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2017-2024



# **THE FINAL REPORT: THE KIM FOXX ADMINISTRATION**

**November 30, 2024**

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## Table of Contents

# CONTENTS

5

A Message From State's  
Attorney Kim Foxx

6

The Cook County State's  
Attorney's Office At- a-  
Glance

7

Mission Vision and Values

9

Offices & Locations

10

Bureaus

11

Conviction Review Unit  
(CRU)

12

Overview by Year (2017-  
2024)

52

Commitment to  
Community



Cook County State's Attorney  
Kim Foxx





## A Message from State's Attorney Kim Foxx

Friday, November 29, 2024

It has been the honor of my life to serve as Cook County State's Attorney for the last eight years.

As a life-long resident of Cook County and a product of Cabrini Green Public Housing, when I first took this seat in 2016, Chicago was widely known as the "false confession capital." My mission was to make things more fair, just and transparent for the more than 5-million residents of Cook County.

The work has been challenging but it's so important. As I think about what this office has done since then, I can't help but be proud of every single person that has had a hand in taking a hard look at the way the prosecutor's office was run and helping to make some much needed policy changes.

Thanks to the 1,200 hard workers who show- up for this office, we have accomplished a body of work that will inevitably have the power to change the course for families that call Cook County home.

Bail is no longer a burden for families. Our Conviction Review Unit has helped to overturn nearly 250 wrongful convictions—more than any other administration. We had a hand in wiping more than 15,000 low-level cannabis convictions across the state so that those residents didn't have to worry about a marijuana conviction holding them back. Last but not least, we now have a point of reference when it comes to the work we do in the prosecutor's office, being the first in the country to publish a public database which offered a new level of transparency when it comes to convictions and sentencing. That data helped us better determine the office's priorities.

All of these things and so much more, done with compassion and heart for the people of Cook County.

It's been a privilege to serve as your Cook County State's Attorney.

Thank you!

Sincerely,



Kim Foxx

Cook County State's Attorney

# CCSAO AT-A- GLANCE

The Cook County State's Attorney's Office (CCSAO) works on behalf of Cook County residents to prosecute violations of the criminal law of the State of Illinois, and regulatory laws surrounding child support, civil, domestic violence, fraud and immigration services.

The Office prosecutes tens-of-thousands of cases each year across the 100+ law enforcement jurisdictions in Cook County.

- Nearly 250 wrongful conviction cases (248), have been overturned with the help of the Conviction Review Unit, (formerly the Conviction Integrity Unit) during the Foxx administration.
- The CCSAO is the second largest prosecutor's office in the country, representing over five-million residents in Cook County.
- Each year over 30,000 felony cases are presented to the CCSAO for prosecution.
- The Cook County State's Attorney's Office is comprised of six bureaus and an array of specialized units that fall under those bureaus.
- Over 1,200 dedicated civil professionals work at the CCSAO, including more than 700 attorneys, 115 investigators and 390+ administrative staff.
- State's Attorney Kim Foxx made history becoming the first African American woman to lead the CCSAO.

# OUR VISION

A safer, stronger Cook  
County.

# OUR MISSION

To do justice in the pursuit of thriving,  
healthy,  
and safe communities.

# OUR VALUES

**Accountability** - Transparency is critical to efficiently and effectively fulfill our public safety mission. Our work is grounded in data and evidence, and we are committed to ensuring that the public can access that information.

**Fairness** - The criminal justice system can be unfair to segments of the population that have been historically marginalized. We work to advocate for a more fair system that prioritizes people and reform over convictions.

**Collaboration** - While our first responsibility is to prosecute crime, we also have the power to impact lives. We work with our community, law enforcement, legislative partners and business stakeholders on ways to improve outcomes for individuals affected by the criminal justice system.

**Integrity** - Our moral responsibility demands that we protect the innocent, take all allegations of crime and abuse seriously, work to convict those guilty of crime, and respect the rights of all those impacted by the criminal justice system.

**Respect** - we treat everyone with mutual respect and fairness, and following the law. Our role in the justice system demands that we respect the laws that govern society and preserve our democracy.



# A COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION (DEI)

We interconnect diversity, equity and inclusion to foster a work culture grounded in fairness and respect. Our DEI commitment involves initiatives that promote equal access, opportunity, employment and a sense of belonging for every employee at the CCSAO.

## Employee Resource Groups (ERGs)

ERGs are voluntary, employee-led groups that work together to cultivate camaraderie and teamwork through the lens of diversity, equity and inclusion.

ERGs create safe spaces for employees, and ensure that they have the necessary tools and connections to reach personal and professional goals. By contributing their diverse perspectives and experiences to decision-making processes. The seven ERGs under the Foxx administration helped the CCSAO better serve the many segments of culture and individuality represented in communities across Cook County.

- A.B.L.E. (Alliance of Black Leadership and Excellence)
- Asian American and Pacific Islanders
- Alianza
- LGBTQ+
- WISE – Women’s Insight and Support through Education
- Ability Alliance
- Middle Eastern North African



## **OFFICES & LOCATIONS**



**Executive Offices  
69 W. Washington St.  
Chicago, IL 60602**

**Juvenile Justice Bureau  
1100 S. Hamilton Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60608**

**Child Support Enforcement  
28 N. Clark St.  
Chicago, IL 60602**

**Second Municipal District  
5600 Old Orchard Rd.  
Skokie, IL 60077**

**Fourth Municipal District  
1500 Maybrook Ave.  
Maywood, IL 60153**

**Sixth Municipal District/  
Community Justice Center-South  
16501 Kedzie Ave.  
Markham, IL 60428**

**Community Justice Center-Central  
715 W. Maxwell St.  
Chicago, IL 60607**

**Leighton Criminal Courts  
Building/  
Victim Witness Unit  
2650 S. California Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60608**

**Civil, Appeals, Asset Forfeiture Unit  
500 Richard J. Daley Center  
Chicago, IL 60602**

**Domestic Violence Division/  
First Municipal District  
555 W. Harrison St.  
Chicago, IL 60607**

**Third Municipal District  
2121 Euclid Ave.  
Rolling Meadows, IL 60008**

**Fifth Municipal District  
10220 S. 76th Ave.  
Bridgeview, IL 60455**

**Community Justice Center-North  
5333 N. Western Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60625**

**Community Justice Center-West  
5100 W. Harrison St.  
Chicago, IL 60644**

# BUREAUS



## **Administrative Services Bureau**

The Administrative Services Bureau, which consists of several hundred support personnel, handles all administrative tasks of the State's Attorney's Office.

## **Civil Actions Bureau**

The Civil Actions Bureau (CAB) represents Cook County in civil (non-criminal) matters such as lawsuits filed on its behalf, defends County officeholders and employees in lawsuits arising from their official duties, and acts on behalf of the County in matters related to the collection of owed taxes and fees.

## **Criminal Prosecutions Bureau**

The Criminal Prosecutions Bureau is the largest bureau in the office. This bureau is comprised of many divisions and units that canvass the entire county, including the Felony Review Unit, which is a 24/7, 365 day operation each year, making critical charging decisions. There are approximately 500 criminal prosecutors assigned to this bureau at any given time.

