



2021

ANNUAL REPORT

MARICOPA COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE





DEAR FRIENDS,

Seeking justice in a fair and equitable manner and keeping families safe in our community is a noble task and one to which I am deeply committed. In 2021, victims, the courts, our public safety partners, other government agencies, the legal community, and so many others worked together to ensure justice in our community.

The employees of the Maricopa County Attorney's Office (MCAO) continue to work diligently to uphold the law, while ensuring the due process rights of defendants in this community. The County's Civil Services Division provided outstanding legal advice to our partners in county government and ensured that our government is for the people and by the people. As County Attorney, I am proud to work alongside professionals who have dedicated their careers to serving their community.

Our Keeping Families Safe crime prevention campaign has informed tens of thousands of individuals about how to protect their loved ones and their community. Throughout 2021, in spite of the pandemic, we successfully provided critical information to our community about identity theft, vehicular heatstroke, the dangers of driving while impaired, and provided resources to victims of domestic violence.

I am so proud of the accomplishments of the MCAO in 2021! Our partnerships with law enforcement helped remove dangerous individuals from our neighborhoods and streets. Expanded diversion programs allowed those who want to do better and be better the opportunity to do so. And victims navigating the criminal justice system were provided invaluable services by advocates and prosecutors to ensure their rights were protected.

A global pandemic has challenged every aspect of our lives, but it has not prevented this office from seeking justice and upholding the laws of this great state. My commitment to the rule of law and community safety, combined with the hard work of our dedicated employees, will ensure that we are able to continue our important mission.

Best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Allister Adel".

Allister Adel
Maricopa County Attorney



KEEPING FAMILIES SAFE

In 2021, the Maricopa County Attorney's Office continued its highly-successful **Keeping Families Safe** crime prevention campaign, a digital crime prevention outreach program. Through this crime prevention campaign, the office has been able to reach out to many Maricopa County residents and help raise awareness of safety issues and crime trends that impact them the most.



13,440,099
Radio Ads
3,458
TV Spots
(Cox Media Networks)



10,823,222
Impressions
18,782
Webpage Visits



915
Posts

725,901
Impressions



FACEBOOK

Posts: 440
Followers: 1,123 (174 new followers)
Impressions: 68,201
Reach: 57,166



TWITTER

Tweets: 475
Followers: 5,492 (690 new followers)
Profile Visits: 70,381
Impressions: 657,700



5,480
Subscribers
45,911
Total Opens
5,656
Total Clicks



927
Total
47
Safety Presentations
4
Events

2021 FOCUS ON



DUI



SCAMS AND FRAUD



SUBSTANCE ABUSE



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



VEHICULAR HEATSTROKE



YEAR IN REVIEW

SETTLEMENT WITH MANUFACTURERS AND DISTRIBUTORS OF PRESCRIPTION OPIOIDS

Led by County Attorney Allister Adel and in collaboration with 14 County Attorneys and the Arizona Attorney General's Office, the Maricopa County Attorney's Office reached a settlement with manufacturers and distributors of opioids for their role in unlawfully marketing, promoting, and dispensing prescription opioids. This agreement will bring \$580 million dollars to the state of Arizona and \$80 million to the residents of Maricopa County. Funds will be used to treat, prevent, and help people recover from opioid use disorder and support both government and non-profit organizations working to address this issue.



MARICOPA COUNTY ATTORNEY PROACTIVELY ASSISTS WITH EXPUNGEMENT OF PRIOR MARIJUANA CONVICTIONS AND HONORS THE WILL OF THE VOTERS AFTER THE PASSAGE OF PROP 207

On Nov. 3, 2020, voters in Arizona passed Proposition 207, also known as the Smart and Safe Act, which decriminalized marijuana for recreational use. Immediately following the certification of the election, the Maricopa County Attorney's Office proactively filed motions to dismiss pending cases in Maricopa County affected by the new statute. The MCAO filed to dismiss or drop over 5,000 charges related to the use, transportation, or cultivation of recreational marijuana. In July of 2021, the MCAO began filing over 7,000 petitions to expunge eligible marijuana convictions.

MCAO PROVIDES GRANTS TO 13 LOCAL NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Every year, MCAO's Community Grants Program provides funding to non-profit community agencies that support victims of crime and provide crime prevention education focused on substance abuse and gang activity. For the July 2021 grant cycle, MCAO awarded a total of \$106,500 to 13 local non-profit organizations. By investing funds into organizations that are on the ground working to prevent crime, we are ensuring our work has a positive impact beyond the courtroom.

