



**VICKI
BEHENNA**

Oklahoma County District Attorney



2025
**ANNUAL
REPORT**

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It is a privilege to continue serving as District Attorney for Oklahoma County, a community I have been part of for most of my professional life. This work carries a serious responsibility: to uphold the law, protect public safety, and ensure the justice system functions fairly and effectively for everyone it serves.

The cases reflected in this report represent a wide range of conduct and circumstances. Many involve victims whose lives were disrupted or harmed, and advocating for those victims remains a core responsibility of this office. Our prosecutors and staff work every day to ensure victims are treated with respect, informed throughout the process, and supported as cases move through the justice system.

Our office handles thousands of felony and misdemeanor cases each year, including violent crimes, domestic violence, crimes against children, and homicides. These matters require careful judgment, thorough preparation, and a commitment to applying the law consistently. Each case is evaluated on its facts, guided by evidence, and handled with an understanding of the impact our decisions carry for individuals and for the community as a whole.

At the same time, we recognize that public safety is strongest when accountability and opportunity work together. Through diversion programs, prevention efforts, and collaboration with law enforcement and community partners, we seek outcomes that promote responsibility, reduce future harm, and strengthen the safety and stability of our communities.

I am proud of the attorneys, investigators, victim advocates, and staff of the Oklahoma County District Attorney's Office. Their experience, professionalism, and dedication are evident in the work they do every day, both in the courtroom and throughout the community.

Thank you for taking the time to review this annual report. I remain committed to carrying out the responsibilities of this office with care, integrity, fairness, and respect for the rule of law.

Vicki Behenna

02

MISSION & VALUES

Years of Service
Retirements

Our Mission

The mission of the Oklahoma County District Attorney's Office is to protect the people of Oklahoma County by pursuing justice, upholding the rule of law, and serving as an impartial arbiter of the law. Through fair and ethical prosecution, we hold offenders accountable, protect the rights of crime victims, and work to maintain the public's trust in the criminal justice system. We also promote public safety by supporting diversion opportunities for eligible justice-involved individuals facing addiction and mental health challenges. In all aspects of our work, we are guided by professionalism, integrity, fairness, and a commitment to justice for all.

OUR VALUES

Objectivity: We evaluate each case based on its merits, free from bias and favoritism.

Compassion: We approach our work with empathy for those affected by crime and show mercy when appropriate.

Dedication: We commit fully to each case, pursuing the best possible outcome based on facts and evidence.

Accountability: As representatives of the people, we earn and maintain the public's trust through honesty and transparency.

YEARS OF SERVICE



CHERYL RAHMANZADEH

40 years



MISTY NORMAN

30 years

RETIREMENTS



DIANA RAPRICH



JANICE McDONALD



PAM ODQUIST

DISTRICT COURT FILINGS

6,020
2025 Felony Cases

4,500
2025 Misdemeanor Cases

6,049
2024 Felony Cases

4,624
2024 Misdemeanor Cases

128
Total Staff

66
Total Attorneys

15
Juvenile Division

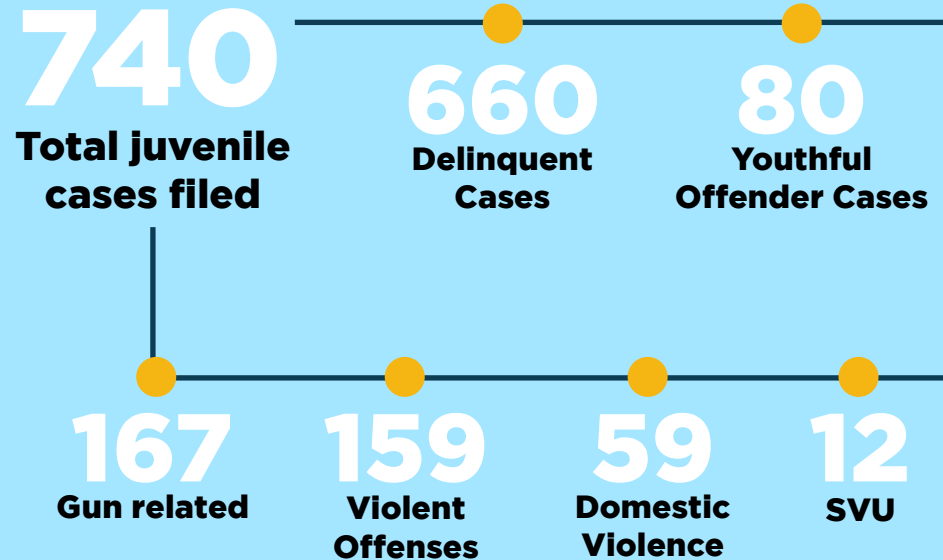
13
Diversion Team

10
Investigations Team

8
Victim/Witness Coordinators

JUVENILE DIVISION

Attorneys in the Juvenile Division handle matters ranging from delinquent acts to child welfare concerns. Delinquent cases focus on balancing accountability with rehabilitation, and the goal is to promote public safety while helping young people access the services and support needed. Child welfare cases focus on ensuring the safety and well-being of our most vulnerable population while respecting the rights of parents to raise their children. Court teams work together with community partners to provide resources and support for families to build healthier, more stable futures.



