2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Nick Cox
Statewide Prosecutor

OVERVIEW OF THE OFFICE OF STATEWIDE PROSECUTION IN 2015

2015 was a busy and successful year for the Office of Statewide Prosecution (OSP). The office has continued with many of the same priorities as we have for the past several years including our efforts to address prescription drug trafficking, synthetic drugs, illicit drugs and wire taps, gang activity, retail theft, various frauds, human trafficking, among other issues. Probably one of the most impressive things to note is the hard work of our staff that resulted in a 97% conviction rate. This represents our highest conviction rate in the past 4 years and we are very proud of our staff whose work made these results happen.

OSP continues to be productive addressing matters primarily involving criminal organizations and crimes crossing jurisdictional/circuit boundaries. During the year the office saw an increase in the number of charges filed, which was up almost 40%, and the number of defendants charged, which rose 16.5%. While we saw steady workloads in many of the areas we prosecute, we saw a significant rise in the numbers of defendants we charged and convicted in retail theft and gang cases. The number of defendants in gang cases was the highest thus far with 239 active defendants pending during the year, and we almost doubled the number of active defendants this year in retail theft cases (again, from criminal organizations) which stood at 346.

As a result of our staff's efforts, and the resulting conviction rate, prison sentences rose quite drastically. While most areas of sentencing punishments, jail, probation, and community control stayed fairly static or fell slightly, prison sentences rose over 120%. Monetarily, fines ($9.8 million) and court costs (over $112,000) ordered,both increased by almost 50% while costs of prosecution increased just slightly at 5%. Cases disposed of during 2015 also resulted in courts ordering almost $6,300,000 in restitution. This number was a significant departure downward from restitution over the previous two years, with a reduction right at 60%. However, this appears to be the result of the increases in prison sentences as opposed to supervision with restitution conditions, as well as a focus by this office on the increase in illicit drug trafficking, synthetics, human trafficking, gangs, and other criminal activity where restitution is typically not applicable. This office always has, and will continue, to aggressively address restitution for victims of our cases.

Total monetary assessments by the Court on OSP cases during 2015 was over $19,000,000, which represents over 325% of the office's annual operating budget.

Finally, OSP continues to aggressively use electronic surveillance with law enforcement. These matters typically involve wire taps that occur primarily in cases involving drug activity. During 2015 OSP issued 94 wiretaps which included 27 extensions of existing wires. These cases garner excellent evidence against the targets, and have resulted in significant successes in drug investigations and prosecution.

OSP has also seen some growth over the past few years, and we have tried to focus our growth in areas of the state where the need is greatest. This growth of legal staff has occurred in offices both large and small and we have had a great deal of success in attracting and hiring attorneys with outstanding educational and legal backgrounds. Some of our most significant growth has occurred in some of our smaller offices, including Palm Beach and Duval Counties.

As in years past, our staff has taken part in authoring this report. We ask they write about areas in which they are active and have significant knowledge regarding the office and criminal activity we battle with law enforcement daily. I am very proud of our legal team and am thrilled to present their reports again.

OFFICE GROWTH

Fort Myers

2015 was a year of transition for the Fort Myers Office of Statewide Prosecution (FMOSP). The beginning of the year saw an increased number of case referrals from law enforcement, for prosecution. Prior to this time, the Ft. Myer's Office had been minimally staffed with just two attorneys. but in the beginning of 2015, the office employed three attorneys and as such, the office was able to quickly build a sizeable caseload. With the resignation of one attorney in the beginning of the year, the two remaining attorneys were left to cover a large caseload while equipped with minimal resources. Due to great demand by Law Enforcement and the resulting increased caseloads, October saw the hire of not one, but two new attorneys.

The addition of these attorneys provided the needed resources to cover active investigations, new case intakes and community outreach with, among others, law enforcement. Additionally, it allowed the office to continue to run smoothly while attorneys were in court trying cases.

In 2015 the FMOSP went to trial on four separate occasions. The trials included the charges of: Trafficking in Oxycodone, Conspiracy to Traffic in Oxycodone, Possession of Oxycodone by Fraud and Trafficking in Heroin. The cases were tried in Sarasota County, Charlotte County and Lee County. All four trials resulted in convictions and the sentences ranged from a 25year minimum mandatory sentence to 61 years in Florida State Prison.

