

Office of Statewide Prosecution

For Calendar Year 2001 with Caseload and Financial Statistics for Fiscal Year 2000-2001

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Office of Statewide Prosecution is authorized to investigate and prosecute multi-circuit organized crime. The Office utilizes a police/prosecutor team approach in multi-offender, multi-offense, multi-jurisdictional criminal cases. The goal of the teams is to dismantle the organizations through effective prosecution and civil, administrative, and regulatory sanctions where appropriate. To achieve this goal, the staff relies on four fundamental values: justice, integrity, innovation, and commitment.

The priorities of the Office are: (1) white collar crimes (including identity theft, health care fraud, government contract fraud, insurance fraud, telemarketing fraud, title loan fraud, securities fraud, and fraud against the elderly); (2) computer crimes (including fraud, intrusions, and child pornography); and (3) violent offenses (including narcotics trafficking and money laundering) perpetrated by organized groups.

In FY 2000-2001, the Office handled a total volume of 1,127 complex criminal investigations and 497 filed cases, worked in conjunction with 88 law enforcement agencies and numerous State and Federal Task Forces. The conviction rate was 96%. The dispositions achieved are detailed herein. Financial benefit to the citizens of the State in the form of assessed fines, penalties, and restitution amounted to almost \$66 million dollars. Collections exceeded the total operating budget. Law enforcement and victims gave the Office positive service ratings in annual surveys.

The Office of Program Policy Analysis and Governmental Accountability conducted a comprehensive review and reported that the Office is "effective and economically viable." The Office was commended in two Cabinet Resolutions and received two Davis Productivity Awards.

The Office of Statewide Prosecution, with its specialized assignments and multi-circuit jurisdiction, fills a unique role in Florida's criminal justice system. We believe this report illustrates its effectiveness.

Melanie Ann Hines
Statewide Prosecutor
March 1, 2002

I. INTRODUCTION

The Office of Statewide Prosecution was created by constitutional amendment in 1986. Article IV, Section 4 of the Florida Constitution, together with Section 16.56, of the Florida Statutes, sets forth the jurisdiction and authority of the Office.

The mission of the Office is to investigate and prosecute multi-circuit organized crime and to assist other law enforcement officials in their efforts against organized crime.

Pursuant to Section 16.56 (2), Florida Statutes, this report is submitted to the Governor and the Attorney General of the State of Florida.

II. INVESTIGATIONS AND PROSECUTIONS

A. Caseload Statistics

[Consistent with the Long Range Planning Report and the Legislative Budget Request, caseload data is reported herein on a fiscal year basis.]

The active caseload of the Office includes: (1) cases filed in FY 2000-2001; (2) cases filed in prior years which remained in litigation during FY 2000-2001; (3) long-term, complex criminal investigations; and (4) Statewide Grand Jury presentations.

1. Cases Filed in FY 2000-2001

The Office filed more than 5,000 criminal charges against 553 defendants in 247 complex, multi-circuit cases.

The criminal charges filed by the Office are among the most serious felonies prohibited by law. They are often joined together in Racketeering indictments. These charges are: Bribery, Burglary, Usury, Extortion, Gambling, Kidnapping, Theft, Murder, Prostitution, Perjury, Robbery, Home-Invasion Robbery, Car-Jacking, Narcotics Violations, Antitrust Violations, Anti-Fencing Violations, Crimes Involving Fraud and Deceit, Computer Crimes, and Attempts, Solicitations, or Conspiracies to commit these offenses.

The charges were filed in 32 counties: Alachua, Brevard, Broward, Charlotte, Collier, Columbia, Dade, Duval, Escambia, Hamilton, Hernando, Hillsborough, Lake, Lee, Leon, Manatee, Marion, Monroe, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Putnam, Sarasota, Seminole, St. Johns, Sumter, Suwannee, Taylor, & Volusia.

2. Total Inventory of Filed Cases Handled in FY 2000-2001.

The Office handled a total inventory of 6,809 charges against 1,052 defendants in 497 filed cases which were in various stages of active litigation. Of these, 450 defendants in 240 cases reached disposition on 2,968 counts.