## **Investigations Bureau**

The Investigations Bureau consists of more than 120 sworn officers who provide investigative and logistical support to Assistant State's Attorneys in their preparation and presentation of cases.

## **Juvenile Justice Bureau**

The purpose and policy of the Juvenile Court Act under Illinois law is to promote a juvenile justice system focused on rehabilitation, not punishment. Prosecutors assigned to the Juvenile Bureau are dedicated to finding the best possible outcomes for all of the stakeholders; the victim, the...

## **Special Prosecutions Bureau**

Cases handled by the Special Prosecutions Bureau involve long-term proactive investigations that are supervised by experienced prosecutors with specialized knowledge and experience.



# CONVICTION REVIEW UNIT

The Conviction Review Unit (CRU), formerly known as the Conviction Integrity Unit (CIU), has the crucial role of examining assertions of actual innocence to assess if new evidence significantly raises the likelihood that the convicted defendant was not the true perpetrator of the offense they were found guilty of committing.

The term "actual innocence" denotes complete absolution of any criminal responsibility on the part of the defendant for the said crime.

The core objective of the CRU is to investigate whether an innocent person has been wrongfully convicted of a crime and subsequently propose appropriate measures to rectify such instances.

It is important to note that the final decision on whether to grant a remedy to individuals seeking review by the CRU lies with the State's Attorney.

The CRU functions independently and is not a court; thus, its operations are not governed by court rules of procedure.





# **Annual Overview 2017-2024**

## HITTING THE GROUND RUNNING: THE FIRST 90 DAYS

Within the first three months in office, State's Attorney,  
Kim Foxx and her administration:

Released a transition report identifying key policy priorities and laying out an approach and philosophy for the CCSAO.

Completed a listening tour of the CCSAO, making a comprehensive effort to hear from office employees, visiting all eight of the county courthouses and all of the specialty divisions in order to meet colleagues and conduct a comprehensive survey to identify critical areas of concern and opportunity.

Started laying the groundwork to develop strong partnerships with community groups, advocacy organizations, and justice system stakeholders to in order to have an open line of communication and be clear about the community' interest and needs.

With assistance from the Civic Consulting Alliance and the Boston Consulting Group, the office worked to develop comprehensive change, which included a review of staffing needs, a performance management process, an improved process for transfers and promotions, and a more robust and useful process for ongoing training and professional development of attorneys.





## GETTING THE MESSAGE OUT

External communications was critical to getting the message out about the work this office does and it also helps to connect and interact with the residents of Cook County. So for the first time in the office's history, a digital program was created, featuring various social media channels including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. A new website was also rolled-out.

## KEY HIRING

The Foxx administration introduced two new roles shortly after taking office, which proved critical to the success of the CCSAO.

The first- ever Chief Ethics Officer was hired, which was instrumental to implementing the professional and accountable culture that the State's Attorney was committed to creating throughout the Office.

In addition, the CCSAO's first-ever Chief Diversity Officer was hired to help build-up talent from all backgrounds.

## WRONGFUL CONVICTIONS

In February, the "Marquette Park Four," teens who were convicted in a 1995 robbery and homicide, were released from prison, after the CCSAO's Conviction Integrity Unit reexamined the case. It would be among the first of hundreds of wrongful convictions to be overturned during the Foxx Administration.

By the end of 2017, the CCSAO was successful in vacating convictions for 36 defendants after their cases were reviewed by the Conviction Integrity Unit.

## A PIONEER IN PROSECUTORIAL DATA

State's Attorney Foxx became the first prosecutor in the country to hire a Chief Data Officer.

By October, the CCSAO released its first-ever data report, which provided info about felony cases handled by the office in 2016 and six years of case data which the public was able to access online.

The report presented information about over 30,000 cases presented for felony prosecution in 2016, including information about case approvals, case dispositions, and sentencing. The report also highlighted the most often charged offenses, and provided a breakdown of offenders by race, age, and geography.

*"Knowing what our office is doing is essential if we are going to change how we do things."*  
---State's Attorney Kim Foxx.

## POLICY

As a result of the data analysis, the CCSAO announced new retail theft policy, refusing to seek felony charges in cases involving less than \$1,000 in stolen goods, outside of extenuating circumstances.

The Foxx administration also agreed to offering I-bonds for those who are non-violent offenders with bond amounts of \$1,000 or less; The new policy allowed a person to be released on their own recognizance pending trial, in cases where there is no prior violent criminal history, the current offense is a misdemeanor or low-level felony, and there are no other risk factors suggesting a danger to the community or a failure to appear for court.

I-Bonds were offered in cases involving retail theft, possession of a controlled substance, and criminal damage to property.

## AUXILIARY ASSISTANCE

A gun crime task force was created to develop intelligence behind Chicago's most violent police districts.

A new homicide and gang unit was rolled-out to prioritize effective and timely prosecution, and promote continuity and coordination among prosecutors, law enforcement, witnesses, and victims to ensure stronger prosecutions.

## CASE HIGHLIGHTS

In December, Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle and State's Attorney Kim Foxx filed lawsuits on behalf of the County, against some of the nation's leading pharmaceutical companies over the manufacture and aggressive marketing of prescription opioid painkillers and the resulting climb in overdose and fatality rates that were ravaging families and communities throughout Cook County.

The complaint filed, sought relief including compensatory and punitive damages for the millions of dollars in costs incurred annually as a result of the opioid crisis.

These costs included the rapidly increasing number of overdose patients being treated by Cook County Health and Hospitals System (CCHHS).

2017

## Adult Felony Data

+



79%

Adult Felony Approval Rate

+



84%

Adult Felony Conviction  
Rate

+



89%

Domestic Violence  
Approval Rate

+



87%

Domestic Violence  
Conviction Rate

## A PIONEER IN PROSECUTORIAL DATA

In March the office announced an unprecedented open data release—more than six years of felony criminal case data was placed on the Cook County Open Data Portal. The release, was the first of its kind in the country, and provided unprecedented access and transparency into the work of a prosecutor’s office.

