



TIM HARRIS
TULSA COUNTY
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

"Justice consists not in being neutral between right and wrong, but in finding out the right and upholding it, wherever found, against the wrong."

- Theodore Roosevelt

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In Pursuit of Justice

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District Attorney Brings Justice for 15 Murder Victims

Fifteen murderers have been sent to prison from Tulsa County in 2008 as of May 31. Five others were convicted of manslaughter and sent to prison. Juries sentenced one to death and delivered long sentences to eleven others. Four pled guilty or no contest to murder rather than face a jury. A mistrial was declared in one case where a jury could not reach a unanimous verdict, and one defendant was acquitted by a jury.

A jury sentenced **Vicki Chiles** to **LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE** in the May 2007 death of **Joshua Minton, 2**. Chiles operated a day-care home where Joshua Minton stayed. Chiles told police she covered Joshua's mouth with tape because he was fussy and noisy.

Kenneth Dominick Johnson was convicted of murdering **Kayla Burchett, 10, Tara**

Burchett-Thompson, 26, and **Mitch Thompson, 28** and sentenced to three terms of **LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE**. The three were shot to death in their Owasso home in August 2005. Johnson also received a 20-year term for first-degree burglary.



Ten-year-old Kayla Burchett, shows off birthday money with her mother, Tara Burchett-Thompson. Kayla, Tara, and her husband Mitch Thompson were shot to death in 2005.



Shelly & Ples Vann Jr. were shot to death at their Tulsa home in 2004.

Phillip A. Summers was given two **DEATH** sentences by a jury in the February 2004 shooting deaths of **Ples Vann Jr., 56** and his wife, **Shelly Vann, 45** in their Tulsa home.

Jesus Talamantes was sentenced to **LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE** for the August 2006 murder of **Daniel Baugh, 17**. Baugh was shot three times in a Tulsa apartment complex.

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DA Launches Photo Tribute For Victims of Violent Crime



Amey Noelle Mason, 19, was stabbed to death in 2005.

A photographic memorial to crime victims is now on the District Attorney website.

"Too often our criminal justice system is focused on defendants and the faces of victims are seldom seen," District Attorney Tim Harris said. "The victims were living, breathing people whose loss is real to loved ones and to our community. There are too

many faces, too many names. We can't forget them," he said.

The photos on the website were supplied by survivors of the victims. A button on the left side of the home page links to the slide show.

Survivors who want photos of victims published can find a release and instructions to deliver a photo on the website at www.da.tulsacounty.org or phone 918-596-4977.

Fifteen Murderers Sent to Prison So Far in '08

Murderers continued from Page 1

Wesley Deion Jones was given two sentences of **LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE** after pleading guilty to the September 2002 first-degree murder of store operator **Mohammed Rahaman, 53** and customer **Sterling Mullis, 29**.

Jones was convicted of the shooting deaths earlier in 2004 and sentenced to death by a jury, but the Court of Criminal Appeals overturned the death verdict. A jury was being questioned for a retrial, when Jones pleaded guilty to the no-parole sentences.

Martinez Williams pleaded guilty to first-degree murder in the September 2007 robbery and murder of **Steffan J. Schlemme, 27**. Schlemme and his father were working in the garage when Williams walked up and asked for gasoline and money. The younger Schlemme went to give him some money and was shot to death in the yard. Williams was sentenced to **LIFE** in prison and will be required to serve at least 38 years and three months before he is eligible for release.

Marcus Morgan was sentenced to two **LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE** terms in the November 2005 shooting deaths of **Shawda' Pearson, 19** and **Lamarr Robinson, 31**. He received a third **LIFE** term for shooting with intent to kill **Esther Johnson, 19**. Johnson survived the shooting but is paralyzed. The three were shot while seated in the cab of a truck.

Marquise White was convicted and will serve **LIFE** in prison plus 20 years for the January 2006 murder of **Modesta Ramirez Alvarez, 22**. Her body was found in a drainage ditch and she had been beaten to death with rocks. A family member said she had gone

to wash clothes at a laundry room in a south Tulsa apartment complex. White will be required to serve at least 38 years and 3 months before he is eligible for parole or release from prison.

Radford Maybery was convicted in the stabbing death of **Albert Sumner, 41** in August 2005. A jury sentenced Maybery to **LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE** in the murder. Sumner was found dead in his apartment.

