

# **2015 Annual Report**

Utah County Attorney's Office

Jeffrey R. Buhman, County Attorney



*The employees of the Utah County Attorney's Office protect our community by vigorously prosecuting and investigating crime, compassionately assisting crime victims, and by providing the highest quality legal representation to Utah County Government.*

# Welcome

The Utah County Attorney's Office is a publicly funded agency with a mission to protect both its citizenry and the integrity of its governmental institutions. Accordingly, we have a duty to be as transparent and open as possible, while giving due regard for the very sensitive nature of some of our activities. The purpose of this report is to fulfill, in part, that duty of transparency and openness. In the following pages is an explanation of the organization and duties of the Utah County Attorney's Office, a description of how we fulfill those duties, highlights of some of our accomplishments in 2015, and an accounting of what we have done with the resources provided to us.

If you have any comments about this report, I would appreciate an email to [utahcnty@utahcounty.gov](mailto:utahcnty@utahcounty.gov) or a phone call to (801) 851-8026.

Jeffrey R. Buhman  
Utah County Attorney

## Office Objectives

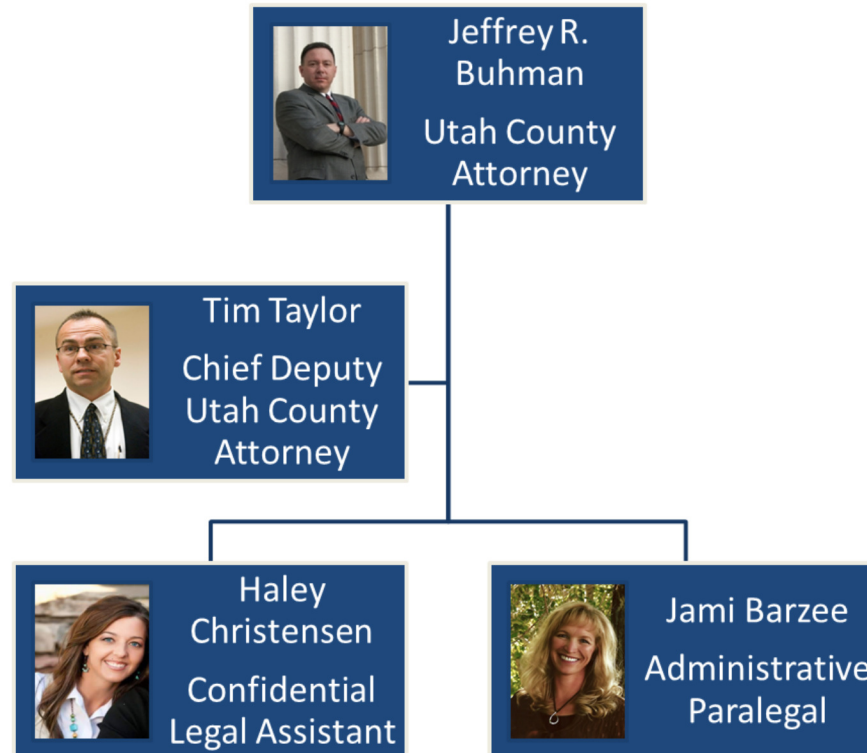
- Make Utah County safer
- Change lives for the better—victims, defendants, their families and friends
- Protect Utah County Government
- Facilitate efficient governmental operations
- Protect police and government integrity
- Serve in a manner that instills public and private confidence in our professionalism and high ethical standards

# ORGANIZATION

The Utah County Attorney's Office is led by elected County Attorney, Jeffrey R. Buhman. The County Attorney's Chief Deputy is Timothy L. Taylor. The Chief Deputy acts as the County Attorney in the elected County Attorney's absence.

The office is organized into an administrative element and three divisions: Criminal, Civil and the Bureau of Investigations. Administration is responsible for the management of the office, including its financial (i.e. budget, payroll, travel, purchasing) and administrative needs. Administration consists of the County Attorney, Chief Deputy, an executive, confidential legal assistant and an administrative paralegal.

# ADMINISTRATION



The **Criminal Division** is responsible for the prosecution or adjudication of crimes that occur in Utah County. The Criminal Division consists of the Chief Deputy and five trial teams. The Chief Deputy oversees the operations and personnel of the Criminal Division and reports to the County Attorney. Trial teams prosecute criminal cases in the Utah County Justice Court, in the District and Appellate Courts, and prosecute criminal or delinquency matters in the Juvenile Courts. Trial teams also act as liaisons and provide advice on criminal matters to Utah County law enforcement agencies. A trial team consists of a Supervising Attorney, prosecutors, legal assistants and may include a paralegal and victim/witness coordinator(s). Supervising Attorneys oversee the operations and personnel of a trial team and report to the Chief Deputy.

the county in any proceeding involving delinquency. UCA 17-18a-404

- Call attention to any defect in the operation of the laws and suggest amendments to correct the defect. UCA 17-18a-603

Stated differently, The Criminal Division has the following duties:

1. Prosecute all felony level crimes that occur in Utah County.
2. Prosecute all misdemeanor crimes that occur within Utah County but outside the boundaries of any incorporated city.
3. Prosecute all juvenile crimes that occur in Utah County, excepting minor traffic offenses.
4. Provide victim assistance services for cases prosecuted by the office.
5. Advise and assist all Utah County police agencies in their criminal investigations.

