

# OFFICE OF MIKE O'CONNELL JEFFERSON COUNTY ATTORNEY



BUDGET PRESENTATION  
JUNE 4, 2018

# DEPARTMENTS

Mike O'Connell

Jefferson County Attorney

Child Support

Civil

Criminal



# CIVIL DIVISIONS

Litigation

Tax

Property

Employment

Legislative  
Services

Agency

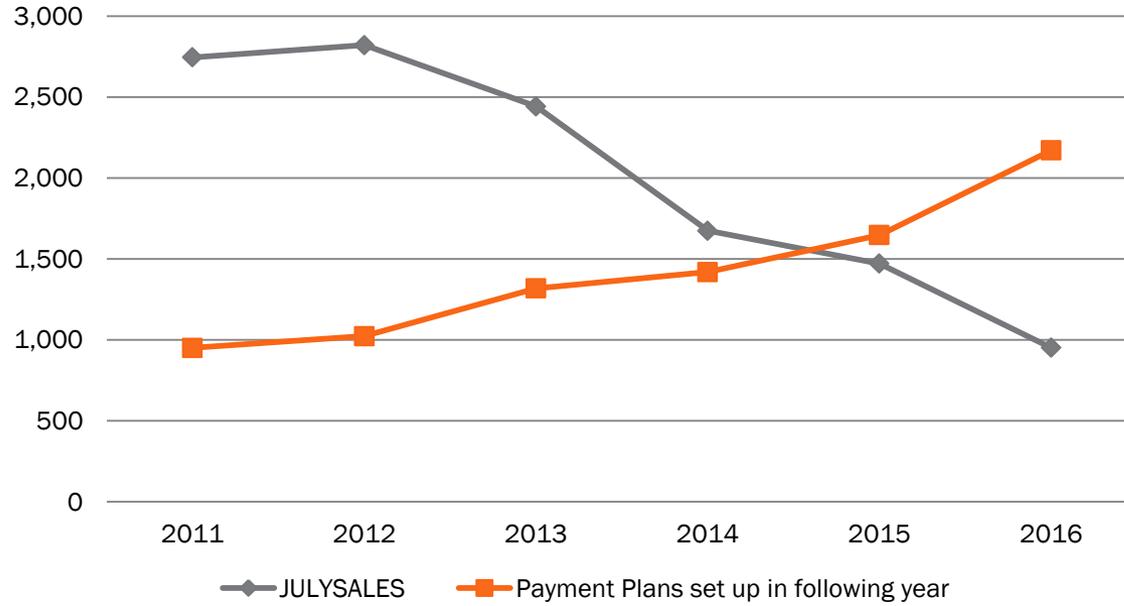
# LITIGATION

- 2017 Litigation Case Load = 278 cases.
- 100 % trial victories in FY 2018, \$0.00 verdicts against \$1,280,000.00 in demands.
- 24 cases dismissed on dispositive motion representing over \$4,000,000.00 in demands.
- 21 cases settled for a combined \$3,219,214.00 as against \$9,116,000.00 in demands.
- Initiated suit to recover \$1,200,000.00 against Waste Management, Inc.
- Litigation Division recovered \$488,585.00 for our criminal justice partners through civil forfeitures.

# TAX

- Collected \$11,642,000.00 in delinquent taxes.
- Amount includes \$1,026,378.00 in delinquent taxes from corporate debtors.
- 92% of the funds collected stay in the community with over 50% going to our local school district.
- The County Attorney's Office initiated a program to aid individual taxpayers to stay in their property and avoid foreclosure. Just this past year, we had over 2,000 homeowners take advantage of our "no cost" program while at the same time reducing the amount of tax delinquencies sold to outside collectors.

# TAX



# PROPERTY

- Vacant and Abandoned Property Issues
- Advises Metro Louisville on affordable housing and handles Metro loans
- Advises on Land Development
- Handles all Metro land acquisitions, condemnations and dispositions.
- Advises on planning and zoning matters.
- Grant agreements
- Land Bank
- Urban Renewal

# PROPERTY

## FOCUS: Foreclosure Initiatives.

- Vacant and Abandoned Property Only.
- Foreclosed or took deed in lieu on 214 vacant properties in 2017.
- Recovered \$266,379.83 in property taxes.
- Recovered \$246,388.04 in IPL/OMB liens.
- End result was to put vacant property back into use.
- Helped put 117 homes back into market.
- <http://www.wdrb.com/clip/14336440/metro-louisville-has-sold-117-abandoned-homes-in-the-last-fiscal-year>

# LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

Ordinances – 317

Resolutions/Proclamations/Motions – 168

Legal Opinions/Advice/Research – 195

Highlights: The Immigration Ordinance, Metro Property Ownership Ordinance, Homeless Ordinance, Mobilite telecom franchise, Amended Smoking Ordinance, Amended Landbank Ordinance, Revisions to Land Development Code/Planning Commission, Private institutional Use, Perimeter Tree Preservations, Subdivision Appeals to Metro Council, and Adoption of Irish Hill neighborhood plan; Assistance on Landmark Commission matters, Advised Council Court on removal of Dan Johnson, District 21 Vacancy process and legal review of applicants; Anti-harassment policies and ordinance; Participated in yearlong council rules committee; advised on TIFs for Passport Health at 18<sup>th</sup>, refinance of Arena, and Butchertown Soccer Stadium Project;

# AGENCY

Alcoholic Beverage Commission, Louisville Forward, Office of Management and Budget, Public Works, Louisville Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Adjustment, Codes and Regulations, the Human Relations Commission, Parks Department, PARC, Waterfront Development Corporation, Air Pollution Control Board, Metro Revenue Commission, Public Works, Youth Detention Facility, Metro Corrections, Louisville Metro Police Department, the Jefferson County Sheriff, the Jefferson County PVA, the Land Bank Authority, the Jefferson County Board of Elections, Metro Animal Services, Kentuckiana Works, Purchasing, Risk Management, the LAGIT trusts, METCO, Louisville Fire Department, Free Public Library, the Louisville Zoo, Advanced Planning Air Pollution Control District, Animal Services, Brightside, Codes & Regulations, Construction Review, Coroner, Corrections, Criminal Justice Commission, Develop Louisville, Economic Development, Emergency Services, EMS, Ethics Commission, External Agency Fund, Fire Department, Fleet & Facilities, Globalization, Health & Wellness, Housing & Community Development, Human Relations Commission, Human Resources, Information Technology Services, Internal Audit, Jefferson Memorial Forest, Louisville Forward, Management & Budget, Mayor, Metro Council, MetroTV, Office for Safe & Healthy Neighborhoods, Office for Women, Office of Youth Development, Parking Authority (PARC), Parks, Performance Improvement & Innovation, Planning & Design, Police, Public Works, Records Management & Archives, Resilience and Community Services, Revenue Commission, Sustainability Vacant & Public Property Administration, Youth Detention Services, Belle of Louisville, Chamber of Commerce (GLI), Circuit Court Clerk, Driver Licensing (DMV), Iroquois Amphitheater, Jefferson County Clerk, Jefferson County Court Commissioner, Jefferson County Election Center, Louisville Free Public Library, Louisville Water (One Water), Louisville Zoo, Property Valuation Administration (PVA); Waterfront Park.

# AGENCY

Focus Example: Contracting Attorney.

453 distinct contracting issues in 2017.

22 years of legal experience in government contracting.

Expert in his field.

Examining the Constitutionality of the Shots-potter Contract, to working an MOU with federal agencies to track our opioid crisis, this lawyer was there.

# CRIMINAL DIVISIONS



## BY THE NUMBERS

- **CRIMINAL DIVISION TOTAL:**
- **More than 80,000 cases**

# BY THE NUMBERS

- **Warrant Intake:**
  - 6,546 citizens served.
- **Domestic violence intake center:**
  - 5,500 citizens served.
- **Domestic Violence Prosecution:**
  - 3,779 cases.
- **DUI Prosecution:**
  - 4,359 cases.
- **Juvenile Court:**
  - 2,754 Public Offense Complaints

# ARRAIGNMENT COURT

Additional Prosecutor to address: Jail overcrowding and Low Level Offenders

Time Table: August 1, 2017 - May 25, 2018

Number of defendants: 900

Number of Cases: 1,325

Cases with prior bench warrants: 1,072

Estimated Number of Jail days saved:

As many as 1,291



## ON THE CASE

Crowded jail leads adversaries to work together

Matthew Glowicki Louisville Courier Journal | USA TODAY NETWORK

With the Louisville jail hundreds over capacity for more than a year, prosecutors and public defenders are working together to streamline part of the arraignment process to ease crowding and even save money. It's a new effort that's projected to save tens of thousands of dollars a year and expedite the cases of hundreds of people. The initiative targets defendants with low-level charges and probation violations whose cases likely can be resolved with special attention of a prosecutor and defense attorney. See COURT, Page 6A

Ten weeks into the effort, 266 people had a case resolved, translating to a conservative estimate of 97 saved jail days.

## Help at hand for addicts' parents

**Beth Warren**  
Louisville Courier Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Hauling your teen or adult child before a judge to force addiction treatment can be emotional and confusing.

But help is available.

First, there's a web page with a step-by-step guide and a video featuring a judge and Charlotte Wethington, the mother who pushed for the law in the name of her son, Casey. It was created by the office of Jefferson County Attorney Mike O'Connell, who lost his son Matt — a war veteran — to heroin, cocaine and alcohol.

And in Louisville, parents can get help from Casey's Law advocate Meaghan Warsaw, who brings a social work background to the newly-created position in O'Connell's office.

