

JANUARY 2021

# LAW ENFORCEMENT NEWSLETTER

## A MESSAGE FROM OUTGOING STATE ATTORNEY BILL CERVONE

It is with mixed feelings that I come to the end of both my career as a prosecutor and my time as your State Attorney. So much has changed since I first joined the office in 1973 that it's literally impossible to remember how things were compared to how things are. As impossible is the task of remembering and thanking all of the many, many peo-

ple who have been a part of my career and helped me along the way. As surely as I tried to do so I would forget someone, and if I tried to recognize everyone this issue of the Legal Bulletin would be nothing but that list. To all of you who have been not just colleagues along the way but also friends, please understand that you have my undying gratitude, not just for the job

you do and the way you do it but more important for being a part of my professional life and helping all of us at the SAO do a better job for you and for our communities.

I leave you, unfortunately, facing a challenging time. Forces of reform sometimes seem to be overwhelming reason, and criticism of law enforcement has reached a decibel level that I'd never have thought possible. We all acknowledge that we can always do our jobs better, and change is a part of life in all regards. Change must, however, be well thought out and not reactionary, if it is to be helpful. Likewise, criticism can be productive when it is based in reality and none of us should reject it just because it



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**We're on the web:**  
**Www.sao8.org**

**REMINDER:**  
**LAW ENFORCEMENT**  
**NEWSLETTER NOW ON-LINE**

The Law Enforcement Newsletter is now available on-line, including old issues beginning with calendar year 2000. To access the Law Enforcement Newsletter go to the SAO website at <www.sao8.org> and click on the "Law Enforcement Newsletter" box.



**Any changes in agency email addresses should be reported to our office at clendenin@sao8.org.**

**For a copy of the complete text of any of the cases mentioned in this or an earlier issue of the Legal Bulletin, please call Chief Investigator Paul Clendenin at the SAO at 352-374-3670.**

## **Continued: Message from State Attorney Bill Cervone**

may sound unpleasant or make us confront unpleasant facts.

My wish for all of you, then, is first and foremost that you remain safe in your work in the face of an increasingly confrontational world. It has been an honor to serve alongside you in the world of public safety, and I further wish each of you the wisdom to continue to serve in that arena in a way that works for the improvement of the lives of the people we interact with as we

protect them from harm and sometimes even themselves.

## **SAO STAFF CHANGES**

The SAO welcomed Brian Rodgers back to the office as an ASA on October 1st. Brian has been working in private practice for about a year and a half since leaving the SAO and returned to fill the vacancy in the Gainesville firearms prosecution unit created by the appointment of ASA George Wright to the bench.

ASA Chris Gage resigned from his Gainesville felony position in December and will be entering private practice in Tampa. His felony position is being taken by ASA Andrew McCain, who will move up

from the Gainesville County Court Division.



## A MESSAGE FROM INCOMING STATE ATTORNEY BRIAN S. KRAMER

2021 will hopefully be remembered as the year that we beat COVID-19. The State Attorney's Office has been closed to the public for almost a year now. We are hopeful that 2021 will bring new beginnings. That beginning will start with a new administration at the Office. I will be your State Attorney, and Heather Jones will fill the Chief Assistant position formerly held by Jeanne Singer. We are both humbled and honored to be able to serve you. We are following two stalwart, dedicated and experienced public servants. We all owe them a debt of gratitude for their service, and wish them the best in retirement. The loss of Bill Cervone and Jeanne Singer is one that will take some time to recover.

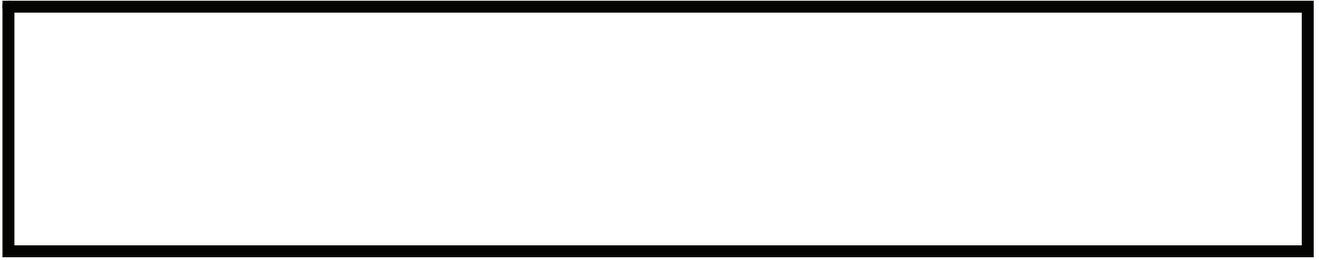
I anticipate that I will spend the first few months of my administration learning the job and evaluating our needs and financial circumstances in light of State budget changes. I don't anticipate any significant staffing changes in the first few months, other than the changes that are necessary because of my and Heather's current jobs becoming vacant. Once we have completed that evaluation, any necessary changes will be implemented with due care and proper notice to anyone affected.

Right now, our focus is on continuing to provide the highest level of service to community while meeting the challenges of the pandemic. These challenges include limitations on in-court functions, including trial, limited

in person interactions with victims and witnesses, and ongoing employee issues to COVID-19, or exposure. My long term goals include focusing on modernization of communications between the office and all stakeholders, prosecutorial practices, and internal evaluation methodologies. In the new year, we will be meeting with all of the agencies we serve to better understand your needs and how we can meet them.

