



**TIM HARRIS**  
TULSA COUNTY  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY



*"Let us realize  
the arc of the  
moral universe  
is long but it  
bends toward  
justice."*

**Martin Luther  
King Jr.**

Trial Results	2
Cases Filed	3
Juvenile Trial Results	4
Prosecutor's Inspiration	5
Staying Safe Online	7
Message From DA Tim Harris	8

# In Pursuit of Justice

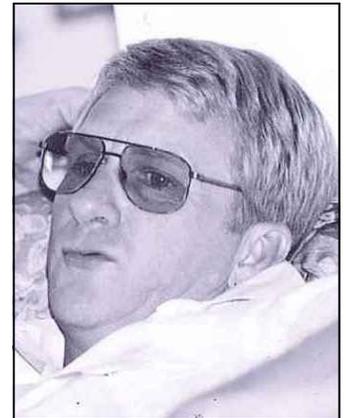
VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

WINTER 2009

## 78 Violent and Career Criminals Convicted in 2008 Jury Trials in Tulsa County

**T**he Tulsa County District Attorney's Office had great success working with law enforcement to take violent criminals off the streets of Tulsa County in 2008. Prosecutors convinced juries to send 78 criminals to prison for crimes including murder, rape, robbery, shooting with intent to kill, and sexual assault of a child.

With guilty pleas, a total of 2,060 offenders were sent to prison from Tulsa County in 2008.



**MARY BOWLES, 77** and **GERALD THURMAN, 44**, were shot to death in 1999. A November trial was the second one for defendant **Victor Miller** in the murders. The state Court of Criminal Appeals overturned a 2002 jury's conviction.

OFFENDERS SENT TO PRISON FROM TULSA COUNTY	
2008	2,060
2007	1,961
2006	1,843

The office filed 6,362 felony cases and 6,852 misdemeanors. In juvenile court, prosecutors filed 1,771 juvenile delinquent cases and 329 deprived (child neglect) petitions.

In 2008 jury trials, two murderers were sentenced to **DEATH**, 14 offenders received sentences of **LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE**, and 11 offenders were sentenced to **LIFE** in prison.

In November, a jury handed **VICTOR CORNELL MILLER** two **DEATH** sentences for the **FIRST-DEGREE MURDER** of a man and woman in 1999. Testimony indicated that **MILLER** and **GEORGE JOHN HANSON** carjacked and abducted **MARY AGNES BOWLES, 77**, a retired banker, from Tulsa Promenade Mall and drove her to a secluded area in north Tulsa County. **GERALD THURMAN, 44**, an Owasso trucking company owner, was in the area and apparently discovered the men and their captive. Both **BOWLES** and **THURMAN** were shot to death. **MILLER** and **HANSON** have each received two trials for the mur-

ders. A 2002 jury convicted **MILLER** of **FIRST-DEGREE MURDER** in the deaths but the state Court of Criminal Appeals overturned **MILLER'S** convictions and ordered a new trial. In 2001, another jury convicted co-defendant **HANSON** of both murders. The appeals court affirmed **HANSON'S** convictions, but overturned his **DEATH** sentence. At a 2006 resentencing trial, a different jury again gave **HANSON** a **DEATH** sentence for murdering **BOWLES**. Prosecutors in the November second trial for **MILLER** were District Attorney Tim Harris and Assistant District Attorney Bill Musseman.

