Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor for the City of New York

2021 Annual Report
Cover photo: SNP investigates and prosecutes felony narcotics cases and related crime, including drug-related violence. Increasingly, high-level narcotics traffickers are carrying guns. The cover photo depicts items recovered from the scene of an alleged kidnapping stemming from a dispute over stolen narcotics.
As Special Narcotics Prosecutor for the City of New York, I am deeply committed to protecting the safety of our residents and ensuring that our criminal justice system is fair for all. Decades of experience have taught us that we can overcome difficulties and best serve New Yorkers when we work together. The Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor (SNP) was established over 50 years ago on that principle. We collaborate with the city’s elected District Attorneys to investigate and prosecute felony narcotics cases and related crimes across all five boroughs.

We handle crimes involving fentanyl, heroin, cocaine, addictive pills, and related prosecutions involving guns and violence. New York City serves as a major hub for narcotics sold throughout the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions. Because illegal drugs flow across international borders and jurisdictional boundaries, SNP was created to bring focus and expertise to investigations of high-level, well-funded narcotics distributors.

Our mission is to save lives through targeted prosecutions aimed at cutting off the supply of lethal narcotics, preventing drug-related violence, and providing support and treatment for substance users and other individuals as appropriate. SNP was a pioneer in offering treatment as an alternative to incarceration more than 35 years ago. Beginning in 2020, SNP expanded its alternative disposition programs through ATI Court, which reaches individuals not eligible for pre-existing programs.

Because of the highly specialized nature of SNP, we have been able to pivot quickly and respond to each new wave of the deadly opioid epidemic. Tragically, this crisis was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Overdose deaths are claiming more lives in New York City than ever before. Approximately 2,500 people fatally overdosed in New York City in 2021, according to federal health officials. Some of the same communities hardest hit by the opioid epidemic, including Black New Yorkers and residents of high poverty neighborhoods, have also suffered the brunt of the pandemic and escalating violence. We are identifying areas where narcotics trafficking, overdose deaths, and gun crimes converge, and focusing resources there.

Although it began with overprescribing of addictive pills, followed by a surge in heroin, the opioid crisis has become a fentanyl crisis. Our 2021 investigations led to the seizure of more than 900 pounds of illicit fentanyl and mixtures of fentanyl with other drugs. Fentanyl is increasingly pressed into counterfeit prescription pills, which tragically is leading to increases in overdoses among teens nationwide. A staggering 78% of overdose deaths in New York City are linked to fentanyl.

As violent crime continues to spike across our city, investigations have resulted in a dramatic increase in seized semiautomatic weapons and firearms. Guns are now routinely found at packaging mills, drug stash locations, and in vehicles transporting drug shipments. In the past, firearms were seldom associated with high-level traffickers.

The challenges we face are daunting, but I have great confidence in the ability of New Yorkers to regroup and recover. When our days have been darkest, New Yorkers have pooled their skills and talents and joined hands, and our city has always prevailed.
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About the Office

The Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor (SNP) works collaboratively with New York City’s elected District Attorneys to investigate and prosecute felony narcotics cases and related crime across all five boroughs of the city. We share the common goals of protecting city residents and ensuring our criminal justice system is fair for all. Founded 50 years ago, and built on a task force model, SNP works closely with its local, state, and federal partners.

The District Attorneys appoint the Special Narcotics Prosecutor and assign Assistant District Attorneys to serve in SNP. All of SNP’s wiretap investigations are overseen by the District Attorneys, who provide guidance and direction. Special Narcotics Prosecutor Bridget G. Brennan oversees a staff of approximately 200 legal and support personnel. The agency has its own budget for operating expenses and receives funding from the city, state, and federal government.

New York City is unique in many ways, including its division into five separate boroughs, each with its own District Attorney empowered to prosecute crimes committed there. The city is also a major hub of international narcotics importation. Once a drug shipment enters New York City, it is often dispersed throughout the metropolitan area and beyond, without regard for county or state lines. SNP’s jurisdiction was established to address this free flow of narcotics.

Working in collaboration with its partners, SNP strives to save lives and strengthen communities. The office’s mission is to protect the public and prevent overdose deaths by implementing a strategic approach to enforcement. The office focuses on prosecuting high-level traffickers engaged in distributing heroin, fentanyl, cocaine, and addictive pills. SNP also assists with investigating related crimes, such as weapons sales and possession. SNP responds to community complaints about persistent drug activity and associated violence.

Targeted prosecutions and alternatives to incarceration are essential components of this strategy, which is consistent with the city’s goals to reduce incarceration. SNP further strives to reduce demand for narcotics by raising public awareness and facilitating treatment for those with substance use issues.

The first Special Narcotics Prosecutor, Frank Rogers, was appointed in January 1972. He was succeed by Hon. Sterling Johnson, Jr., who headed SNP for 16 years before becoming a federal judge in the Eastern District of New York, where he currently holds Senior Judge status. Robert H. Silbering was named the Special Narcotics Prosecutor in 1992 and served for six years.

On May 1, 1998, Bridget G. Brennan was appointed Special Narcotics Prosecutor by the 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. She works closely with community groups and has funded recreational programs for youth across the city. Ms. Brennan established the Heroin Interdiction Team (HIT), the Digital Forensic Services Unit, the Criminal and Investigative Analysts Unit, the Prescription Drug Investigation Unit (PDIU), the Narcotics Gang Unit, the Money Laundering and Financial Investigation Unit, the Community Outreach Unit, and the Discovery Compliance and Litigation Unit.
New York City’s District Attorneys

The five District Attorneys appoint the Special Narcotics Prosecutor, assign Assistant District Attorneys to the office, and oversee the office’s work, including all wiretap investigations. SNP is a model of collaboration and effective partnerships. In the midst of the current opioid crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic, the District Attorneys formally reaffirmed their support for SNP in an agreement that recognizes the importance of the office’s leadership in citywide narcotics prosecutions.

Office of the
Bronx District Attorney
District Attorney
Darcel D. Clark

The New York County
District Attorney’s Office
District Attorney
Cyrus R. Vance, Jr.
Retired December 31, 2021

District Attorney
Alvin L. Bragg, Jr.
Sworn in January 1, 2022

The Brooklyn District Attorney’s Office
District Attorney
Eric Gonzalez

Office of the District Attorney Richmond County
District Attorney
Michael E. McMahon

Queens District Attorney’s Office
District Attorney
Melinda Katz

Office of the
District Attorney
Drugs and Violence

The drug trade and violence go hand in hand, and taking guns off the streets is a top priority for SNP. In 2021, shooting incidents and murders skyrocketed, with New York City reporting 488 homicides and the New York City Police Department (NYPD) removing more than 6,000 guns from the streets. Increasingly, drug traffickers are carrying weapons or stockpiling guns for sale. Investigations by SNP with its partners resulted in a 240% increase in firearms recovered in 2021 over 2020, including untraceable ghost guns built from parts purchased online. SNP joins its local, state, and federal partners in a number of initiatives to address gun violence.

