



FOURTEENTH CIRCUIT SOLICITOR'S OFFICE

ALLENDALE, BEAUFORT, COLLETON, HAMPTON, JASPER

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

ALLENDALE, BEAUFORT, COLLETON, HAMPTON, JASPER

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR
ISAAC MCDUFFIE STONE, III, SOLICITOR
FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
39 SHERIDAN PARK CIRCLE, STE. 2
P.O. Box 1880
BLUFFTON, SC 29910
WWW.SCSOLICITOR14.ORG



Mission

The mission of the Fourteenth Circuit Solicitor's Office is to professionally represent the people of South Carolina, to improve their safety and to protect and defend the United States Constitution and the Constitution of the State of South Carolina.

Office Overview

The Fourteenth Circuit Solicitor's Office is the chief prosecuting agency for Allendale, Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper counties. The only five-county circuit in South Carolina, the Fourteenth Circuit encompasses 3,256 square miles — more than one-tenth of the entire state — in the renowned Lowcountry. The circuit is home to nearly 267,000 people, according to the latest U.S. Census estimates.

The primary role of the Solicitor's Office is to prosecute all cases in General Sessions Court and certain misdemeanors in Magistrate Court and certain cases in Family Court. The office prosecuted 4,804 cases in FY 2015-16, with half of those cases coming from Beaufort County. Additionally, the office operates several prevention and diversionary programs including pre-trial intervention, worthless check, alcohol education, traffic education, treatment-based courts and juvenile arbitration. The goal of treatment-based courts is to address and correct the underlying problems that cause an individual to commit crimes by incorporating substance abuse treatment, mental health counseling and weekly court hearings.

Solicitor Duffie Stone leads the office. He was appointed by the Governor in 2006 and re-elected in 2008, 2012 and 2016.

Office Locations

Our headquarters are in Bluffton. Our mailing address is P.O. Box 1880, Bluffton, SC 29910. Business hours for our Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper county offices are 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Allendale County

Allendale County Courthouse
292 Barnwell Highway
Barnwell, SC 29812

Beaufort County

39 Sheridan Park Circle,
Ste. 2
Bluffton, SC 29910

Colleton County

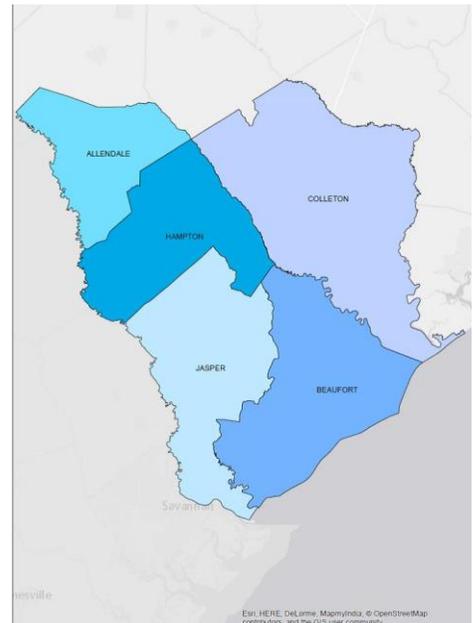
Colleton County Courthouse
101 Hampton St.
Walterboro, SC 29488

Hampton County

Hampton County Courthouse
80 Elm St.
Hampton, SC 29924

Jasper County

198 Second Ave.
Ridgeland, SC 2993



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A Message from Solicitor Duffie Stone

This past year marks several firsts, including the start of a new Veterans Treatment Court, aimed at helping those who have served our country, but have had run-ins with the criminal justice system due to underlying substance abuse and mental health issues specifically unique to the men and women of the military.

The program's first graduate is a Hilton Head Island businessman and Purple Heart recipient. We continue to work to identify former military members who live within the Fourteenth Circuit and could benefit from the Veterans Treatment Court. If you know of a veteran or have questions, please contact Program Director Michael Lee at mlee@bcgov.net.

We are also happy share in Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Carra Henderson's efforts at the U.S. Attorney's Office in successfully prosecuting career criminals from our circuit at the federal level. This partnership allows prosecutors more leverage and access to federal penalties when going after career criminals throughout the circuit, particularly drug traffickers and those repeat violent offenders who possess firearms.

I see the benefits of teamwork every day. That was especially true following Hurricane Matthew. Many members of my staff chose to help others within our community by volunteering their time by serving hot meals and assisting at shelters.

Volunteers also play a big role in helping our prosecutors secure convictions through the Community Support Team. Each week, a group of dedicated volunteers come to our office to listen to jail calls. This is a time-consuming and sometimes tedious task, but one that has proven to be very valuable. We appreciate their hard work and are always looking for additional help. If you're interesting in volunteering your time, call (843) 255-2880 to learn more.

Moving forward, we will continue to create a comprehensive, creative and data-driven approach to public safety, as outlined in this year's Annual Report. A copy of this report and additional information about the Fourteenth Circuit Solicitor's Office can be found on our website at www.scsolicitor14.org.

Thank you again for supporting the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit's Solicitor's Office. I am grateful to everyone who has helped us achieve a more professional, efficient and effective prosecution office. I hope you find this report informative. Please contact me if I can be of service.