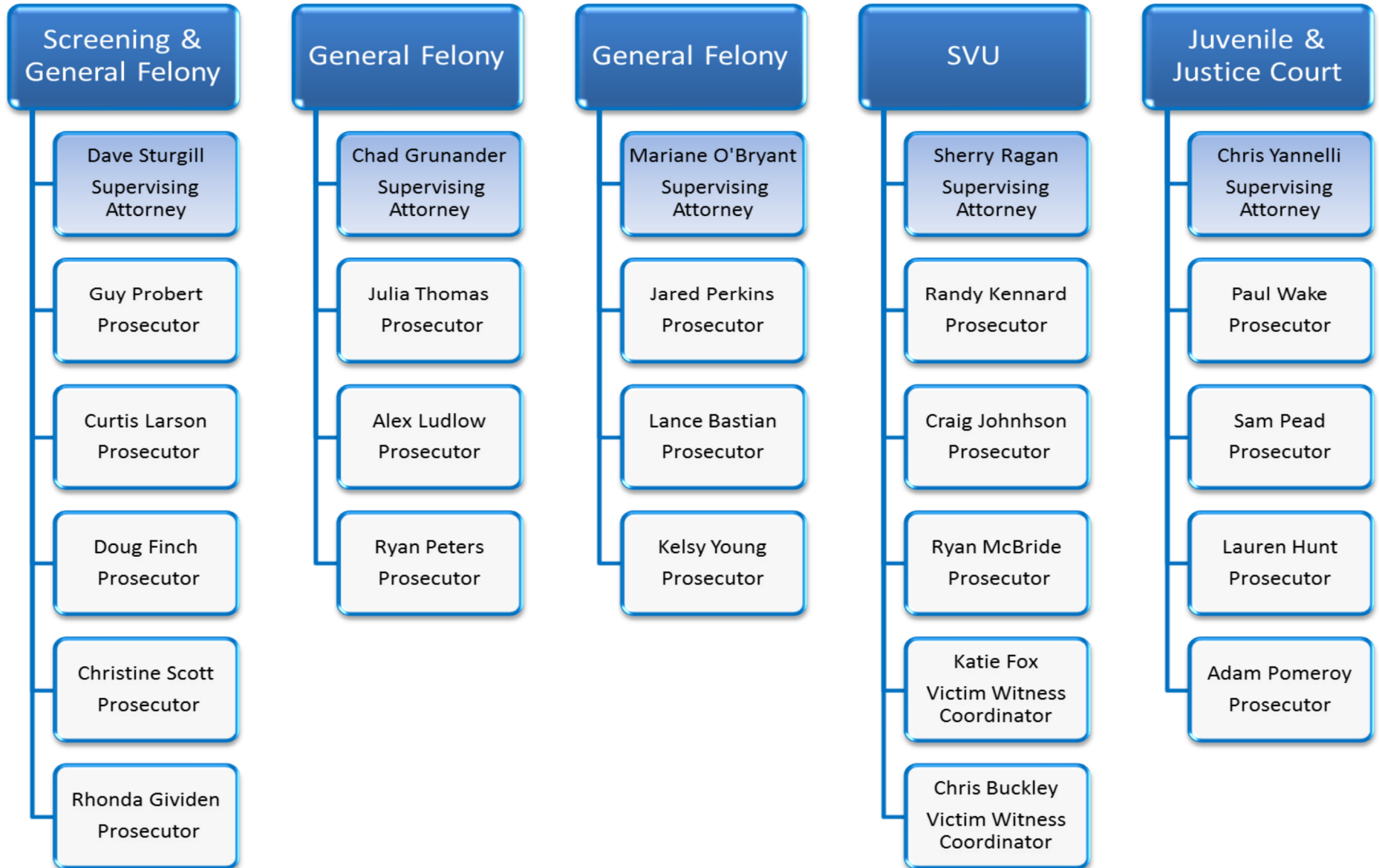
## The Criminal Division

Statutorily, the County Attorney derives his prosecution authority as follows:

- Prosecute on behalf of the state all public offenses committed within the county, except for prosecutions undertaken by city attorneys. UCA 17-18a-401
- Prosecute for the state in the juvenile court of