FMOSP is currently handling 35 active cases or investigations. Including cases involving but not limited to: human trafficking, Robbery and home invasion, organized retail theft, massage parlors, child pornography and securities and income tax fraud. The office has a close working relationship with both the local US Attorney's office and State Attorney's Office as well as law enforcement including: The Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Lee County Sheriff's Office, Collier County Sheriff's Office, Charlotte County Sheriff's Office, The Drug Enforcement Administration, Homeland Security, Secret Service, Sarasota Sheriff's Office, and others.

The FMOSP is currently enjoying a time of success and expansion. It houses four attorneys who have plenty of work to fill their time. Moreover, the office has made their presence known in the community, and more agencies are reaching out to work with the office on a weekly basis. If 2015 is to be considered a year of transition, then expect 2016 to be a year where the office excels. The FMOSP will continue its' role as a vital office for the Attorney General's Office of Statewide Prosecution.

~ Michael-Anthony Pica, Chief ASP

West Palm Beach

Much like the Fort Myers Office, the West Palm Beach Office of Statewide Prosecution (WPBOSP) expanded during the 2015 calendar year. In April of 2015 the WPBOSP added a much needed third attorney to assist in handling a growing caseload. With this attorney WPBOSP has been able to better focus efforts on ongoing cases while still reaching out to the law enforcement community for new case intake. Additionally, investigations that were being put on hold previously were finalized and filed. Having a growing group of attorneys allows the office to better assist law enforcement agencies with successful investigations and prosecution.

The WPBOSP received 65 new cases during the 2015 calendar year and 2016 is expected to far exceed that number. Cases received in 2015 included racketeering, narcotics trafficking, child pornography, insurance fraud, public assistance fraud, prescription fraud, securities fraud, title fraud, public corruption, money laundering, and several others. These cases were the result of

cooperation and assistance from numerous federal and local law enforcement agencies throughout Palm Beach County and the Treasure Coast (Martin, St Lucie, Indian River, and Okeechobee Counties). Examples of these agencies include FBI, DEA, FDLE, FHP, Department of Financial Services Division of Insurance Fraud, Department of Business and Professional Regulation, US Department of Agriculture, ATF, Federal Housing Finance Agency, Homeland Security Investigations, US Postal Inspectors, local Sheriff's Offices, and many others. Our working relationship with local prosecutors has continued to flourish and the 19th Circuit Office of the State Attorney has referred several cases to us in recent times and has actively been involved with several of our ongoing investigations.

~ Stephanie Tew, Chief ASP

Human Trafficking

In 2015, the Attorney General's efforts to combat this form of modern day slavery received some much needed help from the Legislature. A cornerstone of prevention is awareness. In that regard, Florida Statute 787.29 requires the Department of Transportation to display human trafficking public awareness signs in rest areas, service plaza weigh stations, airports, rail stations and welcome centers open to the public. Because many victims of Human Trafficking travel along our Florida roads, these signs will provide information to the public, including the many long haul tractor trailer drivers, on how to identify the signs of a Human Trafficking victim and to advise what should be done if such a situation is observed.

Additionally, emergency rooms at acute care hospitals are also required to display these public awareness signs. As with domestic violence victims, our medical professionals in these facilities are many times the first to encounter a victim of human trafficking, whether it be the sex trade or indentured servitude. As such, medical professionals need to have the information necessary to detect such situations and guidance on who to call. Also of importance, these signs are now required to be displayed in a conspicuous location that is clearly visible to the public and employees of adult entertainment establishments and massage parlors not owned by a health care entity. This statewide awareness program, combined with the Attorney General's ongoing Instant Message to Instant Nightmare Awareness Initiative has lead to another year of increased reports and investigations relating to Human Trafficking.

