring. They get to watch actual case proceedings, and later, they meet with ADAs who explain the significance of the proceedings they observed, as well as inform them of the circumstances surrounding the case. Some tours also visit Central Booking, the Family Justice Center and the Child Advocacy Center.

**YOUTH DIVERSION PROGRAM**

The mission of the Youth Diversion Program is to positively transform the lives of young men who are presently involved in the criminal justice system as felony defendants. This select group of troubled males between 14 and 19 years old is offered an alternative to incarceration using a deferred sentence model. Each class of approximately 10 young people is diverted to intensive targeted services with an emphasis on education, counseling and interactive experiences. The program runs for a minimum of one year, and a new class is assembled every four months. Those who successfully complete the program will have their cases dismissed or reduced.

Among the program’s requirements are that the defendant be placed on interim probation supervision, an electronic monitoring bracelet be worn for a minimum of 90 days, random urine testing is conducted and a curfew is imposed. The defendants must also terminate membership and contact with gangs and are required to attend program activities and school or hold a job. In addition, program participants are given a weekly schedule that includes individual and group counseling, community service, and specialized training on such topics as handling peer pressure, impact of violence on communities, getting out of a gang, anger management, health, fitness and life skills. There are presentations from crime victims and their families as well as trips to the Holocaust Resource Center, the Poconos Educational Environmental Center and other locations.

Our graduates leave with GED’s, college aspirations and a real chance for a more promising future: 30 young men have graduated and another 5 are currently in treatment.
The District Attorney as part of his commitment to improve the quality of life for Far Rockaway residents, hires a group of excellent high school and college aged assistants to work each summer. For many of the young assistants, it is their first paid job. The empowering feeling of making a steady paycheck, earned through hard work, is a valuable lesson for these students. The student assistants are trained in basic office skills and demeanor, so that they can work in the various bureaus across the office. There, they are taken under the wing of prosecutors and learn what it takes to prosecute cases. They learn about the gathering of evidence, the interviewing of witnesses, and the evaluation of both the strength of a case and the defendant’s criminal history in the decision-making process. As part of the program, the Far Rockaway assistants also attend enrichment programs, such as visiting the World Trade Center Memorial, The Museum of Native American History, The Queens Museum, and the Queens Hall of Science.

The Summer Youth Employment Program brings students from all over Queens County to the District Attorney’s Office every year. Approximately 40-50 young people are assigned to the various bureaus to assist in the prosecution of the cases throughout the office. Prior to beginning their assignments, the interns are trained in basic office skills that increase their value to the various bureaus. These skills, such as filing, answering telephones, using office equipment, learning to read, identify, and understand documents within files, will aid them in virtually all of their future endeavors. The program allows young people to try out working in criminal justice to see if they develop an interest in pursuing careers in the law. Interns gain valuable experience that allows them to find future jobs that expect employees to have the skills that they learn during their summer at the office—arriving on time, dressing appropriately, speaking properly, and maintaining proper office demeanor. Many of our summer youth interns have returned to the office as successful full-time employees, or gone on to successful careers in other fields.

Each precinct council in Queens has two ADAs assigned to attend their monthly meetings throughout the year. During these meetings, precinct commanders highlight crime trends and recognize exceptional conduct of police officers during the month. Members of the community come to share their complaints and concerns, as well as report criminal activity. The DA understands the need to learn what is going in each community and having ADAs listen to members of each community is one of the best ways to accomplish that goal. The ADAs who attend the meetings prepare reports regarding the issues discussed at each meeting for the DA. The ADAs also get an opportunity to meet the active members of the community and learn more about the neighborhoods of Queens.
OPERATION SUMMER FUN

Operation Summer Fun is an annual program that began in 2001 in response to parents’ complaints that their children had nothing to do during the summer and often got into trouble as a result. The goal is to provide positive healthy activities in which children can get involved while simultaneously allowing them to build positive relationships with law enforcement.

Approximately 120 children register for the program every year. The program is coordinated by the Police Athletic League with funding from the DA’s Office and operates in the 101st and 113th Precincts.

STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

DA Brown believes that it is important to give all people of Queens a voice, even young people. To that end, he created the Student Advisory Council many years ago. Each year, the principals of high schools around the borough are asked to select representatives from their respective schools to join the council, which meets each month to discuss and debate controversial legal issues. This select group of young scholars come from both public, private and parochial schools and diverse backgrounds. The students share their opinions and concerns about drug policy, reforming criminal justice, and legal issues. The council also provides valuable opinions on how to increase the participation of young people in after school programs, and worked anti-hate crime campaigns. Students also learn about the realities of the criminal justice system by visiting central booking and arraignments. Judges and prosecutors explain to them the process that they went through in arraigning particular cases, and explained their rationale behind some of their decisions.

SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS

Prosecutors and other staff members from our office go to schools throughout the County of Queens to speak with young children. We teach them what the District Attorney and his various assistants do, and how we play a major role in fighting crime, and keeping the neighborhoods where they live safe. We teach them about the dangers of crime, and how they and their families are part of a community which flourishes when people do not have to fear being the victims of crime. Students learn about the importance of laws and rules, and the roles the police, prosecutors, judges and defense attorneys play in making sure that the laws are enforced.

HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL/ MOOT COURT

The office has coordinates the New York State High School Mock Trial Tournament. The program runs for three months in the spring of each year. Many ADAs participate as coaches, and the office reaches out to get volunteers for judges, as well as obtaining access to real courtrooms so that the students can have the most authentic experience possible.

The office also assists with the statewide moot court tournament, by providing attorneys to train students, fact patterns, and research materials from Lexis.

Participants, usually between the ages of seven and thirteen, are taken to various recreational venues, including parks, museums, zoos, science centers, roller skating rinks, amusement parks, ballgames and sightseeing attractions.
STAR TRACK
Far Rockaway School Anti-Violence Program

Early in DA Brown’s tenure, he realized that Far Rockaway would benefit from enhanced activity to improve the quality of life there. Judge Brown resolved to do something about it. For over 26 years, the District Attorney has, along with Corporation Counsel, and the Legal Aid Society, operated the STAR Track program in nine schools in Far Rockaway. QDA staff, staff from Corporation Counsel, and defense attorney partners teach classes ranging from the fourth grade to the twelfth grade, twice a month for the school year. The following schools participate: P.S. 43Q, P.S. 104Q, P.S. 106Q, P.S. 197Q, P.S. 333Q, the Village Academy, Middle and High School divisions of the Academy of Medical Technology, and Queens High School For Information, Research, And Technology. Our goal is to show young people that there is an alternative to crime and violence, and put them on the track to succeed in life.

Our STAR Track volunteers give their time to teach kids about the law, and important life lessons to students. Students learn the importance of laws and rules in our community, and how each member of our society contributes to our collective well-being. We also discuss how the students believe police should act, and how members of the public should act when interacting with the police. During these discussions about police interactions, we teach the young learners skills to de-escalate confrontations, and how to recognize and avoid behaviors that escalate minor disputes into major conflicts. We emphasize how the skills that we believe the police should use can be used in our own lives. Students further learn about the effect of crimes on their neighborhood and how involvement in crime and gangs can disrupt their community. The learning is not only confined to classroom time.

As part of our program, we promote “Say No To Violence Week,” where children work on art, songs, videos, and dances that are presented at school-wide assemblies so that our program reaches the students who are not part of the STAR Track program. Additionally, the office sponsors essay and poster contests, where children can win prizes for the best efforts to spread the anti-violence message.

At the end of the school year, approximately 1000 students attend the Say Yes to Tennis, No to Violence event at the Billie Jean King National Tennis Center, which gives the students a chance to enjoy learning how to play tennis, while learning about teamwork, cooperation and personal achievement.

In 1996, the DA’s office created a Legal Explorers post in conjunction with the Boy Scouts. Our Explorers post concentrates on teaching young people about the law and working in the legal field. Explorers hear about working in the legal system from guest speakers, including Assistant District Attorneys, defense attorneys, police officers, and judges. The Explorers also watch actual cases in court, and learn about the underlying facts that led up to those cases. Explorers also shadow prosecutors to learn what is involved in handling criminal cases, as well as the various steps necessary to bring a case from inception to trial.