Operation Overdrive

In response to surges in violence nationwide, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) announced the rollout of “Operation Overdrive.” Aimed at combatting the rising rates of drug-related violence and overdose deaths that are plaguing American communities, DEA selected 34 locations nationwide for phase one of the initiative, and included the Bronx. SNP is a participating agency in the DEA’s new, data-driven approach, which will guide allocation of federal law enforcement resources.

Gun Violence Strategic Partnership

SNP participates in a multi-agency effort aimed at reducing gun violence, known as the Gun Violence Strategic Partnership (GVSP). The initiative places particular emphasis on a subset of violent offenders who, relative to their numbers, are responsible for a disproportionate amount of shootings and other violence. Representatives of participating agencies meet daily to discuss recent gun violence, shooting arrests, prosecutions, and new intelligence. In addition, GVSP facilitates coordination with law enforcement agencies and prosecutors nationwide.

NYC Homicides and Shootings 2019–2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Homicides</th>
<th>Shootings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>319</td>
<td>776</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>488</td>
<td>1,562</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: New York City Police Department.
SNP Prosecutions

Over the past year, SNP investigations focused on the link between drugs and violence in collaboration with DEA New York Division, the NYPD, the New York Drug Enforcement Task Force (NYDETF), the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Strike Force (OCDESF), the New York State Police, Homeland Security Investigations New York (HSI-NY), and local, state and federal partners across the country.

As part of SNP’s targeted enforcement strategy, we analyze data from a host of sources to identify patterns, such as geographic areas where clusters of overdoses, narcotics trafficking, gun seizures, and violence occur. Once an area is pinpointed, we initiate investigations to identify sources of supply in overdoses, connect evidence related to acts of violence, and address community complaints.

Iron Pipeline Probe: 25 Guns

A Georgia-to-New York gun pipeline was disrupted following a three-month investigation that resulted in the seizure of 25 guns, including five assault weapons, and a quantity of cocaine. The guns and drugs were sold to an undercover officer in Manhattan. Before each sale, the subject of the investigation traveled from Georgia, sometimes driving with guns inside a hidden compartment in his car.

Bronx Kidnapping and Assault

An indictment charged two men in connection with kidnapping and assault, allegedly in retaliation for the theft of narcotics. The victim was held in a basement apartment in the Bronx, and burned with an iron, allegedly in an attempt to extract information. Portions of the brutal, eight-hour ordeal were captured in audio and video recordings recovered from the defendants’ cellphones, and from a surveillance system. The two accused kidnappers later made threats against another man.

A search of the basement apartment yielded over nine pounds of heroin, fentanyl, and cocaine. Also recovered were a gun and other items associated with the kidnapping, such as plastic handcuffs, an iron, and duct tape. A second gun was seized from a car at the time of the two accused kidnappers’ arrests.
Tragically, drug-related deaths are at record-high levels across the nation, with more than 107,000 people fatally overdosing in 2021, largely due to the proliferation of fentanyl. Someone fatally overdoses in New York City every four hours, on average, with more than 2,500 drug-related deaths in 2021. A potent synthetic opioid, fentanyl is involved in a staggering 78% of all drug fatalities in the city. Most heroin and counterfeit prescription medication sold on the streets contain fentanyl. Cocaine and methamphetamine increasingly do as well, putting unsuspecting drug users at grave risk of overdose. Neighborhoods in the Bronx and Harlem have the highest rates of overdose death. Black New Yorkers and residents of high poverty neighborhoods continue to be disproportionately impacted.

Mental health professionals agree that stressors associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, such as loss of income, social isolation, grief, and difficulties accessing treatment, contributed to increased drug use and overdose. New initiatives to increase public awareness and expand access to medication-assisted therapies (MATs) are essential components of an effective, multi-pronged strategy that includes enforcement, treatment, and effective harm reduction techniques.

The high volume of illicit fentanyl pouring into the city is a key factor in the surging overdose rates. Strategic enforcement and supply reduction are critically important if we are to reduce overdoses and stem the flow of deadly narcotics into New York City. SNP focuses on high-level traffickers, street-level organizations associated with overdoses or violence, and corrupt medical practitioners who illegally sell prescriptions for cash. Focusing on drug traffickers who have a greater impact is consistent with efforts to reduce incarceration.

In 2021, investigations by DEA New York Division and its partners resulted in unprecedented seizures of 2,300 pounds of fentanyl in New York City. Cases handled by SNP resulted in the seizure of approximately 900 pounds of fentanyl and fentanyl mixtures. Increasingly narcotics mixtures seized by law enforcement contain fentanyl.
analogs, variations of fentanyl that can be even more potent than fentanyl. Parafluorofentanyl is currently the most commonly detected fentanyl analog in narcotics mixtures in New York City. Intercepting bulk quantities of these potent synthetic opioid drugs undoubtedly saves many lives.

**PA Overdoses Linked to Bronx**

In a case that exemplifies the regional impact of our work, SNP and DEA New York Division assisted authorities in Pennsylvania following a rash of over 100 overdoses in a single September weekend in Berks County. SNP’s investigators and DEA agents dismantled three heroin/fentanyl mills in the Bronx linked to the deadly drug supply. Searches resulted in the seizure of over 26 pounds of heroin/fentanyl, worth up to $8 million on the street, along with approximately 13 pounds of cocaine. The narcotics involved in the Berks County overdoses were so potent, even overdose reversal drugs were ineffective in some instances.

**Surge in Fentanyl Analogs**

Two drug packaging locations in the Bronx supplied fentanyl mixtures linked to over 100 overdoses in Pennsylvania.
Drug trafficking networks are flooding New York City with fake pills containing lethal fentanyl. Counterfeit pills are especially dangerous because people may well believe that they are purchasing legitimate pharmaceutical medication. In 2021, seizures of counterfeit pills rose dramatically, and the pills are becoming deadlier. According to the DEA’s “One Pill Can Kill” public awareness campaign, approximately four out of every 10 pills with fentanyl contain a potentially lethal dose of at least 2 mg. SNP and its partners approach this problem from a variety of angles, including disrupting large-scale importation, and investigating overdose deaths and local distribution.

**Large-scale importation:** Major drug traffickers with connections to sources of supply in Mexico are importing thousands of counterfeit pills containing fentanyl into the U.S. High-level drug organizations also obtain large quantities of narcotics in powder form and use pill presses to manufacture pills locally.

