

2007 ANNUAL REPORT



UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

Joe W. Stecher
United States Attorney





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MESSAGE FROM THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY



The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Nebraska is proud to present this Annual Report for 2007.

Anti-terrorism rightly remains the number one priority of the Department of Justice. Through participation in the Joint Terrorism Task Force, the United States Attorney's Anti-Terrorism Advisory Committee, the Suspicious Activity Report Review Team, and the Nebraska Infrastructure Protection Conference, we strive to keep Nebraska and its resources secure.

Through our partners in law enforcement and state prosecutors, we have continued an aggressive Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative. In 2007, the Omaha Police Department received the PSN Achievement Award for outstanding local police department involvement. In calendar year 2007, 131 firearms were federally forfeited in Nebraska. Working in partnership with Project Safe Neighborhoods, our Weed and Seed initiatives have also increased. This year, a new Weed and Seed program was put into place to assist a high crime area identified within Omaha.

We are in the midst of an epidemic regarding the exploitation of children. Project Safe Childhood remains a priority of this office. The Internet has created a proliferation of child pornography that is unprecedented. This office has been and will remain aggressive in the prosecution of those who have any part (production, distribution, receipt, or possession) in the despicable exploitation of any child through pornography. However, just as the successful prosecution of controlled substances violations demands a coordinated effort among federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutors, our success here, too, will depend on that cooperative effort.

Due to the cooperation among federal and local law enforcement agencies and prosecutors, 424 defendants were indicted for controlled substances violations in federal district court in 2007. Only ten of the 94 other United States Districts in the country rank higher than the District of Nebraska in the number of federal drug cases filed during 2007. Three hundred three defendants were indicted on charges unrelated to controlled substances offenses, bringing the total to 727 defendants indicted in the District of Nebraska for the year 2007. The extensive cooperation between local, state and federal law enforcement also resulted in forfeiture of 50 vehicles valued at over \$317,000, and over \$3.1 million in cash.

Our civil unit also had an outstanding year. Four hundred fifty-three civil cases/matters were completed in 2007. Cases handled by our civil unit include issues involving foreclosures, bankruptcy, employment discrimination, federal employee liability, immigration, and social security. This year, the civil division's financial litigation unit (FLU) collected \$5,224,398.43.

My sincere thank you to the entire staff of the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Nebraska and to all the agencies--local, state, and federal--that have contributed so much to make Nebraska an ever better place.



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MISSION STATEMENT:

To enforce the law and defend the interests of the United States according to the law; to ensure public safety against threats foreign and domestic; to provide federal leadership in preventing and controlling crime; to seek just punishment for those guilty of unlawful behavior; and to ensure fair and impartial administration of justice for all Americans.

The United States Attorney is the representative not of an ordinary party to a controversy, but of a sovereignty whose obligation to govern impartially is as compelling as its obligation to govern at all; and whose interest, therefore, in a criminal prosecution is not that it shall win a case, but that justice shall be done.

As such, he is in a peculiar and very definite sense the servant of the law, the twofold aim of which is that guilt shall not escape or innocence suffer. He may prosecute with earnestness and vigor -- indeed, he should do so.

But, while he may strike hard blows, he is not at liberty to strike foul ones. It is as much his duty to refrain from improper methods calculated to produce a wrongful conviction as it is to use every legitimate means to bring about a just one.

Quoted from the Statement of Mr. Justice Sutherland in *Berger v. United States*, 295 U.S. 88 (1935)

WELCOME TO THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA



Nebraska, the 16th largest state geographically, became the 37th state to join the Union on March 1, 1867. Its 77,000 square miles encompass 93 counties, and a population of over 1.7 million people. As one of the 26 states with only one federal judicial district, Nebraska boasts a diversity and variety of topography, geography and economy.

The Omaha metropolitan area with a population area of approximately 495,000, accounts for approximately 29% of the district's population. Lincoln, the state's capital, is home to over 280,000 residents, and 16% of the district's population. Much of the state, however, is rural, with over 90% of Nebraska's cities and towns having fewer than 3,000 people.



The state has a mixed economic base with substantial agricultural and agri-business sectors, as well as significant manufacturing, technical and service sectors. More than 96% of Nebraska's land is farm and ranch land, and the state is a national leader in production of beef, pork, corn, and soy beans. Other economic sectors include freight transport by rail and truck, manufacturing, telecommunications, information technology, and insurance. Several Fortune 500 companies, including Berkshire Hathaway, ConAgra, Union Pacific, Mutual of Omaha, and Peter Kiewit & Sons are headquartered in Nebraska, and many others have substantial operations in the District.



The United States Strategic Command is headquartered at Offutt Air Force Base, located just south of Omaha in Bellevue. Various other federal enclaves, including the Niobrara Scenic River, the Missouri National Recreational River, several national monuments, historic sites, National Wildlife Refuges, and U.S. Army Corp of Engineers recreational sites are located throughout Nebraska. The U.S. Department of Agriculture operates several facilities in the District, including research facilities, national forests, and a national grassland. In addition to the Veterans Affairs Hospital in Omaha, the Department of Veterans Affairs operates outpatient clinics in Lincoln and Grand Island, and the Indian Health Service operates a hospital in Winnebago.



The Omaha, Winnebago, and Santee Sioux tribes have reservations located in northeast Nebraska, and federal criminal jurisdiction has been retroceded to the United States for each. As a result, the United States Attorney's Office works closely with those tribes to address crime occurring on the reservations. Small areas of the Sac and Fox, the Iowa, and the Pine Ridge Indian Reservations are also located in Nebraska, and the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska is headquartered in the District.



Numerous federal law enforcement agencies maintain offices in Nebraska and work extensively with the United States Attorney's Office. These agencies include the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, U.S. Marshal's Service, Secret Service, Internal Revenue Service, Postal Service, Department of Agriculture, Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security, National Park Service, Social Security Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, and others. The United States Attorney's Office also works with federal agencies located outside of Nebraska, such as the Department of Education, Environmental Protection Agency, Social Security Administration, and the Department of Health and Human Services.



In addition to its work with federal agencies, the U. S. Attorney's Office works very closely with state and local law enforcement agencies, addressing the needs of the District. For many years, the citizens of Nebraska have benefited from the very cooperative relationships between federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies throughout the District. A number of multi-agency joint law enforcement task forces have been created to facilitate effective investigation and prosecution of criminal offenses, especially those involving drugs and violent crime, as well as civil enforcement in the areas of health care fraud and environmental enforcement. Some of the accomplishments of those groups are described in this report.



UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA



The United States Attorney serves as the chief law enforcement officer in the District of Nebraska, and is responsible for coordinating multiple agency investigations within the District. The United States Attorney and his Assistants represent the federal government in virtually all litigation involving the United States in the District of Nebraska, including all criminal prosecutions for violations of federal law, civil lawsuits in which the United States is a party, and actions to collect judgments and restitution on behalf of victims and taxpayers.

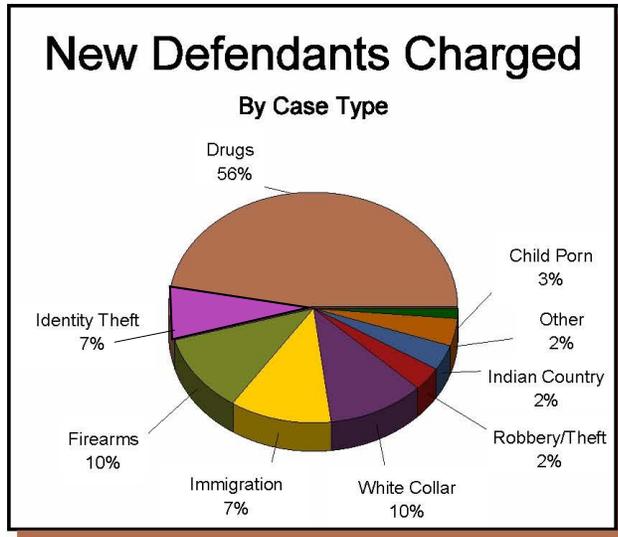
Joe W. Stecher was sworn in as the 31st United States Attorney for the District of Nebraska on October 2, 2007, and has served with distinction since taking office. Mr. Stecher joined the United States Attorney's Office in March, 2002, as an Assistant U.S. Attorney. During his tenure with the Criminal Division he successfully prosecuted a number of drug conspiracy, gun, and violent crime cases, and received a Director's Award from the Department of Justice in 2005 for Outstanding Performance by an Assistant U.S. Attorney. From 1986 to 2002, Mr. Stecher worked in the Dodge County Attorney's Office, and served as the Dodge County Attorney from 1999 to 2002. During these years, he also served as the Director of the Nebraska County Attorney's Association. Mr. Stecher was engaged in the private practice of law in Dodge County from 1984 to 1986, and in addition to his law practice, he was actively engaged in farming from 1974 until 2002. He received his Juris Doctorate degree in 1984 from the University of Nebraska College of Law, and his Bachelor of Science from Wayne State University in 1974.

As United States Attorney for the District of Nebraska, Mr. Stecher oversees a staff of 24 Assistant U.S. Attorneys (AUSAs) and more than 40 support staff working in offices located in Omaha and Lincoln. Five attorneys from the County Attorney's offices, in Douglas, Lancaster, Dawson, and Hall Counties have offices in the U.S. Attorney's Office, and 17 attorneys from the Nebraska Attorney General's Office, Internal Revenue Service, Social Security Administration, Small Business Administration, and Judge Advocate General's Office, also serve as Special Assistant U.S. Attorneys (SAUSAs) to assist with criminal and civil litigation in the District.

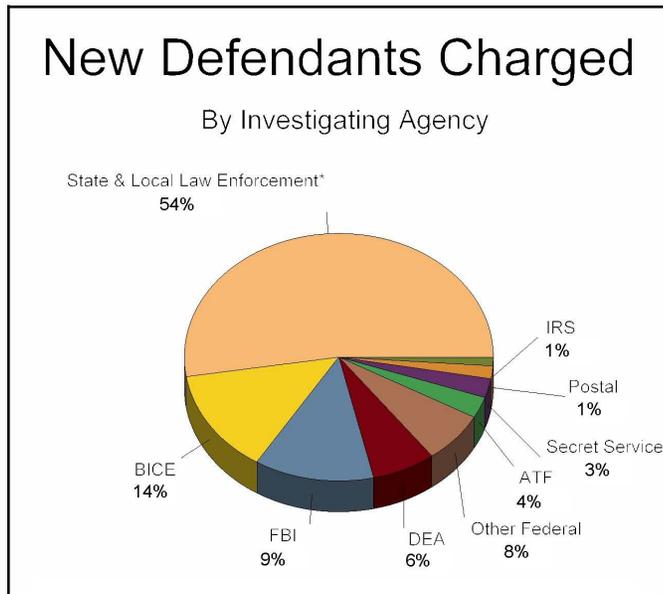
The Criminal Division of the office, which includes the General Crimes Unit and the Drug Prosecution Unit, prosecutes violations of federal criminal law. The attorneys in the General Crimes Unit are supervised by Jan Sharp, Criminal Chief, while Susan Lehr, Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) Chief, supervises the Drug Unit. The Civil Division is headed by Robert Homan, and Joseph Jeanette coordinates the Law Enforcement and Community Coordination (LECC) Unit, which maintains partnerships between law enforcement agencies, provides services to crime victims and witnesses, and coordinates training conferences. The Administrative Unit, which supports the operations of all components of the office, is supervised by Denise Smith, Administrative Officer, and William W. Mickle, II, serves as First Assistant United States Attorney and Lincoln Office Branch Chief.

CRIMINAL DIVISION

In 2007, the Criminal Division continued to focus its efforts on areas identified as national priorities by the Department of Justice; anti-terrorism, assuring the safety of our communities, and drug enforcement. Working closely with federal, state, tribal, and local law enforcement agencies, the 19 Assistant United States Attorneys and 5 Special Assistant United States Attorneys in the office's general criminal and drug units prosecuted violations of federal criminal statutes in federal district courts in Omaha, Lincoln, and North Platte.



The number of defendants who faced federal charges in 2007 totaled 727, an 11% increase over the previous year. The majority of these cases related to illegal drugs; however, firearms cases, white collar cases, immigration cases, and offenses involving identity theft comprised a significant portion of the criminal cases filed.



*Federal Agencies cooperated with State & Local Law Enforcement in many of the cases referred to this office.

ANTI-TERRORISM

The fight against terrorism, both international and domestic, continues to be the first priority of the Department of Justice. The United States Attorney's Office Criminal Division, in the District of Nebraska, has committed significant resources to this effort. Working closely with the FBI and other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, office personnel continue their active membership in the Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) to detect indications or warnings of terrorist activities, identify and protect potential targets of terrorist activities within the District, disrupt activities that support terrorism, and prevent, through aggressive prosecution, any crimes that may in some way contribute to terrorism. Other particularly notable efforts include: sponsorship of the United States Attorney's Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council (ATAC), co-hosting the annual Governor's Nebraska Infrastructure Protection Conference, chairing the multi-agency Suspicious Activity Report Review Team, formation of a Counter Proliferation Task Force (CPTF), and providing training to educators across Nebraska.

The United States Attorney's Anti-Terrorism Advisory Counsel (ATAC), composed of nearly 70 government, industry and community partners, is working together as an information-sharing network dedicated to the fight against terrorism. We have leveraged video teleconferencing technology to be inclusive of ATAC partners in distant locations of the State. These meetings provide a valuable forum for the dissemination of critical information on the continually evolving threat of terrorism.

This year's Nebraska Infrastructure Protection Conference (NIPC) continued, for the fourth consecutive year, to provide a forum for nearly 350 representative members of every sector of the infrastructure to come together to examine intra-sector vulnerabilities and more importantly to identify inter-dependencies with other sectors. This year's conference highlighted food safety, lessons learned from school shootings, the ripple effect of the introduction (natural or man-caused) of a livestock disease, and corporate espionage.