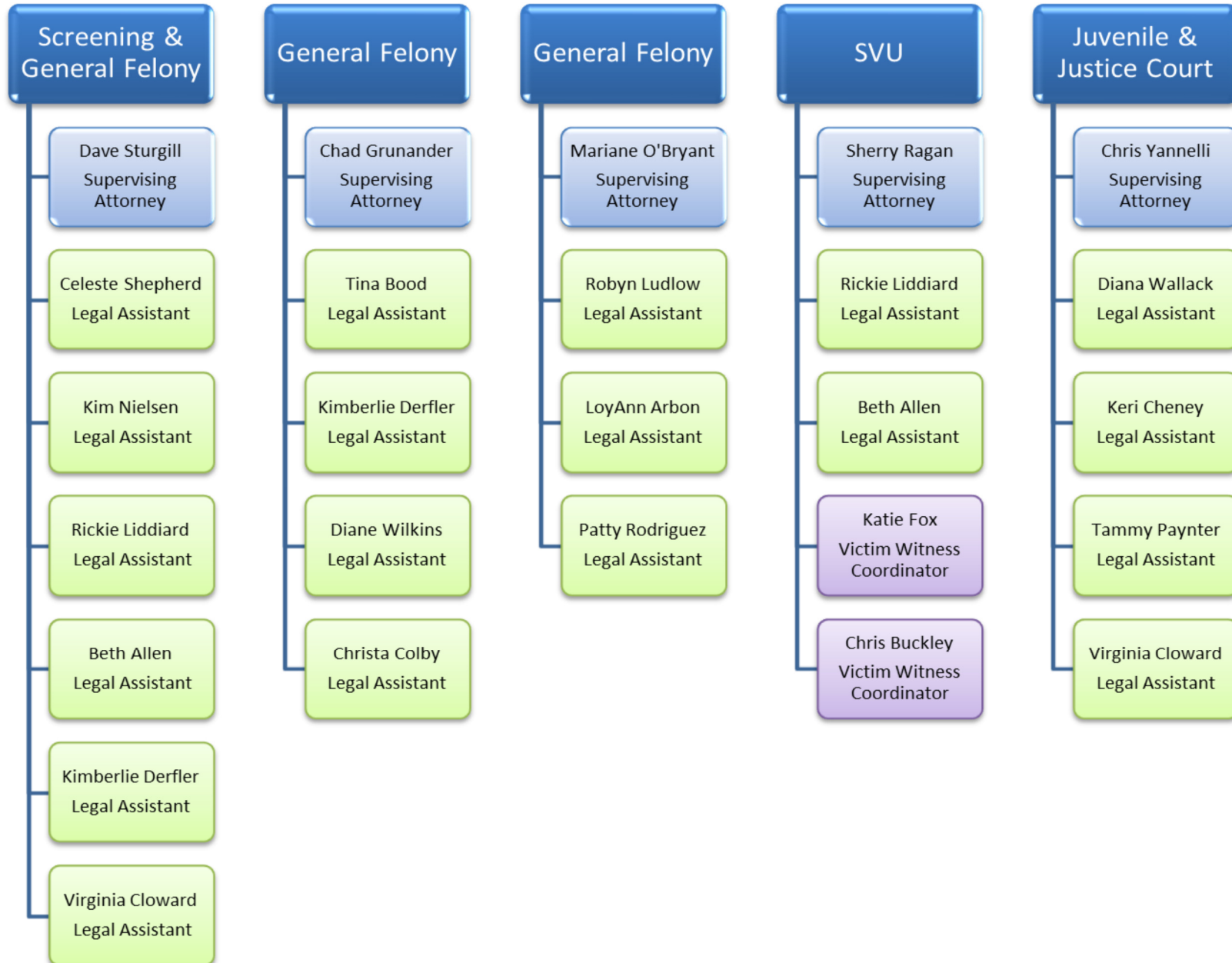
# Criminal Division Organization

Chief Deputy Utah County Attorney  
**Tim Taylor**



# Criminal Division Organization, continued

Chief Deputy Utah County Attorney  
**Tim Taylor**



The **Civil Division** provides legal advice and representation to Utah County officials and departments. The Civil Division consists of the Civil Division Chief, Dave Shawcroft, attorneys and legal assistants. The Civil Division Chief oversees the operations and personnel of the Civil Division, acts as the County Attorney in the Absence of the County Attorney and Chief Deputy, and reports to the County Attorney.

Stated differently, the Civil Division has the following duties:

1. Provide legal advice and representation to Utah County Government officials and departments.
2. Handle all claims filed against Utah County Government. For matters referred to our insurance carrier, manage the litigation of claims litigated by the insurance carrier's legal counsel.
3. Handle all collection matters for Utah County Government.

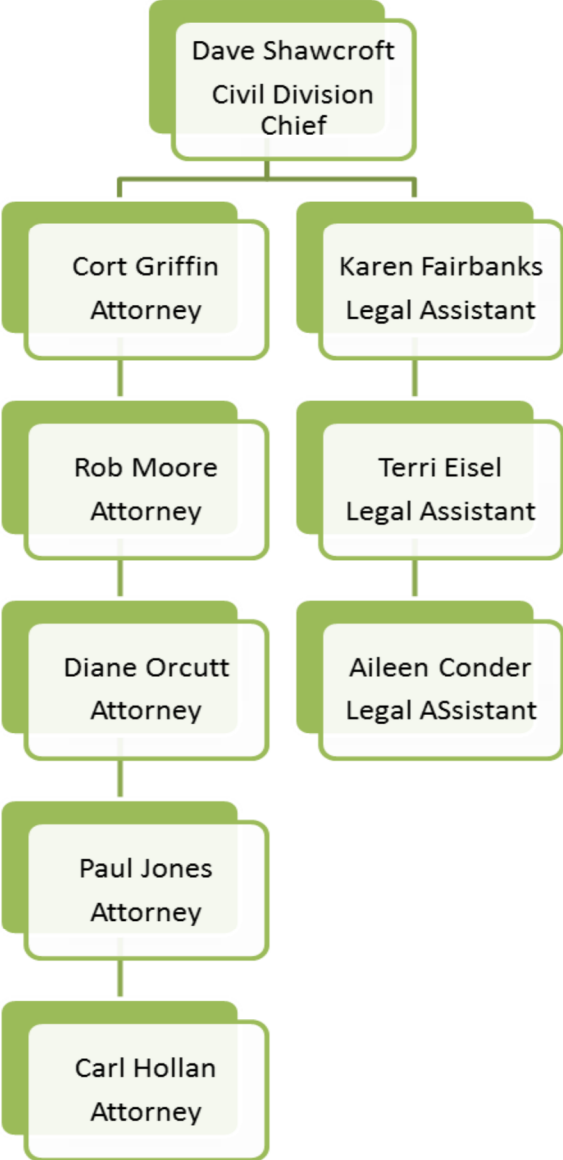
## The Civil Division

Statutorily, the County Attorney derives his civil legal representation duties as follows:

- Legal adviser of the county. UCA 17-18a-501
- Give opinions in writing to county officers on matters relating to the duties of their respective offices. UCA 17-18a-503
- Defend all actions brought against the county. UCA 17-18a-501
- Prosecute all actions for the recovery of debts, fines, penalties, and forfeitures accruing to the county. UCA 17-18a-501
- Enforce and prosecute civil violations of county ordinances. UCA 17-18a-502



# Civil Division Organization



The **Bureau of Investigations** investigates crimes pursuant to the guidelines and priorities of the County Attorney. The Bureau consists of the Bureau Chief, Jeff Robinson, sworn investigating sergeants, a paralegal and a legal assistant. The Bureau Chief oversees the operations and personnel of the Bureau and reports to the County Attorney.

The County Attorney derives his investigative duties and authority both from statutes and from national prosecution standards:

# The Bureau of Investigations

- Investigate Utah County deaths and determine if the decedent died by unlawful means and whether criminal prosecution should be instituted. UCA 26-4-6 and 26-4-7
- Investigate city/county officers and justice court judges for high crimes and misdemeanors or malfeasance in office. UCA 77-6-2, 77-22-2. “[T]he prosecutor may need to conduct investigations that the police are unable or unwilling to undertake, such as investigations of public officials, including the police themselves.” ABA Standards for Criminal Justice, Standard 3-2.4 Commentary, p. 29
- Investigate pyramid schemes. UCA 76-6a-4
- Investigate cases referred from grand juries. UCA 77-10a-2
- Assist in fire investigations. UCA 53-7-211
- Investigate criminal violations by financial institutions. UCA 7-1-319
- Conduct investigations into criminal conspiracies/activities (joint authority with police). UCA 77-22-2
- Investigate state judges for criminal misconduct (joint authority with police). UCA 78a-11-106
- Investigate crime when not adequately dealt with

by other agencies (this includes providing assistance to prosecutors in the investigation of active and closed cases): National Prosecution Standard 3-3.1.