See **TRIALS** Page 2

# 78 Violent and Career Criminals Convicted in '08 Trials in Tulsa County



**DANNY CARTER, 21, and son, Treighton, I, celebrate their February birthdays in 2006.**

**DANNY Z. L. CARTER, 21, was shot to death in April 2006 in a Tulsa home. DOUGLAS DEWY-ANE MILLER was convicted OF FIRST-DEGREE MURDER in the death and sentenced to LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE. MILLER also shot CODY POLESZAK, who survived, but was left blind in one eye and deaf in one ear. Jurors found MILLER guilty of SHOOTING WITH INTENT TO KILL POLESZAK and five other felonies for carjacking a 19-year-old man, pistol-whipping that motorist, and shooting at him. District Judge Tom Gillert ordered six consecutive 20-year terms on those convictions. Assistant DA Bill Musseman prosecuted the case.**

*Trials continued from Page 1*



**ALONZO TIBBS, 68, was beaten to death in his Tulsa home in June 2006.**

In a November trial, a jury convicted career criminal **BILLY GENE MARSHALL** of beating 68-year-old **ALONZO TIBBS** to death with a hammer in the victim's home in June 2006. The jury sentenced **MARSHALL** to **LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE** for **FIRST-DEGREE MURDER** and a **LIFE** sentence for **FIRST-DEGREE ROBBERY**. **TIBBS'** wallet was found in bloody jeans at a residence where **MARSHALL** had lived.

Prosecutors in the murder trial were Assistant DAs Jack Thorp and Lee Berlin.

**MARSHALL** was sentenced to **LIFE** in prison in 2007 when another jury convicted him of **ROBBERY WITH A DANGEROUS WEAPON** after Tulsa store clerk **LADONNA WASHINGTON** identified him as the man who hit her in the head with a hammer in May 2006. **MARSHALL** has five convictions for **ROBBERY** since 1975 and convictions for burglary, perjury and escape.

The most recent jury verdict insures Marshall will remain in prison.

**ARMANDO LUNA** was convicted of **FIRST-DEGREE MURDER** in the May 2007 shooting of **SEAN DUE, 19**, and sentenced to **LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE**. **DUE** was shot four times outside Magoo's Restaurant and Billiards in Tulsa. Testimony at the November trial was that **DUE**



**SEAN DUE, 19, was shot to death in May 2007 outside a south Tulsa restaurant and billiard hall.**

and **LUNA** were both in the restaurant. When **DUE'S** group prepared to leave, **LUNA** stepped into the path of the vehicle. Someone in **LUNA'S** group started a fight with a person in **DUE'S** group. When **DUE** got out of the vehicle, he was shot. Assistant DAs Courtney Smith and John Lackey prosecuted.

A November jury convicted **JIMMY GLENN HENDRIX** of **FIRST-DEGREE MURDER** in the shooting death of **JERROD YOUNG, 26**, in March 2008. **HENDRIX**, a repeat felon, was sentenced to **LIFE** in prison. Prosecutors said **YOUNG** was struck in the head with a gun and shot in the back at a Tulsa apartment. The jury also found **HENDRIX** guilty of **POSSESSING A FIREARM AFTER FORMER CONVICTION OF A FELONY** and sentenced him to **30 YEARS** on that

count. **HENDRIX** has previous convictions for **ROBBERY, ASSAULT AND BATTERY WITH A DANGEROUS WEAPON, BURGLARY AND CONCEALING STOLEN PROPERTY**. Prosecutors were Assistant DAs April Seibert and Jason Rush.

A jury convicted **MELVIN STANLEY** of **MANSLAUGHTER** for driving drunk and crashing into pedestrian **SANDRA LEE STEPHENS, 21**. **STANLEY** was sentenced to **30 YEARS** in prison. **STEPHENS** was in an earlier accident and was on foot and trying to flag down help when she was struck by a vehicle driven by **STANLEY**. He had previous felony convictions for **DRUG POSSESSION AND BOGUS CHECKS**. Assistant DA Jason Rush was the prosecutor.



**HEATHER GAROUTTE, 16, was shot to death in July 2007 at a west Tulsa apartment.**

In December, a jury convicted **PRESTON PLUM** of **FIRST-DEGREE MANSLAUGHTER** in the 2007 shooting death of **HEATHER GAROUTTE, 16** and sentenced him to **15 YEARS** in prison. Testimony showed **GAROUTTE** was visiting **PLUM** in his mother's apartment. **PLUM** was pointing a gun at the girl when it went off and a bullet struck her in the face. Assistant DA Scott Gengras prosecuted the case.