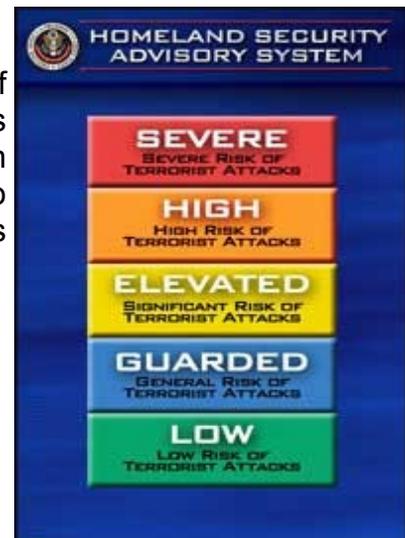


This year, our office continued to chair the Suspicious Activity Report (SAR) Review Team. The difference between criminals and terrorists is that criminals' activities are motivated by acquisition of money, whereas, terrorists must have money to further their destructive ideologies. The SAR Review Team is comprised of members from nearly a dozen different federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. Monthly, each member reviews the previous month's SAR(s) through their respective organizational filters and shares information that arises from their investigative efforts. This has been successful in bringing investigative and prosecutorial resources to bear on individuals and entities engaging violations of the Bank Secrecy Act and de-confliction with ongoing investigations.

A new area of involvement is the creation of the Counter Proliferation Task Force (CPTF). This effort combines the resources of the United States Attorney's Office, U.S. Dept. of Commerce, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and Defense Criminal Investigative Service (DCIS) to prevent sensitive weapons of mass destruction and other dual-use technology from falling into the hands of those who wish to harm America. An important aspect of the CPTF is assisting and participating in established outreach programs of our other federal law enforcement partners to assist industry to identify and mitigate attempts to inappropriately obtain such technology.

The United States Attorney's Office also serves as a member of the U.S. Strategic Command Threat Working Group, whose mission is to identify and mitigate threats to the command and its supporting Department of Defense elements, including innumerable private contractors. Attenuation of these threats requires a concerted effort which includes information-sharing and networking among law enforcement personnel at every level. Elimination of a threat for this important partner only serves to protect the entire community.

Finally, in partnership with the Nebraska Department of Education, the United States Attorney's Office has provided training to over 400 educators across the State in "Pre-Incident Indicators" and "Situational Awareness" to deal with the ever increasing threat of "insider" as well as "outsider" violence in public schools.





GUN VIOLENCE REDUCTION

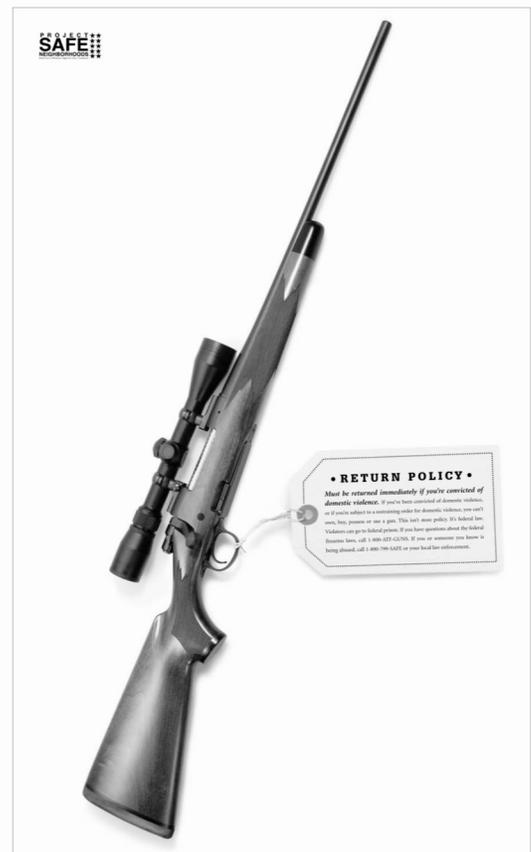
Reducing the threat and incidence of violent crime, especially from the illegal use of guns, continues to be a national priority of the Department of Justice and the District of Nebraska. Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN), a nationwide initiative that encourages the strategic use of federal prosecution of gun crimes, remains a mainstay in those efforts.

In order to build an effective partnership with state and local counterparts, a statewide Project Safe Neighborhoods Task Force was created within the District, which includes participants from local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, as well as media and community outreach partners, focused on identifying and aggressively prosecuting those offenders involved in targeted gun offenses. Prosecution of members of criminal street gangs and organizations, illegal gun traffickers, felons in possession of firearms, and those using firearms in narcotics trafficking are at the core of the PSN Strategy.

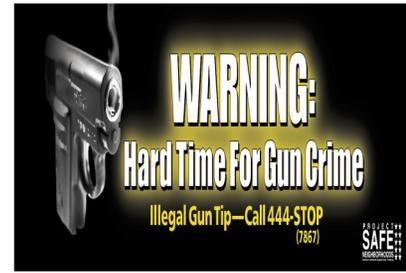
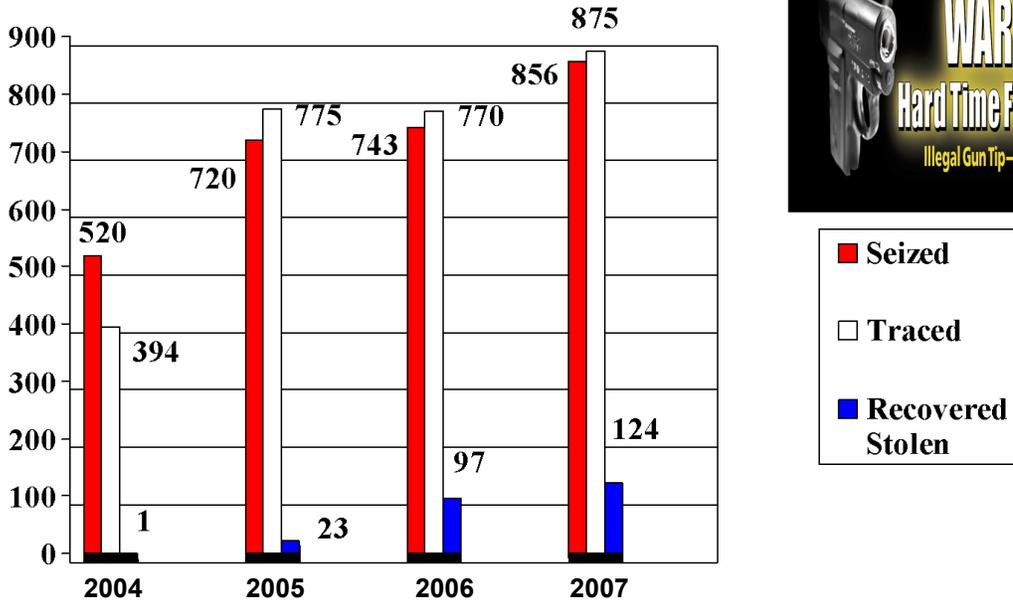
In Omaha, an action-oriented committee of law enforcement and prosecutors from federal and state offices meets monthly to identify and present individuals involved in illegal weapons and drug offenses for prosecution. Additionally, police, probation and parole officers conduct notification and intervention meetings, and home visits to ensure those under court supervision are not involved with or associated with persons involved with gun violence. An incident review team meets monthly to discuss recent gun violence events, and to identify and formulate an appropriate law enforcement and prosecutive response. Lincoln law enforcement officers and prosecutors also meet monthly and identify firearm-related cases for prosecution in state or federal court.

The United States Attorney and staff hosted a series of meetings and trainings for local, state, and federal law enforcement officers and prosecutors. A Firearms Tracing Project was developed and first implemented in 2004, which traces all firearms recovered by Omaha Police for any type of offense.

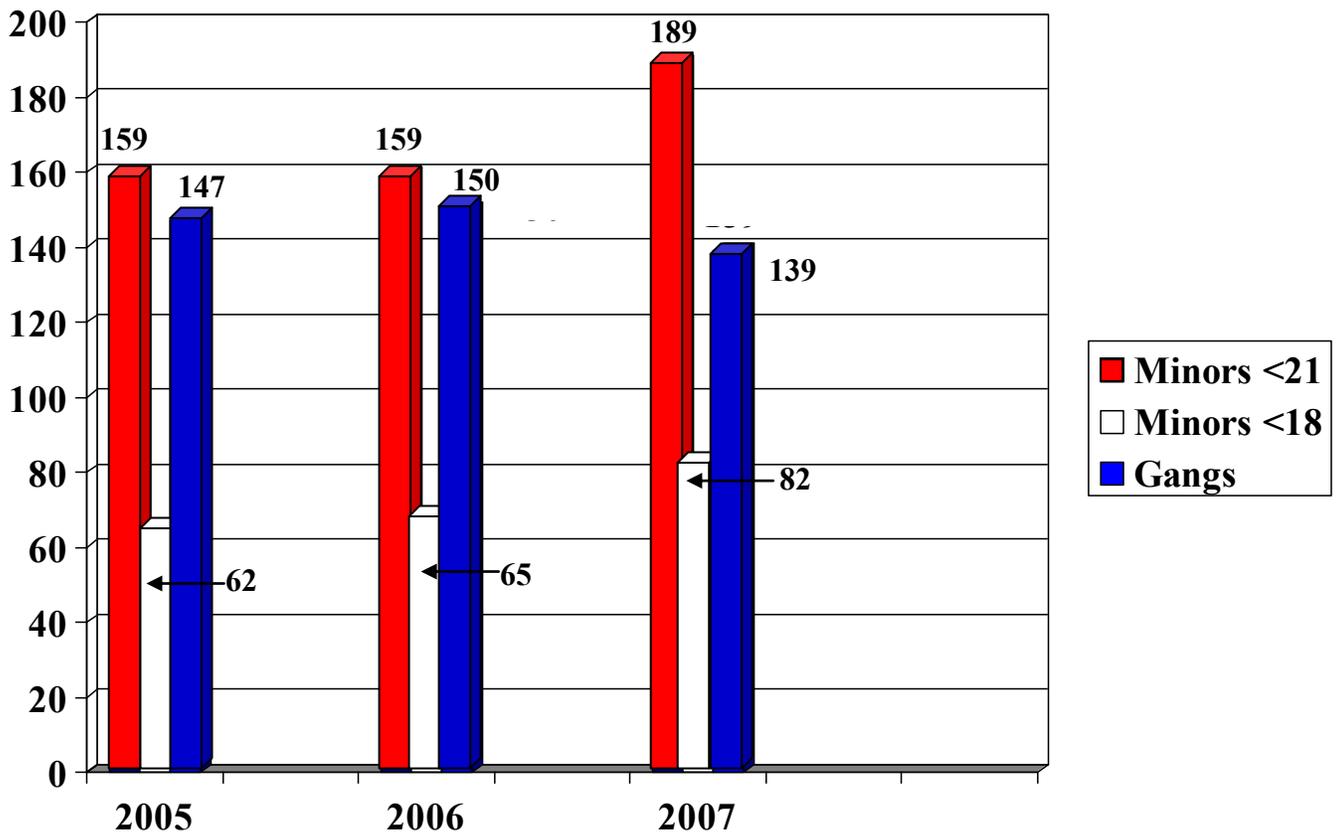
In 2007, the Omaha Police Department received a Department of Justice award for their efforts in the Project Safe Neighborhoods Gun Violence Initiative. The 2007 PSN Achievement Award for the "Outstanding Local Police Department Involvement" was presented at the National PSN Conference Awards Luncheon in Atlanta, Georgia, on September 18, 2007. The Omaha Police Department was the sole recipient for the national award in this category.



Firearms Seized By OPD for Tracking



OPD Seized Firearms Tied to Minors & Gang Members/Associates



PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD CASES

Some of the significant PSN cases presented in 2007 include:

United States v. McCaul - John F McCaul, Jr. was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment on January 31, 2007, following his conviction for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

McCaul was brought to the attention of law enforcement on or about February 28, 2006, when a vehicle he was operating was stopped for speeding. The officer learned that McCaul had an outstanding warrant for driving during suspension and that he was in fact still on suspended status. McCaul was asked to exit the vehicle and, while exiting, was observed by the officer attempting to throw a glass pipe on the ground. A search of the vehicle resulted in a .45 caliber handgun being found in the front portion of the passenger seat. He had previous felony convictions for attempted burglary and three convictions for robbery, all which involved the use of a firearm in connection with convenience store robberies. Because of his extensive criminal record McCaul was found to be an Armed Career Criminal, subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years.

United States v. Ford - On February 15, 2007, Timothy W. Ford, 33, was sentenced to the custody of the United States Bureau of Prisons for 180 months (15 years). Ford had earlier pled guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. He was found to be an Armed Career Criminal, meaning that he had at least three prior felony convictions involving a crime of violence. Upon his release from imprisonment, Ford will begin a five year term of supervised release. Ford's prior felonies include attempted robbery and attempted assault, robbery, attempted burglary, criminal mischief, false imprisonment, and third degree assault on an officer.

United States v. Nelson - Matthew Nelson was sentenced to a 92 month term of imprisonment following his conviction for being a felon in possession of a firearm. In addition to the prison term, Nelson was ordered to serve three years of supervised release and pay a \$100 special assessment. He also forfeited any interest in the firearm he possessed.

Nelson was charged with the offense following the execution of a search warrant at his residence on May 3, 2006. A .40 caliber pistol was found in the residence. Nelson had been previously convicted of Second Degree Assault in Lancaster County District Court on October 2, 2003.

United States v. Ali-El - On April 20, 2007, Jibri Ali-El was sentenced to 84 months imprisonment following his conviction for being a felon in possession of a firearm. He was also ordered to serve a three year term of supervised release following his prison sentence.

