

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



2008

Annual Report



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# Message from the Special Narcotics Prosecutor

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This year's annual report focuses on the critical role the Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor has played in turning decaying buildings, overrun with drug dealers, into safe, affordable neighborhoods.

The front cover features a recent photograph of 146th Street between Broadway and Amsterdam Avenue in Manhattan. The scene is vastly different from its appearance six years ago (pictured below), when masked drug dealers took over three adjacent buildings and one across the street to sell hundreds of vials of crack every night. They commandeered the building doors and confronted legal tenants. A city sponsored program housing the homeless in one of the buildings put vulnerable families at risk. In 2003, three dozen drug dealers were arrested. They were convicted the next year, and sent to prison for periods ranging from 2 to 12 years. The drug operation was permanently shut down, and our agency worked with city officials to stabilize the area. The block, just a few hundred yards from a school, has dramatically improved.

Some say that investigations directed against drug dealing are futile, because new dealers will always replace ones removed. The "Masked Men" case and others like it featured in this year's report prove the skeptics wrong. Law enforcement efforts are the critical first step in a holistic approach to empowering neighborhoods overwhelmed with narcotic crime.

Inside, we have included current photographs of the sites of long term investigations which not only ended open drug dealing, but marked the beginning of a sustained decline in violent crime. The big winners are the residents – who have seen their neighborhoods revitalized.

The report also contains highlights of a wide array of investigations conducted by the Special Narcotics Prosecutor's Office during the past year.

We are proud to have collaborated with many partners to bring an enduring vitality and sense of security to neighborhoods throughout New York City.

*Bridget G. Brennan*

Special Narcotics Prosecutor



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# About the Office

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The Office of the New York City Special Narcotics Prosecutor (OSNP) was created by the New York State Legislature in 1971. Fully-operational since 1972, OSNP is the only agency in the United States devoted solely to the investigation and prosecution of narcotics felonies. The office works with city, state, and federal law enforcement to address narcotics trafficking and related crime. Through the years, OSNP investigations have dismantled narcotics networks, money laundering enterprises and entrenched local drug gangs in neighborhoods across the city.

Assistant district attorneys assigned to the office by the city's five District Attorneys are placed in the Investigation Division, the Trial Division or the Alternative Sentencing Division. Investigation Division assistants oversee multifaceted, long-term investigations into large-scale narcotics trafficking in the city and across the United States. Trial Division assistants prosecute local trafficking cases and direct investigations into mid-level drug operations. Alternative Sentencing Division assistants oversee the diversion of addicted narcotics offenders to treatment programs instead of prison.

Appointed in January, 1972, Frank Rogers, the first Special Narcotics Prosecutor was succeeded by Judge Sterling Johnson, Jr., who headed OSNP for 16 years. Robert H. Silbering was named the Special Narcotics Prosecutor in 1992.

On May 1, 1998, Bridget G. Brennan was appointed Special Narcotics Prosecutor for the City of New York by the five District Attorneys. Ms. Brennan established the Narcotics Gang Unit, re-organized the Alternative Sentencing Division, expanded money laundering and financial investigations, and targeted emerging problems including Internet drug sales.



*Special Prosecutor Bridget G. Brennan and Drug Enforcement Administration Acting Administrator Michele Leonhart recognize joint efforts.*



# Empowering Neighborhoods...



The first Model Block: In 1997 a group ensconced in 548-552 West 163rd in Manhattan, openly dealing cocaine and committing shootings, robberies, and assaults (left).

## 163rd Street



Coordinated law enforcement and rehabilitation efforts supported by other city agencies resulted in dramatic improvement, and 80% violent crime reduction over 12 years. -548 W. 163rd today (right).



## Nobel Drew Ali Plaza

In 2007, more than 100 people would line up every day to buy heroin, crack or cocaine from dealers who had commandeered 20 vacant apartments at the Nobel Drew Ali Plaza complex (below).

Today, children play in the courtyard previously overrun by drug dealers (below).



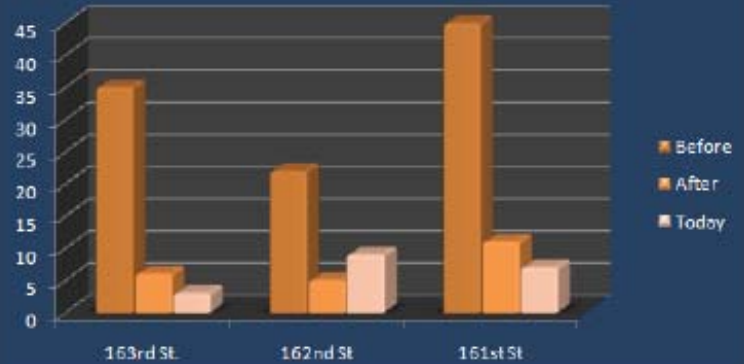
# ...One Block at a Time

The model Block Program, initiated by the New York City Police Department in 1997 on West 161st-163rd streets in Manhattan, was a collaboration of many city agencies including the Office of Special Narcotics. The program focused on clearing out violent drug dealing and returning safe streets to residents.

OSNP established its Narcotics Gang Unit to adapt these successful strategies to other troubled neighborhoods.

Over the years the violent crime on the three original model blocks has remained low.

### Major Crimes Reported on Model Blocks



Year	Case Name	Indicted Defendants
2000	Black Top Gang	25
2000	Expelled	23
2001	Watson Gang	18
2001	Nine Tray Gangstas	7
2002	Queensbridge Houses	45
2002	Operation Uproot	49
2002	Baisley Gardens	33
2003	Diego Beekman	32
2003	Masked Men	38
2003	Big Bags	11
2004	Family Thing	3
2005	Purple Haze	30
2006	Dykeman Marina	9
2007	Randolph Houses	12
2007	Noble Drew Ali	35
2007	Cocaine And Steaks	24
2007	Strauss Houses	5
2008	Diego Beekman	17
2008	Mercedes	5
2008	Kingsboro Houses	28



# OSNP Outreach

## Local Law Enforcement Training and Collaboration



*Narcotic Chiefs from the five District Attorney Offices discuss citywide strategies with Special Narcotics staff.*