The State’s Attorney’s Office also released its 2017 data report, summarizing a year’s worth of work in the SAO. The case data case data went back to about 2010 and contained four user-friendly tables, each documenting a key phase in a case’s movement through the office:

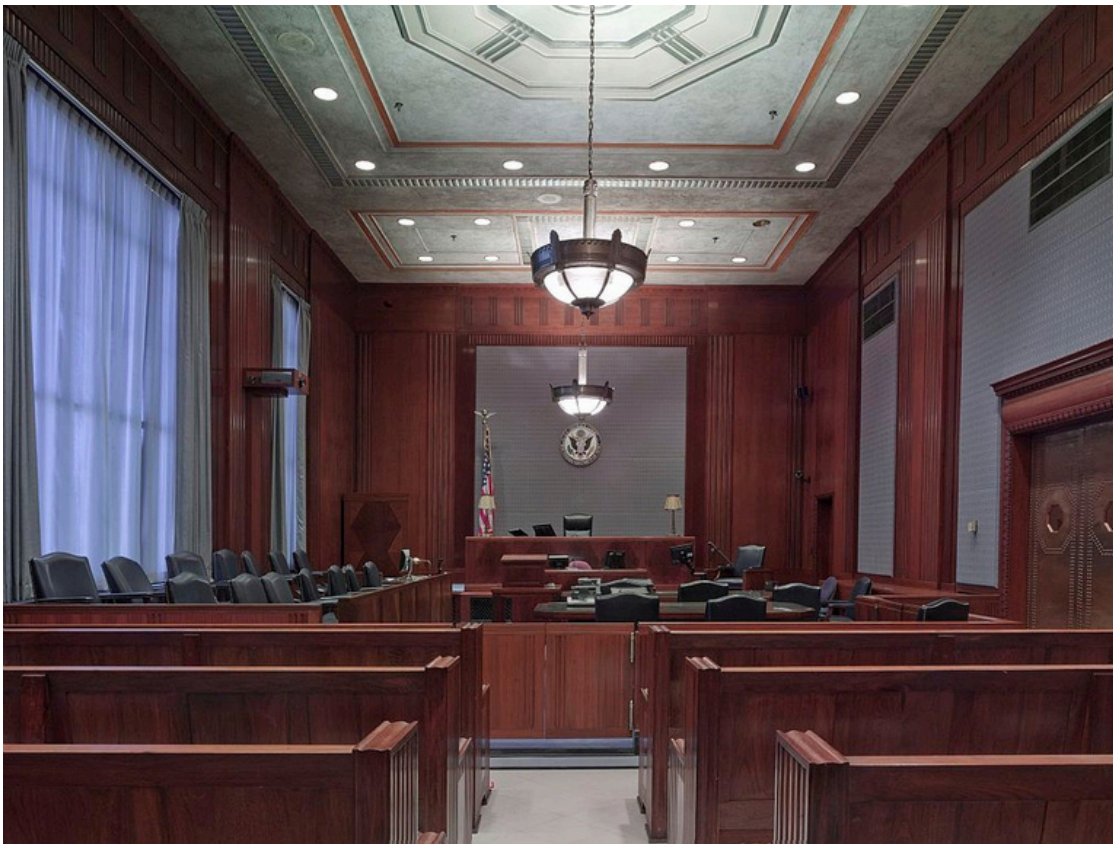
- Intake
- Initiation
- Dispositions
- Sentencing

*“For too long, the work of the criminal justice system has been largely a mystery. That lack of openness undermines the legitimacy of the criminal justice system. Our work must be grounded in data and evidence, and the public should have access to that information. I sought this office, committed to building the most open and transparent prosecutor’s office in the country. I am proud to be taking the lead on open data.”*

*--State’s Attorney Kim Foxx*

## CASE HIGHLIGHTS

In August, the SAO announced that the former mayor of south suburban Ford Heights has been charged with embezzling over \$147,000 from the Village's bank accounts while in office to pay for personal expenses. Charles R. Griffin, 63, former mayor of Ford Heights, Illinois has been charged with the felony offenses of Theft and Official Misconduct following a joint investigation conducted by the State's Attorney's Office Public Corruption and Financial Crimes Unit, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation-Office of the Inspector General, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Cook County Sherriff's Financial Crimes Unit.





## WRONGFUL CONVICTIONS

2018 was a busy year for the CCSAO's Conviction Review Unit (formerly the Conviction Integrity Unit)

The Cook County State's Attorney's Office successfully vacated 40 wrongful conviction cases, most of which was tied to narcotics arrests and subsequent convictions were based on the misconduct of corrupt former Chicago Police Sergeant Ronald Watts and other officers working under his command.

That brought the total number of vacated convictions under the Foxx administration and the CRU to 76.

*"After a thorough review by our Conviction Integrity Unit, it is in the interest of justice that we ask the Court to vacate these convictions."*

*---State's Attorney Kim Foxx*

2018

## Adult Felony Data Snapshot

+



78%

Adult Felony Approval Rate

+



81%

Adult Felony Conviction  
Rate

+



83%

Domestic Violence  
Approval Rate

+



86%

Domestic Violence  
Conviction Rate

## NOTABLE CASES

In an unprecedented move, after watching the highly publicized documentary, “Surviving R. Kelly,” in February, Cook County State’s Attorney Kim Foxx held a news conference calling for victims of Chicago R&B singer, R. Kelly to come forward.

As a result of that news conference, several victims came forward and Kelly was indicted on 10 counts of aggravated criminal sexual abuse involving four victims.



In March, the CCSAO announced an agreement with actor, Jussie Smollett. The actor was charged for filing a false police report after staging a homophobic and racist attack in Chicago’s Streeterville neighborhood.

The agreement, also known as an alternative disposition, called for Smollett to forfeit his \$10,000 bond and complete community service. In turn, Smollett’s charges were dropped.

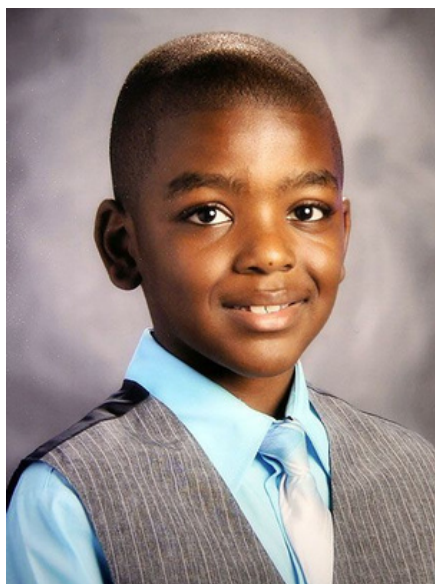
In the two years prior, the Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office had referred more than 5,700 cases for alternative prosecution.

In April, the Office of Independent Inspector General was brought in to review the handling of the Smollett case.

A Special Prosecutor was assigned the case in June.

## NOTABLE CASES

A fugitive who was sentenced to mandatory life in prison, was successfully extradited from Guatemala and taken into custody of the Illinois Department of Corrections as of April. The offender was tried for two cases involving the sexual assault of two young girls between the ages of 5 and 10. The defendant ingratiated himself into two different families so he could prey on the victims. In 2015, Honduran national Evaristo Santa Maria was convicted, in absentia, of Predatory Criminal Sexual Assault of a Child and Aggravated Criminal Sexual Abuse after a jury trial.



CCSAO prosecutors secured a guilty verdict in the case of 9 year-old Tyshawn Lee the fourth grader who fell victim to a revenge killing at the hands of two gang members who lured the child into an alley and executed the child, looking to settle a gang feud.

“This case shook us to our core. We grieve for nine-year-old Tyshawn as we continue to hold close those who are laboring in his wake.”

---Cook County State’s Attorney, Kim Foxx

## MARIJUANA LEGISLATION & WIPING CONVICTIONS

The end of May ushered in historic legislation for the state of Illinois with the legalization of marijuana in recreational form through the passage of the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act.