On October 9, 2006, Omaha Police were detailed to an Omaha address regarding a possible domestic disturbance. Ali-El's former girlfriend reported that he had broken into her apartment and had a gun in his possession. As officers arrived on the scene Ali-El ran from the premises. He was captured after a short foot pursuit. As officers were searching him to put him in a police cruiser a handgun fell down his pant leg and onto the ground. Officers located another handgun Ali-El had stored in his former girlfriend's residence. Ali-El was prohibited from possessing firearms because of a 1989 felony conviction for Unlawful Possession with Intent to Deliver a Controlled Substance and a 2000 conviction for Robbery and Use of a Deadly Weapon to Commit a Felony.

United States v. Harder - Ryan Harder was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment, followed by 3 years of supervised release, and was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$6,722.28 for the crime of being a felon in possession of a firearm. Harder had stolen 11 guns from a Grand Island residence in November, 2006, and on November 22, 2006, was found to be in possession of one of them. The remaining firearms, valued at \$6,722.38 have never been recovered. Harder was previously convicted of burglary in Grand Island, Nebraska, in 2000.

United States v. Zollicoffer - For having been a Felon in Possession of a Firearm on March 15, 2007, Matt Zollicoffer was sentenced on November 28, 2007, to serve 46 months in prison, which will be followed by a 3 year term of Supervised Release, and to pay a \$100 Special Assessment.

On March 15, 2007, Omaha Police ran the plate on a 2007 Dodge Durango and discovered that the plate had been issued to a 2006 Dodge Charger. They stopped the car at 30th and Chicago, and found a cocked and loaded .45 caliber pistol under the front passenger seat, within arm's reach of Zollicoffer, the driver. Zollicoffer was prohibited from possessing a firearm as a result of a 1990 Illinois conviction for felony drug possession.

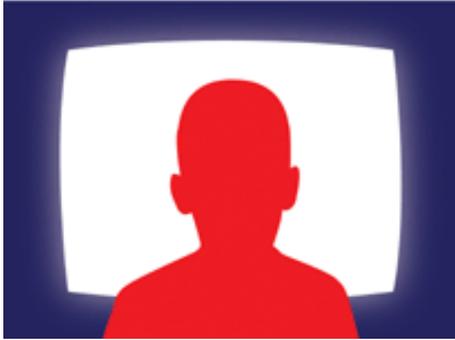
United States v. Wells - Anthony Lamont Wells was sentenced on December 17, 2007, to serve 63 months in prison, which will be followed by a 3 year term of Supervised Release, and a \$100 Special Assessment.

On June 16, 2007, Omaha Police saw a blue Ford Explorer, with no plates, speeding northbound on Fontanelle Blvd. near Pratt. The



Ford passed another vehicle in a “no passing” zone. The driver was Wells and he had an outstanding warrant. He had to be extracted from the car, whereupon officers saw a cocked .45 caliber pistol, with a high capacity magazine inserted, laying on top of the driver's seat. Wells had at least seven felony convictions.

United States v. Hessler - On November 17, 2007, the Honorable Richard G. Kopf sentenced Tony Hessler to a 33 month term of imprisonment following Hessler's conviction for possession of a machine gun. In addition to the term of imprisonment, Kopf ordered Hessler to serve a term of supervised release for a period of 3 years and pay a \$100 special assessment. Kopf also forfeited the machine gun to the United States. Hessler pled guilty to possessing the machine gun on December 8, 2006, in Chadron Nebraska. Hessler was found with the machine gun by the Chadron Police during a traffic stop.



In February, 2006, Project Safe Childhood was launched by the United States Department of Justice to protect children from sexual predators and purveyors of child pornography. “We are in the midst of an epidemic of sexual abuse and exploitation of children”, said Attorney General Alberto Gonzales. “Project Safe Childhood will help law enforcement and community leaders prevent, investigate and prosecute sexual predators and pornographers who target our children and grandchildren.” (May 17, 2006)

The threat of sexual predators soliciting children for physical contact is well-known and serious, and the danger of production, distribution, and possession of child pornography is equally dramatic and disturbing. As technology advances and as the Internet becomes more accessible, the number of computer facilitated sexual exploitation crimes committed against children, including child pornography offenses and enticement crimes, is expected to grow.

Project Safe Childhood recognizes the response to these growing problems must be coordinated, comprehensive and robust. Authorities must investigate and prosecute vigorously and protect and assist victimized children. The Project further recognizes the need for broad community-based efforts to protect our children and guarantee to future generations the opportunities of the American Dream.

The United States Attorney’s Office for the District of Nebraska maintains aggressive investigation and prosecution of these offenses facilitated through the Internet or other electronic media and communications devices. Partnerships with federal, state and local law enforcement agencies have helped coordinate the investigation and prosecution of child exploitation cases, and identify and rescue victims. Training for law enforcement officers who investigate the crimes, of community representatives, educators, and parents, has been accomplished, and community awareness and education programs have been instituted to raise awareness about the threat of online sexual predators and child pornographers, and to provide information to parents and youngsters seeking to use the Internet responsibly, or to report possible violations.

Partnership of the United States Attorney’s Office with the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force in Nebraska and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) and other national programs continues to help coordinate investigations and effectively pursue the predators abusing and exploiting our children.

“Our nation has made this commitment: Anyone who targets a child for harm will be a primary target of law enforcement. That’s our commitment. Anyone who takes the life or innocence of a child will be punished to the full extent of the law.”

President George W. Bush, October 23, 2002



“We cannot, and we will not, tolerate those who seek to abuse or exploit our children.”

Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzalez, April 20, 2006

PROJECT SAFE CHILDHOOD CASES

A number of the Project Safe Childhood cases resolved in 2007 include:

United States v. Monetti - John Monetti, 39, of St. James, New York, was sentenced on November 9, 2007, to a 12 year term of imprisonment, for traveling in interstate commerce with the intent to engage in sexual acts with a juvenile. After his release from prison he will begin a five year term of supervised release. His access to minors and activities involving minors will be prohibited absent advance approval from supervising officials.

Monetti, a former Long Island, New York, school teacher and elementary school principal, was arrested on May 29, 2006, by a Washington County, Nebraska, sheriff's deputy. A 15-year-old girl dressed in pajamas was in the passenger seat of Monetti's rental van. He claimed the minor was his niece. A phone call to the minor's parents revealed that the parents were unaware their daughter had left the house and that they did not know Monetti.

In a statement Monetti provided to Washington County investigators, he admitted meeting the minor on the Internet and traveling from Long Island to Nebraska on at least four occasions where he had sexual contact with a minor he knew to be fifteen. He provided the minor with a cell phone and other gifts to keep their relationship concealed.

United States v. Meyers - Gregory A. Meyers, II, 29, of Wisner, Nebraska, was sentenced to 10 years in prison for possession of child pornography. After his release from prison, Meyers will begin a five-year term of supervised release. The 10-year sentence is a mandatory minimum sentence for offenders with prior convictions involving children. Meyers has a prior conviction in the District Court of Dodge County for Sexual Contact with a Child.

On November 21, 2006, agents of the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement executed a search warrant at Meyers' residence in Wisner. Four computer hard drives were seized. Forensic review of the hard drives revealed 34 videos and 1100 images of child pornography. Over 500 of the images were confirmed as known child victims.

United States v. Eggers - On May 4, 2007, Michael Eggers, 28, of Omaha was sentenced to 10 years of imprisonment for the possession of child pornography. After his release, Eggers will begin a three-year term of supervised release.

In October 2006, officials of the Department of Immigration and Customs Enforcement learned that Eggers had been file sharing with another individual known to possess and trade child pornography. A search warrant was used to obtain Eggers' laptop computer. Images of child pornography with known child victims were found on the hard drive. Eggers was arrested and remained in custody.

Because of his prior conviction for possession of child pornography, Eggers was subject to a ten-year mandatory minimum sentence.



United States v. Cordy - On October 30, 2007, Ralph Cordy, 43, of Omaha, was sentenced for possessing child pornography. Gordy pled not-guilty at his arraignment, and following a 3-day jury trial in July 2007, was convicted of all charges.

On April 5, 2006, agents of the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, (ICE), the United States Postal Inspection Service, and the Douglas County Sheriff's Office executed a search warrant on Cordy's residence. Agents seized five hard drives, two laptop computers, and two external hard drives. Forensic analysis revealed 105 videos and approximately 6,000 images of child pornography. The images included prepubescent minors, and two videos depicted sadistic conduct.

United States v. McQuade - Zachery McQuade, 27, of Omaha, was sentenced on November 19, 2007, to 10 years imprisonment for receiving child pornography. After his release from prison, McQuade will begin a 10-year-term of supervised release.

On November 13, 2006, an agent with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was contacted by Zachery McQuade via Google Hello. During their chat, McQuade sent a total of 29 images. Thirteen of those images appeared to be child pornography and some of the images depicted known child pornography victims. More images of child pornography were sent from McQuade to the undercover agent on December 21, 2006.

A search warrant was executed at McQuade's residence on January 30, 2007. He was interviewed, but was selective on questions he was willing to answer. He did admit, however, to using Google Hello. A forensic review of McQuade's computer confirmed a substantial amount of child pornography. Approximately 1,000 images and 20 videos of suspected child pornography were found. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children reviewed the images for known child victims and determined that there were 551 images and 14 videos of known child victims. The images

seized included prepubescent minors.

United States v. Baird - On December 19, 2007, Eric Baird, 27, of Papillion, was sentenced to 24 months of imprisonment to be followed by a five-year-term of supervised release.

On November 6, 2006, agents of the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement served a search warrant on Baird's home. The warrant sought child pornography. A laptop computer and media storage devices were seized, and approximately 150 images of child pornography were located. Baird, a Captain in the United States Air Force, admitted to downloading child pornography. He has subsequently been discharged from the Air Force.

United States v. Lockner - On October 5, 2007, Ray Lockner, 39, of Lohrville, Iowa, was sentenced to 70 months imprisonment to be followed by a five-year term of supervised release for receiving child pornography.

On October 26, 2006, a search warrant was executed at Lockner's residence in Gretna, Nebraska. His computer hard drive was seized. Forensic review of the hard drive revealed six videos of child pornography and 408 digital images of child pornography. Further investigation revealed the computer had been used in a peer to peer program to send images of child pornography to a recipient in the State of Washington.

United States v. Blake - On September 13, 2007, Kirt Blake was sentenced to a 60 month term of imprisonment for possession of child pornography. In addition, Blake was ordered to serve a three year term of supervised release following his prison term and pay a \$100 special assessment.

Blake was found guilty of possessing child pornography on a computer recovered by law enforcement on December 10, 2004. As part of the conviction and sentence, the computer and equipment were forfeited to the United States.

VIOLENT CRIME

The cases prosecuted in 2007 included:

United States v. Hoover - Jeffrey E. Hoover was sentenced on September 6, 2007, to two life sentences for the 1997 killings of Harold Fowler and Duane Johnson in Lincoln, Nebraska. The sentences are to be served concurrently to each other, but will not begin until after Hoover completes a state sentence he is currently serving for an unrelated offense. It is expected the federal sentence will begin sometime in 2012.

On June 14, 1997, the bodies of Fowler and Johnson were discovered in their apartment at 801 S. 9th Street in Lincoln. It was determined that the bodies had gone undiscovered for about five days. The Lincoln Police Department began an investigation that continued for many years as numerous leads were tracked down and suspects were eliminated. In 2005 the investigation lead to Hoover. He was indicted on two counts of first degree murder in relation to a drug crime and on June 5, 2007, Hoover was convicted of the murders by a federal jury following only five hours of deliberation.

United States v. Goodwin - Charles Goodwin, age 46 of Omaha, was sentenced to a total of 84 months in prison and Abby Poitier, 21, also of Omaha, was sentenced to four years probation, to include three months of house arrest following their conviction in connection with an extortion scheme. Goodwin was sentenced to serve 60 months in prison for conspiracy to commit extortion and an additional 24 months in prison for a substantive count of extortion. The two sentences were ordered to run consecutively to each other for a total sentence of 84 months. In addition, Mr. Goodwin was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$14,700.00 and serve a three year term of supervised release following the completion of his prison sentence.

Commencing in 2006, Goodwin and Abby Poitier concocted a scheme to extort money from various men who had met Ms. Poitier while she was working as a dancer at Omaha and Council Bluffs clubs. Ms. Poitier would, from time to time, accompany the men to other locations where the men and Ms. Poitier would engage in sexual activity. Unbeknownst to the

men, the activities were being recorded through the use of a small camera hidden in a purse carried by Ms. Poitier. Following the recording of the activities Mr. Goodwin would contact the men and threaten to expose their activities to family and friends unless money was paid to Mr. Goodwin. On at least two occasions men being extorted by Goodwin left cash at locations designated by Mr. Goodwin in Council Bluffs, Iowa. The matter was brought to light when one of the men alerted law enforcement resulting in the arrest of Mr. Goodwin. On the day of his arrest Mr. Goodwin was engaged in trying to orchestrate the drop of an additional sum of money.

United States v. Simmons - Upon his conviction for having committed three armed bank robberies in the Omaha area, Sacheem O. Simmons was sentenced to serve 205 months in prison, which will be followed by a five year term of Supervised Release. Simmons was also ordered to make restitution in the amount of \$37,883.50, and to pay \$400 in Special Assessments.

On April 21, 2006, about 11:30 a.m., Simmons entered the Lincoln Federal Savings Bank at 673 N. 132nd, Omaha, pulled a ski mask over his face, retrieved a handgun from his waist and pointed it at a teller. He took \$7,547.50 and was seen getting into black 2004 Chevrolet Trailblazer that had been reported stolen in a carjacking one day earlier.

On June 16, 2006, about 11:50 a.m., Simmons entered the American National Bank at 8155 L Street, Ralston, approached three tellers, pulled a gun from his waistband and told them to give him money. Simmons left the bank with \$3,734.00, and was seen getting into a Dodge Stratus that had been hijacked the evening before. A half-hour later, Simmons robbed the First State Bank at 8605 Q Street, Ralston, Nebraska, of \$26,602.00, and was seen getting into the same Dodge Stratus.