Yours Sincerely,

Duffie Stone, Solicitor



Prosecution Overview

Community Prosecution

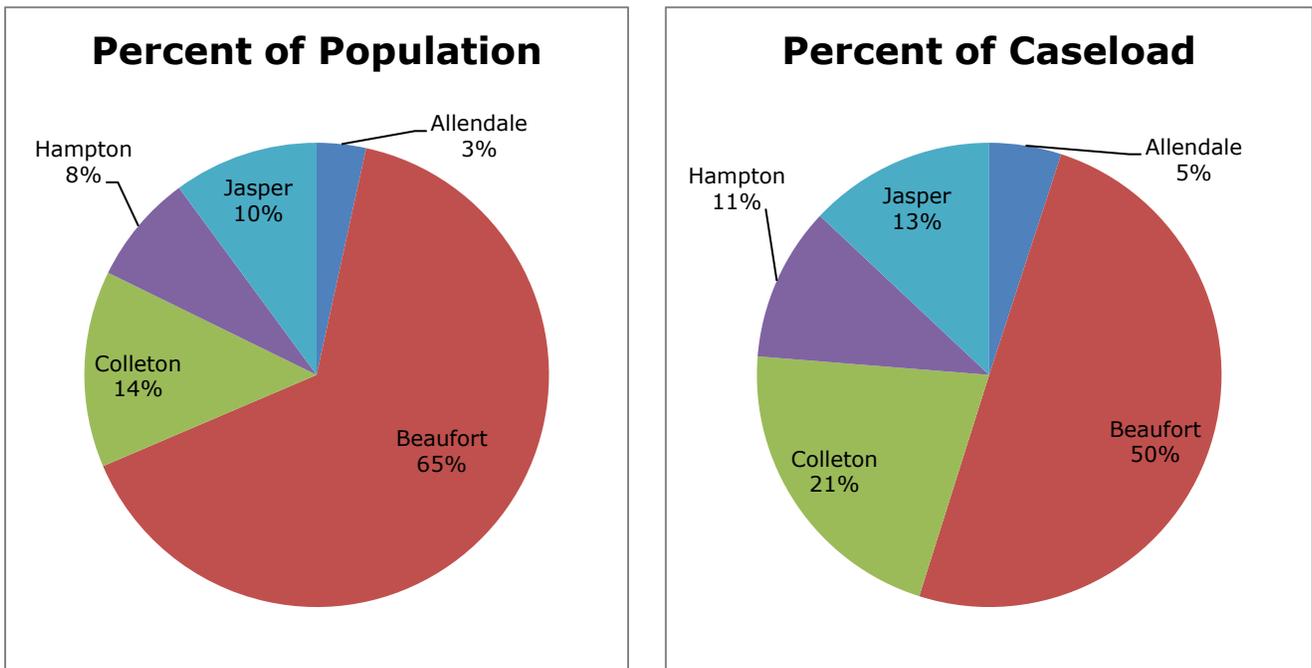
The office follows a defendant-based, vertical prosecution system in which attorneys are assigned to all of the cases involving a particular defendant. This same attorney works the cases from the time of the arrest through the final disposition by the court. The benefits of this approach include: better communication among the prosecutor, law enforcement and victims; and increased accountability because a single prosecutors is responsible for the outcome. All of this leads to more effective prosecution.

In 2016, our office had an intake of 4,804 new criminal cases, with 50 percent of the office's caseload being generated from Beaufort County. Attorneys are assigned to each of the five counties in the judicial circuit and are responsible for its caseload. The number of attorneys in each county is based on caseload. Additionally, prosecutors in Beaufort County are dedicated to North of the Broad River and South of the Broad River. Our community prosecutors live and work in the communities from which cases are assigned.

Victim's advocates are also assigned to cases. This dedicated team of professionals works with crime victims and witnesses at every step of the judicial process. A victim's advocate makes contact with the victim within 48 hours of arrest to gather information and to inform them of their rights throughout the process.

In the majority of the judicial circuit's counties, the caseload outweighs the population, with the exception of Beaufort County. For example, while Allendale County represents 3 percent of our circuit's population, it is 5 percent of our docket, or about 200 cases. The same is true in Colleton, Hampton and Jasper counties.