An investigation by NYDETF led to the seizure of nearly 10,200 counterfeit pills imprinted to look like oxycodone found inside a metal container on the underside of a car. Laboratory testing determined that the pills contained fentanyl and parafluoro-fentanyl, a variant of fentanyl that is highly potent and increasingly common. The pills were inside two separate plastic-wrapped packages covered in transmission fluid, apparently to avoid detection by drug-sniffing dogs. Investigators learned a Mexico-based trafficker instructed the suspect to drive the fentanyl pills to New York City.

**Overdose investigations:** By investigating overdoses, law enforcement can sometimes find clues that lead to a source of supply for lethal narcotics.

An NYPD investigation in Brooklyn South began after two victims overdosed and were taken to a hospital. Police recovered 55 blue pills with the appearance of oxycodone from the scene of the overdoses and determined through laboratory testing that the pills were counterfeits containing fentanyl and parafluoro-fentanyl, a variant of fentanyl that is highly potent and increasingly common.
Street-level enforcement: Street sales of pills are set up through a variety of methods, including drug delivery services, neighborhood-based organizations, word-of-mouth, or online. Increasingly, guns are associated with street-level drug sales.

Counterfeit Pills Sold in Hell’s Kitchen

A man was arrested for sales of two guns and thousands of counterfeit pills containing fentanyl to an undercover officer. Sales occurred at two luxury apartment buildings in Hell’s Kitchen where the man lived during a long-term investigation. The man met with the undercover officer on four occasions and received more than $10,000. Moments before his arrest, the man left his residence on West 54th Street carrying a dog toy stuffed with approximately 1,000 counterfeit oxycodone pills. A subsequent search of his apartment yielded additional pills, a scale, a money counter, and multiple rounds of ammunition.

Pill Sales Lead to Seizure of Ghost Gun

An undercover investigation began with the sale of counterfeit pills and ultimately led to the seizure of a “ghost gun.” An undercover officer purchased hundreds of purported oxycodone pills, as well as multicolored pills sold as ecstasy, in Upper Manhattan. A court-authorized search resulted in the seizure of a semi-automatic pistol with a detachable magazine identified an untraceable ghost gun, along with at least 7,500 pills containing methamphetamine and more than 400 counterfeit oxycodone pills containing fentanyl.
COUNTERFEIT PILLS

In 2021, the supply of fake prescription pills containing fentanyl exploded in the U.S. Illicitly produced pills are manufactured in Mexico or pressed locally. The most common counterfeits are blue in color and bear markings of 30 mg oxycodone pills. Fake Xanax containing fentanyl is also prevalent. Fentanyl pills are particularly dangerous, due to their resemblance to pharmaceutical medication.

TRANSPORTATION ROUTES

The vast majority of fentanyl bought and sold in the U.S. was smuggled over the U.S.-Mexico border in vehicles. Tractor-trailers carry illegal narcotics within legitimate commercial loads, or concealed inside mechanical parts. Trucks and cars are also outfitted with secret “trap” compartments. Some of the more sophisticated traps open and close via hydraulic systems.

BULK FENTANYL SHIPMENTS

Mexican cartels manufacture fentanyl in bulk for sale in the U.S., where the synthetic opioid has largely replaced heroin. Approximately 50 times more potent than heroin, and relatively easy to manufacture, fentanyl yields far higher profit margins. A dose as small as 2 mg can be lethal.
FENTANYL TRADE

PACKAGING MILLS
Once a load of fentanyl reaches New York City, it is prepared for distribution inside packaging mills. These operations are most frequently located inside apartments in the Bronx, where a robust network of highways increases the ease of transport. Fentanyl is first mixed with other substances, such as a variety of opioids and non-controlled substances. Increasingly, fentanyl is also being mixed with non-opioid narcotics, like cocaine.

USER-READY GLASSINES
Packaging mills pump out hundreds of thousands of individual doses in glassine envelopes containing fentanyl mixtures. Once broken down and packaged, a single kilogram can sell for more than half a million dollars. Glassine envelopes are stamped with various brand names. Because drug packaging is imprecise, users are playing Russian roulette. Fentanyl is a game changer.

78% of overdose deaths in NYC are linked to fentanyl.
Since its creation in 2011, SNP’s Prescription Drug Investigation Unit (PDIU) has targeted large-scale pill mills, pharmaceutical drug trafficking rings, and corrupt medical practitioners who sell prescriptions for highly addictive pills in exchange for cash. Our investigations have uncovered a wide array of criminal schemes that share a common goal: to turn a profit from illegally prescribed drugs. Significantly, the office has obtained the convictions of two doctors on manslaughter charges in connection with separate investigations involving patients’ deaths. As a result of these efforts, combined with improved education for doctors, increased public awareness, and more effective regulatory systems, the black-market supply of diverted prescription drugs in New York City has been reduced.

Fraudulent oxycodone prescriptions contained a misspelling.

One of the most effective regulatory changes was the implementation of mandatory electronic prescribing, which is far easier to monitor than paper prescriptions. Given the amount of money to be made from illegal pill sales, it is no surprise that corrupt medical practitioners and pharmacists would seek out ways to circumvent new regulations. An investigation in 2021 focused on a pharmacist who allegedly attempted to do just that.

A supervising pharmacist in Gravesend, Brooklyn pled guilty to Attempted Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree following an investigation into the filling of forged oxycodone prescriptions and the falsification of prescription data reports. The scheme unraveled when a Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement (BNE) investigator went to the pharmacy as part of an investigation into the diversion of opioid medication. The pharmacist gave the investigator approximately 270 prescriptions for over 46,000 pills of 30 mg oxycodone. Prescriptions had several indicators of forgery, including the misspelling of the word “prescription” in the phrase “Official New York State Prescription.” It was later revealed that the pharmacy had reported forgeries as legitimate prescriptions that were filled and dispensed by the pharmacy. A court-authorized search of the pharmacy computer confirmed that the user identification login used for data submission of 30 mg oxycodone pills belonged to the defendant.
Cocaine Surge

Law enforcement seizures of cocaine skyrocketed in 2021, with SNP investigations leading to the interdiction of over 1,000 pounds. Along with the increased supply of cocaine available in New York City, there are indications of a resurgence in crack cocaine.

Cocaine overdose deaths sharply increased between 2019 and 2020, according to the most up to date information available from DOHMH. Cocaine was involved in 48% of overdose deaths in New York City in 2020. The vast majority of these deaths also involved fentanyl.

As evidenced by SNP’s recent investigations, high-level narcotics organizations are trafficking multiple substances, such as fentanyl, heroin, and cocaine. Bulk amounts of various narcotics are found side by side in stash locations. Increasingly, fentanyl is mixed not only with heroin, but also with cocaine and methamphetamine. This alarming trend poses a serious threat to users who may be unaware of the contents of the drugs that they are purchasing.

