



Tried and true

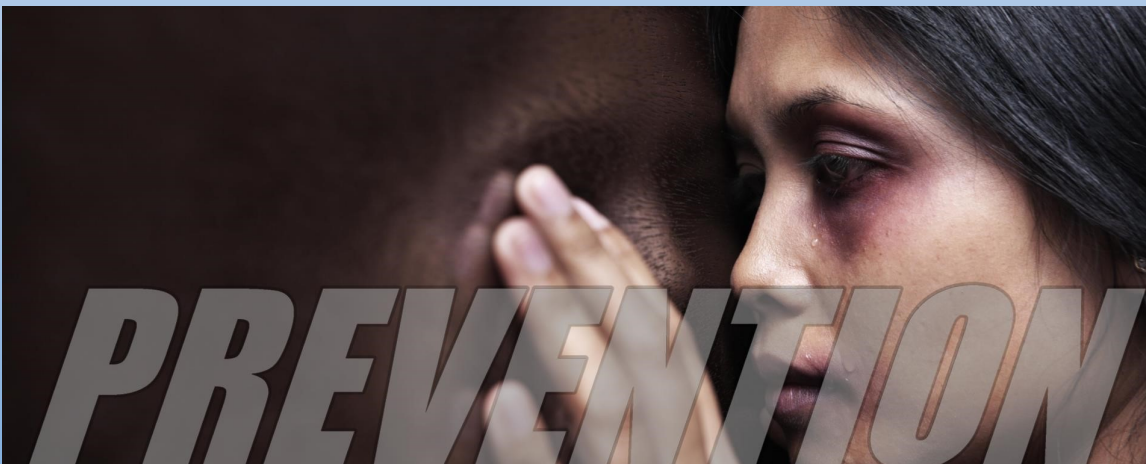
Career Criminal Unit passes significant milestone in 2018 — it has sent more than 300 of circuit's most violent, habitual offenders to prison since its formation a decade ago.

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SVU's first year

Solicitor Duffie Stone created a dedicated team to tackle rape and domestic-violence cases. It was a great idea, and the Special Victims Unit has the convictions to prove it.

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A place to turn

Victims of domestic violence, sexual assault can get services that might save their lives, all under a single roof, thanks to the Solicitor's Office and its many partners.

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14th Circuit Solicitor's Office

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

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14th Circuit Solicitor's Office

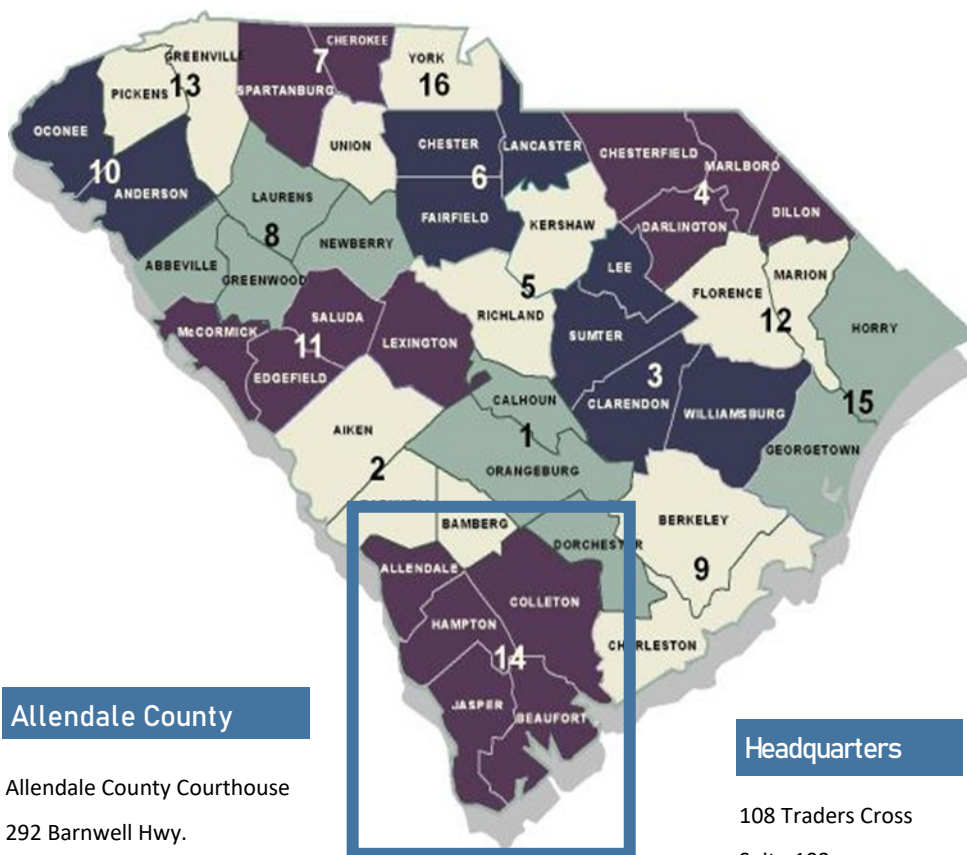


Solicitor's Office overview

The 14th 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 14th Circuit encompasses 3,256 square miles — more than one-tenth of the entire state — in the renowned Lowcountry. The circuit is home to more than 278,000 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 all criminal cases in Family Court. Additionally, the office operates several prevention and diversionary programs, including pre-trial intervention, worthless check recovery, alcohol education, traffic education, treatment-based courts and juvenile arbitration.

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



Allendale County

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292 Barnwell Hwy.
Allendale, SC 29810
843-779-8665

Beaufort County

Beaufort County Courthouse
102 Ribaut Road
Beaufort, SC 29902
843-779-8477
843-705-7479 (fax)

Colleton County

101 Hampton St.
Walterboro, SC 29488
843-779-8716
843-549-6327 (fax)

Hampton County

80 Elm St. West
Hampton, SC 29924
843-779-8689
803-914-2176 (fax)

Jasper County

198 2nd Ave.
Ridgeland, SC 29936
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What's inside

A message from Solicitor Duffie Stone

The 14th Circuit Solicitor's Office marked accomplishments on many fronts in 2018. However, any apt recap of the past year is necessarily headlined by our work to serve victims of rape, domestic violence and other crimes against vulnerable populations.

Hunter Swanson and the Special Victims Unit she leads are at the forefront of this effort. Created in late 2017, the SVU is devoted to cases involving the most sinister of criminals and charges that are uniquely challenging for prosecutors. This annual report aims to help you better understand those challenges and how Swanson's team has been tailored to meet them.

A similar success story is unfolding just down the hallway from our SVU, where several community partners joined with us to launch the 14th Circuit Victims Services Center. Hopeful Horizons, the Child Abuse Prevention Association and Lowcountry Legal Volunteers are among the organizations who help survivors of rape, domestic violence and child abuse escape danger and begin their lives anew.

Victims benefit in many ways when service providers are gathered under a single roof and risk being re-traumatized when they are not. For instance, imagine you are a child who has been sexually abused. Imagine having to tell your story to a police investigator ... then repeating it to a forensic interviewer ... then to a prosecutor. And imagine that in the midst of this chaos, you must drive two hours to Charleston for a medical exam, where you again recount the most awful experience of your life, this time to a doctor.

My staff, our partners and community volunteers from local civic organizations have created a child-friendly space within the center and equipped it in a manner that helps us avoid scenarios like the one I just described. The following pages will tell you more about how we are accomplishing this.

This center has been a vision for me and my staff for several years. There are only a few victims assistance centers in all of South Carolina. None have earned the "Family Justice Center" designation from the Alliance for Hope. It is my intent to build on what we have started and make this happen for the people of the 14th Circuit. I believe we're well on our way.

Thank you again for supporting the 14th Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office. I am grateful to all who have helped us achieve more professional, efficient and effective prosecution. I hope you find this report informative. Please contact me if I can be of service.

Yours sincerely,



Duffie Stone
14th Circuit Solicitor



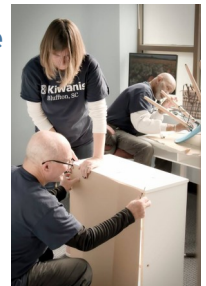
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Did you know? ...

Fourteenth Circuit Solicitor's Office prosecutors secured 1,489 convictions in 2018, either by guilty pleas or jury verdicts, and another 91 entered into diversionary programs. Here's a partial breakdown of the convictions, by offense:

37.7%

Drug-related offenses

14.4%

Domestic violence
and child neglect

5.9%

Firearms offenses

5.3%

Assault & battery

3%

Attempted
murder

3.4%

DUI

1.7%

Burglary

1.3%

Murder,
manslaughter

1.3%

Rape, exploitation
of minors, other sex
crimes

\$160,790

That's the amount returned to local businesses through the Solicitor's Office Worthless Check Unit in 2018. This program helps businesses and individuals recoup financial losses resulting from bad checks. It is offered free of charge to victims of bad checks. Additional fees collected from offenders fund the program. As might be expected from the circuit's most-populous county, Beaufort County led the way with \$65,293 collected. Interestingly, the circuit's least-populous county, Allendale, came in second at \$38,437 recovered in 2018.

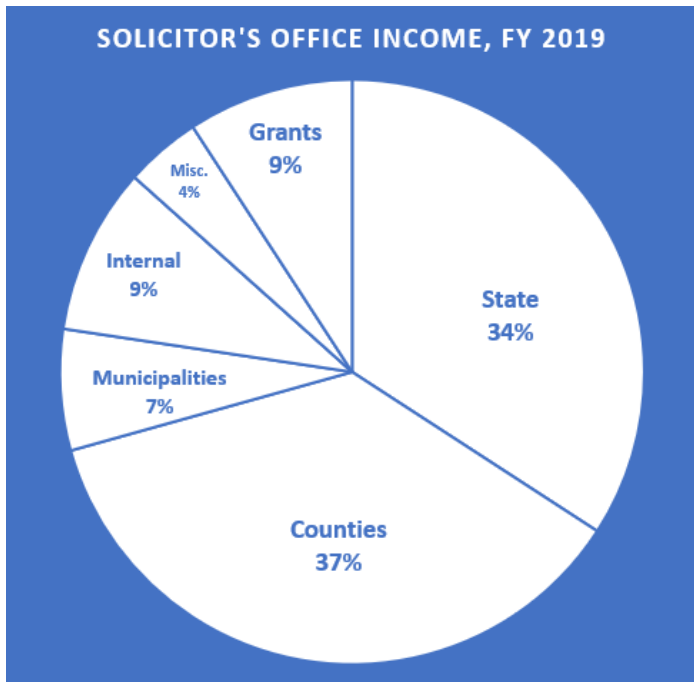
4,807

New warrants forwarded to the 14th Circuit Solicitor's Office for prosecution in General Sessions Court in 2018.

Although the number of new cases has generally been on the rise in the past decade and the circuit's population has risen about 10 percent over that span, the Solicitor's Office has reduced the number of pending cases by about 18% since 2009. How was that accomplished? In part because the Solicitor's Office formed the Career Criminal Unit to prosecute the most violent and habitual offenders. The premise is that about 20 percent of criminals commit about 80 percent of the crimes – focus on getting them off the streets, and crime falls. On the opposite end of the spectrum, the Solicitor's Office has greatly expanded its diversionary and Multidisciplinary Court programs, which seek to rehabilitate offenders before they become career criminals.

5

Counties comprising the 14th Judicial Circuit. We're the only of the state's 16 circuits to represent that many in General Sessions Court.