Unlike the Civil and Criminal Divisions, the Bureau does not have sufficient resources to do all it is called upon to accomplish. Accordingly and out of necessity, the County Attorney limits and prioritizes the cases the Bureau works. The County Attorney’s priorities governing the Bureau’s use of resources when receiving and investigating the above cases are:

First, sensitive investigations, including officer involved incidents (these are normally incidents where an officer has discharged a weapon at another person), internal investigations on behalf of police agencies, and investigations involving public offices and officials.

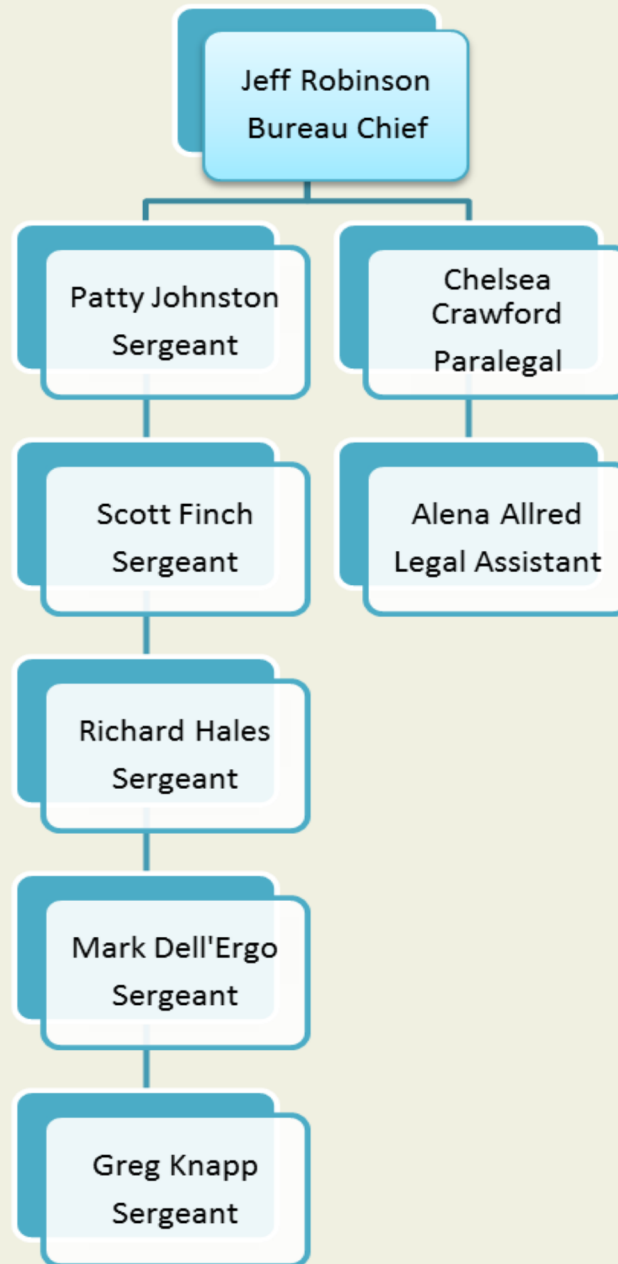
Second, investigations needed to support criminal cases prosecuted by the County Attorney’s Office.

Third, fraud investigations, including those where the Bureau is assisting another police agency conduct a fraud investigation.

And fourth, the Bureau conducts some investigations that are not criminal in nature when those investigations further the mission of the Office. Normally these are internal investigations for Utah County Government.

Additionally, within these priorities, and recognizing that city and county police agencies have the primary duty to investigate crimes occurring within their jurisdictions, the County Attorney has established guidelines (available on our web site) to control the number and type of cases the Bureau investigates.