Our post has grown to approximately 50 students of varied backgrounds who also work together to do community service projects such as coat and toy drives to help those less fortunate. We also arranged for our students to travel to Washington, D.C. to learn more about the legal system, and how our nation’s capital runs.
DISTRICT ATTORNEY BROWN’S DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BUREAU LAUNCHES DV STAT INITIATIVE

On July 1, 2018, the Queens District Attorney’s Office began a new program called the Domestic Violence Strategic Threat Alert Team or DV STAT. The program’s mission is to identify and enhance the prosecution of high-risk domestic violence cases during the interval between the commission of the crime and the apprehension of the perpetrator.

To achieve this goal, the Queens District Attorney’s Office, in cooperation with the New York City Police Department, began receiving open domestic violence complaint reports from Queens precincts on all cases where the defendant was not arrested at the scene. This will improve our prosecutions by making sure that crucial evidence is preserved and will enhance victim safety by alerting us to domestic violence incidents at this early stage, thereby allowing us to make sure victims have timely access to counseling and safety planning services.

The QDA Domestic Violence Bureau, along with our information services team, has created a computer program that receives the complaint reports from the NYPD at a specific email address, reads those complaints, sorts them into a database and assigns each complaint a risk score based on a point system developed by the DVB. The point system was developed using known risk factors for domestic violence and assigns points based on categories already listed on the NYPD complaint report. Felonies generally receive higher scores than misdemeanors, and points are assigned when a weapon is used or threatened, the perpetrator is a gang member, on probation or parole, whether there have been prior domestic incidents and several other factors. The program can even read the complaint narrative for certain key words, for example, “hospital”. Each of these identified risk factors has an assigned point value. The higher the score, the greater perceived risk to the victim.

Victims of incidents above a designated score are invited to come to the Family Justice Center where safety planning and counseling services are made available to them - even if an arrest has not been made. The victim is also interviewed by an ADA who can determine the appropriate charges, draft a first-party complaint and upload photos and supporting documents. Photographs also capture injuries that may heal by the time an arrest is made and voice messages, text messages, social media postings and video surveillance may be preserved that might otherwise have been erased or deleted. Once an arrest is made, the DVB has a head start on the processing of the case. This pre-arrest protocol is particularly critical in domestic violence cases because statistics and experience prove that the more contact the perpetrator has with the victim prior to the arrest, the less viable the prosecution will be and the less likely anyone will be held accountable.

The DV STAT program is the first of its kind in the country. We are hopeful it will allow us to achieve our goals of holding abusers accountable for their actions, while increasing victim safety.

ASIAN BAR ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK PROSECUTOR’S COMMITTEE

At the tenth annual reception hosted by the Asian Bar Association of New York Prosecutor’s Committee, Executive A.D.A. Jesse Sligh and Special Narcotics Prosecutor Bridget Brennan were recognized for their efforts to protect the community and ensure that Asian American voices had an opportunity to be heard in our criminal justice system. The Prosecutor’s Committee is made up of experience Asian prosecutors from the various prosecutor’s offices in the New York area. They recognized Mr. Sligh and Ms. Brennan’s unwavering commitment to support their events and their efforts to bring more diversity to the city’s prosecutor’s offices. E.A.D.A. Sligh, in particular, was recognized for his ability to reach across racial lines that often divided people and work for all the communities of Queens, and for his efforts to help the DA Brown attract, hire and retain Asian prosecutors. As the demographics of Queens County have changed, EADA Sligh has helped the office go from a handful of prosecutors of Asian descent to over 30. The committee also honored one of their fallen colleagues, A.D.A. Helen Ahn, of the New York County District Attorney’s Office, who passed away due to a series of strokes just weeks before.
QUEENS DISTRICT ATTORNEY’S OFFICE
FIFTH ANNUAL
MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION

The University at Buffalo School of Law won QDA’s fifth annual mock trial competition, which was held at the Queens Criminal Courthouse in October. The University at Buffalo School of Law won the competition by defeating 15 other teams from around the country in a series of trial meets. Fordham University School of Law finished second and St. John’s University School of Law placed third.

During the mock trial tournament, each college team, which was made up of second- and third-year law students, was required to study a fact pattern based loosely on an actual domestic violence case tried in Queens County. The law students then took on the roles of witnesses and attorneys - representing either the prosecution or defense. After the first two rounds, six teams were selected to move on to the semi-finals based on their scores in the previous rounds. Those six teams then competed and were selected for the final round.

Buffalo’s team was comprised of students Sarah Elardo, Salvatore Prince, Spenser Stresing and William Fitzgerald. The trials were presided over by 19 judges from Queens, Bronx and Suffolk Counties who volunteered to participate in the competition. Justice Joseph A. Zayas, the Administrative Judge of the Supreme Court, Queens County Criminal Term, presided over the final round.

Senior trial attorneys from QDA, as well as experienced attorneys from the defense bar, served as evaluators and scored the trials. The competition is supervised by QDA’s Trial Division, headed by Senior Executive ADA James Clark Quinn, in conjunction with the Trial Advocacy Bureau, headed by ADA Kevin M. Duddy.

DA BROWN CO-SPONSORS
SUMMONS FORGIVENESS EVENT

In October, 2018, D.A. Brown and Queens Borough President Melinda Katz held the Second Chance Summons Warrant Forgiveness Event at the Universal Church on Roosevelt Avenue in Woodside, Queens. This was a rare opportunity to have low-level offenses - such as disorderly conduct, trespassing or unlawful possession of marijuana, public urination and other transgressions - resolved without fear of being arrested. More than 400 people attended and more than 350 had their outstanding warrants cleared.

In addition to the Borough President, the Legal Aid Society, the Hispanic Lawyers Association, other volunteer defense attorneys, Pastor Oscar Ramirez and the congregation of the Universal Church, as well as numerous language interpreters, all participated in making the event a success.
As the Queens District Attorney’s Office of Immigrant Affairs (OIA) enters its fourth year, we realize that the immigrant community in our diverse county of Queens continues to have a sense of fear in reporting crimes to authorities when they have been victimized or know of someone who has been victimized or is being victimized. OIA continues to spread the word that no matter what your immigration status, gender, nationality, or sexual orientation, we are here to help anyone who has been affected by crime and/or needs help in navigating our judicial system.

OIA serves as an office-wide liaison for case referrals and issues involving the law to ensure that these victims are treated fairly and with respect, and that they receive the services they need regardless of their immigration status or background.

A key part of the Office of Immigrant Affairs is outreach. During 2018, our OIA staff together with more than 65 in-house volunteer liaisons, who speak over 38 languages among them, participated in excess of 100 events throughout our borough, fielded hundreds of calls from our community and issued nearly 300 U Visa certifications for crime victims.

In 2018, in response to the opioid epidemic facing our communities, the District Attorney’s Office developed and implemented the Queens Treatment Intervention program (QTIP), a clinical response initiative, which favors treatment solutions in lieu of traditional criminal justice processing.

QTIP is a collaborative program with treatment industry leader Samaritan Daytop Village, an Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) licensed provider, who clinically evaluate participants charged with minor offenses to determine if further treatment services are warranted. If assessed and compliant, the case will result in an Adjournment in Contemplation of Dismissal (ACD). Our primary goal is to support individuals in addressing underlying clinical concerns, which lead to their involvement in the criminal justice system.

To date, we have evaluated over 190 individuals through QTIP, with 88% requiring further treatment services.

offICE OF IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS ENTERS ITS FOURTH YEAR

As the Queens District Attorney’s Office of Immigrant Affairs (OIA) enters its fourth year, we realize that the immigrant community in our diverse county of Queens continues to have a sense of fear in reporting crimes to authorities when they have been victimized or know of someone who has been victimized or is being victimized. OIA continues to spread the word that no matter what your immigration status, gender, nationality, or sexual orientation, we are here to help anyone who has been affected by crime and/or needs help in navigating our judicial system.

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In 2018, the QDA-OIA launched the “Reach for Our Reach” initiative to partner with other organizations to increase our ability to help members of our community in need. This effort involves a two-step process.

An in-house presentation for your office/organization on how QDA-OIA can be a resource for you in aiding crime victims to obtain the legal help that they may need.

To collaborate with your office/organization on an outreach event in order to promote awareness of our mission and to encourage crime victims to seek our help.

OIA also addresses the new members of the Police Department at the NYPD Rookie Orientation in PBQN and PBQS as part of a continued effort to improve police relations with our communities. Facebook@QDAImmigrantAffairs and Twitter@QDA_OIA continue to be successful in bringing information on topics like avoiding scams, fraud, and obtaining help on immigration matters as well as informing the community of upcoming events. We participate in the annual Hate Crimes Forum, hosted by our Gang Violence and Hate Crimes Bureau, which educates the public about the impact of hate crimes on the community and how such crimes can be prevented, investigated and prosecuted.

