A record-breaking 70 kilograms of heroin (over 150 lbs.) was recovered from a vehicle and an apartment in the Bronx in May 2015. This was the largest heroin seizure by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in New York and the fourth largest nationwide. 

Photo credit: Linda Rosier
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Message from the Special Narcotics Prosecutor

The picture on the front cover of this year’s annual report displays the largest U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) heroin seizure in New York State: 70 kilograms (154 pounds) of highly pure heroin. Worth $50 million dollars, the heroin was recovered from a vehicle and apartment in the Fieldston section of the Bronx after a yearlong joint investigation between our office, the DEA and other state and local agencies.

For the past six years, the Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor has focused on reducing the supply of heroin and illegal prescription pills. While we have had numerous large seizures, the record breaking May 17 seizure capped off our efforts. It would have provided enough heroin for every man, woman and child in New York City. Hopefully, we prevented some of our 8.5 million city residents from overdosing, and others from ever experimenting with one of our country’s most addictive and deadly illegal drugs.

The gateway to heroin usually comes in the form of legally prescribed pain killing medication. In this report, we describe prosecutions against corrupt medical professionals who sell prescriptions for deadly pain pills, as well as criminal organizations that illegally obtain and distribute them.

Accidental overdose is now the leading cause of preventable death in New York City—taking more lives than homicides and traffic accidents combined. Overdose deaths continue their steady rise, while homicides and traffic deaths have declined or remained about the same. Clearly we are not doing enough to reverse this trend.

Right now, addictive drugs are flooding our streets. Such an abundant supply can only lead to more tragedy. In this report, we suggest a path to a brighter future.

Bridget G. Brennan
Special Narcotics Prosecutor
About the Office

An independent prosecutors’ office with citywide jurisdiction, the Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor (SNP) is responsible for felony narcotics investigations and prosecutions in the five boroughs of New York City. Founded in 1971, it is the only agency of its kind in the United States.

Created in response to a burgeoning heroin epidemic and spike in violent crime, SNP was granted broad authority under New York State Judiciary Laws to root out sophisticated narcotics trafficking organizations and track offenders across traditional jurisdictional boundaries. Assistant District Attorneys are assigned to the office by the city’s five District Attorneys. Since its inception, SNP has worked closely with local, state and federal law enforcement partners.

Renowned for its wiretap investigations, SNP is a leader in the use of cutting-edge electronic technology to identify and pursue members of criminal enterprises from street-level dealers to top suppliers. In recent years, SNP has applied its expertise to confronting the explosion of heroin trafficking, prescription drug diversion, and the prosecution of violent gangs. The office is also committed to reducing demand for narcotics by raising public awareness and facilitating treatment for addicted offenders.

The first Special Narcotics Prosecutor, Frank Rogers, was appointed in January 1972. He was succeeded by Hon. Sterling Johnson, Jr., who headed SNP for 16 years before becoming a federal judge in the Eastern District of New York. Robert H. Silbering was named the Special Narcotics Prosecutor in 1992.

On May 1, 1998, Bridget G. Brennan was appointed Special Narcotics Prosecutor by the city’s five District Attorneys. Under her direction, the office has developed innovative strategies to stem the flow of drugs into the city and target emerging problems. Ms. Brennan established the Heroin Interdiction Team (HIT), the Digital Forensic Services Unit, the Prescription Drug Investigation Unit (PDIU), the Narcotics Gang Unit and the Money Laundering and Financial Investigation Unit.
**Most Common Preventable Deaths: Overdose**

Overdose deaths surpass homicides and traffic fatalities combined.

Drug overdose deaths impact every neighborhood and demographic in New York City.

- Rates of drug overdose deaths increased by 42% between 2010 and 2014.
- In 2014, nearly all overdose deaths involved more than one substance, with 79% involving an opioid.
- Heroin was involved in 458 deaths, or 57%.
- Prescription opioid painkillers were involved in 216 deaths, or 27%.
- Benzodiazepines were found in 54% of deaths involving prescription opioids.

> "This epidemic did not develop overnight and it’s not going to end overnight. To prevent addiction, we need to reduce the easy access to drugs, appropriately punish those who profit from the drug trade, and rehabilitate the victims of this tragic epidemic."

– Special Narcotics Prosecutor Bridget G. Brennan

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Curbing the Epidemic

Painkillers
While SNP has prosecuted dozens of corrupt medical professionals, most pills found on the black market are prescribed by doctors who are not criminals. For decades, patients have been prescribed far more pills than medically necessary, and much of the excess is stolen, shared or sold.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Recommendations for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain provide a road map to responsible doctors committed to easing patients’ pain, while protecting them from the harmful effects of addictive drugs. They offer physicians guidance on:

- Determining when to initiate or continue opioids for chronic pain
- Opioid selection, dosage, duration, follow-up, and discontinuation
- Assessing risk and addressing harm

(Recommendations do not apply to active cancer, palliative, and end-of-life care.)

Medical societies and local and state health departments should provide leadership by adopting these voluntary guidelines. Unless this compliance is widespread, mandatory restrictions may be the next option.

Heroin
With profit as the only motive, tactics employed by international criminal organizations to flood the U.S. with heroin are cunning and brutal. Heroin commonly crosses over the Southwest U.S./Mexican border and is trucked to New York City. Overdose deaths are fueled by a cheap, available supply, and the money associated with the trade fuels violence. Law enforcement must redouble efforts to stem the flow.

- Federal authorities should develop a comprehensive plan to apprehend major traffickers, seize narcotics and profits, and collaborate with state and local authorities on regional strategies.
- State enforcement must identify links between regional distribution operations and local drug sellers.
- Local focus on dismantling street-level networks, including leadership, is critical.

![Trafficking routes](image-url)
Opioid Crisis

Heroin

As SNP’s seizures demonstrate, heroin continues to flood the streets of New York City at an alarming rate. Investigations with law enforcement partners led to the recovery of over 364 kilograms of heroin (800 lbs.) in 2015, and 342 kilograms (750 lbs.) in 2014. These annual totals are triple the amount of heroin seized by SNP in any prior year.

**Heroin Seizure Breaks Records**

A single, record-breaking case in May 2015 led to the recovery of more than 70 kilograms of heroin (150 lbs.) from a vehicle and an apartment in the Fieldston section of the Bronx. This was the largest seizure recorded in the history of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration’s (DEA) New York Division and the fourth largest by DEA nationwide. Immediately following this investigation, conversations recorded in unrelated wiretap cases suggested heroin distribution groups were experiencing a shortage of supply. This is the impact we hope to have, and extending the drought is an achievable goal.

Overdose deaths are tragic, but unless we curtail the flow of heroin and prescription opioid painkillers they are inevitable. The dual problem of the abuse of illegal and legal drugs impacts every neighborhood and demographic in New York City, from the Bronx to Staten Island, the young and the old, every race and income bracket.
Opioid Crisis: Fentanyl

The potent synthetic opioid fentanyl has been linked to hundreds of deaths in the U.S. and it is taking lives here in New York City. As of the writing of this report, data on fentanyl-related fatalities in New York City is not available. However, we understand fentanyl overdoses are increasingly common here.

Recent SNP investigations uncovered bulk shipments of fentanyl coming into the city. Fentanyl is up to 100 times more potent than morphine, and as much as 50 times stronger than heroin. Medically, it is used to treat patients with severe pain and in the final stages of cancer. However, Mexican drug cartels are now producing fentanyl in clandestine laboratories and shipping it over the border.

Fentanyl is particularly dangerous because the people who use it aren’t always aware of the strength of the drug that they’re taking. In Suffolk County, L.I., fentanyl-related deaths doubled between 2014 and 2015. A rash of roughly two dozen fatalities in Buffalo over 10 days in February 2016 was attributed to fentanyl-laced heroin. In Connecticut, 186 fentanyl-related overdose deaths were reported in 2015, a 148% increase over the previous year.

On the black market, fentanyl is added to heroin to increase its intoxicating effects. It is also pressed into pills and sold as counterfeit opioid medication or even Xanax, a benzodiazepine used to treat anxiety that can be lethal when taken with opioids.

SNP investigations resulted in several large seizures of three to five kilograms of fentanyl (6 to 12 pounds) over the past year, with a kilogram selling for approximately $60,000 wholesale. DEA seized just two kilograms of fentanyl in New York State in 2014, but nearly 22 kilograms in 2015—a 1,000% increase. Fentanyl has been found alongside heroin in packaging mills. It is shipped in loads with other drugs, such as methamphetamine (also produced in Mexican labs) or on its own.

A fatal overdose in upstate Sullivan County led SNP to prosecute New York City-based heroin suppliers. Lab tests of narcotics seized from a stash apartment in Washington Heights revealed five kilograms of fentanyl (11 lbs.) had been seized with two kilograms of heroin (5 lbs.).


Over six pounds of fentanyl transported from Massachusetts to the Bronx.
Trends continued

Opioid Crisis: Prescription Drugs

Prescription opioids continue to be easily obtainable, despite efforts to educate doctors and regulate prescribing. Last year marked a record high for the number of oxycodone prescriptions filled by New York City residents. (Oxycodone is the opioid drug most commonly sold on the black market.) In an effort to better understand the scope of the epidemic, SNP has tracked data from the New York State Department of Health over the past several years.

The number of prescriptions for oxycodone filled by city residents escalated rapidly from 2007 to 2012, more than doubling, and then began to level off. Unfortunately, last year saw a 4% increase.

Several investigations conducted by the Prescription Drug Investigation Unit (PDIU) began with a report of an overdose, either in New York City or another jurisdiction. Important evidence gathered at the scene of the death led to arrests of prescribers. In February 2016, Staten Island District Attorney Michael McMahon and the NYPD announced an Overdose Response Initiative. Going forward, overdose deaths on Staten Island will trigger an investigation to determine, when possible, the source of supply and whether criminal charges can be brought.

PDIU has emerged as a leader in its ability to track the source of illegal drugs and determine how pills are making their way onto the black market. As a result we have prosecuted dozens of medical professionals. In 2015, PDIU launched over 70 investigations and brought charges against four doctors for selling prescriptions for addictive medications in exchange for cash. These physicians practiced in the Upper West Side, Chinatown, Astoria and at JFK International Airport. One doctor worked as a senior aviation medical examiner, and determined whether pilots were physically fit to fly. Also in 2015, a doctor and a hospital pharmacy director were each sentenced to five years in prison for separate multi-million dollar schemes.

We have learned that state medical boards will not reliably revoke a doctor’s license after conviction on a felony related to the practice of medicine. As a result, in some cases involving less extensive or egregious criminal conduct, we have offered a doctor a sentence of probation in exchange for a guilty plea to a felony charge and an agreement to forfeit his or her medical license. In this way, we prevent recidivism and future illegal prescription sales.

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**Oxycodone Prescriptions Filled by NYC Residents: 2007–2015**

Source: New York State Department of Health, Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement (BNE)
Violent Street Gangs

In an era of historically low homicide rates, all of law enforcement is determined to keep crime down. The city has focused on violent recidivists, or individuals who are responsible for repeated violent criminal acts. A small number of criminals, particularly those associated with street gangs, can wreak havoc on a neighborhood’s sense of security. Gangs make money through illicit trade in drugs, property crimes and fraud. Money is used to buy guns and to support a flashy lifestyle. Violence is employed in defense of turf and reputation.

Violence Reduction Target Initiative
SNP participates in an NYPD initiative to build narcotics cases against Violence Reduction Targets (VRTs) with the goal of reducing violence. Since 2014, SNP has arrested, indicted and/or issued arrest warrants for dozens of VRT targets and associates. Additionally, SNP incorporates an emphasis on crimes involving violent recidivists, as well as traffickers dealing in both weapons and drugs, into all cases. A Violent Felony Offenders (VFO) reporting system monitors outcomes. Tracking tools provide arrest notifications from the NYPD for individuals associated with violence.

GS9 Members on Trial
In April 2016, two members of a violent gang “GS9” were convicted at trial in Manhattan Supreme Court on charges of conspiracy, homicide and other serious crimes. These gang members carried out shootings from New York City to Miami. They were among 21 charged, including Ackquille Pollard, a hip hop performer also known as “Bobby Shmurda,” who led a rap group bearing the same name as the street gang. As a result of a judge’s decision, Pollard and the others were scheduled to face trial at later dates.

Violent Drug Turf Battles in the Bronx
A wiretap investigation led to the arrest of nine drug traffickers in Bedford Park, most with lengthy criminal histories, including convictions for murder-for-hire, armed robberies and sex offenses. The group was led by a former member of the Latin Kings, and threats of violence were used to protect the group’s turf. Undercover officers purchased narcotics and police seized four guns.

Guns seized from the head of a Bronx heroin trafficking group.
SNP Outreach

Sharing Expertise with Local and International Partners

Narcotics investigators from the Supreme Prosecutor’s Office, Republic of Korea, meet with SNP staff.

SNP staff accompanies Law Enforcement Explorers on a visit with U.S. District Judge Sterling Johnson, Jr.

At a news conference in City Hall, Mayor Bill de Blasio announces a new gun-related initiative called Project Fast Track to ensure shooters are quickly apprehended and punished appropriately.

Staten Island District Attorney Michael McMahon announces an Overdose Response Initiative.

Professional Recognition


Peter M. Kougasian, Counsel to the Special Narcotics Prosecutor, (center) receives the Thomas E. Dewey Medal from the New York City Bar Association.

FDAF honors Assistant District Attorney James Hanley (right), DEA New York Drug Enforcement Task Force Group T-12 and SNP’s Investigators Unit.

Bridget G. Brennan delivers the keynote address at the University of Wisconsin Law School Hooding and Commencement Ceremony.
Community Initiatives

In the wake of major investigations, SNP seeks opportunities to make positive contributions to neighborhoods that have been impacted by drug trafficking and law enforcement activity. By supporting recreational programs, SNP has an opportunity to help strengthen the community and build relationships between young people and law enforcement.

In the first of two major community projects implemented in 2015, SNP funds paid for a new scoreboard and 24-second clocks at the Wadleigh Secondary School for the Performing Visual Arts, located at 215 West 114th Street in Harlem. This followed a successful investigation into narcotics trafficking in the vicinity of A. Philip Randolph Houses, a NYCHA residential complex up the block from Wadleigh.

In conjunction with a scoreboard unveiling in May 2015, the Police Athletic League (PAL) sponsored a “Cops & Kids” basketball game between the Wadleigh boys’ varsity basketball team and NYPD officers representing the 28th Precinct and PSA #5. Financial support came from drug trafficking money seized during criminal prosecutions by SNP.

A second major community project funded a newly refurbished gymnasium at the Farragut Houses, a NYCHA residential development located in the Vinegar Hill section of Brooklyn. This followed a long-term investigation into drug dealing in and around the Farragut Houses.

A ribbon cutting ceremony in July 2015 marked the opening of the refurbished gymnasium, along with a PAL sponsored “Cops & Kids” basketball game involving members of the Farragut Houses Community Center boys’ basketball team and police officers from the 84th Precinct and PSA #3. Refurbishments included newly finished and painted floors, new safety mats, and an upgraded scoreboard.
The Special Investigations Bureau targets major narcotics trafficking organizations, including those that import and distribute multi-kilogram quantities of cocaine and heroin. The activities of the criminal enterprises extend beyond county, state and international borders.

SIB prosecutors work with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the New York City Police Department (NYPD), the New York State Police, the New York Drug Enforcement Task Force (NYDETF), the New York Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Strike Force, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), and other local, state, federal and foreign law enforcement.

In 2015, SIB launched 168 investigations targeting a wide range of criminal activity including drug trafficking, robberies, weapons trafficking and money laundering. The bureau also commenced civil actions to forfeit narcotics proceeds. Senior staff supervised wiretap investigations involving 182 eavesdropping applications, including 119 originals, 55 extensions and 8 amendments. Narcotics investigations resulted in the seizure of 627 pounds of heroin, 215 pounds of cocaine, 78 pounds of methamphetamine, 32 pounds of marijuana, and various other drugs.

**Heroin Interdiction Team**

The resurgence of heroin throughout New York State drove SNP to create the Heroin Interdiction Team (HIT) in late 2014. HIT is tasked with combating the flow of heroin to the area surrounding New York City, particularly upstate counties. Working with a dedicated team of New York State troopers, DEA agents, NYPD officers and other law enforcement officials, HIT focuses on cooperating with local prosecutors and law enforcement to share intelligence and resources to take down the organizations responsible for spreading heroin from the mills in New York City to New York State as a whole.

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**Special Investigations Bureau**

The Special Investigations Bureau (SIB) targets major narcotics trafficking organizations, including those that import and distribute multi-kilogram quantities of cocaine and heroin. The activities of the criminal enterprises extend beyond county, state and international borders.

**2015 SNP WIRETAP ACTIVITY**

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**INSTRUMENT TYPES**

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The Special Investigations Bureau targets major local and international narcotics trafficking organizations.
Narcotics Gang Unit
The Narcotics Gang Unit was established in 2002. It concentrates on violent neighborhood gangs, robbery crews and weapons traffickers committing drug-related criminal activity across the city. The unit works closely with detectives from the NYPD’s Gang Division, Narcotics Division and Precinct members. The unit has developed expertise in the use of new technologies and collecting evidence through social media, such as Instagram, Twitter, YouTube and Facebook. In addition to narcotics trafficking, the unit also prosecuted murder and murder conspiracy, assault, armed robbery, kidnapping, burglary, weapons possession and illegal firearms sales.

Money Laundering and Financial Investigations Unit
The Money Laundering and Financial Investigations Unit was initiated in 2001, and reconfigured in 2005 and 2008. It investigates narcotics-related money laundering and other financial criminal activity. Cases are generated from multiple sources, including intelligence developed during narcotics investigations. The unit aims to prevent foreign drug trafficking organizations from repatriating drug proceeds through smuggling, as well as the use of the financial system and international trade, and local drug organizations from benefiting from illicit profits.

Forfeiture Investigations
Established more than 25 years ago, the Forfeiture Investigations Unit evaluates felony drug prosecutions for potential civil litigation to recover proceeds of narcotics crimes. The unit works closely with law enforcement—on the federal, state and local levels—in identifying criminal assets to deprive narcotics traffickers and money-laundering groups of the profits of criminality. The unit has in place a comprehensive set of systems to track office participation in investigations resulting in forfeiture actions. In 2015, 285 federal forfeiture actions were initiated and 345 were completed. At the state level, 324 actions were initiated and 360 were completed.

Prescription Drug Investigation Unit
Alarming rates of prescription drug abuse and related crime led SNP to form the Prescription Drug Investigation Unit. The unit, created in 2011, is designed to combat the proliferation of prescription narcotics on the black market by investigating and prosecuting the criminal distribution of these drugs. Prosecutions target a range of subjects, from members of street level drug organizations to doctors and pharmacists engaged in the criminal sale of prescriptions or pills. Armed robberies of pharmacies, shootings, home invasions and other violent crimes are also associated with prescription drug diversion. The Unit works closely with the New York State Health Department’s Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement, the NYPD and the DEA, among other law enforcement agencies.

The expertise and dedication of Assistant District Attorneys and Investigators has positioned PDIIU as a leader in the field.
The Special Narcotics Investigators Unit works with federal and state law enforcement agencies throughout the five boroughs of New York City. During 2015, the unit opened 43 new investigations, resulting in 187 arrests. Of those, 122 were charged with top felony narcotics counts and 29 with violations of money laundering laws. As a result of those arrests, 24 kilograms of cocaine (over 52 lbs.) and 141 kilograms of heroin (300 lbs.) were seized. Investigations by the unit and its DEA and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) partners yielded cash seizures totaling millions of dollars in narcotics trafficking proceeds.

Created in 1992, the unit fulfills two primary areas of responsibility: investigations and enforcement support. Many of the investigators are law enforcement veterans from the NYPD’s Narcotics Division and the DEA’s New York Drug Enforcement Task Force. The unit initiates cases independently and works jointly with numerous federal, state and local law enforcement agencies and task forces. A Chief Investigator oversees the activities of the investigators and monitors all investigation-related expenditures.

The unit handles narcotics cases targeting local, national and international trafficking groups, as well as trafficking over the Internet. Teams within the unit have expertise in identifying and dismantling major heroin organizations operating in New York City, as well as international supply chains. In partnership with Assistant District Attorneys, members of the Investigators Unit have developed effective methods for prosecuting prescription drug diversion rings and corrupt medical professionals. These investigators provide crucial leadership in collaborative efforts with local, state and federal law enforcement partners.

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<tr>
<td>Marijuana</td>
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<td>Guns</td>
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Trial Division Assistant District Attorneys handle the bulk of the drug felony arrests referred to the office for prosecution. They are assigned to one of the two bureaus that comprise the Trial Division. Each bureau is headed by a Chief and Deputy Chief who supervise assistants as they provide legal advice and draw up court orders, including search and arrest warrants, on a 24-hour basis.

Assistant’s work closely with the NYPD’s Narcotics Division, DEA’s New York Drug Enforcement Task Force (NYDETF), the Port Authority Police, the New York State Police, the New York State Health Department’s Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement (BNE) and the SNP Investigators Unit. In 2015, the Division launched 147 new investigations. A total of 1,818 complaints were referred to the office for prosecution during the year; 1,196 defendants were indicted. Search warrants drafted numbered 703.
**Case Highlights**

**Narcotics Smuggled Aboard Spanish Navy Training Vessel**

Two Colombian nationals face extradition in connection with multi-kilogram quantities of heroin and cocaine smuggled to New York City aboard an emblematic Royal Spanish Navy training vessel. Corrupt Spanish midshipmen were allegedly paid to conceal the narcotics in the Juan Sebastián de Elcano as it traveled from Cartagena, Colombia to New York City. The Colombian defendants are charged with supplying Bronx drug traffickers.

A tourist attraction wherever it travels, the ship was a perfect cover when it docked near the U.S.S. Intrepid on Manhattan’s West Side in May 2014, where sailors off-loaded four kilograms of cocaine (9 lbs.) and four kilograms of heroin (9 lbs.). DEA agents seized the cocaine from a vehicle in the Bronx and tracked the heroin to Hartford, Conn. When the Juan Sebastián de Elcano arrived in Spain, officers with the Spanish Civil Guard recovered 127 kilograms of cocaine (nearly 280 lbs.) from a storeroom for reserve sails. The source of this cocaine is the subject of an investigation in Spain.

**International Narcotics and Kidnapping Conspiracy**

Five members of an international drug trafficking ring were arrested for importing narcotics from suppliers linked to the Sinaloa Cartel in Mexico. Over 30 pounds of heroin, cocaine and over $1 million cash were seized in the Bronx and Arkansas during the wiretap investigation by SNP and the DEA’s New York Drug Enforcement Task Force (NYDETF). Ring leader Luisito Colon Pagan allegedly maintained direct contact with suppliers in Mexico, who in turn sent their representatives to New York City to

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*Images:*
- A Spanish Navy training vessel, the Juan Sebastián de Elcano, was used to smuggle multi-kilogram quantities of heroin and cocaine from Colombia to New York City.
- More than 30 pounds of heroin brought into the United States from suppliers with ties to the Sinaloa Cartel.
- DEA agents tracked the heroin to Connecticut.
oversee narcotics deliveries. At one point, a representative of the Mexican suppliers became an unwanted guest in Pagan's apartment. Pagan's operation began to unravel when his organization failed to collect from a customer, which caused Pagan to fall behind on payments to the Mexican suppliers. Pagan blamed his main distributor for this trouble and allegedly plotted to kidnap the distributor's brother in the Dominican Republic in order to demand ransom. Pagan was arrested before the kidnapping could occur.

**Record-Breaking Seizure of Heroin in the Bronx**

In the largest heroin seizure recorded by DEA New York Division, agents and investigators recovered 70 kilograms of heroin (154 lbs.) worth up to $50 million, as well as a firearm and $2 million cash, from a vehicle and an apartment in the Fieldston section of the Bronx. Five members of the family-run narcotics trafficking network were arrested, including the head of the multi-million dollar organization, Jose Mercedes, who is charged with Operating as a Major Trafficker under the New York State drug kingpin statute. A wiretap investigation revealed that Mercedes and his drug ring received sizable shipments of heroin at least monthly from suppliers in Culiacán, Mexico, an area controlled by the Sinaloa Cartel. The organization is believed to have served as a main source of heroin for customers throughout the city, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island. The investigation was conducted by SNP, the DEA’s New York Drug Enforcement Task Force (NYDETF), and the ICE Homeland Security Investigations (HSI)-led El Dorado Task Force. The 70-kilogram seizure is the fourth largest seizure of heroin by the DEA nationwide.

**Kingpin Clipped with $6.5 Million in “Crystal Meth” and Heroin**

A New York City-based kingpin, Jose Mauro Mota, was sentenced to 11 years in prison for receiving a massive shipment of drugs, including 23 kilograms (51 lbs.) of methamphetamine and five kilograms (11 lbs.) of heroin, from Mexican suppliers. The drugs were seized at the Vince Lombardi Service Area off Interstate 95 (I-95) in New Jersey on July 3, 2011 as a result of a wiretap investigation by Special Narcotics and the DEA’s New York Drug Enforcement Task Force (NYDETF). Both the meth and the heroin tested at over 90% purity and carried a combined street value of approximately $6.5 million. Evidence suggested that Mota had expected the shipment to contain heroin and cocaine rather than heroin and “crystal meth,” and only learned his Mexican suppliers had made the substitution after the load had crossed the border into Texas. Mota was sentenced to 11 years in prison for Operating as a Major Trafficker, to run...
concurrent with 3 ½ years to 10 ½ years for Conspiracy in the 2nd Degree.

A Yonkers storage unit belonging to one of the individuals contained four kilograms of heroin (nearly 9 lbs.).

$30 Million Load of Heroin Seized from Bronx Traffickers
An investigation into heroin trafficking in the Northeast region led members of the DEA’s New York Drug Enforcement Task Force (NYDETF) to seize 46 kilograms of heroin (over 140 lbs.) worth $30 million in the Bronx and Yonkers. Surveillance and intelligence led agents to stop two individuals in a Jeep Cherokee on Sedgwick Avenue in the Bronx and recover 22 brick-shaped packages of powder consistent with kilograms of heroin (48 lbs.). The packages were inside a concealed compartment in the trunk. A search of a nearby apartment yielded an additional 20 kilograms (44 lbs.) from a bedroom closet and a concealed compartment inside a wall. Approximately $50,000 cash was also inside the wall compartment. A $30 million load of heroin was seized from vehicles and from a Yonkers storage unit.

Mexican suppliers substituted “crystal meth” for cocaine.

Bronx to Suffolk Heroin Trafficking Route Disrupted
A joint investigation by SNP, the Suffolk County District Attorney and the DEA Long Island District Office dismantled a major heroin distribution network that extended from the Bronx to Long Island. A Suffolk County indictment charged two brothers from Deer Park with Operating as a Major Trafficker under New York State’s drug kingpin statute, which carries a possible life sentence. The brothers sold an average of 326 bags of heroin a day to their Long Island customers. Much of the heroin came from a Bronx supplier, who is being prosecuted by SNP and who made weekly trips to Long Island to deliver heroin.

A heroin distributor from the Bronx made deliveries to Suffolk County.
Heroin and "Crystal Meth" Moved Cross-Country

A short-term wiretap investigation led to the seizure of three kilograms of heroin (over 6 lbs.) and seven kilograms of methamphetamine (15 lbs.). Acting on intelligence, investigators from Special Narcotics, along with members of the DEA's New York Drug Enforcement Task Force (NYDETF) and ICE Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), set up surveillance in the vicinity of Broadway and 173rd Street in Manhattan and observed the subject of the investigation, Miguel Garcia, meet with two other individuals. Those two men then walked to a car and one of them retrieved a weighted duffel bag. Investigators stopped the man with the bag, Carmelo Maria, and recovered the drugs from inside. The investigation revealed that Garcia had arranged for the large load of drugs to be transported across the country from California to New York. Both Garcia and Maria pled guilty to Criminal Possession of a Controlled substance in the 3rd Degree. Garcia received a five-year prison sentence for orchestrating the shipment, while Maria received a one-year sentence for his role in picking it up.

Heroin Supply Chain Dismantled: NYC to Upstate Counties

An investigation into an overdose death in Sullivan County, N.Y. led authorities to identify and dismantle a major trafficking drug network based in the Bronx and upper Manhattan in May 2015. The heroin distribution group supplied local dealers throughout the metropolitan area and in several counties in Upstate New York. Five defendants were arrested and approximately 2.5 kilograms (over 5 lbs.) of heroin and 5 kilograms of the potent opioid prescription painkiller Fentanyl (11 lbs.) were seized, along with two guns, as a result of the collaborative effort by the DEA's Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Strike Force, the New York State Police, the SNP's Heroin Interdiction Team (HIT) and the Sullivan County Sheriff's Office. Investigators tracked the heroin supply chain to active mill locations in the Bronx that churned out tens of thousands of individual dose glassine envelopes of heroin at a time. One mill was located close to Manhattan College and the Ethical Culture Fieldston School, a private school for grades K-12.

Car with $1.6 Million in "Crystal Meth" Stopped Near Holland Tunnel

Acting on intelligence, NYPD officers stopped a vehicle just outside of the Holland Tunnel and recovered 25 kilograms (55 lbs.) of methamphetamine, or “crystal meth,” from the trunk. The drugs, which had been driven across the state, were hidden in boxes used to transport stone tile. Officers had to use...
a dolly to remove the large load of crystal meth, which was determined to have a street value of $1.6 million. The driver, who had a Texas firearm permit, initially claimed the boxes were for masonry work. He was arrested and subsequently pled guilty to Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 3rd Degree in exchange for a one-year prison term.

Gramercy Physician Sentenced to 5 ½ Years in Prison

A Gramercy physician was convicted at trial of selling 39 prescriptions for oxycodone to both an undercover officer and an admitted drug dealer from New Jersey. Dr. Hector Castro, an internist, received a sentence of five and a half years in prison. Evidence at trial showed that Castro, founder and medical director of Itzamna Medical Center, sold prescriptions for $125 each, while conducting no medical examinations. The proof included videos of Castro in his private office, counting and pocketing cash handed across his desk, in exchange for written prescriptions for oxycodone. The investigation began when an individual suffered a fatal oxycodone overdose in Middlesex, N.J. in late 2011, and authorities discovered a pill bottle with Castro’s name on the label at the scene.

In a separate drug diversion scheme, Castro’s office manager Patricia Valera stole blank prescription sheets from the medical practice, forged the prescriptions and then sold the individual sheets for $500 each. Many of these prescriptions went to drug crews in Pennsylvania, where more than 40 individuals have been prosecuted by local authorities and approximately 30 guns were seized. Valera pled guilty to multiple charges and is expected to receive a three-year prison sentence. Her husband, who assisted in the scheme, also pled guilty and is expected to receive a sentence of six months in jail. Between Castro and Valera, at least half a million narcotic pills spilled into the black market.
Case Highlights continued

Hospital Pharmacy Director Steals 200,000 Oxycodone Pills
A former Director of Pharmacy Services for Beth Israel Medical Center, Anthony D’Alessandro, was sentenced to five years in prison on drug possession charges after siphoning nearly 200,000 oxycodone pills from the facility he oversaw. The pills had an estimated street value of $5.6 million.

Doctor Sold Rxs for Cash: Offices at JFK Airport and Long Island
An internist and senior aviation medical examiner, licensed to practice in New York for 19 years, was charged in connection with illegal sales of prescriptions for controlled substances. Dr. Gerald Surya practiced out of an office at the JFK Medport and on Long Island, where he sold prescriptions for oxycodone, Xanax, Percocet and Vicodin to select individuals for cash. The investigation by the Prescription Drug Investigation Unit, the DEA, the NYPD, and the New York State Health Department’s Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement (BNE) centered on 26 prescriptions written between November 2014 and August 2015. Some patients who...
purchased illegal prescriptions supplied Surya with the names of friends and relatives to use on prescriptions. Between 2012 and 2015, more than half of the prescriptions Surya wrote were for oxycodone.

**Manhattan Physician Illegally Sold Xanax Prescriptions and Pills**
Dr. Mengjia Zhao was convicted of illegally selling prescriptions for alprazolam, an anti-anxiety medication sold under the brand name Xanax. Licensed to practice medicine for 20 years, Zhao was arrested as a result of a long-term investigation by the Prescription Drug Investigation Unit and the NYPD’s Narcotics Borough Manhattan South. Undercover officers posed as patients in visits to Zhao’s Lafayette Street office. The doctor sold 28 prescriptions, as well as actual Xanax pills. Zhao conducted no medical exams beyond checking blood pressure during these visits. The investigation revealed he supplied prescriptions to multiple drug dealers who sold alprazolam in the vicinity of Union Square. An analysis of his prescribing history between 2009 and 2015 showed that 48% of the prescriptions he wrote were for alprazolam, which was notable because Zhao was an internist and not a psychiatrist. Zhao received probation and was required to forfeit his New York State medical license.

**Upper West Side Doctor and Wife Indicted**
A physician and his wife were indicted for selling oxycodone prescriptions in exchange for cash over a period of six and a half years. Dr. Rogelio Lucas, licensed to practice medicine since 1972, allegedly wrote over 23,600 oxycodone prescriptions for patients with no actual medical need for them. The doctor was writing oxycodone prescriptions for about 45 to 50 individuals a day, while his wife ran the front office. The resulting three million pills would have carried a street value of up to $77 million, and it is believed this doctor was the source of prescriptions for multiple drug rings. The investigation was conducted by SNP’s Prescription Drug Investigation Unit, the DEA, the NYPD and the city’s Human Resource Administration (HRA). Investigators recovered more than $600,000 cash, along with medical and bank records from the couple’s home in Scarsdale, and an apartment and medical office in the Upper West Side of Manhattan. Since 2009, 76% of the prescriptions written by this doctor were for oxycodone.

**Astoria Doctor Sold 130 Painkiller Rxs**
A retired doctor pled guilty to illegally selling prescriptions for oxycodone from his practice in Astoria, Queens. An investigation by the SNP’s Prescription Drug Investigation Unit and the DEA’s Long Island Tactical Diversion Squad revealed that Dr. David Duffy grossly overprescribed oxycodone for no legitimate medical purpose. An indictment charged Duffy with selling 130 prescriptions to three patients, for a total of over 30,000 oxycodone pills. The doctor ignored signs that patients were most likely selling some or all of the pills. The prescriptions were written prior to 2013, when Duffy retired from the practice of internal medicine. Duffy wrote 585 prescriptions for
Case Highlights continued

over 127,000 oxycodone pills to the same three patients between September 2010 and June 2013—at a rate of 40 pills per patient per day for 1,033 days. Duffy surrendered his DEA registration, which permitted him to write prescriptions for controlled substances, in 2014.

Dentist Oversaw California to Harlem Marijuana Pipeline
Five defendants, including a prominent San Francisco dentist and a New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) worker, were charged in connection with a marijuana pipeline that pumped pot from California to Harlem. Investigators believe the dentist, Jerome Weitz, oversaw transportation of 20 to 30 pounds of marijuana to New York City each month. His website also offered dental advice to pot smokers. Weitz pled guilty to Conspiracy in the 4th degree. An undercover NYPD investigation revealed that the NYCHA worker sold marijuana, which he stored in his locker at the Lincoln Houses in Harlem. Marijuana sold by the members of the ring carried a street value of over $100,000.

Little Blue Pills Brought Him Down: Counterfeit Viagra, Cialis
A Bronx man pled guilty to trademark counterfeiting and admitted to selling fake Viagra and Cialis pills for at least two years beginning in 2012. At the time of his arrest in September 2014, the defendant was in possession of nearly 14,000 Viagra and Cialis pills in bottles and blister packs, along with counterfeit Viagra labels. He told investigators he had earned approximately $1,500 per month from sales. Pills were made with the same or similar ingredients as the real pills, but at 15% less strength than the advertised dose. Bottles had invalid lot numbers printed on them. The investigation was conducted by SNP’s Special Investigation Bureau and the Manhattan District Attorney’s Office. The Bronx District Attorney’s Office handled the prosecution. The defendant was sentenced to five years’ probation and ordered to pay a $5,000 fine.

The fake Viagra and Cialis pills had vulcanized rubber as a filler material.

No Snow for the Holidays: $3 Million in Cocaine Seized
A massive shipment of 62 kilograms of cocaine (135 lbs.) worth up to $3 million on the street was intercepted en route from Massachusetts to the Bronx during the holiday season. Intelligence led agents and detectives with the ICE Homeland Security Investigations (HSI)-led Border Enforcement Security Task Force (BEST) to identify two

San Francisco dentist convicted in lucrative conspiracy to transport marijuana from California to Harlem.
individuals as members of a major narcotics trafficking network. Agents stopped a Chevy Tahoe SUV in which one of the individuals was a passenger near Williamsbridge Road and Pelham Parkway in the Bronx. Inside a box in the backseat were 50 kilograms (110 lbs.) of cocaine marked with brand names, including the name of an Argentinian soccer player. A short time later another 12 kilograms (26 lbs.) were seized from another vehicle – a rental car with Massachusetts license plates.

Brooklyn College Maintenance Worker Charged in Drug Sales
A maintenance worker at Brooklyn College was indicted in connection with nine sales of cocaine to an undercover officer for $1,400. Some of the sales took place in front of the college’s James Hall, a building that houses multiple academic departments and an early childhood center. Brooklyn College is located near two public schools. In at least one sale, which was caught on video, the defendant Javon High wore his maintenance uniform. The investigation revealed that buyers came from the community surrounding the college. Additional sales took place in Coney Island, near a New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) residential complex.

Two Indicted in Drug Sales at Manhattan College
A confidential complaint from a member of the Manhattan College community led NYPD’s Narcotics Borough Bronx to initiate an investigation into an individual believed to be selling drugs to students. Nearly half a kilogram of cocaine worth at least $27,000 was recovered during the investigation. An undercover officer bought cocaine on a dozen occasions from the target and a second man, a drug supplier. Sales took place in a basement apartment near Manhattan College, a private college located in the Fieldston section of the Bronx, among other locations. During one transaction, the defendants discussed selling narcotics to college students and other customers. Police searched the residences of both defendants and seized a large amount of cocaine.
Case Highlights continued

oxycodone pills and cash. The supplier pled guilty to Criminal Sale of Controlled Substance in the 3rd Degree in exchange for a four and a half year prison sentence.

Drug Dealers in Coney Island and Williamsburg, Brooklyn

Community complaints and incidents of drug and gang-related violence in the vicinity of Sea Rise, a privately owned housing development in Coney Island, and Williams Plaza, a New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) complex in Williamsburg, sparked a long-term investigation by the NYPD’s Narcotics Borough Brooklyn South. Three defendants pled guilty to drug charges from 32 sales of crack cocaine and heroin to undercover officers and received sentences ranging from one and a half to four years in prison. A fourth defendant who sold a loaded .380 caliber firearm to an undercover officer pled guilty to both drug and weapon charges and was sentenced to five years in prison. Drug sales took place in apartments, lobbies and stairwells, in front of residential buildings and in parking lots.

Surprise! Cocaine Disguised as Children’s Birthday Gifts

An investigation that began with drug dealing in nightclubs in Bushwick, Brooklyn and Manhattan led to the interception of large shipments of cocaine mailed from Puerto Rico. A high-level drug trafficker arranged for bulk shipments of cocaine to be sent via U.S. Postal Service express mail. The boxes were gift wrapped and packed alongside children’s toys. Over a span of two weeks, five packages containing a kilogram (over 2 lbs.) of cocaine each were retrieved with assistance from the U.S. Postal Inspection Service. The cocaine had a combined street value of $225,000. Two of the defendants, a club dealer and his supplier, provided cocaine, heroin, MDMA and prescription drugs to dealers in the area. Multiple sales of narcotics to undercover officers totaled more than $41,000.
Drug Rings Dismantled at Brooklyn’s Farragut Houses: 3 Guns
Community complaints and incidents of gang-related violence in Brooklyn’s Farragut Houses sparked a long-term investigation by the NYPD’s Narcotics Borough Brooklyn North and the 84th Precinct. Undercover officers made over 100 purchases of crack cocaine, heroin and other drugs between March 2014 and January 2015. The investigation revealed that drug groups had seized control of multiple apartments in the Farragut Houses, a New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) residential complex located in Vinegar Hill, and were using them to store narcotics and meet with customers. Drug dealers rotated locations where they held their stash in order to evade police detection. More than a dozen court-authorized searches yielded three firearms and quantities of crack cocaine, heroin and marijuana. Drugs were sold in the lobbies of residential buildings, as well as in the vicinity of a playground and inside nearby businesses.

Heroin Traffickers Arrested: Shih Tzu Dogs Rescued
Community complaints about violence and narcotics trafficking in the University Heights section of the Bronx led to a three-month investigation and the arrests of 15 defendants who were believed to be the main heroin dealers in the area. Officers conducted court authorized searches of several apartments and found $12,500 in cash and quantities of heroin, cocaine, crack-cocaine and oxycodone pills, as well as drug paraphernalia. Two toddlers were present in separate apartments, resulting in the conviction of two individuals on charges of Unlawful Dealing with a Child. Police also rescued three severely matted and malnourished Shih Tzu dogs, which were placed in the custody of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) for adoption. During the investigation, defendants conducted 10 drug sales with undercover officers, in which 3,500 individual-dose glassine envelopes of heroin and 120 grams of loose powder traded hands for over $26,000.

One of the three firearms seized from drug rings operating at Brooklyn’s Farragut Houses.

One of the Shih Tzus found matted and malnourished in the Bronx raid.
For addicted criminal offenders, an effective drug treatment program can mean the difference between repeated terms of imprisonment and the ability to lead a productive, law-abiding life. Yet it is not enough to simply conquer addiction. To begin anew, recovering drug users require skills gained through academic and vocational training, along with supportive counseling. The Alternative Sentencing Division has successfully worked with thousands of addicted criminal defendants over the past two decades to provide them with the tools they need to permanently close the door on crime and dependence.

Through SNP’s pioneering Drug Treatment Alternatives to Prison (DTAP) programs, highly experienced staff members evaluate offenders to identify those who are likely to reap the benefits of treatment. Eligible candidates are given the opportunity to enter an appropriate program, most often at a long-term residential facility, instead of going to prison. SNP also refers eligible offenders with co-occurring substance use and mental illness disorders to the Manhattan Mental Health Court to provide integrated substance use and mental health treatment.

Residential programs typically last for at least one year and are followed by an additional term of supervision. Offenders who are employed and have strong community ties may be placed into short-term residential programs or, in rare cases, directly into intensive outpatient treatment programs. When offenders enter treatment, their sentences are deferred. Upon successful completion, charges may be dismissed. However, failure to abide by the rules of a program can result in a sanction. If offenders commit a new crime, their original prison sentence may be imposed.

Since October 2009, judges are authorized to place defendants in a court sponsored diversion program. Although a judge determines which addicted felony offenders qualify for these programs, and court staff supervises them, SNP continues to offer its expertise in the screening and monitoring of diverted defendants.

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<th>SNP Defendants Entering Treatment 2005-2015</th>
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<td>% Indictments/SCI diverted</td>
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The Legal Training Unit develops and implements the professional training curriculum offered to Assistant District Attorneys. The unit selects speakers, lectures and workshops to address topics that include investigatory and prosecutorial techniques, legal procedures, changes in the law, and effective approaches to the prosecution of felony narcotic and related crimes.

In 2015, the Legal Training Unit offered a professional development series and numerous lectures throughout the year to both experienced and new Assistant District Attorneys. Presentations included: Search Warrant Practice, Managing Disclosure in a Complex Investigation, Prescription Drug Prosecution, Preparing for a Wiretap Trial, Prosecuting Cases Under the “Operating as a Major Trafficker” Statute, Garrett Disclosures, and Visual Trial Skills.

The training curriculum complies with the regulations and guidelines of the New York State Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Board. The office has been a New York State CLE Accredited Provider since 2000.

For over a decade, SNP has devoted a portion of its resources to training programs offered to hundreds of local and federal enforcement and criminal justice personnel in New York and other areas of the country. Senior staff members lecture on narcotics investigations and prosecutions at the New York State District Attorney’s Association (DAASNY) Summer College, the DAASNY Winter Conference, the New York Prosecutors Training Institute (NYPTI), the New York Police Department’s Police Academy, Organized Crime Control Division and Narcotics Division, the DEA’s New York Drug Enforcement Task Force (NYDETF), and the New York/New Jersey High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA).
NYPD Special Projects Unit

The New York City Police Department has assigned a team of detectives to the office since 1972. The Special Projects Unit, as it is known, is under the command of a senior lieutenant who serves as a liaison between SNP and the NYPD’s Criminal Enterprise Division.