# Bureau of Investigations Organization

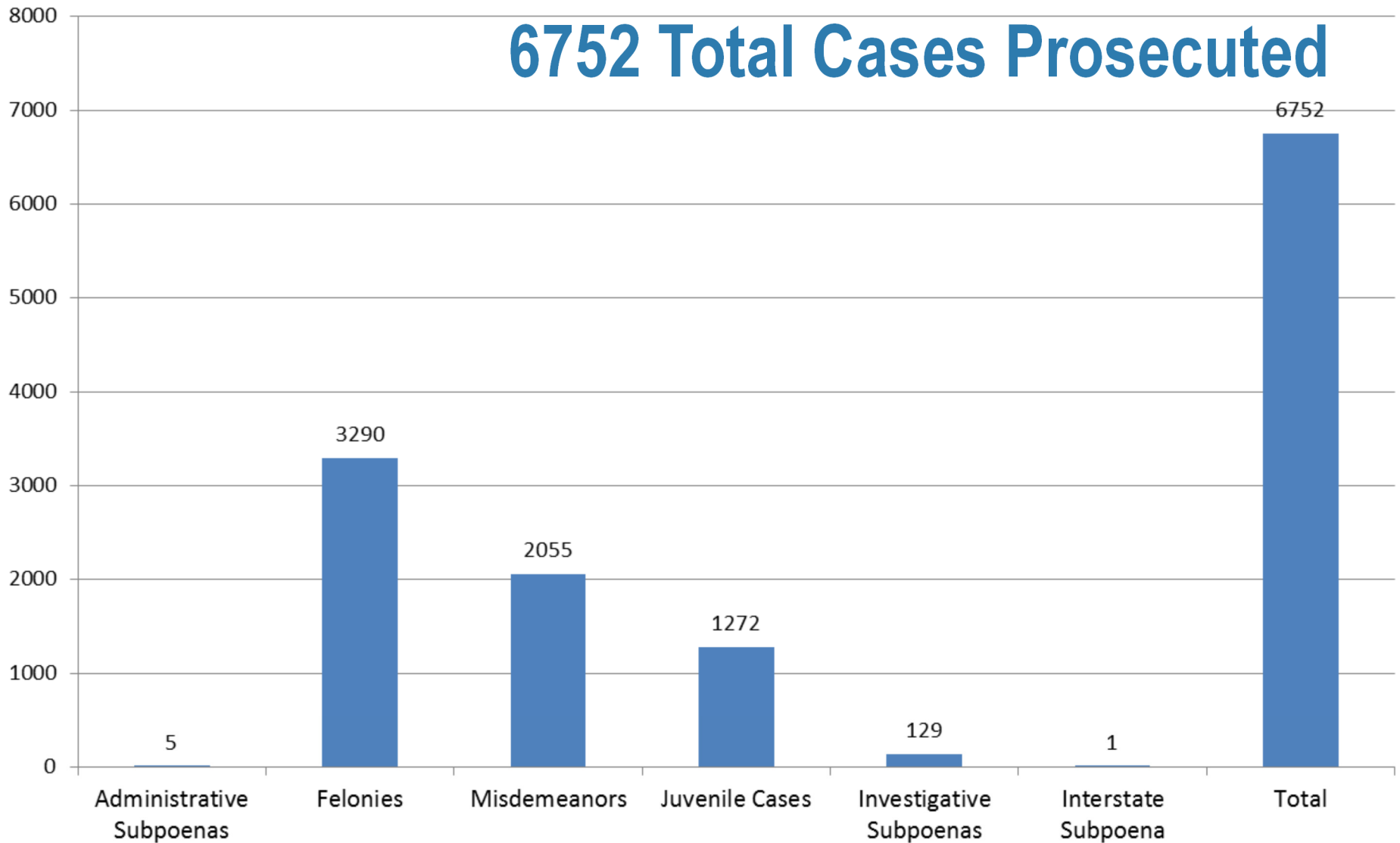


# 2015 Office Accomplishments

# The Criminal Division

- *In 2015, the Utah County Attorney's Office (UCAO) prosecuted 6,752 cases. This included 3,290 felony cases, 2,055 misdemeanor cases, and 1,272 juvenile cases.*
- *In May of 2015, the Utah County Attorney's Office conducted a training event for 150 police officers and deputies. Training topics included Search and Seizure, Testifying and 1102 Statements, Probable Cause Statements, and Lineups, Showups, and Photo Arrays.*
- *Throughout 2015, the UCAO assisted the Utah County Major Crimes Task Force leading to the arrest of 500 drug dealers and the interdiction of 226 lbs. of marijuana, 13 lbs. of cocaine, 143 lbs. of heroin, 63 lbs. of methamphetamine, 54 guns, 2 hand grenades, and almost \$500,000 in cash.*

# Criminal Division 2015 Cases



# State of Utah v. Meagan Grunwald



**Sgt. Cory Wride**

At approximately 1 p.m., amidst a blustery snow storm on January 30, 2014, Sgt. Corey Wride, of the Utah County Sheriff's Office, observed a 2003 white Toyota Tundra pickup parked on the side of SR73 in Eagle Mountain with its emergency flashers engaged. Sgt. Wride made contact with the occupants, obtaining

Meagan Dakota Grunwald's driver license while the passenger, José Angel Garcia-Jauregui, provided Sgt. Wride with false information repeatedly because there was a warrant out for his arrest. After multiple unsuccessful attempts to determine the identity of the passenger, Sgt. Wride returned to his vehicle again in a final attempt to identify the passenger. Sgt. Wride's dash cam video shows what happened next. Grunwald placed the vehicle in drive with her foot on the brake and when there was a break in traffic, Garcia-Jauregui quickly opened the back sliding glass window of the Tundra and fired seven shots into Sgt. Wride's vehicle. Grunwald then accelerated quickly, leaving the scene where Sgt. Wride was struck with two rounds and killed.

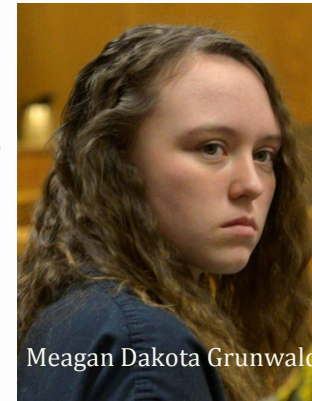
At approximately 2:50 p.m., Deputy Greg Sherwood observed the Tundra heading westbound on Main Street in Santaquin, preparing to turn left onto the I-15 southbound ramp. As Deputy Sherwood pulled in behind the Tundra, his dash cam shows the Tundra quickly leave the turning lane and begin speeding westbound on Main Street. Deputy Sherwood pursued the Tundra and approximately 45 seconds later, Depu-

ty Sherwood's dash cam shows Grunwald abruptly apply her brakes to decrease the distance between the Tundra and Deputy Sherwood's vehicle. In that instant, Garcia-Jauregui quickly opened the back sliding glass window of the Tundra and fired at least two shots at Deputy Sherwood. Deputy Sherwood was struck in the head.

While driving southbound on I-15 in Juab County, Grunwald and Garcia-Jauregui were identified by a Utah Highway Patrol State Trooper (UHP) who was also shot at by Garcia-Jauregui through the back window of the Tundra. UHP Troopers and Deputies from Juab County deployed spike strips and the Tundra was successfully spiked. During this time, Garcia-Jauregui extended his arm outside the passenger window and shot out three tires of a nearby semi-truck. The Tundra, with Grunwald still the driver, collided with another motorist but Grunwald was able to drive the Tundra off I-15 at Exit 222. The Tundra stopped, disabled on Main Street in Nephi. Both suspects exited the Tundra and ran together on Main Street while two Juab County deputies, pursuing on foot, began giving verbal commands for Grunwald and Garcia-Jauregui to stop, drop the weapon, and get down. In response to the deputies' commands, Garcia-Jauregui turned and fired his gun in the direction of the two deputies.

Grunwald flagged down a Toyota Highlander on Main Street in Nephi and jumped into the passenger side. Garcia-Jauregui fired another round at law enforcement officers then removed the female driver of the Highlander at gunpoint. The female driver was barely able to unbuckle her young child from a car seat before Garcia-Jauregui and Grunwald stole the Highlander, fleeing southbound on I-15.