3. Active Investigations Pending in FY 2000-2001

The caseload of the Office includes legal and operational assistance to law enforcement officers in major criminal investigations and task force operations. The Office received 519 new requests from law enforcement to assist in their investigations of multi-circuit organized criminal activity. The total inventory of active investigations was 1,127.

The investigations were conducted by, or in coordination with, 88 law enforcement or regulatory agencies, and numerous State and Federal Task Forces.

4. Cases Disposed of in FY 2000-2001

The State prevailed in its cases against 450 of the 470 defendants reaching disposition, following a plea or trial, with a resulting conviction rate of 96%.

The sentences total:

Prison Terms:	1,232.85 years/ 3 Life
Jail time:	15,776 days
Probation Terms:	1,846.7 years
Community Control:	57.4 years
Community Service Hours:	8,842
Victim Restitution:	\$55,923,739
Number of Victims:	1,357 (including 48 government agencies)
Fines:	\$6,128,513
Court Costs:	\$ 81,466
Costs of Prosecution:	\$1,171,610
Costs of Investigation:	\$2,607,070
Total Monetary Assessments:	\$65,912,398

5. Economic impact: The assessments are 13 times the total operating budget of the Office. Collections in FY 2000-2001 were almost three times as much as the budget.

B. Statewide Grand Jury

Pursuant to Section 905.36, Florida Statutes, the Statewide Prosecutor and Assistants serve as legal advisers to the Statewide Grand Jury.

The Fifteenth Statewide Grand Jury ended its term in March, 2001. The Grand Jury issued four reports: (1) Fraud in the Viatical Industry; (2) Insurance Fraud Related to Personal Injury Protection (PIP Fraud); (3) An Analysis of Florida's Drug Control Efforts; and a Final Report detailing its work. The Reports are available on-line: address <http://myfloridalegal.com/swp>

As a result of the Grand Jury's recommendations, the Legislature passed new laws in the areas of insurance fraud (particularly, availability of automobile crash reports) and narcotics trafficking.

The Sixteenth Statewide Grand Jury was empaneled in July of 2001. In the first six months of operations, the grand jury indicted 33 defendants on charges of criminal use of personal identifying information, racketeering, organized fraud, grand theft, money laundering and other crimes. It issued its first report in January of 2002 with recommendations to prevent identity theft. The work of the grand jury is ongoing.

C. The Police/Prosecutor Team Approach

The Office utilizes a police/prosecutor team approach to attack multi-offender, multi-offense, multi-jurisdictional criminal organizations. The goal of the teams is to dismantle these organizations through effective prosecution and civil, administrative, and regulatory sanctions where appropriate. This requires coordination with a number of law enforcement agencies and other executive branch agencies throughout the State. Every case involves detailed investigative planning using a "task force" approach, complex charging documents followed by intensive pre-trial motion activity, and possible parallel litigation for civil remedies, all of which must be coordinated by the handling prosecutor.

In addition to the individual case teams, the Office created prosecution teams to handle as priority issues the following types of cases: insurance fraud; health care fraud, fraud against the government; crimes against the elderly; narcotics cases; and computer crimes. A priority leader directs the units described below and coordinate with the Assistant Statewide Prosecutors handling these cases throughout the State to ensure consistency in investigative techniques, charges, procedures, and dispositions.

1. The Computer Crime Unit was created by appropriation of two prosecutors devoted to cases involving fraud and theft, system intrusions, on-line solicitations and threats, and child pornography. During this FY, the unit handled 69 cases and assisted in 216 cases in which a computer system was used to facilitate the crime under investigation, twice as many as the prior year. The prosecutors conducted 34 computer crime training sessions for law enforcement and other prosecutors. In conjunction with the National Cyber-Crime Training partnership and the National White Collar crime Center, the unit assisted in the creation of training materials for computer evidence recovery and computer crimes investigations.