The Office of Statewide Prosecution also recognizes the importance of awareness campaigns and as such, volunteers significant time to attend and speak at various conferences and workshops around the State including the International Association of Human Trafficking Investigators Conference, Valencia College School of Public Safety, the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking Summit, and the Florida Child Protection Summit. These presentations explain the challenges of successfully investigating and prosecuting human trafficking cases, as well as the challenges faced with victim stabilization.

Other helpful developments in the law have provided victims with additional protections which promote stabilization and cooperation with law enforcement and OSP in the prosecution of offenders. Some protections provided to victims include a public record exemption that prevents disclosure and publication of information that reveals the identify of a person who is the victim of human trafficking commercial sexual activity. There is also a public record exemption for information about the location of safe houses and residential facilities.

Other topics of great importance in the fight against human trafficking are the need to reduce the demand for the commercial sex trade and the need to have services available to victims who are rescued.

The Legislature also provided some assistance in this regard with amendments to Florida Statute 796.07 which provides that a person convicted of solicitation a second or subsequent time is required to serve a minimum of ten days in jail and pay a mandatory fine of $5,000, of which $4,500 is to be used to build and fund safe houses. Also, F.S. 960.196 extends the time that an HT victim may file for and receive relocation assistance.

With the rise in awareness and the continuing development of the law, the OSP continues to be proactive and aggressive partners to law enforcement in ongoing investigations. In 2015, these partnerships resulted in the destruction of two very large HT organizations in Florida. In Collier County, the OSP charged 15 people with Conspiracy to Commit Human Trafficking, Human Trafficking and Deriving Support from Proceeds of Prostitution. This investigation began in 2013 when a human trafficking victim was rescued during a traffic stop. Through the investigation, it was discovered that six women, between the ages of 25 and 35 years old were forced to work as commercial sex slaves after being smuggled into the US. The women were lured to the United States with promises of being provided legal jobs and reuniting with family members. The persons charged ranged from ages 28 to 66 and resided throughout Southwest Florida.

In Orange County, the OSP charged 24 people for their involvement in a large scale human and heroin trafficking ring. The investigation began in 2013 when law enforcement found several women "strung out" on drugs and being forced into prostitution. At the top of the organization were Keith "Smurf" Hamlet, Jessica "j-baby" Hamlet and Edward "Man-Man" Redmond. The Hamlets were the main ringleaders, with Redmond and several others working by their side to move heroin and more than 25 woman for commercial sex. Although not chained or locked away, the women were forced in to the commercial sex trade through their drug addiction and the threat of violence. All Defendants are currently awaiting trial.

Press Release September 21, 2015:
Attorney General Bondi, Orange County Sheriff Demings and the Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation Announce Human Trafficking Arrests

Due to the thorough investigation by law enforcement and the OSP, several cases were closed with guilty pleas. In Collier County, Shawn Lewis plead no contest to Human Trafficking and was sentenced to 36 months in prison followed by 3 years of Sex Offender Probation. Likewise, in Orange County, Defendants James King and Richard Rawls, who worked together in trafficking women recruited from Lowell Correctional Institution each plead guilty to charges of Human Trafficking and Deriving Support from Proceeds of Prostitution. King was sentenced to 36 months in prison and Rawls was sentenced to 60 months in prison. In another case out of Orange County, Jose Ojeda was sentenced to 65 months in prison followed by 10 years of Sex Offender Probation. Lastly, Theron Akeem Luke, who was found guilty of Racketeering (with predicate incidents related to human trafficking), was sentenced to 96 months in prison to be followed by 2 years of probation.

Currently, the OSP has several open investigations throughout Florida and will continue to work with our law enforcement partners and non-governmental agencies towards reaching the ultimate goal of eradicating Human Trafficking in our State.

~ Julie Sercus, ASP

Prescription Drugs

Following up on successful operations in this area during the previous year, OSP continued its effort to combat prescription drug diversion and abuse. In cooperation with local, State, and Federal law enforcement, OSP pursued physicians, dentists, nurses, pharmacists, and other professionals who abuse their professional licenses and legitimate access to controlled substances for personal profit, while continuing efforts against traditional illicit drug-traffickers.