OIA is a member of the Borough Presidents Immigrant Task Force and Protecting Immigrant New Yorkers Task Force. NYS District Attorney’s League of Immigrant Affairs (DALIA), in which OIA Director Carmencita Gutierrez was the inaugural president and continues to act as a resource for district attorneys’ offices on immigration issues, encourages other district attorneys’ offices to create their own OIA’s, and has conducted prosecutor training under auspices of the New York Prosecutors Training Institute.

The OIA Hotline number is (718) 286-6690. Our office can also be reached at OIA@queensda.org or Facebook@QDAImmigrantAffairs and Twitter@QDA_OIA.
STATISTICS
Statistics - Index Crime & Violent Crime

Index Crime in Queens has Dropped Dramatically Since 1993

*Source: NYPD Compstat Year End Report 2018*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crimes</th>
<th>1993</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>Percentage Reduction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Murder</td>
<td>277</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>77.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rape</td>
<td>484</td>
<td>389</td>
<td>19.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>16,751</td>
<td>2,523</td>
<td>84.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Felony Assaults</td>
<td>6,669</td>
<td>3,848</td>
<td>42.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>24,100</td>
<td>2,496</td>
<td>89.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Larceny</td>
<td>16,500</td>
<td>8,070</td>
<td>51.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Index Crimes Continued to Decrease

- In 2018 Queens saw an overall reduction in serious crimes of 2.6% as opposed to 1.3% citywide.
- Every index crime except murder, rape, felony assault, and grand larceny decreased between 2017 and 2018.
- Burglary decreased by 14.6%; robbery decreased by 11.4%.

*Source: NYPD Compstat Year End Report 2018*

Opioid Crisis

- 240 fatal overdoses in Queens in 2018.
- Approximately half of the fatal overdoses involved fentanyl, which is 30-50 times more powerful than heroin.
- Opioids are involved in more then 80% of all overdose deaths.
- 195 non-fatal overdoses in Queens in 2018.
- QDA is aggressively pursuing drug dealers who deal in fentanyl through enhanced charges and innovative investigative techniques.
Statistics - Conviction Rates for Felony & Violent Felony Arrests

**Conviction Rates for Felony Arrests**

![Bar chart showing conviction rates for felony arrests across different boroughs.

- Bronx: 54.9%
- Kings: 51.4%
- New York: 67.6%
- Queens: 66.3%
- Richmond: 65.8%

*Source: Division of Criminal Justice Services 2018 (Preliminary)*

Does not include decline to prosecute or arrest consolidation cases.

**Conviction Rates for Violent Felony Arrests**

![Bar chart showing conviction rates for violent felony arrests across different boroughs.

- Bronx: 44.5%
- Kings: 41.4%
- New York: 54.1%
- Queens: 61.2%
- Richmond: 56.6%

*Source: Division of Criminal Justice Services 2018 (Preliminary)*

Does not include decline to prosecute or arrest consolidation cases.
Last year homicides in Queens increased slightly, but is still among the lowest numbers of the last 25 years.

The NYPD reported 77 vehicular deaths in Queens County in 2018; at least 56% did not involve any criminality.

This is the fourth-lowest number of homicides since 1961.
**Statistics - Domestic Violence**

### Comparison of Domestic Violence Conviction Rates Citywide by County

- **Manhattan**: 29.7%
- **Kings**: 23.8%
- **Richmond**: 41.1%
- **Bronx**: 18.3%
- **Queens**: 50.7%

**Source: Office of Court Administration 2018**

Queens has the highest domestic violence conviction rate in New York City.

### Comparison of Domestic Violence Dismissal Rates Citywide by County

- **Manhattan**: 53.6%
- **Kings**: 68.7%
- **Richmond**: 76.9%
- **Bronx**: 33.8%

**Source: Office of Court Administration 2018**

Queens has the lowest domestic violence dismissal rate in New York City.
Statistics - Lineups Supervised & Arrests

Lineups Supervised
Queens is the only District Attorney in New York State that sends an Assistant District Attorney to every lineup.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Lineups</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>357</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>493</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>359</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>348</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>348</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Queens Arrests Since 1993

Total Arrests Have Increased More Than 22% Since 1993 (42,434 to 51,681)
Queens Remains Leader in Case Processing Efficiency

Leads City in Lowest Arrest to Arraignment Time and Highest Percentage of Cases Arraigned within 24 Hours; Best in City in Arrest to Complaint Sworn Time

Queens | All Other Boroughs
--- | ---
Arrest To Arraignment Time | 15.72 Hours | 19.84 Hours
Arrest To Complaint Sworn Time | 7.75 Hours | 10.95 Hours
Percentage Of Cases Arraigned Within 24 Hours | 91.96% | 79.44%

Source: NYPD Criminal Justice Bureau, Arrest/Arraignment Indicators Report 2018

Average Arrest to Arraignment Time by Borough in 2018

Bronx | 20.36
Kings | 20.57
New York | 18.64
Queens | 15.72
Richmond | 18.76

Source: NYPD Criminal Justice Bureau, Arrest/Arraignment Indicators Report 2018
CBQ INTERVIEW PROGRAM

- On June 28, 2007, the Queens County District Attorney’s Office began a program to videotape statements from defendants arrested for felonies in Queens County.

- A QDA Detective and an Assistant District Attorney interview defendants prior to their arraignment regarding the case for which they were arrested.

- Investigations conducted as a result of these interviews have resulted in some cases in the enhancement of charges, in others in the modification of charges, and in others the dismissal of charges against defendants.

- Since the inception of the program, 24,929 defendants have been interviewed. As a result of their CBQ interviews 195 defendants were found to be innocent and exonerated after we investigated their claims and we dismissed their cases all prior to arraignment. In countless other cases charges were reduced and or our bail requests were lowered based upon these interviews.

CONVICTIONS FOR BAIL JUMPING

SOURCE: DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES
*Includes Felony and Misdemeanor Bail-Jumping

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Queens</th>
<th>Bronx</th>
<th>Kings</th>
<th>New York</th>
<th>Richmond</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>362</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>474</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>431</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>533</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>389</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>503</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>293</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>415</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>321</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>465</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>301</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>299</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>328</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>290</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>295</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>273</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Statistics - Wiretaps & Search Warrants

Court Ordered Electronic Surveillance Against Organized Criminal Enterprises

- Queens County is the national leader in the use of court-authorized electronic surveillance.
- Queens County had 11% of the nationwide totals for wiretaps approved by state courts.
- Queens County wiretaps that terminated in 2017 resulted in 1,247 arrests and 450 convictions.

Statistics from 2017 Federal Wiretap Report (The Most Recent Report Available)

Search Warrants (Including GPS and Cell Site Orders)

Source: QDA Office Wide 2018
### Comparison of ADA Staffing

*Source: New York Law Journal - July 9, 2018*

**All Arrest Data is From NYPD Criminal Justice Bureau Arrest/Arraignments Indicators Pages 19-20, December 2018 Edition**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2018</th>
<th>Manhattan</th>
<th>Kings</th>
<th>Bronx</th>
<th>Queens</th>
<th>Richmond</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Arrests**</td>
<td>62,084</td>
<td>70,181</td>
<td>56,712</td>
<td>51,313</td>
<td>10,693</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADA’s*</td>
<td>616</td>
<td>545</td>
<td>542</td>
<td>327</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Cases per ADA</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Felony Arrests**</td>
<td>21,300</td>
<td>28,238</td>
<td>17,768</td>
<td>18,760</td>
<td>3,619</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average Felony Arrests per ADA</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misdemeanor Arrests**</td>
<td>39,332</td>
<td>39,688</td>
<td>38,287</td>
<td>31,448</td>
<td>6,952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Misdemeanor Arrests per ADA</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2018</th>
<th>Average ADA Workload (Manhattan, Kings, and Bronx)</th>
<th>Queens</th>
<th>Over/ (Under)</th>
<th>Additional Number of ADA’s Needed for Queens to get to City Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average Cases per ADA</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Felony Arrests per ADA</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Misdemeanor Arrests per ADA</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Sex Trafficking Cases**

The Human Trafficking Unit has obtained 40 sex trafficking convictions to date. During 2018 and January 2019, we obtained 5 convictions under the sex trafficking statute, three guilty pleas and a two convictions resulting from a jury trial after which the jury convicted a couple of 3 counts of sex trafficking each.