04

PROSECUTION TEAMS

General Felony
White Collar

General Felony is the largest team in the Oklahoma County District Attorney's Office. Oklahoma statute classifies any crime that is punishable by death or imprisonment in excess of a year, as a felony. The General Felony Team prosecutes felonies that include, but is not limited to, homicide, arson, animal cruelty, burglary, drug trafficking and others.

3,638

General Felony cases

279

Average caseload per
General Felony attorney

GUILTY VERDICT FOR MAN WHO ASSAULTED POLICE OFFICERS

An Oklahoma County jury convicted John Casey for assaulting three Oklahoma City Police Officers during a series of incidents over a 24-hour period in April 2023. Casey placed one officer in a chokehold during his arrest and later kicked and spit on officers while hospitalized and under guard. The jury found him guilty of two counts of Assault and Battery Upon a Police Officer and one count of Prisoner Placing Bodily Fluids on a Government Employee. The Court followed the jury's recommendation and sentenced Casey to 5 years in prison and a \$1,000 fine.

"The officers in this case responded to a dynamic situation with an individual looking for a fight," said Vicki Zemp Behenna. **"None of the officers involved in this case deserved the assault they endured.** I'm glad their injuries were not worse and am grateful the jury is holding Casey accountable for his actions."



John Casey

In 2025, DA Behenna stood up a **White Collar Crime Unit** focused on non-violent offenses committed through deception, fraud or abuse of trust for financial gain. Rather than physical force, white collar crimes rely on misrepresentation, manipulation of financial transactions, or falsification of records to unlawfully obtain or control assets.

Although they do not involve violence, white-collar crimes can cause significant financial harm to individuals, businesses, and government entities, and may undermine public trust in institutions. Dedicating prosecutors to these offenses helps protect victims from financial exploitation

White Collar cases filed in 2025:

208

Obtaining Property by Trick,
Deception or False Pretense

94

False Personation
of another

79

Identity Theft

652

Embezzlement

WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO IDENTITY THEFT

Hope Riddle used fictitious checks and stolen identity information to purchase more than \$1,055 in merchandise from a Del City business in late 2023. Investigators determined the checks were tied to an identity theft victim whose purse had been stolen and whose personal information had been used without her permission.

In November 2025, Riddle was sentenced to eight years in prison and is currently incarcerated.



Hope Riddle

04

PROSECUTION TEAMS

Domestic Violence

The **Domestic Violence (DV) Team** prosecutes felony domestic violence cases involving intimate partners which includes spouses, dating partners, former partners, roommates, and family members. These cases can be especially difficult to prosecute because survivors often face significant barriers to reporting and participating in the justice process, including fear of confronting their abuser. That fear is real: of intimate partner homicides, more than half involve a perpetrator who had previously committed an act of abuse against the victim.

652
DV cases filed in Oklahoma County in 2025

59%
were dismissed due to “lack of victim cooperation”

186
average caseload per DV Team prosecutor

WORKING TOGETHER TO SUPPORT SURVIVORS

More than half of all women (51.5%) and 46% of men in Oklahoma will experience domestic violence, sexual violence, or stalking in their lifetime. These statistics underscore the urgent need for coordinated action and community partnership.

The Oklahoma County District Attorney’s Office is proud to serve on Palomar’s Advisory Council, working alongside community leaders to identify needs and strengthen support for survivors.

That commitment was on display as members of the DA Office’s Domestic Violence Team attended the groundbreaking for Palomar’s new Family Justice Center, a major step forward in expanding wraparound services for survivors and their families.

District Attorney Vicki Zemp Behenna remains proud to support Palomar’s mission and the vital work being done to protect and empower victims.



DA Behenna and the DV Team attend the groundbreaking for Palomar’s new Family Justice Center on May 9, 2025.

JUSTICE FOR GENEVA JORDAN



In April 2025, justice was finally served for Geneva Jordan when her husband entered a blind plea of guilty for her murder.

Geneva was beat and stabbed to death in March 2020. She was found after a family member called Oklahoma City police to do a welfare check at the couple’s apartment. Banks fled the state and was arrested days later in Denton, Texas.

Geneva Jordan

Banks was sentenced to life without the possibility of parole. As part of the plea agreement, Banks can have no contact with the two children he shared with Geneva until they are 18.

