

MESSAGE FROM DISTRICT ATTORNEY ROBERT J. GALIBOIS

From our first day in office, January 4, 2023, we began serving this community with our mission front and center: Protect the public. Ensure equal access to justice.

My first order of business was appointing Jessica Elumba as the First Assistant District Attorney. Ms. Elumba is the first woman to hold this position in the history of the Cape and Islands District. Nearly 25 years of prosecutorial experience at every level of our criminal justice system qualifies her to lead our office, which handles thousands of criminal cases across five District and Juvenile Courts, three Superior Courts, and the Appeals Unit.

We began by assembling a professional staff whose resumes reflect deep and varied experience, always with the same goal: In partnership with the communities we serve, pursue truth and justice, protect the innocent, and ensure public safety.

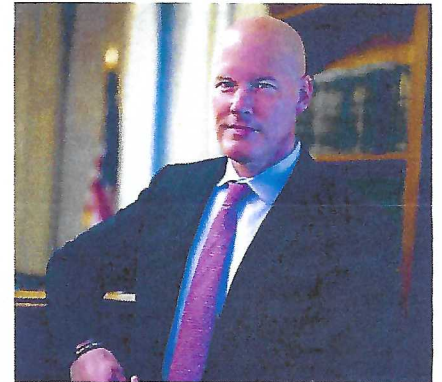
The Cape and Islands District Attorney's goal is to improve quality of life for all citizens. Fair and effective prosecutions must be linked with progressive prevention initiatives and outreach.

An exciting development during our first year, and another first for the District, was the creation by the Trial Court of a Mental Health Specialty Court Session. We have appointed a dedicated Mental Health Specialty Court Prosecutor to address mental health issues, with a goal shared by the Trial Court: Identify appropriate treatment to reduce recidivism.

We also worked with the Edgartown District Court to bring an inaugural Recovery Court Session to Martha's Vineyard. We look forward to joining with the Court and many dedicated service providers on Martha's Vineyard to help people addressing a substance use disorder.

Early in our administration, the entire Cape and Islands Legislative Delegation joined our efforts to seek additional funding to provide professional, proactive services.

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2023 Annual Report Highlights

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ROBERT J. GALIBOIS
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One result: The creation of a Child Protection and Human Trafficking Unit within the office to work closely with local, state, and federal authorities to identify, target, and prosecute those who prey on the vulnerable through unlawful labor practices and sexual exploitation.

We have also launched a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee with support from many groups throughout our communities. We look forward to training practices developed by our DEI Committee and to improving recruitment efforts to bolster and diversify our staff.

Transparency remains a hallmark of this administration. In my first year in office, I appeared before 22 Select Boards (and The Barnstable Town Council), as well as meeting with County officials, every police chief on the Cape and Islands, and state and federal leaders to update them on accomplishments and goals of the office and address any questions.

That same outreach continues with many community leaders to maintain a channel of communication and openness.

To serve as the Cape and Islands District Attorney is a privilege. I embrace the responsibilities of this job with excitement as I go to work every day.

Onward,
Robert J. Galibois

The Numbers

- There were 168 trials in 2023.
- 553 cases were disposed of via guilty pleas.
- 9,391 charges were disposed of.

State Police Detective Unit / Anti-Crime Task Force

In 2023, the Unit investigated 541 cases. 424 cases were unattended deaths. The remaining 117 cases were everything from assisting towns with downloading cellphone usage, narcotics cases to sexual assaults investigations.

Juvenile Justice Unit

In 2023, the Juvenile Justice Unit handled 1,338 charges in juvenile court 87 cases which otherwise would have been prosecuted in the Juvenile Court were diverted through their participation in the CIDAO's Juvenile Diversion Program. This program is an alternative to formal prosecution.

Domestic Violence Unit

The unit handled 1,883 domestic violence charges in 2023, 48 in Superior Court and 1,835 in District Court. At the end of 2023 it was actively managing 860 ongoing charges.

Victim Witness Advocate Unit

In 2023, CIDAO Victim Witness Advocates supported victims and witnesses through the court process for 5,385 charges arraigned and 4,191 charges disposed of. At the close of 2023 the advocates were actively supporting victims of and witnesses to 6,344 crimes charged.

Child Protection and Human Trafficking Unit

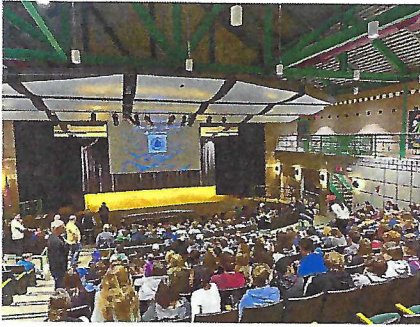
The Unit handled 178 charges of child abuse in 2023. The CIDAO had ADA's present at 124 SAIN (Sexual Assault Intervention Network) Team interviews. The CIDAO has recently started data collection on Human Trafficking.

Community Partnerships

The CIDAO team has been actively engaged in building collaborations to strengthen relationships in the community. The office is building connections and partnering with the diverse groups serving the community with resources for everything from domestic violence prevention and child abuse prevention to food security and substance use disorder treatment and recovery programs.

The office has provided financial support to 11 local programs encompassing many needs in our community including: Big Brothers Big Sisters, Boys & Girls Club of Cape Cod (see photo above), Calmer Choice Inc., Champ Homes, Children's Place, Falmouth Gun Safety Coalition, Inc., Family Table Collaborative, ROAR, WE CAN, Youth Firesetting Intervention Team Program and Behavioral Health Innovators.