**Demand Prosecutions**

In addition to our sex trafficking convictions, in 2018 we increased our prosecutions of people who patronizes underage girls for prostitution in an attempt to fight human trafficking from the demand perspective as well by holding the “Johns” accountable for their role. This year alone we obtained three felony convictions for Rape in the Third Degree for cases involving three adult defendants paying underage girls for sex in Queens County. One defendant we took to trial and two of those defendants are now serving 3 years in prison.

*Statistics From the Queens District Attorney’s Office*
# Saving State and City Money

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Restitutions</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Governmental restitutions</td>
<td>$3,400,553.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-governmental restitutions</td>
<td>$1,391,640.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total restitution</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,792,194.41</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Confessions of Judgment</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Governmental Confessions of Judgment</td>
<td>$1,887,563.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-governmental Confessions of Judgment</td>
<td>414,658.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Confessions of Judgment</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,302,222.36</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Totals</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Restitutions and Confessions of Judgment</strong></td>
<td><strong>$7,094,416.77</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## The Beneficiaries of Restitutions and Confessions of Judgment Include:

- NYS/NYC Sales Tax
- NYS/NYC Personal Income Tax
- NYC Human Resources Adm.
- NYS Comptrollers Office
- NYS Insurance Fund
- NYS Department of Labor
- NYS Cigarette Tax
- Social Security Administration
- NYC Housing Authority
- NYC Housing reservation & Development
- Individuals
- Businesses

It should be noted that an indictment is merely an accusation and that defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.
It should be noted that an indictment is merely an accusation and that defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.
**KILLER OF MUSLIM CLERIC SENTENCED TO LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE**

A Brooklyn man was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole after he was convicted of first-degree murder and other charges for the brazen, daylight execution of Imam Maulana Akonjee and his friend, Thara Uddin, on a public street in Ozone Park. The two men were gunned down as they walked home following prayers at their mosque. District Attorney Brown noted the Imam was a beloved spiritual leader and the crime ripped at the heart of the Muslim community - our community.

According to trial testimony, the victims were walking on Liberty Avenue and 79th Street just before 2 p.m. when Oscar Morel, 37, ran up behind them, pointed a .38 caliber revolver at their heads, fired several shots and fled the scene. The Imam was hit four times in the head and body and Mr. Uddin was shot once in the head. Both men died at a nearby hospital.

Surveillance video from near the scene showed the defendant exit a black SUV and walk and run toward the two victims. Moments later Morel was observed on the same video running back to his vehicle and driving away. About 12 minutes after the shooting in Ozone Park, the defendant was observed on video surveillance in Brooklyn at Pitkin and Pine Avenues where he struck a bicyclist and then left the scene without stopping. A good Samaritan, who witnessed the Brooklyn incident, followed the SUV in his own automobile and recorded the license plate for police.

After arresting the defendant, police executing a court-authorized search warrant recovered a .38 caliber revolver hidden behind a wall inside the defendant’s Brooklyn apartment. According to evidence presented at trial, forensic analysis confirmed that the bullets that killed the Imam and Mr. Uddin were fired from the revolver recovered in the defendant’s apartment.

Deputy Bureau Chief Peter Lomp of the Trial Division’s Criminal Court Bureau handled the prosecution with the assistance of Assistant District Attorney Yena Kwon.

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**RAPIST LURED 15 YEAR OLD THROUGH THE INTERNET**

A 31-year-old Queens man befriended a Canadian teenager on the popular website Facebook. When the teen visited New York with her family, Santiago Reyes urged her to run away from her family and meet him.

According to trial testimony, Reyes picked up the girl when her parents were out, and took her to his house. Reyes, who was much older than he had represented to the teen, manipulated her into having sex with him and then refused to let her go when she wanted to leave.

At the conclusion of a trial prosecuted by Marilyn Filingeri and Lauren Weinstock of the Special Victims Bureau, a jury convicted Reyes of second-degree kidnapping and third-degree rape. He was sentenced to 16 years in prison.
A Brooklyn resident was sentenced to 150 years in prison after being convicted of raping his two stepdaughters when they were just 12 and 14 years old. Over the course of a decade, the young victims bore eight children by their stepfather. A Queens jury needed just 30 minutes to find the defendant guilty of six counts of first-degree rape and one count of second-degree rape.

The abuse began in 2005 when the defendant lived in Far Rockaway, Queens, and forced the two victims, then just 11 and 14 years old, to sleep naked in bed with him. He was 31 years old at the time. According to trial testimony, in March 2005, the stepfather forced himself on the 14-year-old and had sex with her. He also struck her and threatened to shove a coat hanger into her. The defendant began raping the younger victim when she was just 12 years old. She was also threatened with physical harm and eventually bore three children by him.

Again, according to trial testimony, the violence Lorenzo Arline inflicted on his pre-teen and teenage stepdaughters wasn’t limited to forcing himself on them. On one occasion, when the 14 year old left home to socialize with her friends without his permission, Arline, 43, tracked her down and dragged her home by her feet with her face scraping against the cement pavement. Once back inside the house, he forcibly raped her. This child bore him five children. It wasn’t until the older sister, then 24, was hit so hard in the face that her tooth broke, that her younger sister reported the years of sexual and physical abuse to an official at her child’s school that the police were notified.

The investigation was conducted by the NYPD’s Special Victims Squad and the prosecution was handled by Senior Assistant District attorney George Kanellopoulos of the Special Victims Bureau.
INVESTIGATION DELIVERS KNOCKOUT TO DOG-FIGHTING COUPLE

Police executing a court-authorized search warrant in a garage in Far Rockaway made a disturbing discovery - four malnourished pit bulls inside the garage in stacked cages with no apparent food or water. They called in detectives from NYPD’s Animal Cruelty Investigation Squad, who took custody of the abused animals.

When the dogs were examined at an ASPCA hospital, they were found to have the tell-tale signs of having been used in dog-fighting - heavy scarring from old, and some recent, dog bites; broken claws and fractured teeth; ear flap injuries; gum tissue injuries; and carrying a red blood cell parasite conveyed through dog bites. A subsequent search of the garage revealed dog-fighting paraphernalia, such as a ‘slat mill’ - a treadmill-type device used for dog training, as well as ‘break sticks’ used to break a dog’s grip after it has bitten another animal.

The dogs’ owners plead guilty to violating Agriculture and Markets Law prohibiting keeping a dog with intent to engage the dog in animal fighting. One defendant was sentenced to nine months in jail, the other to three years probation. Both are prohibited from owning any animals for five years and will have to register as animal abusers with the NYC Department of Health.

CONTRACTOR CONVICTED OF BILKING SUPERSTORM SANDY VICTIMS DRAWS THREE YEAR SENTENCE

When Superstorm Sandy hit in 2012, it destroyed many homes, especially on the south shore in Queens County. Unfortunately, an unscrupulous contractor added to the misery of three Queens family by taking their hard-earned money and agreeing to rebuild their homes, but never completing the job.

Andrew Troiano plead guilty to multiple counts of second- and third-degree grand larceny for taking more than $170,000 from two Breezy Point families and one Rockaway Point family, but never dispersing any money to subcontractors hired to begin construction. On two sites, foundations were dug and cement poured, but construction was halted when the subcontractors were not paid. On the third site, no work was done whatsoever. An analysis of the defendant’s company’s back records showed funds withdrawn for work on other properties, as well as for personal expenses.

For his conviction, the defendant was sentenced to one to three years in prison. The case was handled by ADA Allison Wright, a supervisor in District Attorney Brown’s Economic Crimes Bureau Crime Unit.
DEFENDING CASES ON APPEAL

QDA's Appeals Bureau handles all appeals and other post-conviction litigation, in both state and federal courts. This includes nearly 20% of the entire criminal docket of the New York Court of Appeals, the state's highest court, which sets precedent for all 62 counties in the entire state.

Notable appellate victories in 2018 include:

THE MURDER OF A RAPE VICTIM

In People v. Hemant Megnath, the Appeals Bureau successfully defended the first-degree murder conviction of a man who killed a woman because she refused to drop the rape charge she had pressed against him in Brooklyn.