We are looking forward to a new year.





## Congratulations To...

ASA Britanee McCausland, who married GPD Detective Amanda Prince on September 13th.

Gainesville Police Department Chief Inspector Jorge Campos, who resigned his position with GPD in October after being named the new Chief of Police for the Clemson, South Carolina, Police Department. During his nearly 30 years with GPD Jorge served in multiple capacities ranging from line officer responsibilities to PIO and management roles. We wish Jorge well in his new position, which began in November.

Congratulations as well to Capt. Jamie Kurnick, who was named to replace Jorge in the position of Chief Inspector.

*Congratulations*



The SAO Is  
Now On Twitter

The **SAO** has established a Twitter feed to better disseminate information to the media and others such as law enforcement agencies. Like us at #8THCIRCUITSAO. For more information contact Deputy Chief Investigator Darry Lloyd at 352-374-3670.



Sheriff Bobby McCallum is sad to report the death of LCSO Lt. Duane Dykstra (47 yoa). Lt. Dykstra was the Commander of the Criminal Investigations Division. Lt. Dykstra had more than 25 years of law enforcement experience. During his long career at LCSO, he worked as a Dispatcher, a patrol deputy, a K9 handler, a Narcotics Investigator and SWAT Team member. He had been the CID Commander since February of 2016.

Lt. Dykstra failed to return from a deer hunting trip on Saturday morning. He was later found deceased in Goethe State Forest near the intersection of CR 337 and SR 121. Lt. Dykstra appears to have died from natural causes and foul play is not suspected. The incident is being investigated by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission and the Office of the Medical Examiner Florida District Eight.

LCSO extends our deepest condolences to Lt. Dykstra's family



## Levy County Mental Health Court Celebrates Second Graduate

Levy County's fledgling Mental Health Court program celebrated its second successful graduation in late September. The defendant, who asked not to be publically identified, successfully completed the three phase program and treatment plan and earned not just dismissal of the charges against her but also the admiration of the Court and the program co-ordinators. Assistant State Attorneys Darla Whistler, who is the SAO liaison for cases screened for participation, described the defendant as a model participant who had set the bar for those who follow her high by being an example of how programs such as Mental Health Court can work as a method of diversion from normal prosecution

processes. Participants must follow closely monitored treatment plans and attend frequent court sessions designed to check on their compliance and progress.

Mental Health Court is limited to qualified misdemeanor and low level felony cases and has been up and running in Alachua County for many years. In addition to September's graduate, Levy County's program had 5 active participants at this writing with several others pending screening.



## FDLE INITIATES USE OF FORCE DATA COLLECTION PORTAL

On September 1<sup>st</sup> FDLE initiated a Use Of Force module as a part of its Florida Incident based Reporting System. Submission of qualifying information is not mandatory but is highly recommended by both FDLE and the SAO. It goes without saying that the national dialog developing over the last several months all but requires collection and availability of the data involved in this module, and it is likely the both federal and state legislative action may at some point in the future make it mandatory. Any agency that does not choose to participate now will be put in a position of having to justify that decision, especially in the event of an incident drawing large scale public and media attention. Although the decision as to whether or not to participate is one for agency heads, all personnel should be aware of this new process. A detailed memo from FDLE follows.

CJIS Memo 2020-12 regarding **Florida Use-of-Force Data Collection** is now available on the CJNet.

**Summary:**

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) launched the Florida Incident Based Reporting System's Use-of-Force module.

**Important Information for:**

State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies, Agency Heads and Command Staff, Information Technology Personnel, Uniform Crime Reporting Personnel, Agency Investigation/Internal Affairs.

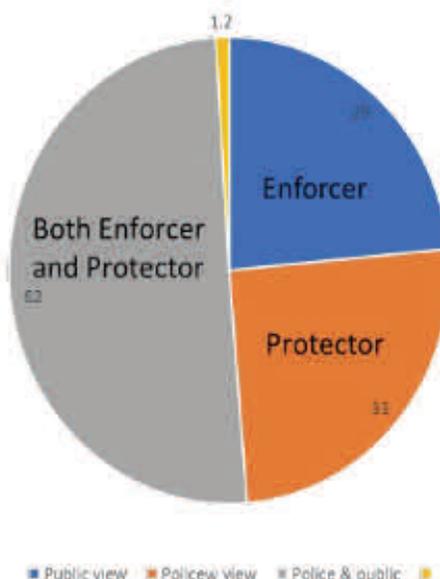
Memo link.

To unsubscribe from the E-mail Alerts System, please reply to this email with "Unsubscribe - Criminal Justice Executive Leadership" in the subject line.



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## Role of the Police



### 1. What does an average American see as the role of police?

29% of the public views police more as enforcers than protectors (8% of officers agree)  
31% of police officers view themselves more as protectors than enforcers (16% of public agrees)  
62% of police officers and 53% of the public see police as both

### 2. Does the size of the police force need to change?

34% of the public says that they would prefer a larger police presence in their area  
86% of police officers say that they don't have enough personnel

### 3. Do citizens understand the challenges police face?

83% of the public says that they understand the risks and challenges police officers face on the job very well or somewhat well  
Just 14% of police officers agree

Source: Morin R, Parker K, Stepler R, Mercer A. "Behind the Badge: Police views, public views."  
Pew Research Center.