Guns are also being recovered along with large loads of narcotics. With higher rates of shootings in New York City, drug traffickers are arming themselves to protect themselves and their valuable product.

An apartment in Upper Manhattan contained large quantities of cocaine, approximately 1,500 vials of crack cocaine, and a loaded firearm.
Alternatives to Incarceration

For individuals charged with felony drug crimes, an effective drug treatment program and access to other important services can mean the difference between repeated contacts with the criminal justice system and the ability to lead a fulfilling, law-abiding life. Diversion and treatment options enhance public safety by reducing recidivism, while decreasing incarceration. SNP was a pioneer in developing alternative to incarceration programs more than 35 years ago. Recently, the office broadened its offerings.

**ATI Court**

In 2020, SNP joined the Manhattan District Attorney’s Office in assessing individuals facing felony charges for treatment and social service referrals through the Manhattan Felony Alternatives to Incarceration Court (ATI Court). The first of its kind, ATI Court offers a wider array of services than were previously available. In addition to substance abuse treatment, these include mental health services, cognitive behavioral therapy, educational and vocational training, case management, and various types of prosocial programming.

SNP partners with the Center for Court Innovation’s Manhattan Justice Opportunities to conduct clinical assessments, develop treatment recommendations, and coordinate referrals. Social workers and case managers with Manhattan Justice Opportunities perform ongoing case management, crisis management, and compliance monitoring and reporting.

The ATI Court was designed to serve individuals who are charged with felonies and were ineligible for existing drug and mental health courts.

**Judicial Diversion**

Beginning in 2009, the New York State Legislature empowered judges to place defendants in court-sponsored diversion programs. SNP offers its expertise in screening and monitoring. When individuals enter treatment through one of these paths, their sentences are deferred. Upon successful completion, charges may be dismissed.

**Prosecutor-Led Diversion Programs**

SNP is proud to have been in the forefront of developing alternative to incarceration programs for more than 35 years. Along with the Brooklyn District Attorney’s Office, SNP was a pioneer in diverting those whose crimes (often street sales of drugs) were motivated by their own substance use issues. SNP’s Alternative Sentencing Division has successfully worked with thousands of individuals. Through SNP’s Drug Treatment Alternatives to Prison (DTAP) programs, highly experienced staff members evaluate eligibility to identify those likely to reap the benefits of treatment programs.

### SNP Defendants Sentenced to Prison (1984–2021)

![Graph showing SNP Defendants Sentenced to Prison (1984–2021)]

Source: New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services; Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor for the City of New York.
Community Outreach

SNP seeks to make a positive imprint on communities where major drug enforcement actions have occurred by collaborating with the District Attorneys’ offices to support youth programs. In the summer of 2021, SNP sponsored a Police Athletic League (PAL) Playstreet at West 124th Street and Malcolm X Boulevard in Harlem.

PAL Playstreets utilize parks and other public areas throughout New York City to give children free and safe supervised places to enjoy fun recreational opportunities. PAL offers a wide range of year-round programs for youth.

While in person events and programming were interrupted by COVID-19, community outreach efforts continued virtually and on a limited in-person basis. Bridget G. Brennan and SNP’s Community Outreach Director Calvin Solomon attended community board meetings, Precinct/PSA Community Council Meetings, NYCHA resident meetings and other events. SNP also hosts forums for the office’s Assistant District Attorneys to open dialogue about drug enforcement and areas of community concern.

Bridget G. Brennan joined PAL, the NYPD, and community leaders in kicking off the summer season with the traditional opening of the fire hydrant.

SNP sponsored a PAL Playstreet in Harlem.

Bridget G. Brennan was a special guest at a Teens Against Guns (T.A.G.) event in Harlem.
Professional Recognition

Lisa M. Tompkins, SNP’s Chief of the Investigations (left), received the Thomas E. Dewey Medal from the New York City Bar Association.

Bridget G. Brennan and Steven M. Goldstein, SNP’s Chief Assistant District Attorney, congratulate Michele Molfetta, Richmond County DA’s Narcotics Chief and an SNP alumna (center), at the Thomas E. Dewey Medal award ceremony.

The Federal Drug Agents Foundation (FDAF) honored Assistant District Attorney Quentin J. Morgan (third from right) along with members of the DEA’s New York Drug Enforcement Task Force (NYDETF), Group T-31.

Assistant District Attorneys Jannine Rowser (second from right) and Angie Morelli (second from left) received awards from the Border Enforcement Security Taskforce (BEST) of Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) for contributions to an overdose investigation.
Investigation Division

Special Investigations Bureau
The Special Investigations Bureau (SIB) targets major narcotics trafficking organizations, including those that import and distribute multi-kilogram quantities of heroin, fentanyl, and cocaine. 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 (OCDESF), Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), and other local, state, federal, and foreign law enforcement agencies.

In 2021, SIB launched 133 investigations targeting a wide range of criminal activities including drug trafficking, murder conspiracy, robberies, weapons trafficking, and money laundering. The bureau also commenced civil actions to forfeit narcotics proceeds. Senior staff supervised wiretap investigations involving 138 eavesdropping applications, including 68 originals, 65 extensions and 5 amendments. Investigation Division cases resulted in the seizure of approximately 916 pounds of cocaine, 610 pounds of fentanyl, 108 pounds of heroin, 167 pounds of heroin/fentanyl mixtures, 31 pounds of methamphetamine, and additional quantities of various other drugs.

Heroin Interdiction Team
The resurgence of heroin throughout New York State drove SNP to create the Heroin Interdiction Team (HIT) in 2014. HIT is tasked with combating the flow of heroin, fentanyl, and other synthetic opioids, to the areas surrounding New York City, particularly upstate counties. HIT focuses on cooperating with local prosecutors and law enforcement to share intelligence and resources to take down the organizations responsible for spreading heroin and fentanyl from the mills in New York City to New York State as a whole.

Prescription Drug Investigation Unit
Alarming rates of prescription drug abuse and related crime led SNP to form the Prescription Drug Investigation Unit in 2011. The unit 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. The unit also conducts investigations into doctors whose opioid prescriptions cause patient overdoses, bringing homicide charges where appropriate. 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 Narcotic Enforcement (BNE), the NYPD, and the DEA, among other law enforcement agencies.

**Narcotics Gang Unit**
The Narcotics Gang Unit concentrates on violent neighborhood gangs, robbery crews, and weapons traffickers committing drug-related criminal activity across the city. The unit, established in 2002, works closely with detectives from the NYPD’s Gun Violence Suppression Division, Narcotics and Gang Squads, and Precinct members. The unit has developed expertise in the use of new technologies and collecting evidence through social media and messaging applications. In addition to narcotics trafficking, the unit also prosecutes 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 35 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 to identify criminal assets and 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 2021, 266 federal forfeiture actions were initiated and 55 were completed. At the state level, 42 actions were initiated and 35 were completed. Completions on seized proceeds in 2021 were delayed due to mandated Public Health COVID-19 restrictions, personnel changes, etc.