“First off, I want to thank the State and Judge Coyle,” said Geneva’s sister after the plea. “I’m glad he will never walk free. Justice has been served for Geneva. Anyone that’s in a domestic violence situation; they do not love you. Actions speak louder than words. Please seek help from family, friends. I promise you, they would love to help you rather than bury you. **Don’t be embarrassed to seek help. You are enough.**”

“I’m glad the defendant accepted this plea and sentence so that her family can avoid reliving her murder during a trial.”

DA BEHENNA, on Kendreen Banks pleading guilty to Geneva Jordan’s murder

04

PROSECUTION TEAMS

Special Victims Unit

The **Special Victims Unit (SVU)** is dedicated to pursuing justice for the most vulnerable members of our community. Prosecutors handle cases such as sex crimes, child abuse, child neglect, and internet crimes against children. Every case is approached with care and expertise, ensuring that victims are supported, their rights protected, and offenders held accountable.

2025 NOTABLE SVU CASES

CF-2022-3353 | BRIGIDO GONZALEZ

Convicted by a jury of sexually abusing two granddaughters
Sentenced to 120 years in prison

CF-2024-0791 | VERNON HALL

Convicted by a jury of sexual battery and kidnapping
Sentenced to life in prison

CF-2024-1895 | BENNY JOE SALAZAR

Convicted of sexually abusing his 6-year-old granddaughter
Sentenced to life without the possibility of parole

CF-2023-1675 | COREY MATHERNE

Plead guilty to sexually touching his 4-year-old step daughter
Sentenced to life with the first 20 years to do in prison

CF-2023-4709 | DUSTY KITCHKO

Convicted by a jury of sexually abusing former stepson
Sentenced to 61 years in prison



Connie Markwell

I'm so glad justice was served on this child predator!

Shared on Facebook following Dusty Kitchko's conviction

SURVIVORS FIRST, JUSTICE SECURED

In August 2025, the Oklahoma County District Attorney's Office secured a life sentence through a plea agreement with Andre Hunter, resolving a violent sexual assault case involving a rideshare driver. Hunter, 21, pled guilty to multiple felony charges, including First Degree Rape, stemming from the April 2024 attack. The plea was entered ahead of a scheduled jury trial, ensuring accountability while sparing the survivor the trauma and uncertainty of a trial.



Andre Hunter

According to the investigation, Kari Burton was working as a rideshare driver when Hunter threatened her life, forced her to drive to a park in Del City, and sexually assaulted her.

"As she shared in her victim impact statement, she took back her power," said DA Behenna. "Her courage is an inspiration and offers hope to other survivors. You have a voice, and we will fight on your behalf to hold offenders like Andre Hunter accountable."

Hunter's life sentence in the rape case will be served consecutively to 27 years previously imposed in two separate felony cases, ensuring he will remain incarcerated for the remainder of his life.



Kari Tipton Burton

I personally want to thank everyone who helped make this happen. [ADA] Caitlin Watkins was phenomenal and I'm forever grateful for the support and hard work to take it to the end. Now for a new journey, healing and new life.

Shared on Facebook following the plea.

04

PROSECUTION TEAMS

Special Victims Unit

SVU CASES FILED IN 2025

205

**Violation of the
Sex Offenders
Registration Act**

122

**Indecent or Lewd
Acts with a Child
Under 16**

10

**Facilitate
Communication
with a Minor for Sex**

192

Sexual Assault

84

**Child
Pornography**

6

**Enabling Child Sexual
Abuse or Child Sexual
Exploitation**

172

**Child Abuse &
Child Neglect**

38

**Clandestine
Photos**

5

**Murder in the First
Degree, Death of a
Child by Injuring,
Torturing, Maiming**

160

**Child Sexual Abuse
& Child Sexual
Exploitation**

11

**Human
Trafficking**

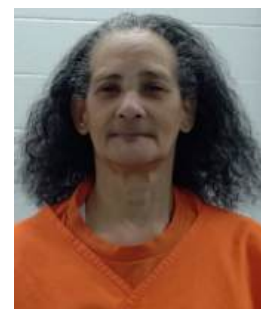
3

**Revenge
Pornography**

CASE HIGHLIGHT: EMMA BIVINS

In January 2025, Emma Bivins plead guilty to four counts of enabling child sexual abuse, two counts of child abuse and five counts of child neglect. The charges stem from an investigation into the care of five minor children living in the Bivins family home. Police found the children in unsanitary conditions, without adequate medical care or sleeping arrangements, and some were nonverbal due to developmental delays.

Interviews revealed that the children were the offspring of Maria Bivins (Emma's biological daughter) and Timmothy Bivins (Emma's husband). Emma admitted knowledge of the children's situation and their home environment. Following



Emma Bivins

intervention, all five children were placed into protective custody to ensure their safety and well-being.

The Court accepted the plea and sentenced Emma Bivins to Life with the first 18 years to do in the Oklahoma Department of Corrections.

04

PROSECUTION TEAMS

Homicide

Our **Homicide Team** consists of the most experienced prosecutors in the office. Assigned at the outset, each attorney stays with the case through every stage of prosecution, working closely with law enforcement and coordinating with the victim/witness center to support families and seek justice.

LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE IN DRIVE-BY THAT KILLED 9-YEAR-OLD BOY

In October 2022, nine-year-old Dumarcus Fuller Jr. was sitting in his living room playing video games when he was shot in a senseless drive-by shooting. He was rushed to the hospital by family members where he was pronounced dead.

Investigators canvassed the neighborhood, reviewed surveillance footage, and traced a white Chevrolet Cobalt seen circling the cul-de-sac moments before shots were fired. Phone data, license plate readers, and witness accounts ultimately tied the vehicle to Sean Beals, placing it in the area at the time of the shooting.

After a methodical investigation, prosecutors charged four men in Demarcus' murder. In April 2025, Michael Williams became the first defendant to go to trial and was convicted of first-degree murder by a jury. He was later sentenced to life without the possibility of parole. Co-defendant Austin Parker subsequently entered a blind plea and received a 35-year prison sentence, while two other defendants are awaiting trial. The case reflects the steady, deliberate work of investigators and prosecutors to hold those responsible accountable and seek justice for Demarcus' family.



Demarcus Fuller Jr.

Murder cases filed in 2025:

78 Murder **21** Manslaughter

JURY HOLDS JUVENILE RESPONSIBLE FOR DOUBLE MURDER

An Oklahoma County jury found Gustavo Peralta guilty of two counts of First-Degree Murder in the August 2021 deaths of 16-year-old Ramon Sosa and 52-year-old Angela Sosa. Peralta, who was 16 at the time of the murders, was charged as an adult based on concerns that he posed a significant future threat to the community.



Angela Sosa

Oklahoma County District Attorney Vicki Zemp Behenna praised the jury and law enforcement, stating, "This was a calculated and devastating act of violence that took two lives and permanently altered a family."

Members of the Sosa family praised the hard work of the prosecutors assigned this case. **"Thank you to the Oklahoma County District Attorney's Office for understanding. Both of our attorneys were remarkable and we appreciate how fiercely they fought to seek justice for our family."**



Ramon Sosa



Jessica Sosa

Thank you guys for everything... we know you have worked tirelessly to get us justice! We can never thank yall enough. I pray God keeps blessing you guys with the knowledge and fierce fight to keep getting justice for the ppl who need it. Although it doesn't bring back my mom or nephew we can finally work on moving forward. Again thank you guys so much from the bottom of my heart.

Shared on Facebook following the verdict.

FIREARMS AND OUR CHILDREN: A PREVENTABLE CRISIS



Firearms are the leading cause of death for children and teens ages 0-19 in the United States, according to data from the CDC. Sadly, Oklahoma County is not immune from this crisis.

Kenari Windom

On July 6, 2025, three-year-old Kenari Windom tragically lost his life after shooting himself with an unsecured firearm. The investigation revealed Anthony Grizzard left the gun on a bed while he was playing video games. Kenari was able to access the weapon and fired it, causing his death.

Grizzard has been charged with Second-Degree Murder and Felon in Possession of a Firearm. Following the new charges, a judge accelerated Grizzard's prior deferred sentences after finding he violated the terms of his probation. He was sentenced to 25 years on those violations.

While the legal process continues in the new case against Grizzard, the focus remains on preventing future tragedies. Kenari's death underscores the urgent need for safe storage, adult supervision, and public awareness to prevent another senseless accidental death of a child in our community.



Kyli Molloy

COLD CASE SOLVED

Joseph Tyler Beck was sentenced to life without the possibility of parole for the 2016 murder of 19-year-old Kyli Molloy. Despite years of exhaustive investigative efforts, the case remained unsolved. That changed in 2024, when Beck confessed during an encounter with an Oklahoma Highway Patrol trooper, bringing long-awaited justice nearly a decade after her death.

"This case is a powerful reminder of the tireless work of law enforcement and prosecutors who never give up seeking justice for victims," said DA Vicki Zemp Behenna.

JUSTICE FOR RJ: JURY CONVICTS IN ROSE STATE COLLEGE MURDER

On April 24, 2023, what began as an ordinary school day at Rose State College ended in tragedy.

Just after noon, officers with the Midwest City Police Department were dispatched to the Humanities building after reports of gunfire. When the first officer arrived, he encountered 32-year-old Brandon Morrisette on his knees, surrendering. Nearby, 20-year-old Robenie "RJ" Long lay on the ground with seven gunshot wounds. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

In October 2025, after days of testimony, a jury convicted Morrisette of First-Degree Murder and Possession of a Firearm on School Property. Jurors recommended a sentence of Life without the Possibility of Parole for the murder conviction and one year for the firearm offense.

"I was just praying for them as they were leaving to go deliberate," said Kelly Long, RJ's mother. "I think they made the right choices. I'm so thankful for our judicial system and thankful for our jurists."



