



Office of the State Attorney
Twentieth Judicial Circuit, State of Florida
Proudly Serving
Charlotte - Collier - Glades - Hendry - Lee

Stephen B. Russell, State Attorney

The Russell Report



A New Year Message from the State Attorney

I want to wish everyone a Happy New Year and extend my sincere appreciation for the efforts of the staff of the State Attorney's Office for making 2012 a great year.

Recent events in Newtown, Connecticut and elsewhere cause us to focus on our role in helping to find the right sanctions in our prosecution which, may in turn, help to steer defendants with mental health, drug or other issues, away from future violence.

We continue to stay busy with many new cases coming in and I recognize the hard work that goes into keeping these cases moving through the system. I also recognize that to each victim, their case is the most important case we are handling. I am proud our prosecutors and clerical staff handle each case as stuff, making sure those involved in the case understand the process to a resolution.

We continue to work in difficult economic times, but the crime does not slow down. Our staff continues to persist and exhibit hard work and professionalism.

I look forward to this year being another year we continue to do our best to help keep the citizens of Southwest Florida safe. I hope each of you as well as our State Attorney's Office team, have a prosperous and healthy New Year.

Car Seat Death

Monique Trinity O'Neill-Daghra was sentenced to 10 years of probation following the death of her 2-year-old daughter. The toddler was in a car seat that was not restrained in the vehicle.

O'Neill-Daghra put the child in the front seat of her car and the car seat was not strapped in. O'Neill-Daghra then rear-ended another vehicle in Fort Myers and her daughter was thrown forward and hit with the air bag. She later died from her injuries.

Along with probation, the defendant must also undergo drug and mental health screenings. Assistant State Attorney Francine Donnorummo of our Special Victims Unit handled the case.

This case highlights the importance of properly using child safety seats. There is a website www.safekids.org which has more information.

Juvenile Disposition

15-year-old Jonathan Rowles was found delinquent by Collier County Circuit Judge Ramiro Manalich for the death of his mother. The ruling in juvenile court, is similar to a guilty verdict in adult court.

In 2010, the teenager shot and killed his 39-year-old mother. Rowles has a disposition hearing scheduled in February. The Department of Children and Families will recommend what he should be sentenced to. Assistant State Attorney Tom Gorman handled the case.

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<http://www.sao.cjis20.org/>

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Good Neighbor Award

Getting Dirty for Charity

A group of prosecutors from the State Attorney’s Office got together to raise money for the new Southwest Florida Children’s Hospital by getting out of their suits and getting dirty! The SAO “Alpha Team” participated in a 5K mud run course. They ran through lots of mud and various obstacles to complete the demanding course. The team consisted of Captain Brenda Wade, Jonathan Martin, Justin Chapman, Ian MacLaren and Chris Crowley. They raised more than \$350 for their efforts. We want to congratulate them for their hard work for a great cause!

Learning About the State Attorney’s Office

Staff members of the State Attorney’s Office are available to speak to local students. Throughout the year we visit local classrooms and teach kids about what our office does and how the law works in Florida. We also invite local college students to volunteer at one of our offices throughout Southwest Florida. We have many volunteers who get to work closely with our prosecutors and get a real life education about the criminal justice system. If you would like to learn more about our programs, contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Nancy Cruz at ncruz@sao.cjis20.org or call her at 533-1000.



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Aggravated Assault Case

Victor Tianga was found guilty of three counts of Aggravated Assault following a one day trial. The case involved two police officers standing on a roadside in the Pine Manor area of Fort Myers when they were approached by a civilian asking a question. Shortly after, a car came rushing down the road stopping just short of hitting the trio.

Tianga, the driver was arrested. He had an issue with the civilian speaking to police and it is believed he was trying to run him over and those standing with him. It is also believed he stopped short when he realized they were officers.

Assistant State Attorneys Jennifer Royal and Abe Thornburg.

Wild Day

A wild day of fighting in Lee County led to a trial ending with Michael William Thompson being found guilty as charged. Thompson was found guilty of Battery, Assault and Breach of Peace.

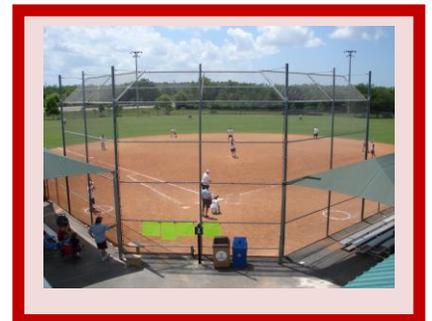
Thompson had spent a day fighting with his girlfriend at various locations throughout their apartment complex. At one point, the apartment manager spoke to Thompson to tell him to go inside and be quiet. The defendant responded by punching the manager twice in the face. A neighbor saw it happen and rushed to defend the manager. That's when Thompson grabbed a lamp and swung it at the neighbor.