Dusty McGee was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to **LIFE** in prison in the May 2007 beating death of 62-year-old **John Seeley**. Police said Seeley had threatened to call police when he saw McGee and two others stealing copper from an abandoned building. McGee will be required to serve at least 38 years and 3 months before he is eligible for parole or release from prison.

A jury convicted **Kevin Terrell Stewart** of first-degree murder and sentenced him to **LIFE** in prison for the June 2007 shooting death of **Mark Louie, 47**. Louie and a woman were talking outside a Tulsa home when Stewart pulled up. The woman was estranged from a long-term relationship with Stewart, and Stewart had been threatening to kill Louie.

A jury convicted **Daniel Cody Watkins** of first-degree manslaughter in the July 2007 stabbing death of his roommate **Donald Holder, 47** and sentenced him to **12 YEARS IN PRISON**. The District Attorney had charged Watkins with first-degree murder but he claimed he was acting in self-defense. Watkins faces trial in September for sexually abusing a minor child.

Joel Shaleen, was convicted of the September 2006 shooting death of his wife, **Tonya Shaleen, 42** and

sentenced to **LIFE** in prison. Tonya Shaleen was shot six times at their Broken Arrow home. Joel Shaleen must serve at least 38 years and three months before he is eligible for release from prison.

Douglas Dewayne Miller was convicted of the April 2006 murder of **Danny Carter, 21**, and sentenced to **LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE**. The jury also convicted Miller of shooting with intent to kill, robbery with a firearm, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon drive-by shooting and possession of a firearm by a felon. He was given **six consecutive 20-year terms** on those counts.

Shawn Deatherage pleaded no contest to second-degree murder in the January 2007 machete slaying of his mother, **Cheryl Deatherage, 56**. He was sentenced to **35 years in prison**.

Lyndell Dabney pleaded no contest to second-degree murder in the March 2007 shooting of **Demonzo Washington, 26** at an abandoned house in Tulsa. He was sentenced to **10 Years in prison**.

John Mullenax pleaded guilty to first-degree manslaughter in the April 2005 shooting death of **Lenny Miller, 26** at a homeless encampment. Mullenax was sentenced to **12 Years in Prison**.

Jacquenette Brown pleaded no contest to first-degree manslaughter in the July 2006 stabbing death of **Charles Fowler, 27**. She was sentenced to **10 Years in prison**.

Erick Bishop pleaded no contest to first-degree manslaughter in the April 2007 stabbing death of **Kyle McQuarrie, 15** over a liquor sale dispute. Bishop was sentenced to a **split sentence of 15 years, eight years in prison and 7 years probation**.

See **MURDER** Page 3



Steffan Schlemme, 27, was shot to death while doing yard work at his mother's Tulsa home.



Modesta Ramirez Alvarez, 22, was beaten to death with rocks after she was abducted from a laundry room at a south Tulsa apartment complex.

Crime Victim's Compensation

- ◆ A crime victim may be eligible for compensation if he or she suffered physical or psychological harm or death as a result of a violent crime.
- ◆ You may be eligible if you are the victim of violent crime or;
- ◆ You are the dependent of a deceased victim or a person authorized to act on behalf of a victim.
- ◆ The crime was reported within 72 hours of discovery.
- ◆ You file an application within one year of the crime's discovery.
- ◆ You willingly cooperate with appropriate law enforcement agencies.
- ◆ Eligible expenses include medical care, counseling, rehabilitation, work loss or loss of support, future economic loss, homicide crime scene clean up, funeral and burial expenses.
- ◆ Arrest or conviction is not required.
- ◆ You do not need an attorney to file a claim.
- ◆ Funds come from assessments placed on persons convicted of crimes.
- ◆ Maximum award is \$20,000.
- ◆ Save receipts.
- ◆ District Attorney's Victim Advocates will help compile, document and verify your claim. The claim is then sent to the Crime Victims Compensation Board for consideration.
- ◆ Call 918-596-4915 for more information.

Murder continued from Page 2

A mistrial was declared in the murder trial of **Danny Lieb** after a jury was unable to reach a unanimous verdict. Lieb was charged with first-degree murder in the November 2006 beating death of **Bernard Favors, 21**. Favor's body was discovered in a wooded area.