State's Attorney Kim Foxx was instrumental in helping to get this law passed after a core group of lawmakers worked for years to get the bill through the general assembly.

State's Attorney Foxx realized the damage cannabis convictions have caused to the residents of Illinois and before the new cannabis legislation even went into effect on January 1, 2020, Foxx began the work of wiping low-level cannabis convictions for thousands across the state.



In December, State's Attorney Foxx moved to vacate the first 1,000 low-level, non-violent cannabis convictions, providing relief for Cook County residents in advance of the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act taking effect. It was the first of several motions over the next two-and-a-half years, known as the Cannabis Expungement Project, which culminated in more than 15,000 marijuana convictions being wiped.

This act also called for the expungement of minor marijuana offenses.

The filings and expungements made it as though the cannabis convictions never happened, and those convictions were permanently removed from criminal records.

*“We made history and took the first step in the single largest and most equitable piece of criminal justice reform Illinois has ever seen.”*

*--- State's Attorney Kim Foxx.*



## HATTY

Cook County State's Attorney Kimberly Foxx introduced the office's first support dog to assist children and mentally disabled victims of sexual assault and violence during a special swearing-in ceremony today at the Leighton Criminal Courts Building in October.

Hatty, a two-year-old Labrador Retriever, is a specially trained support dog that serves as a therapeutic resource to specifically assist young children or mentally disabled victims of sexual trauma.

Hatty's primary role is to provide direct support to these individuals when testifying in court or during interviews with prosecutors and other officials.;

Hatty appears in court with victims about twice a month and handles more than 100 cases a year.

# SHINING A LIGHT ON MENTAL HEALTH



Cook County State's Attorney Kimberly Foxx reiterated her commitment to improving the Office's work related to mental health introduced the first-ever Cook County State's Attorney's Office Mental Health Advisory Board.

Formed in January of 2019, the 15 member advisory board works to help the State's Attorney's Office develop strategies around the intersections and relationships between mental health, substance abuse, and the criminal justice system.

2019

## Adult Felony Data Snapshot

+



79%

Adult Felony Approval Rate

+



79%

Adult Felony Conviction  
Rate

+



82%

Domestic Violence  
Approval Rate

+



85%

Domestic Violence  
Conviction Rate

## COVID RESPONSE



In the interest of both public health and safety during the rapidly evolving COVID-19 global pandemic, the Cook County State's Attorney's Office began working around the clock in March with the Cook County Sheriff's Office and Public Defender to ensure any individuals who are not a threat to public safety are released from Cook County Jail. During the first weekend of the COVID-19 lockdown, prosecutors reviewed more than 1,200 cases. The CCSAO agreed to the appropriate releases of detainees for the duration of this pandemic, to limit the number of people in our jail.

The CCSAO soon rolled-out policies refusing to prosecute non-violent, low level drug offenses during the pandemic and bringing awareness to resources for domestic violence survivors and child abuse during pandemic.





# 2020

## THE SUMMER OF 2020: PROTEST POLICY AMENDMENTS

During the Summer of 2020, protests ignited across the country, calling for criminal justice reform, police accountability, and systemic change following the death of George Floyd and countless other Black men and women at the hands of police officers across the country.

The unrest also led to weeks of looting, property damage and arson.

By June, the CCSAO released a policy outlining the Office's decision not to prosecute individuals charged with minor offenses related to peaceful protests.

By August, the CCSAO had filed more than 350 felony charges since May, when the looting began.



## NOTABLE CASES

In March, CCSAO prosecutors secured a conviction of the man who was charged in the 2018 murder of Chicago Police Commander, Paul Bauer.

Bauer was shot and killed in a stairwell outside the Thompson Center in Chicago's Loop, while searching for the suspect who was wanted for questioning related to a previous shooting.



*CPD Commander, Paul Bauer*

## WRONGFUL CONVICTIONS

Cook County State's Attorney's office successfully vacated 19 wrongful convictions with the help of the Conviction Integrity Unit (CIU), now known as the Conviction Review Unit (CRU), part of the office's ongoing review of the misconduct of corrupt former Chicago Police Sergeant Ronald Watts.

2020

## Adult Felony Data Snapshot

+



85%

Adult Felony Approval Rate

+



72%

Adult Felony Conviction  
Rate

+



87%

Domestic Violence  
Approval Rate

+



81%

Domestic Violence  
Conviction Rate

## LEGISLATIVE SUCCESS

The CCSAO drafted and successfully passed a five-piece legislative agenda as well as provided support and guidance for other measures, like the SAFE-T Act, that impacted criminal justice and public safety.

The CCSAO agenda included:

**Youth Protections Against Deceptive Interrogation Tactics** prohibits the use of deceptive tactics by law enforcement during custodial interrogations of someone under 18 years of age. Illinois became the first state in the country to pass a measure of this kind.

**Prosecutor-Initiated Resentencing** allows a state's attorney to motion to resentence a defendant if their sentence no longer serves the interest of justice. The court may then consider post-conviction factors, including the person's disciplinary and rehabilitation records when resentencing. During the winter and fall of 2021, in advance of this law taking effect in 2022, CCSAO prosecutors created digital tools and provided virtual educational presentations about the new law for incarcerated individuals.

**The Voices Act Amendment** ensures transparent communication between law enforcement agencies and U VISA and T VISA applicants and encourages immigrant communities to feel safe reporting crimes and cooperating with law enforcement.

**The Expungement Expansion and Equity Act** allows sex workers to expunge their records for felony prostitution convictions that are no longer classified as a felony. Additionally, it provides an avenue for non-citizens incorrectly informed (or not informed at all) about the consequences of a guilty plea to pursue a remedy for the constitutional violation of their rights. The legislation allows any person or state's attorney to file a motion to vacate and expunge a felony prostitution conviction.

**Protections for Survivors of Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence** updated consent laws to include a definition of "unable to give knowing consent" and to clarify that licensed professionals, such as doctors, cannot utilize a defense of consent when the sexual activity occurred during treatment.

## WRONGFUL CONVICTIONS



Chicago was once known as the “False Confession Capital of the United States” but as the CCSAO’s Conviction Review Unit (CRU), formerly the Conviction Integrity Unit (CIU) gained public attention, it became a national model, driven exclusively by the office’s efforts to proactively seek out and vacate convictions of the wrongfully convicted.

The investigation into the misconduct of former Chicago Police Sergeant Ronald Watts resulted in 15 vacated cases in 2021, bringing the total cases related to Sergeant Watts to 114 under the Foxx administration.

## WIPING CANNABIS CONVICTIONS

The CCSAO played a vital role in passing legislation to legalize cannabis in 2019 and provide the broadest and most equitable form of conviction relief possible.

In 2021, the CCSAO continued to help to move communities forward by vacating low-level cannabis convictions that occurred between 2000 and 2012, part of the Cannabis Expungement Project.

More than 9,500 cases were expunged dating back to December 2019.

## A FOCUS ON GUN CRIMES AND HOMICIDES

In 2021, like in many cities across the country, Chicago saw a record number of homicides and shootings. However, 2021 was also the year the CCSAO approved more gun cases and secured more gun convictions than any other year this century.