The prosecutors served on the following Task Forces addressing these important issues:

Federal Computer Investigators Commission

Florida Association of Computer Crimes Investigators

Florida INFRAGUARD

Governor's Anti-Terrorism Task Force

Governor's Privacy and Technology Task Force

International Association of Chiefs of Police High Technology Crime Workgroup

Law Enforcement Effort against Child Harm Task Force (LEECH)

Law Enforcement Electronic Technical Assistance Council (LEETAC)

National Association of Attorneys General Internet Crime Task Force

National Association of Attorneys General, Subcommittee on "INTERNET Kiddie Porn"

National Center for Forensic Science, Digital Evidence Planning Committee
National Cyber-Crime Training Partnership, State and Local Planning Committee,
Management Committee, Network Investigation Planning Committee
National Focus Group on Domestic Terrorism
U.S. Department of Justice 24/7 Computer Crimes Task Force

The prosecutors worked with the Legislature on modifications for greater enforcement tools:

Clarification of child pornography transmission, cyber-stalking, malicious computer code laws;
Comity for subpoenas, self-authentication of out-of-state corporate records;
Authority for the Office and Statewide Grand Jury to handle all Chapter 815 violations.

2. The Identity Theft Unit was created with three GR positions authorized by the Legislature for FY 2000-2001 for the prosecution of identity theft cases. In the first month of operation, the unit had 50 identity theft rings under investigation, and in the first six months, the unit, in conjunction with the Statewide Grand Jury, charged a total of 56 individuals with identity theft crimes.

At the direction of the Governor's Privacy and Technology Task Force, the unit conducted two identity theft seminars in conjunction with the Florida Prosecuting Attorneys Association. The prosecutors have also assisted in community awareness events, and have been interviewed on television and radio for public service announcements.

The Office was tasked with the leadership role in a study to develop a fraud proof Driver License. An initial report was issued in January 2002, and further research is being conducted.

The prosecutors worked with the Legislature on venue clarification and enhanced penalties for the identity theft, and testified before Congress on issues related to Social Security number abuses.

3. Narcotics Prosecutions - In FY 2000-2001, the Legislature appropriated four new positions for the prosecution of narcotics trafficking and money laundering offenses. The unit has exceeded caseload standard projections by 444%, with an inventory of 272 cases concerning multi-circuit organized criminal conspiracy groups.

The Unit serves on Operation Riverwalk, a multi-agency response to drug trafficking on the Miami River, and is cross-designated to assist the United States Attorney in smuggling cases. The Office serves on the Drug Policy Advisory Council and the Violent Crime and Drug Control Council, and works with the regional coordinating teams. Unit prosecutors are working closely with several local, state, and federal Task Forces, including Fincrest, federally designated High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTAs), and the South Florida Money Laundering Strikeforce.

The prosecutors also worked with the following Task Forces:
Brevard County Drug Task Force
Central Florida Narcotics Intelligence Unit
Combined Law Enforcement Against Narcotics (C.L.E.A.N.)

Clay County Investigative Bureau/Narcotics Intelligence Unit
Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation in Orlando

The Office works closely with the Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy and provides support for implementation of the Governor's Drug Control Strategy.

4. White Collar Crime - In FY 1999-2000, the Legislature funded an expiring federal grant program for the investigation and prosecution of white collar crime. The Office has used these resources to focus on health care fraud, fraud against the elderly, insurance fraud, and fraud against the government.

The Office is an active member of the "Strike Force Against Fraudulent Enterprises" (SAFE), a coordinated effort of law enforcement agencies and private industry working together to combat fraud in Florida, staffed by FDLE; the "States Working Interstate Fraud Together" (SWIFT) Task Force formed by the Comptroller; and the Environmental Strike Force formed by the Department of Environmental Protection. The Office has access to the databases of the Florida Crime Information Center (FCIC) and the Florida Medicaid Management Information Service (FMMIS). The Office is active in the National White Collar Crime Center and the National Health Care Anti-Fraud Association.

The Coalition Against Insurance Fraud reports that insurance fraud cases presented for prosecution have doubled in the last 5 years. (Fraud Focus, Volume 8, No. 2, Summer 2001). The Office played a significant role in Florida's efforts in this regard.

The Office was successful in the passage of the Florida White Collar Crime Act designed to protect victims of fraud, especially the elderly and vulnerable, which includes a restitution provision that will assist in the prosecution of all charges without requiring the attendance of all victims at trial. The Legislature also passed the recommendation of the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Statewide Grand Juries regarding registration of clinics and assigned the Office to the Background Screening Requirement Work Group.