The county and municipal governments that benefit most directly from the Solicitor's Office services provide less than half of its budget. A third of the office's funding comes from the General Assembly, and another third comes from a combination of grants and revenue generated by the office's internal programs. On the expense side, about 80% of the budget is dedicated to salary and benefits for 56 full-time-equivalent employees.

Cellphone extractions performed by our Intelligence and Investigations team for circuit law-enforcement agencies in 2018. We can gain valuable information by downloading information from cell-phones, but extractions and analysis take many hours, special training and special equipment. This is one of several services our investigators provide for law enforcement agencies, many of which have small forces and budgets. We also assist in crime-scene processing and internet intelligence-gathering.

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Stone elected to lead national organization of prosecutors

Fourteenth Circuit Solicitor Duffie Stone has been named the 68th president-elect of the National District Attorneys Association, the country's largest organization of prosecutors.

Stone, already a board member and the organization's treasurer, is to begin his one-year term as president in July 2019. His duties will include working with the U.S. Department of Justice and Congress on national legislation and policy on all criminal justice matters, as well as working with state prosecutors to train and develop best practices in state prosecution.

This is only the second time a prosecutor from South Carolina has served as president. Former Sixth Circuit Solicitor John Justice was NDAA president from 1998 to 1999.

In 2016, Stone served on the NDAA's executive working group. He also is chairman of the S.C. Commission on Prosecution Coordination and of the state's Domestic Violence Advisory Committee. Stone is currently serving his fourth term as solicitor of Allendale, Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper counties.

Founded in 1950, the NDAA offers training to the nation's prosecutors on a variety of topics including domestic violence, child abuse and homicide investigation and prosecution. It is the largest prosecutor organization in the country, representing more than 5,000 elected and appointed prosecutors across the United States and Canada.





Several nonprofit groups help staff the 14th Circuit Victims Services Center. Pictured here are (front, from left): Michelle Fraser, Victims Center director; Anne Caywood, Lowcountry Legal Volunteers executive attorney; Matthew Lindauer, Lowcountry Legal Volunteers; Icela Bowers, Lowcountry Legal Volunteers; Helen Thompson, Lowcountry Legal Volunteers; Brad Cervas, Lowcountry Legal Volunteers; Ken Johnson, Lowcountry Legal Volunteers; Haley Lawson, Lowcountry Alliance for a Healthy Youth; Dr. Loretta Novince, Lowcountry Alliance for Healthy Youth; Alkesha Williamson, Hopeful Horizons; Pamela McNair, Hopeful Horizons.



Where victims come first

Time and travel are obstacles to those who have been sexually assaulted or who are fleeing domestic violence; this new community partnership gets them help fast, in a single location

Bright-green benches and a giant mural of a coral reef greet the four girls as they walk through the frosted-glass doors. Just inside the children's area of the 14th Circuit Victims Service Center is a 65-gallon fish tank.

The place looks like an underwater wonderland. Within moments, the 7-, 8- and 12-year-olds are pressed against the tank to see the turtle – the “tortuga,” they call it – as it swims peacefully in-

side. Meanwhile, the youngest among them, just 3, sits on the floor and begins coloring.

The waiting room is a cheerful contrast to the dank motel where the children, none of whom speak English, had been living in recent weeks. Someone noticed that adult men were coming and going from the room, and that the girls always seemed to be there, even in the middle of the school day.

The S.C. Department of Social Services

was notified. Fearing the girls' might be part of a human-trafficking ring, DSS brought them to the center so a forensic interviewer from Hopeful Horizons could get to the bottom of their circumstances.

At the center, the 14th Circuit Solicitor's Office has assembled a team of professionals to help victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child and elder abuse. Their aim is to provide a soothing environment, reduce the number of places victims must go for help

and limit their trauma by reducing the number of times they have to tell their story.

"We have always been in support and recognize the benefit of a coordinated response," said CEO Kristin Durbrowski of Hopeful Horizons, a children's advocacy, domestic violence and rape-crisis agency. "When a client has to travel, if they can go to one location and have access to multiple services, they can take care of many of their needs in a few hours."

Timely access to services is crucial to victims, according to Durbrowski.

A battered victim is harmed seven times, on average, before deciding to flee the abuser for good. Most contemplate leaving much sooner, but escape requires planning – and often, assistance with legal, financial and childcare matters. Inability to secure that help quickly is not merely an inconvenience; it is a threat to victims' safety.

Fortunately, many nonprofit groups and government agencies in the 14th Judicial Circuit provide the type of help victims need.

"The problem," 14th Circuit Solicitor Duffie Stone said, "is that those service-providers were spread out. My prosecutors and victim advocates interact with many of these people during the course of criminal prosecutions. Before we opened the center, we would meet with them, hand them a stack of brochures and business cards, then hope they had the wherewithal to follow through.

"I've always thought it would be so much better if, instead of handing them business cards, we could just walk them down the hall to get help right away, face-to-face."

For years, Stone sought a way to create such a single-stop center. With the purchase of a 4.85-acre office complex in Okatie in December 2017, the path was cleared. The building houses the Solicitor's Office headquarters, as well as the nonprofit and government social-service agencies participating in the Vic-



The Solicitor's Office has launched the 14th Circuit Victims Services Center without an increase in government funding. Grants from TD Bank and other organizations has defrayed some costs. So have community volunteers from the Kiwanis Club of Bluffton and the Zonta Club of Hilton Head Island, who provided manpower and materials to update office space and create a children's center within the Victims Center.

tims Center.

"We don't charge anyone rent," said Michelle Fraser, a Solicitor's Office victim advocate and the center's director. "All we ask is that they staff the site regularly so that they're here when victims need them."

Hopeful Horizons, the Child Abuse Prevention Association, Lowcountry Legal Aid and the Lowcountry Alliance for a Healthy Youth have signed memoranda of understanding with the Solicitor's Office to participate in the center. Several other agencies have also expressed interest in joining the partnership.

"The Solicitor's Office doesn't duplicate services," Fraser added. "Instead, we provide a place that brings these services together for the benefit of victims."

Stone hopes to incorporate the Victims Center into a Justice Institute that would

bring together experts from many disciplines to promote public safety, share law-enforcement intelligence and develop prosecutorial best practices. This will add a research and education component to the operation.

For good reason, though, the Victims Center is the first component of Stone's broader vision.

"Everything that a Justice Institute can accomplish would make the 14th Circuit a safer place to live, but the Victims Center addresses what I think is among the most urgent needs," Stone said. "It also is the component we could get off the ground most quickly. That's because we already had strong relationships with many of the partners, such as Hopeful Horizons, who are essential to making this concept work."

Please see CENTER on next page

CENTER

There are only a few victims centers in South Carolina, and Stone seeks to make the 14th Circuit Victims Services Center the first in the state to attain "Family Justice Center" status from the Alliance for Hope. The Solicitor's Office already meets one of the requirements for this distinction – a prosecutor's office must have a presence in the facility. In fact, the Victims Center is a short walk down the hall from the Solicitor's Office Special Victims Unit, just as Stone long envisioned.

Security is also essential. As with all areas of the building occupied by the Solicitor's Office, access to the center is regulated by magnetic door locks that require passkeys for entry.

"Solicitor Stone created this space for us, which really is allowing greater access to justice for all. It's definitely a win-win," said Anne Caywood, the executive attorney with Lowcountry Legal Volunteers.

The nonprofit organization uses volunteers and retired lawyers to provide free legal services and education in Beaufort, Hampton and Jasper counties. The organization focuses on civil cases and assists income-qualified clients with such matters as child support, divorce, name changes and wills.

Caywood and her organization moved from their location in Old Town Bluffton in December 2018.

"It just made perfect sense for Lowcountry Legal Volunteers to be here in this space and location," Caywood said. "Okatie is centrally located and is better for our clients, many of whom are faced with transportation issues. Being here secures our growth and is beneficial to our clients. It allows us to collaborate with our fellow service providers and increases awareness by virtue of being in association with the Solicitor's Office."

A few doors down from the center's office and conference area, an exam room is coming together. Heather Dollar, a pediatric and adult sexu-



The lobby of the Children's Center includes toys for younger children and an aquarium that fish share with Squirt the turtle.

al assault nurse examiner, came on board in January 2019. She is outfitting the room and ensuring the facility meets regulatory requirements to examine sexual assault victims. The need for such exams is particularly urgent in cases involving minors. Currently, children who have been sexually assaulted within the past 72 hours – the window during which forensic evidence might be collected – have to travel outside the 14th Circuit, to Charleston.

"The need for this service is absolutely critical," Stone said. "When you think of what a child in this situation must go through – we want to do everything we can to lighten the burden for them and their families."

The children's area of the Victims Center has been designed with this desire in mind, as well. It was decorated and outfitted by the Kiwanis Club of Bluffton and the Zonta Club of Hilton Head Island to provide a bright but functional space.

The centerpiece is an interview room equipped with closed-circuit cameras. In addition to Victims Center partners, the room is available to law-enforcement

agencies who need to interview a child but would prefer to do so in an environment less imposing than a police station. The room is equipped with a closed-circuit camera system. It can record interviews and stream them into an adjacent room, where counselors, prosecutors and medical professionals can observe in real time and suggest questions for the interviewer. This spares the children the trauma of retelling their stories.

Fortunately, sexual assault is not part of the story that unfolds in the case of the four girls referred to the center from DSS. The interviewer learns they are not part of a trafficking operation. Rather, they are staying in the room with their fathers, who have migrated from Central America looking for work. The girls are placed temporarily in foster homes, where they can receive proper care while their fathers' immigration status is sorted out.

"While the room was designed for forensic interviews and is being used heavily for that purpose, we think it has a range of uses for a range of agencies," Stone said. "It's not unlike the center itself – this is the start of what will be many productive collaborations."

Solicitor's Office borrows from community-prosecution concept to provide speedier justice

Attorneys funded by towns of Hilton Head, Bluffton make big inroads in reducing number of cases still active a year after arrest

As any high school civics student could tell you, criminal defendants have a constitutional right to a speedy trial. The fact is, prosecutors don't like lingering caseloads, either.

Over time, witnesses' memories fade. Law enforcement investigators or expert witnesses might move to faraway jurisdictions, making their trial testimony expensive or impractical. Thus, the guilty become more difficult to convict. Meanwhile, defendants for all but the most heinous of crimes typically make bail – that's also a constitutional right – and are back on the street, free to reoffend. Those not out on bond constitute an expense for county detention centers.

For communities serious about criminal justice and public safety, policing alone does not suffice. It takes prosecutorial manpower to move cases expeditiously and, above all, judiciously.

Toward that end, the General Assembly provided new funding starting with its fiscal 2018 budget to assure each South Carolina county has at least one prosecutor and that Solicitors Offices are better-equipped to reduce attorney caseload. The 14th Circuit Solicitor's Office used its appropriation to expand community prosecution in a big way.

Hilton Head Island and Bluffton agreed to match a portion of the state funding, allowing the Solicitor's Office to hire additional attorneys and create two new units, one each focused on crimes within those municipalities. Launched in July 2017, the units' goal is to clear the docket of old charges and prevent a backlog of cases that are one year or older.