Law enforcement officers successfully spiked the tires of the stolen Toyota Highlander and Garcia-Jauregui drove across the center dividing strip into oncoming



**Meagan Dakota Grunwald**

traffic causing an accident. Garcia-Jauregui and Grunwald attempted to car jack the vehicle included in the collision while Juab County Deputies were yelling at the driver of the struck vehicle to get out of there. The driver sped away just as Garcia-Jauregui opened the door of the vehicle, causing Garcia-Jauregui to fall to the ground.

As Garcia-Jauregui pointed his gun at the Juab County deputies, the deputies fired back and Garcia-Jauregui sustained a gunshot wound to the head. Grunwald eventually obeyed law enforcement's orders to lie on the ground and was taken into custody. Officers obtained a warrant to test Grunwald's blood and urine. The preliminary urine test indicated Grunwald had methamphetamine in her system.

On May 8, 2015, in the 4<sup>th</sup> District Court of Provo, Utah, 18 year old Meagan Dakota Grunwald, of Draper was found guilty of Aggravated Murder (and ten additional felony charges) for the shooting death of Utah County Sheriff's Deputy Sergeant Corey Wride. On July 8, 2015, Meagan Grunwald was sentenced to serve 27 years to life in the Utah State Prison.



**José Angel Garcia-Jauregui**

# Noteworthy Homicide Case Concluded in 2015

State v.

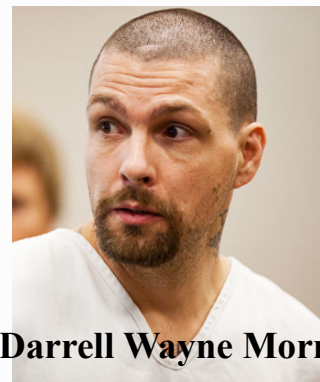
**Danny Logue**



**Danny LeRoy Logue**



**Yuri F. Lara**



**Darrell Wayne Morris**

session of a Dangerous Weapon by a Restricted Person (3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Felony). Mr. Morris was sentenced to two terms of 1-15 years



and one term of 0-5 years to run concurrently at the Utah State Prison.

After almost four years, the family of victim Andy Purcell received a final piece of justice for the death of their son and brother who was shot on the porch of their Provo home on May 16, 2011.

Danny LeRoy Logue and Darrell Wayne Morris approached Andy Purcell's home, located at 541 South 300 East in Provo, at approximately 2:15 on the morning of May 16, 2011, after they were hired by drug dealer, Yuri Sanchez Lara, to "beat down" Andy Purcell. Yuri Lara believed Andy Purcell was the "snitch" which led to the raid of Yuri Lara's "shop" where Provo police officers confiscated large quantities of methamphetamine and various other drugs. To fulfill the contracted "beat down," Darrell Morris brought a bat and Danny Logue, a .32 caliber pistol. As the two approached the Purcell home, Andy Purcell was waiting for them on his front porch, his cell phone in hand. Before any attempt could be made by Andy Purcell to call 911, Danny Logue pulled out the gun and shot Andy Purcell. Danny Logue and Darrell Morris

ran, leaving Andy Purcell, still alive, on the porch until he was discovered by his mother around 7:00 a.m. that same morning. Andy Purcell was rushed to Utah Valley Regional Medical Center where he died on May 17, 2011. The thorough investigation by the Provo Police Department revealed that Andy Purcell was not, after all, the "snitch" as Yuri Lara had presumed.

**Yuri Sanchez Lara**, age 35, was arrested on May 24, 2011 and on October 2, 2012, pled guilty to Manslaughter, a 2<sup>nd</sup> degree felony, plus four 1<sup>st</sup> degree felonies for Possession of a Controlled Substance with Intent to Distribute. Mr. Lara was sentenced to a term of 1-15 years at the Utah State Prison for Manslaughter with four consecutive 5-life sentences for the drug charges.

**Darrell Wayne Morris**, age 42, was also arrested on May 24, 2011 and on July 15, 2014, pled guilty to Manslaughter (2<sup>nd</sup> degree felony), Obstruction of Justice (2<sup>nd</sup> degree felony), and Pos-

The final defendant in the murder of Andy Purcell, **Danny LeRoy Logue** (a.k.a Danny Sturgis), age 49, faced the jury in a trial that began on January 21<sup>st</sup>, and ended February 12, 2015 at the 4<sup>th</sup> District Court in Provo. Mr. Logue faced three felony charges: Aggravated Murder (1<sup>st</sup> degree felony), Possession of a Firearm by a Restricted Person (2<sup>nd</sup> degree felony), and Obstructing Justice (2<sup>nd</sup> degree felony). Danny LeRoy Logue was found guilty on all counts by the eight person jury and on May 14, 2015, was sentenced to life without parole in the Utah State Prison.



**Andy Purcell**



# Noteworthy Criminal Convictions 2015

To further its goal of protecting the citizens of Utah County, the County Attorney's Office pays particular attention to persons who present themselves as extremely dangerous and/or who have extensive criminal histories.

Included are brief synopses of six specific individuals who were brought to justice in 2015 by our office.

These are just a few of the 6,752 cases that were prosecuted by our office during the year.



**Shane Loren Messick**

Arrested 33 times between 2000-2015, pleaded guilty to aggravated robbery and aggravated burglary. Received two sentences of 5 years to life to run concurrent at the Utah State Prison.



**Adolfo Miranda**

Convicted of nine first degree felonies for aggravated sexual abuse and rape of a child. Sentenced to the Utah State Prison where all nine counts will run consecutive, three of which are 25 years to life.



**Megan Huntsman**

Convicted of six first degree felonies for the murders of her six newborn children whom she choked or suffocated immediately following their birth. Her first parole hearing is scheduled for April 2064 at which time Megan Huntsman will be 89 years old.

# Noteworthy Criminal Convictions 2015



**Joshua Jay Harding**

Pleaded guilty to child abuse and negligent homicide for the death of 3 month old Paxton Stokes. Joshua Harding was sentenced to 0-5 years at the Utah State Prison.