Fourteenth Circuit 2016 Caseload

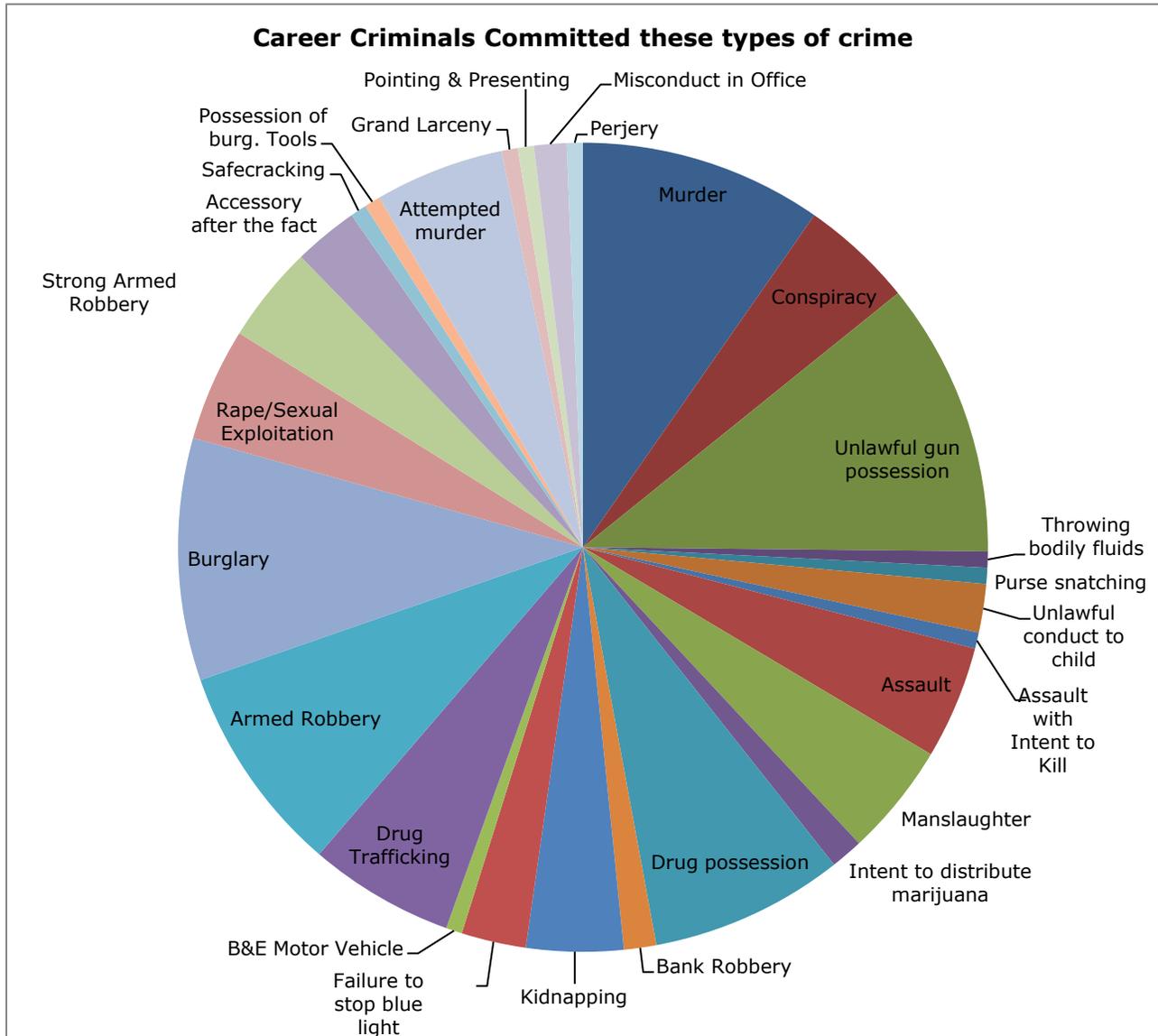


Fourteenth Circuit 2016 Caseload

	Population	Percent of population	Caseload	Percent of caseload
Allendale	9,433	3%	241	5%
Beaufort	179,589	65%	2,395	50%
Colleton	37,731	14%	1,028	21%
Hampton	21,090	8%	516	11%
Jasper	27,824	10%	624	13%
Total	275,667		4,804	

Source: South Carolina Judicial Department

Career Criminal Prosecution



A few criminals cause the majority crime. This is known as the Pareto Principle, also known as the 80-20 Rule. It states that for many events, roughly 80 percent of the effects come from 20 percent of the causes. This applies to crime as well: 20 percent of the population commits 80 percent of the crimes.

This also is true for the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit. These repeat offenders, or career criminals, do not specialize in any one type of crime or abide by jurisdictional lines. Many of the same criminals who terrorize Beaufort County do so in Jasper County and throughout the circuit. The same people who are involved in shootings also break into vehicles and homes and commit armed robberies.

Since the Career Criminal Prosecution Team’s inception in 2009, our office has successfully prosecuted hundreds of career criminals. In 2016, our office prosecuted a total of 42 career

criminals. These individuals were responsible for more than 144 separate crimes throughout our communities, including murder, armed robbery, sexual assault and conspiracy. Rarely does a career criminal commit just one crime. On average, they are convicted of 2.5 crimes per defendant.

In 2011 and 2012, the unit was expanded to include investigators assigned to help prepare the cases for trial and a crime analyst who works to connect crimes and build intelligence about networks of criminals who operate throughout the judicial circuit. Crime analysts were assigned to the Intelligence Team in 2015.

Analysts with our office examine every arrestee throughout the circuit in order to quickly identify potential career criminals prior to their bond hearings. This allows prosecutors to be armed with enough information to argue for high bonds. Information about defendants is shared each morning with each of the 32 law enforcement agencies in our circuit.

Career Criminal Partnerships

Our biggest partnership is with Beaufort, Colleton and Jasper Counties along with Hilton Head Island, Bluffton, Hardeeville and Ridgeland. This local support helped us to expand the Career Criminal Prosecution Unit.

