

DISTRICT ATTORNEY DEPARTMENTAL OVERVIEW

The mission of the District Attorney’s Office is to promote prevention, protect the rights and ensure the safety of the citizens of California within the County of Santa Barbara through criminal and civil prosecution and enforcement remedies.

The District Attorney’s Office is primarily responsible for prosecution of adult and juvenile offenders for felony and serious misdemeanor crimes or civil violations countywide. A team of 119 deputy district attorneys, criminal investigators, victim advocates and legal support staff housed in three branch offices are organized to review, file and prepare cases for prosecution, while assisting victims to recover from their losses, also participating in proactive efforts to deter crime. The District Attorney’s Office encompasses six cost centers, as described below.

Administration:

The office is engaged in community and multi-agency collaborative initiatives to protect and enhance public safety. Executive and management staff provide overall policy development, program management, fiscal and personnel administration, technology management and community relations. Automation staff manage the department’s PC network in three branch locations and administer the DAMION case management system.

Criminal Prosecution:

Criminal Prosecution is comprised of multiple programs dedicated to prosecution of adult criminal violations. Deputy District Attorneys are assigned to felony and misdemeanor prosecution teams that prosecute cases through the Courts, from arraignment through adjudication and sentencing. Several vertical units consisting of an attorney, investigator and victim advocate are assigned to provide a coordinated focus on domestic violence, elder abuse and sexual assault cases. The Bureau of Investigation, the law enforcement division of the District Attorney’s Office, is staffed with sworn peace officers and investigative assistants. Their principal mission is to provide investigative enhancement to cases filed such as locating and interviewing witnesses, evidence analysis and preparation of exhibits required for trials. They also conduct detailed investigations into matters such as consumer fraud, environmental crimes, elections violations, official misconduct and investigations into the abuse of judicial process such as perjury, witness intimidation, falsification of evidence and conspiracy to obstruct justice.

Juvenile Programs:

Juvenile prosecution is staffed by attorneys assigned to review cases referred by law enforcement agencies or Probation staff, filing petitions and appearing in the Juvenile Courts in Santa Barbara and Santa Maria to adjudicate the cases. Their focus includes prosecution and diversion of juvenile offenders who commit felony and misdemeanor criminal offenses.

Victim Witness Services:

The Victim Witness Assistance Program provides support to victims through the court process, refers victims for services needed to recover from crimes and assists victims of violent crimes to file claims for state reimbursement of losses experienced.

Civil Enforcement:

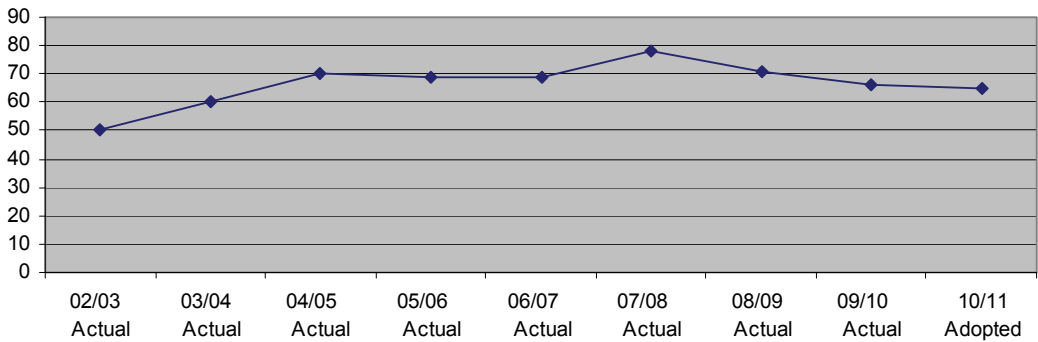
The Civil Enforcement program reviews complaints involving consumer fraud, environmental and zoning violations, filing civil complaints and obtaining penalties, injunctions or other legal remedies to resolve consumer or environmental complaints.

Welfare Fraud Investigations:

Welfare Fraud Investigations is a contract program with the Department of Social Services (DSS) that investigates fraudulent receipt of aid and secures cost recovery or criminal penalties where appropriate. The unit investigates suspected violations of statutory law or DSS regulations, taking appropriate action when fraud is identified to recover funds.

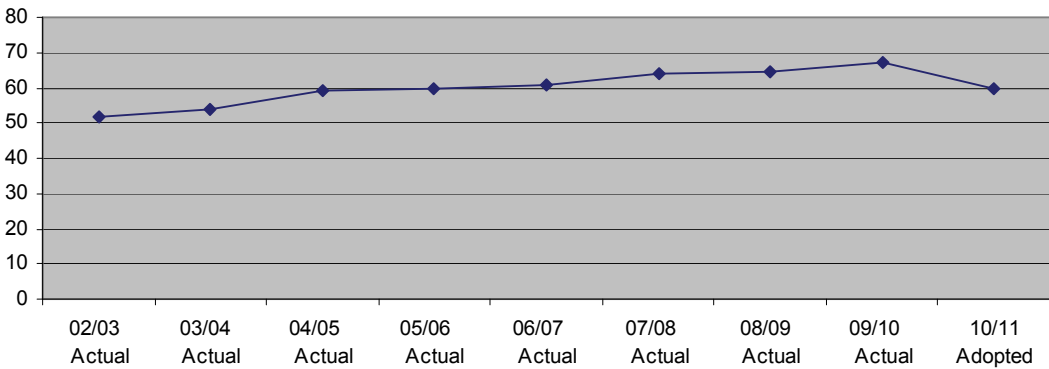
DISTRICT ATTORNEY KEY TREND ANALYSIS

Resolve 65% of felony cases before preliminary hearing. Early dispositons reduce jail population, minimize civilian and law enforcement court appearances and allow agencies to prioritize resources on unresolved cases.



The trend of resolving felony cases before preliminary hearing has had a cyclical result over the last eight years. These resolutions save time and money for all entities involved. The District Attorney’s Office continues to maximize resources for the best outcomes in felony cases with fewer attorney staff.

Dispose of 60% of newly filed misdemeanor cases at the arraignment stage to maximize court and criminal justice agency resources.



The trend of misdemeanors disposed at the arraignment stage indicates better performance over time with a 22% increase from 2002-2003 to 2009-2010 due to a focus by the District Attorney’s Office to maximize resources for all entities involved.