In terms of results achieved for the victims of fraud, the sentencing data for FY 2000-2001 includes:

Restitution to Citizens: \$43,844,154

Number of Victims: 1,309

Restitution to Government Agencies: \$12,079,585

Number of Agencies: 48

The Office continued to lead the Attorney General's Telemarketing Task Force, served as a cooperating agency with a federally funded telemarketing fraud investigation and prosecution project with Hillsborough county law enforcement officials, and signed on as a supporting agency with the Miami-Dade State Attorney on a Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention grant. The Office also worked with the following Task Forces dedicated to combating white collar crime, thefts, and fraud:

Big Bend Fraud Task Force

Broward County Auto Theft Unit

Broward County Environmental Crimes Task Force
Central Florida Bank Fraud Workgroup
Central Florida Fraud and Forgery Task Force
Duval Area Telemarketing Task Force
EPA Environmental Crimes Task Force
Florida Association of Property Crimes Detectives
Florida Commercial Vehicle and Cargo Theft Task Force
Florida Consumer Protection Intelligence Unit
International Association of Special Investigative Units (Insurance)
International Cargo Theft Task Force
National Association of Attorneys General Pyramid Scheme Workgroup
National Insurance Crime Bureau
National Viatical Fraud Task Force
National White Collar Crime Center
North Florida Fraud & Forgery Task Force
Orange County Telemarketing Fraud Prevention Task Force
Orlando Economic Crime Unit
Palm Beach County Economic Crime Unit
Regional Interagency Fraud Task Force (Jacksonville)
Regional Telemarketing Fraud Task Force (Jacksonville)
Southeastern Environmental Enforcement Network, comprised of ten States
Southwest Florida Environmental Work-Group
State Archeological Site Destruction Task Force
U.S. Attorney/Northern District Health Care Fraud Task Force
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Stamp Fraud Task Force
U.S. Department of Justice Alien Smuggling Task Force
U.S. Department of Justice Staged Accident Task Force
West Central Florida Environmental Crimes Task Force

5. The Office also works closely with law enforcement on violent crime cases. Some of the Task Forces associated with these efforts are:

Broward County Gangs Task Force
Broward County Robbery Clearinghouse
Central Florida Robbery Task Force
City/County Investigative Bureau in Sanford
Hillsborough Street Gang Intelligence Unit
Multi-Agency Gangs Task Force (MAGTF) in Dade County
South Florida Robbery Task Force
Tampa Bay Area Street Gang Intelligence Unit

6. The Office works with the anti-terrorism task forces throughout the State.

7. The Office works with the following intelligence groups:

Central Florida Criminal Justice Council
Central Florida Intelligence Unit
Dade County Intelligence Unit

Florida Intelligence Unit
Florida Department of Law Enforcement Regional Intelligence Units
Gulf Coast Intelligence Unit
Hardee County Intelligence Unit
International Association of Law Enforcement Intelligence Analysts
Lake County Intelligence Unit
Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee (Middle District)
Marion County Intelligence Unit
Metropolitan Organized Crime Intelligence Unit in Dade County
Monroe County Law Enforcement Group
National Association of Police Chiefs, Regional Organized Crime Workgroup
North Florida Investigative Support Center
Northeast Florida Criminal Intelligence Unit
Northeast Florida Investigative Support Center
Northeast Florida Police Executives
Osceola County Investigative Bureau
Russian-Eurasian Intelligence Group
Seminole County Intelligence Group
Society of Certified Criminal Analysts
South Florida Investigative Support Center
Southwest Florida Crime Prevention Association
Suncoast Analysts
Tampa Bay Area Intelligence Unit

8. In 2001, the Office conducted its ninth annual satisfaction survey of referring law enforcement agencies. With a 56% response rate, the Office received above-average ratings in every category evaluated, with 95% indicating intent to refer future investigations.

9. The Office has received a total of seven Resolutions issued by the Florida Cabinet for its work on insurance fraud and fraud against the government, and a total of six Davis Productivity Awards for its work on telemarketing fraud, Medicaid fraud, and this year, sales tax fraud.