In 2009, the Fourteenth Circuit Solicitor’s Office founded the Career Criminal Prosecution Team in Beaufort County, thanks to a joint effort among Beaufort County, the Town of Hilton Head Island and the Town of Bluffton. Soon thereafter, the team was expanded to cover all five counties thanks to assistance from Jasper County, the Town of Ridgeland, the City of Hardeeville and a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice.



Federal Prosecution of Career Criminals



Our office began a partnership in 2015 with the U.S. Department of Justice to prosecute repeat offenders from the Fourteenth Circuit in federal court in Columbia and Charleston.

This partnership allows prosecutors more leverage and access to federal penalties when going after career criminals throughout the circuit, particularly drug traffickers and those repeat violent offenders who possess firearms. Penalties for those crimes carry heftier sentences within federal courts.

In South Carolina, gun penalties for violent repeat felony offenders have sentences as low as five years that are parole eligible and have early release mechanisms built in.

The same penalties in federal court carry minimum sentences of 15 years and a maximum of life. Felons convicted of federal court are not eligible for parole.

Special Assistant U.S. Attorney J. Carra Henderson, who most recently spent six years as an assistant solicitor and career criminal prosecutor within the Fourteenth Circuit, now heads up federal prosecution efforts from offices in Columbia and Charleston. In 2016, Henderson helped secure 12 federal indictments and six convictions against local drug dealers and those who have violated gun laws.

Additionally, Henderson provides ongoing training and assistance to federal, state and local law enforcement agencies within our circuit and surrounding areas, to include a workshop held at USC Salkehatchie in Allendale on writing federal search warrants.



Special Assistant U.S. Attorney J. Carra Henderson and Solicitor Duffie Stone give members of the community an update in 2016 on the Solicitor's Office's partnership with federal prosecutors.

Intelligence-led Prosecution

Intelligence serves three functions in our office: Casework, Intake and Quality Control.

All of these involve research. Intake involves a case coming into the office and our Intelligence team researching the defendant's background to determine the appropriate solutions. This research will include a criminal history check, a check through national databases concerning gang activity, as well as, a docket search to determine if the defendant has another case pending on the docket. After this research has been completed, Intelligence then assigns the case to either the Career Criminal Prosecution Unit, if the defendant is a repeat offender, or they assign it to the appropriate Community Prosecution Team.

Intelligence plays an important role in getting a case ready for trial. They do this by researching both the background of the defendant and the case through social media, including Facebook posts, YouTube, Instagram, etc. They, along with volunteers from the community, monitor the defendant's calls while in the detention center. Intelligence also serves a useful role by dumping data from the offenders' telephones. This data includes the defendant's telephone calls, text messages, contact lists, as well as, in some cases, geo-locations indicating where the offender was at the time of the crime.

The final job Intelligence performs in improving the case quality includes exhibits for trial. This can be everything from maps of the area, photographs of the crime scene, edited audio and videotapes from law enforcement and charts showing information they have developed concerning things such as gang activity and cell tower pings.

Finally, Intelligence serves the purpose of quality control. Intelligence monitors internal records, as well as, South Carolina Court Administration records to let us know how successful our approaches are. This includes the number of cases that we are prosecuting, how well we are prosecuting those cases, the timeliness of prosecutions, as well as, the number of cases coming into our system on a daily basis. Intelligence also monitors courtroom activity, ensuring that we are getting the most out of our limited court time. Finally, Intelligence works with our Internal Programs to ensure accurate recidivism rates, again helping us to monitor our programs to make sure they are effective.

