

**District Attorney
FY 2014 - 16 Performance Plan**

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I. Mission Statement

The mission of the District Attorney's Office is to enhance the quality of life in Marin County by taking a proactive role in preventing crime, prosecuting with integrity, equality and excellence, and protecting the community by effectively dealing with those who prey upon our residents.

II. Department Overview

The Office of the District Attorney is the public prosecutor responsible for attending the courts and conducting all prosecutions for public offenses on behalf of the people. The California Constitution mandates that each County have an elected District Attorney. The District Attorney is an officer of the County and also an officer of the state when engaged in the prosecution of crimes defined under State law.

The District Attorney's Office has two operational divisions that provide mandated services in the area of prosecution, protection and prevention: the General Prosecution Division and the Targeted Prosecution Division. The units within the divisions are responsible for conducting the prosecution of public offenses committed within Marin County.

The General Prosecution Division has within its structure five vertical felony trial teams, as well as a Special Operations DUI Enforcement Unit. Vertical prosecution is one of the key organizational components whose construct reduces inconvenience to crime victims and law enforcement personnel.

The Targeted Prosecution Division has a number of operational units that focus on specific activities. The specialized units are the Intake Unit, the Family Violence Unit, the Juvenile Unit, the Insurance Fraud Unit, the Law and Motion Unit, the Consumer Fraud Unit, and the Marin County Major Crimes Unit liaison. Mental Health Court and Juvenile and Adult Drug Court, as well as the Family Violence Court, are supported by both our Targeted and General Prosecution

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Units. As an adjunct and in support of the two prosecutorial divisions of the office, there is an Administrative Unit, an Investigations Unit, and a Victim/Witness Program Unit.

III. Program Description and Responsibilities

Prosecution Services

As part of the Prosecution Services program, the District Attorney's Office has two operational divisions, General Prosecution and Targeted Prosecution, which provide mandated services in the area of prosecution, protection and prevention. The units within these divisions are responsible for conducting the prosecution of public offenses committed within Marin County.

Collaborative Justice

In collaboration with the Marin County Superior Court, Public Defender, Probation, and Health and Human Services departments, the District Attorney has implemented Collaborative Justice Court models including the Adult Drug Court, Juvenile Drug Court, Support and Treatment After Release (STAR), Mentally Ill Offender Court and Treatment Program, and a Family Violence Court. These collaborative courts help to coordinate the rehabilitation and treatment of offenders by focusing on health and social issues that are often the underlying causes of crime.

Offenders must meet acceptance guidelines to participate in each court, and enrollment is limited. Participants must follow a treatment program and meet certain goals and standards to "graduate" from the court. Participating departments meet weekly with a Judicial Officer to discuss the progress of participants prior to holding weekly sessions where participants check in with the judge and may face penalties for variance from the program's requirements.

Consumer Protection

The Consumer Protection Unit is responsible for handling a broad spectrum of consumer protection activities. The primary focus of this unit is to protect residents from fraudulent or dishonest business practices. There are four major areas of responsibility:

Enforcement

This area of responsibility deals with illegal business practices, environmental issues, major fraud, and restitution collection. This unit includes investigation as well as civil and criminal prosecution of cases involving unfair business practices, false or misleading advertising, state antitrust violations, state securities law violations, contractor licensing law violations, and toxic substance and environmental law violations.

Mediation

This area of responsibility handles consumer-business vendor dispute mediation and education of both consumers and retailers.

Referral

This area of responsibility consists of directing consumer complaints received by staff to the proper state regulatory agencies established to deal with issues such as air pollution, campaign law violations, water pollution and toxic spills.

Outreach

This area of responsibility involves providing speakers upon request to community groups who are concerned about con artists, scams or financial abuse of elders. The unit works with local non-profits and commissions devoted to preventing seniors from being victims of theft or embezzlement.

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Victim/Witness Services

The Victim/Witness Services program is responsible for providing direct services, referral services and community outreach services to victims and witnesses of crime. Some of the direct services offered by the program include advisement of case status, support throughout the criminal justice process, assistance with Victims of Violent Crime (VOVC) restitution claims to the State Board of Control, crisis intervention support, assistance with Victim Impact Statements, referrals to other agencies, and assistance with recovery from the effect of the crime.

Program staff participates in the Child Abuse Treatment (CHAT) program as part of the Jeannette Prandi Children's Center (JPCC), and provides assistance to families through referrals and help with the criminal justice process and victim compensation claims.

High Tech and Identify Theft Prosecution

The High Technology Theft Apprehension and Prosecution (HTTAP) program is supported by two grants from the Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

The HTTAP program develops a comprehensive written strategy to address high technology crime throughout California and reports annually to the State Legislature. The program seeks to assist local law enforcement and District Attorneys in providing the tools necessary to successfully interdict high technology crime in the jurisdiction of the five task forces. Investigation and prosecution of identity theft crimes is also included under this program, including Internet tracing and computer forensics, conducting identity theft "sting" operations, and shutting down fraudulent document printers employed as paper mills.

IV. Accomplishments for FY 2013-14

- Implementation of a focused prosecution initiative on serial DUI offenders
- Instigated a compliance check program on persons prohibited from owning or possessing firearms
- Putting in place a Spanish language Family Violence specialist attorney to address the underserved needs of that community

V. Key Challenges and Outstanding Issues

- Moving to a paperless office environment
- Meeting Court reorganizational challenges
- Modifying past operational practices to meet the challenges of the state's newly implemented realignment of how criminal violations are sanctioned.

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VI. Performance Plan

Department Goal	Countywide Goal
Goal I: Increase traffic safety through the enhanced DUI prosecution program	II. Safe Communities

Initiative Description	Program(s)
Host three round table discussions with multiple Marin law enforcement agencies to improve best practices in DUI investigations	District Attorney
Bring in guest speakers to provide legal education updates to Deputy District Attorneys (DDAs) regarding DUIs	District Attorney
In FY 2014-15, participate in two outreach efforts in Marin high schools on the issue of driving under the influence	District Attorney
Create and implement an innovative law enforcement training program in order to increase the quality of in-court presentation of evidence	District Attorney

Department Goal	Countywide Goal
Goal II: Increase the support for Spanish speaking victims	II. Safe Communities

Initiative Description	Program(s)
Increase the number of prosecutions and reduce the number of dismissals in cases with Spanish speaking victims	District Attorney
Administer vertical prosecution at all major stages of court proceedings in 100 percent of cases	District Attorney
Ensure victim interviews have an assigned bilingual attorney, as necessary, in 100 percent of cases	District Attorney
Reduce the number of court appearances and shorten the length of time from case filing to case disposition in 25 percent of cases	District Attorney

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Department Goal	Countywide Goal
Goal III: Create and develop community partnerships to support the fight against human trafficking	II. Safe Communities

Initiative Description	Program(s)
Participate in training law enforcement concerning human trafficking issues	District Attorney
Participate in the formation of a working group to coordinate government and community response to human trafficking	District Attorney
Participate in at least one community forum on human trafficking issues	District Attorney
Participate in raising the awareness of the business community on human trafficking issues	District Attorney