United States v. Demling - Lucas Demling 27, of McLean, Illinois was sentenced on December 10, 2007, for bank robbery to 145 months imprisonment to be followed by a three year term of supervised release.

Demling robbed the Teambank, 101 North 14th Street,

Fort Calhoun, Nebraska. He entered the bank shortly after the delivery of \$60,000 by an armored carrier. Demling handed a teller a plastic bag, displayed a knife and ordered the teller to place the money in the bag. Demling left the bank with \$40,000. Demling was later identified from still photos of the robbery as the robber.

At trial Demling was identified as the robber by Sean Grant who drove Demling to the bank. Grant entered a plea of guilty to a bank robbery, and received a sentence of three years probation. Demling was further identified by his probation officer from McLean, Illinois, a detective with the McLean County Sheriff's Office, a friend from high school, and his uncle.

United States v. Dansby - Albert Dansby, 52, of Lincoln, was sentenced on January 9, 2007, to the custody of the Bureau of Prisons for 100 months, for his involvement in five bank robberies in Omaha and Council Bluffs between November 18, 2005, and May 8, 2006. After his release from prison, Dansby will begin a three year term of supervised release. Dansby was ordered to make restitution in the sum of \$9,841.75.

On November 18, 2005, Dansby entered the TierOne Bank on West Broadway in Council Bluffs, Iowa. He presented a note demanding money from the teller and obtained \$1,090 in currency.

On December 12, 2005, Dansby entered the Liberty Bank on West Broadway in Council Bluffs, Iowa. He presented a note demanding money and obtained \$2,540 in currency.

On December 30, 2005, Dansby entered the Bank of the West, 1921 Harney, Omaha, and presented a note demanding money. He left the bank with \$2,910.

On January 27, 2006, Dansby entered the Wells Fargo Bank, 1919 Douglas St., Omaha. He presented a note demanding currency. He orally demanded the teller give him all the money after she indicated that she couldn't read the note. He left the bank with \$1,532.

On May 8, 2006, Dansby robbed the US Bank, 2901 W. Broadway, Council Bluffs. He obtained \$1,769.75 in currency.

United States v. Mason - Ray Mason, 52 years old, most recently from Wilber, Nebraska, was sentenced to 46 months imprisonment, on October 25, 2007, for the January 3, 2007, robbery of the Jones National Bank in Seward, Nebraska. Mason will be placed on supervised release for three years following his release from incarceration and was ordered to reimburse the bank \$320 which it spent for counseling services for bank employees following the bank robbery.

Mason, who is paralyzed from the waist down and confined to a wheelchair, robbed the bank of \$8,940.00 through one of the bank's drive-in windows on January 3, 2007. He was apprehended approximately 20 minutes later, seven miles east of Seward, and all of the cash was recovered from his vehicle. No weapon was used during the commission of the bank robbery.

This is Mason's third conviction for bank robbery. On December 18, 2001, he was sentenced to three years imprisonment following his federal conviction for the robbery of a Wells Fargo Bank branch at 66th & O Streets, Lincoln, Nebraska, on December 28, 2000, and the robbery of the Thayer County Bank in Hebron, Nebraska, on April 21, 2001.

United States v. Frazier & Rouillard - Simon Frazier, 21, of Niobrara and Lance Rouillard, 19, of Sioux City, Iowa, were sentenced for assault with a dangerous weapon. Frazier received a 37-month term of imprisonment and Rouillard received a 24-month sentence. Each will begin a three year term of supervised release after completing their prison term.

In the early morning hours of June 2, 2006, they went to a residence on the Santee Reservation and attempted to coax the victim from his home. When their attempt failed, they returned to the residence and broke in. They assaulted the victim with a baseball bat causing numerous injuries.

The injuries included fractured vertebrae, 15 staples to close a scalp laceration, and a fracture to a left fingertip that required amputation.



IMMIGRATION

United States v. Lake & Plastrglas, Inc. - Donna Lake and Plastrglas, Inc. were sentenced on March 30, 2007, following their convictions on immigration charges. Lake had entered a guilty plea to a charge of engaging in a pattern and practice to hire, and to recruit, unauthorized aliens for employment in the United States. She was sentenced to three years probation, a \$9,000.00 fine, and 500 hours of community service work.

Plastrglas, Inc., had entered a guilty plea to concealing, harboring, or shielding from detection, an alien or aliens, knowing, or in reckless disregard of the fact, that the alien or aliens had entered and remained in the United States in violation of law. Plastrglas, Inc. was sentenced to three years probation, a fine of \$51,000.00, the forfeiture of an additional \$45,000.00 to the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and was required to pay \$5,000.00 in costs to the United States Marshal's Service.

In October of 2006, the Immigration and Customs Enforcement, (ICE), office in Omaha received information from a confidential informant stating that Plastrglas, Inc., located at 4200 North 30th Street and 3124 Spaulding Street in Omaha was involved in the hiring and employment of undocumented aliens. The informant stated that Donna Lake was the Human Resource Director for the company.

On November 15, 2006, ICE agents placed a recording device on a different confidential informant and sent that person into Plastrglas, Inc., to speak to Donna Lake regarding his status in the United States. The second informant was given a letter stating that the Social Security Administration had determined his current social security number was not valid. The informant provided the letter to Lake. In the recorded conversation that followed the informant asked Lake to change his social security number in the records of the company. Lake told him she could not, as she had previously told him that the law would not allow the number to be changed for a third time. Lake explained the company could be liable as she knew the number was not accurate if it was changed again. Lake asked the informant why he did not get a real social security number the second time he had changed his identity with her. Lake asked the informant if he was afraid of

going to immigration and whether he was afraid that they would kick him out of the country. The informant said "yes." Lake told the informant she received letters like he had received frequently and that she ignored them because Social Security could not make her answer the letters. Lake stated she would pretend that their conversation had never happened and if the informant obtained legal status that the informant could come back and see her again.

On December 5, 2006, ICE Agents executed criminal search warrants at both Plastrglas, Inc., office locations at 3124 Spaulding Street and 4200 N. 30th Street in Omaha, Nebraska. ICE Agents arrested 30 undocumented aliens employed at the two locations. All 30 undocumented aliens were transported to the ICE processing and detention center. All were then processed and interviewed regarding their employment with Plastrglas, Inc..

Evidence seized pursuant to the search warrant on December 5, 2006, included a Social Security Administration letter dated April 21, 2006, and received by Plastrglas, Inc., on April 25, 2006. The letter was seized from Lake's office. In the letter, the Social Security Administration listed 26 social security numbers that were reported by Plastrglas, Inc., as belonging to employees of the company. The letter indicated that the listed social security numbers and employee names did not match Social Security Administration records. Of the 30 undocumented workers arrested on December 5, 2006, by ICE Agents, nine were listed by social security number on the April 21, 2006, letter from the Social Security Administration.

Further review by ICE of the records recovered in the search confirmed that as early as 1999, several Plastrglas, Inc., employees were hired under one name and social security number but, over the years, had changed their name, social security number, or both, and were allowed to continue working at Plastrglas, Inc.. Donna Lake had been employed at Plastrglas since June of 1999.

United States v. Chavez-Villasenor - Jamie Chavez-Villasenor was sentenced on August 7, 2007, to 46 months imprisonment, followed by three years of supervised release for the crime of illegal re-entry by an alien who had previously been convicted of an aggravated felony. Chavez-Villasenor is a citizen in Mexico, who was convicted in Los Angeles, California, in 2004, for the crimes of burglary and assault with a deadly weapon. Following those convictions he was deported to Mexico. He was found in Lincoln, Nebraska, by agents of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency and was taken into custody in March, 2007, when it was found that he had returned to the United States unlawfully. He will again be deported after serving his new sentence.

United States v. Velasco-Ixtepan - On March 5, 2007, Pedro Velasco-Ixtepan was sentenced for his conviction for illegal transportation of aliens to 15 months of imprisonment and three years of supervised release.

On December 2, 2006, the Nebraska State Patrol stopped a van driven by Velasco-Ixtepan. The van contained thirteen other passengers who spoke no English and who possessed Mexican identification papers. ICE determined these individuals had entered the country illegally. Velasco-Ixtepan admitted he was hired to drive these individuals from Arizona to Georgia using a designated route which took him from Arizona and through Nebraska. The passengers admitted they had paid money to be brought into the United States and to be taken to various places around the country where they could obtain employment.



MISCELLANEOUS OFFENSES

United States v. Mueller - On January 19, 2007, Rock Mueller, 53, of Lincoln, was sentenced to 41 months in prison for his actions in accepting payments from a contractor doing business with the State of Nebraska. The sentence was ordered to run concurrently with a 15 to 25 year state sentence Mr. Mueller was currently serving on unrelated charges. In addition, Mr. Mueller was ordered to serve a three year term of supervised release which includes 10 months of home confinement following his release from prison.

Mueller was hired to work on the State of Nebraska's "Tobacco Free Nebraska" program. One of his duties involved the oversight of a contract regarding the operation of a telephone "quitline" that smokers could call to receive information on how to quit smoking. Investigation conducted by the FBI and the Nebraska State Patrol revealed Mueller had accepted employment as a "consultant" to the vendor that had contracted to provide the telephone quitline services to the State of Nebraska. Mueller entered into that agreement at the same time he was charged with overseeing the contract and at a time when the vendor was seeking to have its own contract with the State of Nebraska extended. During the time period of 2002 to January of 2004, Mueller received \$73,931.00 in fees and \$4,349.00 in expense payments from the vendor.

United States v. Rogers - On November 1, 2007, Brandon Michael Rodgers was sentenced to three years probation and restitution in the amount of \$10,000 following his conviction for a violation of the Lacey Act. The information charged him with transporting piranha to Florida and other states on April 1, 2005 and June 15, 2007. In approximately April or May 2005 he imported his first piranha from Peru, and thereafter began selling them on the internet and through such sites as eBay, Florida, and nearly all of the warm weather states, prohibit the importation or possession of piranha, and Mr. Rodgers was aware of this fact. Between April 1, 2005 and June 15, 2007, however, he sold and shipped approximately 300 piranha from Nebraska to Florida and other states which prohibit the importation or possession of piranha. Mr. Rodgers plead guilty to a one count Information on September 19, 2007, and was sentenced on November 1, 2007. He is prohibited from commercial dealings in fish or wildlife while on probation, and his

restitution is to be split evenly between the Nebraska Wildlife Crimestoppers Fund and the Nebraska Game and Parks Investigative Cash Fund.

United States v. Vanderpool - For having accepted Social Security benefits to which he was not entitled, Edward E. Vanderpool was sentenced to serve six months in prison, to pay a \$2000 fine, to serve a three year term of Supervised Release following his prison term, and to pay a \$100 Special Assessment.

Beginning March 18, 1998, and continuing until March 2007, Vanderpool received \$59,280.40 in SSA disability payments, which he would not have been entitled to receive, had he properly reported his employment and income status.

United States v. Walz - Thomas Walz, 67, of Bennington, Nebraska, was sentenced May 30, 2007, to three years probation for providing a false certification in a matter involving the Environmental Protection Agency. Walz was ordered to pay a \$5,000 fine and ordered to cooperate with the Environmental Protection Agency regarding the investigation of commercial properties with lead based paint.

On December 2, 2003, the Douglas County Health Department conducted an environmental inspection of apartments at 1148 Park Avenue. Walz was present during the inspection and was advised of the presence of lead paint. He was given a report and advised how to repair the hazards. Walz sold the building approximately one month later. When doing so, he was required to sign a statement relating to the presence of lead based paint hazards. He certified that he had no knowledge of the presence of lead based paint hazards. The purchaser later repaired the hazards

United States v. Foster - On June 15, 2007 Michael Foster of Kansas City, Missouri, was sentenced to ten months in prison for his conviction for interstate transportation of stolen property having a value of approximately \$115,000. On October 13, 2005, defendant Foster and others went to the Nebraska Beef facility in Omaha and stole a refrigerated tractor trailer containing approximately 39,000 lbs. of prime meat from Nebraska Beef. Defendant Foster and others then

transported the trailer to Kansas City where they attempted to sell some of the meat, kept some for themselves and left the remainder of the meat to spoil at an abandoned warehouse dock in Kansas City. As a result of this theft Nebraska Beef suffered a loss of \$115,400. As a part of his sentence defendant Foster agreed to be jointly and severally liable for restitution in that amount.

United States v. Tucker - Robert Tucker was sentenced to serve three years probation, including six months of house arrest, to make restitution in the amount of \$55,844.70, and to pay a \$100 Special Assessment for Fraudulent Representations to Obtain Social Security Disability Benefits. Tucker applied for disability benefits in April 2001, alleging that he was blind since June 1, 1999. Further, Tucker alleged was "photophobic" and could not be subjected to vision tests to determine his blindness. Tucker's original claim was denied because a Nebraska state employee witnessed Tucker driving. Tucker moved for reconsideration and on March 18, 2003, Tucker's case was re-assigned to a visiting Administrative Law Judge from California, who granted Tucker's claim of disability.

Further investigation revealed that on June 14, 1999, Tucker had obtained a Wyoming driver's license, and during the testing process, Tucker's eyesight was found to be 20/20 in each eye; that in three years thereafter, multiple people in Ord, Nebraska, witnessed Tucker driving and performing other chores, such as putting up a fence and digging a trench; that Tucker's medical records show Tucker told his doctors that he spent days on the Internet; and that records from various Internet Service Providers (ISP's) confirmed Tucker's use and accounts on the internet, and there was no record of him having obtained software that assisted the blind in using the Internet.

United States v. Faulker - Robert Faulkner, of Omaha, Nebraska, was sentenced on July 26, 2007, in federal court for structuring a monetary transaction with a financial institution. Faulkner was sentenced to one year probation, a \$2,500 fine and he received credit for time served. On May 2, 2007, Faulkner entered a guilty plea and admitted that he structured a monetary transaction as set forth in Count I of a previously filed indictment.