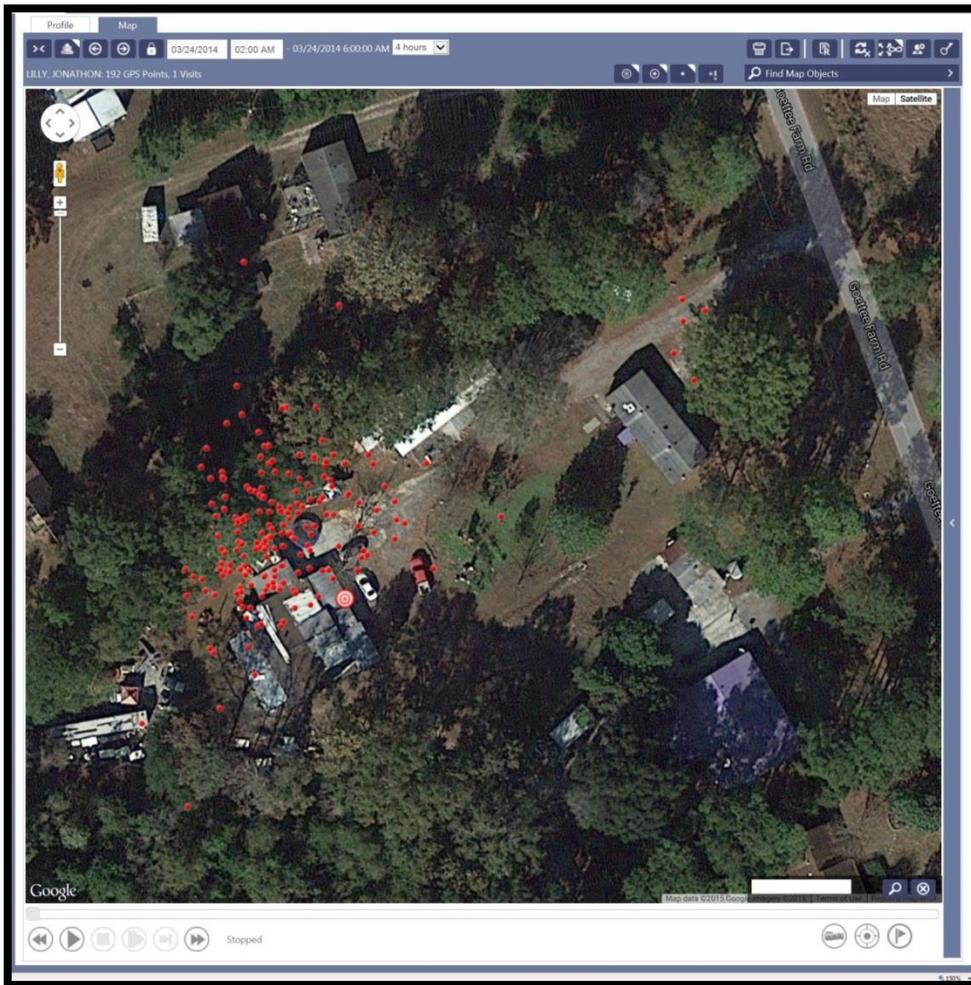
Casework

Jail Calls

When a defendant is booked into the county detention center, they have the right to make a phone call. All defendants' outgoing phone calls are recorded. This information is clearly posted.

Our office listens to those recorded phone messages with the help of volunteers. Important information is often shared on the phone calls, to include confessions. Information gathered from the recorded calls is then shared with Intelligence and prosecutors.

Role of Mobile Phone Tracking and Information Gathering



One of the tools our Intelligence unit utilizes is CDR analysis, or cell phone monitoring.

Each of the red dots to the left depicts movement and calls made by a defendant. This information was critical in the successful prosecution and ultimate conviction of Jonathan Lilly of Jasper County. Lilly was convicted of attempted murder and was sentenced to 25 years in prison for his role in

the brutal attack on a Jasper County man. Lilly's co-defendant, Travis Lee, was also convicted in 2016 of attempted murder. Lee was sentenced to 18 years in prison.

Intake

Criminal background



**FOURTEENTH CIRCUIT
DAILY BOOKING REPORT**
September 6, 2016



County:	Defendant and Charge:	
Allendale	None	
Beaufort	North	South
	Allen, Chance – DV 3 rd Brown, Denise – Animal Cruelty Holmes, Travis – P&P FA, Unlawful Carrying of FA Rivers, John Jr. - Shoplifting Bogatyrev, Dmitri - FTSBL Calabrese, Randi – Poss of Crack Cocaine Taylor, Tracy – Unlawful Use of 911 Fedorka, Mary – DV 3 rd Washington, Edward – A&B 2 nd , Leaving Scene Prop Damage Nelson, Jermasha – DUI Felony w/ Death Results Brown, Charles Antoine – DV 2 nd	Orage, Joshua – Poss of Stolen FA, Unlawful Carrying of FA Deleon, Maximiliano – DV 2 nd Davies, Richard – Poss of CS Schedule I-V Munoz, Charles – Unlawful Carrying of FA Orlando, Margaret – Poss of Schedule 1B Narcotics Lichtman, Tyler - FTCF Patterson, Shawn – DV 2 nd
Colleton	Cochran, Chuck – Unlawful Carrying of FA Strong, Gerard – Poss of Crack, Contraband to Inmate	Generette, Derrick – Poss of Crack Cowan, Robert – Use of Vehicle w/o Permission Dennis, Jacob – Poss of CS
Hampton	McNair, Rashaun – DV 2 nd	
Jasper	Garvin, Bernard - FTSBL Brantley, Jon – Malicious Injury to Property	Lawson, Debra – Trafficking Heroin, Drug Conspiracy Sadlin, Casey – Breach of Trust >5K

*Red Denotes CCLU *Out on Bond*

Each morning, our Intelligence analysts review everyone who has been arrested. After the initial assessment, an analyst and an investigator gather certified records from law enforcement agencies and the courts, as well as any previous incident reporter that shed light on either the current crime or the defendant. A morning report is generated to all attorneys and to local law

enforcement agencies. Our analysts also determine if those defendants were out on bond and reoffended or if they meet the benchmarks to be assigned to the Career Criminal Prosecution Team.

Career Criminal Prosecution Benchmarks include:

- Must be charged with at least a Class C felony.
- Faces the possibility of life in prison without parole (with the state’s two – or three-strike law.)
- Is a person who has violated the public’s trust.
- Has an extensive criminal history.
- Shows a significant degree of violence.
- Is charged with a crime that the Solicitor has determined to be eligible for the death penalty.

Information Technology for the Courtroom

Video Editing

Exhibit preparation



Our office uses numerous tools to help explain a crime to a jury. That includes crime scene models, like the one pictured here. The FBI's Crime Scene Documentation Lab provides pro bono crime scene support to prosecutors. This model helped to secure convictions against an 8-year-old boy's killers.



