



TIM HARRIS
TULSA COUNTY
DISTRICT
ATTORNEY



The Roots of Violence:
 Wealth without work,
 Pleasure without
 conscience,
 Knowledge without
 character,
 Commerce without
 morality,
 Science without humanity,
 Worship without sacrifice,
 Politics without principles.
 - Mohandas K. Gandhi



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In Pursuit of Justice

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DA Brings Justice for 11 Homicide Victims In 2014

FEBRUARY:

DARREN PRICE was convicted by a jury of **FIRST-DEGREE MURDER** in the September 2011 execution-style shooting of a **CARISSA HORTON, 18**, and **ETHAN NICHOLS, 21**. The couple was walking in a Tulsa park when they were ambushed, robbed and shot to death. Price was sentenced to two **LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE** terms plus **45 YEARS**. When the slain man's family learned he did not show up for work, they began trying to call him but could not get an answer. Yet someone – who they first believed was Ethan, answered them in text messages. Detectives asked Ethan's sister to text her brother's phone and ask if he wanted her to cash his paycheck for him and meet him with the money. Within minutes, she received the text message "Yea" and police then watched two men enter her slain brother's car and drive away. Price, who was driving the car, crashed it and ran. When police caught up with him he had the slain man's phone in his back pocket. Co-defendant **JERARD DAVIS** pled guilty in October to the murders and was sentenced to **LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE**. District Attorney Tim Harris and Assistant DA Julie Doss prosecuted.



Carissa Horton and Ethan Nichols were shot to death in 2011.

JOEL ROSALES PINA pleaded guilty in February to charges of **SOLICITATION TO COMMIT FIRST-DEGREE MURDER** and **ACCESSORY AFTER THE FACT** in the August 2011 shooting deaths of **PATRICK SHAWN, 27**, and **KAYLYN KOSOFOSKY, 24**. He was sentenced to **LIFE IN PRISON** plus **8 YEARS**. Shawn and Kosofsky were shot to death in a parking lot near 71st Street and Riverside Drive. **ZANE ATCHISON** was convicted by a jury in August of **FIRST-DEGREE MURDER** in the deaths and sentenced to **LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE**. Testimony indicated Pina paid Atchison to kill Shawn over unpaid drug debts. Kosofsky was in the car with Shawn when Atchison ran into him at a QuikTrip. Assistant DAs Doug Drummond and Steve Kunzweiler prosecuted.



Patrick Shawn and Kaylyn Kosofsky were shot to death in 2011.



Byron Ivory Jr was shot to death in 2012.

DEANDRE BETHEL was convicted by a jury of **FELONY MURDER** in the February 2012 shooting death of **BYRON IVORY JR, 24**. Bethel was sentenced to **LIFE IN PRISON**. Ivory, who had just been promoted at his job in Claremore, was celebrating with friends in a nightclub near 18th Street and Boston Avenue in Tulsa. As they left the club, Ivory and his companions were confronted in the parking lot by Bethel and another man, who demanded their money and phones. During the confrontation, Ivory was shot multiple times and died a few hours later. Co-defendant Deandre Williams is awaiting trial. Assistant DAs John Salmon and Kali Strain prosecuted.

MARCH:

WILLIE WISE was convicted by a jury of **FIRST-DEGREE MURDER** in the July 2012 shooting deaths of **GRAYDON WESLEY BROWN, 58**, and **SCOTT NORMAN, 35** at Best Buy on Skelly Drive near Yale Avenue in Tulsa. He was sentenced to two **LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE** terms. Testimony indicated Wise had followed Norman to the store and shot him in retaliation for a 2008 gang shooting. Brown was shopping at the electronics store with his 10-year-old daughter and was struck and killed by a stray bullet. District Attorney Tim Harris and Assistant DA Michelle Keely prosecuted.



Scott Norman and Wes Brown were shot to death in 2012.

Meet the Prosecutor: Steve Kunzweiler

Assistant District Attorney Steve Kunzweiler serves as Chief of the Criminal Division for the Tulsa County DA's Office. A veteran career prosecutor with 24 years of experience, Steve has prosecuted and sent hundreds of dangerous criminals to prison for murder, armed robbery, child abuse, rape and other violent crimes.