Count I of the indictment alleged that on September 25, 2001, Faulkner structured a series of transactions by purchasing cashier's checks with cash at the following

financial institutions: First National Bank, 133rd and West Maple Road, in the amount of \$8,000.00; First National Bank, 48th and Ames, in the amount of \$9,500.00; Wells Fargo Bank in the amount of \$9,500.00; and Commercial Federal Bank, 5901 NW Radial Highway, in the amount of \$9,000.00. The cash used to purchase the four cashier's checks on September 25, 2001 totaled \$36,000.00.

Federal laws require a Currency Transaction Report to be filed when a financial transaction such as a deposit, withdrawal or cashier's check purchase is made with currency and exceeds \$10,000.00.

United States v. Long-Wirth - On November 26, 2007, Jean Long-Wirth, of Omaha, Nebraska was sentenced to 12 months imprisonment, and three years of Supervised Release for conspiracy to pass counterfeit checks in the amount of approximately \$66,000.00.

Long-Wirth was an organizer and leader of a group of individuals who, during the period from August through October, 2004, made and cashed counterfeit commercial and personal checks at various businesses and banks in the Omaha metropolitan area. Defendant and other co-conspirators would manufacture the checks using computer equipment and computer check software. After the checks were manufactured, defendant and others would recruit other individuals to pass the checks at various banks, casinos, and businesses in the Omaha area. Defendant on at least 34 separate occasions personally cashed counterfeit checks at various businesses. Wirth agreed to make full restitution in the amount of approximately \$66,000 to all victims.

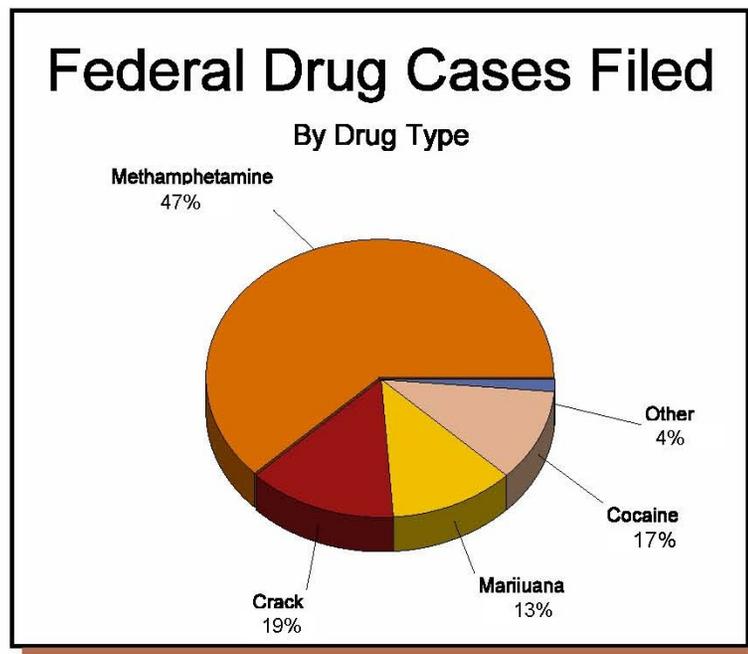
United States v. Gustafson - Mark and Salwa Gustafson of Lincoln were sentenced to 36 months imprisonment on September 7, 2007, following their convictions for tax evasion for the 1998 to 2000 tax years and of willful failure to file tax returns for the 1999 and 2000 tax years. The convictions resulted following a 7-day jury trial in Omaha in March, 2007. Evidence at trial established that despite gross receipts of close to a million dollars, the Gustafsons did not file returns in 1998 to 2000. They used sham business trusts and offshore accounts to conceal money derived from Mark Gustafson's chiropractic practice. They maintained control of all the proceeds of their chiropractic business and refused to file tax returns. Evidence established net income of approximately \$495,000 for the 3 tax years with taxes due and owing of approximately \$170,000.

DRUG ENFORCEMENT

The fight against illegal drug use and distribution continued to be a major priority of the United States Attorney's Office in 2007. Nebraska, with its location in the central United States, between western and eastern drug sources and markets, and with a large number of major interstate and other highways which pass through the State, is a significant trans-shipment area for drug traffickers. Omaha, Lincoln, Grand Island, and other Nebraska cities serve as redistribution points for drug markets within Nebraska and neighboring states and markets, and to smaller rural communities within the District.

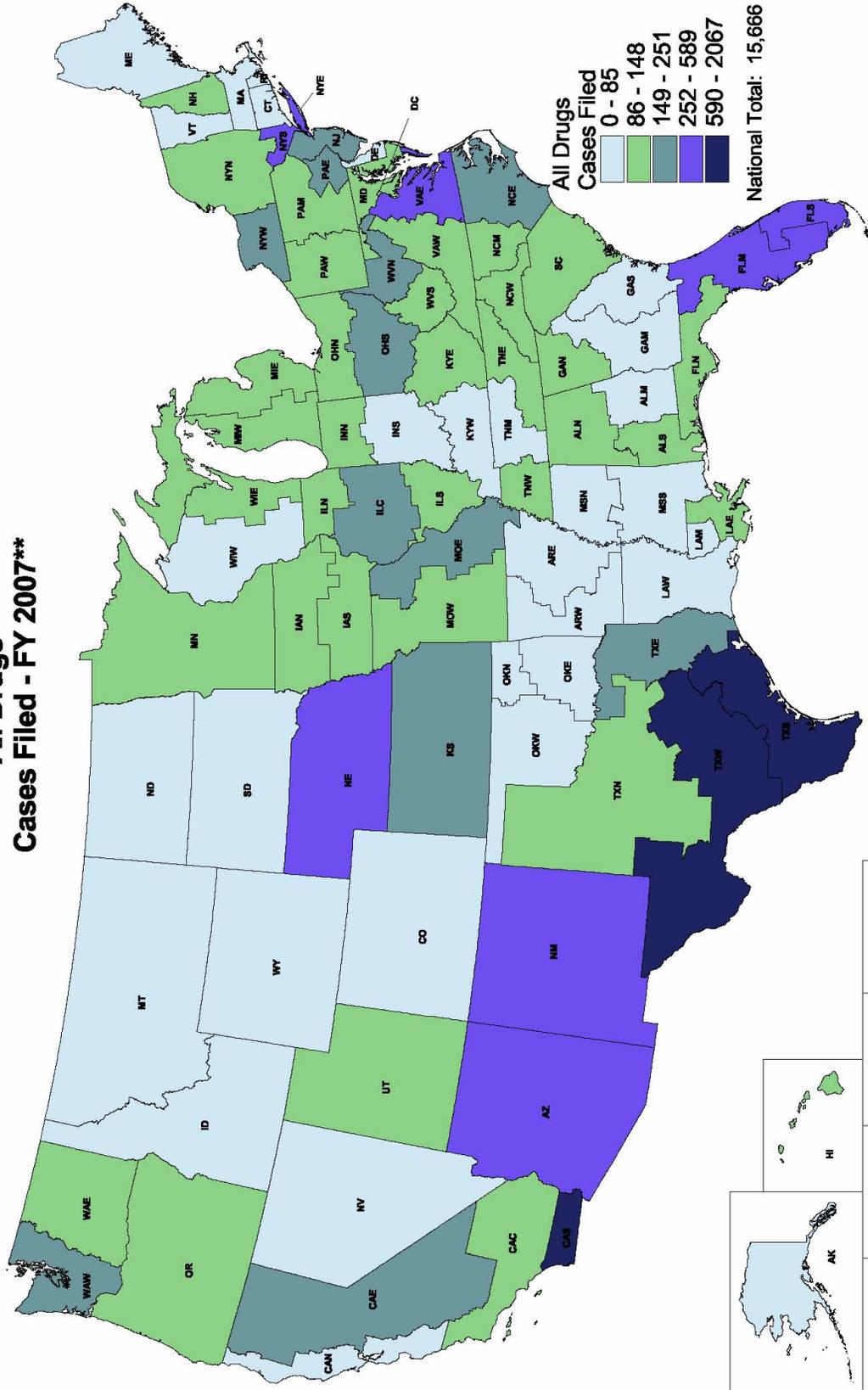
The coordinated efforts of Assistant United States Attorneys (AUSAs) and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney's (SAUSAs), addressed the comprehensive threat posed to the United States and the District of Nebraska, by the trafficking, diversion and abuse of illegal drugs. The Drug Unit comprises the largest unit of the office and appointment of SAUSAs from the Douglas, Lancaster, Dawson and Hall County Attorney's Offices has greatly expanded the prosecutorial resources dedicated to this effort. Attorneys who prosecuted drug cases were supported by extra-ordinary cooperative investigative efforts of federal, state and local enforcement agencies throughout the District.

To address the issues related to the investigation and prosecution of drug-related offenses, the United States Attorney's Office filed 289 indictments and informations charging 424 defendants in 2007.

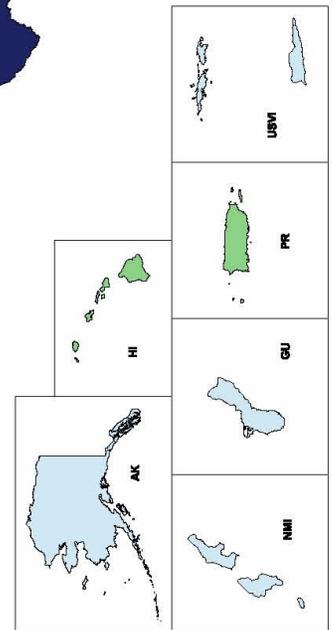


United States Attorneys - Criminal Caseload Statistics

All Drugs* Cases Filed - FY 2007**



*This chart summarizes the following categories: OCDEF, Non-OCDEF Drug Dealing, Drug Possession, and those drug cases classified under the Government Regulatory/Money Laundering program category.
 **FY 2007 numbers are actual data through the end of September 2007.
 Caseload data extracted from the United States Attorneys' Case Management System.



DRUG ENFORCEMENT CASES

United States v. Giles, et al - Dale Giles, Chamar Brown, and Evereada Kouris, all from Omaha, were sentenced on January 28, 2008, following their convictions after a four-week jury trial in U.S. District Court, of conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute more than 1,000 kilograms of marijuana between October 1, 2004 and June 20, 2006. Giles and Brown were also convicted of two counts of possessing, carrying and discharging firearms during and in relation to the marijuana conspiracy. Giles was convicted of three counts of being a felon in possession of a firearm, and both Giles and Brown were also convicted of possessing with intent to distribute more than 100 kilograms of marijuana on April 3 and 4, 2006. Giles and Brown were sentenced to life plus 60 years in the custody of the Bureau of Prisons. Kouris received a 135 month sentence, to be followed by 5 years of supervised release.

The investigation, involving members of the Omaha Police Department, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Nebraska State Patrol, the Drug Enforcement Administration, Cass County Sheriff's Department, and the Phoenix, Arizona Police Department, was triggered on May 4, 2005 when three partially burned bodies were discovered in the area of 60th and State Streets. Examination of the bodies revealed each had died from gunshot wounds to the backs of their heads. These individuals were later identified as Benigno Dominguez, Frank Wilkinson, and Faustino Garcia.

Interviews of other co-conspirators in Arizona and Texas provided details of an organization headed by Giles and Brown that distributed thousands of pounds of marijuana shipped from Arizona to Nebraska and other states. In-depth investigation of airline, motel and other travel receipts uncovered numerous trips taken by Giles and Brown to coordinate the transportation of marijuana loads, and payment of large sums of currency. Analysis of Giles' and Brown's financial

dealings revealed bank deposits over \$570,000, approximately \$25,600 in airline expenses, over \$45,000 in automobile expenses, over \$7,000 in auto rentals, over \$20,000 in hotel expenses, over \$7,000 in jewelry purchases, and \$82,000 in loan payments between April 2003 and February 2006.

On April 3, 4, and 14, 2006, thirteen search warrants were executed at homes, businesses and storage units rented, owned and occupied by Giles, Brown and Kouris. Officers seized over 1000 pounds of marijuana over \$629,000, 20 vehicles, two bulletproof vests, two AR 15 semi automatic rifles, a Taurus .38 caliber revolver, a Magnavox and a JVC wide screen televisions, several jewelry items and numerous items of electronic recording equipment.

Giles and Brown set up several businesses in the names of K-Nown LLC, a lawn service, 40 Deuce Music Corp., Bee Gee Barber Shop, and Gee Bee'z. These businesses were financed through the sale of marijuana.

United States v. Michael Vanness - On August 9, 2007, Michael Vanness was sentenced to a total of 13 years and four months in prison for being a felon in possession of a firearm, possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine, and using, carrying, or possessing a firearm in relation to a drug crime. On November 19, 2006, Lincoln Police officers responded to a report of a possible hostage situation. Vanness was taken into custody and a .45 caliber pistol was found at the location of the incident. Vanness had prior felony convictions for possession of a controlled substance from Madison, Holt, and Platte Counties. On February 14, 2007, Vanness and his roommate consented to a search of their residence. During the search, Lincoln Police officers found 113 grams (approximately 4 ounces) of methamphetamine, a loaded 45 caliber handgun, packaging materials, drug sales records, and a digital scale near Vanness'

bedroom. Vanness was sentenced to 100 months in prison for the felon in possession charge and 100 months for possession charge and 100 months for possession with intent to distribute, with those sentences to run concurrently, followed by a 60 month sentence for using, carrying, or possessing a firearm in connection with a drug offense. Vanness was ordered to serve a total of five years on supervised release after he completes his prison term and to pay \$300 in special assessments. Vanness was also ordered to forfeit the two guns to the United States.