The CCSAO approved 7,110 gun cases and secured convictions on 5,145 gun cases in 2021. While the total number of cases called into the CCSAO for felony review was lower than in previous years (down roughly 800 cases), the number of gun cases called in to felony review increased in 2021.

The CCSAO received 8,996 gun cases for review in 2021, compared to 8,534 gun cases in 2020, a 5% increase. Additionally, gun cases made up 36% of all the cases received in 2021 compared to 31% in 2020.

The CCSAO's 92% approval rate for gun cases remains consistent with previous years.

The 74% conviction rate is also in line with previous years.





## SAFEGUARDING THE TAX BASE

Safeguarding the Tax Base The CAB has continued to be a revenue-generator and revenue-saver for the County. The Real Estate Tax Litigation Section saved nearly \$180 million in tax dollars for the various taxing districts within Cook County against commercial property challenges to assessments in Circuit Court. This revenue was saved through the CCSAO's handling of over 10,000 individual cases on behalf of the Cook County Treasurer.

The Municipal Litigation Section won a \$266 million award for the Cook County Department of Revenue against Sam's Club. The case involved unpaid tobacco taxes over the period from 2009 to 2016. The Municipal Section partnered with outside counsel Goldberg Kohn on the trial in the Department of Administrative Hearings.



## SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN

Child Support The Child Support Services Division litigated nearly 8,000 cases over the last year to set appropriate child support awards for Cook County children. In total, the Child Support ASAs won almost \$13.7 million in current child and medical support payments, as well as collection of past child support debts, to help ensure that children have the financial support they need.

2021

## Adult Felony Data Snapshot

+



86%

Adult Felony Approval Rate

+



75%

Adult Felony Conviction  
Rate

+



89%

Domestic Violence  
Approval Rate

+



87%

Domestic Violence  
Conviction Rate

## OFFICE RETENTION

In 2022, a clear focus was placed on hiring and retention. The Bureau of Administration Services (BAS) oversaw the hiring of 222 people, including 144 ASAs, 24 investigators, and 54 individuals to the administrative staff. In 2022, BAS modernized the hiring process with technological advancements in data tracking, automated hiring flows, and social integrations on Indeed and LinkedIn.

## CIVIL ACTIONS

In 2022, the Civil Actions Bureau's (CAB) Child Support Division filed nearly 15,000 cases and won over \$2.6 million in current child and medical support payments. CAB's Real Estate Tax Section saved over \$180 million for the various taxing districts within Cook County, against commercial property tax challenges in Circuit Court. CAB ensured that Cook County was the leading county in an early lawsuit against Big Pharma accountable for the modern opioid crisis that resulted in a \$60 million settlement for the state.

## WRONGFUL CONVICTIONS

In 2022, the number of vacated convictions overall achieved under the administration of State's Attorney Foxx reached a total of 223.

There were 113 wrongful convictions overturned after review by the Conviction Integrity Unit (CIU), which is the most vacated convictions of any other year under the Foxx administration.

The Conviction Integrity Unit had great success with testing old DNA evidence using new technology and started developing protocols for the preservation of current evidence.

## JUVENILE JUSTICE



More than 4,500 cases were presented to the Juvenile Justice Bureau (JJB), and included case screenings by the Juvenile Justice Division and Child Protection Division.

1,180 new cases for families were screened by the Child Protection Division in 2022. The new cases involved allegations of abuse, neglect and dependency of children.

Balanced and restorative justice continues to be in the forefront of the Juvenile Justice Division's commitment to fair justice for the community as a whole. The division seeks the best suited outcome for victims and youthful offenders.

## WIPING CANNABIS CONVICTIONS

In April 2022, the CCSAO presented 214 additional cannabis cases to be automatically expunged, bringing the total to 15,191 expungements since the legalization of marijuana in Illinois.

This year marked the completion of the program.

Throughout the Cannabis Expungement Project, expunged convictions were removed from individuals' records as though they never happened. Once that record was removed, the Clerk of the Circuit Court mailed or emailed a notice to the individual's last known address. This relief was "automatic" and required no action from individuals with eligible convictions.

## RESENTENCING INITIATIVE

In the interests of public safety and justice, the CCSAO piloted the Resentencing Initiative that utilizes Senate Bill 2129 to review cases and identify incarcerated persons with sentences that may be eligible for resentencing of justice.

Senate Bill 2129 went into effect on January 1, 2022 and allows prosecutors, at their discretion, to motion to resentence incarcerated persons whose original sentence no longer advances the interests of justice.

The Resentencing Initiative built on State's Attorney Foxx's commitment to enact criminal justice reforms that are based on science, data, and the evolution of justice.



## SEARCH WARRANT POLICY

The CCSAO released a new policy for its law enforcement partners designed to increase accountability in requesting and executing search warrants. The new guidance allows the CCSAO to better understand the accuracy of information provided by police and informants, and protect residents from inappropriate intrusion.

A new digital database tracks search warrant requests throughout the process, including the details presented for issuance, whether it was carried out, and the evidence found.

2022

## Adult Felony Data Snapshot

+



86%

Adult Felony Approval Rate

+



80%

Adult Felony Conviction  
Rate

+



90%

Domestic Violence  
Approval Rate

+



86%

Domestic Violence  
Conviction Rate

One of the most transformative reforms of the year, was the successful implementation of the Pretrial Fairness Act (PFA) on September 18, 2023, after surviving an array of legal challenges. By eliminating the use of money bond and redesigning pretrial processes, PFA aimed to increase transparency and fairness in release and detention decisions, ensuring that an individual's freedom was not determined by their financial means.

CCSAO played an instrumental role in the collaborative planning process leading up to the implementation of the PFA. The office worked hand-in-hand with other Cook County criminal justice agencies, law enforcement, advocacy groups, and community representatives to ensure a seamless transition to the new procedures.

By eliminating wealth-based disparities and increasing transparency in pretrial decision-making, this reform aligned with CCSAO's mission to promote fairness and equality within the criminal justice system.

The successful implementation of this Act served as a testament to CCSAO's dedication to advancing meaningful change and set the stage for further progress in the years to come.

As Illinois heralds a new era by becoming the first state to eliminate the use of money bond, the CCSAO's dedication to equity and justice shines through. By supporting the transition to a detention process grounded in risk assessments rather than financial status, CCSAO upholds its core values of fairness, transparency, and community safety.

## DO NOT CALL LIST

in 2023, Cook County State's Attorney Kimberly Foxx made significant strides in criminal justice reform and accountability. The Cook County State's Attorney's Office (CCSAO) took a bold step towards increasing transparency and accountability by releasing a public "Do Not Call List" of law enforcement officers who would not be called to testify in criminal cases due to credibility concerns.

This initiative was part of the office's broader modernization of its Brady Giglio policy, which outlines the procedures prosecutors are required to follow when disclosing information that could question the credibility of government witnesses.