The above scene depicts portions of a crime scene in Hampton County in which an Estill police officer was shot. It was captured by using a Yuneec Q500 drone. Our drone helps our investigators and prosecutors as they prepare cases for trial and allows juries to have a unique perspective of crime scenes.



Photography: From the Crime Scene to the Courtroom

Within the past year, our office has worked closely with law enforcement to use specialized cameras to capture the details of a crime scene in a full, three-dimensional view. It's helpful for both detectives and prosecutors who can give jurors a look at a crime scene months or even years after the crime. By allowing investigators to capture crime scenes in 3D, the FARO® Laser Scanner provides an exact record of the entire scene at the touch of a button and permits the site to be returned to normal use a short time later.

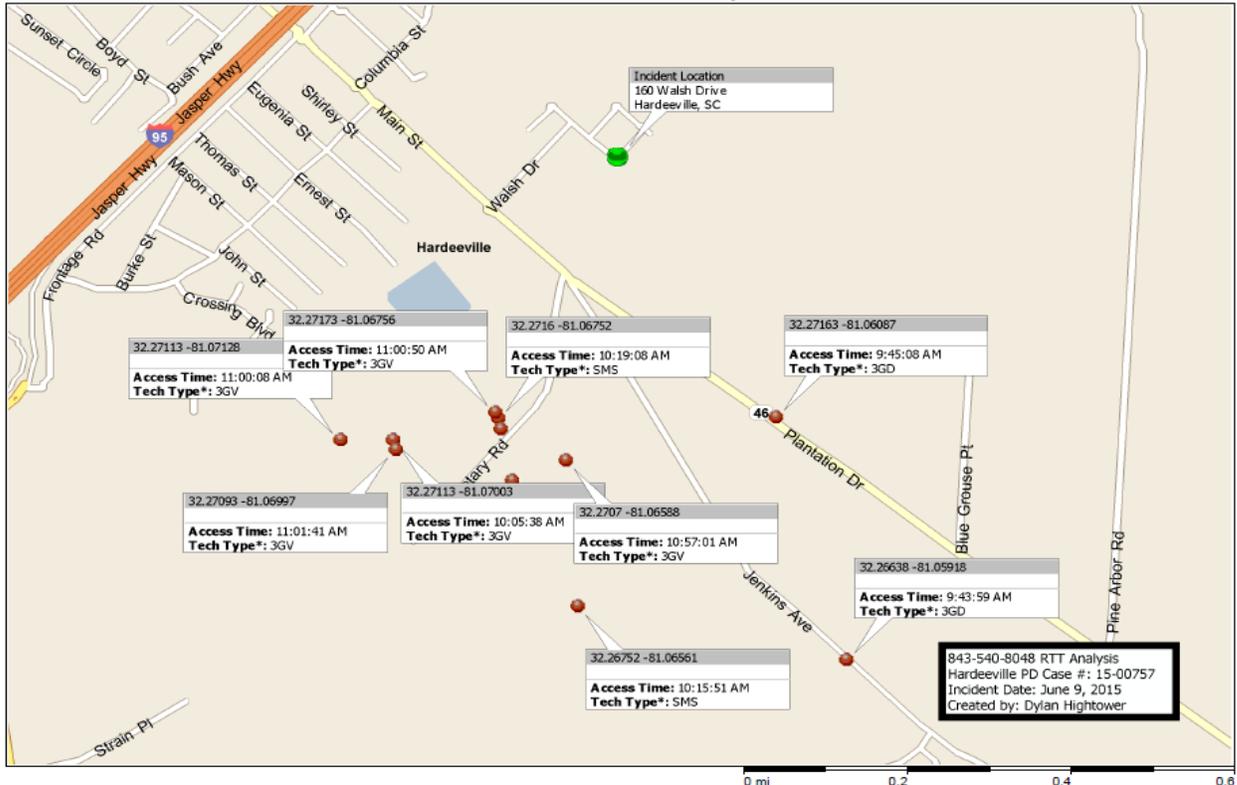
With 3D documentation replacing crime scene sketches, the crime scene reconstruction can be visited multiple times to verify witness testimony or evaluate hypotheses. Forensic scientists can accurately analyze line of

sight, blood spatter, and bullet trajectories to complement other techniques such as offender's height estimation from video surveillanceime was committed.

Technology from FARO permits high-precision 3D measurement, imaging and comparison of parts and compound structures within production and quality assurance processes. The devices are used for inspecting components and assemblies, production planning, documenting large volume spaces or structures in 3D, and more. FARO's 3D measurement technology allows companies to maximize efficiencies and improve processes.

Begin by scanning the scene using a 3D laser scanner to preserve evidence at the incident site such as blood spatter, tire skid marks, or vehicle positions. This scan, or point cloud, is an actual recording of 3D data points at the scene that can be stored indefinitely and used for later analysis. 3D laser scanning reduces manpower demands by up to 80% over other types of on-site data collection.

843-540-8048 RTT Analysis



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 Certain mapping and direction data © 2012 NAVTEQ. All rights reserved. The Data for areas of Canada includes information taken with permission from Canadian authorities, including: © Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, © Queen's Printer for Ontario, NAVTEQ and NAVTEQ ON BOARD are trademarks of NAVTEQ. © 2012 Tele Atlas North America, Inc. All rights reserved. Tele Atlas and Tele Atlas North America are trademarks of Tele Atlas, Inc. © 2012 by Applied Geographic Solutions. All rights reserved. Portions © Copyright 2012 by Woodall Publications Corp. All rights reserved.