10. In FY 2000-2001, 12 prosecutors were cross-designated to work cooperatively with State Attorneys, the Attorney General, and the Department of Insurance in complex, multi-circuit cases.

11. Law Enforcement Training: Assistant Statewide Prosecutors and Financial Analysts are available to provide and have provided training to law enforcement officers throughout the State in the following areas:

Advice of Counsel Defense
Auto Theft Rings
Cable Theft
Charging Decisions
Computer Crimes
Computer Evidence Recovery
Construction Fraud

Contraband Forfeiture
Courtroom Testimony and Demeanor for Law Enforcement Agents
Courtroom Testimony and Demeanor for Financial Analysts
Cross Examination of Expert Witnesses
Deposition Procedures
DUI Trial Advocacy
Elder Abuse and Neglect
Electronic Surveillance
Environmental Crime
Extradition (National and International)
Financial Investigation, Practical Skills
Financial Records Examination
Fourth Amendment - Media "ride alongs"
Government Contract Fraud
Health Care Fraud Investigation
Identity Theft
Informant Handling
Information Technology - Security Awareness
Insurance Fraud Prosecution
Investigative Planning
Jurisdiction and Operations of the Office of Statewide Prosecution
Medicaid Fraud
Narcotics Prosecutions and Designer Drugs
Organized Crime
Parallel Proceedings
Patient Brokering
Prosecution of "Con" Artists
Prosecution of Transient Crime Groups
Prosecution of Street Gangs
Racketeering Law
Search and Seizure
Search and Seizure of Electronic Evidence
Securities Fraud
Sentencing Guidelines (Punishment Code)
Statewide Grand Jury, Law and Procedure
Telemarketing Fraud
Title Loan Prosecutions
White Collar Crime

12. The Office co-sponsored two seminars with the Florida Prosecuting Attorneys Association, both on identity theft, and co-sponsored a Financial Investigative Practical Skills course with the National White Collar Crime Center.

13. The Office conducted a two day courtroom skills workshop in conjunction with the Department of Insurance, Division of Fraud/Special Investigative Units Annual Conference.

14. Three Assistant Statewide Prosecutors and two Financial Analysts served as volunteer instructors for the National White Collar Crime Center, and one prosecutor has lectured for the National District Attorneys Association.

III. CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

A. Legislative Proposals

In 2001, the Office continued its work in crime prevention and deterrence by working on legislative proposals to accomplish these goals. These efforts included review of draft legislation, testimony at committee meetings, and proposals for new laws. This year, several new laws went into effect after input from the Office in the areas of white collar crime, computer crime, identity theft, insurance and health care fraud.

B. Board, Committees and Associations

1. Violent Crime Council: The Statewide Prosecutor continued to serve as the Attorney General's representative on the Violent Crime Council established by the Legislature in 1993. See Section 943.031, Florida Statutes. This past year, the Council was expanded to include drug control efforts. The work of the Council is reported annually to the Legislature by FDLE.

2. The Statewide Prosecutor served as the Attorney General's representative on the Statewide Drug Policy Advisory Board, and led the discovery deposition reform work group.

3. The Office was represented on the Background Screening Advisory Group, a legislatively mandated review panel housed in the Agency for Health Care Administration.

4. In FY 2000-2001, an employee of the Office was a leader, member, or was active within, the following criminal justice associations:

Big Bend Law Enforcement Association
Central Florida Criminal Justice Council
Certified Fraud Examiners' Association
Florida Council on Crime and Delinquency
Florida Gang Investigators Association
Florida Narcotics Officers Association
Florida Network of Victim/Witness Services Association
Florida Prosecuting Attorneys Association
Florida Sheriffs Association
National Association of Bunco Investigators
National Association of Computer Crimes Investigators
National Black Prosecuting Attorneys Association
National District Attorneys Association
National Health Care Anti-Fraud Association
National White Collar Crime Center
State Law Enforcement Chiefs Association

C. Professional Development

1. In FY 2000-2001, Assistant Statewide Prosecutors were distinguished as experts in Cable Theft

Computer Crimes
Construction Fraud
Elder Abuse and Neglect
Environmental Investigations and Prosecutions
Environmental Self-Audit Legislation
Grand Jury Law and Procedure
Health Care Fraud
Home-Invasion Robbery Prosecutions
Identity Theft
Insurance Fraud
International and National Extradition
Money Laundering
Mortgage Fraud
Narcotics Prosecutions
Organized Crime
Racketeering
Telemarketing Fraud
The Prosecution of Gangs, "Travelers", and Con Artists
Trial Skills

These attorneys have lectured at state, federal, and international conferences; have published articles in legal periodicals; and have been interviewed on local and national television programs. Eleven Assistant Statewide Prosecutors are listed as subject matter experts by the Florida Prosecuting Attorneys Association.