**Michael John Edgar**

Convicted on three separate cases involving 22 charges, including 8 first degree and 5 second degree felonies for drug distribution. It will be 12 years before Mr. Edgar's first parole date at the Utah State Prison.



**Donald Nelson Bills**

Provo High School teacher & athletic trainer who pleaded guilty to sodomy, rape, and sexual abuse of a female high school student. Donald Bills was sentenced to 8 years to life in the Utah State Prison.



# Civil Division 2015 Accomplishments

*The Civil Division provides legal services not only to traditional County departments but also to entities created by and functioning for County government.*

## 2015 Statistics

Dismissed claims or lawsuits against County .....	26
Ordinances and resolutions drafted .....	178
Contracts reviewed .....	850
Board of Equalization and Planning Commission .....	129
Board of Adjustment cases .....	10
GRAMA requests processed .....	681
Bankruptcy cases closed .....	115
Sanity hearings conducted.....	304

# Civil Accomplishments—Continued



Represented Utah County in *State v. Earl*, arguing that the Indigent Defense Act is constitutional. This case resulted in a favorable ruling from the Utah Supreme Court, thus preserving county funds for the truly indigent



Received \$9,357 plus \$19,025 in awards from Utah Local Government Trust

**Negotiated Utah County's purchase of Bridal Veil Falls, thereby preventing the (proposed) construction of high rise condominiums on one of the most beautiful natural landmarks in the country**



Civil Division worked with Public Works, County Commission, Provo City and others to help secure a trail that will connect to the Provo River Trail at Vivian Park and will extend to South Fork Park in the South Fork area of Provo Canyon.

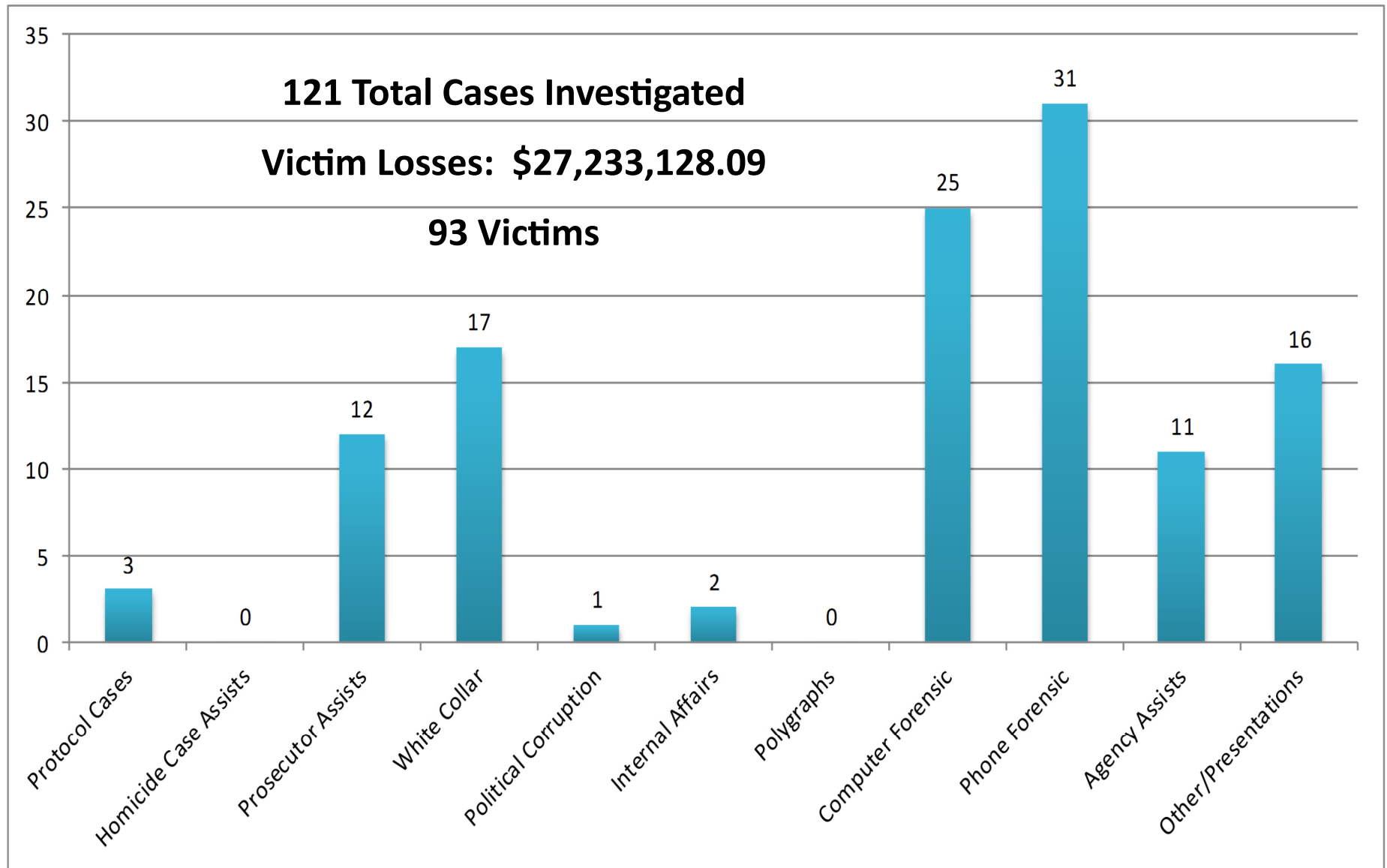
# Bureau of Investigations 2015 Accomplishments



- *Provided officer critical incident protocol training to all Utah County law enforcement agencies*
- *Trained 85 officers at the Annual Police Officer Critical Incident meeting*
- *Currently assisting Sanpete County as it starts its own Officer Critical Incident Protocol Task Force*
- *Investigating 121 cases involving 93 victims and over \$27,000,000 in losses*
- *Investigated three officer involved critical incidents (two shootings and one use of force)*