Megnath was working as a realtor when he met the victim. Under the guise of showing her an apartment, Megnath used the opportunity to isolate the victim and sexually assault her. She filed a complaint with the NYPD and Megnath was arrested. After he was released on bail, he spent almost two years imploring, threatening and even attempting to bribe the victim and her family members to drop the charges. Frustrated by her refusal, and fearing deportation if convicted, he ambushed her near her home and cut her throat. After a trial based upon circumstantial, but overwhelming evidence of guilt, the defendant was convicted of all charges. Although a ruling after extensive pretrial hearings permitted the use of testimony concerning low copy DNA, it was not contested on appeal.

COUNSEL'S REPRESENTATION NOT INEFFECTIVE

In 2018, the Appeals Bureau obtained a favorable ruling upholding the first-degree assault conviction for the violent and repeated shaking of a seven-month old infant, which caused massive, immediate brain injuries. Defendant, the child's care giver, admitted to shaking the infant, and an attending doctor in the emergency room personally witnessed the defendant shaking the baby in a forceful manner. Earlier that day, the baby's father had dropped her off at defendant's house in a healthy condition. After the admitted shaking, the infant was in a life-threatening condition. Although counsel mounted a vigorous defense at trial, it was ultimately unsuccessful. Years later, defendant attacked counsel's competence, arguing that he should have raised a different defense. After a full hearing on the issue, the Appellate Division ruled that the defense had provided effective representation, upholding the conviction.

TWO MEN DRAW LONG PRISON TERMS FOR DISFIGURING TEEN VICTIM

A 39-year-old man and his 26-year-old accomplice conspired to assault a teenager living in Whitestone, Queens. To make matters worse, they ran up to the wrong teenager and attacked a 16-year-old exchange student who happened to be living in the same house as the intended target.

The victim was hospitalized and eventually recovered from this senseless attack, but will carry two long scars on the left side of her face as a constant reminder of the defendants’ mindless violence.

Both men pleaded guilty to first-degree assault and were sentenced to prison terms of 19 and 18 years. The case was prosecuted by ADA Timothy Shortt of the District Attorney's Career Criminal Major Crimes Bureau.
A hard-working, 65-year-old man riding his bicycle home to Brooklyn after finishing his shift washing dishes at a restaurant in Queens, was killed when a 24-year-old man illegally operating an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) on a city street intentionally struck the victim’s bicycle, causing the victim to fall and hit his head on the ground. He died at a hospital several days later.

The bicyclist took precautions to be safe, including wearing reflective gear making it easier for motorists to see him. But in this case, none of that mattered. According to the indictment, Eucario Xelo was on his way home at approximately 1 a.m. when Sean Martin, operating an All-Terrain Vehicle westbound on Seneca Avenue approaching Woodbine Street in the Ridgewood section of Queens, steered the ATV directly at the bicyclist who was also riding westbound on Seneca Avenue. Martin approached the victim from behind and, when he was in close proximity, maneuvered the ATV in a manner known as a “kick out”, which caused the rear tires of the ATV to kick outward and the back end of the ATV to bump into the bicycle. As a result, Mr. Xelo was knocked to the ground, striking his head and suffering severe, and ultimately fatal, impact injuries to his head and brain. After knocking him to the ground, Mr. Martin did not offer any assistance to Mr. Xelo. Instead, the defendant was captured minutes later on surveillance video at the intersection of Cypress Avenue and Summerfield Street, also in Ridgewood, steering his ATV directly at a second bicyclist, whom he approached from the front. The defendant again employed the same maneuver as he had minutes before, only this time the bicyclist was able to swerve his bicycle at the last minute and avoid being struck. Unlike Mr. Xelo, he was able to ride away unharmed.

The grand jury has charged Mr. Martin with murder, manslaughter, assault, reckless endangerment and other crimes. The prosecution is being handled by Homicide Trials Deputy Bureau Chief John Kosinski, who is also Chief of the Vehicular Crimes Unit.

A 54-year-old Manhattan resident was charged with attacking a 20-year-old female subway rider after making homophobic slurs toward the victim and her friend.

According to the complaint, the defendant objected when the two women kissed and began berating them for doing so in his presence. When the young ladies attempted to walk away, he followed them and struck the victim in the back of her head, causing her to fall and strike her head and neck on a pole before hitting the floor. The victim was treated at a local hospital where she was diagnosed with a fractured spine.

The defendant has been charged with second- and third-degree assault as a hate crime. The case is being handled by ADA Barry Frankenstein of the District Attorney’s Gang Violence and Hate Crimes Bureau.
IDENTITY THEFT AND CREDIT CARD RING DISMANTLED

The seventeenth member of a criminal enterprise, and the boss, plead guilty to Enterprise Corruption and faces a sentence of up to 15 years in prison. The stolen credit card ring he ran cost consumers, financial institutions and retail businesses upwards of $3.5 million over a two year period.

Muhammad Rana plead guilty to Enterprise Corruption under New York State’s Organized Crime Control Act. In doing so he admitted his role in an organization that included document forging mills and shopping sprees for big ticket merchandise with forged credit cards that left the bills in the mailboxes of innocent consumers. Of the sixteen co-defendants who have plead guilty, ten have received jail or prison sentences and have paid more than a half million dollars in restitution. Mr Rana was sentenced to 5 to 15 years in prison.

The investigation was conducted by the NYPD’s Financial Crimes Task Force. ADA Christina Hanophy, Deputy Chief of District Attorney Brown’s Economic Crimes Bureau, prosecuted the cases.

DETECTIVE CONVICTED OF PERJURY AND OFFICIAL MISCONDUCT

On August 28, 2014, Detective Kevin Desormeau arrested a man for allegedly selling crack cocaine to a woman on a street corner in the vicinity of 108th Avenue and Guy R. Brewer Boulevard. The detective swore that he observed the sale in a Criminal Court complaint and later testified, under oath, at a pre-trial hearing to having observed the sale. He also testified that when he apprehended the seller, he recovered drugs and money from him.

After the alleged seller was detained for almost two months, surveillance video was discovered that placed the purported seller in a restaurant and bar playing pool at the precise time the detective claimed to have witnessed the sale. The video also depicted the detective entering and placing the person under arrest and bringing him outside, where he was searched.

After a jury trial, the detective was convicted of first-degree perjury, official misconduct and other charges. The judge placed the detective, who is no longer employed by the NYPD, on three years probation. The case was handled by Senior Assistant District Attorneys Yvonne Francis and Christine Oliveri of the District Attorney’s Integrity Bureau.
UNLICENSED P.I. GOES TO PRISON
FOR BRIBING A WITNESS

When a man called 911 and complained that his sister and her boyfriend tried to force their way into his apartment at gunpoint, the police responded and recovered a loaded firearm from the sister’s handbag. Both the sister and her boyfriend were arrested. While his case was pending, the boyfriend hired a self-styled private investigator from the Bronx, named Charles Gallman, to assist with his case.

Shortly thereafter it was discovered by detectives from District Attorney Brown’s Detective Bureau, utilizing court-authorized eavesdropping, controlled telephone calls, telephone records and recorded Rikers Island telephone calls that Gallman and his client were engaging in a pattern of bribery, intimidation and tampering with witnesses slated to testify in the upcoming trial. As a result, both Gallman and his client were indicted for bribery and other related charges.

Gallman plead guilty to bribing a witness and was sentenced to 1 to 3 years in prison. His client plead guilty to tampering with a witness, as well as the underlying gun possession charge, and was sentenced to 9 ½ years in prison. The case was handled by ADAs Melissa Kelly of the Special Victims Bureau and Bradley Chain of the District Attorney’s Organized Crime and Rackets Bureau.

DRUG GANG INFESTS QUEENS HOUSING PROJECT

Using aggressive and innovative tactics to track down and prosecute drug dealers who were terrorizing residents of the Queensbridge housing development, a year-long undercover investigation conducted jointly by NYPD’s Narcotics Borough Queens Division and District Attorney Brown’s Narcotics Investigations Bureau resulted in the arrest of 22 individuals on various drug and weapons charges.

The Queensbridge Houses is the largest public housing development in New York City. The Queensbridge Houses consist of 96 six-story brick residential buildings located in Long Island City, Queens. The 3,142 unit complex accommodates approximately 6,907 people and is contained within six blocks bordered by 21st Street, the Ed Koch Queensboro Bridge, Vernon Boulevard and 40th Avenue.