RJ Long, 20

04

PROSECUTION TEAMS

Violent Crime
Misdemeanor

In 2025, as a response to ongoing concerns about violent crime in Oklahoma County, District Attorney Behenna established the **Violent Crime Unit** to focus on the cases that have the greatest impact on community safety. Staffed by three dedicated Assistant District Attorneys, the Unit prosecutes serious offenses involving gangs, repeat violent offenders, and crimes that endanger neighborhoods.

By concentrating prosecutorial resources and experience on the behaviors that most directly threaten public safety, the Violent Crime Unit plays a crucial role in reducing harm, holding offenders accountable, and helping Oklahoma County remain a safer place to live, work, and raise a family.

LATE NIGHT PURSUIT LEADS TO PRISON



Deondre Street

After leading Oklahoma City police on a late-night pursuit in a recently stolen vehicle, Deondre Street took off on foot through a residential neighborhood, discarding a backpack that contained two firearms and his identification. Officers later recovered Street's cellphone along the same path. Surveillance video from a nearby residence also captured Street fleeing from the stolen vehicle. Because Street has multiple prior felony convictions, he is prohibited from possessing firearms.

In November 2025, Street pled guilty to Felon in Possession of a Firearm and Unauthorized Use of a Vehicle. He was sentenced to 16 years in prison and 15 years on supervised probation through the Oklahoma Department of Corrections, with probation conditions that include gang restrictions.

Violent Crime cases filed in 2025:

646

Felon in Possession of a Firearm

111

Assault & Battery with a Deadly Weapon

58

Use of a Vehicle in Discharge of a Weapon

58

Possession of a Firearm on Probation

42

Gang related Offense

8

Shooting with Intent to Kill

The **Misdemeanor Team** manages one of the office's largest and highest-volume caseloads. This team carries a diverse and rigorous workload, ranging from charging all misdemeanor offenses and traffic citations issued in Oklahoma County to overseeing specialized areas like the wildlife docket. Beyond initial filings, the team is responsible for the full lifecycle of a case, including litigating jury trials and conducting Rule 8 cost hearings. They also handle both misdemeanor and felony revocation hearings, ensuring that court-ordered conditions are followed.

Made up primarily of the office's newest attorneys, the Misdemeanor Team also serves as an important foundation for the office, providing prosecutors with the courtroom experience and casework necessary to grow into future felony assignments.

4,500

Misdemeanors filed in 2025

17,000

Traffic citations filed in 2025



***“For decades Cleo greeted people on that first floor of the Courthouse. Sometimes on their best day, whether it be a wedding or an adoption or some other joyful event, but more likely than not, he was seeing people on their worst day. On the day of a divorce or on the day that a victim had to face her abuser or defendant’s family had to learn the fate of that defendant. But it didn’t matter who the person was, it didn’t matter the color of their skin, it didn’t matter their origin in any way, each person that entered that courthouse was greeted with a smile and saw the light that emanated from his soul. His smile said to individuals that were at the courthouse: I recognize you, I see you and it’s going be okay.*”**

Mr. Cleo was the presence, I believe, of God’s love and he shared it every single day. Cleo is in a better place right now with the God he loved and a God who loved him dearly. To Mr. Cleo rest in peace faithful servant thank you.”

VICKI BEHENNA

06

OUT AND ABOUT

Across Oklahoma County & Beyond

The DA's Office attended the OCU & OU Law Criminal Law Association's event in February. It provided an opportunity for ADAs to talk to students about their careers/offices/summer internships and offer legal career advice.



DA Behenna had the distinct privilege to join ReMerge graduates and other supporters in breaking ground on the new ReMerge Graduate Center. The Center will provide ongoing resources and a supportive environment for the 214 graduates of the program.



Members of our Misdemeanor Team pictured at an office get together.

We were honored to join STAAR Foundation's Sooner Haven Summer Bash! For our team, it was a meaningful opportunity to connect directly with the community.



Representatives from the DA's Office attend the 57th annual Oklahoma Law Enforcement Memorial.



DA Behenna does an interview with News9 about Chronic Absenteeism.



The Office's newest ADAs attend Prosecutor Boot camp.

Poncho (left) and Quincy (right), the DA Office's therapy dogs.



06

OUT AND ABOUT

Across Oklahoma County & Beyond



Hanging out at the 2nd Annual Oklahoma County Juvenile Justice Center Open House.

Shout out to our interns on National Intern Day! We're proud to play a role in shaping the next generation of public servants, attorneys, and advocates.



Keith Toles and Kathy Taylor hand out gunlocks at the Deer Creek Back to School Bash.



DA Investigators, ADAs and staff participate in an active shooter training in Del City.



ADA Jacqueline Campisano was one of three DA Office attorney's recognized as an Outstanding Prosecutor for 2025 by MADD.



The DA's Office collected 131 pounds of food and \$585 for the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma.