See Jury Trials Page 3

CASES FILED IN TULSA COUNTY 2008	
FELONY CRIMES	6,362
MISDEMEANOR CRIMES	6,852
JUVENILE DELINQUENT	1,771
DEPRIVED CHILD (NEGLECT)	329
CHILD IN NEED OF TREATMENT	133
CHILD IN NEED OF SUPERVISION	295
TRAFFIC	21,573

## 2008 Jury Trials

*Jury Trials* continued from Page 2

**DAVID HUGO JOHNSON** was sentenced to **10.5 YEARS** in prison by a November jury for breaking into two separate residences while occupants were in the homes. On January 20, 2008, Johnson attempted to break into an apartment occupied by **GRISELDA LOPEZ, 43** and entered another apartment four blocks away occupied by **PAULA FLACKES, 36** and her two teen-aged daughters. The jury sentenced Johnson to 7 years for **FIRST-DEGREE BURGLARY** and 3.5 years for **ATTEMPTED FIRST-**

**DEGREE BURGLARY.** District Judge Rebecca Nightingale ordered the sentences run consecutively. Assistant DA Kristin Fulton prosecuted the case.

**WILL GERMAINE WALKER**, a career criminal, was convicted of **FIRST-DEGREE ROBBERY** at a November jury trial and sentenced to **24 YEARS IN PRISON.** Walker robbed a convenience store at 31<sup>st</sup> Street and Sheridan Road in June 2008. The clerk, **HAMAD AHMAD**, complied with Walker's demand for money and cigarettes but was

still beaten by the defendant. Walker left the store after a struggle, but the clerk followed Walker outside and subdued him until police officers arrived. Walker had prior felony convictions for larceny of an automobile, possession of a stolen vehicle, and two convictions for Driving Under the Influence, Second Offense. Assistant DAs Tanya Wilson and Shannon Bickham prosecuted the case.

## First Assistant DA Drummond Named Professional Advocate of Year

Tulsa County First Assistant District Attorney Doug Drummond was named 2008 Professional Advocate of the Year in Prosecution by the Criminal Law section of the Oklahoma Bar Association.

Drummond and former Cleveland County Assistant District Attorney Michael Tupper received an equal number of votes for the prosecutor award and each were honored as Professional Advocates for 2008.

The award is given to an Oklahoma attorney who represents the government in criminal prosecutions (federal or state) in Oklahoma and is recognized as an ethical and professional prosecutor who exercises prosecutorial discretion in an equitable manner towards the community as a whole.

The recipient is an individual who exhibits superior advocacy skills before the court

either at trial or appellate level and consistently shows professionalism, courtesy and respect to opposing counsel in the spirit of the adversarial system.

"It is nice when you are recognized for the work that you do," Drummond said.

"It is especially important when that recognition comes from your peers."

Drummond joined the Tulsa County District Attorney's Office in 1997. He began as a felony prosecutor and became the First Assistant in 2002. He has prosecuted a wide variety of cases, including those involving the



DRUMMOND

death penalty.

"I am proud to be a prosecutor and I am very proud of all of the people who work in our office. Although we have a tremendous volume of cases, every person in our office works here because they want to make a difference in the community. We can do that by dispensing justice where it is needed."

Drummond, 49, graduated from the University of Tulsa law school in 1991 and worked as a law clerk in federal court prior to his job at the District Attorney's office. He also has a doctorate in education as well as two degrees in mass communication from Oklahoma State University.

He and his wife, Dana, live in Tulsa and have three children.

## Trials Terminate Rights for Parents of Abused Children

**E**ighteen jury trials were held in the Juvenile Division of the Tulsa County District Court last year, including 16 focusing on whether parental rights should be terminated. Parental rights were terminated in all but two of the deprived cases. Two other trials were conducted to determine whether a juvenile was delinquent.