Our Intelligence unit regularly uses cellular tower analyses. This information is shared with local law enforcement agencies

Cellular phone dumps with new hardware Secure View phone extraction device which has resulted in a vase amount of information for law enforcement agencies within the judicial circuit.



YouTube
 Cowboys Gang – Colleton County

- Intel learned from lyrics
- Associates of gang

ALLENDALE, BEAUFORT, COLLETON, HAMPTON, JASPER

- Colors and/or hand signs

Prevention Services

Pre-Trial Intervention



Pre-Trial Intervention is a diversionary program in South Carolina designed for first-time offenders charged with non-violent offenses (e.g.: disorderly conduct, various driving offenses, shoplifting, and possession of marijuana or cocaine, etc.). The PTI program requires a prison tour, community service and other programs specific to the criminal charge, such as alcohol education.

Participants only have one shot at PTI anywhere in the state and must closely adhere to the program's requirements in order to be successful.



A total of 326 people from the five-county judicial circuit completed Pre-Trial Intervention. The Fourteenth Judicial Circuit's PTI program has an 86 percent success rate, meaning that only 14 percent are rearrested.

The program's success, in-part, is due to the prison tour, which is unique to our circuit's PTI program. In 2016, 211 people toured the Allendale Correctional Institute in Fairfax. Our office has built a strong

relationship with the Allendale prison. The tour is a mandatory part of our PTI program and incorporates inmates from the Level 2 facility.

LEFT: Fourteenth Circuit Solicitor Duffie Stone speaks to a group of 18 Pre-Trial Intervention (PTI) participants at the Allendale Correctional Institution in Fairfax. The prison tour is part of the diversionary program's mandatory requirements and is unique to our office. ABOVE: Eighteen PTI participants -- ranging in ages from 17 to 71 -- toured the Level 2 facility where they had the opportunity to see and speak with inmates who offered up an accurate, realistic account of life from inside one of the state's 23 prisons.

Veterans Treatment Court



German Batista of Hilton Head Island addresses the court during his graduation from Veterans Treatment Court as Family Court Judge Erin Dean looks on and Volunteer Mentor Mark Hassett listens.

Veterans Treatment Court is a new initiative overseen by the Fourteenth Circuit Solicitor's Office.

The VTC focuses on helping area veterans who have had run-ins with the criminal justice system due to underlying mental health and substance abuse problems.

Former U.S. Army veteran German Batista of Hilton Head Island was the program's first graduate in September 2016.

In 1991, Batista deployed to Saudi Arabia as a Black Hawk helicopter repairman. When his team traveled into Iraq in a military vehicle convoy, he accidentally stepped on an IED. Shrapnel struck his legs, thighs and hands, resulting in lifelong physical and mental problems. He left the military in 1996 as an E-4 Specialist and made his way to Hilton Head Island, where he opened a roofing business.

Following an arrest, Batista's attorney, Corey Fleming of Beaufort, recognized that the

former soldier could benefit from the VTC.

While in the VTC program, Batista successfully participated in 16 weeks of outpatient therapy, eight weeks of after-care treatment and worked with the Department of Veterans Affairs in Beaufort and Charleston to undergo PTSD treatment. He also worked closely with the S.C. Vocational Rehabilitation Department and his volunteer mentor, Mark Hassett. Each veteran is assigned a mentor and a treatment plan is specific to each participant.

Participants can expect to spend up to 18 months in the program and must appear regularly in front of a judge. They must undergo random drug screenings, mental health treatment and actively participate and report on their progress.

Studies have shown that Veterans Treatment Courts work by increasing the quality of life for the veteran and reducing the rate of jail recidivism, or the instances of defendants being rearrested.

"First, we changed the name. The name change was not just a semantic change; it was a new direction," said Solicitor Duffie Stone during Batista's graduation. "It was a way that we as a treatment court could provide treatment services to a wider variety of people and for a variety of issues. Today is the culmination of that. This is a way of serving those people who have who had sacrificed so much for us."

Veterans who successfully undergo the Veterans Treatment Court program are eligible to have their charges expunged.

The Multi-Disciplinary Court program is successful, in large part, because of the partnerships our office shares with Family Court Judge Erin Dean, the U.S. Department of Veterans

Affairs through its Beaufort VA Outpatient Clinic and the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center in Charleston, and S.C. Vocation Rehabilitation Department, the Beaufort County Alcohol and Drug Abuse Department, and other legal and health care professionals.

Economic Benefits of Treatment Courts

When we stepped in to take over operation of the Drug Court in 2009 from a private entity, it only was averaging eight new participants per year. We gave the program a total overhaul and successfully re-launched it as the Adult Multi-Disciplinary Court. Today, we maintain a 70% success rate and more than 64 people have graduated from the program.

The goal of Multi-Disciplinary Court is to address the underlying problems that are causing an individual to commit crimes so they become productive members of society. Each person is carefully screened to undergo professional substance abuse and mental health treatment. MDC Requirements include having community-based meetings, weekly court sessions, and random drug testing and unscheduled home visits. Participants must pay restitution, provide community service, work closely with mentors and be gainfully employed. They must also attend a prison tour. Those who are unsuccessful in abiding by the court's rigid requirements are transferred to prison.

