

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
6 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0006**

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
PROSECUTIONS IN MAINE**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2006**

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September 17, 2007

Senator Margaret Rotundo, Senate Chair
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& Financial Affairs
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Senator William Diamond, Senate Chair
Representative Stan Gerzofsky, House Chair
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice
& Public Safety
State House, Room 211
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Senator Barry J. Hobbins, Senate Chair
Representative Deborah Simpson, House Chair
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary
State House, Room 438
Augusta ME 04333

Re: 2006 Annual Report on Domestic Violence Prosecutions in Maine

Dear Senators and Representatives:

In accordance with 5 M.R.S.A. § 204-A, I am pleased to submit the 2006 Annual Report compiling information and data from the domestic violence prosecutors throughout the State of Maine. As required by statute, the information assembled in this report has been produced in cooperation with the eight district attorneys.

This year, I am pleased to report that we have been able to obtain prosecution data from the district attorneys using a more uniform format from each prosecutorial district.

September 17, 2007
Page 2

The table on page 5 of this report demonstrates that, on a statewide basis, 5,131 domestic violence cases were approved for prosecution. An additional 874 cases were declined for a variety of reasons, for a total of 6,005 domestic cases presented for prosecutorial review in calendar year 2006. As this information demonstrates, domestic violence cases continue to represent a significant portion of the caseload for prosecutors and law enforcement officers throughout the State of Maine.

These numbers, of course, do not tell the entire story. They only reflect those matters that were reported and presented to prosecuting authorities for review. I encourage you to examine the narrative statements written by the district attorneys for a more in-depth analysis and explanation of the obstacles and challenges to the successful prosecution of domestic violence cases.

In 2006, there were 23 homicides, an increase of four over 2005. Nine of those homicides (or 31%) involved domestic violence. Additional information about the resolution of the homicide cases prosecuted by the Criminal Division of this Office appears later in this report.

We hope this information is helpful to you. Please feel free to contact me or any of the district attorneys if you have any questions regarding this report.

Sincerely,



G. STEVEN ROWE
Attorney General

WRS/nh
Encs.

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Prosecutorial District VIII

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Caribou, Maine 04736
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Statewide Domestic Violence Prosecutions

Prosecutorial District No.	Cases Initiated In 2006		Cases Resolved in 2006		
	Approved	Declined	Found Guilty	Acquitted	Filed/Dismissed/ Declined
1	1164	62	799	1	287
2	942	372	420	1	146
3	904	125	626	2	115
4	729	153	652	12	141
5	572	92	493	8	154
6	421	31	343	4	79
7	188	32	159	8	48
8	211	7	160	1	53
Totals:	5131	874	3652	37	1023

Office of the Attorney General

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDE REPORT
December, 2006**

Homicides in 2006	23
Domestic Violence Homicides	9
Relationship with victim	
Married	3
Live-in partner	2
Parent	2
Child	1
Brother	1
Weapon/Manner of death	
Firearm	5
Knives	1
Blunt Force Trauma	2
Undetermined	1
Protection from Abuse Orders	
Protection from Abuse Orders in effect	0
Ages and Genders of victims/perpetrators	
Age range for victims	13 years old to 65 years old
Age range for perpetrators	25 years old to 50 years old
Victims	
Males	3
Females	6
Perpetrators	
Males	8
Females	0
Case Status of Domestic Violence 2006 Homicides	
Pending trial	5
Found guilty of murder	0
Found guilty of manslaughter	0
Found not guilty	0
Murder/Suicides	3
Found not guilty by reason of insanity	1

Superior Court Filings and Resolution of Homicides in 2006

As of January 1, 2006, 14 homicides were pending in the Superior Courts of Maine. These included 11 murder cases and 3 manslaughter cases.

Thirteen new homicide cases were filed in 2006, including 9 murder cases and 4 manslaughter cases. Four of the murder cases filed in the Superior Court in 2006 involved domestic violence.