During 2015, OSP initiated eleven new prescription drug investigations, targeting 48 individual suspects. Sixty-one total investigations, targeting 429 individuals, were active during the year; nine new criminal cases were formally filed, charging 29individual criminal defendants. Ten individual defendants were convicted of numerous related crimes during 2015.

Among these investigations and prosecutions, the familiar "pill-mills" have remained a priority target, along with out-of-state prescription narcotic importers, in-state prescription fraudsters, burglars and thieves targeting pharmacies, as well as street-level dealers buying and selling these substances. Close coordination between multiple investigating agencies and OSP has been vital in pursuing these cases, beginning with intelligence-sharing, but also marshaling scarce resources such as medical and financial experts to assist these often complex and time-consuming investigations.

OSP will tackle the coming challenges in 2016, looking forward to continued cooperation and success in this area, and remain confident in, and grateful for, our law enforcement partners.

~ Nickolaus Hunter Davis, ASP

WIRETAPS AND ILLICIT DRUGS

The OSP continues its partnership with federal, state and local law enforcement agencies in investigating and prosecuting those criminal organizations involved in bringing illicit drugs into this state for distribution in our communities. In many instances, the OSP and our law enforcement partners have utilized, among other available tools of investigation, electronic surveillance of communications (commonly referred to as wiretaps) to dismantle entire organizations of individuals trafficking in illicit drugs. By utilizing this investigative tool when appropriate, the OSP and its partners in law enforcement have been able to not only hold those individuals found in actual possession of illicit drugs accountable, but have also held accountable, through conspiracy prosecutions, those individuals higher up in the organization's hierarchy that are directing the illicit activities of the organization and realizing most of the ill gotten gains being derived from the criminal activity. In 2015, the Statewide Prosecutor authorized ninety-four (94) wiretap applications to be made by law enforcement to a court of competent jurisdiction, inclusive of 27 extensions of previously authorized intercepts.

With the success of the fight against pill mills and pharmaceutical drug abuse, the state has seen an increase over the past couple of years in heroin related deaths. The OSP is responding by working with our law enforcement partners to put an end to this alarming trend utilizing all of the investigative and legislative tools at our disposal. For example, in November and December, prosecutors with OSP convicted a Lee County man twice in two separate trials for his role in trafficking heroin. In those trials, Alan Nunez Nino was found guilty after two separate juries found him guilty of trafficking in heroin on different occassions. Nino is currently awaiting sentencing on those convictions. Each of those convictions mandate a 25 year state prison sentence and a $500,000 fine pursuant to statutes put in place by the state legislature.

Similarly, the state is seeing an increase in methamphetamine trafficking and OSP is on the frontlines of that fight as well. OSP, along with many law enforcement agencies throughout this state, is

seeing a shift from clandestine methamphetamine laboratories in the state producing relatively small amounts of poor quality methamphetamine to industrial size laboratories in Mexico producing large quantities of high quality methamphetamine which is then smuggled into the state for distribution upon our streets. OSP is working with federal, state and local law enforcement agencies to combat these increased instances of large quantities of high quality methamphetamine from Mexico being brought into our state for distribution. A primary example of such a prosecution was the arrests and convictions of two Polk County men, Ramon Castillo and Joshua Hurst. Castillo and Hurst were arrested in March of 2015 pursuant to a wiretap investigation which revealed that the two and their coconspirators would be bringing a large amount of high quality methamphetamine into the state for distribution. Agents with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration, the Florida Highway Patrol and the Polk County Sheriff's Office intercepted the two on Interstate 75 in Sumter County and seized 22.77 pounds of high quality methamphetamine concealed in the floorboards of the vehicle the two were driving. The methamphetamine seized had a street value of approximately $415,552.00. Firearms and large quantities of cash were also seized as a part of this investigation. Both Castillo and Hurst have been convicted for their roles in the conspiracy and are currently awaiting sentencing. Seventeen other alleged coconspirators are currently being prosecuted as a result of this investigation and are awaiting trial.

The OSP will continue to relentlessly pursue those individuals and organizations involved in the importation and distribution of heroin, methamphetamine, cocaine and cannabis in this state. OSP, along with our law enforcement partners, will continue to use tools such as electronic surveillance and the interception of communications to dismantle entire distribution networks put in place by these criminal organizations, and, upon convictions, will seek lengthy prison sentences for those most culpable.