Gary D. Browning, 26 pleaded guilty in March to accessory after the fact in the murder, and told police that he had helped move the body. He was sentenced to **15 YEARS IN PRISON**. Lieb remains in jail and is scheduled for trial in October.

A jury acquitted **Jeremy Steven Smith**

of first-degree murder in the March 2007 shooting of **Jason Edwards, 25**, and his brother **Jeremy Edwards, 23**, outside a Tulsa nightclub. Jason Edwards was

shot four times and died. Jeremy Edwards was shot twice and survived. He identified Smith as the shooter.

TULSA COUNTY CASES FILED JANUARY-MAY 2008	
FELONY CRIMES	2603
MISDEMEANOR CRIMES	2957
TRAFFIC	9575

LIFE Term Given For Shooting Police Officer

A jury handed a **LIFE** sentence to a Tulsa man convicted of shooting with intent to kill a Tulsa police officer. Officer **Scott Osburn**, who was wearing a bullet-proof vest, survived the gunshot to the chest during a traffic stop. The shooting occurred Nov. 12, 2006.

Everado Valencia must serve at least 38 years and three months before he is eligible for release from prison for the shooting. He was also given a **10-year term** for possessing a firearm during a felony and **2 years** for possession of cocaine.

Osburn stopped a truck that was weaving left of center about 1:30 a.m. As the officer approached, the driver shot him and drove away.

The officer provided a description of the gunman over his radio and police found Valencia, who was then on foot, about three blocks away. Officer Osburn identified Valencia as the man who shot him.



OSBURN

First Assistant District Attorney Doug Drummond said that spent shell casings recovered during the investigation indicated that Valencia fired at least six shots from a 9mm pistol.

Drummond told jurors that if the officer had not been wearing a protective vest, he "could be dead today."

Rape of Teen Brings 40-Year Prison Term

Tulsan **Troy Lee Hackett** was convicted of first-degree rape of a **15-year-old girl** who since gave birth as a result of the assault. DNA testing confirmed that Hackett is the baby's father. A May jury sentenced Hackett to **40 years** in prison for the July 2006 rape. Hackett was the boyfriend of the girls' mother. The girl, now 16, lives in Texas with the baby and her grandparents.

Hackett has prior felony convictions for trafficking in drugs, domestic assault and battery, driving under the influence and feloniously pointing a weapon. The law requires that he serve at least 85 per cent of his term before he is eligible for release.

Career Criminal Gets LIFE in Assault on Tulsa Police

Jeffrey Reagle was convicted of four felonies and given two **LIFE** prison terms plus **162 years** for assaulting three police officers, burglary and possession of a firearm after former conviction of a felony.

Five Tulsa police officers were injured while trying to apprehend Reagle in July 2007 at the scene of a burglary where shots were fired. He continued to be combative at the jail, fighting with detention officers as they tried to take his booking photo, jailers said.

"Jeff Reagle has absolutely no respect for authority or for the law," Assistant District Attorney Doug Drummond told jurors in the February trial. Reagle knocked Tulsa Police Officer Richard Davis unconscious and



**REAGLE
LIFE X2**

broke 12 bones in his jaw and cheek. The jury heard tapes of Reagle's phone calls from jail bragging and laughing about the injuries to the officer.

Testimony also indicated that Reagle knocked down Tulsa Police Officer Carolyn Ash, kicking and striking her in the head with his knee. He also assaulted Tulsa Police Officer Tyrone Lynn. Reagle had prior convictions for car theft, attempted auto burglary and running a roadblock.



Protective Orders, Criminal, Civil,
Health and Social Services
3010 South Harvard Suite 200
Tulsa, OK 74114-6124
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Email: info@fsctulsa.org

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES FILED JANUARY—MAY 2008	
DOMESTIC ASSAULT & BATTERY (MISDEMEANOR)	254
DOMESTIC ASSAULT & BATTERY (FELONY)	92
VIOLATION OF PROTECTIVE ORDER	68
STALKING	8

Protecting Children and the Community

“Children are our greatest resource and protecting them is one of the most important responsibilities of our society,” said District Attorney Tim Harris. In Tulsa County, many agencies and organizations work together to accomplish this. In the DAs office, the Juvenile Division and the District Attorney’s Task Force on Crimes Against Children work to:

- ◆ Reduce juvenile delinquency and crime;
- ◆ Hold juvenile offenders accountable for their actions;
- ◆ Protect children from sexual exploitation, abuse and neglect;
- ◆ Protect public safety;
- ◆ Secure treatment, rehabilitative, and re-entry services tailored to needs of juveniles and their families;
- ◆ Assist child victims of crime and abuse.