Seven homicide cases, including five murder cases and 2 manslaughter cases, went to trial. Three of the murder trials – State v. Douglas Dyer, State v. David Grant, and State v. Jon Dilley - involved domestic violence. One of the manslaughter cases resulted in an acquittal. The other manslaughter case resulted in a hung jury and the case was subsequently resolved through a plea disposition. Of the remaining five cases that went to trial (including the three domestic violence homicides), four resulted in murder convictions and one (State v. Jon Dilley) resulted in double manslaughter convictions.

Four homicide cases were resolved in 2006 by way of plea dispositions, resulting in three manslaughter convictions and one aggravated assault conviction. One of the manslaughter cases – State v. Michael Davis – involved domestic violence.

As of December 31, 2006, sixteen homicide cases were pending in the Superior Courts of Maine. These included thirteen murder cases and three manslaughter cases. Five of the cases pending at the end of 2006 involved domestic violence.

MAINE'S 23 HOMICIDES in 2006
Compiled by the Maine Dept. of Public Safety
Public Information Office
FINAL UPDATE – 2/27/2007

- 1-19 WESTBROOK** - 42 year old Bonnie Hayes is shot and killed by longtime boyfriend, 50 year old David Pomeroy, who shoots and kills himself. **MURDER-SUICIDE – DOMESTIC**
- 1-22 SOUTHWEST HARBOR** - 83 year old Jacqueline Evans died from injuries she sustained inside her home on 1/20. Michelle Mills, 37, was indicted for murder on June 7 and was arrested on June 8.
- 2-15 PORTLAND** - 28 year old Robert Wagner is shot to death in Portland and his body is found buried in Baldwin on 2/22. A business associate, 28 year old Steven Clark, is charged with murder.
- 3-7 BANGOR** - 34 year old Trevor Sprague's body is discovered under the Harlow Street Bridge after it had been set afire. The case is ruled a homicide.
- 3-19 NORRIDGEWOCK** – 15 year old Joshua Sawyer is shot to death in a cornfield by a friend. Charged with manslaughter is 14 year old Cody Rioux.
- 4-16 MILO & CORINTH** 57 year old Joseph Gray is shot to death inside his Milo home and about three hours later, 24 year old William Elliott is shot to death inside his Corinth home. Both men are registered sex offenders and were shot by 20 year old Stephen Marshall of Nova Scotia, who shoots and kills himself on a bus in Boston later that day.
DOUBLE HOMICIDE-SUICIDE
- 6-20 CARATUNK** 47 year old Amy Bruce is beaten to death in her home. Her son, 25 year old William Bruce is charged with murder. **DOMESTIC**
- 6/25 BANGOR** 57 year old Michael Demmons is beaten to death inside an apartment. Peter Tuller, 33, is charged with murder
- 7/4 PORTLAND** 31 year old Brenda Warren is shot and killed by her husband, 35 year old Fred Warren, in the street in front of their home. Warren then shoots and kills himself.
MURDER-SUICIDE, DOMESTIC
- 8/11 CANAAN** 37 year old Cheryl Murdoch's body found in woods near a home she was staying at. A second woman from that same house is also missing – 35 year old Shirley Moon Atwood. On 2/27/07, 37 year old Shannon Roy Atwood is arrested and charged with two counts of murder. **DOUBLE HOMICIDE – BOTH DOMESTIC**
- 9/1 to 9/4 NEWRY & UPTON** Four people shot to death during the weekend at the Black Bear Bed & Breakfast in Newry. 50 year old James Whitehurst; 65 year old Julie Bullard; 30 year old Selby Bullard and 43 year old Cynthia Beatson. A man staying at the inn – 31 year old Christian Nielsen is charged with four counts of murder.