**Discovery Compliance and Litigation Unit**
The Discovery Compliance and Litigation Unit (DLU), founded in 2021, centralizes responsibilities for the oversight of litigation related to discovery. Additionally, DLU is responsible for collaborating with Information Technology (IT), the Legal Training Unit, and other units within the Agency on special projects aimed at increasing productivity. The 2020 Discovery Reforms and the repeal of Civil Rights Law 50a have led to constantly evolving legal landscape, resulting in pressures on ADAs to quickly obtain the necessary materials in order to satisfy their discovery obligations. The creation of DLU, under direct supervision from Executive Staff, centralizes the tasks related to these reforms, as well as the development and training associated with implementing related policy.
Trial Division

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 Chiefs who supervise assistants as they provide legal advice and draw up court orders, including search and arrest warrants, on a 24-hour basis.

Assistants work closely with the NYPD’s Narcotics Division, the New York Drug Enforcement Task Force, the Port Authority Police, the New York State Police, the New York State Health Department’s Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement, and the SNP Investigators Unit. In 2021, the Division launched 145 new investigations. A total of 743 complaints were referred to the office for prosecution during the year; 510 defendants were prosecuted by indictment or Supreme Court information (SCI). Total SNP search warrants drafted numbered 507.

Investigators Unit

SNP’s Investigators Unit handles narcotics cases targeting local, national, and international trafficking groups. Teams within the unit have expertise in identifying and dismantling major cocaine, heroin, and fentanyl distribution networks, prescription drug diversion organizations, and pill mills run by corrupt medical practitioners. Investigators provide crucial leadership in collaborative efforts with law enforcement partners that result in seizures of hundreds of pounds of narcotics and millions of dollars in drug trafficking proceeds.

Created in 1992, the unit fulfills two primary areas of responsibility: investigations and enforcement support. A Chief Investigator oversees the activities of the investigators and monitors all investigation related expenditures.

The unit initiates cases independently and works jointly with federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies throughout New York City and across the nation. During 2021, the unit opened 61 new investigations, resulting in 178 arrests. Of those, 112 individuals were charged with top felony narcotics counts. The majority of the remaining arrests resulted from money seizures.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2021 SNP WORKLOAD</th>
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<tr>
<td>Arrests</td>
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<td>Indictments/SCI</td>
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<td>Heroin</td>
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<td>Fentanyl</td>
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<td>Heroin/Fentanyl Mixtures</td>
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<td>Methamphetamine</td>
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<td>Guns</td>
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Case Highlights

Drugs and Violence

Kidnapping Allegedly Linked to Drug Dispute
Two men were indicted for allegedly kidnapping and assaulting a man in retaliation for the theft of narcotics. An investigation by DEA New York Division, the NYPD, and partner agencies revealed portions of the violent incident were captured in audio and video recordings recovered on the defendants’ cellphones, and from a surveillance system at the basement apartment where the kidnap victim was held in Van Nest in the Bronx. The victim was bound and burned with an iron in an attempt to extract information during an eight-hour ordeal. The two alleged kidnappers later made threats against another man. A search of the basement apartment yielded over nine pounds of heroin, fentanyl, and cocaine, a gun, and other items associated with the kidnapping, such as plastic handcuffs, an iron, and duct tape. A second gun was present inside a car with two men at the time of their arrests.

Georgia-to-New York Gun Pipeline Disrupted
A three-month investigation disrupted a Georgia-to-New York gun trafficking pipeline and resulted in the seizure of 25 guns, including five assault weapons. The guns and a quantity of cocaine were sold to an undercover officer in Manhattan on four dates. Before each sale, the defendant traveled from Georgia to New York City, sometimes driving with guns inside a hidden compartment in his car. During the final meeting, the defendant agreed to sell two assault weapons, nine handguns, and ammunition for $19,500. However, the undercover officer instead received two AR-15 Palmetto assault weapons, hundreds of rounds of ammunition and high capacity/extended magazines, and nine Glock air/CO2 pistols. When the undercover officer realized the nine Glocks were air pistols, the defendant attempted to flee and was arrested.

Agents and officers recovered fentanyl, cocaine, guns, and other items in connection with a kidnapping.
Over 20 Pounds of Heroin and Three Guns: North Riverdale

Approximately four million dollars’ worth of heroin and three guns were seized from a North Riverdale apartment. Two individuals were apprehended after initially evading arrest. Agents and officers with DEA’s Tactical Diversion Squad New York (TDS-NY) conducted a court-authorized search of an apartment on Mosholu Avenue and recovered approximately 22 pounds of heroin from a storage container in a bedroom closet. Also inside the closet was a metal case containing three pistols, one of them loaded. Agents and officers recovered over 200 cartridges of ammunition of various calibers from the bedroom. Prior to the search, members of TDS-NY followed two suspects as they drove away from the apartment building in a Volkswagen Touareg SUV. When agents and officers attempted to stop the vehicle, it sped off. The two suspects, who had been under surveillance for approximately a month, returned to the area a few hours later and were placed under arrest.

Seven Guns and Narcotics Seized in Brooklyn, Queens

Seven semi-automatic guns, including four assault weapons, and 40 pounds of fentanyl/heroin and cocaine were recovered in Brooklyn and Queens. The accused ringleader is charged with Operating as a Major Trafficker. In the first phase of the investigation, members of NYDETF recovered over 35 pounds of narcotics and two guns from an Infinity Q70 sedan in Ozone Park, and an additional three pounds from an apartment. Prior to this, agents and officers had observed the alleged ringleader and the driver of the Infinity entering and exiting the residence with bags and equipment. A month later, five guns, ammunition, and a bulletproof vest were recovered from inside an East New York storage unit associated with the alleged ringleader and a female associate. The man arrested in the Infinity Q70 received a seven-year prison sentence after pleading guilty to conspiracy, drug possession, and weapons possession charges.
Fentanyl & Counterfeit Pills

International Probe: 120 Pounds of Narcotics and Two Guns
A long-term wiretap investigation uncovered a sophisticated narcotics network that supplied fentanyl, heroin, and cocaine in New York City, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania during the COVID-19 pandemic. Ten people were charged, including three alleged major traffickers. The alleged ringleaders obtained narcotics from international sources and oversaw large shipments to the New York metropolitan area inside tractor trailers. Members of NYDESF and partner agencies recovered over 120 pounds of narcotics in the Bronx and Lima, Peru, as well as more than $335,000 cash and two guns. In phone calls, the alleged traffickers discussed how to obtain narcotics during the pandemic, given new challenges for drug smuggling posed by border closures. Prices for narcotics were inflated as international sources of supply became harder to access.