Tara Britt, Director of Juvenile Justice for the District Attorney’s office, supervises eight attorneys at the juvenile division who are responsible for reviewing investigative reports from police and the Department of Human Services. These attorneys determine whether

- ◆ Court intervention is necessary to protect a child or children;
- ◆ Petitions alleging actions which would be considered criminal if committed by adults should be filed;
- ◆ To petition the court to order children to remain inpatient to receive mental health services;

◆ To recommend family drug court, to provide rehabilitative services to adults whose children have been removed;

Several different actions may be taken:

- ◆ 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 alleged abuse or neglect is perpetrated by a parent, the DA’s office may file a **deprived petition** in juvenile court.
- ◆ If the actions rise to the level of a crime, 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/children are ordered to remain in protective custody, parents are recognized back in three judicial days to be served with a **petition** alleging the child/children are abused or neglected.

DHS or the DA’s office may determine the actions of the parents does not rise to the level of keeping the children in protective

custody and they may be **released** to the parents with services in the home.

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 by DHS 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 the conditions do not improve, the DA’s office may file a motion to **terminate parental rights**.

Nine trials to terminate parental rights were conducted January - May 2008. Prosecutors were successful in all but two trials.

If a child is determined **delinquent**, the DA works with the juvenile court to hold the juvenile responsible and accountable for his or her actions. This may include community service, attending school, making restitution to victims, attending counseling, and supervision by probation officers.

CASES FILED JANUARY-MAY 2008 TO PROTECT CHILDREN AND COMMUNITY	
FELONY CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN	52
DEPRIVED (NEGLECT OR ABUSE)	138
CHILD IN NEED OF TREATMENT	50
DELINQUENT	630

How You Can Help Protect Children

What to do if you think a child is being abused or neglected:

If a child says he has been abused, it is vitally important that you listen to them.

DO NOT

- ◆ Investigate;
- ◆ Ask leading questions (see 4 questions you **SHOULD** ask in right column);
- ◆ Make promises;
- ◆ Notify the parents or the caretaker.

DO

- ◆ Provide a safe environment (comforting, welcoming);
- ◆ Tell the child it was not his/her fault;
- ◆ Listen carefully;
- ◆ Document the child’s exact quotes;
- ◆ Be supportive, not judgmental;
- ◆ Know your limits;
- ◆ Tell the truth and make no promises.



Ask **ONLY** four questions:

1. What happened?
2. Who did this to you?
3. Where were you when this happened?
4. When did this happen?

Asking any additional questions may contaminate a case!

REPORT IT!

- ◆ Call your local **Law Enforcement Agency**
- ◆ **DHS Child Services 918-581-2033**
- ◆ **Tulsa Hotline 918-584-1222**
- ◆ **Oklahoma Hotline 800-522-3511**
- ◆ **National Hotline 800- 4AChild**

Meet the Prosecutors: "Mickey" Hawkins



James M. "Mickey" Hawkins has served as assistant district attorney in Tulsa County for nine years. He prosecutes major crimes with emphasis on gang crimes. Hawkins led the office in trial prosecution in 2006 with 13 jury trials and again in 2007 with 11 trials. He has prosecuted a total of 66 felony trials with a record of 56 guilty verdicts, 5 hung juries, and 4 acquittals in trials for murder, shootings, rape, child sexual abuse and drug trafficking.

Hawkins serves the citizens of Tulsa County with integrity, dedication and determination in a second career. He worked as an FBI agent for 28 years, retiring as Senior Supervisory Resident Agent, Tulsa. Hawkins served as the FBI OKBOMB Task Force Case Agent for the investigation of Terry Nichols in the Oklahoma City bombing.

"I am appreciative of the opportunity Mr. Harris has given me to extend my career," said Hawkins.