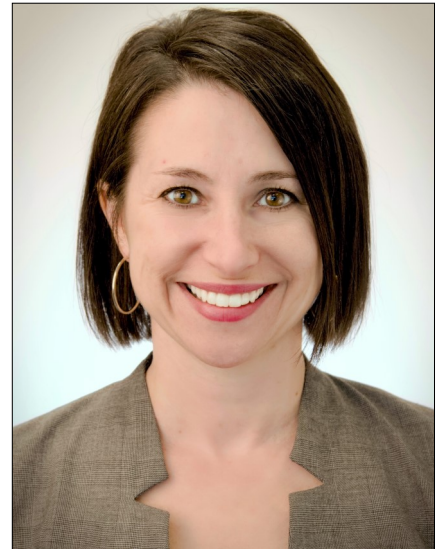
As the graphics on the following page indicate, the teams are off to a tremendous start. The number of Hilton Head cases one year or older was down 44.3 percent, from 122 to 68 by the end of calendar 2018. Bluffton cases were down 58.5 percent, from 142 to 59, over the same period.

Reducing the overall caseload for each attorney is, of course, one key to reducing backlogs. Using dedicated teams to forge closer relationships with the municipalities and their law-enforcement agencies is another.

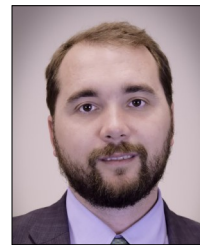
Solicitor Duffie Stone first became intrigued with this sort of "community prosecution" after learning about it through his work with the National District Attorneys Association. He has incorporated many of its principles in his office's defendant-based, "vertical" prosecution system, in which a single attorney handles all charges against a particular defendant, from arrest through disposition. This system builds in accountability among the office's prosecutors.

Please see COMMUNITY on next page

Community prosecution leaders



Mary Jordan Lempesis, leader of community prosecution teams



Daniel Gourley, Town of Bluffton



Sarah Fowler, Town of Hilton Head Island



Jacob McFadden, northern Beaufort County



Ceth Utsey, Colleton County



Patrick Hall, Jasper County



Leigh Staggs, Hampton, Allendale counties

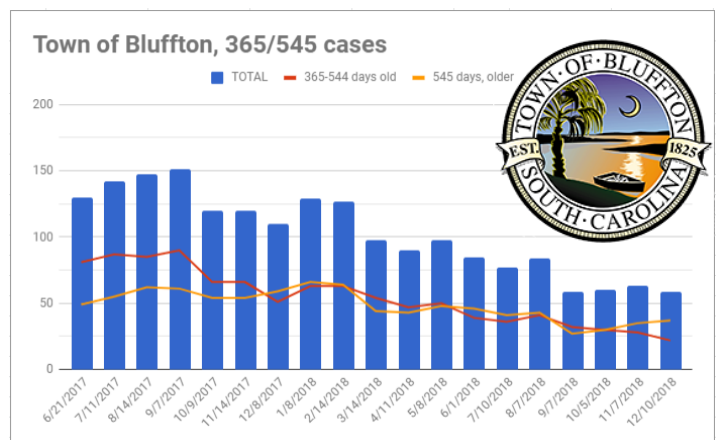
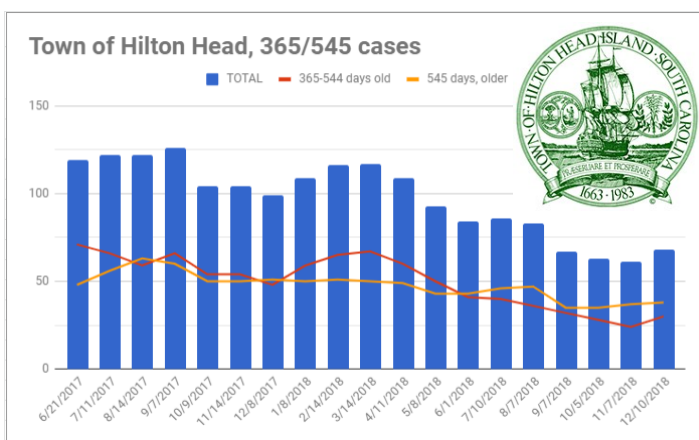
County	2017 U.S. Census population	Population as % of circuit total	2018 cases disposed (year over year change)	2018 cases added (year over year change)	Pending cases end of 2018 (year over year change)	Pending caseload as % of circuit total
Allendale	9,002	3.2%	281 (64.3%)	174 (28.9%)	189 (-37.2%)	3.9%
Beaufort	186,844	66.4%	2,187 (1.7%)	2,128 (.9%)	1,954 (-.8%)	40%
Colleton	37,611	13.4%	972 (-11.4%)	1,041 (-4.8%)	1,202 (7.7%)	24.6%
Hampton	19,602	7%	750 (132.2%)	487 (-27.9%)	633 (-30.3%)	13%
Jasper	28,458	10.1%	821 (36.6%)	943 (5.2%)	904 (5.1%)	18.5%
14 th Circuit	281,517	100%	4,342	4,773 (-3.6%)	4,882 (-5.3%)	100%

COMMUNITY

As new arrests are made, cases are assigned by the intelligence and intake unit to the prosecutorial teams within the Solicitor's Office. Those involving criminal sexual assault and other crimes against vulnerable populations are assigned to the Special Victims Unit. Crimes involving the most violent and habitual offenders are prosecuted by the Career Criminal Unit. All other cases are assigned to a corresponding community team, which prosecutes offenses committed within a particular geographic region. Each regional unit also has a team leader – those in charge of county-level teams help coordinate the General Sessions Court docket, and those in charge of municipal-level teams serve as the point of contact for law enforcement and town officials in that area.

"This arrangement gives us balance," Stone said. "On the one hand, the community teams are intently focused on the smaller communities within the circuit, which helps us be more attuned to their needs. On the other hand, our intelligence, Career Criminal and Special Victims units help us see the wider picture – what's going on across geographic and jurisdictional boundaries. Ultimately, that furthers the community concept because it heightens their awareness. What's going on just outside the city limits or county line can dramatically affect what takes place within those borders. What we're trying to do, then, is offer the best of both worlds.

"What it really comes down to is being able to quickly assess new cases, get them assigned to the right team and then work diligently toward the proper outcomes. Ultimately, that's what public safety is all about."



The charts above show how 14th Circuit Solicitor's Office community prosecution teams for Hilton Head Island and Bluffton have greatly reduced the number of cases in which a year or more has passed since a defendant's arrest. The Solicitor's Office devotes additional funding provided by the municipalities to prosecute crimes committed in the towns. Older cases have been reduced by 44.3% on Hilton Head and by 58.5% in Bluffton since July 2017, when the respective community-prosecution teams were formed.

Joey Barfield (pictured) once directed criminal enterprises in Bamberg and Allendale counties. Now, he's in federal prison.



Frustrated by the limited options available under state law for dealing with some career criminals, the 14th Circuit Solicitor's Office hit upon a novel solution a few years ago ...

Make a federal case out of it

Career Criminal Unit prosecutor Carra Henderson was the first Solicitor's Office employee in South Carolina to be devoted full-time to federal prosecutions. She remains one of only two.



There was a time when Gangsta Disciples returning to Barnwell County from prison received a disturbing welcome-home gift from fellow street-gang member Joey Barfield: He gave them guns.

Incidentally, Barfield has done a

little time himself. In the early 2000s, he was convicted of five counts of burglary and received two, 10-year sentences. So in essence, Gangsta Disciples homecomings entailed a felon rearming other felons.

Please see FEDS on the next page

FEDS

Outrageous? Perhaps – but not necessarily illegal under South Carolina law.

While federal statutes prohibit any felon from possessing a firearm, state code expressly prohibits only some violent felons from doing so. Further, omissions from the list of crimes considered “violent” might seem odd to the layman. For example, daytime burglaries and some domestic-violence offenses are not included. That’s right. A crime with “violence” in its name is not necessarily considered a violent crime.

As a result, state-level prosecutors can have difficulty securing stiff sentences against habitual offenders, assuming they can bring a case against them at all.

Barfield and his welcome-home gifts exposed this gap between state and federal law, and the problem was not merely academic. Many Gangsta Disciples used these weapons to commit new crimes. And although Barnwell is in South Carolina’s 2nd Judicial Circuit, Gangsta Disciples activity frequently spilled into the neighboring 14th Circuit, particularly Allendale County.

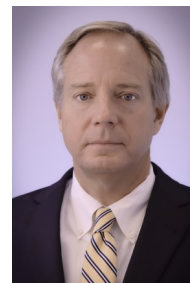
To rid his circuit of these criminal enterprises, 14th Circuit Solicitor Duffie Stone struck upon an inventive solution: Arrange access to federal courts for one of his most experienced prosecutors, Carra Henderson.

In 2015, Henderson became the first state-level prosecutor in South Carolina to fully embed with the U.S. Attorney’s Office. That put at her disposal more robust laws, penalties and investigative tools, such as the federal grand jury. Henderson uses these resources to prosecute career criminals across the 14th Circuit. She remains employed by the Solicitor’s Office but argues her cases in U.S. District Court in Columbia and Charleston, rather than in the 14th Circuit’s county General Sessions Courts.

The partnership has worked so well that the U.S. Department of Justice has encouraged other Solicitor’s Offices in South Carolina to follow suit. (At the start of 2019, however, Henderson remained one of only two state prosecutors focused solely on federal prosecution.) Henderson has earned convictions against 16 federal defendants since the collaboration began, including Barfield in 2017, followed by four more in 2018.

The relationship between the 14th Circuit Solicitor’s Office and federal prosecutors also led to an ad hoc collaboration that dealt a major blow to street gangs operating in several Lowcountry counties, including Colleton. Career Criminal prosecutor Tameaka Legette worked shoulder-to-shoulder with a Washington, D.C.-based Assistant U.S. Attorney who specializes in

“What the federal RICO allows you to do is take out many of the gang members all at once.”



14th Circuit Solicitor
Duffie Stone

gang prosecutions. Along with state and local law-enforcement agencies, and the 9th Circuit Solicitor’s Office, they earned convictions against 17 members of the Wildboys and Cowboys gangs in 2017.

Those gang members were prosecuted under the federal Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, better known as RICO. This law treats street gangs for what they are – organized, on-going criminal enterprises.

“What the federal RICO act allows you to do is to take out many of the gang members all at once. That is the only way to dismantle a gang,” Solicitor Duffie Stone said. “If you take a piecemeal approach and go after one at a time, they are replaced by the time they get into bond court.”

The RICO statute is one of powerful tools afforded the Solicitor’s Office through federal partnerships. There are other advantages, not available under South Carolina law. Among them:

- The ability to prosecute several members of a criminal enterprise in a single trial, rather than separately.
- Language that makes it a crime in itself to lie to a federal investigator. The possibility of prosecution for that offense often prompts witnesses and suspects to provide useful information.
- An investigative grand jury that allows law enforcement and prosecutors to keep witness testimony under seal longer, making it possible to make roundup arrests before suspects have a chance to go underground or harm witnesses.

“For prosecutors in a state that can deploy an investigative grand jury only under very specific circumstances, this type of partnership is invaluable,” Stone said. “There’s no question the 14th Circuit is safer as a result of this collaboration.”

