

OFFICE OF STATEWIDE PROSECUTION 2006 ANNUAL REPORT



Submitted by The Office of Statewide Prosecution

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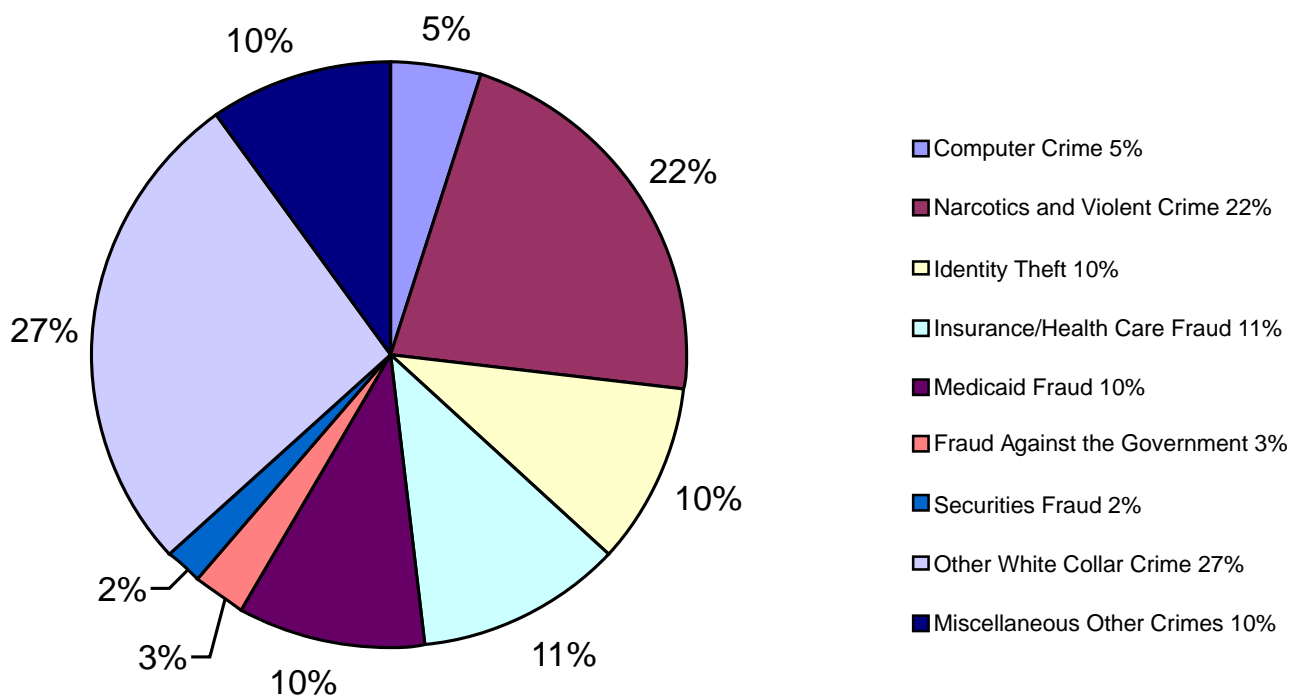
Office of Statewide Prosecution 2006 Annual Report

This Annual Report for the Office of Statewide Prosecution is being filed pursuant to Section 16.56(2), Florida Statutes, and contains a summary of the activities of the Office for 2006 as well as the goals and objectives for 2007.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE OFFICE'S ACTIVITIES

In Fiscal Year 2005-2006, the Office of Statewide Prosecution handled a total volume of 1178 complex criminal investigations and prosecutions, including 571 filed cases, and worked in conjunction with 91 law enforcement agencies as well as numerous state and federal task forces. The overall conviction rate was 98%. The financial benefit to the citizens of the State of Florida in the form of assessed fines, penalties, and ordered restitution amounted to more than \$29.5 million, which greatly exceeded the \$6.2 million general revenue operating budget of the Office of Statewide Prosecution.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVE CASES



MISSION 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 criminal activity. The Office was created by the Voters of Florida through a Constitutional Amendment passed in 1986. That 1986 amendment was a response to the increasing evidence that those who are in the business of organized criminal activity do not respect the geographic boundaries imposed by judicial circuit lines. The Office utilizes a team approach with the state's elected State Attorneys, Florida's federal prosecutors, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and other state law enforcement agencies, Florida's Sheriff's Offices, our Chiefs of Police and various other state and federal agencies in law enforcement to attack multi-offender, multi-offense, and multi-jurisdictional crime.

The priorities of the Office are: 1) Health care fraud; 2) White collar crimes (including identity theft, government contract fraud, insurance fraud, telemarketing fraud, securities fraud, auto theft, and fraud against the elderly); 3) Computer crimes, especially crimes against children and child pornography; and 4) Violent offenses perpetrated by organized groups, which often includes narcotics trafficking and money laundering. The goal of the Office is to dismantle criminal organizations through effective prosecution and civil, administrative, and regulatory sanctions when appropriate.