Posing as narcotics customers and employing extensive physical surveillance, undercover officers repeatedly purchased heroin, cocaine and marijuana. Police also executed court-authorized search warrants at nine separate locations within the Queensbridge House, recovering a quantity of illegal firearms in addition to illegal drugs. As a result, 22 individuals have been charged with various charges including the sale and possession of a controlled substance and criminal possession of a weapon.

The investigation was conducted by the NYPD’s Narcotics Division. Assistant District attorney Nancy Tse, of DA Brown’s Narcotics Investigation Bureau is prosecuting the case.
THIEVES STEAL SETTLEMENT FROM WHEELCHAIR-BOUND HOMELESS WOMAN

Several years ago, Michelle Carter lost both her legs during an unfortunate accident when she was struck by a subway train, leaving her both wheelchair-bound and homeless. A subsequent settlement awarded her $4 million dollars. But the greedy actions a few people deprived her of the final payments amounting to almost half of her settlement.

According to the criminal complaint, Ms. Carter made the mistake of asking a local bodega owner, who she thought was a friend, to cash a settlement check in the amount of $799,000. Instead, with the help of an ally who was a bank manager, the bodega owner deposited the funds into his business account. A subsequent investigation revealed he withdrew more than $200,000 which he spent on gambling trips, wedding expenses, a bachelor party in Las Vegas and a honeymoon in the Caribbean.

When Ms. Carter noticed her last settlement check in the amount of $886,000 was missing from among her belongings, she asked the bank to reissue the check, only to be informed it had already been cashed. Again, according to the complaint, it was discovered that this check had been deposited by the bodega owner into the account of a co-conspirator in the bank managed by the bodega owner’s friend. More than $200,000 of that money was withdrawn a day later and spent on jewelry, a deposit for a new car and loan payments. Some of the money was also distributed among the co-conspirators.

An investigation by the Amtrak Police department, the District Attorney’s Office Detective Squad and Forensic Accountants, in conjunction with the Elder Fraud Unit of the Economic Crimes Bureau resulted in the arrest of five men, including the bodega owner, his father and the former bank manager. The prosecution is being handled by ADA Christine Burke.

PIMP FOR TEENAGE RUNAWAY DRAWS STIFF PRISON SENTENCE

A 14-year-old runaway’s life became a living nightmare when a 29-year-old Jamaica, Queens, resident forced her to engage in acts of prostitution for his financial benefit. Any resistance on her part was met with threats and beatings.

After being arrested, the defendant was charged with, and plead guilty to, sex trafficking. He was sentenced to 6 to 12 years in prison.

The case was handled by ADA Jessica Melton, Chief of the District Attorney’s Human Trafficking Unit and ADA Sophia Williams of the Special Proceedings Bureau.
When an airline passenger from Trinidad-Tobago was intercepted by U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers at JFK airport, she was found to be in possession of 5 pounds of cocaine hidden in her suitcase. She was arrested for Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the First Degree and, if convicted, faced a potential sentence of up to 20 years. (Possession in excess of 8 ounces is an A-I felony.) During her arrest processing, she was interviewed by Queens DA’s office detectives at Central Booking prior to her arraignment. Based upon this interview, the detectives strongly suspected she was being used and manipulated by others.

People who personally smuggle drugs or other contraband into the country, or attempt to do so, are sometimes referred to as couriers or drug mules. Others employ drug mules to reduce the risk of being caught and to shield themselves from arrest or liability. Mules have been known to ingest drug packages or insert them into body cavities, frequently at great risk to their health and personal well-being. Packages that leak, dissolve or burst will cause an overdose reaction, often fatal. Their compensation is usually dwarfed by what the ‘exporter’ stands to profit.

Although a U.S. citizen, this 16 years old found herself isolated from her family and stranded in New York with minimal resources. District Attorney Brown’s Narcotics Investigations Bureau, working with the Youth Program in our Alternative Sentencing Division, conducted several clinical evaluations and engaged Administration for Children Services to develop a comprehensive treatment plan to address safety concerns, housing and education and connected her with mental health resources. She plead guilty to a felony and was sentenced to probation so the Court could monitor her progress and assure compliance. All remain hopeful she will satisfactorily complete all her programs and reach all her goals.
Cases of Interest

5-YEAR-OLD DIED AFTER MEDICATION OVERDOSE

Shortly after Michael Guzman was born, he began to have seizures and was diagnosed as suffering from epilepsy. Doctors prescribed medication that he would have to take daily and explained to his mother that failure to administer this medication regularly could endanger the boy’s life.

In September, 2016, Michael’s doctor was informed that Michael was suffering from frequent and uncontrollable seizures. The doctor told the mother to bring the child to the hospital immediately. When the mother showed up at the hospital two days later, doctors found the presence of the necessary drugs to be so low in the boy’s system they had to put him on high dosage for 8 days to stabilize him before he could be discharged.

Five months later, Michael died. According to the indictment returned by the grand jury, the Medical Examiner determined Michael died of a fatal overdose of the medications that his mother was supposed to be administering at regularly prescribed intervals. As a result, she was charged with first-degree assault, second-degree manslaughter, first-degree reckless endangerment and endangering the welfare of a child. The case is being handled by Senior ADA Melissa Kelly of the Special Victims Bureau’s Child Fatality Unit.

WOMAN INDICTED FOR UNPROVOKED KNIFE ATTACK OF THREE INFANTS AND TWO ADULTS

A Queens County grand jury indicted a 52-year-old woman for attempted murder and other charges for allegedly stabbing and seriously injuring three infants and two others present in the early morning hours of Friday, September 21, 2018. Miraculously, no one was killed. None of the infants were more than one month old and one was as young as 13 days.

According to the indictment, the defendant repeatedly stabbed a fellow caretaker in the leg, face and chest as she was feeding an infant in the kitchen of the three story residence where the attack occurred. The defendant also stabbed the infant the woman was feeding before stabbing two other infants in the residence. A father of one of the children residing at the center awoke to the sounds of the struggle and tried to intervene, only to be stabbed and bitten by the knife-wielder. The defendant fled to the basement following the attack, where the police found her with what appeared to be self-inflicted wounds to her neck and wrist.

The prosecution of this matter is being handled by Senior ADA Matthew Sweet of the Special Victims Bureau.
HEARTLESS THIEF STEALS HOME FROM 101-YEAR-OLD MAN

At the age of 101, Woodrow Washington needed help collecting rent from the tenants that occupy the house he owns on 143rd Street in Queens. Unfortunately, the person he asked for help defrauded Mr. Washington into transferring ownership of the house to him at a sale price of $0.

According to the criminal complaint, Mr Washington received a letter from the NYC Department of Finance informing him that a quitclaim deed bearing his signature and that of a notary transferring his home to a 58-year-old man named Richardo Bentham had been filed. An investigation conducted by the NYC Sheriff’s Office Bureau of Criminal Investigation revealed Mr Washington had not knowingly signed such a document and had not done so in the presence of a notary. When questioned, the notary acknowledged he had never met Mr Washington and noted the document bearing his signature was missing his notary seal. As a result, Mr Bentham was arrested for second-degree grand larceny, second-degree criminal possession of stolen property, second-degree criminal possession of a forged instrument and first-degree offering a false instrument for filing. He plead guilty to Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument and is awaiting sentence.

The prosecution of this matter is being handled by ADA Christine Burke of the District Attorney’s Elder Fraud Unit of the Economic Crimes Bureau.

BAYSIDE HOME WAS ARSENAL OF ILLEGAL WEAPONS

N.Y.P.D. Officers executing a court-authorized search warrant at a Bayside home discovered an enormous cache of illegal weapons and ammunition. As a result, the homeowner was charged with stockpiling more than 65 pistols, revolvers, assault rifles and modified rifles, along with approximately 50,000 rounds of ammunition inside his home.

According to the complaint, Ronald Drabman, of 208th Street, was charged with first-degree criminal possession of a weapon, 39 counts of second-degree criminal possession of a weapon, one count of first-degree criminal sale of a firearm, one count of criminal possession of stolen property and 20 counts of third-degree criminal possession of a weapon.

Among the weapons seized were shotguns, handguns, pellet guns and a zip gun. According to the charges, Mr Drabman does not have a firearms license, is not a licensed gun dealer and does not have a license to sell or manufacture firearms or ammunition.
TWO YEAR INVESTIGATION
CRIPPLES DRUG DEALING

For almost two years detectives from NYPD’s Queens North Gang Squad, working jointly with members of District Attorney Brown’s Narcotics Investigation Bureau, utilizing court-authorized wiretaps and undercover buys, monitored the illegal activities of a street gang operating primarily in the Jackson Heights and Corona sections of Queens. During that time, detectives made numerous purchases of cocaine, crack, marijuana and heroin laced with the latest deadly drug scourge, Fentanyl. Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is many times more powerful than heroin and is highly addictive. Its abuse has been attributed to dozens of overdose deaths throughout New York City.