Major federal prosecutions

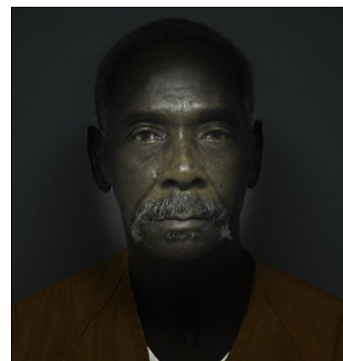
A look at some of the defendants convicted in federal court by the 14th Circuit Solicitor's Office through partnerships with the U.S. Department of Justice:

Year	Prosecutor	County	Defendant	Charge(s)	Sentence*
2016	Carra Henderson	Allendale	Brandon Lewis	Felon in possession of a firearm	87 months
2016	Carra Henderson	Allendale	Joseph Frank	Felon in possession of sawed-off shotgun	37 months
2016	Carra Henderson	Allendale	Donnovan Roberts	Felon in possession of a firearm	21 months
2017	Carra Henderson	Allendale	Cory Sargent	Armed robbery of post office	84 months
2017	Carra Henderson	Allendale	Carlos Badger	Distribution of crack cocaine	50 months
2017	Carra Henderson	Allendale	DelRico Eady	Possession of gun in furtherance of a drug crime	60 months
2017	Tameaka Legette	Colleton	Khiry Broughton	Attempted murder in aid of racketeering	108 months
2017	Tameaka Legette	Colleton	Zaquann Hampton	Attempted murder in aid of racketeering; firearms offenses	84 months
2017	Tameaka Legette	Colleton	Christopher Brown	Attempted murder in aid of racketeering	108 months
2017	Tameaka Legette	Colleton	Clyde Hampton	Racketeering conspiracy	84 months
2017	Tameaka Legette	Colleton	Joshua Manigault	Attempted murder in aid of racketeering	120 months
2017	Tameaka Legette	Colleton	Damien Robinson	Attempted murder in aid of racketeering	120 months
2017	Tameaka Legette	Colleton	Brian Manigo	Attempted murder in aid of racketeering	120 months
2017	Tameaka Legette	Colleton	Kelvin Mitchell	Attempted murder in aid of racketeering	40 months
2017	Carra Henderson	Allendale	Earl Frazier	Felon in possession of a firearm	95 months
2017	Carra Henderson	Barnwell	Joey Barfield	Felon in possession of a firearm; various drug trafficking charges	120 months
2017	Tameaka Legette	Colleton	Devin Brown	Attempted murder in aid of racketeering; using a firearm during a violent crime	240 months
2017	Carra Henderson	Colleton	Pierre Morgan	Felon in possession of a firearm	48 months
2017	Carra Henderson	Allendale	Ernest Roberts	Possession with intent to crack cocaine	180 months
2018	Carra Henderson	Colleton	Rocky Creel	Possession of a firearm by a felon; supervised release violation	66 months
2018	Carra Henderson	Colleton	Marvin Bomar	Felon in possession of a firearm	42 months
2018	Carra Henderson	Beaufort	John Gray Jr.	Multiple firearm violations	Awaiting sentencing
2018	Carra Henderson	Colleton	Marion Campbell	Multiple drug and firearms violations	Awaiting sentencing
2019	Carra Henderson	Jasper	Demetrius Swinton	Conspiracy to possess and distribute cocaine	Awaiting sentencing

* Sentence includes three or more years of supervised release after sentence is served

Prosecuting predators

The 14th Circuit Solicitor's Office Special Victims Unit handled 170 offenses, helped crack a 38-year-old cold case and sent a possible serial rapist to prison in 2018. ... Quite a good start for the new team.



Hunter Swanson felt the familiar flutter in her stomach – it's there every time she stands before a judge. But never had the occasion felt quite this large or the churning so vigorous. The leader of the 14th Circuit Solicitor's Office Special Victims Unit, which was formed six months before this pre-trial hearing, knew just how much was riding on the arguments she was about to make.

Swanson needed to explain that the vagaries of time, not nefarious intent by law enforcement, was the reason evidence was missing from this 38-year-old cold case. She needed to explain that Isaiah Gadson acted almost as if he were on a date with Susan Weed when he raped the 15-year-old in 1980. And Swanson needed to explain that because Gadson behaved similarly in 1983, when he assaulted another young Beaufort County woman, the victim in that case should be allowed to testify in this one.

Swanson needed to explain these things, and she needed to be convincing.

Otherwise, so much hard work by the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office cold-case team – to say nothing of her own



Prosecutor Hunter Swanson shifted from the 14th Circuit Solicitor's Office Career Criminal Unit to lead the Special Victims Unit formed in late 2017. The team completed a remarkable year in 2018, with Swanson winning all of her jury trials. Among the convicted were a Bluffton rapist suspected of crimes in two other states, as well as Isaiah Gadson Jr. (above) who raped a Beaufort teenager and murdered her boyfriend in 1980.

unit's efforts – would be dashed before a jury was even sworn. Otherwise, there might be no justice for Susan or for David Krulewicz, her 18-year-old boyfriend, murdered before her eyes.

Otherwise. ... Well, Swanson had to shelve those thoughts and focus.

Occasions like this, and victims like Susan and David – *this is why she wanted this job*. This is why her boss, 14th Circuit Solicitor Duffie Stone, worked more than a year on the grant

that made the Special Victims Unit possible.

In 2018 – its first full calendar year – the SVU disposed of nearly 170 cases across the 14th Circuit involving criminal sexual assault, domestic violence, child abuse and other crimes against vulnerable populations. The team also secured convictions on 85 percent of the charges it prosecuted in jury trials. By comparison, the conviction rate for all jury trials in South Carolina was 68 percent, falling to 40 percent in

trials involving domestic violence or sexual-assault charges. Swanson's cases alone accounted for more than 220 years' worth of prison time, plus a life sentence.

The statistics are impressive, but they don't fully illustrate the benefit of a team devoted to prosecuting rapists, batterers and abusers, Stone says. And the statistics don't explain Swanson's butterflies.

The case of [The State v. Gadson](#)? That explains these things much better.

Different type of victim; different type of criminal

No one has ever handed over his wallet during a stick-up, only to be accused by a defense attorney of consenting to his own mugging. The burglarized homeowner does not typically share a bed with the burglar.

However, victims of sexual assault, domestic violence and similar crimes introduce a different dynamic. Set aside her wrenching physical trauma. The woman who testifies against her rapist invites scrutiny of her sexual history – potentially in twisted, lurid detail, before a gallery of neighbors. The woman who wants desperately to escape an abusive husband might stay nonetheless because he controls her finances or tells her she'll never see the children again if she leaves.

It's little wonder, then, that prosecutors and law-enforcement officers so often encounter reluctant or uncooperative victims. And it's little wonder that as a result, the conviction rates for such offenses are lower than for most other crimes, according to data from the S.C. Judicial Department.

However, helping victims will accomplish more than blaming them, Stone believes. That philosophy guides the 14th Judicial Circuit Victims Services Center. The Solicitor's Office launched it in 2018, shortly after the SVU was formed and the Solicitor's Office headquarters were relocated to a more spacious building in Okatie to accommodate the center.

Even victims not involved in a

criminal case can use the center's services, which are provided by partnering agencies given free space there.

"However, there's a reason we put our Special Victims Unit just down the hallway from the victims center," Stone noted. "We intend to work closely with our partners. Cooperation means insight into our criminal cases. When everyone communicates, everyone is more attuned to victims' needs."

"Restoring their peace of mind and their autonomy is part of seeking justice, as far as I'm concerned."

The SVU was formally launched in December 2017 and funded in part by a \$244,000-per-year federal Violence Against Women Act grant provided by the S.C. Attorney General's Office. The unit prosecutes criminal sexual conduct charges across all five counties in the 14th Circuit, as well as domestic-violence cases in Beaufort, Colleton and Jasper counties. Swanson's team includes five other prosecutors, plus a victim advocate and an investigator devoted exclusively to the unit's work.

And that work is particularly crucial in the Palmetto State.

Each year since 1998, when the Washington, D.C.-based Violence Policy Center first reported on the rate of women murdered by men, South Carolina has ranked among the 10 worst U.S. states. As recently as 2015, the Palmetto State topped this ignominious list – as it did in 2013 ... and 2003 ... and 2000.

Stone has long been working to change this.

In 2015, then-Gov. Nikki Ha-



In addition to six prosecutors, the Special Victims Unit includes victim advocate April Winston (above) and investigator Tim Carter (shown below with SVU leader Hunter Swanson). "I couldn't imagine someone better suited than April to the difficult job of assisting victims of these awful crimes we prosecute," Swanson said. "And Tim? We work so well together. He's just so good at anticipating what we need to strengthen a case."



ley appointed him to a statewide task force on domestic violence. It produced 50 recommendations, many of which have improved prosecution and victim services. The same year, the General Assembly updated the state's domestic violence law. Among the changes was a provision, first piloted by Stone in the 14th Circuit, that allows Solicitor's Offices to prosecute third-degree domestic violence charges in General Sessions Court. Previously, these offenses

were tried in magistrate and municipal courts by the arresting law-enforcement officers, who often were pitted against seasoned defense attorneys. The new state law also created the S.C. Domestic Violence Advisory Committee, a multidisciplinary group of law enforcement officials, legislators and social-service providers. Stone is the committee's chairman.

The Special Victims Unit and the Victims Services Center are

Please see SVU on next page

SVU

borne of a key insight Stone gleaned from this work: To stop violence against women, focus on their needs.

But one cannot ignore the dark urges that compel predators, either. Rapists and batterers will rape and batter, again and again, until they are confronted directly

and made to stop.

Exhibit A: Isaiah Gadson.

A cold case turns hot

Midnight approached, and David Krulewicz's girlfriend, Susan Weed, had to be home soon. But first, he parked his van in a secluded clearing about a mile from her house. As the couple said their goodnights, three flashes from the muzzle of a handgun pierced the pitch black outside

the van.

The bullets smashed through the passenger-side window and whizzed past Susan's face before finding their target. David was struck in the head and killed.

The assailant peered menacingly at Susan through the shattered window. She pleaded for her life as he held the gun to her head and stole \$50 from her. He made her leave her seat and lay down on the

The Special Victims Unit

Julia Butner, **assistant solicitor**

Attorney Julia Butner prosecutes domestic violence cases in Beaufort and Jasper counties. She came to the Solicitor's Office in late 2017. She worked previously at the American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law, and at the Children's Law Center of Massachusetts.

Francine Norz, **assistant solicitor**

Attorney Francine Norz brings 28 years of experience and assists the SVU by prosecuting financial crimes committed against vulnerable adults. She has a degree from the Columbia Law School and focused on securities-fraud investigations and against broker-dealers while working for the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. She has been with the Solicitor's Office since 2006.

Katherine Littleton, **assistant solicitor**

Attorney Katherine Littleton is a part of the Colleton County community team and prosecutes domestic violence cases there. She has worked for the Solicitor's Office since 2015, after graduating from the University of South Carolina School of Law.

Hunter Swanson, **SVU leader**

Swanson has been with the Solicitor's Office since 2007 and formerly was a member of the Career Criminal Unit, which prosecutes the most violent and habitual offenders in the 14th Circuit. She also previously served as the administrative solicitor for Beaufort County General Sessions Court, managing the court's trial docket.

Duffie Stone, **14th Circuit Solicitor**

Stone is a graduate of Clemson College and the University of South Carolina School of Law. He became 14th Circuit Solicitor in 2006 and has worked to improve the office. Among his moves: tripling the number of victim advocates. He was named Gov. Nikki Haley's domestic violence task force and chair of the S.C. Domestic Violence Advisory Commission.



ground in front of the van. There, he raped her. He made her perform oral sex on him, and he performed oral sex on her. When it was over, he asked if she enjoyed it. He apologized for killing her boyfriend, explaining, "it was the only way I could get to you."