Kunzweiler recently filed as a Republican candidate for DA, in an effort to succeed his long-time boss, DA Tim Harris, who announced he will not seek re-election. State Senator Brian Crain and State Rep. Fred Jordan, are also seeking election to the office.

"I have been honored to serve the people of Oklahoma as an Assistant DA for 24 years and have worked every day to the best of my ability to protect the citizens of Oklahoma and seek justice. For many years, Tulsa County citizens have been blessed to be represented by District Attorneys who were career prosecutors of unquestioned integrity, dedication and experience – individuals like Buddy Fallis, David Moss and Tim Harris. I want to serve in the tradition of those men, who made decisions for the right reasons, based on the law and the facts and evidence before them," Kunzweiler said.

With such a long career, Kunzweiler admits it's sometimes hard to recall all the criminals he's prosecuted. But one thing Kunzweiler tries to never forget is the victims for whom he sought justice.

He has an old, ragged file in a desk drawer, labeled "This is Why I Do It!" The folder is bursting with pictures of people he's fought for in court – a 10-year-old girl in her cheerleader uniform. An 18-year-old in a baseball uniform with a bat on his shoulder. A proud tuxedo-clad papa walking his daughter down the aisle in a wedding gown.



**Assistant DA Steve Kunzweiler
Chief of Criminal Division**

The photos depict happy, smiling people enjoying life, often on some of the most important days of their lives – graduation, weddings, family celebrations. The photos are reminders to Kunzweiler that the victims had dreams and goals and active lives that were stolen from them and from their families.

"Too many times, the criminal justice system is all about the defendant. We don't hear much about the victim. I am the victim's voice in court, and I want to know as much as I can about who they were and what was happening in their life," Kunzweiler said.

"As prosecutor I'm also the voice of the people in our community who want to live and be safe in their homes, their schools, their churches, and their places of work," he said.

In addition to prosecuting many of the major crimes in Tulsa County, Kunzweiler serves as mentor and supervisor to felony assistant district attorneys and helps oversee prosecution of 12,000 felony and misdemeanor cases each year.

Kunzweiler also works outside the office with law enforcement, legislators and many others across the community to improve our criminal justice system, and protect the citizens of Tulsa County.

He serves on the Governor's Impaired Driving Prevention Advisory Council, The Attorney General's Task Force on Human Trafficking, and is a board member of the Victim's Impact Panel of Oklahoma, a non-profit dedicated to reducing drunk driving. He also conducts trainings for police and fire departments across Tulsa County, speaks to social workers and other agencies about child abuse reporting and speaks at schools and churches on issues such as drunk driving, substance abuse and elder abuse.

Kunzweiler has worked with several state legislators to improve our Oklahoma criminal laws on child abuse and drunk driving. He is also the first prosecutor in the State of Oklahoma to use a therapy dog to assist and ease the stress of child abuse victims while they testify in court.

Kunzweiler is married to Tulsa Veterinarian Dr. Christine Kunzweiler. They have three daughters and are active members of Christ the King Catholic Church in Tulsa.



Homicide Convictions in 2014

JUSTICE Continued from Page 1

MICA SHOATE and JAZMIN WILLIAMS were convicted by a jury of **CHILD ABUSE MURDER** in the March 2012 beating death of **19-MONTH-OLD ZAMONTAY GREEN**. Both Shoate and Williams were sentenced to **LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE**. The jury also convicted the women of **CHILD NEGLECT** and sentenced both to a **LIFE** prison term on that count. The child was discovered dead in the back seat of a car driven by Shoate when a Tulsa police officer made a traffic stop near 66th Place and Lewis Avenue. Williams was a passenger in the car. The child had been in the women’s care for months since his biological mother moved out of state. Testimony indicated the boy died of blunt trauma to the head. His body was covered with bruises from injuries in different stages of healing. Assistant DAs Sarah McAmis and Amanda Self prosecuted.

MARQUITA LITTLEBEAR was convicted by a jury of **SECOND-DEGREE MURDER, DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE** and **LEAVING THE SCENE OF A FATALITY ACCIDENT** in the February 2012 death of **SUSAN MAMARY, 60**. Littlebear was sentenced to a total of **61 YEARS IN PRISON**. Littlebear had a previous conviction for a DUI that resulted in a collision and was driving without a license. Mamary was struck and killed near 51st Street and Hudson Avenue in Tulsa. After the crash, Littlebear fled the scene, leaving several injured children who were passengers in her car at the scene. Assistant DAs Steve Kunzweiler and Nick Codding prosecuted.