According to the charges, the alleged gang members operated primarily in the Corona, Elmhurst and Jackson Heights neighborhoods of Queens. Utilizing court-authorized wire taps, investigators were able to eavesdrop on telephone conversations between several of the defendants. After listening to one such cryptic exchange, police were alerted to a meeting where they observed an apparent sale. The buyer involved in that sale was stopped several blocks away, where police recovered a quantity of narcotics from him. The criminal complaint details dozen of other occasions where undercover investigators were able to successfully purchase illegal drugs from the defendants, as well as guns. On one such occasion, an undercover detective paid more than $900 for a 9mm semi-automatic firearm and 11 rounds of ammunition.

At the culmination of the investigation, detectives executed several court-authorized search warrants, arresting 18 members of the 97th Street Trinitarios and #97HotBoyz, while seizing scales, packaging material, presses, firearms, a stun gun and over $80,000 in cash. Police also confiscated eight vehicles that were used in the illicit drug trafficking.

The investigation was conducted by the NYPD’s Queens North Gang Squad. Senior Assistant District Attorney Ajay Chheda is handling the prosecution.

25 YEARS TO LIFE IN PRISON FOR KILLING 60 YEAR OLD WOMAN DURING ROBBERY ATTEMPT

On August 31, 2016, the victim, Nazma Khanam, of Jamaica Hills, was walking home from the store she owned with her husband, MD Shamul Alam Khan, 67, who was just steps behind her, when the defendant approached her and demanded money. When the victim refused, he stabbed her once in the chest with a kitchen knife and fled. The victim was rushed to a local hospital where she was pronounced dead.

With help from the community, the NYPD was able to identify Yonaton Galvez-Marin as the stabber and he was arrested three days later by detectives as they were conducting their investigation near the crime scene. Following a one-week-long jury trial, Galvez-Marin was convicted of second-degree murder and sentenced to 25 years to life in prison.

Senior Assistant District Attorney Rachel Buchter of the Homicide Trials Bureau prosecuted the case.
PUTTING THE BRAKES ON MOTORCYCLE THEFT RING

A year-long investigation utilizing, among other techniques, court-authorized wiretaps, resulted in the arrest of seven individuals who now face charges of grand larceny and conspiracy for stealing 11 motorcycles throughout Queens.

According to the indictment, some members of the ring would scour the county for high end motorcycles. After targeting a particular bike, police personnel were drawn away from the area by a decoy who would commit a Vehicle and Traffic Law infraction. Sometimes the motorcycle was hot wired and driven away; other times it was loaded into a van. While most of the vehicles were stolen from the street, several were taken from private garages and residences.

The investigation was conducted by NYPD’s Auto Crime and the prosecution is being handled by ADA Jason Trager of the District Attorney’s Organized Crime and Rackets Bureau.

Cases of Interest

QUEENS WOMAN CONVICTED OF ANIMAL CRUELTY

Adopting a dog or cat, especially one rescued from a shelter, can be an act of kindness. But failure to provide a clean environment for such a pet, with proper food and drink is an act of cruelty. Such apparently was the case with a 50-year-old Jackson Heights woman, who collected dogs and cats but did little else to provide a safe home for them.

According to trial testimony, a crime prevention officer went to the defendant’s home to check on her mother, who had been the victim of a crime. No one answered when the officer knocked at the door, but it was open and animals could be seen inside and the interior appeared filthy. The officer departed, but returned to the home with members of the ASPCA. At that time, the defendant’s mother did answer the door and excessive amounts of feces and fur were seen throughout the living area and the stench of urine was overpowering. There was also trash strewn amid the clutter. The animals living inside had patches of fur missing, crusted eyes and one cat appeared not to be able to walk. A court-authorized search warrant was executed that same day and members of the ASPCA rescued 55 cats, 12 dogs and two turtles.

A licensed veterinarian and supervisor of the ASPCA’s Forensic Sciences unit examined and/or supervised examinations of 67 cats and dogs. The results showed many of the animals had severe dental diseases, severe ear infections, ear mites, as well as pain and discomfort and a host of other ailments. One dog was vomiting and had diarrhea related to chronic kidney and liver disease. Most of her fur was matted with feces and she had severe dental disease and a chronic illness associated with her digestive system. Due to her extremely poor health, she had to be euthanized. In addition, 11 other animals also had to be euthanized, while more than 50 were adopted and placed in good homes. After a non-jury trial, the defendant was found guilty of 108 counts of animal cruelty, failure to provide proper food and drink to an animal and other charges.

The investigation was assisted by the NYPD’s Animal Cruelty Investigation Squad, the ASPCA and the Animal Legal Defense Fund’s Criminal Justice Program. The prosecution was handled by Nicoletta Caferri, Chief of DA Brown’s Animal Cruelty Prosecutions Unit of the Special Proceedings Bureau.
Cases of Interest

RECKLESS SPEEDER KILLS TWO, INJURES SEVEN OTHERS

A 34-year-old New Jersey resident, following a night of celebration at a wedding, killed two passengers and seriously injured two others in his own car, as well as seriously injuring three other drivers and two of their passengers in three other vehicles.

According to the complaint, Andrew Shakespeare drove his BMW X5 in excess of 117 MPH on the Grand Central Parkway at 6:30 AM. After sideswiping a vehicle, Mr Shakespeare apparently lost control of his car and crashed into another auto, causing both that vehicle and his own to flip over, ejecting and killing a 16 year old man as well as a 34-year-old, both of whom were his passengers. Because he refused to submit to any testing, a court ordered warrant was necessary to take a blood sample. Even five hours after the crash, Mr Shakespeare’s blood alcohol content was still in excess of the legal limit for driving while intoxicated.

After an investigation conducted by NYPD’s Highway 3 Investigation Squad, the defendant plead guilty to aggravated vehicular homicide and was sentenced to 7 to 21 years in prison. When he is released at the conclusion of his sentence, he will have to place an interlock ignition device on any car he drives for a period not less than 5 years, which will prevent the car from starting if he is intoxicated.

RETIRE AND CURRENT NYPD OFFICERS INDICTED FOR RUNNING LUCRATIVE PROSTITUTION AND GAMBLING RING

A retired NYPD Vice Squad detective, his wife, seven active duty police officers and approximately 3 dozen civilians were indicted for running a complex prostitution and gambling enterprise spread out over three counties. Their take in a little over a year was estimated at about 2 million dollars.

Headed by the retired detective, they operated 7 brothels in Queens, Brooklyn and Nassau counties, as well as several gambling rooms in beauty salons and delis. The structured organization took advantage of knowledge of police procedures, as well as confidential, inside information that allowed it to operate undetected.

However, a tip from a fellow police officer set in motion an investigation utilizing court-authorized wiretaps, surveillance and other techniques, jointly conducted by the NYPD’s Internal Affairs Bureau and the District Attorney’s Organized Crime and Rackets and Integrity Bureaus. As a result of this long-term investigation, forty-nine people were indicted for a variety of charges, including Enterprise Corruption and Promoting Prostitution. Many face the possibility of substantial prison sentences.
On December 15, 2017, five residents of South Ozone Park awoke to find their vehicles heavily damaged by fires the FDNY determined were intentionally set. Less than two months later, three more South Ozone Park residents suffered a similar fate. Ten days later, still another vehicle was set ablaze and burned beyond recognition.

As a result of an investigation conducted by New York City Fire Department’s Bureau of Fire Investigations Auto Fraud Squad, with assistance from the Strategic Explosives and Arson Response Task Force of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, a local resident of the South Ozone Park area was arrested and charged with starting the fires that endangered the lives of responding firefighters, as well as his neighbors’ lives and property. The 29-year-old man plead guilty to third-degree arson and was sentenced to four to eight years in prison. No motive for the spree was ever determined.

The case was prosecuted by ADAs Jason Trager and Mary Lowenburg of the District Attorney’s Organized Crime and Rackets Bureau.