ADOPTION SERVICES CELEBRATES ONE YEAR OF FINDING CHILDREN LOVING HOMES

During the summer of 2020, County Attorney Adel reinstated adoption legal services to the County Attorney's Office. Under Arizona law, the MCAO is required to provide free legal representation in any uncontested adoption. More than a year later, Adoption Services has successfully completed 90 adoptions and saved taxpayers close to \$750,000 by handling the adoptions with MCAO staff.



"ADOPTION IS NOT ABOUT FINDING CHILDREN FOR FAMILIES, ITS ABOUT FINDING FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN." — JOYCE MAGUIRE PAVAO



STREET RACING PROSECUTION EFFORTS

Over the last several years, the Phoenix Police Department's Street Racing Task Force has worked to address the increasing problem of illegal street racing on public roadways. As a result of their work, the County Attorney's Office was able to move forward in the prosecution of some of the most prolific offenders of this dangerous criminal activity. As of October 2021, the office was prosecuting 12 illegal street racing cases and had begun processing over a dozen others.



MCAO LAUNCHES DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION INITIATIVE

The Maricopa County Attorney's Office expanded its outreach and engagement with underrepresented and marginalized communities with the creation of an employee position specifically for Diversity and Community Engagement. This full-time employee will coordinate MCAO's internal diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts with our DEI volunteer employee committee. In 2021, the DEI employee committee championed several important initiatives, including MCAO funding of employees' dues in minority bar organizations, and the creation of Employee Resource Groups (ERG) to foster inclusivity and provide spaces for employees to feel valued, understood, and share their valuable life experience with others.



SEXUAL ASSAULT TESTING KIT BACKLOG COMPLETE

In coordination with its law enforcement partners, the MCAO successfully eliminated the backlog in Maricopa County of previously unsubmitted sexual assault kits. Since 2015, MCAO has been leading the effort to identify, inventory, and test over 4,500 untested kits. With the 2021 award of \$2.5 million from the U.S. Department of Justice's Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI), MCAO will now focus on funding DNA testing of roughly 1,200 partially-tested sexual assault kits from the

Arizona Department of Public Safety. The SAKI grant will also fund additional law enforcement training and the hiring of an additional MCAO detective to assist law enforcement agencies with sexual assault investigations.

COUNTY ATTORNEY AND MARICOPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RECEIVE NATIONAL HONOR FOR ELECTIONS WORK

The Maricopa County Board of Supervisors and the County Attorney's Office received national recognition from the National Association of Counties for their role in overseeing and ensuring free and fair elections in 2020. Since election day, the Civil Division Elections team has worked tirelessly to support and defend the Board of Supervisors, the Office of the Recorder, and the Elections Department. Nearly twenty lawsuits were filed, and the team successfully defended the County's processes and procedures; none of the claims of fraud or foul play have been substantiated.

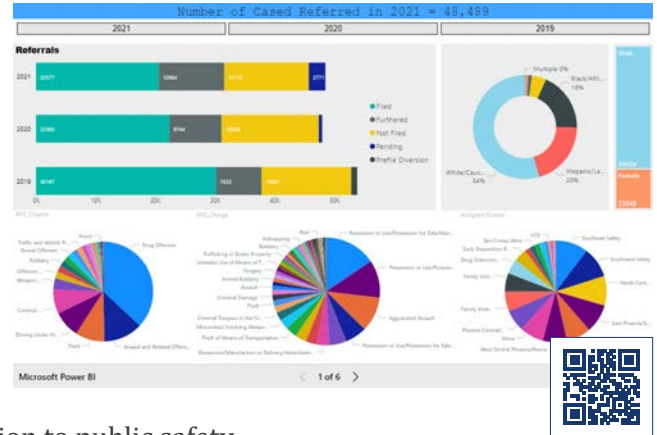




COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR HOME DETENTION PROGRAM AND DATA DASHBOARD

The Maricopa County Attorney's Office was recognized with two National Achievement Awards from the National Association of Counties. The first award received was in the Civic Education and Public Information category for its Data Dashboard and the second award was in the Criminal Justice and Public Safety category for its Home Detention Program, which was developed in partnership with the Maricopa County Justice Courts.

MaricopaCountyAttorney.org/Data-Dashboard



COUNTY ATTORNEY EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED IN 2021

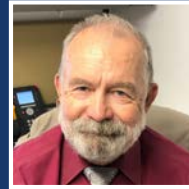
Every year, our employees are recognized for their work and dedication to public safety.

This year, three of our employees were recognized for their contributions to our communities and the criminal justice system by the Arizona Prosecuting Attorneys' Advisory Council (APAAC). **Deputy County Attorney (DCA) Mike Baker** and **Legal Support Supervisor Jolie Panyon** both received Lifetime Achievement Awards and **DCA Julie Done** received the Appellate Prosecutor of the Year Award.