Over $4 Million in Heroin and Fentanyl Pills Seized
A large-scale heroin and fentanyl packaging mill was disrupted in the Bronx, resulting in the seizure of over 30 pounds of heroin worth an estimated $4 million, as well as 500 blue pills of fentanyl and $60,000 cash. Five individuals were arrested as members of NYDETF and SNP’s Investigators Unit seized more than 11 kilograms of heroin (over 24 pounds) in brick form and over 100,000 filled individual dose glassine envelopes. Dozens of stamps used to brand narcotics bore names such as “Exit 3,” “Versace,” “American Gangster” and “Mortal Kombat.” The DEA laboratory determined that hundreds of blue pills with the markings of oxycodone tablets were fakes containing fentanyl.
Maspeth Heroin/Fentanyl Mill Dismantled
A large-scale heroin/fentanyl packaging mill was dismantled in two apartments in Maspeth, Queens, resulting in the seizure of over five kilograms of narcotics (more than 11 pounds) worth approximately $1.5 million. As agents and officers with NYDEFT conducted a court-authorized search of the two apartments, they stopped three individuals attempting to leave and recovered a loaded .22 caliber firearm. Inside the apartments, a table held a large quantity of narcotics in powder form, with more found inside gallon-sized ziplock bags. Boxes contained thousands of individual dose glassine envelopes filled with heroin/fentanyl. Additional quantities of narcotics sat on the table and on the floor. A cooler bag contained another four large black bags filled with narcotics. Glassine envelopes bore a host of brand names, such as “Black Widow,” “Asylum” and “Gucci.” A 9mm handgun was recovered from one of four vehicles associated with alleged members of the drug trafficking organization.

Mass Overdose Event in PA Linked to the Bronx
A rash of over 100 overdoses in a single September weekend in Berks County, Penn. led SNP investigators and DEA agents to dismantle three narcotics packaging mills in the Bronx that served as a source of supply. A search of the mills yielded over 26 pounds of suspected heroin/fentanyl, worth up to $8 million on the street, and over six pounds of cocaine worth $600,000. The narcotics involved in the Pennsylvania overdoses were so potent, even overdose reversal drugs were ineffective in some instances. More than two dozen individuals associated with a local drug trafficking network were charged by the Berks County Prosecutor’s Office. Blue bags containing a mixture of heroin, fentanyl, lidocaine (an anesthetic), xylazine (a sedative), and clonidine (used to treat high blood pressure) were recovered during searches in Pennsylvania, and are believed to be connected to the overdoses.
$10 Million Drug Seizure in Ridgewood

Approximately 80 pounds of heroin/fentanyl with a street value of over $10 million, plus 1,000 counterfeit fentanyl pills, were seized by members of NYDETF and HSI-NY. An accused major trafficker was among four charged in connection with a large-scale heroin and fentanyl mill in Ridgewood, Queens. Members of the organization were in the process of packaging heroin and fentanyl into individual dose glassine envelopes, and had filled over 100,000 glassines, when agents and officers entered the mill apartment. The bulk of the narcotics were wrapped in brick shaped packages. Agents also recovered approximately $200,000 cash, as well as ledgers, stamps, glassines, grinders, dilutants, and more than 20 cellphones.

40 Pounds of Heroin/Fentanyl: COVID-19 Brand

Nearly 40 pounds of heroin/fentanyl worth an estimated $5 million were recovered from a large-scale packaging operation in Morris Heights in the Bronx. Glassine envelopes filled with potentially lethal narcotics bore various brand names, including “Drop Dead” and “COVID-19” below a picture of a skull. Three men were charged with Operating as a Major Trafficker, including one who carried a fraudulent ID card issued by the Dominican Republic National Investigations (DNI). Agents and officers with NYDETF conducted surveillance as two men carried bags in and out of an apartment building and loaded a duffle bag into a Honda Pilot. The Honda, driven by the third man, was stopped at the ramp to the George Washington Bridge headed towards New Jersey. Inside the duffle bag were 25,000 filled glassine envelopes. In all, approximately 19 kilograms of narcotics were seized in court-authorized searches of two apartments and the car.
Citywide Cocaine Distribution

Cocaine Smuggled Inside Swiffer Boxes: Two Guns Seized
A cocaine trafficking group that shipped narcotics from Puerto Rico to New York inside Swiffer containers was dismantled by members of NYDETF. A loaded assault rifle, a pistol, 25 pounds of cocaine worth an estimated $3.5 million on the street, and over $370,000 cash were seized. An accused major trafficker and two others were charged following a surveillance operation centered on the ringleader and his apartment building in Morris Park in the Bronx. Members of NYDETF encountered two minors inside the apartment, which contained large amounts of cocaine and the two guns, resulting in charges of Unlawfully Dealing with a Child. Three Swiffer containers, each containing a kilogram of cocaine, were recovered from a car. Two of the Swiffer containers were inside shipping parcels that also held snack packs, and bore labels indicating that they originated from Puerto Rico. A review of travel records revealed the ringleader had recently travelled to Puerto Rico.

Bronx Man Indicted: 110 Pounds of Cocaine Found in Truck in VA
A load of 110 pounds of cocaine bound for New York City was intercepted at a truck stop in Virginia following a wiretap investigation. A Bronx man engaged in allegedly incriminating phone conversations with a relative who was tasked with picking up 50 kilograms of cocaine in Houston, Texas. Using coded language, the relative said, “Saturday, be on the alert as to where I can make a stop at one of those locations, and you can go in a cab and pick up the girl.” “Not a problem. Let’s do it that way,” said the Bronx man, allegedly recognizing the code word “girl” to mean “cocaine.” The Rockbridge County Sheriff’s Office in Virginia stopped the relative after he exited a tractor-trailer at a truck stop. Officers recovered duffle bags containing 50 kilograms of cocaine. The truck was transporting snack chips and dip. Approximately $24,600 cash, a kilo press, and a money counter were seized in the Bronx.
Case Highlights continued

**Cocaine Smuggled Inside Children’s Lunch Boxes**

Five individuals were arrested in a sophisticated conspiracy to smuggle millions of dollars in cocaine from Puerto Rico to New York and Massachusetts. Intercepted U.S. Postal Service packages contained a total of 30 kilograms of cocaine (over 66 pounds) concealed inside children’s lunch boxes and school binders. Two accused ringleaders, who allegedly shipped numerous packages containing cocaine from Puerto Rico, worked as managers representing recording artists there and in the Dominican Republic. Both are residents of New York, and frequent travel associated with music industry work allegedly served as a cover for drug activity. Throughout this investigation, U.S. Postal inspectors noted shipping patterns among over 100 packages shipped to residential addresses in New York State, including Manhattan, Queens, Bronx, and Greene County, as well as Massachusetts. Police used fingerprint collecting, and physical and electronic surveillance, to investigate the defendants.