United States v. Delvillar - On February 15, 2007, a Massachusetts man was sentenced to 12 years and seven months (151-188 months) in federal prison for possessing cocaine with intent to distribute. Octavio Delvillar was convicted by a federal jury in November of 2006, after a four-day trial in Lincoln. On April 6, 2005, a Nebraska State Patrol trooper stopped a 2000 Ford Excursion on eastbound Interstate 80 near Lincoln for speeding, driving on the shoulder, and a windshield obstruction. Delvillar was the driver and his co-defendant, Fernando Nunez, was the passenger. Both defendants consented to a search of the vehicle. Troopers searching the vehicle found 24.9 kilograms (approximately 55 pounds) of cocaine stored in a hidden compartment. A cooperating witness testified at trial that the intended destination for the cocaine was in the Boston, Massachusetts area. Following the prison term, Delvillar will serve five years on supervised release. He was also ordered to pay a \$100 special assessment.

United States v. Popejoy - Robert Popejoy of Rulo, Nebraska, was sentenced on April 20, 2007, to 7 years and 11 months in prison, followed by five years of supervised release for his conviction for conspiring to manufacture and distribute 500 grams or more of methamphetamine. The conviction and sentence were the result of a multi-state investigation by several law enforcement agencies of a group of individuals

who manufactured methamphetamine in the Falls City and Rulo areas of Nebraska. The group obtained the ingredients to manufacture methamphetamine in the four state region around southeast Nebraska. They manufactured methamphetamine in several locations in the Rulo area and used and distributed their product. The sentence imposed took into consideration that Popejoy had been in custody continuously for nearly three years on related state charges from Richardson County, Nebraska, and while awaiting the disposition of this case.

United States v. Cervantes - On May 8, 2007, Delores A. Cervantes, a/k/a "Dolly", was sentenced to eleven years and three months imprisonment, (a total of 135 months), following her conviction on a charge of conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine. Cervantes conspired with others to distribute between 3 and 11 pounds of methamphetamine in the Kearney and Grand Island, Nebraska, area between December 1, 2003, and October 18, 2006. Cervantes will also pay restitution of \$815 to the Tri-City Federal Drug task force and will serve a five year term of supervised release.

United States v. Garcia-Delacruz, et al - Armando Garcia-Delacruz and Marco M. Pruneda were sentenced on May 29, 2007, to 13 years and 4 months imprisonment, followed by a consecutive term of 10 years following their convictions on drug and weapons charges. The defendants were both convicted of conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine and using short-barreled shotguns in furtherance of the conspiracy. Both men were also sentenced to serve 5 year terms of supervised release when they are released from prison. The verdicts followed a week-long jury trial in February, 2007, in which several co-conspirators testified about the defendants' distribution of pounds of methamphetamine, and their carrying of sawed-off shotguns during those deliveries, in the Hastings area. Mr. Garcia-Delacruz is expected to be deported to his native Mexico when his prison term is completed.

United States v. Cazares - Ruben Lopez Cazares was sentenced on June 7, 2007, to 300 months imprisonment, to be followed by a five year term of supervised release. On March 9, 2007, a jury convicted Ruben Lopez Cazares of conspiring to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute 500 grams or more of methamphetamine. The case arose from a federal investigation of drug distribution in the Norfolk area.

United States v. Camacho, et al - On June 13, 2007, a Greeley, Colorado man was sentenced to 10 years and 1 month, (121 months), following conviction for conspiracy to distribute cocaine and marijuana over approximately a six month time period in 2005. Camacho was found guilty of the charge by a federal jury on March 15, 2007. Following the prison term, Camacho will serve three years on supervised release. He was also ordered to pay a \$100 special assessment.

On August 15, 2005, Lincoln Police officers investigating a report of a strong odor of marijuana coming from a Lincoln motel room, found Emanuel Camacho's father and co-defendant, Phillip Camacho, in possession of approximately one pound of powder cocaine. Testimony and evidence presented at trial established that Phillip Camacho received the cocaine found at the motel as well as an earlier package containing a similar amount of cocaine and three earlier packages containing a total of approximately 20 pounds of marijuana, from Emanuel Camacho. All of the packages were transported from Greeley to Lincoln by two other persons at the direction of Emanuel Camacho.

United States v. Firoz - Christian Firoz was sentenced on July 5, 2007, to six months in prison for violating his probation for conspiracy to unlawfully sell and offer for sale drug paraphernalia. In December, 2004, Firoz had been sentenced to 24 months probation for the offense. The district judge revoked the order of probation after finding Firoz had failed to accurately report his income to the U.S. Probation

Office. Information from the Nebraska Department of Labor showed Christian Firoz received income in 2005 and 2006 which he failed to report in violation of the conditions of his probation.

United States v. Weppner - On June 26, 2007, a Lincoln man was sentenced to 15 years and one month, (181 months), in prison for conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine and using or carrying a firearm in connection with his role in that conspiracy. Mickie Weppner was also ordered to forfeit a firearm and ammunition to the government. Following the prison sentence, Weppner will serve five years on supervised release. He was also ordered to pay \$200 in special assessments.

Information provided to law enforcement indicated that Weppner was involved in the sale of methamphetamine to persons in the Lincoln area between about September of 2005 and December of 2006. On October 12, 2006, Weppner was found by Lincoln Police officers to be in possession of a 9mm handgun. At that time, Weppner told the officers he carried the gun for protection when he collected drug debts. On December 5, 2006, officers served a search warrant at Weppner's Lincoln motel room and found approximately 1 ounce of methamphetamine. Weppner told officers at that time that he had tried to stop selling methamphetamine after his October arrest, but his customers kept calling him, and it was easier to sell to them than to tell them, "no."

United States v. Chavez Loya - On July 9, 2007, Noe Gustavo Chavez Loya was sentenced to 11 years and three months (a total of 135 months) imprisonment for his conviction on the offense of possession of ephedrine/pseudoephedrine with intent to manufacture methamphetamine, a Schedule II controlled substance, in the District of Nebraska. On February 14, 2006, a NSP Trooper stopped a vehicle driven by Chavez Loya soon after it exited Interstate 80. The trooper obtained

consent to search the vehicle from the passenger, Jose Lopez Loya. Officers found 10.5 pounds of pseudoephedrine pills hidden in a speaker box in the trunk of the vehicle, which could have been converted to approximately three to four pounds of methamphetamine (actual). The district judge also sentenced Chavez Loya to a three year term of supervised release and a \$100 special assessment. The passenger, Jose Lopez Loya, was sentenced in June, 2007, to four years and nine months imprisonment.

United States v. Nunez - On September 19, 2007, Ruben Dario Nunez was sentenced to 11 years and three months imprisonment (a total of 135 months) for his conviction on a charge of possession with the intent to distribute heroin. On January 20, 2006, a Nebraska State Patrol Trooper stopped a rental vehicle driven by Jaime Esquivel in Hall County, Nebraska, for having no plates. Nunez, one of the passengers, had rented the vehicle in Las Vegas, Nevada. Ricardo Esquivel was a second passenger in the vehicle. After the traffic stop, the Trooper obtained consent to search the vehicle from all three men. Troopers found four packages of suspected heroin hidden under the rear seat of the vehicle. The troopers noticed the packages were shaped like shoe insoles. Troopers then checked the shoes worn by the three men, and found a pound of heroin hidden in the sole of each shoe. A total of 5.5 kilograms of heroin was found.

Nunez's sentence was increased by 15 months due to his failure to appear for his original sentencing date in January, 2007. Nunez is also to serve a five year term of supervised release after his prison sentence.

United States v. Marasco - Richard D. Marasco was sentenced to 6 ½ years in prison on November 26, 2007, following his conviction for Conspiracy to Manufacture Methamphetamine. Marasco was ordered to serve four years of

supervised release following his release from incarceration and pay a \$100 Special Assessment.

On August 24, 2005, Bellevue Police Officers went to a Bellevue motel room in an attempt to locate Marasco, who at the time had an outstanding warrant. Marasco answered the door and was immediately placed under arrest. Marasco gave officers permission to search the room. Inside officers found co-defendant Angela Harms and a working methamphetamine laboratory along with approximately 32 grams of methamphetamine. In a statement Marasco admitted manufacturing the methamphetamine the previous day with the help of Ms. Harms. Additionally, Marasco said the two had cooked methamphetamine on prior occasions.

Ms. Harms was also interviewed and admitted she had assisted in cooking the day before, and that the two had been manufacturing methamphetamine at least once a week since February of 2005.

United States v. Davis - On November 27, 2007, LaToyin Davis was sentenced to 14 years imprisonment, following his conviction for Conspiracy to Distribute Cocaine Base, Possession with Intent to Distribute Cocaine Base, and Criminal Forfeiture. Davis was ordered to serve five years of supervised release following his release from incarceration, pay a \$200 Special Assessment, and gave up any right or claim he may have had in \$3,957 seized during the investigation.

On December 21, 2006, Omaha Police Officers utilized a cooperating witness (C/W) who placed a call to Davis requesting an amount of crack cocaine. The C/W gave a description of Davis and the car he would be driving. Thereafter, Davis arrived in the agreed upon location, in Omaha, NE, and was stopped by officers after being identified by the C/W. Davis was taken into custody and transferred to police headquarters where a baggie containing 9.9 grams of crack

and \$3,957 was found on his person. During an interview, Davis admitted being involved in distributing crack.

After additional investigation, officers located five cooperating witnesses who had given information regarding their crack dealings with Davis dating back to October of 2003, involving more than three kilograms of cocaine base.

United States v. Coleman - On April 19, 2007, a Lincoln man was sentenced to 24 years and three months imprisonment, (a total of 292 months), following his conviction for conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine. Jerome Coleman was found guilty of the conspiracy charge by a Lincoln jury after a four-day trial in January of 2007. A number of witnesses testified at trial regarding Coleman's involvement in the conspiracy which included providing money and other assistance to persons who were traveling outside the state of Nebraska to obtain crack cocaine. Witnesses testified Coleman and others sold crack in or near Coleman's auto detailing shop, In & Out Detailing which was located at 2200 "Y" Street in Lincoln. Following the prison term, Coleman will serve five years on supervised release. He was also ordered to pay a \$100 special assessment.

United States v. Jasper - Conrad A. Jasper was sentenced to 21 years and 10 months imprisonment on April 2, 2007, following his conviction for Conspiracy to Distribute Cocaine and Cocaine Base, Felon in Possession of a Firearm, and Criminal Forfeiture. Jasper was ordered to serve five years of supervised release following his release from incarceration and pay a \$200 Special Assessment.

On May 28, 2006, Omaha Police Officers received information that Jasper was going to be delivering a quantity of crack cocaine in the area of 40th and Ames Avenue, Omaha, NE. Officers located Jasper and attempted to stop him in the car he was driving. Jasper fled in his car, driving

in a reckless manner, abandoned his car and was apprehended after a foot chase. He was then taken to the Omaha Police Department and interviewed where he admitted that he had been bringing 10 ounce quantities of powder cocaine from Kansas City into Omaha, cooking it into crack cocaine, and then selling it to several individuals in the Omaha area. Jasper said he had been doing this several times a week for the previous three months.

During the interview, Jasper also admitted to being in possession of a .38 caliber handgun and had his girlfriend deliver the gun to police officers who determined that Jasper had a previous felony drug conviction from 1994.

Subsequent to Jasper's arrest, law enforcement located a number of individuals Jasper admitted selling crack to. These individuals corroborated that they had in fact been dealing crack with Jasper since February of 2006.

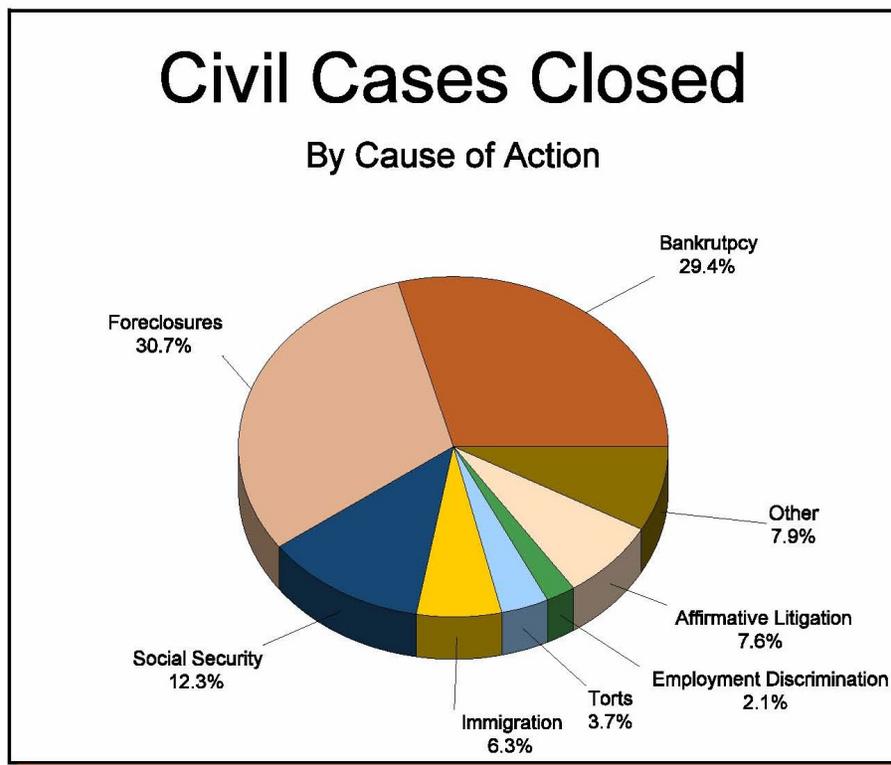


Hruska Courthouse, Omaha

CIVIL DIVISION

Attorneys in the Civil Division of the United States Attorney's Office represent the United States, as well as federal agencies, officers, and employees, in civil litigation in federal and state courts throughout Nebraska. Civil Division AUSAs work closely with lawyers from the federal agencies involved in each case to develop and present the position of the federal parties to the suit. Special AUSAs from the Internal Revenue Service and the Small Business Administration assist in handling bankruptcy and commercial cases in which those agencies have an interest. Attorneys from the Department of Justice also assist in some civil litigation in the District of Nebraska.