There are economic benefits to having multi-disciplinary courts. They include:

- 60% of offenders test positive for drugs at the time of arrest
- 50% of prison populations are clinically addicted
- 80% of criminal offenders abuse drugs or alcohol
- Unless they are regularly supervised by a judge, 60-80% of addicted offenders drop out of treatment prematurely
- Average annual cost to house an inmate: \$28,323

Source: National Drug Court Institute

Community Involvement

Domestic Violence Coordinating Councils

Following a change in the state's domestic violence laws, our office created Domestic Violence Coordinating Councils throughout the circuit with the goal of increasing awareness and understanding of domestic violence and its consequences; reduce the incidence of domestic violence in the county; and enhance and ensure the safety of battered individuals and their children.

The teams are coordinated by our office's staff and include representatives from various law enforcement agencies, Hopeful Horizons (formerly Hope Haven of the Lowcountry and Citizens Opposed to Domestic Abuse), mental health departments, victim service providers, school districts, juvenile justice agencies, social service providers and those within our higher education system, specifically the University of South Carolina – Salkehatchie.

These groups are focused on providing education and prevention activities and provide professional training and continuing education activities.

Most recently, our office held training sessions on the state's updated and enhanced domestic violence laws. This information has been shared with prosecutors, victim service providers, law enforcement officers and others.

Volunteers in the Office

The Community Support Program is designed to put the diverse talents of dedicated volunteers to good use for the benefit of the judicial system.

Volunteers regularly listen to recorded phone calls made by defendants from the Beaufort County Detention Center. Important information can be gleaned from conversations and have been instrumental in gaining successful convictions, particularly in domestic violence cases in which the defendant calls the victim and threatens them following an arrest.

All volunteers must undergo a criminal background check and be willing to sign a confidentiality agreement. Volunteers also go through a training and orientation session at our Bluffton office. To learn more, or to request an application for our Community Support Program, call (843) 255-5880.

Community Partnerships



The Fourteenth Circuit Solicitor's Office works closely with a number of non-profits, including the Lowcountry Alliance for Healthy Youth and the Lowcountry Coalition Against Human Trafficking. Members of our staff volunteer their time by sitting on these organization's boards.

The Alliance's goal is to bring together representatives from the community sectors to develop a comprehensive solution to preventing and reducing youth substance use and abuse and related risk behaviors by: 1) identifying the causes/conditions that put youngsters at risk and 2) identifying protective

factors/strategies that will prevent young people from engaging in substance use/abuse. Our office participated in an Alliance-sponsored community forum in November 2016 at Bluffton High School.



The Lowcountry Coalition Against Human Trafficking is comprised solely of volunteers. Created in 2010 under the auspices of the Zonta Club of Hilton Head Island, LCAHT works closely with Solicitor Duffie Stone and his office.

LCAHT is dedicated to promoting awareness, encouraging advocacy and encouraging action in the fight against modern-day slavery in South Carolina's Lowcountry and beyond. LCAHT and the Solicitor's Office worked closely together to lobby for stricter laws and sentences for human traffickers.

Most recently, the Solicitor's Office, the Lowcountry Coalition Against Human Trafficking, Zonta, Hope Haven and Citizens Opposed to Domestic Abuse (CODA) all came together in October 2015 to Take a Stand in the Sand at the Coligny Beach Park. The annual event and walk raises awareness and encourages everyone to end violence against women.

TOP: Solicitor Duffie Stone and Lowcountry Against Human Trafficking Board President Mary Jo Riley talk during Take a Stand in the Sand event in October 2016 at Coligny Beach Park on Hilton Head Island. The annual event is sponsored by the Zonta Club of Hilton Head Island.

Special Report: Hurricane Matthew Recovery



Following Hurricane Matthew in October 2016, members of our staff turned to the communities in which they live and work to help others impacted by the storm.

On St. Helena Island, our office worked side-by-side with the American Red Cross and others to hand out water, hot food and other essentials to those who came home to felled trees, water-damaged structures and power outages.

It also became a teachable moment. A teenager who is part of our office's Junior Pre-Trial Intervention Program

volunteered with one of our juvenile prosecutors and investigators to hand out hot meals and then cleaned up afterward.

In Bluffton, lasagnas and baked goods were made for out-of-town power company linemen who spent weeks clearing debris from Hilton Head Island and the surrounding areas.

In Jasper County, our staff worked at the school-turned shelter, helping to cook and comfort hundreds of displaced families.



TOP: (From left to right) Teresa Pye, an investigator with the Fourteenth Circuit Solicitor's Office's treatment courts, Michael Bondi of Mercy Chefs, and Assistant Solicitor Margaret Strom work together during the Hurricane Matthew recovery process on St. Helena Island. BOTTOM: (Left) Linemen in Bluffton clear felled trees following Hurricane Matthew. (Right) A JPTI participant helps to hand out meals prepared by Mercy Chefs to St. Helena Island residents.

ALLENDALE, BEAUFORT, COLLETON, HAMPTON, JASPER