9/10 HARTLAND 44 year old Linda Spaulding shot and killed at her home by her ex-husband, 45 year old Timothy Spaulding, who shoots and kills himself. **MURDER-SUICIDE, DOMESTIC**

10/4 PORTLAND 49 year old Peter Vukelich beaten to death. Charged with manslaughter is 49 year old Larry Sauve.

11/8 LEWISTON 65 year old Roland Poirier shot to death at his home. His 34 year old son, Scott Poirier, is charged with murder. **DOMESTIC**

11/12 SEARSPORT 44 year old Charles Nickerson is stabbed to death at his home. His 49 year old brother, Michael Nickerson, is charged with manslaughter. **DOMESTIC**

11/24 NORRIDGEWOCK The body of 18 year old Amy Drake of Skowhegan was found in woods by hunters. She had been missing since September 24.

11/28 PALMYRA 13 year old Anthony Tucker shot to death in the front yard of his home. Todd Curry, 40, the boyfriend of the boy's mother is charged with murder. **DOMESTIC**

12/7 PARIS 18 year old Megan Ripley is shot in woods behind her home. Charged with manslaughter is 51 year old Timothy Bean, who was hunting deer with a muzzleloader at the time.

AS OF 2/27/07 -- TWO CASES REMAIN OPEN.

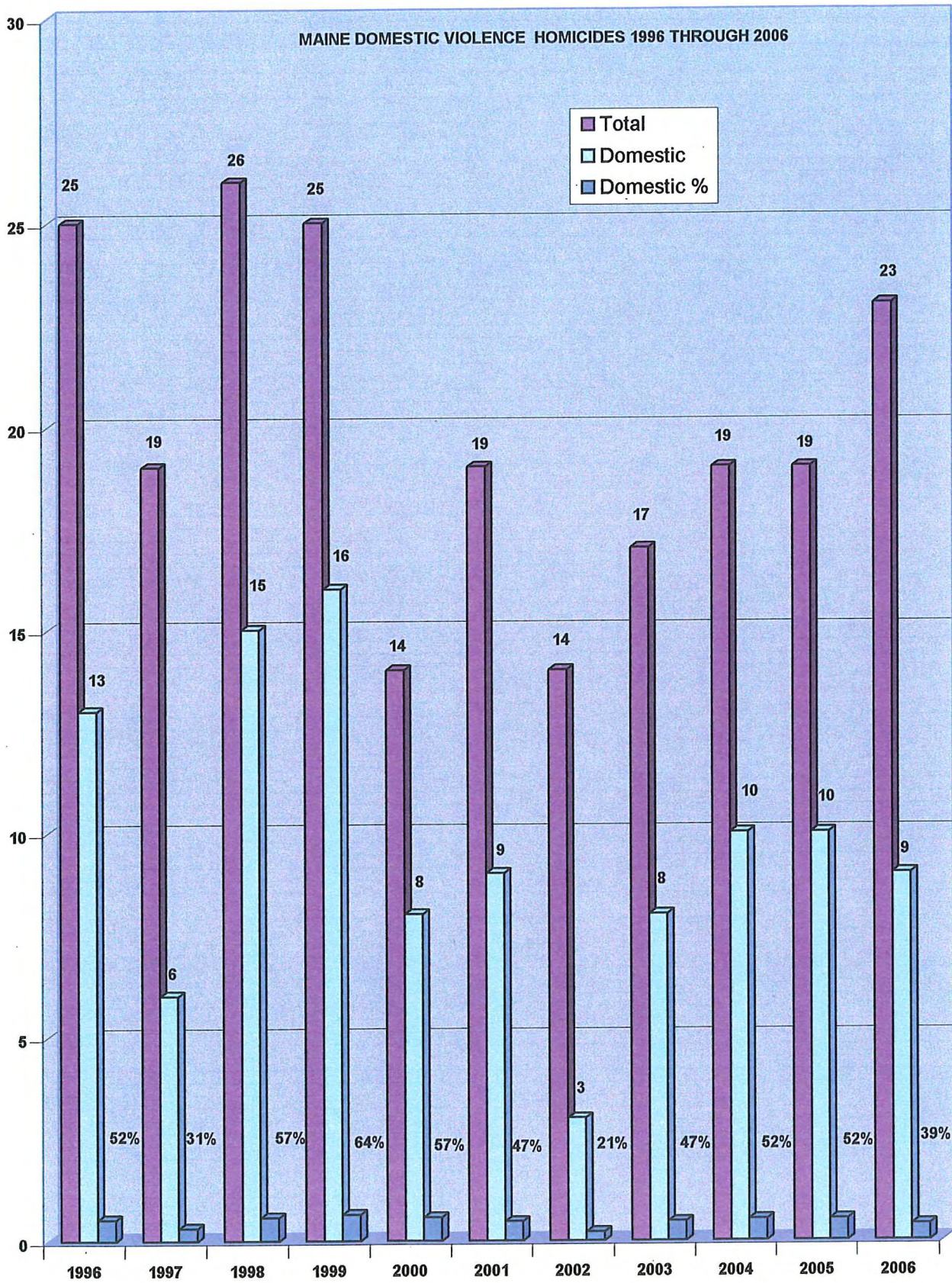
OF THE 23 HOMICIDES, NINE OF THEM ARE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (39%), WITH THE VICTIMS BEING 3 WIVES, 2 GIRLFRIENDS, 2 PARENTS (1 MAN & 1 FEMALE), 1 CHILD AND 1 BROTHER.

OF THE 23 HOMICIDES – 13 INVOLVED FIREARMS, 5 OF VICTIMS WERE BEATEN AND ONE WAS STABBED. ##

Maine homicides from 1990 to 2006

	Total	Domestic	%
1990	29	11	38%
1991	22	9	40%
1992	25	16	64%
1993	16	11	69%
1994	28	12	46%
1995	20	10	50%
1996	25	13	52%
1997	19	6	31%
1998	26	15	57%
1999	25	16	64%
2000	14**	8**	57%**
2001	19	9	47%
2002	14	3	21%
2003	17	8	47%
2004	19	10	52%
2005	19	10	52%
2006	23	9	31%

****three of the homicides listed during 2000 occurred in 1982, 1989 and 1996, but the bodies of the victims were located in the year 2000.**



Prosecutorial District One 2006 Domestic Violence Report

This report presents an overview of the approach employed in District One during 2006 to prosecution of domestic violence (DV) cases and provides some raw statistics on DV cases.

In 2006, the number of domestic violence cases referred by law enforcement agencies to this office continued to rise as it has in the past five years. District One is the second largest district in the state serving York County, an area with a year round population of over 200,000 and a summer population of approximately 350,000. District One is also the fastest growing district in the state averaging a 15% population growth in each of the past five decades.

In 2006, a new team approach to DV was implemented in District One. For the first time one prosecutor assigned to Superior Court and two prosecutors assigned to District Court became the primary individuals to handle DV cases. This has allowed these prosecutors to meet as a team to discuss consistent approaches to prosecution of these cases. This approach also reduces the likelihood of prosecutor shopping or court shopping by the defendant.

In 2006, approximately 13,000 criminal matters were referred to the District Attorney's office: a 20% increase in three years. DV cases account for just under 10% of these matters. For a summary of how District One approaching labeling and tracking DV cases, readers of this report are encouraged to refer to this office's 2005 report.

Since 2002, District One has participated in a DV court project that allows for case dispositions that require the defendant's participation in periodic judicial review before a judge for a period of up to two years after sentencing as well as participation in a certified Batters' Intervention Program (BIP).

The approach of District One is for prosecutors to be active in all aspects of DV criminal matters. Prosecutors assist Police Departments (PDs) in developing investigative tools, training and provide on call, 24 hour, 7 day a week support to individual officers. PDs are encouraged to refer all DV matters to the DA's office even if the officer is in doubt about a charging decision. Prosecutors can then request additional information and make a charging decision.

DV cases will often present significant obstacles that may ultimately prevent a judge or jury from concluding beyond a reasonable doubt that a crime has occurred. These obstacles often include: 1) a lack of physical evidence; 2) a lack of witnesses other than the alleged perpetrator and victim; and 3) changing feelings and most often a decreasing willingness of victims/witness to actively participate in the prosecution as time away from violent incident increases and the day for trial approaches.

District One does not "screen out" from prosecution these difficult cases simply because they may present significant obstacles to eventual prosecution. However, this practice does ultimately reduces the "guilty" percentage as a great number of difficult cases charged will ultimately be dismissed as the ability to try the case diminishes as the trial date approaches.

The reason District One has adopted a practice of always charging in these difficult cases is two-fold: 1) pretrial bail conditions such as not contact, participation in a BIP and requirement of financial support can be set after charges are filed that allow the alleged victim a period of safety and stability where they can begin to get more control over their lives and families; and 2) in a small minority of cases the willingness of the victim/witness to actively participate at trial will increase especially in a safer environment.

Lastly, District One uses a variety of tools to achieve dispositions that aid the alleged victim and implement the intent of the legislature enacting the DV statutes. In strong cases, jail time, probation, administrative release and deferred disposition are used to require the defendant to accept responsibility for their actions and to participate in a BIP program and the judicial review process. In more difficult cases, prosecutors will often defer prosecution while the defendant is placed on restrictions and required to participate in a BIP program and judicial review thus providing up to a year of safety and stability of the alleged victim. This procedure, called “filing”, ultimately results in dismissal of the case upon successful completion of the conditions.

Cases initiated in 2006	
Approved	1,164
Prosecution Declined	62
Cases resolved in 2006	
Found Guilty	799
Acquitted	1
Filed / Dismissed	287

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORT FOR 2006
PROSECUTORIAL DISTRICT 2
CUMBERLAND COUNTY**

Cases Approved in 2006	942
Requested Information	40
Prosecution Declined	372

Cases resolved in 2006 764 cases involving 567 defendants

Found Guilty	420 defendants
Acquitted	1 defendant
Filed	20 defendants
Dismissed	126 defendants

The role of the domestic violence prosecutors in Cumberland County

Two attorneys vertically prosecute all misdemeanor domestic violence cases that originate in Portland District Court (other prosecutors handle misdemeanors that originate in Bath/Brunswick and Bridgton District Courts), and all felony offenses within our district. Each domestic violence prosecutor has a Victim Assistant assigned to assist victims of her cases.

Resources available to DV prosecutors

CCDA has an investigator assigned to its DV Unit through the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office. There is one probation officer assigned to handle DV cases only, with a reduced maximum caseload that enables him to more closely monitor his probationers.

CCDA utilizes the services of a Maine Pretrial Services caseworker who is funded, in part, by a VAWA grant. That caseworker supervises defendants on bail, as well as defendants who are on deferred dispositions.

The greatest impediment to convictions

The greatest impediment to convictions is victims who are unwilling to testify, can not be located, do not show up in court under subpoena, and/or who recant. Although we aggressively prosecute without victims when possible, often there is insufficient evidence to proceed without the victim's participation.



PROSECUTORIAL DISTRICT III

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORT

2006

**Norman Croteau
District Attorney**

**Nicholas S. Worden
Assistant District Attorney**

Report for Domestic Violence Cases in Androscoggin County - 2006

District III saw a steady increase in domestic violence cases in 2006. Androscoggin County processed six hundred eighty one (681) cases in the Lewiston District Court alone. Superior Court saw the largest increase as more defendants were indicted for Class C offenses that were elevated to felony status as a result of prior convictions. Data is not currently available for 2006 Superior Court cases as our system for tracking those cases began in 2007.

Farmington Superior and District Courts initiated a total of one hundred forty nine (149) cases. Oxford County Superior and District Courts initiated one hundred ninety nine (199) domestic violence cases.

A. What resources are available?

Domestic violence cases require more resources than many other cases prosecuted by the District Attorney. Victims of assault and other domestic violence crimes request and expect to be able to meet with prosecutors and convey their thoughts on how the case should proceed. Armed with the knowledge that most victims will recant their statements to the police, investigators work hard to find evidence of the crime beyond the victim's testimony.

II. Statistics

Using the attached data to determine conviction rates does not necessarily reflect the number of defendants convicted. For example, a defendant may be charged by complaint with one (1) count of assault and one (1) count of criminal threatening. Because both charges arise out of the same incident, a plea or conviction of both charges would likely result in a concurrent sentence. Pursuant to a plea agreement, a defendant might plead guilty to an assault charge in return for the State's dismissal of an accompanying criminal threatening charge. The result would be a conviction rate of 50%. If our data was collected and analyzed based on defendants

instead of charges, our conviction rate for this case would then be 100%. In short, the manner in which data is collected and analyzed must be considered in evaluating the quality and success of domestic violence prosecutions.

We wish to stress that these numbers, while an impressive and dramatic improvement over prior years, do not adequately describe the efforts of those involved in the prosecution of domestic violence in this prosecutorial district. Successful prosecution of a domestic violence case does not always or necessarily involve a conviction for a criminal charge. If we pay attention only to conviction rates, we ignore the defendant whose case was filed with the condition that he complete the Certified Batterer's Intervention Program or the victim who, after meeting with the domestic violence victim's advocate, leaves the marital home to avoid further abuse while refusing to cooperate with prosecution of the case. The measures for successful prosecution are too numerous to list. It is important therefore to realize that numbers are only one measure.

Domestic Violence Report, District III, Lewiston District Court 2006

Cases Initiated	681
Cases Approved	634
Cases Declined	47
Total Cases Resolved	681
Found Guilty After Trial	3
Found Guilty Upon Plea	486
Acquitted	2
Filed	N/A
Dismissed	143

Domestic Violence Report, District III, Oxford County 2006

Cases Initiated	199
Cases Approved	166
Cases Declined	33
Total Cases Resolved	166
Found Guilty After Trial	34
Acquitted	0
Filed	19
Dismissed	49
Found Guilty Upon Plea Including	49
(a) Administrative Release	3
(b) Deferred Disposition	30

Domestic Violence Report, District III, Franklin County 2006

Cases Initiated	149
Cases Approved	104
Cases Declined	45
Total Cases Resolved	104
Found Guilty At Trial or by Plea	57
Acquitted	0
Filed	13
Dismissed	34

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORT FOR 2006

PROSECUTORIAL DISTRICT IV

Cases initiated in 2006	896
Approved	729
Requested Information	7
Declined	153
Cases Resolved in 2006	805
Found Guilty	652
Acquitted	12
Filed	8
Dismissed	113
Not Prosecuted	20

The Number of cases in which the Certified Batter Program was ordered as a condition of probation is 212. There are additional cases in which the Certified Batterer Program was a condition a plea, such as a Deferred Disposition, but those cases cannot be tabulated at this time.

Since November 1, 2006, ADA Andrew Zulieve, Domestic Violence Prosecutor for this District, began keeping statistics on domestic violence cases in which a firearm was involved or implicated. From November through December, 2006, our District prosecuted three such cases. Thomas Jewett, our Office's computer manager is perfecting a means by which cases which have been tagged on our JustWare program to indicate domestic violence and firearms components. ADA Zulieve also provides case information to the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife of felons involved in any way with domestic violence matters. Through its database, the Department determines if any of the individuals submitted have registered in Maine wild game shot with a firearm. If so, the State continues its investigation to determine if the person is prohibited from the use or possession of a firearm, and if so, may bring appropriate felony charges for that use or possession.

Narrative:

Prosecutorial District IV includes both Somerset and Kennebec Counties. There are District Courts in Skowhegan, Waterville, and Augusta and Superior Courts in Skowhegan and Augusta. Prosecutorial District IV has a grant funded Domestic Violence Prosecutor, although several other prosecutors also handle Domestic Violence Cases.

Page 2 – 2006 Domestic Violence Report

Three Victim/Witness advocates are also assigned to cases in which there are victims, including Domestic Violence Cases.

Prosecutorial District IV has three Domestic Violence Investigators, one funded by Kennebec County, one funded by Somerset County, and one funded by a grant.

Andrew J. Zulieve, ADA
Prosecutorial District IV2

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORT FOR 2006

PROSECUTORIAL DISTRICT V

Cases Initiated in 2006

Approved:	572
Requested Information:	2
Prosecution Declined:	92
Total Cases:	<hr/> 666

Cases Resolved in 2006

Found Guilty:	493
Acquitted:	8
Filed:	0
Dismissed:	136
Not Prosecuted:	18
Total Cases Resolved:	<hr/> 655

Please note the following:

Prosecutorial District V has a policy of not filing cases as a disposition. In addition, the Domestic Violence Report currently generated from the Justware System does not tabulate the number of defendants sentenced to attend the Batterer's Intervention Program as part of their probation, nor does it tabulate the number of DV Cases in which a firearm is used.

Narrative:

Prosecutorial District V consists of Penobscot and Piscataquis Counties. District Courts are located in Bangor, Dover-Foxcroft, Lincoln, Newport and Millinocket. Superior Courts are located in the county seats of Bangor and Dover-Foxcroft.

In addition to their regular caseload, all prosecutors in District V handle domestic violence cases. In Penobscot County, there are 2 designated Victim/Witness Advocates who assist the various prosecutors in domestic violence cases. In Piscataquis County, the Victim/Witness Advocate is involved in all types of cases, including domestic violence.

Although Penobscot County does not have a designated Domestic Violence Investigator, Piscataquis County has a part-time DV Investigator, who works evenings and weekends. This position is paid by Piscataquis County. Piscataquis County also has an investigator from the Piscataquis County Sheriff's Department, who is paid a stipend from the Piscataquis County District Attorney's Office to investigate sexual assault cases.

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORT FOR 2006
DISTRICT VI**

STATISTICS

Cases initiated in 2006	455
Approved	421
Requested Information	3
Prosecution Declined	31
Cases resolved in 2006	426
Found Guilty	343
Acquitted	4
Filed	0
Dismissed	58
Declined	21

NARRATIVE

Basis of the Statistics

The above statistics come from a Domestic Violence report generated by the Just Ware database program used in all counties except Cumberland.

Notes on Statistics

Cases initiated and cases disposed of do not match. While there is substantial overlap in the two groups of cases they are not the same cases. Some cases initiated in 2006 were resolved in 2007 or remain pending; these cases are not included in data for cases resolved in 2006. Also, data for cases resolved in 2006 includes a number of cases initiated in 2005 and previously reported. This data is useful in revealing trends from year to year within District 6. Beginning with the 2006 report each prosecutorial district is reporting data in the same format. The state-wide data will be more meaningful with all districts using the same format.

Between 2005 and 2006 the data shows a significant increase in the number of cases initiated, from 362 to 455. This may reflect, in part, more accurate reporting. That also reflects a greater caseload. The 2006 data also shows a similar significant increase in the number of cases resolved, from 304 to 426, and cases resulting in conviction: from 239 to 343. Dismissals and cases declined also increased, but each category represents a small percentage of cases resolved, 14% and 5% respectively.

District 6 continues to increase the use of the new procedure called Deferred Disposition, both generally and specifically in domestic violence cases. This can be a valuable tool. It also means that cases may not be finally resolved until some time later than with a traditional sentencing approach. This may have some impact on the data.

Characteristics of District VI

Four counties make up District VI. There are seven assistant district attorneys and a grant-funded juvenile prosecutor. There were no vacant positions in 2006. The seven assistant district attorneys continue to cover eight courts in the district.

There is no one attorney designated to prosecute all domestic violence cases in the district. The size of the district and multiplicity of courts makes that impractical. Instead, each county's attorneys prosecute the cases in their respective county.

Sagadahoc County continues to have a domestic violence investigator (d.v.i.) who works out of the District Attorney's Office. Knox County has a domestic violence investigator who works out of the Knox County Sheriff's Department. The Waldo County investigator previously was housed in the courthouse at the District Attorney's Office but is now working from the Sheriff's Department. Lincoln County's d.v.i. is based in the courthouse but is separate from the District Attorney's Office.

The Knox County Domestic Violence Task Force continued to meet in 2006. Members still include law enforcement officers, the domestic violence investigator, victim witness advocates, probation officers, assistant district attorneys, defense attorneys, staff from New Hope for Women, and the director of Time For Change, which

is the batterers' intervention program. Sagadahoc County also has an active working group on family violence which addresses similar issues.

Impediments to Prosecution in District VI

Prosecution has been most effective when the d.v.i. is part of the District Attorney's Office and/or is based in the courthouse. There is only one county (Sagadahoc) where the d.v.i. is based in the District Attorney's Office. In other counties, the d.v.i. is not always assigned to follow up and complete all investigations. In some areas there is regular turn-over in law enforcement personnel. New officers do not always do a complete investigation. In the absence of regular and prompt follow-up by the d.v.i. cases can have significant deficiencies.

The impediments to prosecution reported in 2005 have persisted. While deferred disposition can be useful, it can also delay resolution of cases for an additional six months or longer. Domestic Violence Court has been evaluated for Knox County, but not yet implemented. It is expected to begin late in 2007. There are several different types of D.V. Courts now operating in Maine and it is not yet clear which format will operate in Rockland.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORT FOR 2006

PROSECUTORIAL DISTRICT VII

Cases initiated in 2006	222
Approved	188
Requested Information	1
Prosecution Declined	32
Cases resolved in 2006	215
Found Guilty	159
Acquitted	8
Filed*	0
Dismissed	27
Prosecution Declined	21

Incidents involving a firearm***

* District VII has a policy of no filings.

** The report is currently unable to tabulate the number of defendants sentenced to attend the Batterer's Intervention Program as part of their probation.

*** The report is currently not tabulating the number of domestic violence cases in which a firearm is used.

Narrative:

Prosecutorial District VII includes Hancock and Washington Counties. There are District Courts in Ellsworth, Machias and Calais and Superior Courts in Ellsworth and Machias. Because of the distances involved, two prosecutors are assigned to domestic violence cases, one in each county. Each prosecutor has a non-domestic violence caseload as well. District VII has two victim/witness advocates designated to domestic violence, one in each county. These positions are grant-funded.

Hancock County has a detective/liaison officer who works out of the District Attorney's office on domestic violence and sexual assault cases. This position began as a grant-funded position but funding is gradually being assumed the County.

Staff in both counties work closely with the Next Step Domestic Violence Project.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORT FOR 2006
Prosecutorial District VIII
District Attorney, Neale T. Adams

Cases initiated in 2006	218
Approved	211
Requested Information	N/A
Prosecution Declined	7
Cases Resolved in 2006	215
Found Guilty	160
Acquitted	1
Filed	27
Dismissed	19
Declined	7

Narrative: Prosecutorial District VIII is the entire Aroostook County. There are District Courts in Houlton, Presque Isle, Madawaska, Fort Kent and Caribou. There are four prosecutors who follow all cases from cradle to grave arising in their assigned courts. There are Superior Courts in Houlton and Caribou. There are no special domestic violence prosecutors, detectives or victim advocates. All prosecutors handle all types of cases.