DA Behenna attends the MOU signing between UCO and Midwest City. The effort is to help solve cold cases.

Veterans Treatment Court Coordinator, Kiel Kuroki, right, recognizing the hard work put in by Treatment Court participants at the Celebration of Graduates.



In October 2025, the Oklahoma County District Attorney's Office participated in a week-long learning experience in Washington, D.C., following an invitation from the Oklahoma Justice Circle. The trip brought together Oklahoma City metro law enforcement leaders and Black community leaders for intentional dialogue focused on race, policing, and America's history. The District Attorney's Office was represented by Director of Communications Brook Arbeitman, who was one of ten individuals invited to participate in the journey.

The Oklahoma Justice Circle hosts Breaking Bread lunches in communities across the city, bringing people together around a table to engage in meaningful conversation. The Breaking Bread initiative is built on the belief that honest dialogue, often shared over food, can strengthen communities, foster understanding, and help shape a better future.

That same philosophy guided the Washington, D.C. experience. The ten participants were intentionally paired, each community member with a member of law enforcement, to experience exhibits and historic sites together. These pairings created space to share perspectives and reflect side by side throughout the day. Conversations that began within each pair continued over dinner with the group, creating opportunities to listen, learn, and better understand one another's lived experiences. More often than not, those dinner conversations carried late into the evening as strangers became friends.

As for experiencing our country's history, the "DC Crew 2025" visited the National Museum of African American History and Culture, Arlington National Cemetery, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and the National Law Enforcement Museum. Each site prompted reflection on history, service, accountability, and the lasting impact of injustice. Participants also met with U.S. Senator James Lankford, who provided a private tour of the U.S. Capitol during the federal government shutdown. The group attended a performance of The American Five at Ford's Theatre, which was about Dr. Martin

Luther King Jr., and the four of those closest to him in the months leading up to the famous 'I have a Dream' speech in Washington.

While the itinerary included significant educational experiences, the most meaningful moments often occurred after the tours ended, during late night conversations, shared laughter, and thoughtful discussions about race, law enforcement, and justice. Experiences like the Breaking Bread Initiative support the DA Office's ongoing commitment to accountability, community engagement, and a justice system that serves all of Oklahoma County.



Participants and organizers arrived in DC.



Brook and her partner, Phil, at the Holocaust Museum.



National Museum of African American History.



After dinner discussions.



One of many meals shared together.

MENTAL HEALTH BELONGS AT THE CENTER OF OKLAHOMA JUSTICE REFORM EFFORTS

Providing community-based treatment options and intervention programs enhances public safety and ensures that our justice system upholds the dignity of every individual

I have worked in the criminal justice system my entire career. As a federal prosecutor and now as Oklahoma County District Attorney, I've seen first hand how untreated mental illness fuels the revolving door of arrest, incarceration, release, rearrest, incarceration and release. I've spent decades navigating the complexities of our justice system, and I can confidently say that there is a direct correlation between the investment in intervention and treatment programs and crime in our community.

Too often, our jails act as mental health holding facilities, with some people landing behind bars not because they're dangerous, but because they're mentally ill and don't have access to a continuum of care. This approach is neither just nor effective. It strains our legal system, burdens law enforcement and taxpayers, and fails to address the root causes of why a mentally ill person continues to enter the criminal justice system.

In Oklahoma County, we're witnessing the consequences of this misalignment. The Oklahoma County jail has long grappled with overcrowding and inadequate conditions. Many inmates suffer from mental health issues that go untreated for years, exacerbating their conditions and increasing the likelihood of reoffending upon release.

Treating mental health helps lower crime rates

Programs like ReMerge and DREAMS courts (Mental Health Court) offer a more compassionate and sensible alternative. By diverting individuals with mental health and substance use disorders away from incarceration and into treatment, these initiatives not only help keep

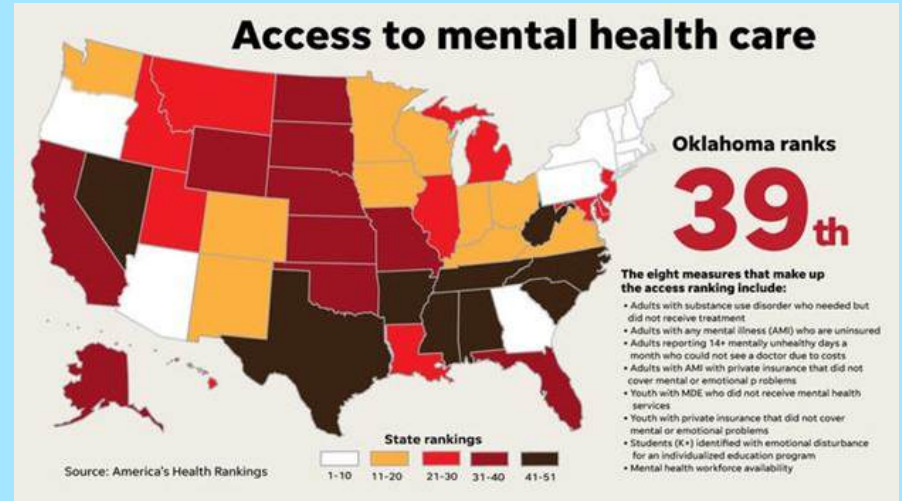


Photo Courtesy: Todd Pendleton, Getty Images

people from cycling back through the system but can also restore families and the dignity of those suffering with mental illness.