"As the oldest trial attorney I attempt to set an example for other attorneys. You only get a finite amount of time to wear the white hat — a privilege that should not be taken lightly. Make it count," he said.

43 Convicted of Felony Robbery

The District Attorney's office convicted 43 people of felony robbery from January to May 2008. Three others were convicted of felony larceny from a person.

Prison sentences ranged from 35 years to 4 years in prison. Jurors found three people guilty of armed robbery, and a fourth guilty of First-Degree Robbery. One person was found not guilty of armed robbery by a jury, and another jury was unable to reach a verdict in an armed robbery trial.

Thirty-nine defendants pleaded guilty to robbery charges. Twenty-one people were convicted of Robbery with Firearms, five were convicted of First Degree Robbery, and six convicted of Second Degree Robbery. Three people were convicted of Robbery with a Weapon, and eight people convicted of Attempted Robbery.

Robbery Jury Trials January – May 2008			
Robbery/ Firearms	Richard Baxter	Guilty	10 Years
Robbery/ Firearms	Carl Sutton	Guilty	25 Years
Robbery/ 1st Degree	Jeffery Owens	Guilty	27 Years
Robbery/ Firearms	Matthew Coughlin	Guilty	25 Years
Robbery/ Firearms	Spencer Foster	Hung Jury	
Robbery/ Firearms	Alexis Moore	Not Guilty	

Repeat Felon Gets 50-Year Term in DUI Death

Floyd Ray Williams Jr. pleaded guilty to first-degree manslaughter in the October 2006 drunken crash that killed **Terry Maxey, 52** and was sentenced to **50 Years in Prison** on May 28. Williams, whose blood alcohol content was more than twice the legal limit at .20, ran a red light at Denver Avenue and Riverside Drive and crashed into the motorcycle Maxey was riding.

Williams, who had five prior felony convictions, two DUI convictions, and no driver's license, fled the scene after his car struck Maxey. He led police on a high-speed chase through Tulsa neighborhoods before he was apprehended.

Williams "has demonstrated an absolute disrespect for the law. That disrespect has culminated in the death of one of Tulsa's true heroes," wrote Assistant District Attorney Steve Kunzweiler in a brief asking the court to "say to the Defendant that enough is enough" and impose the maximum allowable punishment.

District Judge Clancy Smith sentenced Williams to **30 years** for first-degree manslaughter, **10 years** for leaving the scene and **10 years** for eluding police officers. The judge ordered the sentences to run consecutively.

Maxey was a Licensed Professional Counselor, working in private practice and with Family and Children's Services, Domestic Violence Intervention Services, the Owasso Resource Center and



Crash victim Terry Maxey and daughter Theresa on her wedding day.

Owasso and Skiatook Public Schools. He earlier worked as a probation officer.

What Does the District Attorney Do?

The television show *Law and Order* explains it best: “In the Criminal Justice System the people are represented by two separate, yet equally important groups: The police who investigate the crimes and the District Attorneys who prosecute the offenders.”

Police are responsible for investigating crimes. They interview witnesses, collect evidence, and may have it analyzed by a crime lab. If police determine a crime has been committed and there is cause to suspect who committed it, they submit a report to the DA for review.

A prosecutor reviews police reports, examines facts and the law and decides whether evidence is sufficient to prove the case. It is not a mathematical formula and factors include quality of the investigation and police reports, witness credibility, and whether the evidence is admissible in court.

Charging Decisions

The decision to file a criminal charge or decline prosecution is one of the most important functions of the DA. It holds the guilty accountable or precludes the innocent from being wrongfully accused.

Prosecutors have an ethical obligation to file only cases that are supported by sufficient evidence. This ensures double jeopardy won't apply if additional evidence is discovered. It also prevents money wasted on cases that won't hold up in court - and focuses prosecution on serious crimes to take violent criminals off the streets.

The District Attorney represents the state in all court proceedings relating to crimes in Tulsa County. In 2007 6,679 felony and 6,889 misdemeanor cases were filed in Tulsa County. The DA also prosecuted 1,699 delinquent juveniles and filed 338 petitions alleging abuse or neglect of a child.