**Round-the-Clock Street Market Dismantled**

A disruptive street-level drug organization that operated in Manhattan and the Bronx throughout the worst days of the COVID-19 pandemic was shut down following an undercover NYPD investigation. Seven individuals were arrested and indicted, including an alleged ringleader charged as a Major Trafficker. Multiple kilograms of narcotics were recovered in a court-authorized search of an apartment. The highly organized group allegedly sold a wide range of substances, including heroin mixed with fentanyl, crack cocaine, and homemade pills made from MDMA. Most of the two-dozen charged sales to undercover officers took place near Audubon Avenue between West 173rd and West 174th Street in Washington Heights. Customers came from as far away as Connecticut. The alleged ringleader also travelled to Maine, allegedly to sell drugs. Ring members coordinated by phone and handheld radio, and could be heard calling out the presence of police in the area.

**100 Pounds of Cocaine Stamped with Nickname of Soccer Star**

More than 100 pounds of cocaine worth up to $15 million was recovered from a luxury residential complex in Jamaica, Queens. SNP investigators and DEA agents arrested two individuals following a surveillance operation. Investigators observed a suspect leave a residential building and load a suitcase into a minivan. Upon stopping the suspect, they found the suitcase contained approximately $200,000 cash. In conducting a court-authorized search of an apartment, agents found 50 kilogram-sized packages of cocaine marked with “CR7” inside a locked closet. “CR7” is the nickname for a world-famous Portuguese soccer player. Also recovered from the apartment were a loaded firearm, $10,000 cash, and a money counter. One man received a nine-year prison sentence for Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the First Degree, while the other man awaits sentencing for money laundering.
The Legal Training Unit develops and implements the professional training curriculum offered to Assistant District Attorneys, Paralegals, and legal support staff. 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 addition, the Legal Training Unit organizes and runs the SNP Summer College Internship Program, which provides college students with a crash course in criminal law, and then provides them with the training to conduct a mock felony narcotics trial by the end of the summer.

In 2021, 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: Cryptocurrency and Dark Web Investigations, Alternatives to Incarceration, and Recent Developments in Cell Phone Search Warrant Practice. Faced with the challenge of conducting its training program during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the Legal Training Unit continued its successful pivot to “virtual” training programs, utilizing web conferencing to conduct trainings that our attorneys could access no matter where they were located.

The training curriculum complies with the regulations and guidelines of the New York State Continuing Legal Education 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 City Police Department’s Police Academy, the DEA’s New York Drug Enforcement Task Force (DETF), and the New York/New Jersey High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA).

Director of Training Philip Gary (right) and Assistant to Director Virginia Gibbons (left)
The New York City Police Department (NYPD) has assigned a team of detectives to the office since 1972. The Special Narcotics Prosecutor’s Unit, as it is known, is under the command of a senior NYPD supervisor who serves as a liaison between SNP and the Detective Bureau’s Criminal Enterprise Division.

Expert at tracking, safekeeping, and presenting 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 Warrants**
The unit prepares search warrants and affidavits and expedites requests through SNP. 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 2021, the unit processed 507 search warrants.

**Digital Media Evidence**
The unit tracks and controls “chain of custody” for electronic media evidence and makes certain that all audio/video evidence is secure. Additionally, the unit is responsible for the creation and testimony of grand jury/trial wiretap composite recordings and processes digital photographic evidence and data evidence.

In 2021, the unit registered 390 pieces of audio/video evidence, 450 pieces of wiretap media evidence, and 35 pieces of data and photographic evidence. The unit also prepared, created, and registered approximately 1181 duplicate copies of registered electronic media evidence. The unit trained SNP trial preparation assistants (TPAs) to edit original video evidence to protect the identity of undercover officers and make compilations of original evidence. The TPAs performed the majority of these edits and compilations in 2021.
Support Services Units

Fiscal
The Fiscal Unit manages the agency’s overall budget. All agency fiscal activities, including the production and submission of funding requests to federal, state, and city funding agencies, and the monitoring of expenditures, fall under the responsibility of the 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.

Human Resources
The Human Resources Unit oversees and implements procedures related to the assignment or transfer of Assistant District Attorneys from the offices of the five county District Attorneys, while also administering the recruitment of managerial, administrative, and clerical personnel. The unit is committed to fostering a culture of diversity and inclusion amongst staff, and seeks out individuals with a diverse range of backgrounds and experiences. Unit staff participates in planning, developing, and executing programs for all employees, as well as in support of recruitment efforts. The unit implements effective human resource policies; adheres to collective bargaining agreements; maintains time and leave records for all employees; and is responsible for bi-weekly payroll distribution. The unit serves as liaison with the citywide payroll management system and adheres to all HR regulatory compliance laws.

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, joint enforcement efforts, legal decisions, legislative action, and citywide narcotics trends. Press releases, reports, and testimony are prepared and distributed through the unit. The agency’s website and social media accounts are also maintained by 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, serve as mock trial coaches, and speak at career days.

Information Technologies (IT)
Information Technology develops, establishes, and administers SNP’s computer networks and telecommunication systems. The unit identifies needs and puts systems in place to 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.

Technical Support and Desktop Security: supports staff in using electronic devices, and addresses technical problems and desktop security.

Application Development and Support: develops, maintains, and supports computer software.
Support Services continued

**IT Infrastructure Support and Network Security:** oversees the network, servers, computers, network security, email, data storage, and backup.

**Records Management:** files, registers, and maintains a record of closed and bench warranted case files, and processes parole requests.

**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 and performs statistical analysis. Unit staff is assigned to coordinate data capture and provide additional support.

**Lab Unit:** Responsible for requesting, downloading, recording, and analyzing laboratory reports.

**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 records, social media sources, location data, and prescription drug-related data. Analysts prepare and process subpoenas, provide background searches using public records and law enforcement 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. The unit also performs analysis on city-wide drug overdose trends and other narcotic-related issues, such as gun violence. Analysts assist in preparing presentations for various city officials.

**Trial Preparation Assistants (TPAs)**
Trial Preparation Assistants (TPAs) are assigned to the Investigations Division, the Trial Division, Part N, and the Alternative Sentencing Division. Investigations 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.

**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 languages other than English; and provides translation of documents.

**Property Release**
The Property Release Section is responsible for coordinating with the New York City Police Department and other law enforcement agencies to ensure property that can be legally returned to its rightful owner is returned in a timely manner.

