




*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**



**In This Edition:**

**Page 1,2,3**

- Cases

**Page 4**

- Guilty Verdicts

**Page 5**

**Anniversaries**

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**Murder Trial**

Matthew Marshall was found guilty as charged for Second Degree Murder, Abuse of a Corpse and Tampering with Evidence. Marshall killed his father and dismembered his body in Cape Coral earlier this year. He faces up to life in prison.

There was a three day trial in Fort Myers in which the 33-year-old represented himself. Assistant State Attorney Andreas Gardiner of our Homicide Unit and Assistant State Attorney Stephanie Russell prosecuted the case.

Sentencing is scheduled for November 21<sup>st</sup>.



Matthew Marshall

**Human Trafficking Case**

In Collier County, Gary Cherelus was sentenced to 20 years in prison for two counts of Human Trafficking and two counts of Tampering with a Witness. Cherelus was also declared a sexual predator after pleading no contest to the charges.

Cherelus coerced his victims with threats, violence and drugs to get them to engage in prostitution. He was part of an organized criminal enterprise profiting from the sexual exploitation of his victims.

Assistant State Attorney Deborah Cunningham of our Special Victim’s Unit handled the case and adds, “This resolution protects the victims from having to go through a trial. Hopefully it also sends a message that these crimes won’t be tolerated.”



Gary Cherelus



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**Battery on an Officer**

David William Rzepka, of North Fort Myers, was found guilty of Resisting or Obstructing a Law Enforcement Officer with Violence, Resisting or Obstructing a Law Enforcement Officer without Violence and Battery on a Law Enforcement Officer.

Sentencing is scheduled for November 21<sup>st</sup>. Assistant State Attorneys Agnieszka Osowicka and Paul Thomas handled the case.



David Rzepka

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**Learning About the State Attorney's Office**

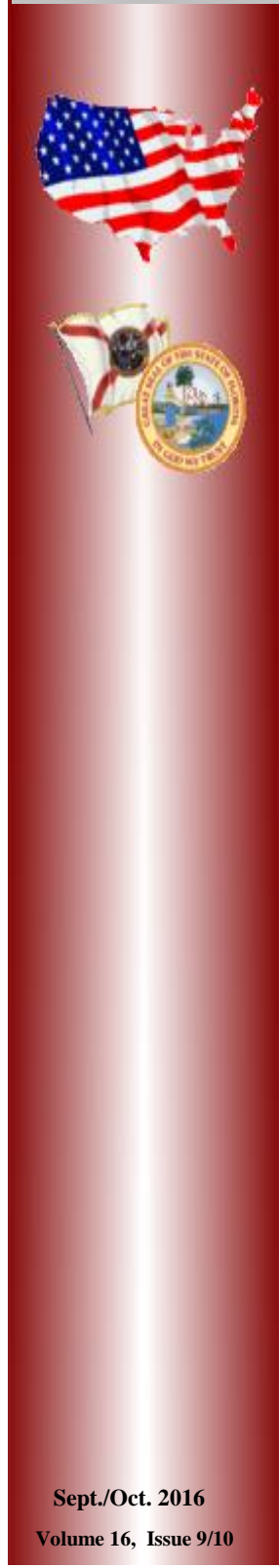
Staff members of the State Attorney's Office are available to speak to local students. Throughout the year we visit local classrooms and teach kids about what our office does and how the law works in Florida. We also invite local college students to volunteer at one of our offices throughout Southwest Florida. We have many volunteers who get to work closely with our prosecutors and get an 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](mailto:ncruz@sao.cjis20.org) or call her at 533-1000.





**Stephen B. Russell, State Attorney**

# THE RUSSELL REPORT



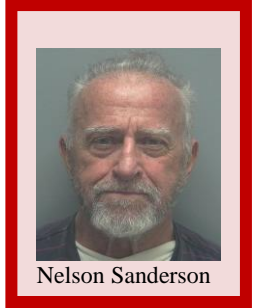
## Molestation Case

Nelson Sanderson was found guilty as charged of two counts of Lewd and Lascivious Molestation following a trial in Fort Myers. There were two victims, both under 12 years old.

75-year-old Sanderson fled the country in 2012 when he found out police were looking for him. He went to Costa Rica and then Granada, Nicaragua. He was extradited from there earlier this year.

The victims testified during the trial. The jury was out for 45 minutes before coming back with the guilty verdict. Sanderson faces life in prison when he is sentenced on November 15<sup>th</sup>.

Assistant State Attorney Tyler Lovejoy of our Special Victims Unit and Assistant State Attorney Natalie Savino handled the case.



Nelson Sanderson

## Sexual Battery Case

Martin Mejia Hernandez was sentenced to life in prison after being found guilty as charged of Sexual Battery on a Child Less than 12 Years of Age.

Assistant State Attorney Francine Donnorummo of our Special Victims Unit handled the case.

Hernandez committed the sexual battery sometime between 2006 and 2007. The child victim told medical staff what happened to her in 2012. She had kept the secret for years out of fear of the defendant.