Behind the Scenes

A support staff of about 50 perform duties that are essential to prosecution. Last year, they issued thousands of subpoenas and handled paperwork and discovery on 13,568 criminal cases and 2,186 juvenile cases. They answered telephones, dealt with police officers, defense attorneys, judges, court clerks, property disclaimers

and walk-ins. Victim advocates assisted thousands of victims and witnesses: answering questions, accompanying them to court, helping them with victim compensation and requests for restitution.

Our bogus check division collected nearly **\$3 million** in restitution for small businesses and crime victims in Tulsa County last year.

Legal Advisor for County

The DA also represents and advises:

- ◆ Tulsa County Commissioners;
- ◆ Tulsa County Sheriff;
- ◆ Tulsa County Treasurer;
- ◆ Tulsa County Clerk;
- ◆ Tulsa County Court Clerk;
- ◆ Tulsa County Assessor;
- ◆ All County Boards and Interests.



District Attorney Tim Harris and Assistant District Attorneys Jake Cain and Courtney Smith review police reports and the law to determine whether evidence is sufficient to prove a criminal case.

A Day in the Life of a Prosecutor

Tulsa County prosecutors' work bears little resemblance to television courtroom dramas. Instead of devoting all attention to a single case, our attorneys shuttle between different courts and many different cases to keep the wheels of justice turning.

Prosecutors often spend hours a day in court. They come back to an office where phone messages need to be returned, things need to be filed. Letters need to be typed, restitution schedules need to be prepared, dockets need to be managed, charges need to be approved, and witnesses need to be contacted.

Fifty attorneys work in the DAs office. About half handle felony criminal cases. The others handle misdemeanor cases, juvenile crime, deprived (neglect) cases, drug or

alternative courts, domestic abuse, fraud, traffic, post-conviction matters, and civil legal matters for county officials.

Felony prosecutors have anywhere from 100 to 250 cases open at a time. Each day, prosecutors do “intake” – sorting through 50 to 100 police reports presented for criminal charges.

Every day, felony prosecutors appear in one of three magistrate's court – each with 10-20 criminal cases to represent on the preliminary hearing docket.

Three weeks of each month, jury trials are held in District Court. The fourth week, at least two prosecutors appear before each of the five criminal judges for District Court arraignments, handling between 20–100 cases each.

A Drug Court prosecutor handles about 450 cases. On Fridays 250-300 people report to Drug Court.

When they are not in court, prosecutors talk with police officers, defense attorneys, witnesses or victims. Research and trial preparation often is done on weekends and at night with no overtime compensation.



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Tulsa County District Attorney

In Pursuit of Justice

This newsletter gives a snapshot of the work that goes on in the DA's office.

The Real Drama

Perhaps your perception of our work comes from television dramas like **Law & Order**. Let me tell you, the real-life work pace and situations make those shows pale in comparison. We see more drama, suspense, heartbreak and emotion than TV could portray. We see every facet of life – from the suffering of victims of violent crime and sexual offenses, to the truly absurd actions of dumb crooks.

Unfortunately, there are way too many people out there who do not seem to have a moral compass. They take risks, they do stupid things, they sometimes do truly evil things – and they get caught. Then we deal with them. There's an endless supply of defendants but only so many prose-

cutors to handle them and so many hours in a day. Our caseload is enormous. The pace is frenetic. The routine is grueling. The stress is high.

True Professionals

I'm so proud of the professional job my staff does under these circumstances.

Our prosecutors handle a volume of cases that would paralyze the most experienced private attorney – at wages that barely allow them to repay their law school loans and provide for a family. We quickly digest the information in each case and settle in order to hold the defendant accountable, make the consequences fit the crime and prevent its recurrence. We speak with victims about negotiations. Plea agreements are often maligned. The truth is, pleas often produce a better outcome – at a far smaller cost in both time, money and the emotional ordeal



Tim Harris

of a protracted trial. For those cases where facts demand a jury trial, we work to paint a clear picture of the crime so that the jury will make the right decision for justice to be done. And I must say, that the jury “gets it right” most of the time.

Ministers of Justice

As prosecutors, we're charged with a very strong ethical obligation. Our job is to achieve justice. We work to hold people accountable for their actions. But we prosecute only cases that we believe we can prove beyond a reasonable doubt. On occasion, decisions not to file a charge may be questioned but we must hold to that standard as ministers of justice.

I hope this newsletter gives you a small glimpse into the real world that is our criminal justice system.