There were 60 petitions filed in Louisville last year, compared with 27 the previous year, according to O'Connell's office. Many are filed by parents, but spouses and other loved ones can file too.

They want a solution. Fast.

"A lot of them say coming to court was a last resort," said Warsaw, who does a lot of patient listening. "It might

be a long process. You kinda have to prepare yourself for that."

Addicts can fight the process at every stage. But there are ways to nudge them back on course.

Usually by this stage, parents have tried various ways to get their children into long-term treatment or back into treatment after a relapse.

When addicts refuse to go, a judge's authority can force them.

For starters, loved ones need to file a Casey's Law petition at the clerk's office in the county where the addict lives. The Jefferson County Attorney's Office created a Casey's Law webpage as a guide.

"Looking at it can be daunting, confusing," Warsaw said of the guide. "I break it down in a way that is more understandable."

There are several steps to follow and deadlines for the paperwork. That responsibility falls to the parent or loved one, who becomes "the petitioner."

Parents must find two qualified mental health experts to evaluate their loved ones and determine if they are addicted and could benefit from treatment.

Some addicts will resist going to the evaluations. Sheriff's deputies can serve a summons ordering them to complete the two evaluations and come to



**Meaghan Warsaw is a Jefferson County Attorney's Office employee who has a background in social work.**  
PAT MCDONOGH/COURIER JOURNAL

court at a later date for a hearing before a judge. At the hearing, veteran prosecutor Claudia Smith represents the parents or loved ones in pushing for treatment. The addict can hire an attorney or ask the judge to appoint one.

A judge can issue an arrest warrant if the addict dodges evaluations or the hearing.

And if the addict refuses to go to court-ordered treatment, walks out, or

relapses within a certain time period, the judge can enforce a hefty ultimatum — treatment or jail.

Relapses are common and can happen even after years of sobriety. But Casey's Law can be filed again and again.

Some parents are afraid to sign a document accepting financial responsibility for treatment. Insurance coverage and costs will vary. There are several free, long-term inpatient recovery centers throughout the Commonwealth, though they tend to stay full so loved ones may have to call around for an available bed.

A list of evaluators and treatment centers also are included on the Jefferson County Attorney's Casey's Law page. In Louisville, loved ones seeking to file a petition must first call Warsaw at 502-574-6188.

For support from those who have been through the same struggles, parents and others also can ask to join the closed Casey's Law group on Facebook. Their 500 members offer encouragement, field questions and share their own experiences, which range from setbacks to successes.

Reporter Beth Warren:  
bwarren@courier-journal.com; 502-582-7164; Twitter @BethWarrenCJ.

# CASEY'S LAW

**2016: 27 petitions filed**

**2017: 60 petitions filed**

**2018 (through May 31): 28 petitions filed; advocate has served 170 family members**

# GENERAL CRIMINAL

**Handles serious violent offenses at the early stages, all misdemeanors, and violations.**

**Special emphasis on gun crimes/violent offenses**

- Work closely with LMPD to obtain high bonds
- Conduct hearings quickly in both adult and juvenile court to transfer cases to circuit court.

# GENERAL CRIMINAL

**Alternative Sentencing/Specialty Courts for less serious offenses**

- **Veterans treatment court**
- **Drug court**
- **Mental health court**
- **Diversion programs including DUI, Domestic Violence, and general criminal**

**Assistant County Attorney's cover these dockets as additional responsibilities**

# GENERAL CRIMINAL

## Drive Safe Louisville.

- In 2012 the General Assembly authorizes County Attorneys to operate traffic safety programs.
- Now, 95 of the 120 counties in the state participate including Jefferson County.
- DSL was implemented so that it no longer depends on who you know as to how a traffic ticket may be handled. Drive Safe Louisville is an option for all Jefferson County residents who are eligible.
- We are partners with the State AOC, the Sheriff's Office, and the Clerk's Office, and crime victim's compensation fund and other charities.
- Funding received from the program into the Jefferson County Attorney's Office goes to pay for additional criminal prosecution efforts.

	Prior Year Actual 2016-2017	Original Budget 2017-2018	Revised Budget 2017-2018	Year-to-Date as of March 31 2017-2018	Mayor's Recommended 2018-2019
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Salaries Bi Weekly Permanent Employees	5,117,400	5,217,500	5,217,500	3,924,500	5,326,000
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Permanent Part time Employees	252,300	295,700	295,700	188,200	258,900
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Net change: \$71,700.00

Health Insurance	632,800	660,900	660,900	490,500	812,700
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Net change: \$151,800.00

Retirement Employer Share	992,800	1,023,400	1,023,400	804,000	1,148,100
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Net change: \$124,700.00

Computer Software Rental	99,500	97,400	97,400	97,800	117,600
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Net change: \$ 20,200.00

Professional Services	1,189,300	1,056,300	1,055,300	875,900	1,140,900
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Net change: \$ 86,500.00

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QUESTIONS?