APAAC LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Legal Support Supervisor
Jolie Panyon



Deputy County Attorney
Mike Baker

APPELLATE PROSECUTOR OF THE YEAR



Deputy County Attorney
Julie Done



The Arizona Narcotic Officers Association (ANOA) recognized **DCA Veronica Skinner** as Prosecutor of the Year for her dedicated work and accomplishments on a large-scale wiretap investigation and consequent prosecutions. They also highlighted her trial work and training to law enforcement.

Detective John Kozeliski was recognized as an Outstanding Instructor by the Arizona High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (AZHIDTA) for his support of the HIDTA training program, exceptional training skills, and willingness to share his knowledge and expertise with law enforcement officers, analysts, prosecutors, military personnel, and civilians across the state of Arizona.







BY THE NUMBERS

CRIMINAL PROSECUTION

Five divisions within the Maricopa County Attorney's Office are tasked with handling a variety of criminal cases. The majority of criminal cases are handled by attorneys in the Trial Division, while more serious offenses are assigned to one of the specialized prosecution bureaus. The Juvenile Crimes Division handles cases involving minors under the age of 18. In 2021, the office received **51,181 cases for review** from law enforcement, **filed 23,922 cases**, and **furthered 7,221 cases** back to law enforcement for additional information.

CIVIL SERVICES DIVISION

The Civil Services Division of the Maricopa County Attorney's Office serves as the law firm for County government. In addition to providing legal representation and advice to elected officials and County agencies, the Civil Services Division defends legal actions, lawsuits, and claims brought against the County and its employees, handles tax appeals filed by County taxpayers, and processes and/or advises on public records requests. In 2021, the Division handled a variety of legal matters including new and ongoing issues stemming from the 2020 election, numerous civil rights and tort claims, and over **4,100 hearings involving court ordered evaluation and treatment**. The Division also assisted in **processing 664 new public records requests**, completing 419 public records requests, as well as handling difficult public fiduciary and tax related matters. Civil Services was also instrumental in assisting Maricopa County reach a settlement in ongoing Opioid Litigation that is expected to bring in tens of millions of dollars over the next 18 years to combat opioid addiction in Maricopa County.

VICTIMS SERVICES

It is often said that victims of crime are victimized twice...once when the crime occurs and again as the victim navigates a complicated criminal justice system. No doubt, our system of justice is complex. Those of us trusted to uphold the law work tirelessly to ensure the due process rights of defendants are protected, as this is critically important under our rule of law. But it is also always a priority of the County Attorney's Office to ensure that those who are victimized, oftentimes by a serious violent act, have a voice and opportunity for justice. The Victim Services Division houses ten specialized bureaus designed to advance victims' rights, including child victim and survivor advocacy, special victims advocacy, and assistance with property and financial loss.

In 2021, this office provided **47,585 services to 25,216 victims**, **notifications were made to 257,676 individuals** about the status of their case, and **3,052 claims paid \$1,782,585 for victim compensation**.

DIVERSION

The Maricopa County Attorney's Office operates one of the most robust pre-trial diversion programs in the country, empowering eligible offenders to become productive citizens with community-based education and treatment programs as an alternative to prosecution. In November, the Office launched the Developmental Disabilities – Felony Diversion Program (DD-FDP). This program provides a diversion alternative to eligible post-file felony offenders with a qualifying diagnosis for a Developmental Disability (DD). The MCAO currently offers **diversion opportunities in ten areas**.

At the conclusion of **FY 2020, MCAO had 1,297 defendants enrolled in diversion programs. In FY 2021, MCAO enrolled an additional 3,087 defendants** into diversion programs. **In FY 2021, 1,743 defendants were successfully discharged from a diversion program.**



PROSECUTION INTEGRITY UNIT

In 2020, County Attorney Adel created the Prosecution Integrity Unit to handle claims of actual innocence, potential inappropriate police conduct including excessive use of force, and other claims of prosecutorial unfairness in handling cases. In 2021, the unit **received 42 referrals** from prosecutors expressing concerns about law enforcement actions. One referral resulted in the resignation and arrest of an officer.

After a prosecutor reported concerns about **inaccurate MVD records**, staff worked to notify prosecutors and defense attorneys statewide of the issue and communicated the need to correct the records to MVD and ADOT.

A prosecutor worked to **overturn a trial conviction** that she had obtained after the Prosecution Integrity Unit learned from a police agency of an internal investigation that revealed the arresting officer had lied about the basis for the traffic stop that led to the arrest.

INVESTIGATIONS

The Maricopa County Attorney's Office Investigations Division is comprised of sworn and civilian positions that support the prosecutorial efforts of the MCAO and ensure the safety and well-being of employees.

In 2021, **7,066 weapons checks/assists** were completed, **509 background investigations** were initiated on new employees, and investigators **served 1,643 subpoenas**.