CHARLES DEQUAN BIRMINGHAM pleaded **NO CONTEST** to **SECOND-DEGREE MURDER** in the June 2012 shooting death of **MARK HUTCHINSON, 45**. Birmingham was sentenced to **20 YEARS IN PRISON**. He also pleaded **NO CONTEST** to **POSSESSING A FIREARM AFTER A FORMER JUVENILE ADJUDICATION** and was sentenced to **10 YEARS** on that count, to run concurrent with the 20-Year sentence. Hutchinson was shot at an apartment complex in north Tulsa. Birmingham told police he was at the apartment and saw Hutchinson get shot. Witnesses identified Birmingham as the shooter. Assistant DAs Michelle Keely and Erik Grayless prosecuted and negotiated the plea agreement.

CHRISTOPHER FORBIT was convicted by a jury of **FIRST-DEGREE MAN-SLAUGHTER** in the July 2010 beating death of **KENNETH ALLEN BARRETT, 46**. The jury sentenced Forbit to **15 YEARS IN PRISON**. Testimony indicated the two men had been drinking near Archer Park in Tulsa, and then went to Forbit’s home. Witnesses said Forbit tried to get Barrett to leave his home, and a fight ensued. Barrett’s body was found in the backyard of Forbit’s house. The medical examiner said Barrett died of blunt force trauma to the chest and abdomen. Assistant DA Erik Grayless prosecuted.

2013 Case Statistics

Felony Cases Filed	6,410
Misdemeanor Cases Filed	6,101
Youthful Offender Cases Filed	47
Homicide Cases Filed	56
Domestic Violence Cases Filed	600
Robbery	255
Crimes Against Children Cases Filed	185
Total Participating in Alternative Court Programs	904
Drug/DUI Court Participants	650
Mental Health Court Participants	92
Veterans Treatment Court Participants	89
Women in Recovery Participants	73
Defendants Sent to Prison from Tulsa County	1,817
Females Sent to Prison from Tulsa County	286
Juvenile Delinquent Cases	1,165
Juvenile Deprived Cases	544
Juvenile In Need of Treatment Cases	164

NOTE: Cases filed may include multiple defendants and/or multiple victims



**Child Abuse Hotline
800-522-3511**

Major Case Convictions

OCTOBER:

A jury found **JAMIE TURNER** guilty of **FELONY FIRST-DEGREE MURDER** in the June 2011 death of **CORVELLE GRAYSON, 16**, and sentenced him to **LIFE IN PRISON** plus **8 YEARS** for **ASSAULT AND BATTERY WITH A DEADLY WEAPON**. **MARQUIES PETTY** ended his trial during jury selection and pleaded guilty to **SECOND-DEGREE FELONY MURDER** in Grayson's death and was sentenced to **35 YEARS IN PRISON**. Turner, Petty and **MONTREAL ARMSTEAD** are accused of acting in concert when they chased and shot at a car in which Grayson was a passenger. Grayson died as a result of the car hitting a tree. Turner also pleaded guilty to three counts of **ROBBERY WITH FIREARMS** for robberies that occurred in June 2011, days before Grayson was killed. Judge Kurt Glassco sentenced him to **15 YEARS** for the robberies. Assistant DAs Ben Fu and Travis Horton prosecuted. Armstead trial is pending on the murder.

A jury convicted **RONDALE BOYD** and **TERELL COOPER** of **FIRST-DEGREE BURGLARY** and **SHOOTING WITH INTENT TO KILL** in a July 2012 home invasion. Police said four men kicked in a door and a man inside the home was shot in the chest. Both Boyd and Cooper were sentenced to a total of **25 YEARS IN PRISON**. **JOEIUNE NELSON** pleaded guilty to **BURGLARY** and **ASSAULT AND BATTERY WITH A DANGEROUS WEAPON** and was sentenced to **13 YEARS IN PRISON**. In November, **MARKEDRICK WILSON** pleaded guilty to **LARCENY AT NIGHT** and **BURGLARY** and was sentenced to **12 YEARS, 3 MONTHS IN PRISON**. Assistant DAs Erik Grayless and Sean Hill prosecuted.