Expert at tracking, safekeeping and presentation of electronically recorded evidence, the detectives also provide support on search warrant investigations and maintain citywide repositories for electronically recorded evidence and SNP search warrants.

Search Warrant Unit

The Search Warrant Unit prepares search warrants and affidavits and expedites requests through the SNP. The detectives keep track of all confiscated evidence and maintain a database on arrests and seizures resulting from the execution of search warrants. The unit also educates new investigators on search warrant procedures. In 2015, the unit processed 1,406 search warrants.

Technical Unit

The Technical Unit tracks and controls “chain of custody” for electronic media evidence and makes certain that all audio/video evidence is secure. The unit is responsible for the creation and testimony of grand jury/trial wiretap composite recordings and processes digital photographic evidence as well as data evidence.

In 2015, the unit registered 1,261 pieces of audio/video evidence, 1,605 pieces of wiretap media evidence, and 399 pieces of data and photographic evidence. The unit also prepared, created and registered 3,706 duplicate copies of registered electronic media evidence.

Members of the NYPD’s Special Projects Unit are assigned by the Detective Bureau, Criminal Enterprise Division.
Support Services Units

Fiscal
All agency fiscal activities, including the production and submission of funding requests to federal, state and city funding agencies, as well as the monitoring of expenditures, fall under the responsibility of the Fiscal Unit. To that end, the unit assesses and approves purchases and payment vouchers, disbursement of funds, such as petty cash, and payroll coordination; enforces fiscal policy; conducts internal audits; and reviews and approves agency procurements.

Personnel
The Personnel Unit oversees and implements procedures related to the assignment or transfer of Assistant District Attorneys from the offices of the five county District Attorneys and the recruitment of managerial, administrative and clerical personnel. Unit staff participates in planning, developing and executing employee programs and policies for all staff. The unit disseminates information on mandatory programs and policies for all city agencies and monitors implementation of procedures; provides facts on citywide policies and labor relations issues; and maintains time and leave records for all staff. The unit is responsible for the bi-weekly distribution of paychecks and serves as liaison with the citywide payroll management system.

Public Information
The Public Information Unit responds to inquiries from members of the media, government agencies, advocacy groups and individuals on the status of cases, legal decisions, legislative action, citywide drug trafficking trends and joint enforcement efforts. Press releases, reports and testimony are distributed through the unit.

Community Outreach
The Community Outreach Coordinator meets with community and religious leaders, block associations, the New York City Housing Authority, and other groups to address local drug problems, while conferring regularly with NYPD officials to devise strategies to combat crime. Once an investigation is completed and a drug organization is removed from a building or neighborhood, resources are devoted toward providing community support services. Additionally, experienced prosecutors offer lectures to schools and youth groups on topics ranging from drug laws and gang activity to alternatives to incarceration.
Information Technologies (IT)
Information Technology develops, establishes and administers SNP’s computer and telecommunication systems. The unit identifies needs and puts in place systems that effectively merge technology with office processes, and provides a variety of case-related services.

Digital Forensics and Litigation Support: provides pre-trial and in-court technology support, including recovery and examination of evidence from electronic devices, trial exhibit preparation and presentation.

Application Development and Support: computer software development, maintenance and support
Technical Support: supports staff in using electronic devices and addresses technical problems.
Records Management: files, registers and maintains a record of closed and bench warranted case files and processes parole requests.
IT Infrastructure Support: servers, computers, networks, computer storage, email and data backup maintenance and support.
Case Information: captures and tracks data pertaining to all cases prosecuted by the office, from arrest to disposition. The unit prepares regular reports and ad hoc reports on narcotics activities, trends, and statistical analyses. Unit staff is assigned to the Trial Division to coordinate data capture and provide additional support.

Criminal and Investigative Analysts
Analysts are instrumental to all stages of investigation and prosecution, using the most current technology available to enhance a case from its inception through trial. Evidence from various sources is analyzed, including telephone communication carriers, social media sources, Treasury Department data and prescription drug-related data. Analysts prepare and process subpoenas, provide...
background searches using public records and law enforcement-specific databases, prepare investigative reports, and act as points of contact for law enforcement. During the presentation of a case, analysts prepare trial exhibits and testify in the grand jury and at trial.

**Trial Preparation Assistants (TPAS)**

Trial Preparation Assistants (TPAs) are assigned to the Investigations Division, the Trial Division, Part N, and the Alternative Sentencing Division. Investigation and Trial Division TPAs track cases, maintain case records, and gather reports and legal papers required by Assistant District Attorneys. Additionally, they make arrangements for prisoners to be produced in court and help Assistants prepare for grand jury and trial presentations. Alternative Sentencing Bureau TPAs interview defendants who are diverted to treatment and track their progress. Part N TPAs assist in tracking plea offers, grand jury actions and case dispositions that take place in the Part.

**Extraditions/Detainers**

The unit administers the return of fugitives apprehended or in custody in other jurisdictions and in foreign countries that have extradition treaties with the United States.

**Grand Jury Reporters**

Grand Jury Reporters record, produce and maintain transcripts of confidential testimony presented before the grand juries.

**Interpretation and Translation Services**

The unit interprets and translates for non-English speaking witnesses in debriefings with investigators and Assistant District Attorneys, and during testimony before the grand jury; provides written translation and transcription services for evidentiary consent and wiretap recordings that contain dialogue in a foreign language; and provides translation of foreign language documents.

**Operations**

The Operations Unit is responsible for office maintenance, reproduction of documents, mail delivery, messenger services, housekeeping requests, office supply inventory and disbursement.
The People of SNP

Holiday Party 2015
Softball 2015
Executive & Legal Staff

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Deputy Bureau Chief, 40/50

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SCO George Vassall

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Lisa Thomas, Deputy for NYCAPS/Compliance
Sylvia Fernandez
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**COMMUNITY OUTREACH**
Calvin Solomon, Director

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**
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Jeremy Horowitz
Victor Roman

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Kalyan Maddali

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**IT Infrastructure Support**
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Det. Todd Cracco
Det. Christopher R. Henderson
Det. Jeffrey Lehn
Det. Robert Villani

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Akua Akoto
Andrea Obregon

**INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION**

**Special Investigations Bureau**
Diana Valentin

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Jenilee Briones
Chloe Caban
Cindy Cintron, Senior TPA
Irina Diaz, TPA/Junior Analyst
Peter Plumeys

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Christian Bermudez
Leesa Boireau
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