Work on 453 civil cases and matters was completed in 2007. Included in that number were defensive cases in which the validity of federal laws, or the acts of federal agencies and employees, were challenged. Also included were affirmative cases brought to enforce federal statutory and regulatory requirements, and to collect debts owed to the United States. The chart below depicts the types of civil cases and matters completed during 2007.



The Internal Revenue Service and the U.S. Department of Agriculture continued to be the agencies involved in the largest number of civil cases in the District during 2007. The number of immigration cases continued to rise and we also had an increase in affirmative litigation. A variety of cases involving the agencies within the Department of Justice also made up a significant portion of the overall civil workload. The number of cases completed for various federal agencies is reflected in the chart on the next page.

Civil Litigation

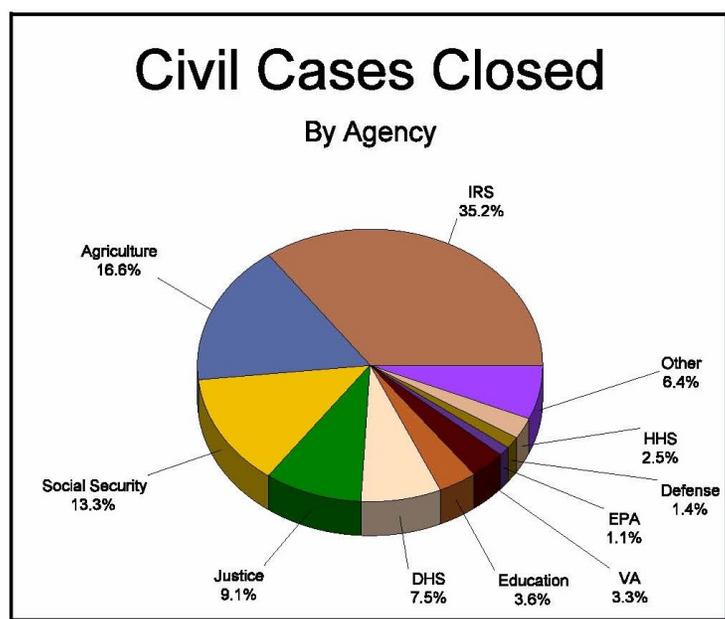
A primary function of the Civil Division is to provide quality representation to the United States and its agencies and officers in defensive litigation in federal and state court. During 2007, Civil Division AUSAs defended a number of cases brought in federal court to set aside or modify the actions of federal agencies and officers. Civil Division AUSAs also handled several cases seeking damages for alleged negligence or other wrongful conduct by federal employees, as well as cases alleging discrimination in federal employment.

In the area of affirmative litigation, the Civil Division continued its Affirmative Civil Enforcement (ACE) program, which involves various initiatives designed to collect civil monetary penalties and damages for violations of federal law, to recover costs incurred by agencies as a result of violations of federal statutes and regulations, and to obtain compliance with the requirements of federal law through civil litigation. In calendar year 2007, ACE cases resulted in monetary recoveries of more than \$1.5 million. ACE cases also led to court orders directing various defendants to comply with federal laws and regulatory requirements.

The United States Attorney's Office ACE program includes an active Health Care Fraud Task Force made up of civil and criminal AUSAs, Special AUSAs from the Nebraska Attorney General's Office, investigators from various state and federal agencies, and representatives of insurance providers and intermediaries. The task force approach enhances communication regarding the investigation of health care fraud in the District of Nebraska, and allows oversight agencies to pursue cases in the manner most effective to deter fraudulent activity and recover losses.

Another major area of emphasis in the ACE program is environmental enforcement. In 2007, the United States Attorney's Office worked with attorneys from the United States Department of Justice and the Environmental Protection Agency on civil environmental cases brought to recover civil penalties as well as response costs, and to obtain judgments requiring polluters to comply with environmental laws.

As in most years, Civil Division AUSAs also conducted a significant amount of litigation in 2007 to collect debts owed to the United States. Suits to obtain judgments for unpaid balances of delinquent loans made by agencies such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services comprise a significant portion of the Office's civil workload. Those cases are litigated in federal district court, in bankruptcy court, and in state courts throughout Nebraska.



CIVIL LITIGATION CASES

United States v. City of Wakefield, NE, and M.G. Waldbaum Co. - The United States Attorney's Office assisted Department of Justice attorneys in this Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act case in which Waldbaum paid a total civil penalty of \$1,050,000 split evenly between the United States and the State of Nebraska, and the City is paying a civil penalty of \$10,000 to the State and \$9,300 to the United States, related to wastewater overflow from a large egg processing facility in Wakefield, Nebraska.

United States v. EnTire Recycling, Inc., Brock Grain Company, Inc., and James D. Gerking - Aided by the Office, Department of Justice attorneys filed an action against EnTire, Inc., a tire recycling facility in Nebraska City, under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, and the Clean Water Act, in a case where a tire fire resulted in a discharge of pyrolytic oil byproduct into the Missouri River and other hazardous emissions into the ambient air and navigable water. In resolution of the lawsuit, this office collected \$201,000 for the benefit of EPA and Coast Guard response costs.

Americans with Disabilities Act Investigation - This United States Attorney's Office resolved an Americans with Disabilities Act complaint involving a deaf couple who was not provided sign language interpreters during custody proceedings. This Office worked with the court to modify their procedures, which were ultimately implemented in all district and county courts in Nebraska.

Successful Civil Seizure - The Office secured an Order for Entry on Premises to Effect Levy against the personal property of a married couple who owed \$392,000 to the Internal Revenue Service. The couple did file income tax returns, but did not pay the amount of tax they reported as owing. This was the first case in more than

30 years in the District of Nebraska in which the IRS planned a civil seizure of individuals' personal property. When representatives from various divisions of the IRS arrived at the residence to seize the property, the taxpayers immediately paid their outstanding tax liability in full.

Heather May v. United States Department of Education - After a two-day trial, the Bankruptcy Court considered the "totality of circumstances" in relation to a Chapter 7 debtor's effort to obtain a hardship discharge of her student loans. The Court concluded the debtor was not entitled to a discharge of any of her student loans and refused to allow even a partial discharge, finding the debtor failed to show repayment of the loans would impose an undue hardship. Debtor owed a variety of student loan creditors, the United States being the single largest creditor, with a debt of approximately \$200,000.

Ting Hao Yang and Yu Chen Huang v. Gonzalez and Suresh Narra v. Gonzalez - The Court dismissed two petitions for writ of mandamus seeking to require U.S. Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services to adjudicate pending I-485 adjustment of status applications. The Court analyzed the split in the Circuits on this issue and found that the Immigration and Nationality Act divested the Court of jurisdiction.

Chapa, et al., v. United States - The Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed the district court judgment and defendant's verdict in this medical malpractice case in which the plaintiffs sought to recover millions of dollars for a newborn who suffered extreme injuries as a result of abuse by his father. The plaintiffs alleged that medical staff at Offutt Air Force Base should have realized the baby was being abused and intervened to prevent the injury.

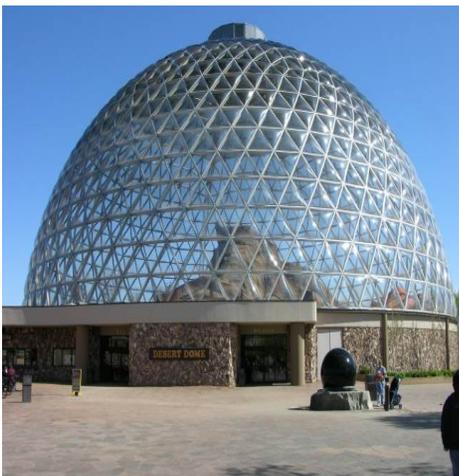
Tracey Coleman v. Department of Homeland Security - A defense verdict was awarded following six days of trial to a jury on plaintiff's discrimination

claims under Title VII and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act. At trial, this office convinced the jury the government's actions taken in regard to plaintiff were not motivated by her sex, age, or as a result of any complaints of discrimination.

United States v. Barista's Daily Grind - On behalf of the Federal Trade Commission, the United States Attorney's office assisted Department of Justice attorneys in filing suit charging that in the course of selling its coffee shop franchises, Barista's gave consumers inadequate disclosure documents and made earnings claims without the required documentation. As part of a Stipulated Judgment, a suspended civil penalty of \$242,000 based on financial disclosure documents was ordered.

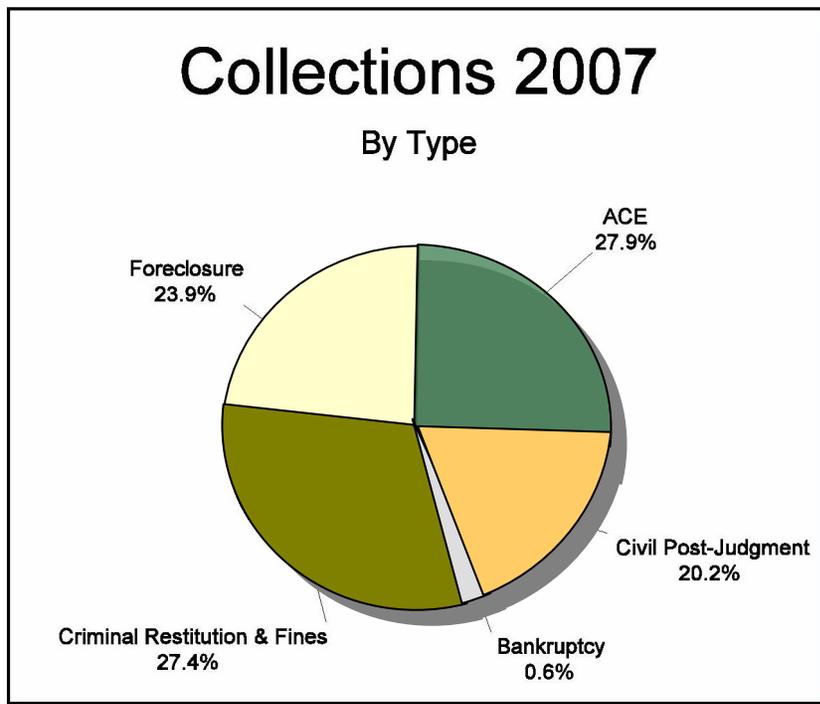
Heaton v. United States Postal Service - The Office obtained summary judgment on behalf of the Postal Service in a case alleging violations under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, the Rehabilitation Act, and the Family Medical Leave Act. Plaintiff sought \$10 million in damages.

United States v. Cranmore - In this farm foreclosure proceeding, summary judgment was entered in favor of the Farm Service Agency ending more than 10 years of litigation in federal courts. Cranmore agreed to pay \$285,000 to resolve the judgment.



Collection of Judgments

A major function of the United States Attorney's Office Civil Division is to collect debts owed to the United States as a result of judgments entered in civil cases, and fines and restitution orders imposed as part of the sentence in criminal prosecutions. The Civil Division's Financial Litigation Unit (FLU) underwent a few changes that have had a definite impact on 2007 collections. First, the FLU no longer reports Civil and Criminal forfeiture recoveries. Second, improved economic conditions for agricultural producers have reduced bankruptcy and foreclosure recoveries in Civil collections. ACE collections in 2007 have also slowed this year. While these factors have combined to cause a dip in collection figures, the Office did collect approximately \$5,224,398.43, which exceeded the total annual budget for the United States Attorney's Office.



A breakdown of collection activity in the United States Attorney's Office show that a variety of civil cases, including bankruptcy and foreclosure, resulted in approximately \$1.3 million in recoveries in 2007. ACE cases accounted for approximately \$1.5 million in collections. Total collections by type are reflected in the chart above.

A large percentage of the money collected by the United States Attorney's Office is forwarded to federal agencies for repayment of loans and other federal program obligations. Some of the recoveries, such as those obtained for the Environmental Protection Agency, are used to pay costs expended in implementing and enforcing federal programs. Criminal restitution collected is delivered directly to the crime victims, and criminal fines and special assessment recoveries are used to fund federal programs for the benefit of victims of crimes.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND COMMUNITY COORDINATION



The mission of the United States Attorney's Office Law Enforcement and Community Coordination (LECC) Unit is to assist law enforcement and criminal justice agencies throughout the District of Nebraska, and to facilitate community-based efforts on issues related to criminal justice. The LECC Unit conducts or facilitates a number of programs designed to support and coordinate law enforcement at various levels, provides services to witnesses and victims of federal crime, conducts training, and apprises the community at large about issues related to criminal justice.

The Victim Witness staff is an integral part of the LECC Unit, and provides victim and witness services related to federal prosecutions in the District. The Victim Witness staff works with the Federal Bureau of Investigation to provide assistance to victims of federal crime from the time of the occurrence of the crime through the completion of the prosecution. The Victim Notification System (VNS) notifies victims of the status of investigations, as well as developments in cases accepted for prosecution. In 2007, the VNS provided 5,860 notices to victims of federal crime in Nebraska. Services include information and assistance with travel and lodging related to court appearances, courtroom support, and referrals to other agencies for counseling, shelter, and other assistance. During Victim Rights Week in April 2007, the Victim Witness Staff of the LECC Unit, along with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Nebraska Coalition for the Victims of Crime, provided training for victim service providers, mental health professionals, and law enforcement and corrections personnel on coordinating and enhancing services to with victims.

In 2007, the LECC Unit continued its work to maintain strong collaborative partnerships among federal, state, tribal, and local law enforcement agencies in order to improve the effectiveness of law enforcement in the District. The LECC Unit provided assistance to law enforcement officials and prosecutors seeking information and funding related to federal programs. The Unit also continued to provide video teleconferencing equipment for training and meetings of law enforcement agencies across the District.