By publicly releasing this list, CCSAO demonstrated its unwavering commitment to ensuring the integrity of its prosecutions and rebuilding public trust in the criminal justice system. This move marked a pivotal moment in Foxx's efforts to promote transparency and credibility in witness testimony, reflecting her dedication to upholding fairness and integrity in the judicial process.

The release of the "Do Not Call List" not only served to enhance the reliability of witness testimony but also sent a clear message that the CCSAO would not tolerate misconduct or dishonesty from law enforcement officers. State's Attorney Foxx's leadership in implementing this groundbreaking policy underscored her commitment to reforming the criminal justice system and holding all individuals accountable, regardless of their position or authority.

The "Do Not Call List" is publicly accessible on the CCSAO website and is updated regularly.



## THE REBRANDING OF CONVICTION REVIEW

In December 2023, CCSAO underwent a significant transformation with the rebranding of its Conviction Integrity Unit (CIU) to the Conviction Review Unit (CRU). This rebranding signaled a renewed dedication to addressing historical injustices and ensuring fairness and integrity in the pursuit of justice.

The CRU's establishment marked the second overhaul initiated by State's Attorney Kimberly Foxx since taking office, reflecting the office's commitment to rectifying past wrongs and incorporating community voices into its decision-making processes.

Through participatory justice principles, the CRU aims to engage community members, advocates, and families in the judicial process, fostering transparency and accountability within the criminal justice system. CRU has a crucial role in examining assertions of actual innocence to assess if new evidence significantly raises the likelihood that the convicted defendant was not the true perpetrator of the offense they were found guilty of committing. The term "actual innocence" denotes complete absolution of any criminal responsibility on the part of the defendant for the said crime. CRU's primary responsibility is to investigate these claims and subsequently offer recommendations to the Cook County State's Attorney regarding the appropriate course of action, if any, in light of its findings.

In December 2023, CCSAO announced the dismissal of the 1988 wrongful conviction of Brian Beals, shedding light on the indispensable role of the CRU in meticulously examining cases affected by systemic issues, thus safeguarding justice with integrity and fairness.

A total of three wrongful conviction cases were overturned in 2023 that were examined by the CRU.



## WRONGFUL CONVICTION DAY

Wrongful Conviction Day 2023 The Cook County State's Attorney's Office (CCSAO) marked the milestone of the 10th annual Wrongful Conviction Day with a commemorative brunch, resource fair, and illuminating panel discussion.

Exemplifying the spirit of resilience, individuals vindicated during the Foxx Administration—Jose Cruz, Terrell Swift, Charles Johnson, and Marilyn Muero—graciously shared their harrowing journeys and insights, shedding light on avenues to bolster support and prevent miscarriages of justice not only within Cook County but nationwide.

Guiding the discussion as emcee was Alderman Stephanie Coleman, lending her voice to the crucial dialogue aimed at fostering awareness and actionable solutions to combat wrongful convictions.

The event also featured a screening of a documentary highlighting the struggles and triumphs of those who have been wrongfully convicted, offering a poignant glimpse into their battles for justice.

This powerful visual narrative served as a poignant reminder of the human toll of wrongful convictions and underscored the urgent need for systemic reform.



2023

## Adult Felony Data Snapshot

+



85%

Adult Felony Approval Rate

+



77%

Adult Felony Conviction  
Rate

+



90%

Domestic Violence  
Approval Rate

+



84%

Domestic Violence  
Conviction Rate

## LEGISLATIVE SUCCESS

The Cook County State's Attorney's Office has made significant strides in legislative and policy reforms in 2024, with a particular focus on improving the expungement process to facilitate reintegration and offer second chances to those impacted by a criminal charge.

The Rehabilitation Expungement Streamlining and Empowerment for Transition Act, or RESET Act, was spearheaded by the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, in partnership with the Law Office of the Cook County Public Defender and The Cook County Justice Advisory Council.

The RESET Act allows diversion program participants, public defenders, and private attorneys to file a petition for expungement at least 61 days before the defendant's anticipated graduation. As a result, once their case is dismissed by a judge, expungement can be granted simultaneously, saving time and money and allowing individuals to more quickly overcome the barriers associated with a criminal charge and be able to better secure housing, work, and education.

The RESET Act was signed into Illinois law by Governor J.B. Pritzker in August.

## PRETRIAL FAIRNESS ACT IN ACTION

In 2024, the first full year of the Pretrial Fairness Act (PFA) marked a pivotal shift in Cook County's approach to justice, profoundly impacting how pretrial procedures are conducted with the elimination of cash bail.

This legislation has not only reformed the system but also set new standards for fairness and safety in the judicial process.

Throughout the year, the Cook County State's Attorney's Office conducted a staggering 7,841 detention hearings, a testament to our rigorous legal processes and dedication to ensuring community safety. With a 63% rate of detention granted, these hearings reflect our commitment to a balanced approach that weighs the rights of the accused against the safety needs of the community.

The PFA has been particularly impactful in cases involving serious offenses, where the need to protect public safety is paramount. Detention rates for crimes such as murder (95%), escape (94%), and vehicular hijacking (87%) have remained high, underscoring our office's resolve to keep the community safe from individuals who pose a significant threat. These statistics demonstrate the effectiveness of the PFA in allowing the judicial system to act decisively in cases where the risk to public safety is most acute.

The PFA has also influenced how misdemeanors, particularly domestic battery, are handled. With 2,186 detention hearings for domestic battery resulting in a 41% detention rate, our approach highlights a more nuanced application of justice.

## ADDRESSING HATE CRIMES

In response to the growing need to address hate crimes amid a challenging global climate, the Cook County State's Attorney's Office (CCSAO) hired a dedicated Hate Crimes Specialist, which was a new role for the office.

This critical role supports the CCSAO Against Hate, Education & Outreach Program, focusing on enhancing community awareness, education, and response strategies to combat hate crimes.

The Hate Crimes Specialist will play a pivotal role in collaborating with community organizations, activists, law enforcement, and policymakers to elevate public awareness and develop effective hate crime policies and training programs.

Core responsibilities will include conducting seminars and training sessions to educate CCSAO staff and the public on recognizing and addressing hate crimes, establishing, and maintaining relationships with stakeholders to enhance hate crime reporting, and leading the formation of a CCSAO Hate Crime Council to inform policy decisions and improve investigation and prosecution procedures.

The Hate Crimes Specialist position was funded by a four-year grant and will be part of the CCSAO Community Engagement Team.



## PIONEER IN PROSECUTORIAL DATA

In 2024, the Cook County State's Attorney's Office elevated its commitment to transparency, particularly through the strategic use of advanced data analytics tools. These tools have not only enhanced our ability to provide the public with comprehensive metrics on key initiatives like the Pretrial Fairness Act (PFA) but also supported our monthly community memos that deepen our engagement with local partners.

A pivotal aspect of our data transparency initiative is the distribution of monthly community memos. These memos are sent to a wide array of partners, including aldermen, commissioners, and law enforcement partners, ensuring that key stakeholders are kept informed about the impacts of our policies and initiatives.

The memos included detailed breakdowns of the previous month's felony data by ward, district, and community.