Under Section 16.56, Florida Statutes, the Office's jurisdiction to investigate and prosecute cases is limited to certain enumerated crimes as well as racketeering (RICO) offenses, and is also limited to crimes committed in more than one judicial circuit. The Office may also proceed where the enumerated crimes are committed within one judicial circuit by members of an organized conspiracy affecting more than one judicial circuit, in furtherance of their common scheme or plan.

The Statewide Prosecutor also serves as legal advisor to the Statewide Grand Jury as provided for in Section 905.31, et seq., Florida Statutes. The Statewide Grand Jury is charged with detecting and eliminating organized criminal activity in matters which transpire or have significance in more than one circuit. The Statewide Grand Jury is likewise limited to an enumerated list of criminal offenses contained in Section 905.34, Florida Statutes.

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

INVESTIGATIONS AND PROSECUTIONS

A. CASELOAD STATISTICS

Consistent with the Long Range Planning Report and the Legislative Budget Request, the following caseload data is reported on a fiscal year basis. The active caseload of the Office includes: 1) Cases filed in Fiscal Year 2005-2006; 2) Cases filed in prior years which remained in litigation during Fiscal Year 2005-2006; 3) Long-term complex criminal investigations; and 4) Statewide Grand Jury activities.

1. Cases filed in Fiscal Year 2005-2006

The Office filed 2,085 criminal charges against 509 defendants in 279 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 (RICO) informations or indictments.

2. Active cases filed in prior years

The Office handled a total inventory of 571 filed cases (inclusive of those described above). The cases were litigated in 31 counties: Alachua; Bay; Brevard; Broward; Citrus; Collier; Columbia; Miami-Dade; Duval; Hendry; Highlands; Hillsborough; Indian River; Jackson; Lake; Lee; Leon; Manatee; Marion; Martin; Orange; Osceola; Palm Beach; Pasco; Pinellas; Polk; Seminole; St. Johns; Taylor; Union; and Volusia.

3. Active investigations pending in Fiscal Year 2005-2006

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 455 new requests from law enforcement to assist in their investigations of multi-circuit organized criminal activity. The total inventory of active investigations was 607. The investigations were conducted by, or in coordination with, 91 law enforcement or regulatory agencies, and numerous state and federal task forces. Assistance includes the preparation of search warrants and authorizations to conduct wiretaps.

4. Cases disposed of in Fiscal Year 2005-2006

Of the defendants reaching disposition, 98% were convicted through either jury trials or guilty pleas. Collectively, the sentences obtained in these cases were as follows:

Prison Terms:	1,416 Years, and 4 Life Sentences
Jail Time:	16,493 Days
Probation Terms:	1,681 Years
Community Control:	56 Years
Community Service:	6,796 Hours
Number of Victims:	2,444 (including 21 government agencies)

Restitution Ordered for Victims:	\$20,834,128
Fines Imposed:	\$ 6,147,828
Court Costs Imposed:	\$ 201,580
Costs of Prosecution Assessed:	\$ 966,895
Costs of Investigation Assessed:	\$ 1,397,068
Total Monetary Assessments:	\$29,547,499

B. STATEWIDE GRAND JURY ACTIVITIES

Pursuant to Section 905.33, Florida Statutes, whenever the Governor of Florida deems it to be in the public interest to impanel a statewide grand jury, he or she may petition the Florida Supreme Court for such an order. The Statewide Prosecutor serves as legal advisor to all statewide grand juries, under Section 16.56, Florida Statutes. The most recent statewide grand jury was the Seventeenth Statewide Grand Jury, which was empaneled from February 2003 to July 2004, and dealt with the growing problem of prescription drug diversion and adulteration. Drug diversion refers to the manner in which legal prescription or legend drugs are diverted into illegal distribution, and adulteration includes such prohibited acts as diluting, counterfeiting, or failing to maintain proper storage conditions. Statewide Grand Jury reports can be found at <http://www.myfloridalegal.com>.

Although there were no statewide grand jury activities in 2006, the work of the Seventeenth Statewide Grand Jury continued. In 2006, seven defendants were convicted on pleas for a variety of drug diversion charges. Additionally, one defendant was tried and convicted in March of 2006 receiving a 22 year prison sentence. Altogether the cases resulted in approximately \$1 million in seizures and forfeitures.

During the year, eight more people were charged with Organized Schemes to Defraud, Conspiracy to Commit Organized Schemes to Defraud, and Trafficking in Contraband Legend Drugs. These defendants were responsible for almost \$100 million in illicit pharmaceutical sales, most as the result of diversion from the Florida Medicaid program.

C. HEALTH CARE FRAUD

The investigation and prosecution of those who commit health care fraud remains a priority for the Office of Statewide Prosecution. This effort includes cases involving fraud against the Medicaid program as well as other types of health care fraud. The Office works closely with the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit in support of the Attorney General's efforts to stem the losses in the program due to fraud.

Medicaid fraud presents a particular threat to the citizens of Florida due to the rapidly escalating costs of the Medicaid program. In FY 2005-06, Florida spent approximately \$15.9 billion on Medicaid which represents approximately 22% of the State's total expenditures. Furthermore, the annual growth in Medicaid expense is so large that it continues to require an increasing share of Florida's annual budget. Therefore, the combined efforts to prosecute and deter Medicaid fraud will have a significant positive impact on Florida's budget.