CODY ALLEN ZIMMER pleaded No Contest to **FIRST-DEGREE MANSLAUGHTER** in the August 2010 death of **CHARLES KYTTA III, 32**. Kytta died when Zimmer's vehicle crossed the center median on Oklahoma 11 near Pine Street and crashed into a car driven by Kytta. A blood analysis showed Zimmer had several prescription drugs in his system. Zimmer entered what is called a "blind plea" without negotiating a sentence with prosecutors. District Judge William Kellough sentenced him to **10 YEARS IN PRISON, 5 YEARS PROBATION**. Assistant DA Erik Grayless prosecuted.

STEVEN LYMEN was convicted by a jury of **ATTEMPTED ROBBERY WITH FIREARM** for a January 2011 attempted home invasion near 24th Street and Lewis Avenue. He was sentenced to **45 YEARS IN PRISON**. Assistant DA Philip Peak prosecuted.

A jury convicted **DARNELL CROSBY** of **FELONIOUSLY POINTING A FIREARM** and **ASSAULT WITH A DANGEROUS WEAPON** and sentenced him to **3 YEARS IN PRISON**. The jury acquitted him of two counts of Assault and Battery with a Dangerous Weapon. Crosby was accused of stabbing his neighbor in the arm in a confrontation outside the home in September 2013. He then barricaded himself in the home in a 5-hour standoff with police. Assistant DA Stuart Ericson prosecuted.

A jury convicted **NORMAN WILLIAMS** of **ATTEMPTED RAPE** in a November 2012 assault on a woman working in a Subway restaurant and sentenced him to **5 YEARS IN PRISON**. Evidence indicated he entered the restaurant when there were no other customers, grabbed her and told her he wanted to have sex with her. He left the store when the woman told him there were video cameras. Assistant DA Travis Horton prosecuted.

NOVEMBER:

A jury convicted **EDWIN JERMAINE DANIELS** of 15 counts in a string of home invasion robberies and other violent crimes in 2012 and sentenced him to a total of **307 YEARS IN PRISON**. He was convicted of **ROBBERY WITH A FIREARM, FIRST-DEGREE BURGLARY, KIDNAPPING AND ASSAULT WHILE WEARING A MASK**. The jury convicted co-defendant **MICHAEL DARNELL HILLIARD** of nine counts and sentenced Hilliard to **310 YEARS IN PRISON**. Assistant DAs Ben Fu and Kali Strain prosecuted. Daniels is also charged in the May 2012 shooting death of **KAYLA FERRANTE, 17**. Ferrante was in a car near her home following high school graduation when she was shot. Police believe Daniels mistook the car she was riding in for one of rival gang members. Trial is pending.

CALVIN BAKEL was convicted by a jury of **MAIMING** of **MARK JENNINGS, 58** in March 2013. Bakel was accused of striking Jennings with the iron rod of a tiki torch, severing his scalp and cutting off his ear. The jury sentenced him to **20 YEARS IN PRISON**. Bakel had a prior conviction for Delivery of Controlled Drug. Assistant DAs Eric Loggin and Stuart Ericson prosecuted.

JESSIE AND DELORES ROACH each entered blind pleas of **GUILTY** for **CHILD NEGLECT** of a **6-YEAR-OLD BOY** who was starved and emaciated and weighed only 35 pounds. The couple withheld food from the child as punishment and locked him in a room with the windows boarded up. Jessie Roach also pleaded guilty to **CHILD ABUSE BY INJURY** for beating the child. The child was covered in bruises and scars. His clavicle bone was broken and neither defendant obtained medical care for the boy. District Judge James Caputo sentenced **JESSIE ROACH** to **TWO TERMS** of **LIFE IN PRISON** for **CHILD ABUSE BY INJURY** and **DELORES ROACH** was sentenced to a total of **40 YEARS IN PRISON** for **CHILD NEGLECT**. "As a result of the abuse and neglect, the victim lost hair that will never re-grow and the damage to his forehead was so severe that he will be massively scarred for the rest of his life," said Assistant DA Sarah McAmis, who prosecuted the case.