Enhanced with detention data from the PFA, these memos offer a granular view of how our justice initiatives are unfolding across different communities. This detailed dissemination of data helps in fostering a proactive dialogue with our stakeholders and assists in the collaborative effort to tailor our initiatives to meet community-specific needs.



Our office has expanded its training programs to include a wide range of critical topics, ensuring that our team is not only legally proficient but also deeply aware of the social issues impacting the justice system.

In 2024, we held extensive training sessions on implicit bias, the history of racism in policing, and equitable justice, which were conducted by renowned experts. These sessions enhancing our team's ability to address racial disparities and promote fair outcomes within our community.

Our commitment to nurturing a skilled legal workforce was evident in the largest swearing-in ceremony for new Assistant State's Attorneys.

Recognizing the demanding nature of their work, we conducted a thorough salary review, leading to strategic adjustments to ensure that our compensation packages are competitive and reflective of the dedication our staff brings to their roles.

Not only did we aligned our pay scales more closely with comparable prosecutor's offices nationally, enhancing our ability to attract and retain top legal talent, in 2024 we also offered a \$10,000 retention bonus for assistant state's attorneys. Additionally, we've taken steps to alleviate financial burdens on our staff by covering annual professional dues, further demonstrating our commitment to supporting their professional growth and financial well-being.

2024

## Adult Felony Data Snapshot

+



85%

Adult Felony Approval Rate

+



76%

Adult Felony Conviction  
Rate

+



92%

Domestic Violence  
Approval Rate

+



84%

Domestic Violence  
Conviction Rate



# 248

## WRONGFUL CONVICTIONS VACATED DURING FOXX ADMINISTRATION

2017	2018	2020	2021	2022	2021	2024
<b>36</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>

The number of wrongful conviction cases involve those handled by the CCSAO's Conviction Review Unit (CRU), formerly known as the Conviction Integrity Unit (CIU).

A majority of vacated cases are connected to corrupt former Chicago Police Sgt. Ronald Watts.

**The total number of cases vacated by the CRU, under the Foxx administration is 248**

\*as of November 30, 2024

# COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

To help advance our mission and vision for a safer Cook County, establishing meaningful relationships with businesses, leaders, organizations, residents and other stakeholders in the community is essential.

Over the last eight years, our Community Engagement Team, staff, and State's Attorney Foxx have spent ten-of-thousands of hours interfacing with the communities we serve, securing our footprint by spearheading grassroots initiatives centered in education, economic development, youth advancement, intervention and prevention services, and more.

State's Attorney Foxx annually observes national cultural awareness months by honoring notable Cook County leaders for their exemplary work in community services, youth empowerment, and social justice for the betterment of Cook County and its residents.

Below you will see the culturally based awards ceremonies hosted by the the Foxx administration throughout the years and their honorees.





# ASIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARDS

The Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Community Leadership Awards in observance of AAPI Heritage Month in May. These awards honor outstanding AAPI individuals in Cook County for their Leadership, honor, and integrity community involvement and activism.

By highlighting role models, these awards celebrate the many contributions of the AAPI community.

The State's Attorney's Office is proud to recognize community leaders working to empower the AAPI community and build a more just future for all.

## Past Honorees

2024 Dr. Hong Liu, Executive Director, Midwest Asian Health Association

Honorable Ankur Srivastava, Cook County Circuit Court Pretrial Division

Alderman Nicole Lee, Chicago, 11th Ward

2023 Don Villar, Secretary Treasurer, Chicago Federation of Labor

Honorable Jasmine Villaflor Hernandez, Associate Judge, Cook County Circuit Court

Dr. Karen Chiu, Executive Director, Project Vision

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- 2022 Honorable Sanju Oommen Green, Associate Judge, Juvenile Justice Division, Cook County Circuit Court
- Grace Chan McKibben, Executive Director, Coalition for a Better Chinese American Community
- 2021 Honorable Anjana Hansen, Circuit Court Judge, Cook County Circuit Court
- Andy Kang, Executive Director, Asian American Advancing Justice
- 2020 Henry Lai, President, Asian American Law Enforcement Association
- Aurora Austriaco, Attorney At Law, Valentine, Austriaco & Bueschel P.C.
- 2019 Dennis Mondero, Executive Director, Chinese Mutual Aid Association
- Jenny Han, Director, Healthcare Design, Skender
- 2018 Dr. Karen Eng, President/ CEO, CSMI
- Sufyan S. Sohel, Deputy Director & Counsel, Council on American-Islamic Relations, Chicago Office (CAIR-Chicago)
- 2017 Honorable Geraldine D’Souza, Associate Judge, Circuit Court of Cook County
- Commander Stephen Chung, 9th District, Chicago Police Department
- Anne I. Shaw, Esq., Attorney at Law, Shaw Legal Services, Ltd

## C.F. STRADFORD AWARDS

C.F. Stradford Award in observance of Black History Month, holds a rich history deeply rooted in the legacy of Cornelius Francis Stradford, a trailblazing figure in the legal arena and a tireless advocate for civil rights. Named in honor of Stradford's enduring impact, this prestigious award has been presented annually during Black History Month by the Cook County State's Attorney's Office (CCSAO) for the last 34 years.

Recipients exemplify outstanding commitment, leadership, and influence in their respective fields. Cornelius Francis Stradford's legacy as a pioneering civil rights attorney and co-founder of both the National Bar Association and the Cook County Bar Association serves as the inspiration behind the C.F. Stradford Award. Throughout his illustrious career, Stradford championed the principles of justice, equality, and fairness, leaving an indelible mark on the legal profession and the broader community.

### Past Honorees

2024 Justice Carl A. Walker, Appellate Court Justice, District 1

Michael A. Wilder, Chair of Littler's Board of Directors, Core Member of Complex Litigation and Jury Trial Practice Group

Live Free Illinois, Mobilizing Faith Communities for Justice and Transformation

2023 Honorable Adrienne E. Davis, Criminal Division, Circuit Court of Cook County

Cannon D. Lambert, Sr., Esq., Karchmar & Lambert P.C.



Martin Coffey, Director of Community Safety, Breakthrough Urban Ministries

2022 Sharone R. Mitchell, Jr., Public Defender

Honorable Erica L. Reddick, Presiding Judge, Circuit Court of Cook County, Criminal Division

Cheryl Graves, M.P.H., J.D., Founder, Community Justice for Youth Institute

2021 Honorable John A. Fairman, Circuit Court of Cook County, Associate Judge, Fifth District Municipal

Honorable Cynthia Y. Cobbs, Illinois Appellate Court, First District

Rashad K. Saafir, Ph.D., President & CEO, Bobby E. Wright Comprehensive Behavioral Health Center

2020 Honorable Marian E. Perkins, Cook County Circuit Court, Chancery Division Mortgage Foreclosure Section

Honorable William Stewart Boyd, Cook County Circuit Court, Domestic Relations Division

Emmanuel Andre, Esq., Northside Transformative Law Center, Executive Director, Circles & Ciphers

Diana Rogers, President, Minority Legal Educational Resources, Inc. (MLER)

2019 Honorable John F. Lyke, Jr., Cook County Circuit Court, Pre-Trial Division

Judge Cornelius E. Toole (Posthumously)

Revered Jesse Jackson Jr., Rainbow Push Coalition, Founder

Pastor Christopher Harris, Bright Star Church, Senior Pastor

2018 Honorable Freddrenna M. Lyle, Cook County Circuit Court, Chancery Division, Mortgage Foreclosure Section

Tamar Manasseh, Founder, M.A.S.K. (Mothers/Men Against Senseless Killings)

2017 Honorable P. Scott Neville, Jr., Justice Illinois Appellate Court, First District-Second Division

Ozzie Smith III, D.D.S., Christian Community Health Center, Dental Department/ Smith & Smith Smile Studio, Owner





# MIDDLE EASTERN NORTH AFRICAN (MENA) AWARDS

In honor of Arab American Heritage Month, Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx launched the Middle Eastern North African (MENA) Community Award in April of 2003.

