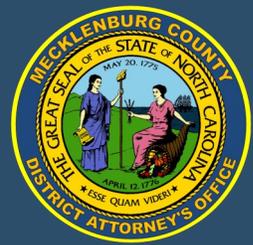




FROM THE DESK OF DA MERRIWEATHER

The District Attorney's Office is responsible for the prosecution of criminal offenses in Mecklenburg County. Each month, this newsletter provides information about court happenings, initiatives being used to combat crime, the DA's work in the community, and more.



Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Office

TEAM EFFORT

Recent cases highlight extraordinary efforts

Your Mecklenburg County prosecutors have been pushing hard to utilize all trial time, often with a single prosecution team trying felony cases in three courtrooms at one time. Two recent cases highlight the exceptional work prosecutors and legal assistants put in behind the scenes, as well as the partnerships that are critical to the pursuit of justice for crime survivors and the community.

In late August, a Special Victims Team trial ended with a jury finding a man [guilty of statutory sex crimes](#). The man took advantage of a position of trust and molested an 11-year-old girl on multiple occasions. After this trauma, the survivor decided to return to her native Mexico. Having a necessary witness outside the country is a major hurdle for the prosecution, but our assigned Assistant District Attorney refused to give up. She communicated with Homeland Security and the Mexican consulate about the necessary visa and paperwork. She and the lead detective were at the airport at 2 a.m. to meet the survivor, now 15, when she arrived. Meanwhile, our legal assistants worked to ensure the survivor's travel arrangements and, acting as interpreters, communicate with her in her first language. Their dogged persistence, along with the assistance of local and federal authorities, resulted in the protection of our community's children.

Our Violent Crimes Team brought a defendant to trial for attempted first-degree murder and other offenses. The victim was walking his 3-year-old home from a park when the defendant pulled up alongside him and began shooting. From the time of the crime in March 2021 to the trial this month, the assigned prosecutor worked with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department, the Rock Hill Police Department, the FBI, and Freedom Fighting Missionaries, which provided invaluable support of the victim, who suffered extensive injuries as a result of his 12 gunshot wounds. In the months leading up to the trial, the prosecutor and a detective from CMPD's Court Services Unit located and met with about 20 witnesses. All of their efforts resulted in a jury finding the man [guilty as charged](#). He was sentenced to at least 22 years in prison.

GANG CRIMES

The North Carolina Gang Investigators Association recently honored Mecklenburg County Assistant District Attorney Caino (pictured at center) with the association's Prosecutor of the Year Award! The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department's Gun Crime Suppression Team and ADA Caino were also recognized for their work. ADA Caino, who has served with the DA's Office for more than 10 years, is a member of the DA's Violent Crimes Team.



FOR STUDENTS

The 2022-2023 session of the DA's Exploring program for high school students will launch next month! This career exploration program, which is organized in partnership with the Boy Scouts of America, gives young men and women the chance to learn about legal careers and the criminal justice system. Volunteers from the DA's Office will meet monthly with students to guide them through a mock crime scene, discuss crime trends affecting young people, educate them about the courts, and ultimately, host a mock trial in which students act as the defense attorneys and prosecutors. On Oct. 11, our volunteers will host an open house to share information with students, parents, and guardians. For program information and how to register for the open house, email meghan.c.mcdonald@nccourts.org.



FAQ: I missed my court date for a traffic citation. What should I do?

If you missed a court date for a traffic citation, please come speak with one of the Assistant District Attorneys who staffs a station at the courthouse. That station, which is located in courtroom 1130 on the first floor of the courthouse, is open 9 a.m.-noon and 1:30-3 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 9 a.m.-noon Friday. If your traffic citation is a compliance matter (such as a violation related to your registration or your vehicle's inspection), and you have your citation or case number, you may be able to resolve the matter online. Visit the N.C. court system's online services at nccourts.gov/services for details. You can also visit [the DA's website](#) for more information and FAQs about traffic citations.

Visit www.charmeckda.com for the latest news, information about the courts, and more. Follow @charmeckda on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