Juvenile prosecutors are responsible for reviewing investigative reports from police and Department of Human Services personnel to determine whether intervention is necessary to protect a child or children.

In 2008, 1,771 petitions were filed alleging juveniles were delinquent and 329 petitions were filed alleging children were deprived as the result of parents' neglect.

A child may be taken out of custody of a parent or caretaker temporarily and placed in foster care or with an appropriate relative after a home study. If the actions warrant, a **criminal charge** may be filed.

A **show-cause hearing** is held before a judge where prosecutors present evidence to demonstrate a reasonable belief that a child is at risk of harm. If the child is ordered to remain in protective custody, parents are served with a **petition** alleging the child is abused or neglected.

If DHS or the DA's office determines the actions of the parents do not warrant protective custody, they may be **released** to the parents with services in the home.



**To Report Abuse:  
1-800-4-A-CHILD**

If parents are served with a **petition**, they return to court for **adjudication**. At that time, the parent or caretaker may stipulate to allegations or request a trial.

A **treatment plan** is devised to rectify conditions that led to the removal of the children. Parents or caretakers may be required to attend parenting classes, drug or other counseling. If conditions do not improve, the DA's office may file a motion to **terminate parental rights**.

By law, names and proceedings in juvenile court are not public record. Summaries of 2008 juvenile trials follow:

1. In January, a jury terminated parental rights of a natural mother of four children, ages 3, 5, 8 and 11. The mother failed to correct conditions of domestic violence, inadequate shelter and neglect after two years on a treatment plan. Prosecutors were Assistant District Attorneys Kyle Felty and Tiffany Arnold.
2. A jury found that the parental rights of a mother should NOT be terminated at another trial in January. Allegations were that the natural mother had physically and mentally abused the minor children, threatening to drop them off a bridge to their deaths. The mother had a history of psychological instability. Prosecutors were Assistant DAs Ruth Addison and John Brasher.
3. Also in January, a jury terminated parental rights of both the natural father and mother of children ages 4 and 16. The children suffered sexual abuse, failure to protect from sexual abuse and deplorable conditions in the home. The natural father was the perpetrator of the sexual abuse to one child, while both parents allowed the home to be nearly uninhabitable. Prosecutors were Assistant DAs Ruth Addison and John Brasher.

# Photos Remind Him Why He's a Prosecutor

By Ralph Schaefer

Tulsa Commerce & Legal News

Smiling faces fill a special file folder of photographs in Assistant District Attorney Stephen A. Kunzweiler's office. But they hide tragedy.

All those pictured are dead, either murdered or victim of a violent crime prosecuted by the Tulsa County District Attorney's office.

They provide inspiration to Kunzweiler, Chief of the Criminal Division, as he goes to court to prosecute violent crimes.

Kunzweiler, returned to his office following a preliminary hearing in a rape case, surveyed the stacks of files on his desk and carefully, respectfully picked up pictures of an 18-year-old girl. Her eyes were full of life and a beautiful smile graced her face. Her photos were going into his special file that serves as his reminder of the victims he represents.

Two pictures on the bottom of that stack, face down as if they were to be hidden forever, showed the girl as she lay in her coffin.

They were given to him by the girl's grief-stricken father who personally took the photos to be used in the prosecution, telling the prosecutor he "never wanted to see the photos again."

Kunzweiler picked up his photo folder and tenderly took the photos out, one by one.

The first photo in the collection, depicts an 18-year-old in a baseball uniform with a bat on his shoulder. He died just before Christmas 2002 from a drug overdose after a relative gave him pills.

Another picture shows a man with his wife and five children. He was murdered.

There are pictures of a 10-year-old girl in her cheerleading uniform, who was murdered with her mother and stepfather.

Kunzweiler became emotional as he looked at more photos in the folder, one of a young woman who had been murdered, her body stuffed in a corner. She was found by her mother, who hadn't heard from her daughter for several days. There was a father with his wife and five children — he was killed by a drunk driver.