PUBLIC RECORDS

Upon taking office, one of the first priorities of County Attorney Adel was to address a backlog of public records requests with the office. After a review of process in late 2019, the team streamlined the system and additional resources were provided to ensure the office was not only responsive to requests, but that it was able to dramatically reduce the amount of time it took to provide publicly available documents. **In 2021, the office received 664 public records requests and completed 419.**

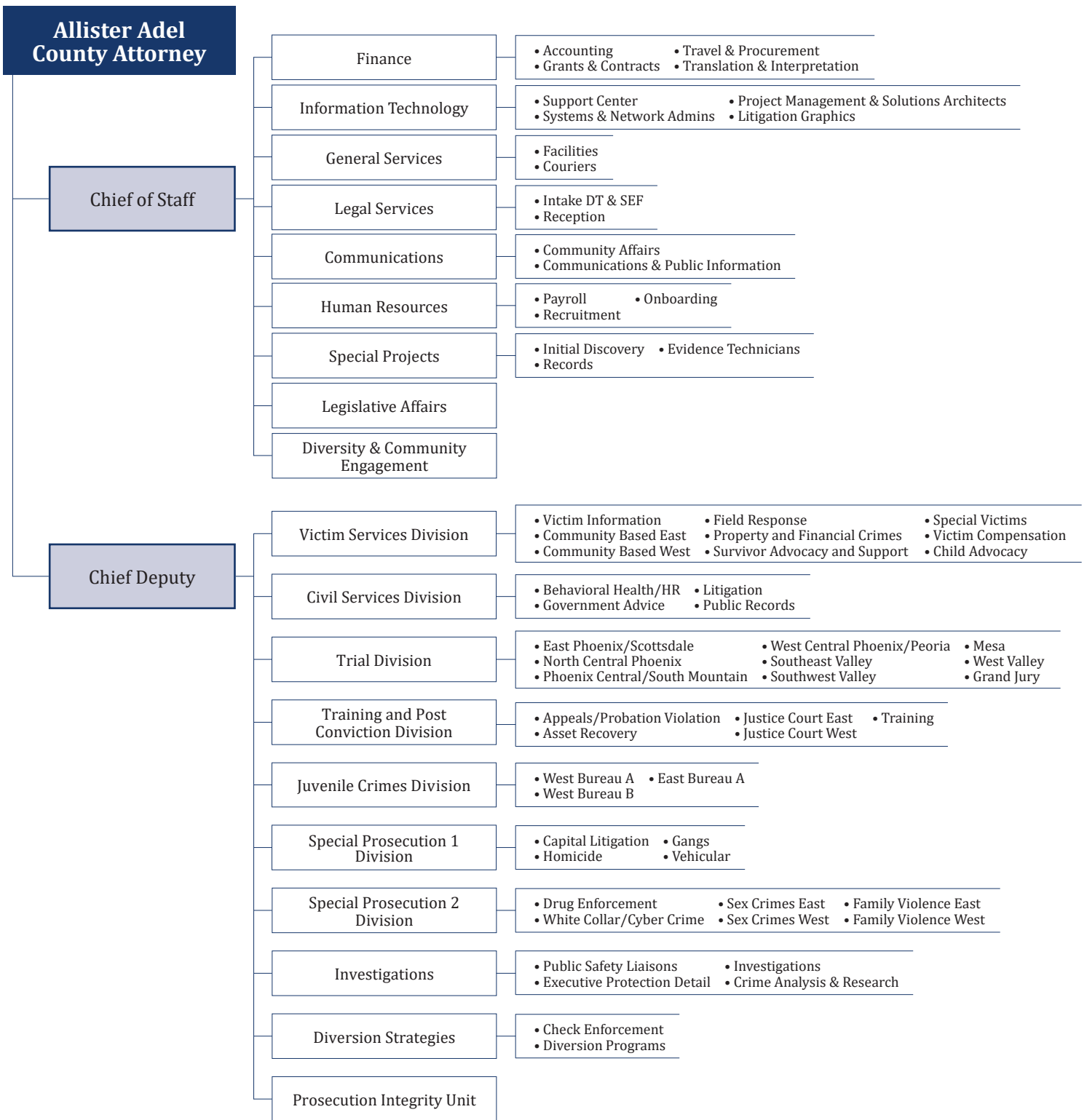
SUPPORT AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

The work of employees at the Maricopa County Attorney's Office is supported by a team of professionals in information technology, finance, human resources, facilities management, and other internal support functions.

In 2021, the Board of Supervisors adopted a **budget of \$115,714,421** for the Maricopa County Attorney's Office. This funding is overseen and carefully managed by experienced finance and budget personnel. The human resources department **hired and processed 75 new employees. Information technology handled 29,118 requests for assistance.**



ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



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