~ David Gillespie, ASP

White Collar Crime

With a bevy of Florida Statutes at its disposal, the Office of Statewide Prosecution continued to devote significant efforts to White Collar crime cases in 2015. While a majority of charges filed are brought under Chapter 812 [Theft], Chapter 817 [Fraud/ Identity Theft], and 517 [Securities], attorneys in the Office have an almost limitless ability to tailor their charging documents specifically to the facts of a particular case. One such factual scenario which seemed to witness an uptick during the past year were crimes against large, established corporations. The Office brought Racketeering charges against multi-defendant, organized criminal enterprises for defrauding Simon Properties and the Xerox Corporation, with trials in those cases set for later in 2016. The use of identity theft remained a popular method to secure unjust enrichment, with new cases in the Office involving retailers and governmental agencies, among others, being victimized. Another all-too-common scenario in the White Collar crime arena are the "hiding in plain sight" scenarios, in which the trust and goodwill of victims is exploited to their financial detriment.

This is most commonly seen in the many and varied investment fraud cases brought by OSP. In an example of a new wrinkle, charges were brought this year against an individual who abused his role as a third part administrator to steal hundreds of thousands of dollars from his victims' retirement count.

Among the trial highlights from the past year was a Guilty as Charged verdict following a time share fraud case in Daytona Beach. Slightly altering the traditional scheme in which victims are told there is a ready buyer for their time share, this defendant operated a company which simply promised to advertise the time share for sale. In reality, scarcely any such efforts were undertaken, and victims from around the country were scammed out of close to a million dollars.

As always, the unfortunate reality with White Collar cases is they are limited only by the creativity of those who seek to bring financial harm to others. The Office of Statewide Prosecution will continue to work diligently with its many and varied law enforcement partners to eliminate such criminal organizations and the significant harm they cause the citizens of Florida.

~ Robert Finkbeiner, ASP

GANG WARFARE

The Office of Statewide Prosecution continued its assault on gang violence this past year through its partnerships with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), Sheriff's Offices, Police Departments, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and State Attorney's Offices around the state. One of our prosecutors earned the recognition of the Florida Gang Investigator's Association as Florida's 2015 Gang Prosecutor of the Year for her efforts. Our commitment to prosecute and dismantle the most violent criminal gangs in our state remains a top priority for the OSP.

In April of 2015, following a three-week trial, a jury in Hillsborough County convicted Joseph and Jonathan Rondon, brothers and members of "Norte 14" a/k/a "The Plant City Nortenos." The jury heard about the violent gang feud in Plant City between Norte 14 and its rival gang, SUR 13. Witnesses described gun sales, drug sales, beatings, shootings and murder. During the defendants' sentencing, the judge cautioned that these gangs are a cancer that plague the Plant City community. The prosecution of all eleven Norte 14 gang members resulted in a combined sentence of more than sixty-seven years in prison. The prosecution of twelve members of the "SUR 13" criminal gang, Plant City Norternos' arch rival, is ongoing in the Hillsborough Circuit Court.

The prosecution continued for twenty-four members of the "Mohawk Boys," an Orlando based gang affiliated with the Bloods who trafficked in drugs and committed robberies to fund their music aspirations, while also engaging in violent exchanges in the Richmond Heights neighborhood where they operated. Twenty defendants have entered pleas to racketeering offenses and only four defendants remain with trials expected to take place in 2016.

A convicted member of SUR 13 in Manatee County who completed his prison sentence for Racketeering and Conspiracy to Commit Racketeering and was serving probation, was sent back to prison in November 2015 for violating his probation. Aurelio Ibarra was accused of sexually assaulting a 17-year old victim at a party while his victim was under the influence of alcohol. Although the assault case was nolle prossed by the State Attorney's Office, the OSP moved forward with prosecuting the violation of probation. At a violation of probation hearing that involved extensive pre-hearing litigation, the OSP presented DNA evidence linking the defendant to the attack, as well as testimony from the victim. The defendant was found to be in violation, and his probation was revoked and terminated. After presenting the court with the defendant's prior history of gang violence and his continued threat to the community, Ibarra was sentenced to thirty years in prison.