**Operations**
The Operations Unit is responsible for office maintenance, reproduction of documents, mail delivery, messenger services, housekeeping requests, office supply inventory, and disbursement.
# Executive & Legal Staff

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title and Department</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bridget G. Brennan</strong></td>
<td>Special Narcotics Prosecutor</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Steven M. Goldstein</strong></td>
<td>Chief Assistant District Attorney</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thomas G. Van Noy</strong></td>
<td>Executive Assistant District Attorney for Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lisa DePasquale</strong></td>
<td>Chief of the Trial Division</td>
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<td>Chief of Alternative Sentencing</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Rhonda Ferdinand</strong></td>
<td>Special Assistant District Attorney for Drug Prevention and Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Kathryn M. Spota</strong></td>
<td>Deputy Chief of Investigations</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Edward Burns</strong></td>
<td>Bureau Chief, 30/60</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Jannine Rowser</strong></td>
<td>Counsel for Technology Integration</td>
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<td>Deputy Bureau Chief, 30/60</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Kristin Bailey</strong></td>
<td>Deputy Bureau Chief, 30/60</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Kathleen V. Doyle</strong></td>
<td>Senior Supervising Attorney, Trial Division</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Christopher C. Edel</strong></td>
<td>Senior Attorney for Special Projects</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lisa M. Tompkins</strong></td>
<td>Chief of Investigations</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Susan N. Lanzatella</strong></td>
<td>Director of Strategic Initiatives</td>
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<td>Co-Chief, Narcotics Gang Unit</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Paul H. Harvey</strong></td>
<td>Deputy Chief, Trial Division</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Deputy Bureau Chief, 40/50</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bernice Ordonez</strong></td>
<td>Bureau Chief, Special Investigations Bureau</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Andres F. Torres</strong></td>
<td>Deputy Bureau Chief, Special Investigations Bureau</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Clark S. Abrams</strong></td>
<td>Money Laundering and Financial Crimes Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ann Heo</strong></td>
<td>Chief, Prescription Drug Investigation Unit</td>
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<td>Co-Chief, Discovery Litigation and Compliance Unit</td>
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**NEW YORK COUNTY**

- Clark S. Abrams
- Soraya Attia
- Kristin Bailey
- Max Bernstein
- Amy Boddorff
- Jakub Brodowski
- Daniel Bromwich
- Edward Burns
- Lindsey R. DeMaria
- Lisa DePasquale
- Lauren Di Giovanni
- Michael Di Paolo
- Kathleen V. Doyle
- Christopher C. Edel
- Jordan Anne Eyal
- Nigel I. Farinha
- Rhonda Ferdinand
- Luke Flynn-Fitzsimmons
- Isaac L. Forman
- Philip Gary
- Steven M. Goldstein
- Nicole A. Hanna
- Nicholas R. Helms
- Daniel P. Hughes
- Joseph T. Ippolito
- Brianne L. Kelly
- Minji Kim
- Leo S. Korman
- Eryck Kratville
- Susan N. Lanzatella
- Katherine R. Lihn
- Catherine Lloyd
- Michael Luongo
- Quentin J. Morgan
- Sara M. Moriarty
- Brian T. Noel
- Bernice Ordonez
- Hannah R. Perlman
- Marcel J. Philippe
- Eric J. Prezioso
- Matthew C. Reinhardt
- Jannine Rowser
- Anthony Santucci
- Yoav Sered
- Zoe E. Shea
- Mary Cate Simeone
- Kathryn M. Spota
- Marc Stepper
- Kathryn Suman
- Christopher Tailliefer
- David S. Torreblanca
- Andres F. Torres
- Thomas G. Van Noy
- Brooke Verdiglione
- James S. Viccharelli
- Alexander H. Wells
- Courtney Wen
- Andrew T. Winkler

**BRONX COUNTY**

- Erik J. Aho
- Lisa M. Tompkins

**KINGS COUNTY**

- Joseph F. Gookin
- Anju Malhotra
- Steven R. Miller
- Nicholas Potter
- Rachel Raimondi

**QUEENS COUNTY**

- Paul H. Harvey

**RICHMOND COUNTY**

- Ann Heo
- Edward Robinson
Managerial & Support Staff

ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT AND SUPPORT
Stefany A. Brown-Paulino, Administrative Manager of Operations and Legal Support

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Jodi Arnold
Carol Bach
Bonnie Greenstein
Mireille Monestime
Antonia Moy
Reva Palmer

Interpretation and Translation Services
Rosa Ruales
Luis Vernon

Operations
Brian Benning
Albert Nichols
Luis Tull

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Debra Danielsen
Alisa Figueroa

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Philip Lambert, TPA Coordinator
Roxanne McRae, TPA Coordinator
Jonathan Andrade
Terrill Davis
Nicole De’Matos
Jessica Gulack
Rubens Massena
Karina Rodriguez
Takeisha Sinclair
Olivia Sitbon
Melinda Yam

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Andrea Obregon

COMMUNITY OUTREACH
Calvin Solomon, Director

EXECUTIVE SUPPORT
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Hyssa Moultrie-Miller
Ana Pichardo
Sabrina Smith, Legal Assistant

FISCAL
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Krisna Ramkhalawon, Deputy Fiscal Director
Ewelina Malysha, Financial Reporting, Fund and Project Manager
Jacky Leung, Financial Analyst and Procurement Specialist
Syed Rizvi
Michael Lei
Tania Zohora
Kevin Huang

GRAND JURY WARDENS
SCO Michael Napolitano
SCO Christopher J. Stottmann

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Arthur Simmons, Director
Sabrina Middleton, Deputy Director
Craig Jelen, Deputy for Payroll Services
Lisa Thomas, Deputy for NYCAPS/Compliance
Sylvia Fernandez
Henry Polanco

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
Benjamin Azaraev, Chief Information Officer
Gregory Wilson, Deputy Chief Information Officer

Digital Forensics and Litigation
Victor Roman
J. Patrick Slattery

Infrastructure and Help Desk Units
Patrick Florestal, Deputy in Charge

Technical Support and Desktop Security
Joseph Cullen, Supervisor
David Lee-Hin
Anthony Lin

IT Infrastructure Support and Network Security
Olin McFadden

IT Application Development and Support
Philip Imperiale, Application Development Supervisor
Priya Thomas, Senior Developer

Case Information
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Jocelyn Pilotin-Lazar, Deputy Supervisor
Anne Roy, Case Information Analyst
Desiree Creary, Part N
Michelle Ashby, Trial Division Coordinator
Debra Danielsen
Alisa Figueroa
Jimmy Fontain
Regina Mavasheva
Taurean Morell
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U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, New York Division
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Design:
Vanguard