2. The following achievements should be noted:

- 6 attorneys are Board Certified in criminal law
- 21 attorneys are rated "AV" or "BV" by Martindale-Hubbell
- 2 attorneys are Criminal Justice Executive Institute/Senior Leadership graduates
- 10 attorneys are Criminal Justice Executive Institute/Chief Executive Seminar graduates
- 2 attorneys teach graduate and law enforcement training academy courses
- 5 members volunteer as faculty for the National White Collar Crime Center
- several attorneys have published in Bar journals, and other legal and law enforcement related publications
- the attorneys are admitted to practice in all state and federal courts in Florida, as well as the state courts of California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri, New York, and Wisconsin

- many Assistant Statewide Prosecutors are members of the American Bar Association American Inns of Court, and National Bar Association, and are active in local Bar Associations, serving as committee chairs and on grievance committees

- 1 attorney is active in the National Black Prosecuting Attorneys Association

- 5 attorneys serve on Florida Bar Committees

- 1 attorney serves on the FPAA education committee

- 1 attorney received a distinguished service award from the FPAA

- 1 attorney received the Orange County Sheriff's Citation Award

- 5 attorneys were honored by the Department of Insurance

- 1 Bureau was honored by the United States Postal Service

- 1 Financial Analyst obtained a Bachelor's degree in Accounting

- 4 Financial Analysts took the Certified Financial Analyst Course

- 6 members of the Office are certified to operate the FCIC/NCIC computerized criminal history database and the Court Ordered Payment System of the Department of Corrections

3. The staff received 1,618 hours of continuing education.

4. The Office participated in two State and one national minority recruitment events.

5. The members of the Office volunteer their time for community projects, criminal justice oriented civic work, and pro bono legal assistance in the following activities:

Christian Legal Society

DARE Program

Florida American Legion Boys State Mock Trial Workshop

Florida State University College of Law; legal writing class and Mock Trial team

Florida Law Related Education Association; Statewide High School Mock Trial competition

Ft. Lauderdale High School Pre-Law Magnate Program

Great American Teach-In (Tampa Bay Area)

Guardian Ad Litem Programs

Habitat for Humanity

High School Student Mentor Programs

Hillsborough County Bar Association - Lawyers for Literacy

Homeless Advocacy Projects

Law Week Activities

Legal Aid Foundation
Mediation
Meals on Wheels
Mentoring
Mothers Against Drunk Driving
Seminole County Bar Association Citizens' Dispute Settlement
"Take Stock in Children" Program (Miami-Dade)
Tampa Bay Area Legal Services
Tampa "Crossroads"
Teen Court/Peer Court
United Way
Volunteer instructors for "Career Day" at several local schools
Volusia County Teen Court Advisor
Women in Distress/ Broward County
YMCA

IV. ADMINISTRATION

A. Staffing

In FY 2000-2001, the Office of Statewide Prosecution operated 7 Bureaus:

North Florida Bureau -- Tallahassee
Northeast Florida Bureau -- Jacksonville
Central Florida Bureau -- Orlando
South Florida Bureau -- Ft. Lauderdale
Southwest Florida Bureau -- Ft. Myers
West Florida Bureau -- Tampa
Miami-Dade Bureau -- Miami

The Office was staffed with 70 FTE (full-time equivalent) positions: 43 attorneys, 6 financial analysts, 4 paralegals, 15 executive secretaries, and 2 executive support personnel. Additional personnel (OPS) assisted with clerical and receptionist duties.

B. Budget

1. The total appropriation for the Office in FY 2000-2001 was \$5.1 million (general revenue and trust fund). This amount covers salaries, rent, utilities, furniture, library materials, computers, expert witness fees, court reporter bills, and travel expenses. The Office receives no funding from any county government.