Assistant District Attorney Steve Kunzweiler looks at photos of crime victims.

Photo by Ralph Schaefer, Tulsa Daily Commerce & Legal News

In every photo, Kunzweiler sees people at happy times with family or friends, before they were killed by violent crime.

He started the collection because "one day I got tired of looking at pictures of violent deaths," he said. "As I talked with the family of the baseball player, it struck me that a picture would help me better understand who he was and the family's loss."

As a young prosecutor, Kunzweiler learned to be sensitive to victims' pain the hard way. During one of his first murder prosecutions in Nowata County, Kunzweiler was speaking with the father of a victim who was obviously hurting terribly from the loss of his son.

"I casually remarked to the father that time would heal his loss," Kunzweiler said.

He has never forgotten the next scene.

Kunzweiler thought the father might come across the table and clobber him. Instead, he angrily pointed at the prosecutor and replied, "Listen, time will never heal the loss of my son. I will never have him back and you have no right to say that to me."

"I realized at that moment that my job was more than standing in front of a judge and spouting the law without thinking about the victims. That is when I realized that I was their voice and I had to get to know them and what was going on in their lives."

"When I look at these photos, it forces me to remember what people went through," he said. "I don't want to walk into court, make a recommendation and walk out, giving the impression that I don't care."

The smiling 18-year-old girl in one photo is the same age as his oldest daughter. She left a party where she didn't feel comfortable, as he hopes his own daughter would do.

She was almost home when she was killed, struck by an out-of-control vehicle driven by someone who had been at the party she left.

Kunzweiler said that some days, when his job gets really difficult and he is feeling low, he pulls out that special file with those pictures and looks at the smiling faces.

The file is labeled: **THIS IS WHY I DO IT!**

(Excerpts reprinted with permission)

# Protecting Children from Abuse and Neglect

**Children** continued from Page 4

4. In March, parental rights of the mother of a 9-year-old were terminated by a jury after three years on a treatment plan failed to correct conditions of substance abuse and mental health issues. Prosecutors were Assistant DAs Kyle Felty and Tiffany Arnold.
5. Parental rights were terminated for the mother of a 3-year-old at a trial in March. The child had been in protective custody since shortly after birth due to the mother's drug abuse. Prosecutor was Assistant DA Tara Britt.
6. Parental rights of the mother and father of a 2-year-old were terminated at an April jury trial. The jury found the parents failed to correct conditions of failure to maintain a safe and stable home, neglect and inadequate physical care of the child. Prosecutors were Assistant DAs Kyle Felty and Tiffany Arnold.
7. One April trial involved an 8-year-old child who had been in DHS custody for more than three years. The child's natural father is incarcerated in federal prison with an expected release date of 2014. A jury terminated the father's parental rights at a trial in April, but the Court of Appeals overturned the termination. The natural mother's parental rights were previously terminated. Prosecutor was Assistant DA Tanya Wilson.
8. In May, a jury terminated the rights of the natural mother of two children, ages 2 and 5. The jury found the mother had failed to correct conditions including failure to maintain a safe and stable home, neglect, failure to protect from physical abuse and potential sexual abuse. Prosecutor was Assistant DA Kyle Felty.
9. Also in May, a jury terminated the parental rights of the natural parents to children ages 10 and 1. The parents had a history of chronic and severe drug abuse. The parents had another child who was born during the pendency of the case who was also born drug-addicted. The parents also were terminated from family drug court. Assistant DA Tanya Wilson prosecuted.