The result is a lower crime rate and safer communities. In Oklahoma City alone, the crime rate has significantly declined over the last six years.

Providing community-based treatment options and intervention programs enhances public safety and ensures that our justice system upholds the dignity of every individual.

As someone who has prosecuted high-profile cases, I understand the importance of a justice system that is both fair and effective. By placing mental health care at the center of justice reform, we can create a system that truly serves and protects our community.

To break the cycle, we must prioritize mental health care as a cornerstone of justice reform.

Preventing Youth Violence Proactively



DA Behenna attends an online YSAC meeting.

DA Vicki Behenna serves on the Youth Safety Advisory Committee (YSAC), a collaborative effort among schools, law enforcement, and community leaders to understand and address the root cause of youth violence in our community. The YSAC meets monthly and is focused on prevention and intervention by developing strategies to reduce violence, including exploring programs focused on mediation, conflict resolution and early intervention. Together, we're working to keep our youth safe and create a stronger future for Oklahoma County.

Oklahoma City Bombing: 30 Years Later

April 2025 marked 30 years since Timothy McVeigh blew up the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, one of the deadliest acts of domestic terrorism in U.S. history. DA Behenna was a young federal prosecutor assigned to the McVeigh trial team, an experience she shared with members of the office around the anniversary. DA Behenna reflected on the immense preparation required for a case of that magnitude, the weight of responsibility prosecutors carried on behalf of victims and survivors, and the lasting professional and personal impact the trial had on those involved.



DA Behenna speaks to prosecutors about her experience prosecuting Timothy McVeigh.

As part of the 30th anniversary, DA Behenna also spoke to students at Newkirk High School. She reflected on witnessing her hometown forever changed and described how Oklahomans came together in the aftermath, putting differences aside in the face of unimaginable loss. By offering her firsthand perspective to a new generation, DA Behenna reinforced the enduring lessons of service, unity, and the responsibility to seek justice even in the darkest moments.



DA Behenna speaking to New Kirk High School Students.

Fighting Impaired Driving

District Attorney Vicki Zemp Behenna joined law enforcement partners in December at Penn Square Mall for the annual Tree of Life Ceremony, honoring lives lost in Oklahoma County to impaired driving. Each present under the tree represents someone deeply loved and taken far too soon.

At the ceremony, DA Behenna reaffirmed her office's commitment to preventing DUI deaths, including dedicating a prosecutor whose sole focus is impaired-driving cases, from repeat offenses to DUI homicides. The Oklahoma County District Attorney's Office remains committed to safer roads and to standing with the families who live with these losses every day.



DA Behenna speaking at the Tree of Life Ceremony.

“Every day gives us a new opportunity to do the right thing. The work we do matters, and I'm grateful to serve this community.”

DA BEHENNA, on the responsibility carried by prosecutors

HELPING PARTNERS IN THE FIELD



On April 10, 2025, the OSBI ICAC Unit, Oklahoma County Sheriff’s Office, Oklahoma County District Attorney’s Office, and the Oklahoma City Community College Police Department served a search warrant at Andrew Thibeault’s residence in Midwest City. Based on evidence obtained during the search warrant, Thibeault was arrested and ultimately pled to charges of Child Sexual Abuse Material and Using a Computer to Violate Oklahoma Statute. He was sentenced to 20 years with the first 10 years to do in the Oklahoma Department of Corrections.

COLD CASE RESOLVED AFTER MORE THAN 20 YEARS

A 2003 homicide case reached resolution in 2025, underscoring the lasting impact of forensic science and cold case investigations.

Sandra Garcia was found deceased in her Oklahoma City home on September 30, 2003. The case remained unsolved until DNA evidence entered into CODIS generated a match, prompting renewed investigative efforts.

Former Oklahoma County DA Investigator Mike Burke played a key role in advancing the case through detailed evidence review and preparation of the probable cause affidavit. Burke retired from the office in April 2024.

In March 2025, Andrew Louis Canaday pled guilty to First Degree Manslaughter. He was sentenced to 30 years, with the first 15 years to be served in the Oklahoma Department of Corrections.

This resolution reflects the ongoing commitment to seeking justice, regardless of how much time has passed.

INVESTIGATOR DARREN GORDON: ATTORNEY GENERAL’S OFFICER OF THE YEAR FINALIST



Attorney General Gentner Drummond, Investigator Darren Gordon and DA Behenna.

