

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY ANNUAL REPORT 2017

The Office of the Carroll County Attorney continues to function under the motto “Veritas et Iustitia,” which means Truth and Justice. Our office has seen tremendous growth in 2017 in terms of the caseloads and job functionality. We seem to have reversed the trend of attorney turnover in the office, having hired and retained four quality Assistant County Attorneys in the beginning of 2017. With the help of these attorneys and quality support staff, we prosecute felony level offenses in Carroll County, as well as acting as advisors to our law enforcement partners.

With the crisis facing our State in terms of the proliferation of opioid misuse, we are seeing a dramatic increase in the number of serious felony cases occurring in Carroll County. In 2017, the Carroll County Attorney’s Office received 429 cases for charging review. Of these, 389 cases (929 total charges) were indicted through December of 2017. This represents a 144% increase in cases indicted compared to the same time period in 2015, and a 45% increase from the same time period in 2016.

The types of crimes have also risen in severity. Based upon our statistics, below is a chart of some of the more serious charges filed in 2017:

Charge	Number of Charges Filed
Aggravated Sexual Assault	57
Sexual Assault	15
Attempted Murder	1
Manslaughter	6
Child Sexual Abuse Images Possession/Manufacture	32
Domestic Violence	45
Burglary	35
Drug Related	226

Because cases do not simply end on December 31, there are always cases in varying stages (Under Review, Grand Jury, Pretrial Motions, Trial, Sentencing, Probation, etc.). Thus, the 389 number is only indicative of the new cases filed during the year. The office also handled all of the lingering cases from several years back. Therefore, Assistant County Attorney Tessari handled 233 total cases in 2017, ACA Briden handled 196, ACA Conley controlled 210, ACA Blair took over 109 (he joined the office in May, 2017). As the County Attorney, I also handled a case load, with charge of 149 total cases in 2017. Thus, during 2017, there were 897 open cases at various stages.

Our statistics show that there were 1,816 court appearances scheduled for the attorneys in the Carroll County Attorney’s Office. We had several trials during 2017, including Aggravated Sexual Assault, Child Abuse, Assault on a Police Officer, Aggravated DUI with Bodily Injury, and Felony-level Theft.

I am humbled and honored to work with every member of our office. We continue to work with law enforcement in order to ensure that we achieve a unified approach to felony prosecution in Carroll County. We have implemented the Felonies First case flow initiative, and have found great success, even with the significant increase to the workload that we faced. With the addition of an Assistant County

Attorney and a part-time support staff, we have been able to absorb the extra work and thrive in a collegial, professional manner.

The office helped launch a Sexual Assault Resource Team to enable a coordinated, consistent response on our sexual assault cases. This also assists the County Attorney's Office in obtaining appropriate sentencing on these emotional and traumatic cases.

Our office manager, Jessica Reed, has stepped into her role and brought her unique organizational abilities to an office where there is an inordinate amount of paper flowing in and out on a daily basis. She is innovative in her quest to minimize the use of resources while still achieving a quality and professional office. Jessica has tackled the file retention and storage issue, and is hoping to complete the overhaul of the file archives this coming year.

Our new Victim/Witness Coordinator, Brianne Deyermond, has brought her fresh ideas and boundless energy to a role which is integral to the office. She has implemented strategies to ensure that our office is at the forefront of empowering victims of crime while still complying with the rights afforded to victims. Brianne has revamped the role of Victim/Witness Coordinator, helped implement a Sexual Assault Resource Team for Carroll County, drafted resource materials for victims of crime, and ensures that restitution information is conveyed to the attorneys in the office.

We were very pleased to add Melissa Banks, an experienced and skilled legal assistant, to our office this year. Melissa has helped move the position from one which heavily relied upon physical documents and individually typed motions to a streamlined, technology-reliant digital system which can deliver materials to opposing counsel within minutes.

Attorney Kimberly Tessari has taken multiple cases to trial and works tirelessly to seek justice for the victims of Carroll County. She is the co-chair of the Carroll County Sexual Assault Resource Team and has worked to provide collaborative seminars on Search and Seizure. Attorney Tessari has spearheaded the drafting of internal procedures designed to minimize upheaval in the event of turnover in the office.

Attorney Steven Briden has worked with the courts and law enforcement to develop a Drug Court for high risk offenders as an alternative to housing the offender at the prison. He manages a full case load and has assisted in the development of a Document Retention policy, as well as the drafting of internal procedures.

Attorney Matthew Conley has been busy in trial this past year, and has become the office's liaison with law enforcement on the issue of the opioid crisis facing the county. He also expedites much of the collaboration relative to the County's approach on the use and sale of Controlled Drugs. Attorney Conley maintains a heavy caseload and acts as a facilitator of policy, ensuring that our written policies are organized and accessible to all staff.

Attorney Keith Blair joined us in May, 2017, after working at the Strafford County Attorney's Office. Attorney Blair brings a fresh perspective to his cases, working to hold offenders accountable. His experience has been valuable as we reshape the office into a County Attorney's Office that everyone can be proud of.

In addition to the newly formed Sexual Assault Resource Team, the Carroll County Attorney's Office continues to work with the Child Advocacy Center in Wolfeboro and Conway, as well as the Specialized

Child Protective Team, which addresses child abuse and sexual assault in Carroll County. The collaborative effort of the CAC, law enforcement, and our office promote the safety and well-being of vulnerable children in our community. We have continued the maintenance of a federal grant to help fund the Victim/Witness Assistance Program in our office. This grant is managed and maintained by Brianne Deyermond, who works with our County Commissioners to ensure that the grant is used wisely and appropriately for the needs of our victims and witnesses.

The County Attorney's Office is grateful for all of the guidance and support we have received from our Commissioners and Delegation, as well as from our County Administrator, Ken Robichaud. We are all proud of the focus on public safety, and the Delegation's approval of the funding necessary to continue to promote justice for the citizens of Carroll County. We are all proud of the work that we do in the interest of the public and in seeking justice for victims.

As the County Attorney, I look forward to continuing my service to all of the citizens of Carroll County, to continuing my work with law enforcement and treatment partners in an effort to seek justice and public safety. We are honored to serve.

With great respect,
Michaela D. Andruzzi
Carroll County Attorney