A jury convicted **KENTRELL WILLIAMS** of **ROBBERY WITH FIREARM** in the June 2012 hold-up of **YONIS MUHAMMAD** in the parking lot of an apartment near 61st Street and Peoria. Muhammad's backpack and laptop computer were stolen at gunpoint. The jury sentenced Williams to **12 YEARS IN PRISON**. Co-defendant **BRELAND WILLIAMS** pleaded guilty to **SECOND-DEGREE ROBBERY** in November and was sentenced to **3.5 YEARS IN PRISON, 6.5 YEARS PROBATION**. Assistant DA Kevin Gray prosecuted.

DECEMBER:

MARK ANTHONY HOPKINS pleaded guilty to **FIRST-DEGREE MURDER** in the February 2013 shooting death of Spartan College of Aeronautics student **CHAZ FAIN, 18**. Three other Spartan students were wounded, but survived. Hopkins pleaded guilty to 3 counts of **SHOOTING WITH INTENT TO KILL** in the attack on those students. Hopkins said he had engaged in heavy drinking and drug use before the shootings. Hopkins was also a student at Spartan. The shooting occurred in the Spartan Landing apartment complex south of the school. Hopkins entered a "blind plea" without an agreement for punishment and



Chaz Fain was shot to death in 2013.

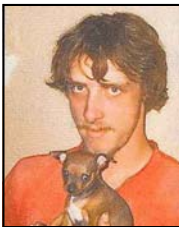
Major Case Convictions

More Cases continued from Page 4

District Judge James Caputo sentenced him to **LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE** for murder, and **3 LIFE** prison terms for the shooting counts. Assistant DA Kali Strain prosecuted.

A jury convicted **EARNEST PADILLOW** of five counts of **RAPE OF A CHILD UNDER 14** and sentenced him to **LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE** plus **60 YEARS IN PRISON**. He was convicted of raping **TWO GIRLS**. One child was **11 YEARS OLD** and one child was **7 TO 9 YEARS OLD** when she was raped repeatedly. Assistant DAs Julie Doss and Ben Fu prosecuted.

ERIC SPEARS was convicted by a jury of **FIRST-DEGREE MURDER** in the October 2012 stabbing death of **DEVIN MAGGS, 24**. He was sentenced to **LIFE IN PRISON**. Testimony indicated both men were dating the same woman. Maggs was at the woman's home when he heard someone outside kicking the windows of his vehicle. He went outside to investigate and Spears stabbed him in the torso. Assistant DAs Steve Kunzweiler and Jenny Proehl-Day prosecuted.



Devin Maggs was shot to death in 2012

A jury convicted **CHRISTOPHER CHARLTON** of **ASSAULT AND BATTERY WITH A DEADLY WEAPON** and **FELONIOUSLY POINTING A FIREARM** for shooting **PATRICK KANALEY, 35** in the leg in June 2012. After finding Charlton guilty of the assault, jurors heard evidence that Charlton had **FIVE PRIOR CONVICTIONS** for Assault with a Dangerous Weapon and Possessing Drugs with Intent to Distribute. He was sentenced to **LIFE PLUS 20 YEARS IN PRISON**. Assistant DA Kevin Gray prosecuted.

JANUARY: **KENNETH MITCHELL** was convicted by a jury of three **ARMED ROBBERIES** of check cashing businesses in Tulsa and Broken Arrow in August and September 2011. After he was convicted the jury heard evidence that Mitchell had two prior convictions for Robbery with Firearms and Kidnapping. He was sentenced to a total of **112 YEARS IN PRISON**. Assistant DA Phillip Peak prosecuted.

JONATHAN VELASCO pled guilty to **SECOND-DEGREE MURDER** in the April 2012 shooting death of **JOSE ELIZALDE, 20**. Velasco was sentenced to **40 YEARS IN PRISON**. Evidence indicated two rival gangs were at the Tulsa Inn and Suites near 27th Street and Memorial Drive and got into an altercation. Velasco drove around the hotel as the fight was starting and shot Elizalde in the head. Assistant DAs John Salmon and Sean Hill prosecuted.

STEVEN RAY BOWES halted jury selection for his trial and entered a "blind plea" without a recommended sentence in the June 2013 attack on a woman jogging in a Sand Springs park. Tulsa District Judge Tom Gillert sentenced Bowes to a total of **48 YEARS** in prison for **KIDNAPPING, ASSAULT WITH A DANGEROUS WEAPON** and **ATTEMPTED FORCIBLE SODOMY**. Bowes threatened the woman with a gun and knife and forced her to a wooded area. The woman managed to get the knife, stab him in the thigh and escape. Assistant DA Kevin Gray prosecuted.