What began as a violent kidnapping investigation evolved into the discovery of a multi-state criminal enterprise, thanks to the work of Oklahoma County District Attorney Investigator Darren Gordon. Leveraging advanced investigative technology and reviewing massive volumes of data, Gordon connected the crime to a broader conspiracy involving six defendants.

Working alongside federal, state, and local partners in Texas, Gordon assisted in executing coordinated search warrants that exposed a broader criminal syndicate, including pill press facilities producing thousands of counterfeit controlled dangerous substances. His tenacity, attention to detail, and continued investigative work have been critical to this ongoing case.



“Congratulations Darren for your exceptional professionalism and dedication to protecting the citizens of Oklahoma County,” said DA Behenna. **“We are proud of you and the work you do.”**

Celebrating Darren at the awards ceremony in November.



01.27 2025 Speakers Ball



04.28 "We have Arrived" Ribbon Cutting



06.21 Juneteenth on the East



01.15 Taping of 'The Verdict'



02.04 Greater OKC Chamber Legislative Reception



02.17 DUI Victims' Awareness Day



02.25 OKCPS Attendance Task Force



04.05 OSBI Centennial Celebration



04.29 Chief's Prayer Breakfast



04.30 Committee of 100 Awards Banquet



06.01 Pride Parade Kickoff



06.21 Palapastock fundraiser for Fields & Futures



06.24 Celebrating our NBA Championship



07.18 Judicial Education Conference



08.16 Katz Drug Sit-in Reinactment



09.25 National Day of Remembrance



06.27

Paint the Block: Gun Violence Awareness Month

07.03

Stars, Stripes and Pipes

07.04

Crowne Heights July 4th Parade Judge

07.16

State of the City Address

07.17

Oklahoma Municipal Contractors Association

07.25

Ebenezer Baptist Church Community Meeting

06.25

Meeting with The Village Police Department

07.30

Downtown OKC Partnership Meeting

08.02

OCPD Awards Banquet

08.05

Comeback Kids Society Tour



10.07 YWCA Wreath of Hope Ceremony



12.07 The Power of Possible Gala



12.20 A Christmas Carole at Lyric Theater



10.01 Juvenile Justice Panel



10.02 Wrongful Conviction Day



10.12 Labor & Religion Breakfast



10.14 Presentation to Rotary Club of Oklahoma City



10.17 Presentation to South OKC Chamber of Commerce



10.27 OKCPS Foundation Wall of Fame Dinner



11.11 DA Cross Commissioning Ceremony



11.20 TEEM Thanksgiving Luncheon



12.11 DHUB Home for the Holidays

12.12 Building & Trades Christmas Lunch



Major-Mike R. Hoskins

The transparency of the DA's office is so important. Just another example of your commitment to the public and Oklahoma County. 🙏

Shared on Facebook

MENTORING THE NEXT GENERATION

District Attorney Vicki Behenna met with legal interns at the Oklahoma Supreme Court, offering an inside look at a career dedicated to public service. Drawing from her experience as both a prosecutor and a defense attorney, she shared practical insights into criminal law, professional growth, and the responsibilities carried by attorneys on both sides of the courtroom.

Throughout the discussion, District Attorney Behenna emphasized a guiding principle that has defined her career: the importance of doing the job right, whether serving as a prosecutor or defense attorney, and approaching the work with integrity, fairness, and respect for the justice system. The conversation underscored the office's ongoing commitment to mentorship, ethical practice, and inspiring the next generation of legal professionals.



MORE TOOLS TO HOLD DV OFFENDERS ACCOUNTABLE

Senate Bill 607, which took effect November 1, 2025, allows certain statements made by a victim of domestic violence to be admitted in criminal proceedings, including preliminary hearings. Statements made to law enforcement at the time of the incident, information included in a protective order application, and testimony given during a protective order hearing may now be used as evidence.

This change helps close a longstanding gap in domestic violence prosecutions, particularly when a victim is afraid to testify, faces intimidation or retaliation from an abuser, or later recants. It gives prosecutors additional tools to hold offenders accountable while recognizing the realities many survivors face after abuse.

EXPANDED DEFINITION OF AGGRAVATED DUI

Oklahoma's Legislature passed Senate Bill 54, which expands when a DUI can be charged as a felony and increases penalties for impaired driving.

A DUI may be elevated to a felony if it involves certain aggravating circumstances, including:

- causing a crash;
- driving with a minor in the vehicle;
- excessive speeding or reckless driving;
- eluding law enforcement; or
- having a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of 0.15 or higher.

The new law, which went into effect November 1, 2025, does not automatically make all first-time DUI offenses a felony, but it creates a broader category of "aggravated DUI" felonies that can apply on a first offense when one or more of the specified conditions above are met.



**VICKI
BEHENNA**
Oklahoma County District Attorney