Beaufort County law enforcement pursued several leads in the early 1980s but made no arrests. Gadson lived in the Bur-

ton area at that time but was never a suspect. Eventually, the case went cold.

In the late 1990s, Capt. Bob Bromage, who leads the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office cold-case team, submitted articles of Susan's clothing to the S.C. State Law Enforcement Division for DNA testing. The agency developed a profile from the semen found on her pants and underwear. As DNA profiling techniques improved,

tests were repeated in the early 2000s and results submitted to an FBI database. Still, no leads.

Then in 2016, Gadson was arrested and charged with the attempted murder of a Beaufort man. Authorities took a DNA sample. It matched the profile SLED developed from Susan and David's case.

But the cold case was hardly open-and-
Please see COLD CASE on next page

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**Tim Carter,
investigator**

Tim Carter is a sworn law-enforcement officer. He spent 20 years in the Marine Corps as an investigator with the Criminal Investigation Division and later as a special agent with NCIS. He now works closely with more than 20 law-enforcement agencies in our circuit, many of which are small and have limited man-power and training opportunities.

**April Winston,
victim advocate**

Winston has worked for the Solicitor's Office since 2015. She is the office's liaison to the victims of crimes prosecuted by the SVU. In addition to keeping them apprised of developments in the case and important court dates, she can help victims and their families find other, non-legal services they might need.

**Brittany Sutton,
assistant solicitor**

Attorney Brittany Sutton is a Charleston Law School graduate and began working for the Solicitor's Office in late 2017. She prosecutes domestic violence cases in Beaufort and Jasper counties. Previously, she interned for the 9th Circuit Solicitor's Office and the U.S. Air Force Judge Advocate Office.

**Rebekah Luttrell,
assistant solicitor**

Attorney Rebekah Luttrell prosecutes domestic violence cases in Beaufort and Jasper counties and criminal sexual assaults across the circuit. She came to the Solicitor's Office in late 2017 after a four-year stint in Sarasota, Fla. There, her work for the 12th Judicial Circuit included prosecution of sex-related crimes committed by juveniles.



COLD CASE

shut. Protocol for collecting and preserving evidence was not nearly so stringent in 1980 as it is today. The defense might argue it had been improperly collected or subsequently contaminated.

Handling of evidence wasn't the only concern. Some of it had gone missing altogether. A vial of semen collected during Susan's rape exam had disappeared. So had a stack of crime-scene photos, last in the possession of a long-since-deceased investigator, who had been known to carry case files around in his car or store them in his home's attic.

In the pre-trial hearing, the defense argued the charges against Gadson should be dropped because some of the missing evidence might have been exculpatory and that its disappearance was tantamount to malfeasance.

Also at issue was a prosecution witness with powerful testimony to offer ... but only if Swanson was permitted to call her.

Three years after the 1980 attack, Gadson picked up a young woman at a convenience store who needed a ride to her job on Parris Island. He drove her instead to a remote part of northern Beaufort County and sexually assaulted her. He made her perform oral sex on him, and he performed oral sex on her. When it was over, he asked if she enjoyed it.

This time, Gadson was caught. He was charged with criminal sexual assault and pleaded no contest to assault and battery of a high and aggravated nature. It was a lesser charge, but the plea meant the victim didn't have to testify. Gadson went to prison, and after his release, he added to his criminal history with arrests for drug and gun violations, domestic violence, and assault and battery.

Similarities in the assailant's behavior now seem obvious, but at the time, investigators didn't connect the dots between Gadson's assaults in 1980 and 1983. The victim in the latter case, initially reluctant,

agreed to testify for the first time in the cold case. However, testimony and evidence about a defendant's prior bad acts typically are not allowed unless they demonstrate a pattern of behavior. Swanson would have to convince a judge such a pattern exists, but the bar is set high because the potential to unduly prejudice a jury is great.

Lay another hurdle on the track before her.

"Every sexual assault case involves some unique challenges," Swanson noted, "but this one was also a cold case, which have their own inherent problems. Witnesses and investigators die or their memories fade. ... So how to present the case and tell the complete story without having everything rest on the victim was a source of concern for me."

In the beginning, however, the victim had concerns of her own about Swanson.

A matter of trust

Before becoming the SVU's leader, Swanson had tried and won more cases than anyone in the history of the Career Criminal Unit, which Stone formed to prosecute the circuit's most violent and habitual offenders. Before that, she was the administrative solicitor for Beaufort County, juggling the needs of the Solicitor's Office, judges and defense attorneys to run the General Sessions Court docket.

As she prepared for the Gadson case, Swanson found her reputation did not always precede her. Indeed, Susan harbored misgivings about her.

The case originally belonged to Deputy Solicitor Sean Thornton, who has a long record of success prosecuting the most serious of crimes in front of a jury. As the SVU was being formed, however, Stone reassigned the Gadson case to Swanson.

"Honestly, I was worried and concerned," said Susan, whose married name is Susan Neal. She discussed her case and allowed the Solicitor's Office to identify her by name in this report. "I had heard so many good things about Solicitor Thornton, and Capt. Bromage had a lot of

confidence in him. When I found out it had been reassigned, I thought, 'Oh, no.'

"But I remember our first meeting with Hunter, and as soon as I spoke with her and to her team, I felt a lot of relief. I could just see she was going to be personally involved. It was just a look in her eyes. I had a gut feeling it was going to be fine."

Swanson left that meeting more determined than ever to convict Gadson.

"I'm not the touchy-feely type," Swanson admitted. But meeting Susan validated her decision to specialize in prosecuting crimes against the vulnerable, even though it is emotionally draining work.

"Susan Neal is just the victim you want so badly to help," Swanson said. "She's such a lovely person, but also a very strong person. She's carried this around with her for 38 years, and she could still remember little details from the murder and rape when she was 15. To have experienced something like that and to remember the details without letting it totally destroy your life – she has a nice marriage, two children, runs a business.

"She's a remarkable person – the type of person you feel compelled to do right by."

For his part, Stone never wavered in his decision to reassign the case.

"Honestly, I could not very well create a special victims unit, put one of my best career criminal prosecutors in charge of it, then tell her she can't try this case. But it's not just about appearances," Stone said. "I have tremendous confidence in Hunter."

That confidence proved well-placed.

Swanson emerged from the pre-trial hearings with virtually everything she had hoped for. The defense motion to dismiss the charges because of the missing evidence was denied, and the woman Gadson assaulted in 1983 would be allowed to testify.

Though the trial itself did not lack dramatic testimony, it entailed few surprises. The jury found Gadson, by then 68, guilty of all four charges against him. He was

sentenced to 50 years for murder and 30 years each for first-degree criminal sexual conduct, armed robbery and kidnapping. He is serving the sentences concurrently.

"Right before the trial, I was scared to death about facing this man in the courtroom," Susan recalled. "He'd know who I am. Would he or his family try to hurt me? Would I be able to get through my testimony?" (SVU victim advocate) April Winston and the rest of the team did such a great job of preparing me, answering my questions, calming me. And of course, Hunter did a great job with the case.

"It's only after looking back, though, that I have come to fully realize what she was up against. Now I really understand what they had to overcome. They did an amazing job."

SVU brings immediate results

The Gadson conviction was a highlight of a banner year for the SVU, particularly with regard to jury trials.

In July, for instance, Assistant Solicitor Rebekah Luttrell secured a conviction and 12-year sentence against Bobby Jones Sr. of Allendale for second-degree criminal sexual conduct with a minor. The jury needed just 35 minutes to find Jones, well-known in the community as a church pastor, guilty of using a sex toy on a 14-year-old relative.

Swanson was especially busy, trying six defendants in front of a jury and accepting a plea just a day before jury selection was to begin in a seventh trial.

And, as in the Gadson case, another of her trials entailed a steep challenge.

In December, Lance Rontavis Elam of Tarboro was found guilty in Beaufort County General Sessions Court and sentenced to life in prison for the home invasion and sexual assault of a stranger who lived alone in Bluffton. There was substantial evidence against Elam. He was caught soon after the assault with items from the victim's home, including her iPhone, which relatives used to track him down. His genetic profile matched DNA evidence collected from the victim by a sexual assault

SVU attorney earns conviction against well-known Allendale man

Allendale County

Prosecutor: Assistant Solicitor Rebekah Luttrell

Charge: Second-degree criminal sexual conduct with a minor

Crime: Bobby Jones Sr., used his position as a pastor to control and exploit a 14-year-old relative by using a sex toy on the girl under the guise of education and assistance.

"He thought he was untouchable and above the law," said Assistant Solicitor Rebekah Luttrell, the case's prosecutor and a member of the 14th Circuit Solicitor's Office Special Victims Unit.

Jones was wrong.

It took an Allendale County General Sessions jury just 35 minutes to find Jones guilty of second-degree criminal sexual conduct with a minor.

"Sexual abuse is committed behind closed doors and is shrouded in se-



Bobby Jones Sr.

crecy," Luttrell said. "It's our hope that this conviction brings to light the insidious nature of these types of crimes. The defendant used his position of power and trust to groom and then exploit this young girl."

Sentence: 12 years

nurse examiner.

However, the distraught victim refused to testify. Without her testimony, Swanson had to find some other way to convince the jury that any crime at all had been committed. Deft questioning of the nurse examiner and first-responders accomplished that.

"When I took this job, I never envisioned trying to recreate a crime scene from 1980 or prosecuting a rapist without a victim," Swanson smiled.

Elam's conviction was not only the cap to a successful inaugural year for the SVU; it might well have taken a serial rapist off the streets: Though Elam's previous criminal record included only traffic offenses, DNA collected by the Bluffton Police De-

partment after his arrest connects him to sexual assaults and burglaries in Texas and Charlotte, N.C., where 23 warrants for his arrest were being prepared as he stood trial in Beaufort County.

"I think I've felt an even greater sense of personal fulfillment in this work than I thought I would," Swanson said, reflecting on her team's first year. "I made this move because the cases I've always felt most passionate about are the special-victims cases. I enjoy prosecuting predators. They're the scariest to me – scarier than a drug deal gone bad or a gang shooting after a years-long beef on the street.

"I never run out of things to say about these cases, and I never run out of energy for them."

Career Criminal Unit continues success prosecuting most violent, habitual offenders in 14th Circuit

The Career Criminal Unit is one of the 14th Circuit Solicitor's Office overwhelming success stories because it is predicated upon two unassailable truths. First, a large percentage of crimes are committed by a disproportionately small number of criminals. Second, these criminals do not typically specialize in any particular crime, nor do they confine their activity to any particular political or geographical jurisdiction.

As Solicitor Duffie Stone often notes, "what many describe as a 'crime' problem is actually a criminal problem."

A team of five attorneys, plus Stone and Deputy Solicitor Sean Thornton, are devoted exclusively to the prosecution of the circuit's most serious and habitual offenders. By focusing resources on the prosecution of the most dangerous criminals – and keeping them in jail without bond whenever possible – the region's crime rate is reduced.

From the team's inception in late 2008 through the end of 2018, the Career Criminal Unit earned convictions against 330 of the 343 defendants it prosecuted – a conviction rate of 96 percent.

In 2018, the Career Criminal Unit enjoyed another successful year, with convictions against 31 of the 33 offenders it prosecuted. Defendants received more than 550 years in prison sentences, not including three life-without-parole penalties. Offenses included murder (eight counts), manslaughter (two counts), attempted murder (three counts), kidnapping (six counts) and criminal sexual assault of a minor (13 counts).

The success of the 14th Circuit Solicitor's Office career-criminal approach is now being replicated elsewhere, including the neighboring 9th Circuit, which encompasses Charleston and Berkeley counties.

2018 Career Criminal Unit performance

COUNTY	Defendants	Convictions	Conviction percentage
Allendale	1	1	100%
Beaufort	12	11	91.7%
Colleton	10	10	100%
Hampton	5	5	100%
Jasper	5	4	80%
TOTAL	33	31	93.9%

All-time Career Criminal Unit performance

COUNTY	Defendants	Convictions	Conviction percentage
Allendale	21	21	100%
Barnwell	1	1	100%
Beaufort	154	148	96.1%
Colleton	78	74	94.9%
Hampton	39	39	100%
Jasper	45	42	93.3%
TOTAL	343	330	96.2%

Career Criminal Unit



**Deputy Solicitor
Sean Thornton**



**Solicitor
Duffie
Stone**



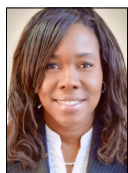
**Assistant
Solicitor
Kimberly
Smith**



**Assistant
Solicitor
Brian
Hollen**



**Investigator
Dylan
Hightower**



**Assistant
Solicitor
Tameaka
Legette**



**Assistant
Solicitor
Mary Jones**



**Special U.S.
Attorney
Carra
Henderson**



**Investigator
JoJo
Woodward**

Career Criminal prosecution



Chatham County, Ga., District Attorney Meg Heap (left) and 14th Circuit Solicitor Duffie Stone (right) address the media after the sentencing hearing for former Catholic priest Wayland Yoder Brown. Georgia's statute of limitations did not allow Heap to prosecute Brown in that state. However, because he also assaulted his victims in South Carolina — where the statute of limitations did not apply — Brown was brought to justice in Jasper County. In the background is Kimberly Smith, a member of the Solicitor's Office Career Criminal Unit. She assisted in Brown's prosecution.

Pedophile priest nearly escaped prosecution for rape of 2 school boys; then, Georgia DA called Solicitor Stone

Wayland Yoder Brown was a brazen predator. One of the boys he regularly assaulted noted that Brown wore his clerical collar whenever he raped. Once, Brown forced him to have sex behind the altar of a Catholic chapel. And almost every attack ended with Brown making him pray the rosary with him.

But Brown was also a careful predator.

Some of the boys who attended St. James Catholic School in Savannah in the 1970s and '80s — even ones Brown did not molest — noticed something odd about the

associate pastor. They just couldn't say what, exactly. Brown was never too forward with his victims when they were around other people.

Instead, he invented reasons to go off alone with the boys he had groomed with alcohol and pornography. Sometimes, he got them out of class in the middle of the school day. Sometimes, he even ferried them across the state line into South Carolina — no one would recognize them there — to buy fireworks or see the old train depot in Hardeeville.

Brown kept his perversions hidden, and

so did his victims. They buried the memories in their minds' deepest crags — forcing them so deep, in fact, that eventually they could scarcely be considered memories at all. Only in adulthood did spiraling depression, failed marriages and chemical dependency bring them erupting into consciousness again.

By then, it was almost too late to make Brown pay for what he had done.

Almost.

Please see PRIEST on the next page

PRIEST

When your hands are tied

Some of Wayland Brown's victims sued the Savannah Catholic diocese in civil court and received a settlement. That process produced reams of depositions that told a decades-ago story of wickedness and criminality.

But Chatham County District Attorney Meg Heap had a problem: Though it has since been abolished, Georgia's statute of limitations was in effect in the 1970s and 1980s. Heap could not prosecute Brown.

She was hardly alone in her predicament.

In July 2018, an investigative grand jury in Pennsylvania dropped a bombshell: As many as 1,000 children in that state had been sexually abused by more than 300 "predator priests." Only two of those priests were ever charged, however. The report determined that "almost every instance of abuse we found is too old to be prosecuted."

Seeking a workaround, Heap contacted federal prosecutors, but they faced similar constraints.

However, the careful Brown made an unwitting mistake. By taking boys across the state line and assaulting them in Jasper County, he opened the possibility of prosecution in South Carolina. The Palmetto State has no statute of limitations.

Heap made one more phone call.

"When we reached out to (14th Circuit Solicitor) Duffie Stone, ... he picked it up and he went with it," Heap said. "I thank Duffie Stone, and I thank the victims for coming forward. Because of their courage to come forward, hopefully other victims will, as well."

The search for evidence

Having a place to prosecute is not the same thing as winning the prosecution, however.

The S.C. State Law Enforcement Division investigated the lawsuit allegations against Brown around the time they were

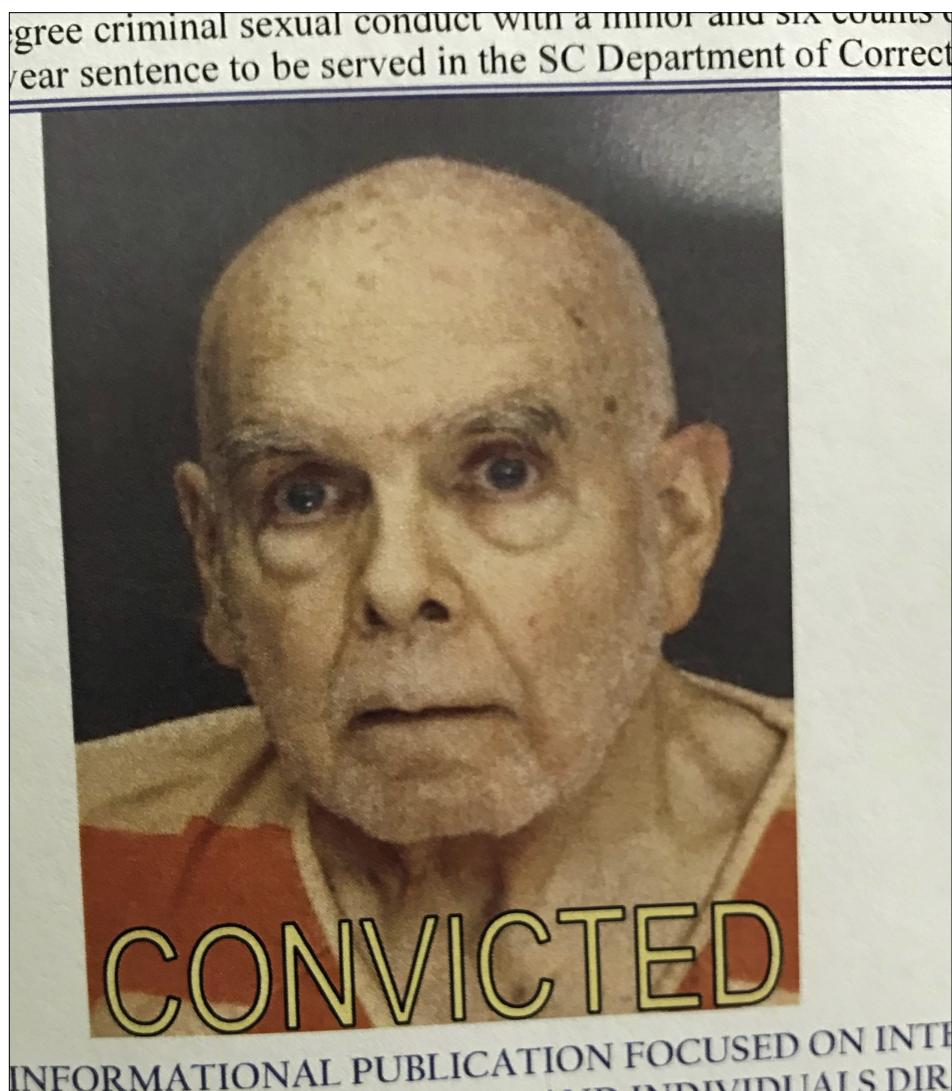
raised in the mid-2000s. However, no charges resulted in the immediate aftermath.

With the possibility of a criminal prosecution, however, investigation resumed with new vigor. The 14th Circuit Solicitor's Office began digging in 2015. Its investigators worked for the next 14 months, along with the Chatham County District Attorney's Office and law-enforcement agencies in both states, to see if they could uncover enough evidence to warrant an indictment against Brown.

Assistant Solicitor Kimberly Smith, a

member of the Career Criminal Unit who assisted Stone, traveled to Pennsylvania to interview a nun who had once worked with Brown at St. James. Smith pored over hundreds of pages of depositions from the civil trial. She drove all over Jasper County with the two former St. James students participating in the criminal case, combing the countryside and their memories for the places Brown had assaulted them so many years ago.

Investigators Tim Carter and Dylan Hightower and victim advocate Michelle Fraser also assisted.



A poster depicting former Catholic priest Wayland Brown in prison garb now hangs in the 14th Circuit Solicitor's Office intelligence center after his conviction on nine counts of criminal sexual conduct with a minor, dating to the 1970s and '80s. Brown was prosecuted by the Solicitor's Office Career Criminal Unit.

“Brown not only violated the trust of children; he violated their faith, as well.”

**14th Circuit Solicitor
Duffie Stone**



Solicitor Duffie Stone (center) speaks with Chris Templeton (left) and Allan Ranta (right), who were victims of Wayland Brown's assaults. Both men have asked that their names be used publicly in hopes it will encourage other victims to come forward.

“We had a huge challenge,” Smith said. “On the one hand, there’s no physical evidence. You have potential witnesses who have died or who don’t remember things. On the other hand, you have a mountain of depositions that you have to read carefully. You never know where you might find that one detail that makes your case.”

Investigators also gained insight from Brown’s criminal history, even if they would not be allowed to present it as evidence in their case.

They discovered that the Vatican had dismissed Brown from the priesthood in December 2004, after he pleaded guilty in Maryland to performing sex acts on a teenage boy and his younger brother between 1974 and 1977, before he became a priest. Brown received 10 years in prison for those offenses but was released after five for good behavior.

The Solicitor’s Office reconstructed a timeline: Brown was ordained in the Diocese of Savannah in July 1977 and served as associate pastor at St. James Catholic Church and school. Shortly thereafter, Brown befriended 9-year-old Allan Ranta, the first victim in this case. Within weeks, Brown began forcing him to have sex, sometimes assaulting him at the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge, St. Antho-

ny’s Catholic Church or the train depot in Hardeeville, all in Jasper County. The rapes continued until the early 1980s, about the time Ranta completed middle school.

In 1986, the Catholic Church sent Brown to an institute in Maryland for rehabilitation after receiving complaints in an unrelated case that he had abused a child. After Brown was discharged, the church re-appointed him associate pastor of St. James Parish in Savannah.

Where he had abused before.

Where, in almost identical fashion, he would repeat the cycle with the second victim in this criminal case, Chris Templeton.

Both victims agreed to be identified by name in this report. Both have said they hope others will feel brave enough to come forward after hearing their stories.

‘They should be taken out’

By August 2017, Stone believed investigators had collected enough evidence to make charges stick. The Jasper County grand jury issued three indictments against Brown for first-degree criminal sexual conduct with a minor and six more for second-degree criminal sexual conduct with a minor.

On Oct. 23, 2018, Brown pleaded guilty to all nine charges and

was sentenced to 20 years in prison. The 76-year-old’s plea agreement requires him to cooperate with authorities should they investigate any related or similar crimes, and a Solicitor’s Office investigator interviewed Brown shortly after he arrived in prison.