FEBRUARY: **CECIL MATHENA** was convicted by a jury of **ROBBERY, AGGRAVATED ASSAULT AND BATTERY, and FIRST-DEGREE BURGLARY** in the December 2011 beating of a disabled man in his Sand Springs home. Mathena and **JOSEPH DEWAYNE CONNER** were neighbors of **LINDY BURGESS** and asked to use his stove because their gas was turned off. The victim's landlord found him the next day when he came to drive him to a doctor's appointment. His jaw was broken, he had bleeding on the brain and a swollen and cut eye and face. The jury sentenced Mathena to a total of **32 YEARS IN PRISON**. Assistant DA Kevin Gray prosecuted. Conner pleaded guilty in June 2012 and was sentenced to **15 YEARS** in Prison, **5 YEARS** suspended.

WILLIS MCPHERSON JR was convicted by a jury of two sexual assaults on two women in February 2012. One woman was dragged from a jogging path at LaFortune Park and sexually assaulted. Four days later, another woman was sexually assaulted after a man broke into her apartment just north of LaFortune Park. Testimony indicated the defendant's DNA was found on one of the victims. The jury convicted McPherson of a total of nine counts including **RAPE, SODOMY, SEXUAL BATTERY** and

FIRST-DEGREE BURGLARY. He was sentenced to two terms of **LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE**, six terms of **LIFE IN PRISON** and **20 YEARS IN PRISON**. Assistant DAs Erik Grayless and Michelle Keely prosecuted.

MARCH: **MARTY PERRY BROOKS** pleaded **NO CONTEST** to five counts of **SEXUALLY ABUSING A GIRL** from the age of **8 YEARS** to **11 YEARS**. Brooks had threatened the child that he would hurt her, her mother and siblings if she told anyone or resisted the assaults.

Brooks was convicted of **ARSON** in 1987 in Okmulgee County. Over the next 27 years, he was convicted of eight felony offenses including **FIRST-DEGREE RAPE, ATTEMPTED FORCIBLE SODOMY, ASSAULT AND BATTERY WITH A DANGEROUS WEAPON, and FIRST DEGREE BURGLARY**. He was in and out of prison. Investigation showed that when he was not in prison, he began sexually abusing a **14-YEAR-OLD** relative. When he was released from prison the last time, he forced himself back into his (now adult) relative's home. He began sexually assaulting her and her **8-YEAR-OLD** daughter. District Judge Kurt Glassco sentenced him to a total of **175 YEARS IN PRISON**. Assistant DA Sarah McAmis prosecuted.

DUSTIN STEWARD was convicted by a jury of **ASSAULT & BATTERY ON A POLICE OFFICER**. Steward broke into an abandoned grocery store, started a fire and could not get out. Firefighters broke in and pulled him out. As he was being questioned by fire investigators, he tried to run, was tackled and then struck Tulsa Fire Captain John Boysel in the face. After the jury found him guilty, they heard evidence that Steward, also known as Tommy Conner, had **FIVE PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS** for **ROBBERY, KIDNAPPING, BURGLARY, and OBTAINING MONEY BY FALSE PRETENSES**. The jury sentenced him to **THREE MONTHS** in jail for **BREAKING & ENTERING, THREE MONTHS** in jail for **MALICIOUS INJURY TO PROPERTY, and 30 YEARS IN PRISON** for **ASSAULT & BATTERY ON A POLICE OFFICER**. Assistant DA Eric Loggin prosecuted.

Heather Prater Honored for Service to Crime Victims

Heather Prater, Victim Advocate for the Tulsa County District Attorney's Office, was honored during National Crime Victims Rights Week with the 2014 Oklahoma Governor's Commendation Award for service and assistance to crime victims. Prater was recognized for "outstanding efforts that go above and beyond what is expected to serve crime victims and hold offenders accountable."

As a dedicated and effective victim advocate for some of the most heinous crimes in Tulsa County – murder, rape, and child abuse - Heather is an invaluable member of Tulsa County's prosecution team. At a time when victims are crippled emotionally and least able to deal with stress, Heather is their compassionate guide through a bewildering journey that is our criminal justice system.