Fort Myers Police investigated and worked with our office to obtain an arrest warrant. The defendant left the area and was later found in North Carolina. He was arrested and brought back to face the charges. The victim testified against the defendant at trial.



Martin Mejia Hernandez



## **THE RUSSELL REPORT**

### **GUILTY VERDICTS**

ASA's Andreas Gardiner and Stephanie Russell: Second Degree Murder, Abuse of a Corpse, Tampering with Evidence

ASA Francine Donnorummo: Sexual Battery – Child Less than 12 Years of Age

ASA's Andreas Gardiner and Abe Thornburg: Second Degree Murder

ASA's Brian Mortenson: Aggravated Assault with a Firearm, Aggravated Assault with a Firearm on Person 65 or Older

ASA's Mary Anderson and Leena Marcos: Sale or Delivery of a Controlled Substance within 1,000 ft. of a School and Possession of Heroin

ASA Cassandra Quaglia: Resisting or Obstructing an Officer without Violence

ASA's Lindsay Scott and Carrington Lewis: Domestic Violence Battery, Criminal Mischief (Less than \$200)

ASA's Geoffrey Leskie and Carrington Lewis: DUI

ASA's Carrington Lewis and Lindsay Scott: Petit Theft

ASA's Natalie Stowe Heiderscheit and Mayra Talarico: DUI

ASA Alyssa Wolf: Possession of a Controlled Substance with Intent to Sell or Deliver, Possession of Paraphernalia

ASA's Natalie Stowe Heiderscheit and Tyler Dupuy: DUI

ASA Erik Leontiev: Possession of a Controlled Substance, Possession of Paraphernalia

ASA Christine Cummins: Sale or Delivery of a Controlled Substance within 1,000 ft. of a Place of Worship, Possession of Heroin, Possession of a Place with Knowledge of Trafficking Sale, or Manufacture of a Controlled Substance

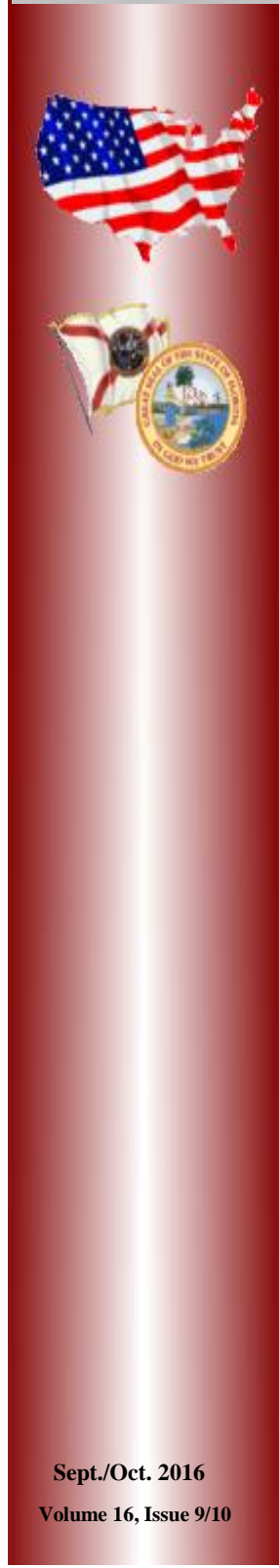




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**Serving Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee Counties**

**THE RUSSELL REPORT**



**SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:**

In recognition of service to the citizens 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 September employment anniversary dates:

- |                        |                       |                   |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Bianca Bentley '11     | Julia Howard '98      | Leena Marcos '11  |
| Mitchell Cooper '13    | Elizabeth Johnson '12 | Melissa Mears '15 |
| John Dommerich Jr. '10 | Heather Karnes '12    | Nicole Mirra '06  |
| Michael England '15    | Heather Kobilus '04   |                   |
| Lindsay Gaide '13      | Robert Lee '88        |                   |
| Sara Hall '11          | Paul Poland '96       |                   |
| Kathryn Horst '10      | Stephanie Powers '10  |                   |

**OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES:**

In recognition of service to the citizens 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 October employment anniversary dates:

- |                        |                        |                           |
|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nicholas Alberto '15   | Sabsina Karimi '12     | Cynthia Rebholz-Rubin '09 |
| Mary Anderson '14      | Ann Kelly '15          | Jeannine Reed '11         |
| JoAnn Biddle '09       | Morten Laigaard '15    | Hanna Renna '10           |
| Danielle Butler '10    | Hortencia Martinez '15 | Oneyda Rodriguez '09      |
| Clark Cary '14         | Laura Mason '14        | Melissa Rosario '11       |
| Hope Darda '10         | Jacqueline Maurer '95  | Jennifer Royal '09        |
| Stephen Dommerich '14  | Jean Mazzola '14       | Karen Steiner '15         |
| William Dorman III '10 | Sharon McKart '01      | Susan Summey '09          |
| Susan Fundermark '06   | Richard Montecalvo '95 | Erin Velotti '09          |
| Jessica Hamernik '12   | Patti Anne Pekar '04   |                           |
| Ashley Hossack '10     | Cassandra Quaglia '12  |                           |