*New York City Urban Park Rangers annual training.*



*Special Narcotics Prosecutor Brennan addresses New York Police Department Narcotics supervisors.*

## Sharing Expertise With International Partners

*New Swedish Police Task Force on international organized crime meets with the Special Narcotics Prosecutor.*



*Afghan law enforcement officials learn about investigative techniques from OSNP.*

## Community Involvement and Professional Development



*Asian American Bar Association of New York inaugurates Prosecutor's Committee with District Attorneys and Special Prosecutor Bridget G. Brennan.*



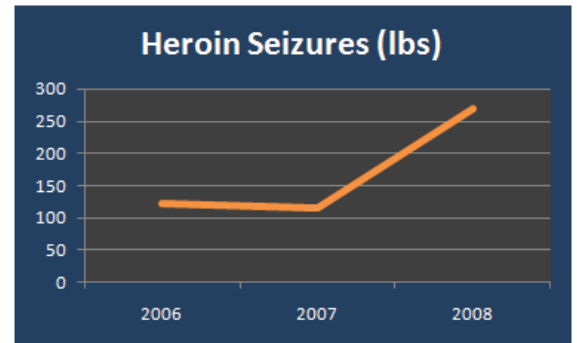
*Special Narcotics conducts training for Waterfront Commission of New York Harbor.*



# Narcotics Trends

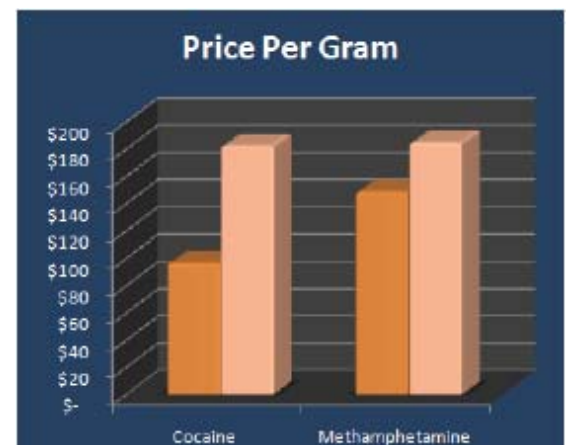
## RISE IN HEROIN USE

Heroin is more available and more widely used, particularly among teenagers and young adults. Heroin sold on the street is of a very high purity. Users believe snorting heroin of this purity achieves an equal, but less risky high than injecting it; a belief that has resulted in tragic overdoses.



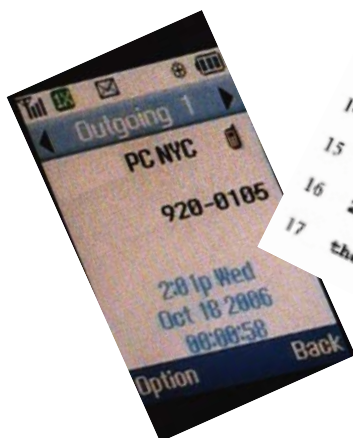
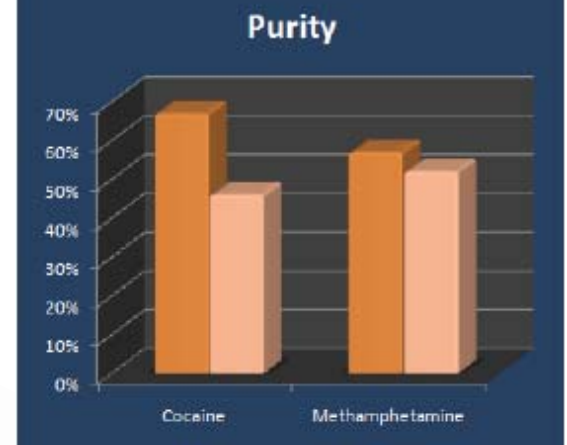
## INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKERS RAISE PRICES

The price of cocaine, at the wholesale level, has increased significantly. From January 2007 to September 2008, the price per pure gram of cocaine increased 89 percent, from \$96.61 to \$182.73, while purity decreased 32.1 percent, from 67 to 46 percent. During the same time frame, the price per pure gram of methamphetamine increased 23 percent, from \$148.91 to \$184.09, while the purity decreased 8.3 percent, from 57 percent to 52 percent.



## DANGERS OF INTERNET DRUG TRADE

Drug trading over the Internet continues to proliferate. During the past two years, OSNP has prosecuted at least one hundred cases involving sale of illegal drugs on Internet websites. Most involve cocaine advertised using common code names on popular sites such as Craigslist.org. This trend poses serious risks to buyers, especially those who agree to meet strangers selling illegal substances in their homes.



**TRANSCRIPT RECORDING #1**

13 M: Hey, this is Ray, uh, we spoke on Craigslist and you  
14 were interested in getting some uh... ski supplies. Let me  
15 know if I can be of some help. My cell phone number is 609-  
16 273-5484 again its 609-273-5484 and I am in Manhattan on  
17 the East Side. Bye.

People v. WANG  
Indictment # 3643-2006

Seized cell phone reveals Internet dealer's contacts list.

## Wiretap Investigations Activity

Orders	154
Originals	101
Extensions	48
Amendments	5
Instruments	
Cellphones	144
Landline Phones	4
Camera	2
Audio/Video Surveillance	4

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# Investigation Division

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The Investigation Division is composed of the Special Investigations Bureau and three smaller units: Narcotics Gang, Money Laundering and Financial Crimes, and Forfeiture Investigations.

## Special Investigations Bureau

The Special Investigations Bureau, (SIB) targets major narcotics trafficking organizations importing and distributing multi-kilogram quantities of cocaine and heroin. The activities of the criminal enterprises extend beyond county, state, and international borders. In 2008, SIB prosecutors worked with the Drug Enforcement Administration, the New York City Police Department, the New York State Police, the New York Drug Enforcement Task Force (NYDETF), the New York Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Strike Force and other local, state, federal and foreign law enforcement. The division launched 110 investigations which targeted a wide range of criminal activity including drug trafficking, push-in robberies, weapons trafficking and money laundering. SIB also commenced civil actions to forfeit narcotics proceeds.

In 2008, senior staff supervised 154 wiretap investigations, including 101 original eavesdropping applications, 48 extensions and 5 amendments. Narcotics investigations resulted in the seizure of 1,900 pounds of cocaine, 267 pounds of heroin, 829 pounds of marijuana and various other drugs.

## Narcotics Gang Unit

The Narcotics Gang Unit was set up in 2002. It concentrates on violent neighborhood groups, robbery crews, and weapons traffickers committing drug-related criminal activity across the city. The unit works closely with detectives from NYPD's Narcotics Division and members of the New York Drug Enforcement Task Force's REDRUM Unit. In 2008, the unit prosecuted armed robbery, kidnapping, burglary, weapons possession, illegal firearms sales, and narcotics trafficking.

## Money Laundering and Financial Investigations

The Money Laundering and Financial Investigations Unit was initiated in 2001 and reconfigured in 2005. It probes narcotics-related money laundering and other financial criminal activity. Cases result from intelligence developed during narcotics investigations. The unit aims to prevent foreign narcotics conglomerates and local drug organizations from gaining access to drug proceeds.

## Forfeiture Investigations

Established in 1985, the Forfeiture Investigations Unit evaluates felony drug prosecutions for potential litigation to recover the proceeds of narcotics



crimes. The unit works on identifying criminal assets and initiates civil procedures to recover proceeds and deprive narcotics traffickers and money laundering groups of profit. The unit has in place a comprehensive set of systems to track office participation in investigations resulting in forfeiture actions. In 2008, 206 federal forfeiture actions were entered and 208 were completed. At the state level, 371 actions were initiated and 465 were completed.

## 2008 HIGHLIGHTS

### DRUG ORGANIZATION ORDERS MURDERS

Operation Jigsaw, a joint investigation with the New York County District Attorney and the New York Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Strike Force, targeted a group headed by Rafael Alvares that imported cocaine from the Dominican Republic. The investigation revealed that Alvares orchestrated the killings of four in the Dominican Republic in late 2007 and early 2008. On February 21, 2008, Alvares and three of his associates were arrested in Manhattan, where Alveres was based. A Grand Jury subsequently voted an indictment charging the four defendants, including Alvares, with crimes including murder, conspiracy to commit murder, narcotics conspiracy and narcotics possession. The investigation also resulted in the seizure of nine kilograms of cocaine in New York City.



*Four individuals were shot and killed in the Dominican Republic.*

### \$16 MILLION FOUND AFTER TEN-HOUR SEARCH

A June search of a tractor trailer with California license plates parked on Bruckner Boulevard and Leland Avenue in the Bronx yielded 400 pounds of cocaine. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security lent agents a special X-ray device to conduct the search. After 10 hours, the drugs were found inside a steel band covered with a metal sheath at the perimeter of the floor of the semi-trailer. The cocaine was heavily wrapped in duct tape and grease to avoid canine detection. The investigation, conducted with the New York Drug Enforcement Task Force, linked the drug organization behind the transport to similar narcotics deliveries across the country. By December, Carlos Loveras, Armando Magallon, Miguel Mejias, Antonio Rodriguez, Victor Luna-Martinez and Junior Lantigua had been indicted on the top narcotics possession charge and conspiracy. With the exception of Magallon and Luna-Martinez, the defendants are city residents.



*X-rays reveal cocaine hidden in trailer.*



### TRAFFICKERS RUN IDENTITY THEFT RING

In July, a 22-count Special Narcotics indictment charged Victor Marte, brother Rolando Alcantara, and Luis Corporan with conspiracy and top narcotics crimes. The group was simultaneously involved in a broad-based identity theft ring. A 15-month wiretap traced the defendants as they used two apartments in Manhattan's Park Terrace West complex and

one apartment at 2545 Sedgwick Avenue in the Bronx to distribute powdered and crack cocaine to customers in Manhattan and the Bronx. Search operations recovered over four ounces of cocaine, a .44 Magnum revolver, a .32 Smith and Wesson, cases of bullets, approximately \$28,000, cell phones and drug paraphernalia.

The U.S. Secret Service investigated the Marte/Alcantara identity theft enterprise. The defendants bought stolen credit card information over the Internet and created fake credit cards used to purchase electronics. They were responsible for at least \$10 million worth of credit card fraud. This case was referred to the New York County District Attorney's Office for prosecution.



*Cocaine and fraudulent credit cards recovered.*

### OPERATION TITAN: COCAINE, \$1.7 MILLION SEIZED

An international investigation into cocaine and heroin traffickers and money launderers in New York, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Texas, Florida, Hong Kong, Panama, Guatemala and the Dominican Republic ended in 2008. The New York investigation resulted in the prosecution of 21 defendants, the final three of whom were convicted in 2008. Narcotics and money seizures across the city included: Queens, 231 pounds of cocaine and \$140,000; Manhattan, 3½ pounds of cocaine and \$873,000; the Bronx \$515,000; Brooklyn, 68 pounds of cocaine and \$202,000; and, Staten Island, two automatic weapons and a .38 caliber revolver.

### NIGHTCLUB SUPPLIER

From his apartment at 51 Elder Street in Bushwick, Brooklyn Juan Gonzalez ran an operation that delivered a variety of narcotics and pharmaceuticals to customers throughout the city. Gonzalez distributed business cards in nightclubs listing his e-mail address and phone number. In December, a search of his apartment yielded five weapons, including three that were loaded; over 200 zip lock bags filled with crack/cocaine; numerous glassines of heroin; close to two ounces of crystal meth; over 500 Oxycodone pills; over 5,000 ecstasy pills; 80 zip lock bags and a large plastic bag full of Psilocybin/psilocin commonly known as "magic mushrooms"; 20 \$50 bags of hydroponic marijuana; cutting agents; counter-surveillance equipment; a stun gun; and over \$6,000 in cash. The defendant was indicted on felony narcotics and weapons charges.



*Drugs from heroin to "magic mushrooms" and handguns recovered from nightclub supplier's apartment.*

### COCAINE DISGUISED IN KIDDIE TOYS

Nine members of a narcotics cell that used the U. S. Postal Service to smuggle kilograms of cocaine hidden inside children's toys were indicted in July. The toys were boxed and express-mailed from Puerto Rico to locations in Manhattan, the Bronx, New Jersey and other states. Jose David Diaz-Ortega, the leader of the organization, used his business, Prima Check



*Kilograms of cocaine were concealed in children's toys and smuggled via U.S. Mail from Puerto Rico to New York.*

Cashing on First Avenue in Manhattan, to launder narcotics proceeds. At least twice a week, Diaz-Ortega wire-transferred \$40,000 to \$50,000 to associates in Puerto Rico. In total, \$86,400, 8½ pounds of cocaine, an ounce of marihuana and four handguns were recovered.

### **TWO DOZEN GUNS TO UNDERCOVER OFFICERS**

In eight transactions, Davis Daniels sold 26 weapons and drugs to undercover officers in a July investigation. The guns were purchased legally in Virginia at \$300 to \$400 a weapon and supplied to illegal gun dealers in New York City. Daniels purchased the weapons from a local source and resold them for up to \$1,100 per weapon. The weapon transactions occurred around 141st Street and Edgecomb Avenue in Upper Manhattan. Daniels pleaded to Criminal Sale of a Controlled Firearm in the First Degree and narcotics charges and faces six years in state prison.

### **COCAINE INDICTMENT: 13 ARRESTED, \$450,000 RECOVERED**

In July, 13 people were indicted after an investigation dismantled a cocaine-smuggling network based in New York City. The cocaine shipments were sent by U.S. Mail from Puerto Rico to drop-off addresses in Manhattan and Queens. Angel Colon, the main target of the investigation, and 12 others, including professional boxer Edgar Santana were apprehended by the New York Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Strike Force. A kilogram of cocaine and \$450,000 were recovered.

### **TRACTOR TRAILER HAULS 440 POUNDS OF COCAINE**

A joint investigation ended in August with the seizure of 440 pounds of cocaine hidden in a highly-sophisticated trap on the inside roof of an otherwise empty tractor-trailer with California plates. The truck was parked on the corner of Halleck and Randall Avenues in the Hunts Point section of the Bronx. Driver William G. Paulet, from Ontario, California was indicted on Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the First Degree. With the assistance of NYPD's Canine Unit members of the New York Drug Enforcement Task Force located the trap.



*190 kilograms of cocaine were located after a three-hour search, stacked in a compartment on the roof of the tractor trailer.*

### **MILLIONS IN STORAGE LOCKER**

63-year old Jesus Gineste and 42-year old Carlos Betancourt were indicted in March on top narcotics charges after members of the New York Drug Enforcement Task Force seized more than \$2.6 million and 55 pounds of cocaine. Close to \$2.3 million was recovered from a locker registered to Gineste at Extra Space Storage Facility, 2875 Edson Avenue in the Bronx. From three apartments in a multi-dwelling house at 80-46 59th Street in Queens the Task Force recovered \$300,000, 55 pounds of cocaine, two kilo presses, a heat sealer, cutting agents and a money counting machine.



Both defendants were sentenced to state prison.

### HEROIN AND \$80,000 SEIZED AT AIRPORT

A joint investigation led to the seizure of nine kilograms of heroin and approximately \$80,000 which arrived at John F. Kennedy International Airport from the Dominican Republic on June 7, 2008. On June 10, 2008, members of the New York Drug Enforcement Task Force and investigators from the Special Narcotics Prosecutor's Office arrested Juan Nabor Hernandez-Disla and Roger Jose Almanzar in connection with the airport heroin seizure. Both defendants pleaded guilty and were sentenced to state prison.



*\$2.3 million and 55 pounds of cocaine was seized in a Bronx storage facility and a Queens house.*

### FIVE PLOT TO STEAL COCAINE

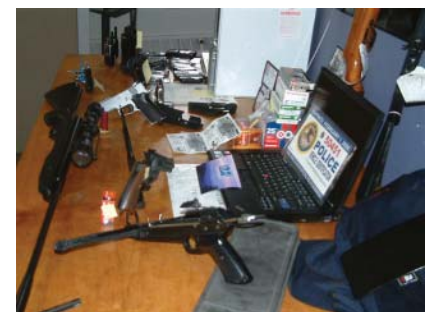
A narcotics investigation uncovered a plot by five men to rob an individual they believed would be transporting 15 kilograms of cocaine. The defendants planned to be heavily armed and use vehicles resembling police cars. On October 2, 2008, the defendants met at a pre-arranged location near 150th Street and Conduit Avenue in Queens. All five were arrested by authorities who also seized a loaded .45, a replica .45, and a loaded shotgun in addition to two vehicles with official NYPD stickers in the windshield. All five were indicted for Attempted Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the First Degree, weapons possession and conspiracy.



*Weapons seized from look-alike police cars.*

### ARMED ROBBER GETS 11 YEARS

Tony Clanton, who impersonated a DEA agent and carried out at least four armed home-invasion robberies and burglaries, entered a guilty plea and was sentenced to 11 years in state prison and five years post-release supervision. Clanton had prior violent convictions and was on federal probation for shooting a Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agent during a robbery when he was arrested in this case. A February search at his home on Staten Island led to the seizure of narcotics, three loaded guns, 300 rounds of ammunition, DEA and other law enforcement credentials, bullet proof vests, scanners, handcuffs and identification papers from robbery victims.



*Weapons and Law Enforcement identification recovered in search warrant.*

### FATHER AND SON SMUGGLE FAKE VIAGRA

From January to September, 2008, father-and-son team Angel Grullon, Sr. and Angel Grullon, Jr., traveled twice a month to the Dominican Republic where, on each trip, they would buy 5,000 to 20,000 counterfeit Viagra pills. The duo then smuggled the pills into the city through John F. Kennedy International Airport hidden inside bottles of fish oil and vitamins concealed in luggage. The pills, colored in the same blue hue as the real Pfizer Viagra,



*Counterfeit Viagra pills were hidden in fish oil and vitamin bottles.*

were then distributed to bodegas and storefronts and resold for upwards of \$1.60 a pill in upper Manhattan. The Grullons and associate Andy Salgado were indicted on Trademark Counterfeiting and Criminal Diversion of Prescription charges.

### 2008 Workload

Arrests	2,702
Indictments & Superior Court Informations Trials Completed	1,693 67
Felony Dispositions	
Convictions	1,423
Acquittals	24
Treatment Dismissals	100
Dismissed	212
Conviction Rate	81%
Felony Sentences	
State Prison	431
Jail	158
Jail & Probation	66
Probation	108
Seizures	
Cocaine	1,890 pounds
Heroin	270 pounds
Weapons Seized	

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# Trial Division

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

Assistants work closely with the New York Police Department's Narcotics Division, the New York Drug Enforcement Task Force, the New York State Police and the OSNP Investigators Unit. In 2008, the Division launched 108 new investigations. A total of 1,994 complaints were referred to the office for prosecution during the year; 1,693 defendants were indicted. Search warrants drafted numbered 1,315.

## 2008 Case Highlights

### HEROIN MILL ON EAST 75TH STREET SHUT DOWN

A heroin mill in a studio apartment on East 75th Street in Manhattan was shutdown in March and seven people were arrested. Juan Pablo Ramos, the leader of the heroin ring, and Armando Leal used the studio to grind down and package kilograms of heroin into hundreds of \$10 glassine envelopes. Bundles of 10 to 100 heroin envelopes were distributed to dealers whose sale routes included the Upper East Side, West Village, Gramercy Park and East Harlem. Approximately 1½ kilograms of heroin valued at over \$100,000, stacks of glassine bags, drug paraphernalia, bank records and computers were recovered during the takedown. The organization distributed over four kilograms of heroin per month, grossing approximately \$4 million per year.



*Heroin, packaging and money recovered.*

### BRONX DUPLEX: DAYCARE CENTER AND DRUG RING

Ramfis Aquino ran a heroin-manufacturing operation from the rear apartment of a two-story private house at 555 Taylor Avenue in the Bronx. The house is also home to a daycare center. Police recovered over eight ounces of loose heroin, 7,000 glassine bags filled with heroin, over two kilograms of an opiate-base mixture of morphine, codeine and a drug called 6-monoacetylmorphine. Both codeine and morphine are used to make heroin. Also seized were a bullet-proof vest and jacket, ammunition and two digital scales. Aquino pleaded guilty and was sentenced to state prison. Officials said the daycare management was unaware of the narcotics ring.



*5,000 glassine bags of heroin with a street value of \$50,000.*

### \$50,000 WORTH OF HEROIN RECOVERED IN THE BRONX

A search operation at 3021 Heath Avenue in the Bronx led to the discovery of more than five thousand glassines of heroin, each with a street value of at least \$10.





*Cocaine found inside a hollow religious statue.*

In one area, police recovered two “sleeves” each containing approximately 2,000 glassines of heroin. Six bundles of glassines of heroin in a closet, a bag of loose heroin and a bag containing more than 1,500 heroin-filled glassines were recovered in other areas of the apartment. A bottle of quinine hydrochloride and a bag of cutting agent used in the preparation of heroin for distribution were also seized. Alfonso Rodriguez and Jose Genao were indicted in October for Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Second and Third Degrees.

### COCAINE INSIDE STATUE

Centro Espiritual Carmen, a “botanica” located at 941 St. Nicholas Avenue in Manhattan, was both a cocaine distribution center and a religious storefront. An investigation recorded five undercover cocaine sales by Sokelin Heredia and Parfirio Lopez inside the store. Antonio Luna and Tomas Rojas delivered cocaine to an undercover officer. Search warrants were executed at the storefront in October that yielded over a half-ounce of cocaine hidden inside a hollow religious statue. Both Heredia and Parfirio were indicted for Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the First Degree. Rojas and Luna were indicted for lesser narcotics crimes.

### BOLD DEALING NEAR 77TH PRECINCT

Robert St. Hilaire, Kirschel Butler and Ronald Hudson sold ounce-quantities of cocaine and heroin from the lobby of a building a block away from the 77th Precinct. Bernard Washington and Ronald Hudson supplied cocaine to the operation. A search of Hudson’s Mercedes Benz yielded \$6,150 from a hidden compartment. One ounce of cocaine, an ounce of heroin, \$2,000 and a loaded .38 pistol were recovered from inside the door panel of St. Hilaire’s Dodge Charger. The defendants were charged with Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the First, Second and Third Degrees and weapons possession.

*Investigators encountered airborne heroin and clumps of heroin on the floor.*



### WALL OF AIRBORNE HEROIN

Bernie Almonte, Manuel Dilone and Carlos Santana ran a heroin mill out of 1405 College Avenue in the Bronx. Almonte supervised associates who packaged thousands of glassines of heroin for hours three to four times a week. The group used brand names that included “\*\*\*\*\*,” “Masterpiece”, and “Games.” When police arrived, two of the defendants were emptying large bags of heroin into the air and throwing water where the powder landed to get rid of the evidence. The first officers to enter were met by a wall of airborne heroin. A loaded weapon was recovered at 536 Isham Avenue in Manhattan and \$30,000 was seized at 4530 Broadway in Manhattan. The defendants were charged with Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the First Degree.

## FOUR ARRESTED WITH EIGHT POUNDS OF COCAINE

Edward Monsanto, Angel Perez-Baez, Juan Castro and Diogenis Gonzalez were indicted for Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the First Degree. Perez-Baez and Monsanto were apprehended in February after police recovered two kilograms of cocaine from a concealed compartment inside the console of a vehicle parked on Amsterdam Avenue. A search at 609 West 191st Street in Manhattan led to the seizure of an additional 1.5 kilograms of cocaine and over \$5,000. Castro and Gonzalez were arrested as they attempted to flee to an apartment below.

## CROSS BOROUGH COCAINE DELIVERY SERVICE

Claudio Quan and Luis Polanco worked together in a cocaine delivery service that operated in Queens and Manhattan. Customers contacted the service's cell number, placed an order and arranged to meet with the defendants at different locations to buy cocaine. Quan and Polanco sold cocaine to undercover officers on ten different occasions during an investigation that lasted from June to October; one of the transactions involved more than ½ ounce of cocaine.