Thompson is scheduled for sentencing soon but is also on parole out of Alabama. Assistant State Attorneys Bianca Bentley and Amy D'Alessandro handled the case.

Law Enforcement Softball Tournament

The 11th Annual State Attorney's Office Law Enforcement Appreciation Day Softball Tournament is May 11th, 2013. All of the proceeds from the event go to support Southwest Florida Crime Stoppers.

If you are interested in being a business sponsor please contact Samantha Syoen, Communications Director for the State Attorney's Office at 239-533-1125.





THE RUSSELL REPORT

GUILTY VERDICTS

ASA Tino F. Cimato: Guilty of Trafficking Cocaine (28 Grams or More) and Possession of Marijuana (Over 20 Grams)

ASA Hanna Renna: Possession of Cocaine

ASAs Marie Doerr and Bob Lee: Guilty of First Degree Murder, Burglary while Armed with a Firearm, and Child Abuse

ASAs Thomas R. Gorman, III and Kate Rumley: Guilty of Two Counts Sale or Delivery of Cocaine and Two Counts of Possession of Cocaine with Intent

ASAs Kathryn Horst and Stephanie Powers: Guilty of DUI-Third within Ten Years

ASA Marilla Pauly: Guilty of Robbery with a Weapon

ASAs Leanna Seidlich and Will Graul: Guilty of DUI

ASAs Caitlin Sorenson and Garrick Soja: Guilty of WWRD with Alcohol

ASA James Stewart: Guilty of Possession of Cocaine

ASAs Tammy Wilson and Juan Escobar: Guilty of Battery

ASA Alyssa M. Wolf: Guilty of Possession of Marijuana (Less Than 20 Grams)

ASAs Tom Gorman and Leanna Seidlich: Loitering and Prowling

ASAs Claudia Stewart and Connie Serrano: Home Invasion Robbery with a Firearm

ASA Alyssa Wolf: Battery - Domestic Violence, Battery

ASAs Matthew Roepstorff and Leena Marcos: DUI

ASAs Tamera Wilson and Leanna Seidlich: Battery Domestic Violence

ASAs Bianca Bentley and Jennifer Royal: DUI

ASAs Bianca Bentley and John Dommerich Jr: DUI -.15 or higher

ASAs Denise Kiser and Amanda Hutchison: Sexual Battery on a Child Less than 12 Years of Age (2 counts), Sexual Activity with a Child (2 counts), Solicitation of Sexual Activity with a Child

ASAs Kathryn Horst and Stephanie Powers: DUI 3rd within 10 years



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JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES:

In recognition of service to the people of Southwest Florida, and dedication to their jobs with the State Attorney's Office, a heartfelt thank you goes to the following people on their January employment anniversary dates:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Steve Maresca '86 | George Holland '08 | Jennifer Tate '10 |
| Celeste Lyons '90 | Thomas Gorman III '09 | Lisa Travis '10 |
| Dave Scuderi '95 | Barry Lewis '09 | Kimberly Gobble '11 |
| Martin Stark '95 | Cameron Siggs '09 | Steven Bentley '11 |
| Kelly Worcester '96 | Jody White '09 | Karen Matejkovic '11 |
| Larry Justham '03 | Amber Wright '09 | Heather Searcy '12 |
| Randall McGruther '03 | Maryann Malizia '10 | |
| Steve Russell '03 | Stephen Browning '10 | |
| Connie Serrano '04 | Christine Cummins '10 | |
| Mark Moore '05 | Tracey Detzel '10 | |
| Samantha Syoen '07 | Juan Escobar Jr. '10 | |

SOMETIMES THEY MAKE IT EASY

Georgia Health Sciences University had some major monkey business to deal with in a campus locker room. Officials found a 32-year-old employee intoxicated in one of the locker rooms, with his pants around his ankles, and two lab monkeys let out of their cages. GHSU immediately terminated the man. The monkeys were examined by a veterinarian and found to be chimpily amazing and were not harmed.

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A Pennsylvania man, standing 6-foot-4 and weighing 300 pounds, walked into Walmart buck naked to steal a pair of socks. Before he could finish picking out his new wardrobe, police arrived and tried to subdue him. The man was proud of his birthday suit and refused to be taken down, so police used a taser to take him into custody. Hopefully the sock thief likes his new jail attire, as he is being held on \$50,000 bail for aggravated assault and indecent exposure.