This annual award recognizes judges, lawyers, community leaders and more who best represent the values and traditions of Cook County's vibrant Middle Eastern and North African communities.

The MENA Community Award allows us to honor those carrying on this spirit of cultural pride, understanding and service. Recipients will be individuals who strengthen Cook County through their commitment to the MENA community.

In April 2023, the CCSAO celebrated its first set of honorees.

## Past Honorees

- 2024 Ahmed Rehab, Executive Director, Chicago Office of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-Chicago)
- Arab American Family Services (AAFS)
- American Muslims for Palestine
- 2023 Honorable Rouhy Shalabi, Municipal Division, Circuit Court of Cook County
- Rami Nashashibi, Founder & Executive Director, Inner City Muslim Action Network

# EL HUMANITARIO AWARDS

In observance of Hispanic Heritage Month for over three decades, the Cook County State's Attorney's Office has proudly commemorated Hispanic Heritage Month with the prestigious El Humanitario Awards.

Established in 1991, these awards honor the remarkable contributions of Latinx individuals to the legal profession and the broader Chicagoland community. The El Humanitario Awards are a longstanding tradition that celebrates Latinx excellence and serves as a testament to the invaluable perspectives and accomplishments across various fields.

## Past Honorees

- 2024 Honorable Eulalia De La Rosa, Circuit Judge, Circuit Court of Cook County
- Honorable Rossana P. Fernandez, Circuit Judge, Circuit Court of Cook County
- 2023 Honorable David R. Navaro, Appellate Court Justice, IL Appellate Court, First District
- Carlos Tortolero, Chief Executive Officer & Founder, National Museum of Mexican Art
- 2022 Honorable Eric M. Saucedo, Associate Judge, Cook County Circuit Court
- Celena Roldan, CEO, American Red Cross
- 2021 Honorable Laura Ayala-Gonzalez, Circuit Court Judge, Cook County Circuit Court

Dr. Ana Gil-Garcia, Founder and Former Director, Illinois Venezuelan Alliance

2020 Miguel C. Keberlein Gutiérrez, Executive Director of the Legal Aid Society of Metropolitan Family Services

Patricia Mota, President & Chief Executive Officer of the Hispanic Alliance for Career Enhancement

Alderman Michael D. Rodriguez, 22nd Ward

2019 Honorable Sandra G. Ramos, Law Division, Circuit Court of Cook County

Federico M. Rodriguez, Rodriguez Legal Group, LLC

2018 Sol A. Flores, Executive Director, La Casa Norte

Mario Treto Jr., Deputy City Attorney, City of Evanston

2017 Mony Ruiz-Velasco, Executive Director, West Suburban Action Project

The Resurrection Project



# PRIDE RECOGNITION AWARDS

Pride Recognition Award in observance of Pride Month  
June is LGBTIQ+ Pride Month and a time when the State's Attorney's Office recognizes the accomplishments of outstanding LGBTQ+ community groups and leaders, attorneys and judges across Cook County with a Pride Recognition Award.

## Past Honorees

2024 Roderick Hawkins, Associate Dean of External Affairs/Chief of Staff,  
Northwestern University's School of Communications

Precious Brady-Davis, Commissioner, Metropolitan Water  
Reclamation District Greater Chicago

Vernita Gray Lifetime Achievement Award:  
James L. Bennett, Director Illinois Department of Human Rights  
Chair, Illinois Commission on Discrimination and Hate Crimes

2023 Honorable Jill Rose Quinn, Domestic Relations Division, Cook  
County Circuit Court

Chicago House & Social Service Agency

Vernita Gray Lifetime Achievement Award:  
Angelica Ross, Founder of TransTech Social Enterprises and Actress

2022 Honorable Stephen K. Miller, Associate Judge, Probate Division,  
Circuit Court of Cook County

Jay Paul Deratany, Founder & Managing Partner, Deratany & Kosner

Vernita Gray Lifetime Achievement Award:  
Kirk Williamson, Production Manager, Chicago Reader

2021 Judge Mary Cay Marubio, Circuit Court Judge, Circuit Court of Cook County, Pretrial Division

Channyn Lynne Parker, Director of Strategic Partnerships, Howard Brown Health Center

Vernita Gray Lifetime Achievement Award:  
Dr. Kim Fountain, Chief Administrative Officer, Center on Halsted

2020 Judge Sophia H. Hall, Administrative Presiding Judge, Resource Section of the Juvenile Justice and Child Protection Department, Circuit Court of Cook County

Brave Space Alliance, LaSaia Ward, Executive Director

Vernita Gray Lifetime Achievement Award:  
Richard Pfeiffer (posthumously), activist, organizational volunteer Chicago Gay Alliance and founded the Gay Activist Coalition

2019 Judge Judith C. Rice, Illinois Supreme Court, 7th Judicial Sub-Circuit of Cook County

Cook County Commissioner, 15th District Kevin B. Morrison

Vernita Gray Lifetime Achievement Award:  
Tracy Baim, Chicago Reader Newspaper, Publisher Windy City Times, owner and Co-Founder



2018 Honorable Mary Colleen Roberts, Domestic Relations Division  
Circuit Court of Cook County

The Night Ministry, Paul W. Hamann, President & CEO

Vernita Gray Lifetime Achievement Award :  
Julio Rodriguez, Association of Co- Founder/Board President,  
Association of Latinos Motivating Action (ALMA)

2017 Judge Colleen F. Sheehan, Juvenile Justice Division, Circuit Court of  
Cook County

Kelly Cassidy, Illinois State Representative, 14th District

Vernita Gray Lifetime Achievement Award:  
Kim L. Hunt, Co-Founder, Pride Action Tank, AIDS Foundation of  
Chicago



# COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTERS

Community Justice Centers (CJCs) were founded on the principle that prosecutors have a responsibility not only to prosecute cases but to solve public safety problems, prevent crime and improve the quality of life for communities.

Each CJC is staffed with an administrator, community liaison and Assistant State's Attorney who work together to prevent crime through the presentation of seminars, workshops and speaking engagements to inform and educate citizens on crime-related issues.