## DAY CARE CENTER/MARIJUANA PACKAGING PLANT

In March, Akwasiba Radellant and Donald Crespo were arrested after a search warrant execution at apartment 2B of the Drew Hamilton Houses on 1220 Eighth Avenue in Manhattan. Radellant ran a city-licensed child-care facility out of her apartment. Windows had been covered with black plastic bags and fire alarms had been deactivated. More than three pounds of marijuana, a digital scale, plastic bags used for packaging marijuana and \$1,245 were recovered. Crespo pleaded guilty to Criminal Possession of Marijuana and Endangering the Welfare of a Child and was sentenced to five years probation and time served. The case against Radellant is ongoing.

## HOUSING CASES

### DIEGO BEEKMAN/MILLBROOK HOUSES: HEROIN AND GUNS

In December, an indictment charging 17 sellers of heroin and crack/cocaine was filed stemming from an investigation at the Bronx's Diego Beekman complex that spread to nearby NYCHA Millbrook Houses. Undercover officers purchased \$25,000 worth of heroin from Millbrook residents 69-year old Carlos Camacho, a fraud investigator with the Human Resources Administration for 40 years, and his grandson Cesar Quinones. Authorities recovered 300 heroin glassines and \$23,000 in cash from inside the apartment. Undercovers purchased heroin or crack on 48 different occasions and purchased a .22 caliber revolver from 50-year-old Arthur North.



*Agents seized two kilograms of cocaine hidden inside car console.*



*Licensed provider ran a marijuana operation and child care center at the Drew Hamilton Houses.*



*Dealers sold crack/cocaine in hallways and entries, blocking doors and clogging lobbies and stairwells; residents were forced to step around open drug sales.*



### **KINGSBOROUGH HOUSES: 235 CRACK SALES**

A year-long investigation ended in October, when 28 individuals were indicted on charges involving more than 235 sales of crack/cocaine at the Kingsborough Houses, a New York City Housing Authority complex in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn. Sales occurred inside the common areas of 13 of the 16 buildings that comprise the complex; at least 11 defendants are complex residents. Four shootings were recorded during the investigation including one where a bullet grazed a three-year old girl in the head. Search operations led to the recovery of two handguns and two hundred bags of crack. Nine defendants pleaded guilty.

### **MURPHY HOUSES: DRUGS AND PROSTITUTION**

In December, seven drug dealers were arrested and a house of prostitution shuttered at the end of Operation Cross Bronx Crackdown at the Murphy Houses, in the Bronx. Triggered by community complaints, the narcotics investigation recorded 60 undercover purchases of crack cocaine. Many of the sellers were residents of the Murphy Houses including Prince Fahie, Jr., a member of the volunteer tenant patrol. Police found 30 zip lock bags of crack in his bedroom. Searches yielded a loaded .9 mm semi-automatic weapon and a loaded .22 Derringer firearm. A private residential building less than a half block away was boarded up by judicial order when police learned that for a fee, substance abusers could go there to smoke crack while prostitutes loitered inside the building.

### **JOHNSON HOUSES: THREE CREWS OUT OF BUSINESS**

Eleven members of three crews selling powdered cocaine, crack and heroin in the Johnson Houses in Manhattan were indicted in December. Nine of the defendants were charged with B felony narcotics sales. Defendants Timothy Smart and his uncle, Shadell Smart, were charged with Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Second Degree for selling nearly two ounces of cocaine on the day of the takedown. Undercover officers purchased \$3,200 worth of powdered cocaine during the course of the investigation. Police estimated the crews were netting about \$40,000 per month.

# Alternative Sentencing Division

Alternative Sentencing believes that it is not enough to conquer addiction, it is also necessary to educate and train offenders to enable them to sustain themselves while remaining free of criminal activity.

The division oversees the diversion of drug addicted felony narcotics offenders into treatment instead of prison. It has implemented programs for defendants, including victims of HIV/AIDS, pregnant women, the mentally ill or physically challenged, the elderly, and youngsters 16-21 years old.

Through its 20-year history, the division has developed screening procedures to determine whether defendants are addicted and ensure they do not pose a risk to others. Staff monitor the progress of participants enrolled in residential programs, which last from 12 to 18 months. When defendants enter treatment their sentences are deferred; upon successful completion charges are dismissed.

The Alternative Sentencing Division works with the Office of Court Administration and the New York City Department of Probation to manage the Manhattan Treatment Court Program (MTC). MTC diverts addicted first time felony offenders. Successful completion results in the dismissal of all charges. The division also participates in the Interim Probation Supervision (IPS) initiative with the New York City Department of Probation.

Program	Description
Drug Treatment Alternative to Prison (DTAP)	Addicted offenders facing prison sentences.
Pregnant Addicted mothers Intervention & Rehabilitation (PAIR)	Pregnant addicted offenders or heads of households with young children.
Alternative Sentencing Pre-indictment Intervention & Rehabilitation Effort (ASPIRE)	Defendants who are employed and have strong community ties.
Adolescent +Treatment Education Evaluation Now (A+TEEN)	Non-violent drug offenders age 16 to 21.
Alternative to Incarceration	Mentally or physically challenged; those with long-term illnesses; others requiring residential treatment.
TRAIN	Young defendants at risk of addiction and career drug dealing receive vocational training, education and



*The partnership of the Alternative Sentencing Division and Daytop Village has helped hundreds become drug-free, productive members of society.*



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# Investigators Unit

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In 2008, OSNP investigators worked with federal and local law enforcement in investigations that targeted drug activity in the five boroughs of New York City. The unit launched 39 new investigations which resulted in the arrest of 189 felony offenders, including 119 of whom were charged with A-1 top narcotics crimes and 27 others who faced money laundering charges.

Created in 1992, the Special Narcotics Investigators Unit is divided in two areas of responsibilities: investigations and enforcement support. The majority of the investigators are law enforcement veterans from NYPD's Narcotics Division and the New York Drug Enforcement Task Force. Investigators develop their own cases or work jointly with law enforcement agencies in large-scale narcotics and money laundering investigations. With the emergence of narcotics trafficking over the Internet the unit assigned investigators who, working in conjunction with assistant district attorneys, specialize in developing these investigations.

The unit also assists the Alternative Sentencing Division by investigating defendants targeted for treatment, and locating and returning those who abscond from treatment facilities.

A Chief Investigator oversees activities of the investigators, monitors all investigative-related expenditures such as buy money, payments to confidential informants, and other investigative expenditures and is the liaison with the squad of Police Department detectives assigned to OSNP.

## 2008 INVESTIGATIONS

### 110 POUNDS OF COCAINE SEIZED

In September, a joint investigation with the New York Drug Enforcement Task Force led to the arrest of five individuals in the East New York section of Brooklyn and recovery of 110 pounds of cocaine. The narcotics were smuggled into the city in an 18-wheel truck that transported the drugs from Texas. The defendants included the two truck drivers from Texas and three other individuals who met them in a desolate factory area where the truck had parked. All five were arrested as they began to remove the narcotics from inside the empty trailer of the truck.

### 14 POUNDS OF HEROIN HIDDEN IN SHOES

Five Mexican heroin couriers were arrested in September in the Americana Inn — a hotel in midtown Manhattan — after they delivered three kilograms of heroin hidden inside the heels of shoes to a local drug dealer. A surveillance team recorded the transaction and followed the dealer to a location in the Bronx where he was stopped and the heroin seized. Subsequently, search warrant operations were conducted in two of the



*14 pounds of heroin hidden inside the heels of shoes.*

rooms where the couriers were staying and investigators found three additional kilograms of heroin and \$24,000 in U.S. currency. By year end, all defendants had pleaded guilty to felony narcotics possession crimes and were sentenced.

## INTERNET INVESTIGATIONS

### IVY LEAGUER NABBED ON CRAIGSLIST

On October 27, 2008, Ray Wang, a Princeton University graduate, was sentenced to one year in prison after he was convicted by jury of selling cocaine over the Internet. Wang, who advertised through Craigslist, negotiated with and sold cocaine to an undercover officer. In addition to the New York case, the defendant was also facing charges in Northampton County, Pennsylvania, related to his use of "My Space" to initiate contact with an underage girl, leading to a sex crimes prosecution in that jurisdiction.

### QUEENS SALE OF COCAINE

The unit launched an investigation into Internet ads posted on Craigslist by John Gutierrez. After initial communications, an undercover investigator negotiated the purchase of six grams of cocaine in exchange for \$300. Gutierrez was arrested in a pre-arranged location in Queens after the drug transaction was completed. The defendant was subsequently indicted on Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree.

### COCAINE FOR CASH ON 28TH STREET

A short-term Internet investigation ended with the arrest of Fabian Davis. Davis, who had posted cocaine ads on Craigslist, arranged to meet with an undercover officer on the corner of 28th Street and Third Avenue in Manhattan. During the June 6, 2008 meeting, the defendant sold four grams of cocaine to the undercover officer for \$400. Davis was arrested and subsequently indicted for narcotics sales.

New Investigations	39
Total Arrests	188
A- Felony Arrests	119
Money Laundering Arrests	27
Weapons Seized	13
<b>DRUG SEIZURES</b>	
Cocaine	760 Pounds
Heroin	82 Pounds
Marijuana	280 Pounds
<b>SEARCH WARRANTS</b>	47

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# Legal Training Unit

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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 that address topics that include investigatory and prosecutorial techniques, legal procedures, changes in the law, and effective approaches in the prosecution of felony narcotic crimes.

In 2008, the office's biannual conference, managed by the Legal Training Unit, dealt with the integration of technological advances in court presentations and technology's impact on legal, ethical and practical considerations. In addition, the unit offered numerous workshops throughout the year to both experienced and new assistant district attorneys. Presentations included: Basics of Conducting Investigations; Prosecuting Gun Cases; Utilizing Investigative Databases and Investigative Analysts, Prosecuting A-1 Offenders, and Organizing Long-term (Non-Wire) Investigations.

The training curriculum complies with the regulations and guidelines of the New York State Mandatory Continuing Legal Education program and all courses are open to prosecutors from the city's District Attorney Offices and other offices in the state. The office has been an accredited provider of the State's Continuing Legal Education Program since 2000.

OSNP devotes a portion of its resources to training programs offered to local and federal enforcement and criminal justice personnel in New York and other areas of the country. During the year, senior staff lectured on narcotics investigations and prosecutions at the New York Prosecutors Training Institute (NYPTI), New York Police Department's Patrol Division and Narcotics Division, and the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Task Force (HIDTA).



*Presentations on the legal, ethical and practical implications of the use of technology in the courtroom.*



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# NYPD Special Narcotics Team

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Since 1972, the New York City Police Department has assigned a team of detectives to the office from the Narcotics Division of the department's Organized Crime Control Bureau. The Special Projects Unit, as it is known, is under the command of a senior lieutenant who serves as a liaison between both agencies. Within OSNP, the team's detectives are assigned to either the Search Warrant Unit or the Technical Unit.

The detectives are experts in the tracking, control and presentation of electronically recorded evidence. They also provide support by verifying details of search warrant investigations. In addition to their other duties, the team's members maintain citywide evidence repositories for electronically recorded evidence and OSNP search warrants.

## SEARCH WARRANT UNIT

The Search Warrant Unit pre-screens requests for search warrant orders, debriefs affiants, prepares the search warrants and affidavits and expedites requests through the OSNP. The detectives keep track of all confiscated evidence and maintain a database on arrests and seizures resulting from the execution of search warrants. In 2008, the Search Warrant Unit became involved in the training of new OCCB investigators at the Brooklyn Army Terminal. The Search Warrant Unit educates the new investigators on the requirements and OSNP procedures to obtain search warrants. In 2008, the unit processed 1,315 search warrants.

## TECHNICAL UNIT

The Technical Unit tracks and controls "chain of custody" for electronically recorded evidence, and ensures the security of audio/video evidence. The unit processes transactions involving issuance, post-investigative receipt, maintenance, duplication, and pre-trial release procedures of various types of analog and digitally recorded evidence. The "Tech Room" is responsible for the creation and testimony of grand jury/trial wiretap composite recordings. In 2008, the unit developed the registration procedure and handling of digital photographic evidence and outlined renovation plans for 2009 including an upgrade of equipment and procedures to handle the future of technology in law enforcement.

*Last year, the unit processed 42% of all NYPD's Narcotics Division search warrants.*





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# Support Services Units

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## 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 office 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 disseminates information about the office and 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 the results of joint enforcement efforts.