Despite the fact that cases sometimes last years, and her caseload is staggering, Heather always has time for victims, and is proactive in reaching out to them. She prepares them emotionally for court – as well as for delays. She patiently answers questions, listens to concerns and complaints, and makes referrals for social and other services.

"I am proud to receive this award and feel it is a tribute to the courage and strength of the families I work with and all who endure such heartbreak due to violent crime," said Prater. "It is humbling to share in their lives and serve as a guide to them as they honor their lost loved ones by courageously making a difficult journey through our criminal justice system in some of their darkest hours," she said.

One of many families Prater has served as victim advocate are Mike and Gayla Castaldi, whose 24-year-old daughter, Rebecca, was murdered by her boyfriend in 2009. During the murder trial, prosecutors dragged into court the 55-gallon drum in which Rebecca Castaldi's body had been found. Prater had prepared the family for the horrific display. She had sensitively briefed them and explained the importance of remaining calm in court – or stepping outside if they could not handle their emotions.

The drum was one that had been placed at Rebecca's home by her father for use as a trash can. Instead, her boyfriend used it as her coffin after he shot her in the head.



Mike and Gayla Castaldi attended the award ceremony to honor Victim Advocate Heather Prater

"Heather was just a God-send to our family when our daughter Rebecca was murdered," said Gayla Castaldi. "We were totally out of our element and overwhelmed. We knew nothing of how the criminal judicial system worked, what to expect, or how to possibly navigate or traverse such a complicated system. Heather's knowledge, compassion and kindness sustained our family through a very difficult time."

"Even after the court process was completed, Heather has always been there for us. When we had questions regarding the post-sentence conviction, Heather was there to answer our many questions. When our daughter's murderer was moved from one penitentiary to another, we had yet more questions and again Heather was there to answer our query. We are very grateful for the job that Heather does. Heather has become a very welcome addition to our family," Castaldi said.

Prater also worked with the family of Neal Sweeney as they endured three murder trials and the prosecution of two others who conspired to murder Sweeney, 63, in September 2008.

"For over four years, Heather was our constant," said Jan Sweeney. "She has such a heart and intuition for this job; we never felt she was there to tell us what to do or say, but rather to find out our needs and concerns, and to help us realize them. She was always available to answer our questions and yes, there were times when she got the brunt of our frustrations," Sweeney said.

"But she understood and respected them, and we were able to vent to her late at night and know we were being heard. The DA's office is fortunate to have her... I know we sure were! Congratulations, Heather! The Sweeney family loves you!"

Jeanne and Patrick Hilberling, parents of Joshua Hilberling, 23, who was murdered in July 2011 also had high praise for Heather's work with them.

"I'm sure we are not the only family that feels like Heather became part of our family during the trial," said Jeanne Hilberling. "She listened to my angry comments, answered my many worried questions, and held our hands when we were weary. She was able to give us hope, without making any promises, or giving us false hope. Her support was so needed and appreciated. We are happy to see her being recognized for contributions to all the victim families," Hilberling said.

Prater sat through a death penalty trial with the family of Brooke Whitaker, 24, who was murdered in June 2007 along with her infant daughter.

"Heather was a blessing to our family before, during and after the trial. She understood our pain. She was a shoulder to cry on, a friend to talk to and a pit bull when it came to protecting us from people that had no business in OUR business!" said Angie Short.

Prater is also valuable to the prosecution team as she calmly and professionally deals with reluctant witnesses – ex-girlfriends or associates of gang members who may be fearful to testify and difficult to handle.

Her calming influence and ability to convince reluctant witnesses to testify and tell the truth helps achieve justice and hold offenders accountable. She coordinates with security in cases where rival gangs or jailhouse informants are witnesses to make sure all are safe and justice is served. She helps arrange and conduct two events each year to honor and remember crime victims in Tulsa County.

"Heather Prater's unwavering dedication as a victim advocate is essential to our mission to serve crime victims, hold offenders accountable and meet our obligations under Oklahoma's Crime Victims Bill of Rights. She is certainly deserving of the Governor's Commendation Award," said District Attorney Tim Harris.

DA Brings Justice For 32 Homicide Victims in 2013

The Tulsa County District Attorney's Office worked with county law enforcement officers to take violent and career criminals off the streets in 2013. Prosecutors secured jury trial verdicts or plea agreements to close 32 homicide cases in 2013, in most cases sending the perpetrators to prison for life or lengthy sentences.