A medical doctor who maintained a practice at Liberty Woman’s Health of Queens pleaded guilty to criminally negligent homicide while a jury was deliberating his fate following a four-week-long jury trial. According to trial testimony, during a surgical procedure, Dr Robert Rho, 55, of Great Neck, New York, caused a laceration to his patient’s cervix, a perforation of the uterine wall and a disruption and transection of the uterine artery.

While in the recovery room following surgery, the 30-year-old victim began bleeding profusely, requiring the doctor to perform a second surgery to repair the damage. Unfortunately, he only sutured the cervical tear and failed to address the other problems. Again, according to testimony, ignoring all signs to the contrary, the doctor discharged the patient from the facility. En route home she began to hemorrhage and was taken to a Bronx hospital, where despite receiving six units of blood, she died.

At his sentencing, where he received a prison term of 1 ½ to 4 years, the doctor apologized to the victim’s family.
Cases of Interest

TEACHER JAILED FOR USING FORMER STUDENT IN A SEXUAL PERFORMANCE

Michael Cognato, 35, of Bethpage, Long Island, was sentenced to 6 months in jail, 10 years post-release supervision and designated a level two sex offender after he plead guilty to attempted use of a child in a sexual performance and other related charges. The former math teacher at IS 93 in Ridgewood, Queens also surrendered his New York State teaching license and must successfully complete a sex offender program.

The defendant admitted that over the summer of 2017, he engaged in sexually explicit conversations with the victim, who was 15 years old at the time, and induced her to send him sexually explicit videos and photographs of herself. He also admitted to violating the order of protection which prohibited him from contacting the victim after his arrest. The case is yet another reminder of the misuse of the internet and social media.

Assistant District Attorney Kateri Gasper, Chief of the District Attorney's Computer Crimes Unit, and ADA Michelle Witten, prosecuted the case.

BANKER CONVICTED OF DEPLETING THE ESTATES OF TWO DECEASED SISTERS

A private client banker at JP Morgan Chase stole more than $650,000 from the estates of two deceased sisters by issuing checks to himself and eventually setting up an app on his mobile phone to make electronic transfers.

An investigation conducted by the New York State Police Special Investigations Unit, assisted by JP Morgan's Global Security and Investigations, revealed the banker used the money for living expenses such as rent, utilities and cable bills and eventually used the funds to pay for trips and hotel stays. He even paid off a friends’ credit card bill.

The defendant plead guilty to second-degree grand larceny and will be sentenced to six months in jail. In addition, he has agreed to repay $662,465.91. JP Morgan Chase has already fully reimbursed the accounts of both estates.

CHARGED WITH FORCING TWO TEENAGERS INTO PROSTITUTION

A 33-year-old man has been indicted by a grand jury on charges of kidnapping, promoting and compelling prostitution, sex trafficking, endangering the welfare of a child and other charges for coercing two teen residents of a group home into having sex with strangers for money, all of which he kept for himself.

According to the indictment, the defendant convinced the 13 year old to move in with him. After having sex with her on numerous occasions, the defendant placed an ad in Backpage.com offering both her and another fifteen-year-old resident of the group home. If the girls resisted or didn’t make enough money, he threatened them with physical harm. When officers from Queens North Narcotics Squad executed a court-authorized search warrant at the defendant’s residence, they found him naked and in bed with the thirteen year old. The police also recovered heroin, marijuana and cocaine, along with a credit card embossing machine, forged credit cards and fake identification.

The case is being handled by ADAs Bahiya Lawrence and Jessica Melton, Chief of the District Attorney’s Human Trafficking Unit.
WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES
D.A. BROWN BIDS FAREWELL TO DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVANT

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown honors Sergeant Michael Murphy upon his retirement from the New York City Police Department’s Animal Cruelty Investigation Squad with Assistant District Attorney Nicoletta J. Caferri, the Chief of District Attorney Brown’s Animal Cruelty Prosecutions Unit.

HISPANIC HERITAGE AWARD

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown named Queens College President Félix V. Matos Rodríguez with his office’s 13th Hispanic Heritage Award for his numerous accomplishments as both an educator and leader here and in his native Puerto Rico.

WILLIAM TUCKER GARVIN PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

D.A. Brown presented the 2018 William Tucker Garvin Public Service Award to Edna Wells Handy, Acting Chief Compliance Officer at NYCHA, in celebration of Black History Month. The award honors the memory of William Tucker Garvin, the first African-American ADA in Queens County, who served from 1952 to 1966.

ASIAN-AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER AWARD

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown, in celebration of Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month, bestowed the office’s annual award on former Presiding Justice of the New York State Supreme Court Randall T. Eng, for his pioneering spirit and exemplary service as the first Asian American Assistant District Attorney of Queens County and the first Asian American Presiding Justice in the State of New York.
DIVERTING OF STATE TAX REVENUES HALTED

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown stands amid more than $200,000 in cash and with just a fraction of the thousands of packs of untaxed cigarettes seized following the arrests of a eight individuals, who allegedly ran a complex cigarette smuggling ring that stretched from Virginia and Maryland into Queens, Brooklyn and Long Island.

DA MEETS WITH ANIMAL CRUELTY UNIT

Judge Brown meets with Nicoletta Caferrer, Chief of the District Attorney’s Animal Cruelty Prosecutions Unit, and members of NYPD’s Animal Cruelty Investigation Squad.

ANNUAL FLU VACCINATION

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown participates in New York City’s Annual New York City Employee Free Flu Vaccination Campaign by getting his annual flu shot today. He encourages all Queens residents and New Yorkers to stay healthy and get a flu shot if recommended by their doctor.

WARRANT FORGIVENESS MEETING

D.A. Brown’s chief assistant, Jack Ryan, meets with other staff members in anticipation of the District Attorney’s Second Chance Summons Forgiveness Event the D.A. co-sponsored with the Queens Borough President. 360 of the 401 people who attended the event were able to have their outstanding warrants for low-level offenses cleared.
Members of D.A. Brown’s staff hosted a delegation of high-ranking prosecutors visiting from South Korea’s Supreme Prosecutor’s Office, including Sookwon Lee (front center behind podium), chief of the National Security Division. The delegation received a presentation and discussed counter-terrorism issues in South Korea and the United States. Queens is currently home to the third largest Korean community behind Los Angeles and Orange counties in California.
**2018 Legislative Breakfast**

Joining Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown (seated 2nd from right) at his 26th annual Legislative Breakfast are (standing l-r) Assemblymember Daniel Rosenthal, Assemblymember Michael Dendekker, Councilmember Donovan Richards, State Senator Mike Gianaris, Assemblymember Stacey Pheffer Amato and Councilmember Karen Koslowitz, (seated l-r) Councilmember Rory Lancman, Councilmember Barry Grodenchik and Borough President Melinda Katz.

**National Night Out**

D.A. Brown shares the podium with Police Commissioner James P. O’Neill, other high-ranking members of the NYPD and distinguished local representatives who addressed community members at the annual National Night Out Against Crime, a community-police awareness-raising event, traditionally held the first Tuesday in August.
Working with Communities

“Say Yes To Tennis, No To Violence” Day

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown hosts the 21st Annual “Say Yes to Tennis – No to Violence” STAR Track (Straight Talk About Risks) event at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park with 770 Far Rockaway public school students in attendance. Above are the winners of the anti-violence essay and poster contests.

National Crime Victims’ Rights Week

QDA’s Crime Victims Advocate Program hosted a National Crime Victims’ Rights Week ceremony to commemorate the loss of loved ones and to seek peace for victims, their families and the community. ADA Rachel Buchter, a Senior Assistant District Attorney in the Homicide Trials Bureau, was honored by Mildred Rivera, whose identical twin sister, Margarita, was beaten and stabbed to death by her ex-boyfriend. The Frank Sinatra Women's Ensemble and Willow Interfaith Women's Choir performed at the ceremony.
Working with Communities
We were all shocked and saddened by the passing of James “Jim” Evangelou, our long-time chief of the District Attorney’s Career Criminal Major Crimes Bureau, who died on Wednesday, September 26, 2018, following a brief illness. Jim was a dedicated career prosecutor who joined the Queens District Attorney’s Office in July of 1981 and rose to the rank of Bureau Chief of the Career Criminal Major Crimes Bureau in March of 2000. He was very well respected and admired by his colleagues within the office, as well as by the judiciary and defense bar throughout Queens and beyond. ADA Evangelou was a true professional. He was also a very cheerful, engaging gentleman who worked hard and committed his life to achieving justice for crime victims. He was a true and trusted friend and colleague and he will be missed very much.