“I do not expect the defendant to live through that sentence, but I think it is appropriate that he spend the rest of his life in the S.C. Department of Corrections,” Stone said. “Brown not only violated the trust of children; he violated their faith, as well.”

For Heap, the prosecution entailed a personal dimension – she not only grew up in Savannah; she attended St. James.

“There are good priests out there,” Heap said, “but there are bad ones, too. They should be taken out. Whatever the church decides to do with them is one thing, but if you’re committing a crime, you should be held accountable and you should go to prison for hurting children.”

If you know more ...

Both the 14th Circuit Solicitor’s Office and the Chatham County District Attorney’s Office believe there could be other victims who suffered abuse or sexual assaults within their jurisdictions. Anyone who has information or knows of victims is encouraged to call a hotline set up by the Chatham County District Attorney. The number is **912-652-8080**.

Career Criminal prosecutions

LAPARIS FLOWERS: Longtime menace to community finally behind bars

Allendale County, City of Allendale

Prosecutor: Tameaka Legette

Charge: Murder, three counts of attempted murder and possession of a weapon during the commission of a violent crime.

Crime: Russell Smart was shot dead while sitting in a parked car outside an Allendale apartment complex in 2014. Three other men also were injured.

An Allendale County General Sessions jury returned a guilty verdict following a three-day trial in January 2018 against 27-year-old Laparis Shemel Flowers.

Prosecutors and law enforcement were familiar with Flowers, an Allendale County native. For more than a decade, Flowers eluded a long prison sentence.

Flowers' convictions date back to 2007.

In 2008, he served time in North Carolina for conspiring to rob someone. In 2009, a jury found him not guilty of murder. Later that year, in an unrelated armed robbery trial, again, he was found not guilty. In 2011, prosecutors were forced to dismiss a second murder case against Flowers when witnesses refused to cooperate.

A successful conviction finally came in 2018 when an Allendale County jury found Flowers guilty of shooting and killing Russell Smart and injuring three others.

"This defendant has been a true menace to Allendale and the surrounding communities," Career Criminal prosecutor Tameaka Legette said. "He has terrorized countless people and wreaked havoc



Laparis Flowers, Allendale Co.

on these people's lives. Prison is exactly where this man needs to be."

Sentence: 50 years

GREGORY SANDERS JR.: Defendant fulfills deadly promise, found guilty

Hampton County, Town of Estill

Prosecutor: Tameaka Legette

Charge: Murder, possession of a weapon during the commission of a violent crime

Crime: Three days before Tyhira Herrington was shot and killed, Gregory Sanders told the woman's mother to buy a black dress. He intended to kill her daughter.

"He was true to his word and delivered a deadly promise," said Assistant Solicitor Tameaka Legette.

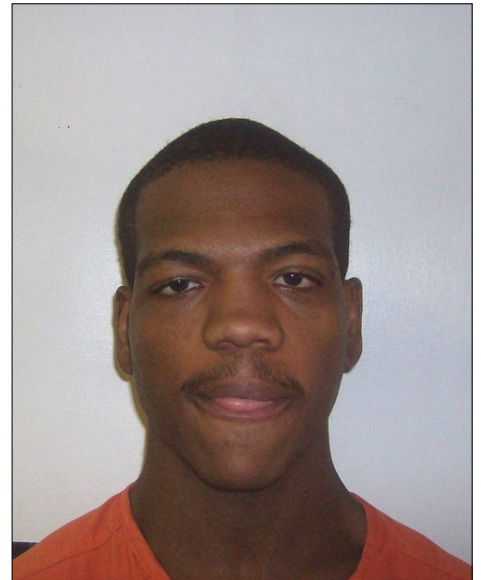
Sanders shot the 20-year-old woman in

the head following an argument outside an Estill apartment complex. At least two of Herrington's friends witnessed the shooting.

When officers found Sanders, he was behind a vacant home on 2nd Street in Estill, changing clothes behind a trash can. The murder weapon and clothing worn during the shooting were in front of him.

Sanders' criminal record included burglary and robbery convictions. A Hampton County jury deliberated just 30 minutes before returning a guilty verdict.

Sentence: Life in prison, plus 5 years



Gregory Sanders Jr., Hampton Co.

Career Criminal prosecutions



This pathway near Adams Street in Ridgeland is where Aneisha Shaire Young of Hilton Head Island lay in wait for Davonte Freeman, who was murdered in an ambush-style attack in 2016. Fourteenth Circuit Solicitor's Office Career Criminal Prosecutor Brian Hollen called the act "cold-blooded." Young's co-defendant is expected to stand trial in 2019.

ANEISHA SHAIRE YOUNG: Convicted for role in ambush-style murder

Jasper County, City of Ridgeland

Prosecutor: Brian Hollen

Charge: Murder, attempted murder, and possession of a weapon during the commission of a violent crime

Crime: Shortly after midnight on April 30, 2016, brothers Davonte Freeman and Wrenshad Kwame Anderson left the Siesta Motel and headed towards Adams Street in Ridgeland. Moments later, Freeman was shot in the back of the head. As Anderson dragged his brother away from the gunfire, he called 911.

Aneisha Shaire Young, 23, fired a gun at the brothers as they left the motel, attacking them ambush-style.

"It was a cowardly act," said Career Criminal prosecutor Brian Hollen. "Lying-in-wait, the defendant opened up on them as they walked down a path."

A Jasper County jury deliberated two hours before returning a guilty verdict

What qualifies as a Career Criminal case?

To be prosecuted by the 14th Circuit Solicitor's Office Career Criminal Unit, a defendant must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- *Charged with a Class C felony or above;*
- *Faces the possibility of life in prison without parole;*
- *Has an extensive criminal history;*
- *Shows a significant degree of violence.*

against Young. They found the 23-year-old Hilton Head Island woman guilty of murder, attempted murder and possession of a weapon during the commission of a violent crime.



Aneisha Shaire Young, Jasper Co.

Young's co-defendant, Darren Young, is expected to stand trial on the same charges in 2019.

Sentence: Young was sentenced to 30 years in prison for Freeman's murder, 10 years for the attempted murder of Anderson and five years for the weapon charge, to be served concurrently.

Career Criminal prosecution

Surveillance cameras in the Pinecrest subdivision of Bluffton capture Colette Collins petting Jonathan Cherol's dog about an hour before the man's murder. Collins returned to the home later that evening with her husband, Samuel, who snuck into Cherol's backyard and killed him with a shotgun blast to the head as Cherol sat on his porch. Colette Collins then lied to authorities about the couple's involvement in Cherol's death.



COLETTE COLLINS: Aided husband after he killed Bluffton restaurateur

Beaufort County, Town of Bluffton

Prosecutor: Kimberly Smith

Charge: Accessory to murder

Crime: As Jonathan Cherol sat with a friend on a porch in a Bluffton subdivision, shots rang out.

Samuel Thompson Collins, 39, was found guilty in 2017 of shooting and killing the Bluffton restaurateur. Investigators believe he was enraged at Cherol because he suspected he was having an affair with his wife, Colette.

Video surveillance in the Pinecrest subdivision where Cherol lived captured Collins visiting his home hours before his murder. The cameras also recorded a return trip by the Toyota Camry later that night in 2015.

That's when, cloaked in darkness and standing in Cherol's back yard, Samuel Collins twice fired a 12-gauge Mossberg

shotgun that he had borrowed from a friend. One shot hit a neighboring house; another struck Cherol in the head.

After firing the gun, Samuel Collins testified, "I panicked, and I left as fast as I could. I went back to the vehicle." He got into a 2007 Toyota Camry, driven by Colette Collins.

"I shot him, let's go," Samuel Collins testified.

"Colette Collins continued to act like she didn't do anything wrong after she knew Sam Collins shot and killed Jonathan Cherol," prosecutor Kimberly Smith said. "She didn't ask questions because she knew what happened. She knew Sam shot Jon. Colette didn't call Jon to check on him. The reason was because he was already dead."

Colette Collins was charged with accessory after the fact of murder. Her husband



Colette Adrienne Collins, Beaufort Co.

testified against her.

Sentence: Samuel Collins, also prosecuted by Kimberly Smith, was convicted of murder and sentenced to 50 years in prison in 2017. Colette Collins was tried in 2018 as an accessory after the fact and received a 15-year sentence, the maximum for that offense.

Career Criminal prosecution



Career Criminal prosecutor Mary Jones (foreground) elicits details from the kidnapping victim during the trial of Tyrone Wallace. Fearing reprisals from the defendants' friends, the victim asked that his identity be concealed.

TYRONE WALLACE: Role in murder, kidnapping land him in prison

Beaufort County, City of Beaufort

Prosecutors: Mary Jones and Kimberly Smith

Charges: Murder, kidnapping

Crime: Three weeks after Vernon "Mony" Steve was reported missing by his mother, his burned remains were found on the shoulder of Pea Patch Road on St. Helena Island. The 38-year-old Beaufort man had been shot in the back and "discarded like a piece of garbage," said Mary Jones of the 14th Circuit Solicitor's Office Career Criminal Unit.

In 2018, Wallace was found guilty of killing Steve and of the kidnapping of a second man. He was the fourth person

convicted in Steve's death.

On the day Steve went missing, Steve and his friend planned to meet at Steve's Green Street house. However, Steve was not home when the friend arrived. Instead, the friend was met by Wallace and Varsheen "Twiz" Smith, a former federal convict who was briefly Steve's roommate.

Steve's friend was held at gunpoint, bound and gagged with a chemical-soaked rag as Smith and Wallace demanded to know Steve's whereabouts. The man was eventually released when a Beaufort Police vehicle, responding to another call for service, drove past the house.



Tyrone Anthony Wallace, Beaufort Co.

Once released, Steve's friend looked and called Steve. The calls went unanswered.

Sentence: Life, plus 25 years.

Preventative and diversionary programs

Alternative programs offer offenders second chance, at a high rate of success

Multidisciplinary Courts, Pretrial Intervention effective alternatives to prison for some

Much of our prosecutors' time is spent trying to put hardened criminals in prison. However, prison is not where every law-breaker belongs.

Some are non-violent, first-time offenders. Addiction or mental health problems might underlie their offenses. Or the offender might be a military veteran grappling with post-traumatic stress disorder that resulted from their service.

Such people often benefit more from an intensive treatment program than from jail or prison time. Their communities benefit from alternative programs, too, because graduates again become productive citizens. Additionally, these diversionary programs are far less expensive than incarceration.