As the Office of Statewide Prosecution continues its successful prosecutions of gang members, our law enforcement partners recognize emerging tactics employed by gangs in attempts to evade prosecution for their gang activity. Whatever methods or maneuvers gang members chose to employ, if they are engaging in a pattern of criminal gang activity, the OSP will partner with law enforcement to combat that gang activity through a variety of legal tools at our disposal. Every case the OSP prosecutes receives the full commitment and focus of our specialized prosecutors in order to hold gang members fully accountable for their crimes.

~ Diane Croff, Chief ASP

Retail Theft

Organized retail theft continues to be an issue across the State of Florida. Organized groups of thieves steal from various retail stores, then either sell the stolen items on the black market or return them for gift cards. Organized retail theft tends to be multi-jurisdictional in nature as these criminals rarely stay within one circuit; instead electing to travel from county to county, throughout the state, targeting large retailers such as Publix, Walgreens and Home Depot.

In 2015, OSP filed criminal charges in 15 cases, opened 26 investigations, and convicted 26 defendants for crimes involving Organized Retail Theft.

Currently, OSP's Orlando office has several Organized Retail Theft cases. In one case, a group of individuals was stealing high priced items from Home Depots by placing UPC barcode stickers from low priced items over the existing UPC barcodes, then using the self checkout lines to avoid detection. Once the items were purchased, the targets removed the lower priced barcode and returned the items for gift cards, which were then sold through a "legitimate" business. It is believed that this organization was responsible for stealing over $400,000.00.

Organized retail theft groups commonly use booster bags, which block the detection of anti-theft devices. Items such as razors, over the counter medication, health and beauty items, teeth whitening strips, and other valuable products are stolen in bulk while concealed in said bags.

~ Kelsey Hellstrom, ASP

Cargo Theft

Cargo theft is a crime of opportunity with a large payoff if offenders are successful. Typically, thieves steal unattended semi-trailers and either look for a quick sale of the entire load for nickels on the dollar or split the cargo up prior to fencing it. A single diverted delivery can be worth hundreds of thousands of dollars. For example, Operation Publix Cargo Theft, involved the theft and attempted sale of a load of pharmaceuticals valued at $306,246.46. The buyer of a valuable load can often turn around and sell the items to customers for a price that is below wholesale.

OSP is taking the prosecution of cargo thieves seriously. Operation Smokey and the Bandidos, which involved a combined loss of $585,728.66 from eleven victims, resulted in the arrest of three members of a cargo theft ring that had plagued the State of Florida. In 2015, one of the targets provided substantial assistance, while a second target was convicted and sentenced to more than 9 years in prison, to be followed by ten years on probation with the payment of restitution for his involvement in the cargo theft ring. The final target was sentenced to thirty years in prison to be followed by fifteen years on probation with the payment of restitution following a trial on his case.

In 2015, members of OSP met with leaders of the Florida Trucking Association and members of law enforcement from across the State to discuss the growing problem of cargo theft. The group generated ideas such as creating a statewide task force for criminal investigations and a statewide/nationwide database for information, as well as proposing new legislation aimed at stiffer penalties for cargo theft crimes. These discussions remain ongoing and OSP continues to be involved.

~Kelsey Hellstrom, ASP

Medicaid Fraud

The OSP and the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU) continue to enjoy an excellent working relationship. As indicated in past reports, the OSP continues to work closely with the MFCU, their investigators and attorneys. MFCU has continued to focus on hiring trial attorneys, most often former criminal prosecutors. As such we still cross designate their attorneys as Special Assistant Statewide Prosecutors to handle the criminal prosecutions as they near filing. While the cross-designated attorneys report to one of our local bureau chiefs, this relationship with the MFCU makes the maximum use of our resources and allows for continuity from the investigation to trial.