The Office is currently handling a total of 70 filed criminal cases or investigations involving Medicaid fraud. In addition, we are pursuing another 42 cases involving other types of health care fraud. In 2006, the Office achieved convictions in 10 health care fraud cases, involving 16 defendants who were sentenced to state prison and probation, ordered to pay restitution to the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), as well as to other victims and ordered to pay costs of investigation.

In 2006, the Office of Statewide Prosecution, in partnership with the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, continued to aggressively prosecute Medicaid Fraud and drug diversion. These cases which target large, complex criminal enterprises take months to investigate and sometimes years to resolve. The partnership between the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit and the Office of Statewide Prosecution has been particularly successful in this area using a joint approach where investigators and prosecutors work together on cases from their inception to the conclusion of the prosecution. Two specific cases are worth special note among the many that have been successfully investigated and prosecuted.

“Operation Texas 2-Step,” led by Assistant Statewide Prosecutors Marjo Lexa and Matt Destry, represents a good example of a case where this method was highly successful. The case grew out of weekly meetings of the multi-agency Medicaid Fraud Task Force hosted by the Office of Statewide Prosecution and led by Special Counsel Oscar Gelpi. The investigation targeted a group of individuals who, using a corporation established with a stolen identity, sold and delivered what were purported to be legend or prescription drugs to a wholesaler in Broward County. Since the authenticating pedigree papers were forged, it is impossible to trace the purported medications’ true origin. The scheme was facilitated by a New Hampshire wholesaler, Richard Minasian, the owner/operator of Armin Medical who had a license to sell prescription drugs in Florida. The Office of Statewide Prosecution brought charges of Organized Fraud and Conspiracy against Minasian and the principals who ran the scheme in Florida. Minasian, as well as co-defendant, Dennys Astorga, were convicted of these charges.

Operation Rundown is another successful health care fraud case that is an example of a partnership with MFCU and their federal counterparts at the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General and FDLE. A team of MFCU Investigator Onay Suarez, HHS/OIG Special Agent Manuel Hernandez, and FDLE Special Agent Larry Andres investigated a group committing millions of dollars worth of “infusion fraud”. These criminals are alleged to have paid HIV patients for blood samples, adulterated those samples to make the “patients” look sicker than they really are, and then billed government entities for infusion treatments that were not necessary and not performed. That case, and its ongoing investigation, has resulted in a number of arrests, seizure of over \$1 million, and two recent convictions.

The overall health care fraud cases prosecuted by the Office of Statewide Prosecution in 2006 involved a variety of criminal activity. The cases included: 1) Health care workers who billed for services not provided; 2) Health care providers who billed for therapy and services either not provided or provided by non-authorized personnel; 3) Upcoding by providers; 4) Fraudulent billing under Medicaid group provider numbers of dentists or other medical professionals who were not employed by the provider; 5) Fraudulent billing using forged

signatures; and 6) Using the fraudulent sales by a pharmacy to bill Medicaid for prescriptions that were never issued or filled.

D. IDENTITY THEFT

In 1998, the Office drafted and pursued the sponsorship and passage of legislation to criminalize the act of identity theft in Florida. As a result, Section 817.568, Florida Statutes, became law on July 1, 1999. Section 817.568 criminalizes the use of another person's personal identifying information as defined in the statute. The Sixteenth Statewide Grand Jury focused on identity theft and issued two interim reports and a final report addressing identity theft and related issues. Many of the recommendations were adopted into law by the Florida Legislature. This Office has remained active in revising or proposing further enhancements to Florida's identity theft statutes, such as the legislation passed in 2003 and 2005.

As a result, Florida now has some of the toughest criminal identity theft laws in the country. For example, in 2003 Florida enacted new minimum mandatory prison sentences that require convicted defendants to serve minimum mandatory sentences of three to ten years in state prison if they victimize a certain number of individuals or if the amount of monetary damages exceeds certain thresholds. Other pro-victim provisions in Florida law include the requirement that law enforcement must take an offense report for all identity theft allegations, and the provision that identity theft charges may be brought either in the county where the crimes occurred or in the county where the victim lives.

In 2005, Florida also enacted new legislation to protect consumers from any leaks of personal identification information. Under Section 817.5681, Florida Statutes, businesses must notify consumers of any breach of security concerning such personal confidential information. If such notification does not occur within 45 days of the breach, then the business becomes liable for administrative fines starting at \$1,000 a day, and rising to \$500,000.

In 2006, legislation was enacted to allow Florida residents to place a freeze on their consumer reports. Section 502.005, Florida Statutes, prohibits a consumer reporting agency from releasing a credit report, credit score or any information contained within the report to a third party without authorization by the consumer or victim. There is no fee for this service if you have documentation from a law enforcement agency that you are a victim of identity theft or if you are over the age of 65.

Last year, the Office handled a total of 38 identity fraud cases and 48 defendants were sentenced to a total of 148 years in prison, 625 days in county jail, and 137 years probation and ordered to pay more than \$1,232,000 in fines, costs and restitution. Identity theft is the fastest growing crime in Florida and in the United States. It is expected to continue to grow in 2007.

This Office continues to focus on cases involving multiple defendants and multiple victims, and in 2006 a number of defendants received minimum mandatory state prison sentences pursuant to the 2003 amendments to the identity theft statute described above. There are numerous types of identity theft offenses being

prosecuted, which include cases involving check cashing schemes, credit card schemes, employees “skimming” customers’ personal identification information through the use of electronic devices, employees stealing customers’ or other employees’ personal identification information, theft of Medicaid recipient numbers, mailbox thieves, and even dumpster divers. Several specific cases deserve note and show the commitment of the Office to continuing to address this matter with a team approach.

In Orlando, Chief Assistant Statewide Prosecutor Rick Bogle and Assistant Statewide Prosecutor David Gillespie prosecuted one defendant who was charged with racketeering and identity theft for claiming to have opened two private schools and obtained “McKay” scholarships from the Department of Education for “phantom” students. With the help of investigators from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the Department of Education, our prosecutors were able to prove that no actual schools existed, and that the identities of the students and their parents were stolen. This defendant was convicted after a jury trial and sentenced to 25 years in prison.

In June, 2006, Assistant Statewide Prosecutor Cathy McKyton prosecuted a group of distraction thieves whose ringleader was sentenced to 10 years in state prison. These thieves entered small businesses and distracted the sales clerk. While the clerk was distracted, the thieves made off with the employee’s checkbook and driver’s license. The defendants wrote checks from one victim to another victim and then cashed the checks using the second victim’s driver’s license and account numbers, almost always using the drive-through teller windows. They operated in eleven different Florida counties with more than \$184,000 in losses and affecting thirty victims. Because of the broad scope of this investigation, it relied upon an investigative team lead by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the support of a number of other law enforcement agencies including the Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office.

In October 2003, the Attorney General also created new online information on the Office of Attorney General’s website in order to help victims of identity theft and to provide information to help people avoid becoming a victim of identity theft. This information includes an “Identity Theft Victim Kit” and can be found under the “Identity Theft Resource and Response Center,” which can be obtained at <http://www.myfloridalegal.com>. Since September 2002, there have been 4,077 identity theft related complaints received from the general public. In 2006 alone, a total of 668 victims of identity theft were assisted with information and referral services. Many of these complaints were received by the Attorney General’s “866-9-No-Scam” hotline designed to detect and prosecute fraud.

In 2002, by virtue of a federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant, the Office created a victim advocate position dedicated to victims of identity theft. The victims of identity theft are often left as emotionally devastated as are victims of violent crime, and it often requires hundreds of hours to rebuild their financial reputations. This was believed to be the first such identity theft victim advocate in Florida, and in FY 2003-2004, the Office employed two such dedicated identity theft victim advocates in our Orlando Office. These two victim advocates, together with several criminal financial analysts, have assisted many of the victims

referenced above in organizing their case histories, presenting cases to law enforcement, and taking the necessary steps to help the victims work to address their credit history problems.

In 2006, the victim advocates provided twenty-four presentations and trainings to service providers including the health care industry, National Organization for Victims Assistance Annual Conference (NOVA), community colleges, retirement communities, church organizations, and professional groups throughout the State where many victims of identity theft were identified and assisted.

E. COMPUTER CRIMES

The Office has increased its focus on computer crime cases in all areas. The highest priority among these is investigating and prosecuting the possession and distribution of child pornography, on-line solicitation of minors for sexual purposes, and operating a web site containing child pornography. We also have followed criminal organizations in their shift from engaging in crime on the streets to crime on the world wide web through the use of internet pharmacies for trafficking in narcotics, e-Bay fraud, internet identity theft, medicaid fraud, and a myriad of other computer-facilitated fraud cases.

For example, in 2006, Assistant Statewide Prosecutors Trakina Graham and Dan Mosley convicted an Orange County man on charges of Lewd Assault on a Child. The defendant chatted on the Internet with a fourteen year old girl who lived in Polk County. He traveled from Orange County to Polk County, picked the girl up, and brought her back to Orange County where he assaulted her. After the jury returned its verdict of guilty, the Defendant was sentenced to fifteen years in a Florida State Prison.

In 2005, through its technical expertise and input, the Office supported the Attorney General's and the Legislature's efforts to marshal additional resources to pursue criminals who stalk children on-line and distribute child pornography. In 2005, these efforts resulted in the creation of the Attorney General's Child Predator CyberCrime Unit, and in 2006, culminated in the passage of Section 16.61, Florida Statutes, which dedicated the unit to the investigation and prosecution of child predators. Assistant Statewide Prosecutors assist the unit with legal guidance and prosecutorial resources. Child Predator CyberCrime Director Maureen Horkan, who is also an Assistant Statewide Prosecutor, accumulated expertise in computer crime investigations and prosecutions as an Assistant in the Office before she took on her full-time role as Director. The Child Predator CyberCrime Unit is currently prosecuting 34 sexual predators.

Attorneys and financial analysts with the Office often assist other law enforcement agencies and prosecutors on computer related investigations and prosecutions. In 2006, OSWP prosecutors lectured on computer crimes at the Florida Prosecuting Attorneys Association's seminar on Internet Pharmacy and Fraud Issues and at the Central Florida Intelligence Unit's annual conference. Prosecutors partnered with several sheriffs' offices, U.S. Postal Inspectors, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents in the "Operation Libertine" task force, which targets child-sexual-predator "travelers."

Prosecutors with the Office attended numerous computer-related training classes, such as the National Association of Attorneys General Advanced CyberCrime Training; Internet Crimes Against Children Trial Advocacy for Prosecutors; Internet Crimes Against Children Investigative Techniques; FBI ImageScan Training; and Basic Data Recovery.

Representatives from the Office participate with the Secret Service's Miami Electronic Crimes Task force and South Florida's Law Enforcement Against Child Harm Task Force (LEACH) and network with the North Florida Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and Tallahassee's and Orlando's InfraGard chapters.

F. NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING

The Office handled 178 new cases involving narcotics and other dangerous drugs during 2006, filing 32 cases against 111 defendants. These cases targeted the trafficking of heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine, MDMA (ecstasy), marijuana, anabolic steroids, and prescription pain killers such as oxycontin and hydrocodone.

In 2006, Assistant Statewide Prosecutors worked closely with numerous law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute large trafficking organizations in all areas of the State. For example, the Office filed charges in Duval County against three men for Trafficking in Cocaine and Conspiracy to Trafficking in Cocaine for their part in a narcotics ring that brought cocaine and other narcotics from Miami, Orlando and Atlanta to Jacksonville, estimated by law enforcement to be about 10 kilograms of illegal drugs each week. In that case, Chief Assistant Statewide Prosecutor Luis Bustamante and Assistant Statewide Prosecutors Shannon MacGillis and Jason Lewis worked with police to seek and obtain seven wiretap orders in a well-coordinated effort to gather evidence against the group.

Sentences obtained by the Office in cases involving narcotics and other dangerous drugs totaled 302 years in prison and 244 years of probation in 2006. Financial obligations ordered in these cases totaled \$333,180 in costs of investigation and prosecution, and \$1.96 million in fines. Assistant Statewide Prosecutors Shannon MacGillis and Amy Osteryoung prosecuted a case involving the seizure of approximately \$75,000 in cash, 24 pounds of cocaine, four pounds of heroin, and several automatic weapons. The defendant was designated a habitual offender and sentenced to 35 years in state prison and ordered to pay a \$600,000 fine following his conviction by a Duval County jury for Conspiracy to Commit Trafficking in heroin and cocaine. Also in 2006, Michael Joel Lassiter, of Daytona Beach, was sentenced to 20 years in prison and a \$50,000 fine after pleading guilty for his role in an MDMA (ecstasy) trafficking ring that manufactured and distributed the drug in Leon, Flagler and Volusia Counties. In a separate case, a Miami-Dade jury convicted Howard Reynolds in April for bringing in large amounts of marijuana to Florida from Los Angeles. Documents discovered at the destination warehouse suggest he was involved in trafficking more than 10 tons between October 2000 and February 2003. He was found guilty of Trafficking in Cannabis and Conspiracy to Commit Trafficking in Cannabis and was sentenced in May to five years in state prison, followed by five years of probation, and a \$25,000 fine.

In another example, Assistant Statewide Prosecutor Tom Smith filed charges in Manatee County against four people for running an organization that stole prescription pads from physicians and filled them out for orders of oxycontin, oxycodone, Xanax, Soma, and Apidex, and then took the “prescriptions” to pharmacies in Hillsborough, Pinellas, Sarasota, and Manatee Counties. One of the leaders of that enterprise was also charged with Trafficking in a kilogram of cocaine.

The Stone Cold Task Force was created in South Florida to study and combat prescription drug diversion and fraud, and its work formed the basis for the Seventeenth Statewide Grand Jury’s two reports in 2003 regarding the safety of prescription drugs in Florida. Special Counsel Oscar Gelpi and Assistant Statewide Prosecutors Julie Hogan and Stephen ImMasche guide the task force and continue to prosecute and help investigate the distribution of prescription drugs with false “pedigree papers” (proof of origin and proper manufacture). Several additional arrests were made this year.

In March of 2006, Special Counsel Oscar Gelpi and Assistant Statewide Prosecutor Julie Hogan prosecuted a jury trial against Tom Martino on Organized Fraud and other charges from the 32-count indictment issued by the Seventeenth Statewide Grand Jury in 2003 against him and 17 co-conspirators. The Broward County jury that heard the case returned a guilty verdict against Martino, finding him responsible for selling anti-AIDS and anti-cancer drugs on the wholesale market. The prescription drugs had been re-labeled, stolen, illegally imported, or improperly stored. The crime ring’s profits were estimated to be in the tens of millions of dollars. The judge sentenced Martino to 21 years in state prison.

In another case investigated by the Stone Cold Task Force, Wilber Bherviz of Fort Lauderdale was arrested in December for his participation in one of the largest Medicaid fraud schemes broken up in recent years. This arrest was the result of a joint investigation led by the Office prosecutors. Bherviz is charged with Organized Fraud, Trafficking in Contraband Legend Drugs, Money Laundering, Conspiracy to Traffic in Contraband Legend Drugs and Purchase of Legend Drugs from an Unauthorized Person. He is accused of running a nationwide drug ring with his brother that diverted tens of millions of dollars of medications from the Florida Medicaid program and then resold the drugs throughout the country. At the conclusion of 2006, there were 29 Stone Cold defendants pending trial and another 23 targets of Stone Cold investigations.

The Office also works closely with regional Diversion Response Teams (DRTs) formed in July 2004 following legislative authorization. The DRT is comprised of several law enforcement agencies including the Office, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the Florida Department of Health, the Attorney General’s Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. While DRTs target prescription drug trafficking, many of the cases they investigate involve a component of Medicaid fraud, where prescription drugs are being paid for by the Medicaid program but are not going to recipients in need but instead, are being resold on the black market. The Office had six pending filed cases at the conclusion of 2006, as well as another three pending investigations, as a result of its work with the DRTs.

In 2006 the Office continued to provide legal support and expertise to the Attorney General's Florida Alliance. The Alliance serves to provide law enforcement services and support to children abused and neglected by and through the manufacture and use of illegal drugs. Its work is targeted to assist those parts of the State particularly hard-hit by the increase in methamphetamine trafficking. An Assistant Statewide Prosecutor participated in two DEC training sessions of law enforcement and child welfare investigators in 2006, and represented the Attorney General at the National Conference for Drug Endangered Children in Nashville in November.

Assistant Statewide Prosecutors also participated in and provided other training in narcotics investigation and prosecution to law enforcement personnel and other prosecutors, including drug gang investigations, internet pharmacies, and laundering of narcotics proceeds. Office attorneys also actively participated in law enforcement meetings and community events relating to drug control throughout the State, such as the Governor's Drug Summit, the Statewide Violent Crime and Drug Control Advisory Committee, regional Violent Crime and Drug Control Advisory committees, Florida Investigative Unit meetings, and regional Florida Intelligence Unit meetings.

G. Organized Auto Theft Rings

Auto Theft is a Seven Billion Dollar a year problem nationwide. According to the most recent data from the National Insurance Crime Bureau, seven of Florida's metropolitan areas rank in the top one hundred metropolitan areas in the number of thefts around the country. Although some of these thefts are individual instances, a large percentage of thefts are orchestrated by organized crime that has realized the immense profit opportunities for successful, sophisticated criminal groups. These groups rely on computer crimes, identity theft, corruption, and burglary to maximize their profit. In 2006 the Office was involved in two significant auto theft investigations and prosecutions.

Operation Road Runner is a prime example of the complex nature of these schemes and the large-scale profit network that is developed in a temporarily successful criminal enterprise. The Office partnered with Miami-Dade Police Department Detectives Les Cravens and Lisa DeRojas, Miami-Dade State Attorney Investigator Mary Myerscough and other members of the Miami-Dade Auto Theft Task Force led by Lt. Greg Terp and uncovered a national web of auto thieves responsible for hundreds of thefts. This group was based in South Florida and stole luxury cars from Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties. Once they had stolen the cars, they stole vehicle "identities" from other Floridians all around the state; obtained fraudulent titles; and then shipped those stolen, renumbered cars to buyers around the country. This case resulted in over thirty arrests nationwide and the recovery of millions of dollars in stolen property. Because of the extended nature of this investigation, it also included the arrest of defendants on charges of heroin trafficking, drug diversion and counterfeiting, and alien smuggling. Nine of the Florida ringleaders were convicted in Florida courts last year and other convictions in other states have also been secured.

In Broward county a separate investigation into a multi-circuit theft ring and chop shop operation resulted in the conviction of 7 defendants. Assistant Statewide Prosecutor Kathleen George, with the help of

Assistant Statewide Prosecutors Ed Pyers, Matt Destry, Chief Assistant Statewide Prosecutor Lisa Porter, and Senior Financial Analyst Barbara Goodson, tried this multi-defendant case in Broward county over a period of 3 months. A trial of this length is unusual in Florida state courts, but it speaks to the complexity of the case and the legal issues that Ms. George confronted. It was also a logistical challenge for the Clerk of Court in Broward County that he and his staff handled with great professionalism and expertise. The trial resulted in convictions of the Defendants and is a real example of the hard work of the Assistants in the Office and the successes that can be achieved through cooperation - which in this case was lead by Detective Ben Anderson and the members of the Broward County Auto Theft Task Force led by Lt. Angelo Cedeno.

TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Assistant Statewide Prosecutors and Financial Analysts remain available to provide training to law enforcement officers. Members of the Office provided numerous law enforcement training presentations throughout the State in calendar year 2006. Attorneys from the Office lecture frequently at legal conferences, and several prosecutors are listed as subject matter experts by the Florida Prosecuting Attorneys Association.

A. The Office is engaged in proactive work with a number of Task Forces around the State. The more significant of such activities include:

1. Broward Sheriff's Office - Office of Homeland Security

The Office continues to participate in a multi-agency anti-terrorist task force which was created after September 11, 2001.

2. Prescription Drug Task Forces

The Stone Cold Task Force was created in South Florida to study prescription drug diversion and fraud. Their work formed the basis for the Seventeenth Statewide Grand Jury's two reports in 2003 as well as the arrests of six individuals in 2004. This task force is working with state and federal agencies on a national level and in 2006 resulted in the arrests of over a dozen individuals in Florida, Texas, New York, New Hampshire, Missouri, and Puerto Rico as well as the seizure of several million dollars. The Office also continues to participate in a task force formed by the Governor's Office of Drug Control to study prescription drug diversion

3. Drug Trafficking Task Forces

The Office has actively participated in numerous drug interdiction task forces around the State. They include the Miami Regional Violent Crime and Drug Control Council, the North Florida High Drug Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (NHIDTA), the Central Florida High Drug Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA), and the Orlando-based Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation (MBI). Chief Assistant Statewide

Prosecutor Luis Bustamante is a member of the Board of Directors of the NHIDTA and that relationship has helped law enforcement and the Office to build stronger ties to help coordinate efforts.

4. Big Bend Fraud Task Force

All of the attorneys in the Tallahassee Office are members of the Big Bend Fraud Task Force. The Task Force meets monthly and also sponsors an annual seminar as well as presentations to the public. The Task Force is a joint effort of federal, state, and local law enforcement, financial institution security persons, and retail security persons.

5. Fraudulent Check Task Forces

These include the Secret Service Fraudulent Check Task Force as well as the Pinellas/Hillsborough Counties Bad Check Task Force.

6. Operation Libertine Task Force

Since April 2006, the Office has participated in this task force with the Polk, Pinellas, and Osceola County Sheriffs' Offices, Clearwater Police Department, U.S. Postal Inspectors, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents from Tampa and Orlando. This task force targets pedophiles who solicit children over the internet then travel to meet them for sex.

B. In 2006, 23 prosecutors were cross-designated to work cooperatively with State Attorneys and United States Attorneys in white-collar crime and drug trafficking cases.

C. The Statewide Prosecutor served as the Attorney General's representative on the Violent Crime and Drug Control Council and the Governor's Drug Policy Advisory Council.

D. The lawyers within the Office were members of the following criminal justice associations in 2006:

- American Bar Association - Criminal Law Section
- Association of Certified Fraud Examiners
- Big Bend Fraud Task Force
- Central Florida Fraud & Forgery Unit
- Central Florida High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area
- Central Florida Intelligence Unit
- City County Investigative Bureau (Seminole County)
- Division of Insurance Fraud/Special Investigation Unit
- FBI Cyber Crime Task Force
- Florida Association of Computer Crime Investigators
- Florida Bar Association - Criminal Law Section - Executive Council
- Florida Gang Investigators Association
- Florida Intelligence Unit
- Florida Prosecuting Attorneys Association
- Florida Sheriffs Association
- Fraud Net - Florida Bankers' Association

- INFRAGARD
- League of Prosecutors
- Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation (Orlando)
- Miami Electronic Crimes Task Force
- Multi-Agency Gang Task Force
- Multi-jurisdictional Counterdrug Task Force (FL National Guard)
- National Association of Attorneys General
- National District Attorneys Association
- National White Collar Crime Center
- NHIDTA (North Florida High Drug Intensity Drug Trafficking Area)
- North Florida ICAC (Internet Crimes Against Children)
- Osceola County Investigative Bureau
- Prescription Drug Diversion Response Team
- Prescription Drug Task Force
- Secret Service High Technology Task Force
- South Florida Mortgage Fraud Working Group
- South Florida Regional Violent Crime and Drug Control Council
- Statewide Violent Crime and Drug Control Council
- South Florida Human Trafficking Task Force
- Suncoast Analysts
- Volusia County Bureau of Investigation

E. Other achievements by the Office of Statewide Prosecution Staff include:

Assistants within the Office are admitted to practice in all state and federal courts in Florida, as well as the State courts of Alabama, California, District of Columbia, Idaho, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas and Wisconsin. Six attorneys from the Office are Florida board certified in criminal law, sixteen attorneys are “AV” or “BV” rated by Martindale-Hubbell, and several attorneys have published in Bar journals and other legal and law enforcement-related publications.

Five attorneys serve on Florida Bar Committees; one attorney serves on the Florida Prosecuting Attorneys’ Association (FPAA) education committee; three attorneys have received distinguished service awards from the FPAA; and one attorney serves on the American Bar Association’s Criminal Justice Section Council.

Members of the Office volunteer their time to community projects, criminal justice oriented civic work, and pro bono legal assistance, as well as serve as mentors to young children in Florida schools. Statewide Prosecutor Peter Williams and Assistant Statewide Prosecutor Brian Fernandes coached Leon High School’s Mock Trial Team in Tallahassee under the Florida Mock Trial Program sponsored by the Florida Law Related Education Association.

ADMINISTRATION

The Office of Statewide Prosecution operates through eight offices located in Tallahassee, Jacksonville, Orlando, Tampa, Ft. Myers, West Palm Beach, Ft. Lauderdale and Miami. All of these offices are housed with the offices of the Attorney General in order to work closely with the Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, the CyberCrime Unit, and the Economic Crimes Section. The Office is authorized a total of 72 full time positions, including 44 attorneys, 6 criminal financial analysts, 2 victim advocates and a total of 20 administrative and clerical positions. The Fiscal Year 2006-2007 general revenue budget is \$6.2 million. 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. Grand Jury fees are also paid from this fund. This appropriation has remained constant since 1991.

Under Article IV, Section IV of the Florida Constitution, the Office of Statewide Prosecution was created in the Office of Attorney General. Accordingly, the Office follows the administrative policies and procedures of the Office of Attorney General. These policies and procedures are supplemented, when necessary, to address issues related to the prosecution of criminal cases.

In Fiscal Year 2005-2006 the prosecutors and financial analysts recorded a total of 2,399 overtime hours. These employees are not compensated for this extra work due to their Select Exempt Employee status.

Below is a list of the Assistant Statewide Prosecutors assigned to each Office as of March 1, 2007. All Office Chiefs report directly to the Statewide Prosecutor.

Tallahassee	Jacksonville	Orlando	Tampa	Ft. Myers	Ft. Lauderdale	Miami	West Palm Beach
Ron Lee Office Chief	Luis Bustamante Office Chief	Richard Bogle Office Chief	John Roman Office Chief	George Richards Office Chief	Lisa Porter Office Chief	Jodie Breece Office Chief	Vacant Office Chief
Brian Fernandes	Jason Lewis	Lawrence Collins	Mark Campbell	Chene Thompson	Jim Cobb Assistant Chief	Laudelina McDonald	Ann Marie Smith
	Shannon MacGillis	Robert Finkbeiner	Katherine Diamandis		Matthew Detry		
	Amy Osteryoung	David Gillespie	Cathy McKyton		Oscar Gelpi Special Counsel		
		Heather Lee	Michael Schmid		Kathleen George		
		Anne Wedge-McMillen	Thomas Smith		Julie Hogan		
		Dan Mosley	Michael Williams		Stephen Immasche		
		Jim Schneider General Counsel			Margery Lexa		
					Ed Pyers		

Below is a list of support staff assigned to each Office as of March 1, 2007.

Tallahassee	Jacksonville	Orlando	Tampa	Ft. Myers	Ft. Lauderdale	Miami	West Palm Beach
Jacqueline Perkins-McDaniel, Operations Manager	Clifford Earp, Criminal Financial Analyst	Angel Taylor, Criminal Financial Analyst	Delores Funes, Criminal Financial Analyst	Rebecca Tyrrell, Criminal Financial Analyst	Barbara Goodson, Criminal Financial Analyst	Georgina Clinche, Executive Secretary	Lisa Cushman, Executive Secretary
Libby Lastinger, Sr. Executive Assistant	Connie Bland, Sr. Executive Secretary	Theresa Romnebaum, Victim Advocate	Virginia Caswell, Administrative Assistant	Dawn Andrews, Executive Secretary	Thelma Alvarado, Research Associate	Jennifer Hernandez, OPS Secretary	
Tammy Peterson, Criminal Financial Specialist		Lynn Dorey, Victim Advocate	Omayra Kohler, Executive Secretary		Noemi Herendez, Administrative Assistant		
Lula Weston, Sr. Executive Secretary		Amy Romero, Administrative Secretary	Michele Stano, Executive Secretary		Rhonda Greene, Executive Secretary		
		Sherrie Cheeks, Executive Secretary	Nataya Birdsong, OPS Secretary		Rimma Romashova, Executive Secretary		
		Shirley Moton, Executive Secretary			Omarelis Jimenez, Executive Secretary		
		Jessica Watkins, Executive Secretary					

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2007

The primary goal of the Office of Statewide Prosecution is to make a significant impact on organized criminal organizations in the State of Florida. In 2007, the Office will stay focused on multi-defendant and multi-circuit cases. Emphasis will continue to be placed on investigating and prosecuting health care fraud, identity theft, and other large scale fraud perpetrated on the citizens of Florida or on government agencies. Growing emphasis will be placed on computer child solicitation, child pornography, and other efforts to help the Child Predator CyberCrime Unit. New emphasis will be placed on gang violence, drug trafficking, and coordinating efforts to combat the growing problem of human trafficking.

The Office can best accomplish this mission through cooperation and partnership with federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, as well as Florida's twenty elected State Attorneys and three appointed United States Attorneys. Efforts to achieve a high level of communication and cooperation between this Office and other state and federal prosecuting offices will continue in order to insure that investigative and prosecution efforts by this Office complement the work being done by the State Attorneys and United States Attorneys.

As a separate budget entity within the Office of Attorney General, this Office will follow the policies and procedures of the Office of Attorney General. Internal controls necessary to monitor and audit expenditures, office equipment, employee timekeeping, and other administrative or legal requirements will continue to be evaluated and upgraded, if necessary. New efficiency opportunities will be explored and existing practices will be reviewed and eliminated where no longer necessary. Office personnel will respond promptly to requests for public records, while insuring that any confidential information is protected.

The men and women of the Office who have been called to serve Florida will continue to do so with integrity and dedication. We look forward to aggressively pursuing these critical goals for our state in the year ahead.

Office of Statewide Prosecution

March 1, 2007