

COOK COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

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The mission of the Cook County State's Attorney's Office (CCSAO) is to do justice in pursuit of thriving, healthy, and safe communities. We approach every case with integrity and demand accountability, while taking seriously our responsibility to address the historic inequities of our system.

DEVOTED TO PUBLIC SAFETY, PRIORITIZING VIOLENT CRIME

- In 2016, Cook County experienced the most violent year in decades. Since SA Foxx took office in December of 2016, violent crime has decreased every year.
- SA Foxx created the new Gun Crimes Strategies Unit (GCSU) which places prosecutors in violence-plagued police districts where they work alongside local and federal law enforcement to target the drivers of violent crime.
- **A moral imperative to allocate resources properly.** In 2016, there were 3,550 shootings and 761 murders in Chicago. 34 of them were children, but the most prosecuted felony in Cook County was retail theft.
- The CCSAO raised the threshold of prosecuting felony retail theft from \$300 to \$1,000, allowing our limited number of prosecutors to pursue violent crime rather than low-level offenses (which still get prosecuted as misdemeanors).
- **Strengthened collaboration with law enforcement.** The CCSAO created a Felony Review manual to assist police in presenting stronger cases for review to achieve better outcomes. Since its release, the approval rate for Possession of a Stolen Motor Vehicle cases, for example, has jumped from 50-70% (2016) to 90% (2018).
- Media coverage has focused primarily on the Smollett case since February 2019. During that time, prosecutors in SA Foxx's office have secured convictions in more than 35 first-degree murder cases.

RIGHTING OLD WRONGS, LEADING ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

- **Exonerate the wrongfully convicted.** Chicago was once called the "False Confession Capital of the United States." Today, the CCSAO Conviction Integrity Unit is a national model, driven exclusively by our efforts to proactively seek out and vacate the convictions of the wrongfully accused. Since 2016, the CCSAO has created innovative protocols, experienced a five-fold increase in case referrals, and vacated more than 90 wrongful conviction cases.
- SA Foxx played a vital role in passing legislation to legalize cannabis and provide the broadest and most equitable conviction relief possible. Now, the CCSAO is leading efforts to clear records and reverse the impact of the failed war on drugs that disproportionately harmed communities of color.
- Recognizing that police-involved shootings are a matter of public trust, the CCSAO makes prompt charging decisions and issues a memo after each determination. SA Foxx was also instrumental in new legislation to provide a second layer of review when we decline criminal charges in these cases.
- Incarceration and violent crime are down. SA Foxx led efforts to reform the bail system, which has long penalized people (of color) simply for being poor. Cook County is now a national leader, where the jail population is at an historic low and crime has decreased.

DEFENDING YOUR RIGHTS

- The Civil Actions Bureau represents Cook County's 5.4 million residents with fewer than 80 attorneys.
- CCSAO attorneys have **challenged unfair federal immigration policies** that undermine people's rights and defeated a 2nd Amendment threat to Cook County's **common-sense assault weapons ban**.
- The CCSAO has **demanded accountability from opioid manufacturers** for their role in profiting from the addiction epidemic, as well as from companies like **Uber** and **Facebook** who have put personal information at risk.
- The CCSAO is committed to protecting our most vulnerable victims and creating healthy communities. For the first time, the policy team includes experts specializing in immigration, gender-based violence, juvenile justice, diversion, and strategies to treat addiction and mental health issues outside the criminal justice system.
- The State's Attorney is also taking on discriminatory Trump-administration health care regulations that target **LGBTQ+ people** and **women's reproductive rights**.

PROTECTING WOMEN AND CHILDREN

- The office frequently partners with advocates and researchers to **increase reporting of domestic violence** and identify victims at risk of escalated violence.
- SA Foxx increased the number of attorneys in the **Internet Crimes Against Children** unit.

- The CCSAO is employing "vertical prosecution" in cases of sexual assault or domestic violence. This ensures that a victim works with the same Assistant State's Attorney from beginning to end and eliminates the re-traumatization that comes from having to tell your story repeatedly.

A TRANSPARENT, DIVERSE OFFICE

- The work of the CCSAO used to be opaque. Now, it is the **most transparent prosecutor's office in the country** and the first to give the citizens it serves online access to information on every felony case since 2011.
- This dashboard provides detailed information on **more 350,000 felony offenders**, how the office prosecutes the cases, and the outcomes so that the public can see, in real time, the CCSAO's efforts to create more safe and just communities.
- The CCSAO should reflect the community we serve. To that end, SA Foxx hired the office's first Diversity and Inclusion Officer, established a diversity committee and Employee Resource Groups (African-American, Asian, Hispanic, LGBTQ+, and Women), and improved recruitment efforts. As a result, **overall diversity has increased** by almost 7% and more than half of the CCSAO's **top leaders are now women or minorities**.