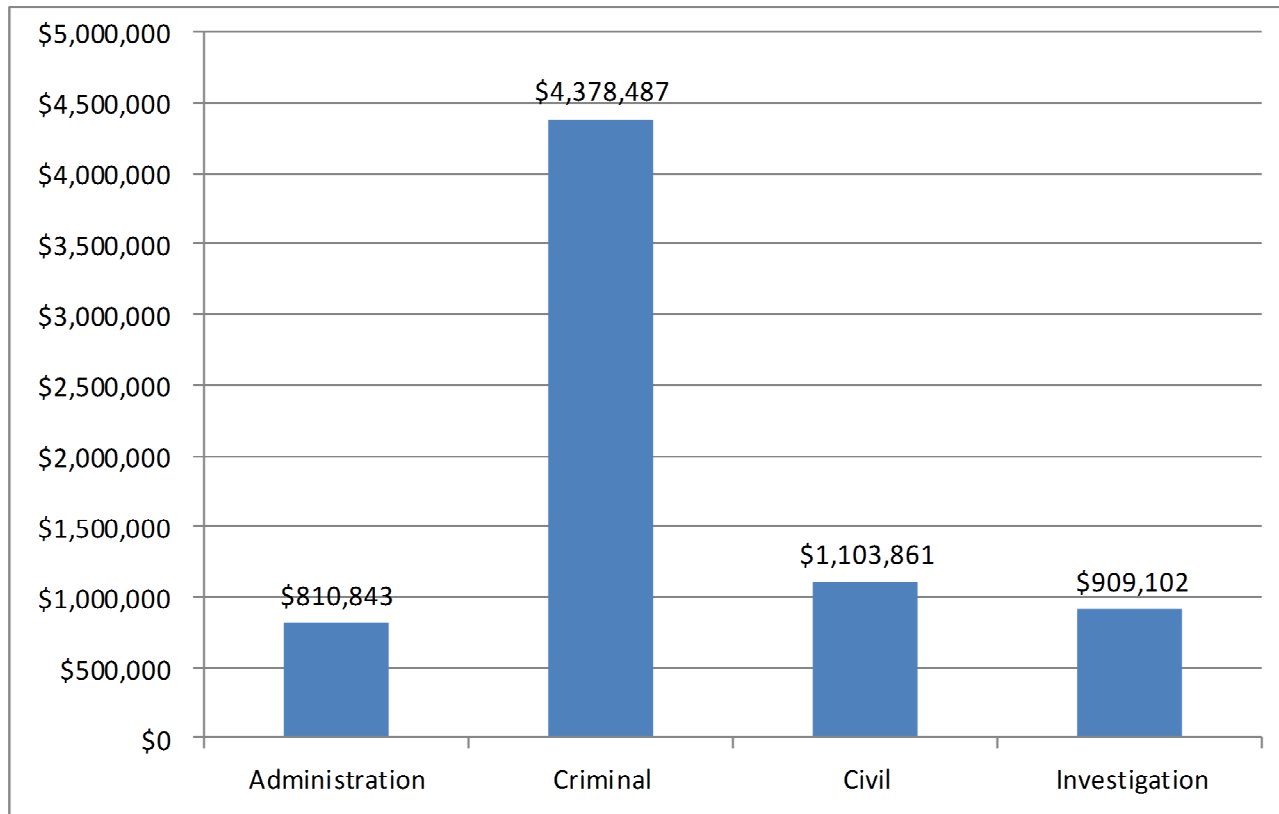


# Bureau 2015 Statistics



# 2015 Office Financial Highlights

Fiscal Year 2015 Budget . . . \$7,202,293



*The Utah County Attorney's Office is funded through the general funds of Utah County Government, as well as some state and federal grant monies. The Office also receives funding through fines and fees paid by defendants convicted in the Utah County Justice Court and the Fourth Judicial District Court.*

## New Project: JustWare

*As part of our duty to ensure “the rights of all participants in the criminal justice process are respected,” in 2015 the Utah County Attorney’s Office developed and implemented a new case management software program called JustWare. JustWare provides seamless and efficacious e-discovery of legal documents and allows the Utah County Attorney’s Office to file documents electronically with the court. It was created in a manner so as to offer city police agencies the opportunity to participate at a discounted cost, rather than purchasing their own licenses and paying their own database management fees. Data entered into police databases auto-populates into JustWare, thus saving time and resources for police agencies, the Utah County Attorney’s Office, and consequently the tax dollars of Utah County taxpayers.*





# Veterans Treatment Court

Most veterans are strengthened by their military service, but the combat experience has unfortunately left a growing number of veterans with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury. One in five veterans has symptoms of a mental health disorder or cognitive impairment. One in six veterans who served in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom suffer from a substance abuse issue. Research continues to draw a link between substance abuse and combat-related mental illness. Left untreated, substance abuse and mental health disorders common among veterans can directly lead to involvement in the criminal justice system.



ministration, local government and community organizations providing veterans convicted of crimes with an alternative to incarceration.



Veterans Court is a structured environment requiring the veteran's accountability for his or her decisions and actions, where the court provides substance abuse treatment, behavioral

health treatment, transitional housing opportunities, peer-to-peer/vet-to-vet mentoring, vocational training and educational opportunities. The Veterans Treatment Court offers

veteran participants an opportunity to change their behavior and thinking, rebuild their lives, reconnect with their communities, and rebuild bonds with their families.

The Veterans Treatment Court requires regular court appearances (a bi-weekly minimum in the

early phases of the program), as well as mandatory attendance at treatment sessions and frequent and random testing for substance use (drug and/or alcohol). Most veterans respond favorably to this structured environment given their past experiences in the Armed Forces. However, a few will struggle and it is exactly those veterans who need a Veterans Treatment Court program the

most. Without this structure, these veterans will reoffend and remain in the criminal justice system. The Veterans Treatment Court is able to ensure they meet their obligations to themselves, the court, and their community.

The Utah County Attorney's Office anticipates that the Veterans Treatment Court program will provide participating veterans with an opportunity and the tools necessary to successfully change their lives. The Veteran's Treatment

Court program will benefit our community with a cost effective and proven program to reduce future crime.



In January of 2015 Utah County and the Fourth Judicial District Court started the first District Court Veterans Treatment Court in Utah in order to address these

problems. Veterans Treatment Courts are a cooperative effort between the Veterans Ad-