Photos are shown for those victims for which we have photographs. A photo tribute to homicide victims from other years is available on our website at www.da.tulsacounty.org.

Homicide victims where cases were closed in 2013 are listed below.

- Darrell Abadie, 39**
- William Allen, 31**
- Herman Barnes, 72**
- Sean Marvin Brown, 33**
- Bobby Clark, 54**
- Dontay Duckett, 19**
- Chaz Fain, 18**
- Dannaer Fields, 49**
- Eric Fuller, 48**
- Corvelle Grayson, 16**
- Janie Hansen, 27**
- Joshua Hilberling, 23**
- Gary Howard, 45**
- Shawn Hunt, 18**
- Mario Ibarra-Ordenez, 27**
- Marques Jackson, 33**
- Dominique Jasper, 26**
- Aiden Jennings, 15 months**
- Francisco Jimenez, 27**
- Earl George King, 53**
- Kaylyn Kosofsky, 24**
- Charles Kytta, 32**
- Joyce Lozada, 64**
- Devin Maggs, 24**
- Avonna Olson, 45**
- Tianna O'Neal, 2 months**
- Amanda Perez, 31**
- Ricky McClain, 54**
- Jesus Salcido, 53**
- Patrick Shawn, 27**
- Russell Leon Smith, 51**
- William Zachary, 66**



Darrell Abadie



Aiden Jennings, 15 mos



Kaylyn Kosofsky



Patrick Shawn



Joshua Hilberling



Avonna Olson



Shawn Hunt



Dontay Duckett



Joyce Lozada



Dannaer Fields



William Allen



Bobby Clark



Jesus Salcido



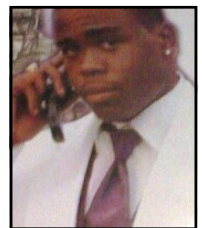
Janie Hansen



Devin Maggs



William Zachary



Chaz Fain



Ricky McClain



Charles Kytta



Amanda Perez



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Tulsa County District Attorney

What Does Justice Reinvestment Cost?

The Justice Reinvestment Initiative was signed into Oklahoma law in May 2012, and promised as a plan to steer nonviolent offenders away from prison, lower incarceration rates, save on prison costs, and allow savings to be reinvested in public-safety efforts.

The initiative has not been as successful in Oklahoma as it has been in some other states because we failed to fund the approach in the same way as did the State of Texas, where money was transferred into programs such as treatment facilities, drug courts, or probation. Substantial tax savings will not come without initial financial outlay to build alternative programs and shifting funding to sustain and support them. These programs require continued long-term interaction with defendants, monitoring of their progress, and realistic goals and outcomes for individuals.

The Tulsa County District Attorney's Office has long supported innovative approaches to prosecution as long as public safety is the number one priority in determining which criminal defendants can successfully be given alternatives to incarceration.

My philosophy, based on 28 years of prosecution experience, is to work towards behavior modification so that a criminal defendant comes through the criminal justice system one time. Our goal is to capture the attention of the defendant and impress upon them that should they desire to maintain their liberty there is a certain standard of conduct that is required in a civilized society to maintain public safety and interpersonal relationships.

My office leads the State of Oklahoma in support of DUI Court, Drug Court, Mental Health Court, Veterans Treatment Court, Women in Recovery, Community Sentencing, and District Attorney's Supervision Program. Our office currently has more than 900 defendants in alternative courts.



Tim Harris

When addiction is the basis of criminal conduct it is incumbent upon us to treat that issue. An example is an addict who steals to sustain a drug habit.

Alternative courts create an atmosphere where offenders can be held accountable and given tools to become clean and sober

so that they can hold a job, support their families, and become tax-paying citizens. This is a worthy goal.

Yet, while money may be saved on prison costs, "alternatives to incarceration" do not come without a price. A successful initiative requires treatment and a long-term commitment to monitor an offender's progress. There is an increased workload for prosecutors, public defenders, judges, treatment providers, case managers, assessment experts, probation and supervision staff, pre-trial release workers and Tulsa County jail staff.

A successful alternatives to incarceration initiative will require front-end financing to return dividends to the Oklahoma taxpayer.