2. The Office also receives an appropriation from the State Courts in the amount of \$158,000 to fund the investigations, operations, and case-related work of the Statewide Grand Jury. The statutory grand jury fees and travel reimbursements are made from this fund. This amount has not been increased since 1991.

3. In FY 2000-2001, the prosecutors and financial analysts worked a combined annual overtime total of 6,212 hours. As Select Exempt employees, the attorneys and analysts are not compensated for this extra work. At an average hourly rate of \$ 24.50 per hour plus 28% for benefits, this amounts to an added value of \$194,808 to the taxpayers.

4. The Office continued to require traveling employees to rent subcompact cars rather than the State contract authorized compact cars. This cost reduction effort resulted in a savings of over \$7,900 during FY 2000-2001.

C. Program Evaluation

1. In late 2001, the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Governmental Accountability (OPPAGA) conducted a comprehensive operational review and reported that the Office is "effective and economically viable." See Report No. 02-03 at: <http://www.oppaga.state.fl.us>

2. In 2000, OPPAGA reported that the Office of Statewide Prosecution "maintains a high conviction rate and is highly regarded by law enforcement agencies." Report No. 99-53.

3. In 2000, the OAG Inspector General reported that "the existing management control system [for validity and reliability of reported measures] exceeds average and assures data integrity." Data Validation Review Memo. A recommendation to conduct a random sampling of case files was adopted and completed by the end of 2000 by a staff financial analyst who reported finding that "substantial supporting documentation exists for the reporting elements examined." Final Audit Report Memo dated 12/13/2000.

4. In 2000, FDLE audited the use of the FCIC/NCIC system and found that the Office "is operating in compliance with FCIC/NCIC rules, regulations, and user agreements." (FDLE audit letter, 03/15/01).

5. In 1999-2000, the Office conducted its ninth annual satisfaction survey of referring law enforcement agencies. With a 56% response rate, the Office received above-average ratings in every category evaluated, with 95% indicating intent to refer future investigations.

6. The Office continued to use its post-case review system to analyze the performance of the police/prosecutor teams.

7. The Office received two additional Davis Productivity Awards for efficiency in government.

8. In 2000, the Office began mailing surveys to victims at the close of each criminal case. The Office received above average marks in the categories of rights' notification, attention to the case, professionalism, results achieved, and effectiveness.

D. Electronic Communication and Data Processing

All personnel are using PC-based computer technology for electronic mail, data processing, legal research, and document production, as created and maintained by the Office of the Attorney General. The Office posts its public documents of general interest on the Internet at:

In mid-2000, the Office added a victim notification system to its website, which allows victims and witnesses access to information about victims' rights, the next court proceeding in any filed case, and a password protected performance survey.

E. Planning

Pursuant to Chapter 186, Florida Statutes, the Office submitted its Long Range Program Plan for 2001-2006, which includes agency mission, goals, performance measures, objectives, outcomes, trends and conditions, and performance projections.

The goals and objectives are:

- (1) Coordinate effectively with multi-jurisdictional enforcement efforts, by
 - a. committing resources to pro-active, problem solving investigative strategies
 - b. actively participating in multi-agency task forces
 - c. maintaining substantial caseload of complex investigations
 - d. providing training to law enforcement in relevant areas
 - e. analyzing crime prevention/deterrence possibilities
 - f. receiving positive evaluations from law enforcement surveys

- (2) Effectively prosecute multi-circuit crime, by
 - a. committing resources to recruiting, retaining, and training professional prosecution/support teams
 - b. maintaining substantial caseload of complex prosecutions
 - c. seeking maximum disruption of criminal activity
 - d. seeking effective case results
 - e. providing effective services to victims

The strategies to achieve these objectives were developed internally with input from all members of the Office. Copies of the Report are available upon request.

V. CONCLUSION

The Office just completed its fifteenth year of operation. Over the years, the Office has had a significant impact on major criminal organizations operating throughout the State. It has maintained strong working relations with law enforcement, been active in the development of criminal justice policy, and achieved the objectives set forth in its Long Range Program Plan.