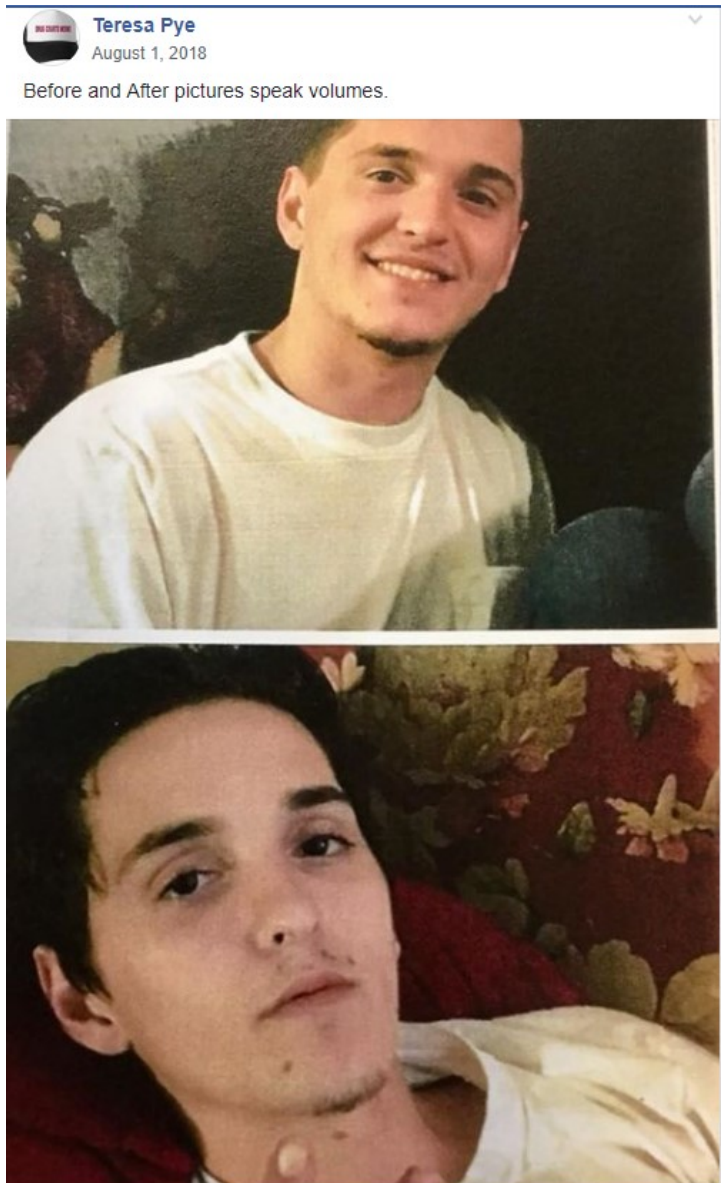
The 14th Circuit Solicitor's Office began running "multidisciplinary courts" in 2010, when it took over a failing Drug Court in Beaufort County. Since then, we have added programs for other sorts of treatment and for juvenile offenders.

Although these programs offer an alternative to prison and give offenders a chance to wipe their records clean, they are no free pass. Participants are carefully selected and assigned a mentor with whom they meet regularly. They must also:

- Undergo substance-abuse or mental-health treatment. This often includes group therapy.
- Submit to random drug testing and unscheduled home visits.
- Pay restitution and perform community service.
- Report progress and answer questions from a judge at weekly court sessions.

Participants who, in the judge's estimation, have failed to follow the program's protocols can be sent to the county detention center until their next court session. If a participant's failures persist, they are dropped from the program, and a sentence is imposed. Only those who complete the program can have their charges expunged.

Currently, multidisciplinary courts are conducted only in Beaufort County, where there is adequate access to treatment programs. However, defendants from other 14th Circuit counties



Defendants whose offenses are underlain by drug and alcohol dependency, or mental impairments can be eligible for the Solicitor's Office Multidisciplinary Court programs. We also offer a track for military veterans afflicted by PTSD. By providing treatment and rigorous supervision, these courts can help offenders become productive citizens again, and at a lower cost to taxpayers than prison.

can be admitted if they have the accommodations necessary to travel to Beaufort County and participate as any other enrollee would.

If the Solicitor's Office is tough on the defendants referred to our treatment courts, we're equally tough in our assessment of those courts' performance. To compute our recidivism rate, we run national checks each quarter and note if any of our past participants have been re-arrested on any charge within two years of their successful completion. Those rates – a 70% success



Participants in the 14th Circuit Solicitor's Office Pretrial Intervention program hold hands as they walk through the prison yard at the Allendale Correctional Institute. The prison trip isn't required by every Solicitor's Office that runs PTI, but it is in the 14th Circuit. Solicitor Duffie Stone says the exposure to the realities of life in incarceration can have a great impact on those who have not witnessed it before.

PROGRAM	2018 SUCCESSFUL
Juvenile MDC	17
Veterans Court	1
Domestic Abuse track	6
Other Adult MDC programs	31
MDC TOTAL	54
Juvenile PTI	16
Adult PTI	282
PTI TOTAL	298
ALL DIVERSIONARY PROGRAMS	352

rate for graduates of our adult programs and 65% for our juvenile programs in 2018 – have not varied more than one or two percentage points since 2010.

These numbers represent a significant success story. By way of comparison, the S.C. Department of Corrections calculates its two-year success rate at 84% to 82%, dropping to well under 70% after five years. However, the state considers only whether its former inmates are re-incarcerated, while we consider mere arrests in calculating our recidivism rates.

And there's no question the recidivism rate for our juvenile programs is vastly better than that for the S.C. Department of Juvenile Justice. A 2011 study commissioned by DJJ estimated a three-year success rate of at least 17.8%. More recently, a 2014 DJJ report indicated 15% of children on probation or parole or in arbitration programs reoffended while still under DJJ supervision, suggesting a much higher recidivism rate among those who completed programs.

Pretrial Intervention

Pretrial Intervention is another diversionary program available across South Carolina for first

-time offenders charged with non-violent offenses (e.g.: various driving offenses, shoplifting, and possession of marijuana). Participants can take PTI only once in South Carolina and are required to perform community service and other programs specific to the criminal charge, such as alcohol education.

In the program run by the 14th Circuit Solicitor's Office, participants also must tour Allendale Correctional Institute. Holding hands for their own protection as they move through the prison yard, they see and speak with inmates who provide sobering accounts of life inside one of the state's 23 prisons.

"You can't describe this particular prison tour experience. It's something that has to be seen and heard first hand," Solicitor Duffie Stone said. While each of the state's 16 judicial circuits has a PTI program, Stone's added the prison tour component in 2006 and remains one of the few to require it. He says the tour contributes to the low recidivism rate in the 14th Circuit – 18 percent among adult enrollees and 33 percent in the juvenile program.

"Our goal is to prevent the next generation of career criminals," Stone said.

By the numbers

82%

The CY 2018 success rate for the 14th Circuit's adult Pretrial Intervention graduates. These represent participants who have not reoffended within two years of program completion.

67%

The CY 2018 success rate for the 14th Circuit's juvenile Pretrial Intervention graduates. These represent participants who have not reoffended within two years of program completion.

Intelligence team uses technology, wits to gather evidence and insight into our cases

The convenience store clerk was barely out the door with the bank deposit bag when a car came screeching into the parking lot.

Bursting from the vehicle were two men with shotguns and another with an assault rifle. Terrified, the clerk handed over the deposit bag full of large bills.

Then, as quickly as they arrived, the armed robbers were gone again.

The stolen money was never recovered, but that was not the last that was seen of it by authorities.

Acting on a tip from the U.S. Department of Justice, Solicitor's Office Investigator Dylan Hightower scoured social media. For several hours, he combed public posts and tracked networks of friends. Finally, he found what he was looking for – a photo of a baby blanketed in \$100 and \$20 bills. It included one small but important detail – a blue band that convenience store employees use when counting cash. The photo, seen at right with the band circled in red, was posted by the sister of a robbery suspect, who later told investigators her brother gave her the money and ordered her to arrange and post the picture.

This confirmation of his involvement in the robbery helped the Solicitor's Office qualify the defendant and his associates for prosecution under the federal Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act. As with any organized crime syndicate, street gangs



3 pillars of our intelligence-led prosecution

Intelligence-led prosecution is a strategy rooted in the collection of background information about people, places and problems driving crime in specific neighborhoods. The 14th Circuit Solicitor's Office intel unit serves three primary functions:

1. Analyze new cases as arrests are made. *Ascertaining criminal histories, gang affiliations, etc., helps us assign cases to the appropriate prosecution team, argue for the appropriate bond.*

2. Assisting law enforcement investigations. *By gathering information from social media, databases such as GangNet and other online resources, and by extracting information from cellphones, we help law enforcement keep dangerous criminals off the streets.*

3. Trial preparation. *Our intel team prepares court exhibits that help prosecutors present evidence effectively. That could include drone photos that provide a better vantage point than Google Earth or other map services, adding transcription to video and audio files, or enlarging crime-scene photos to highlight details for jurors.*

often create a front to make their activities appear legitimate and to launder the money they make from their illegal activities. In this case, the Solicitor's Office Intel Unit found more than this Facebook post to press its legal case. The robbery suspects also were connected to a hip-hop group that posted several of its music videos to YouTube. Using his knowledge of suspected gang members, as well as facial-recognition software available from the S.C. State Law Enforcement Division, Hightower identified several people in the videos involved in gang activity and used the social-media posts to prove their affiliation in federal court.

"The biggest change in the criminal justice system over the past 10 years has been the use of technology and social media by criminals," Solicitor Duffie Stone said.

Stone cut his teeth in the 5th Circuit Solicitor's Office, prosecuting Richland County drug cases.

"During a drug raid, law enforcement would be pleased when they found drugs or guns, but they were ecstatic if they found a dealer's daybook," Stone said, noting such a find often allowed investigators identify a dealer's clients and trace the movement of drugs and money. "Now, the big prize isn't the book; it's their cellphones. That's where all that information is stored."

In addition to contacts, cellphones often contained time-stamped texts and call logs that can prove communication between parties, as well as geolocation information that can put a defendant – or at least his phone – at a specific time and place, such as the scene of a crime.

Phones can also provide a gateway to photos and social media posts, which lend further insight into criminal operations, as well as compelling visual displays for juries.

Hightower leads an intelligence team composed of analysts and duly-sworn law-enforcement investigators. They have the ability to extract cellphone data, scour the



Investigator Dylan Hightower flies the 14th Circuit Solicitor's Office drone during a demonstration at the Hardeeville National Night Out event in October 2018. Drones prove particularly useful in the tree-covered Lowcountry of South Carolina because they can do what programs like Google Earth and Google Maps often cannot — position the camera to take aerial photos in which crime scenes are not obstructed by branches and foliage. Drone photos are used often as displays during jury trials.

internet and connect the dots within criminal enterprises.

The team serves other important functions from the time a new case is received until it is adjudicated in court.

Each morning, analysts arrive early to review the previous day's arrests made across the circuit. They research each new detention-center detainee's criminal history, check their identifications against a national gang database and determine if the defendant has other charges pending. The results are relayed to our attorneys before the start of bond court, arming them with the information they need to argue for higher bond amounts, revocation of earlier bonds or denial of bond. The analysts also assign incoming cases to the appropriate prosecution team.

The research continues well after intake. Analysts and investigators pore over social media for clues that might be relevant to our pending cases. Along with a team of community volunteers, they monitor defendants' jailhouse phone calls. They might also fly the Solicitor's Office drone

"The biggest change in the criminal justice system over the past 10 years has been the use of technology and social media by criminals."

**14th Circuit Solicitor
Duffie Stone**

to photograph crime scenes, affording a more accurate and clearer image of an important scene than can be obtained from tools such as Google Earth. We also track in real time defendants ordered to wear ankle monitors as a condition of their bond.

Our intelligence team also helps prepare cases for trial. They create maps and print crime-scene photos and other displays that will be shown to the jury. They also edit audio and video evidence from law enforcement.

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Communications team

The 14th Circuit Solicitor's Office communications team manages community, media and government relations; maintains the office's website and social-media channels; and fulfills public-records requests. The team also prepares grant applications, and conducts research on a range of criminal-justice issues and key indicators of the office's performance.



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