10. In June, a jury terminated a natural mother's parental rights to children ages 18 months and 6 months, determining that the mother's mental illness placed them in physical danger. The children were found in an apartment in deplorable conditions and the mother was incoherent. Testimony indicated that the then 3-month-old child was so dehydrated she was hours from death. Prosecutors were Assistant DAs Tara Britt and Ruth Addison.
11. Two months after the previous trial, the mother gave birth to another child and prosecutors petitioned to terminate rights to the newborn. Another trial was held in December and the jury found the then 3 month-old child deprived, but did NOT grant an immediate termination of rights. Prosecutors in the second trial were Assistant DAs Candice Freeman and Ruth Addison.
12. An August trial involved a 6-year-old child who had been in DHS custody since 2005. The child had severe special needs. The jury terminated the parental rights of the natural mother. However, the jury did not terminate the rights of the natural father although evidence was presented that he was currently incarcerated and would not be released for another year. The natural mother's appeal is pending. Assistant DA Tanya Wilson prosecuted the case.

- 4.
13. The natural mother of four children, ages 3, 5, 9 and 13 lost her parental rights at a September trial. The children were in DHS custody for over three years. The mother was unable to overcome a severe substance abuse problem and had a history of failing to protect her children from domestic violence. Prosecutors were Assistant DAs Kyle Felty and Whitney Mauldin.
14. A jury terminated a mother's rights to children ages 3 and 1 at a trial in September. One child was removed from the home after she was brought to a hospital emergency room with burns to her hand indicative of immersion in scalding water. The mother was given a treatment plan, but failed to complete it. She gave birth to another baby. The baby was removed from the home. Prosecutors were Assistant DAs Tara Britt and Breanna Vollmers.
15. In October, a jury refused to terminate parental rights of the natural mother and father of a 2-year-old. The child was presented to doctors with multiple bone fractures and gave no explanation of how the injuries occurred or who may have inflicted them. Prosecutors were Assistant DAs Kyle Felty and Ruth Addison.
16. Parental rights of a mother and father to children ages 2 and 6 were terminated after an October trial where the jury found the parents failed to correct conditions of neglect, medical neglect, threat of harm and failure to provide a safe and stable home environment. The 6-year-old had been in state custody for 15 of the last 22 months. Prosecutors were Assistant DAs Candice Freeman and Breanna Vollmers.
17. A jury found a 17-year-old NOT delinquent at a trial in June. He was accused of Assault and Battery on an employee of the Office of Juvenile Affairs. Prosecutor was Assistant DA Ruth Addison.
18. In December a jury found a 17-year-old delinquent of Assault and Battery on a School Employee. Prosecutor was Assistant DA Breanna Vollmers.

# Keep Your Family Safe Online

**K**ids today are growing up online. Studies show that almost every school child has been online, and three-quarters of young people have Internet access from their homes, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation.

Not only do more children have access to the Internet than ever before, but they are using it more, too. Many schools incorporate the Internet into their curricula and encourage online research for projects.

But that's not all kids are doing online. They also email, chat with friends through instant messenger and in chat rooms, play games, create websites and blogs, and surf the 'net.

We teach children to look both ways before they cross the street; and not to get in a car with a stranger. Long before children go online, parents need to instill in them the essential guidelines that will keep them safe on the Internet.

Look at these alarming statistics: 56% of teens online receive frequent requests for personal information, 42% of teens say they have posted personal information online, 54% frequently have private conversations with strangers through instant messaging, 30% reported that they have talked with a cyber-stranger about meeting in person, and 27% said they have talked with an online stranger about sex. (Polly Klaas Foundation, 2006)



## 3 RISKS

The three main risks associated with all connected technology are:

1. **Inappropriate Contact** – Teach kids to recognize and protect against contact with cyber-bullies, hackers, phishers, and predators. People aren't always who they say they are. Teach kids to keep away from Internet strangers: the Internet is a place to enhance existing relationships, not a place to meet new people.
2. **Inappropriate Content**- This includes both content that is viewed and content that is uploaded by kids. Help kids understand that the Internet is forever: everything they post online is tracked and stored and will follow them to future job interviews and college entrance interviews.
3. **Inappropriate Conduct** – Because the web environment can feel anonymous, some youth become dis-inhibited. Teach kids that the Internet is a public forum: anonymity is a myth. Help them be the good person online that they are when they're off line.