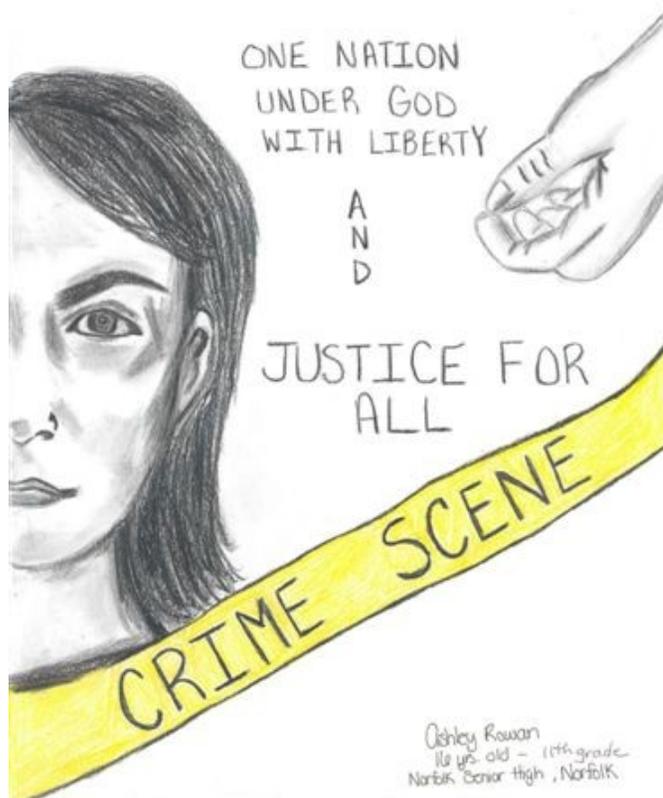
The LECC staff works with the Nebraska Sheriff's Association, the Police Officers' Association of Nebraska, the Police Chiefs' Association of Nebraska, Nebraska Coalition for Victim's of Crime and the Nebraska County Attorneys Association to develop and present training on subjects related to criminal justice and victim assistance. A three-day criminal justice conference hosted by the United States Attorney's Office and cosponsored by the Nebraska County Attorneys Association is held in Kearney each year. Awards recognizing accomplishments in law enforcement presented at the 2007 conference are described in the following section of this report.

Training and conferences are held throughout the year across the state at various venues. The trainings hosted by the United States Attorney's Office in 2007 focused on a number of topics including gangs, drugs, firearm enforcement, search and

management issues, terrorism and infra-structure protection, consular notification, Indian country issues, victim issues, child sexual abuse and federal case development.

One particular training, co-hosted by the District of Nebraska, was the Fourth annual *Protect Our Children Conference*, held in St. Louis, Missouri, in September 2007. This annual conference focused on child sexual assault and on-line/internet sexual enticement of children. The conference drew over 400 criminal justice and social service professionals. The conference is co-hosted by eight United States Attorney's districts from Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Illinois. The 2008 conference will be held in Omaha, Nebraska, September 10-12.

Another effort coordinated by the United States Attorney's Office LECC Unit is the Weed and Seed program. Weed and Seed is a community-based, multi-agency approach to law enforcement, crime prevention, and neighborhood restoration. The Weed and Seed strategy brings federal, state, and local agencies together with prosecutors, social services providers, representatives of the public and private sectors, business owners, and neighborhood residents to further the common goal of weeding out crime while seeding in social services and economic revitalization. Weed and Seed sites have two designated sites in northeast Omaha, one southeast Omaha, and one in Thurston County that encompasses the Omaha and Winnebago Indian Reservations. The Weed and Seed sites benefit from federal financial assistance and increased strategic cooperative efforts directed to achieving the goals of the program.



HIDTA



In December, 1996, the Office of National Drug Policy (ONDCP) designated counties in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and South Dakota as the Midwest High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA). In February, 1999, designated counties in North Dakota joined the Midwest HIDTA. The goal of the Midwest HIDTA is to enhance and facilitate the coordination of regional drug-control efforts among local, state, and Federal law enforcement agencies in order to reduce drug trafficking and its harmful consequences in critical markets in the region. During 2007, Midwest HIDTA supported task forces and initiatives, and effectively used HIDTA program resources to investigate a growing number of drug related cases that posed significant threats to strategic drug markets and other communities within the Midwest HIDTA region.

The HIDTA state coordinator for Nebraska offices is in the United States Attorney's Office in Omaha. Co-location of the Nebraska HIDTA coordinator with the United States Attorney's Office's Project Safe Neighborhood (PSN) and Law Enforcement Community Coordination (LECC) staff greatly increases the interaction and effectiveness of all these law enforcement related efforts. The HIDTA Initiative, in addition to supporting law enforcement and prosecution, has developed a number of drug abuse prevention programs.



2007 LECC AWARDS



Charlie Venditte - Nebraska Attorney General's Office

Charlie Venditte is a retired Omaha Police Officer and former Criminal Investigator for the Nebraska Attorney General's Office and currently serves as a Criminal Investigator for the Douglas County Attorney's Office. Mr. Venditte was honored for his sustained efforts in the area of domestic violence. For ten years Charlie served as a Sergeant in the Domestic Violence Unit for the

Omaha Police Department. In this position he developed policy, and worked in collaboration with various agencies in the realm of domestic violence and victim issues.

Mr. Venditte became part of a team comprised of representatives of various state experts delivering state-wide training in rural areas for Community Response Teams. His expertise provided law enforcement with protocols for responding to domestic violence crimes.

Gregory Beninato - Federal Bureau of Investigation



In response to the significant increase in gang activity in the greater Omaha area, SA Greg Beninato was tasked with starting up the Omaha Safe Streets Task Force to conduct long-term investigations to combat the criminal street gangs operating in the greater Omaha area. As the Safe Streets Task Force coordinator, SA Beninato oversees the administrative operations of the task force to include coordination of matters relating to budget, facilities, vehicles, and equipment. Greg was the lead case agent of the ongoing MS-13 gang investigation.

SA Beninato has successfully targeted this gang through the use of informants, pen registers, and undercover drug purchases. Although this case is still ongoing, federal cases have been presented against approximately 19 of the gang's leaders. He is an integral component of the United States Attorney's Project Safe Neighborhoods gun violence initiative.



Chris Price - Nebraska State Patrol

Ms. Price serves as the Office Manager for the Nebraska State Patrol's Criminal Identification and Intelligence/Crime Analysis Division. She has taken a leadership role in the development, implementation, evaluation, and promotion of some of the most advanced projects ever launched by this state's criminal justice system. Among these projects are a new AFIS system which includes mobile devices for instant

checks; Nebraska Missing Persons Clearinghouse which establishes a stronger communication link with the National Center for Missing and exploited Children, the Nebraska Concealed Handgun permit law, and the Nebraska Criminal History Improvement Project which will improve law enforcement's ability to quickly access criminal records in a more efficient manner.

Ms. Price has been proactive in working with local law enforcement to identify persons with no criminal history record but should not receive Concealed Carry Permits due to other disqualifying activities. Ms. Price also partnered with an Omaha non-profit group to acquire and post photos of missing persons. Prior to the partnership, many individuals had no photos available for viewing on the state's web-site.

**Roger Freeze—
North Platte Police Department**

Investigator Freeze of North Platte was recognized for his development and maintenance of a department sponsored martial arts program for troubled and at-risk kids ages 6-17. The "No-Limits" program, in addition to emphasizing martial arts, also stresses life-skills such as respect, self-esteem, and discipline and helps them develop a positive outlook on life. The Police department supplies the uniforms and the rest of the program is dependent upon donations and fund-raising events. There are no costs to the students involved in the program which has served over 150 young people since its inception eight years ago. He has guided many youth who might otherwise end up in jail or other facilities, and developed productive citizens with a learned respect for others, confidence in themselves, and a positive outlook on life.





Deputies Kris Baker & James Parsons - Nemaha County Sheriff's Office

Deputy Parsons, K-9 Officer for the Nemaha County Sheriff's Office is assigned full-time to the SEADE drug task force. Kris Baker is the Chief Deputy for Nemaha County. Together these two have formed a partnership enforcing drug and violent crime in Nemaha County

and the surrounding area. In 2006 they were responsible for 22 arrests for controlled substances, eight arrests for possession with intent to deliver, and two arrests for felony possession of marijuana; another 50 individuals were cited on various misdemeanor drug charges. These arrests have resulted in the seizure of 160 lbs of marijuana, 3 lbs of Methamphetamine and smaller amounts of other narcotics and prescription drugs. Another case, as a result of an informant tip, resulted in the arrest of seven individuals on narcotics charges in Nemaha and Otoe county.

Sgt Clyde Church - Grand Island Police Department

Sergeant Church was recognized for his 34 years of law enforcement with the Grand Island Police Department and 14 years of service as a drug sergeant with the Tri City drug task force of Central Nebraska. Sergeant Church was instrumental in much of the groundwork culminating in the success Tri City has had since 1999.



These include the following arrests, seizures and statistics: 1007 drug arrests (408 prosecuted federally), 154 lbs of Methamphetamine, 154 lbs of Marijuana, 17lbs of Cocaine, \$311,000 currency, 263 firearms, 71 search warrants, and 101 clandestine lab calls.



Sergeant Brian Edins, Sergeant Eric Rice, Assistant U.S. Attorney Kim Bunjer, Investigator Jamey Balthazor and Investigator Rich Haseloh Nebraska State Patrol

These individuals were honored for their remarkable work on the investigation entitled Minuteman, a Methamphetamine investigation in the Lexington, Nebraska area. Hundreds of hours were spent on this investigation which included an enforcement operation in September

2006, that was conducted over a 48-hour period. As a result of this investigation 18 indictments were handed down by the federal grand jury. In September, 2006, authorities conducted a major arrest sweep of these individuals and executed two search warrants and several “knock and talk” operations. As a result of this investigation and several spin-off cases a number of firearms, drugs, drug paraphernalia and money were seized.

This complex and significant case was prosecuted by Kim Bunjer of the U.S. Attorney’s Office. In 2007, significant federal sentences were handed down on several of the defendants involved in these various cases - ranging from 37-235 months.

Omaha Police Officers George Collins, Jeffrey Gassaway, ATF agent Clay Nolte, AUSA Maria Moran



These individuals were honored for their work in the investigation and prosecution of narcotic and weapon offenses specifically concerning the Surenos street gang.

The officers put in endless hours identifying forfeiture assets, seizing assets, transporting arrested individuals to court, interviewing indicted individuals during proffer interviews, and the identification of new targets.

Twenty-five of the indicted individuals have pled guilty. Five individuals are still pending trial. In addition to the convictions, eleven firearms, seven vehicles, and approximately \$10,000 have been forfeited.

“Top Gun” Award



Don Klein - Douglas County Attorney

Mr. Klein was honored for a lifetime contribution to the criminal justice system. In November, 2006, Mr. Klein was elected Douglas County Attorney. After graduation from law school, he served as a Deputy Douglas County Attorney under Pinkey Knowles. For 10 years, Mr. Klein was in private practice, returning to the Douglas County Attorney's Office in 1991 serving as Chief Deputy County Attorney under Jim Jansen. While in the Douglas County Attorney's Office, he tried many high-profile criminal cases, which included Asa Carter, David Burdette and Thomas Freeman.

In 2003, Attorney General Jon Bruning named Don Klein Criminal Bureau Chief. Mr. Klein is a certified legal instructor by the Nebraska Commission of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice; he is on the faculty at Creighton University of Law and University of Nebraska - Omaha. He serves on the Board of Directors of Project Harmony, Executive Board of Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, the Nebraska Child Death Review team, and past president of the Nebraska County Attorneys Association.

2007 INEOA Award



For their extensive investigative efforts over the multi-year, multiple-defendant investigation, Federal Bureau of Investigation Special Agents Michael Kelleher, Drew Armstrong, Michele Stevenson and Ryan Williams, and Nebraska State Patrol Investigator Douglas Kelley were awarded Commendation Awards from the International Narcotics Enforcement Officers Association (INEOA), at its annual convention in Daytona Beach, Florida, in October, 2007.

In the fall of 2003, an FBI informant relayed information concerning possible drug dealing occurring in northeast Nebraska. The investigation involving state and federal agencies, which stretched from 2004 to 2007, ultimately focused on a car repair shop and auto sales business in Norfolk, Nebraska, and persons associated with that location. Further investigation, including undercover purchases of methamphetamine, consensual recordings of narcotics transactions, analysis of data obtained from pen registers and interviews and debriefings of cooperating witnesses led to the securing of Court authorization to intercept phone conversations over five telephone lines, insertion of a “bug” to intercept conversations of targets within the auto body repair business, and mounting of a pole camera to assist in surveillance of the business and activity in and around the shop.

Over 20,000 conversations, most in Spanish, were intercepted over the telephone lines. These conversations were translated, organized, and summarized to further identify additional possible targets and charges for Federal indictment. Investigators also employed measures to protect several cooperating witnesses after information obtained from informants and wire taps revealed discussions by individuals who intended to harm or kill cooperators. Additionally, unlike traditional drug investigations, the state and federal agents were unable to communicate with and utilize local law enforcement agencies in the investigation due to possible conflicts of interest.

Over 25 witnesses testified before the Federal Grand Jury. The first Federal indictments were filed in early 2005, and to date, thirty-six defendants have been convicted, resulting in lengthy sentences, including some in excess of 300 months in the Bureau of Prisons. Several defendants involved in the conspiracy came to the United States from Sinaloa, Mexico, and one convicted defendant is currently wanted in Mexico for a drug related homicide of a law enforcement official committed there. The investigations and prosecutions made a significant impact on the availability of methamphetamine, its price, and the number of drug distributors in the Madison County area.

WEBSITES OF INTEREST



Other U.S. Attorney's Offices: <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/>

Department of Justice: <http://www.usdoj.gov/>

Federal Bureau of Prisons: <http://www.bop.gov>

Federal Bureau of Investigation: <http://www.fbi.gov/>

Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services: <http://www.uscis.gov/>

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement: <http://www.ice.gov/>

U.S. Marshals Service: <http://www.usmarshals.gov/>

Extensive list of official Federal Government web sites: <http://www.usa.gov/>





**U.S. Attorney's Office
District of Nebraska
2007**