Since we began this effort, we have seen increases and steady progress in handling these cases as the criminal frauds they often are. The criminal cases not only punish the offender, but give us the tools to recover the defrauded monies for the Medicaid Program. Additionally, these cases can sometimes develop into crimes beyond fraud based matters and can lead to abuse, neglect or exploitation prosecutions. Whatever is found by the MFCU investigator can be addressed by our prosecution.
We plan to continue on the present course of cooperation with MFCU in battling these frauds. The fact we are co-located with the MFCU's makes this effort even easier to manage and maintain. The director of the MFCU, who has previously served as an Assistant Statewide Prosecutor, and the Statewide Prosecutor continue to stay in close touch and try to be creative as we try to grow this relationship even more. We expect the positive results of this effort to grow and continue to succeed.

Conclusion

We continue to be very proud of the work all staff of the Office of Statewide Prosecution are doing. The results continue to make us standout, especially this year with the 97% conviction rate. We continue to see how the efforts of the pill initiative have paid off for Florida. Yet, we are seeing a rise in the use of other illicit drugs such as heroin and methamphetamine. Fighting this drug use will obviously be a focus for the upcoming year, utilizing all investigative techniques we can assist law enforcement with.

Our work to attack human trafficking will continue as always, with us accepting every case brought to us for review and possible filing decisions. Likewise, we will continue the battle against synthetic drugs.

Statewide Prosecution continues to be responsive to the needs of Floridians and Florida's law enforcement community. With a staff made up of experienced and hardworking professionals, we will continue the fight for justice in 2016.

Nick Cox
Statewide Prosecutor

Appendix

Below is a list of the Assistant Statewide Prosecutors assigned to each Office as of December 31, 2015.

Jacksonville	Orlando	Tampa	Ft. Myers	Ft. Lauderdale	Miami	West Palm Beach
Kelly Eckley Office Chief	John Roman Office Chief	Diane Croff Office Chief	Michael-Anthony Pica Office Chief	Julie Hogan Deputy Statewide Prosecutor		
Kelsey Bledsoe	Diane Checchio	Laura Anne Rose	Audra Thomas-Eth	Oscar Gelpi Special Counsel	Stephen ImMasche	Stephanie Tew
Shannon MacGillis	Robert Finkbeiner	Paul Dontenville	Jennifer Gutmore	Kathleen George	Jeremy Franker	Lawonda Warren
John Wethington	David Gillespie	Jessica Goodwin-Costello	Carrie Pollock Gil	Jessica Dobbins	Shireen Brueggeman	Jonathan Bridges
James "Harlan" McGuire	Nicole Pegues	Julie Sercus		Margery Lexa	Nickolaus "Hunter" Davis	
	Jim Schneider General Counsel	Joseph Spataro		Priscilla Prado		
	Lisa Acharekar	Kelly McKnight		Dayna Browne		
	Gary Malak	Michael Williams		Jeremy Scott		
	Jeffrey Stone	Diana Bock				
		John Maceluch				
		Cass Castillo				

Below is a list of support staff assigned to each Office as of December 31, 2015.

Tallahassee	Jacksonville	Orlando	Tampa	Ft. Myers	Ft. Lauderdale	Miami	West Palm Beach
Tammy Wade Executive Director	Christopher Floyd Criminal Financial Specialist	Sherrie Elmahmoud Criminal Financial Analyst	Delores Funes Sr. Criminal Financial Analyst	Dawn Andrews Executive Secretary	Barbara Goodson Senior Criminal Financial Analyst	Georgina Clinche Senior Executive Secretary	Lisa Cushman Administrative Assistant
	Connie Bland Senior Executive Secretary	Amy Romero Administrative Assistant	Virginia Caswell Administrative Assistant		Thelma Alvarado Research Associate	Barbara Rodri-guez, Executive Secretary	
		Matisha Pittman, Executive Secretary	Debra Kersting Executive Secretary		Omarelis Jimenez Executive Secretary		
		Angelica Geremia Executive Secretary	Michele Stano Executive Secretary		Rhonda Greene Administrative Assistant		
		Linda Serrano Executive Secretary					

ATTORNEY GENERAL

PAM BONDI

FLORIDA OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL