



2021 Year in Review

Broward State Attorney Harold F. Pryor and his team at the State Attorney's Office are happy to report the following accomplishments, which reflect some highlights from the past 12 months that we are proud to share. We have a lot more to accomplish and will continue to strive to make our community safer while also working to ensure justice, equity and fairness for all.

“Working to ensure justice, equity and fairness for all.”

Harold F. Pryor
Broward County State Attorney

Contact Us

Broward State Attorney's Office

954-831-6955

sao17@sao17.state.fl.us
www.browardsao.com

FAIRNESS IN JUSTICE



- Stopped prosecuting stand-alone misdemeanor cannabis possession and drug paraphernalia charges.
- Reduced the number of juveniles charged as adults from an average of 47 per year in the last five years to a record low of 19 in 2021. The number has been reduced every year since 2016.
- Made our Conviction Review Unit independent of other units and doubled its staff and capacity. This unit works to identify and free innocent people who have been wrongfully convicted.
- Became the first state attorney's office in Florida to support a claims bill on behalf of a person who was exonerated by a conviction review unit. If approved by the state legislature, the claims bill will provide compensation to Leonard Cure, who was exonerated and freed by our Conviction Review Unit.
- Instituted bail reform to recommend automatic release from jail with no cash required on low-level charges for defendants who do not pose a threat to community safety. These cases disproportionately affect economically disadvantaged communities.
- Worked to reduce the number of people in jail on low-level bonds (less than \$2,000) to around 3% throughout the year.
- Gave more prosecutorial discretion to assistant state attorneys. Decisions are more streamlined and the people who know the cases the best are empowered to do the right thing.



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INVESTING IN PEOPLE



- Established a grant writing department, which obtained almost \$1 million in grants with our law enforcement and community partners in its first year.
- Introduced a new pay structure and updated money management practices, which allowed the State Attorney to grant a pay raise to most employees without costing additional taxpayer dollars. These changes made the pay structure more transparent.
- Expanded the Misdemeanor Domestic Violence diversion program so that more defendants are eligible to participate.
- Creation of the Felony Mental Health Jail Diversion program, which permits participation by certain eligible offenders with domestic violence charges. Before the creation of this program, no felony offenders with domestic violence charges were eligible for diversion.
- Introduced training for all staff on recognizing and combatting implicit bias.
- Created skills labs for continuing training and education.
- Provided new training to raise awareness about discrimination and sexual harassment.
- Our Conviction Review Unit conducted training for attorneys in our other units on witness identifications and other issues.
- Lack of U.S. citizenship is no longer a bar for entry into our pre-trial diversion programs.
- Admissions of guilt are no longer required for entry into our diversion programs.
- Cast a wider net for entry into our pre-trial diversion programs, significantly increasing intake.



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SAFER COMMUNITIES



- Partnered with Florida International University on the Prosecutorial Performance Indicators Project, which will increase the office's transparency and accountability. The long-term project will create data dashboards that are shared with the public online. The neutral and objective information is then used to help analyze and measure prosecutorial decision-making and its impact on communities. The research will help our prosecutors to make more informed decisions and analyze what works and what needs attention or improvement.
- Expanded the Elderly Abuse Task Force to include the FBI, U.S. Attorney's Office, Florida Attorney General's Office, Broward law enforcement agencies, and others. Our Elder Abuse Unit created and launched a training program for law enforcement and others.
- Worked with law enforcement and other agencies to expand the juvenile civil citation program. Going forward, there is a consistent practice throughout the county that officers will first make every effort to issue a juvenile civil citation, rather than arresting eligible youths for minor misdemeanor offenses.
- Consistently working with Broward judges, the Sheriff's Office, Public Defenders' Office, defense attorneys and others to reduce the number of people in jail.
- Worked to establish a Hate Crimes Task Force.
- Expanded our Human Trafficking Division.
- Created a dedicated Cybercrimes Unit.



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