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES (IT)

Information Technologies develops, establishes and administers OSNP's computer and telecommunication systems. The unit identifies needs and puts in place systems that effectively merge technology with office processes. IT also provides a variety of case-related services including



**Case Information:** captures and tracks data pertaining to all cases prosecuted by the office, from arrest to disposition. The section prepares regular reports and ad hoc reports on narcotics activities, trends, and statistical analyses. Unit staff are assigned to each Trial Division bureau to coordinate data capture and provide additional support.

**Litigation Support:** provides pre-trial and in-court technology support including exhibit preparation and presentation.

**Analyst Services:** prepares and processes subpoenas, analyzes phone records and provides background searches using public records and law enforcement specific databases.

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

## TRIAL PREPARATION ASSISTANTS (TPAS)

Trial Preparation Assistants (TPAs) are assigned to the Investigations Division, the Trial Division, Part N, and the Alternative Sentencing Division. Trial Division and Investigation Division TPAs track cases, maintain case records, gather reports and legal papers required by assistant district attorneys, handle arrangements when prisoners have 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 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.



# OSNP & Friends



# Executive & Legal Staff

**Bridget G. Brennan**  
Special Narcotics Prosecutor

**Steven M. Goldstein**  
Chief Assistant District Attorney

**Kristine Hamann**  
Executive Assistant  
District Attorney

**Rhonda Ferdinand**  
Deputy Chief Assistant  
Chief of Alternative Sentencing

**Joseph J. Tesoriero**  
Executive Assistant District Attorney  
Chief of Investigations

**Robert B. Re**  
Senior Supervising Attorney

**Thomas G. Van Noy**  
Deputy Administrative  
Assistant District Attorney

**Catherine A. Christian**  
Counsel for Special  
Projects

**Meggan K. Dodd**  
Counsel to the  
Special Narcotics Prosecutor

**Lisa DePasquale**  
Chief  
Bureau 40/50

**Peter M. Kougasian**  
Chief  
Bureau 70/80

**Jodie E. Kane**  
Deputy Bureau Chief SIB

**Steven R. Miller**  
Deputy Bureau Chief

**Paul H. Harvey**  
Deputy Bureau Chief

**Susan Krischel**  
Deputy Bureau Chief SIB

**Susan N. Lanzatella**  
Chief  
Narcotics Gang Unit

**Clark S. Abrams**  
Money Laundering and  
Financial Crimes Coordinator

**Marcel J. Philippe**  
Forfeiture Unit Chief

**Lisa M. Tompkins**  
Counsel to the  
Special Investigations Bureau

**Nigel I. Farinha**  
Deputy Chief  
Narcotics Gang Unit

**Leon Schwartzman**  
Chief Investigator

**Magda Gandasegui**  
Public Information Director

## Assistant District Attorneys

### NEW YORK COUNTY

Clark S. Abrams  
Mark E. Bini  
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J. Carolina Chavez  
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Ari M. Rottenberg

**QUEENS COUNTY**  
Paul H. Harvey

### RICHMOND COUNTY

Michele R. Molfetta  
Ryan Sakacs

\*Senior Investigative Counsel



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Mary Davis, Deputy Director  
Diane Johnson  
Darlene Cole-Jeffrey  
Craig Jelen  
Sylvia Lucas

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Regina Mavasheva  
Krisna Ramkhelawan  
Jenny Lai

## PUBLIC INFORMATION

Magda Gandásegui, Director

## INVESTIGATORS

Leon Schwartzman,  
Chief Investigator

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

William Power, Director  
Chanyute Oottamakorn,  
Deputy Director  
Management Information Systems  
Joseph Cullen  
Alden Foster  
Alysha Plaskett, Analyst  
Christopher Spies  
Arnaldo Vega  
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Case Information  
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Jocelyn Daniel  
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Victor Rodriguez  
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Gladys Ayan  
Carol Bach  
Bonnie Greenstein  
Mirelle Monestime  
Reva Palmer

#### Interpretation and Translation Services

Rosa Ruales

#### Operations

Harry Reyes

### Executive Support

Hysa Moultrie-Miller  
Carla Jenkins  
Alisa Figueroa

### TRIAL PREPARATION ASSISTANTS

#### Alternative Sentencing Division

Rochelle Davis, Supervising TPA  
Akua Akoto  
Andrea Obregon  
Okeya Odisina  
Tammy O'Hara  
Cornejo Santiago  
Justice Wellington

#### Trial Division

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Philip Lambert, Supervising TPA  
Cindy Cintron

**Bureau 40/50**  
Michelle Myton, Supervising TPA  
Chanmattie Panlall

**Bureau 70/80**  
William Reeves, Supervising TPA  
Maddalena Coppola

#### Extraditions

Carla Jenkins, Coordinator

#### Part N

Desiree Creary

## INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

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Linda O'Leary, Supervising TPA  
Luisa Boireau, Deputy Sup.TPA  
Kristen Arditi  
Erin Berese  
Jonathan Courtney  
Irena Diaz  
Diana Valentin

### Forfeiture Investigations Unit

John Polizzotto, Coordinator

### Narcotics Gang Unit

Erin Collins, Analyst  
Christopher Torres

### Investigators Unit Support

Belinda McNeill

## ALTERNATIVE SENT. DIVISION

Berneatha Champagne,  
Support

## NYPD TEAM

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Det. Marco Conelli  
Det. Christopher R. Henderson  
Det. Karyn Keenan

## GRAND JURY WARDENS

John Gillespie, Sergeant  
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Kim Foster  
Glenn O'Connor

# Credits

## EDITORS

Lisa DePasquale  
Susan Krischel  
Joan Maloney  
John Polizzotto  
Jane E. Tully  
Thomas G. Van Noy

## MANAGING AND COPY EDITOR

Magda Gandásegui

## DESIGN & LAYOUT EDITOR

William Power

## PHOTOGRAPHY

Chanyute Oottamakorn  
Detective Edward Rendos  
Kaitrin Roberts  
Leon Schwartzman  
J. Tesoriero  
New York City Police Department  
New York State Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement  
Drug Enforcement Administration  
New York Field Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Information Technologies