## 3 RULES

1. **Keep Current with technology.** You don't have to be an expert, but a little understanding goes a long way towards keeping your child safe online. Get basic technical training and learn about new products as they're released.
2. **Keep Communicating with children** about everything they experience on the Internet. Know their lingo, and ask when you don't understand something. Work to keep communication lines open.
3. **Keep Checking your child's Internet activity.** Know where they go online. Let them know that you'll keep checking because you want them to understand that the Internet is a public forum and never truly private.

For more information on Internet Safety, visit [iKeepSafe.org](http://iKeepSafe.org).

*Courtesy National Crime Prevention Council*

# What Parents Can Do

**A** few simple principles will go a long way towards protecting your child. Predators are a grave threat; they see the entrapment of a child as a hunt and a game, but these predators can not find your child unless personal information is divulged.

- Talk with children about the benefits and risks of the Internet. Ask them what they do online, what websites they visit, who they chat with, and what games they play.
- When possible, go online with your children. Have them show you their favorite websites, online games, and chat rooms.
- Keep computers in a busy area of house.
- Agree on rules of what they can and cannot do online, when they can go on the Internet, and how long they can stay.

- If your children tell you that they saw something inappropriate online, don't blame or punish them. Remember that how you react will affect what your children share with you in the future.
- Ask who your children talk to online and how they communicate (i.e. email, instant messenger, chat rooms, blogs,). Tell them that you expect them to be as nice online as they are offline. Make sure they know the dangers of meeting new friends online.
- Decide if you want to allow your children to purchase items or sign up for online services (e.g., membership to a gaming website) on their own or if they should ask your permission first.
- Consider using a filter, blocking, or ratings system for your computer.



**TIM HARRIS**  
Tulsa County  
500 S. Denver Ave.  
Tulsa, OK 74103

To Receive Email Alerts  
From the DA's Office  
Send Your Email Address  
Name & Street Address  
City & Phone Number to  
[DistrictAttorney@tulsacounty.org](mailto:DistrictAttorney@tulsacounty.org)

**Tulsa County District Attorney**

# In Pursuit of Justice

**P**rosecution of violent crime is and will remain the #1 priority of the District Attorney's Office in 2009.

I'm proud of the professional job my prosecutors did in convincing juries in 2008 that 78 criminals were guilty of crimes, many so heinous that juries found offenders should not return to our community for many, many years – if ever again.

But I am not proud of what the facts of those cases, and the many others we see on a daily basis say about how people too often abuse and harm each other in our community and our modern world.

We filed 6,362 felony cases and sent a total of 2,060 offenders to prison from Tulsa County in 2008.

Unfortunately, there are way too many people in our community who do evil things.

Fortunately, they are often caught by police. And then the DA's office deals with them.

When certain institutions – such as families, schools or mental health systems – are unable to meet the needs of some in our communities, the criminal justice system often inherits those failures.

Society has grown to rely on the criminal justice system to solve many of our problems. Yet the resources we allocate to such an important task are woefully inadequate. There are consequences to our public safety.

Prosecutors are not social workers, psychologists, preachers or personal friends to the multitude of people who rely on us to “fix” the problems of their lives and sometimes the lives of their families, neighborhood or community.

We must realize that we all have a stake in our criminal justice system.



**Tim Harris**

Prosecutors are good at the rules of evidence; the procedures of courtrooms, the legal precedence of decades of judicial opinion. Trying to fix human beings who are evil or don't believe anything in their lives is broken is a huge challenge.

We find ourselves trying to explain justice and its limitations to people who have suffered losses from extremely traumatic to tediously trivial. We have to try and describe the American dream of justice and equality in a legal language that is inadequate to express true emotion and passion.

We try to find solutions to ignorance, mental illness, anger, greed or general frustration that leads to violence or outrage.

Most of us believe that there must be a better way to resolve many of society's problems. But until we find it, we must give police and prosecutors the resources needed to keep us safe from the truly evil in this world.