Social Media Summit

The CIDAO works closely with schools and helps school officials, parents, guardians and students to better understand bullying, cyberbullying, social media and device safety, and cyber safety. The CIDAO team also facilitated their first parent and guardian Social Media Summit with Barnstable Police Department in June. During the 2022/23 school year, the CIDAO presented to hundreds of adults and over a thousand students on these important topics.

Recovery Court

Recovery Court is a special session of the Barnstable District Court, Falmouth District Court and now the Martha's Vineyard District Court. Referrals to Recovery Court often come from the district attorney, defense attorneys, and probation officers.

The mission of the Recovery Court Program is to provide judicial intervention, treatment, and intensive supervision to individuals who have committed criminal acts as a direct or indirect result of their substance use disorder.

Participants are required to become gainfully employed or involved in an educational/vocational program. They are also expected to complete strategies for long-term recovery and substance-free life goals. Emphasis is on securing and strengthening social supports, reviewing career or employment advancement issues, restoring family/marital relationships, developing healthy leisure time activities, and considering spirituality in recovery.

When the team feels that a participant is ready, he or she will be asked to come to a case conference meeting to talk to the Drug Court team about the Drug Court experience to be considered for eligibility for graduation.

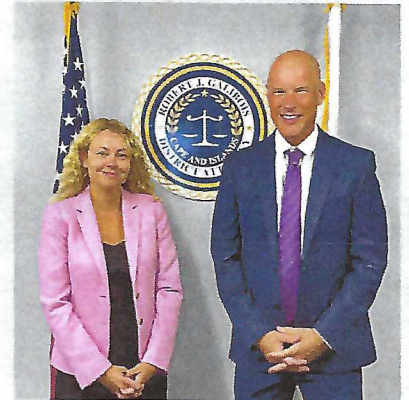
In 2023, there were 9 Recovery Court graduates! See photo above.



Diversion Programs

The CIDAO recognizes that at times, the need for services outweighs the need to prosecute. Adult Diversion Programs are offered in lieu of court involvement, while still holding individuals accountable. Specifically, veterans, those with mental health needs, or substance use disorders can benefit from Diversion Programs which provide structure and can facilitate in accessing services people may need to prevent criminal records.

Introducing New Human Trafficking Unit



Under DA Galibois' leadership the office has built a "Child Protection and Human Trafficking Unit." The first step was hiring ADA Vanessa Madge as the Chief of the Unit. Vanessa comes to the CIDAO with over a decade of experience working as a Child Abuse Prosecutor with Plymouth County and Human Trafficking Prosecutor with the Attorney General's Office.

The office has also formed a "Committee to Address Human Trafficking." The goals of the committee are to build awareness of the issue, train police officers to identify those being targeted and victimized, to work with community groups to ensure that there is a safety net in place for victims, and to prosecute offenders.



Fiscal Budget FY22:

The FY'22 budget was \$5,755,659

- \$5,439,924 was our main appropriation and \$315,735 was money for State Police Overtime.
- We also received \$26,647 for ADA Retention Monies.
- We spent \$24,145 in funds we received on Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit (SAECK) Testing.

New! Mental Health Court

This fall, the CIDAO was proud to become a part of the Barnstable Mental Health Session (BMHS) – Enhancing public safety, treatment and quality of life for the community. A collaboration between the Barnstable District Court and the Department of Mental Health.

BMHS seeks to improve outcomes for individuals with primary mental health disorders while improving public safety. Using a treatment-focused model, BMHS program goals include: Identifying individuals with serious mental health and co-occurring disorders who are involved with the criminal justice system and would benefit from additional support and monitoring, identifying individual service needs and linking them to community-based services as an alternative to incarceration, providing ongoing contact with providers to verify and encourage participants to uphold meaningful involvement in mental health and substance abuse treatment, and continued coordination of services among treatment providers, courts, attorneys, probation officers and houses of correction to ensure participants are accessing needed services within the community to sustain public safety.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee

The new administration has formed a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee. Five staff members from the CIDAO and 19 people from the wider community are engaged and are working on the following initiatives: Internal assessment, communications, community engagement, education and training, and recruitment and retention.



Community-Based Juvenile Justice

The CIDAO meets monthly during the school year with local schools to address Community-Based Juvenile Justice. This initiative, required by state law, brings together schools, law enforcement and youth-serving agencies together to address school violence, undertake violence prevention efforts and assist schools in providing a safe and supportive learning environment. Convened by ADAs and Community Outreach personnel from the CIDAO, these meetings provide a forum for information sharing about school issues, as well as confidential conversations about court-involved students and those at risk. The program has established solid partnerships and avenues of communication to build and strengthen relationships that help school communities, at-risk youth, and their families.

Contact Information:

Barnstable: 3231 Main Street Barnstable, MA 02630 – 508-362-8110

Falmouth: 161 Jones Road Falmouth, MA 02540 – 508-457-1834

Orleans: 237 Rock Harbor Road Orleans, MA 02653 – 508-255-7007

Martha’s Vineyard, Edgartown District Court 508-627-3751, P.O. Box 1284, DA’s Office in courthouse – P.O Box 1115 – 508-627-3751

Nantucket District Court: P.O. Box 1800, 508-228-0460, DA’S office -508-228-4642

