

CIRCUIT ATTORNEY'S COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Our Mission: To Pursue Justice For All Citizens Within the Highest Standards of Ethical Behavior and Professionalism



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Help Combat Crimes

- If You See or Hear Suspicious Activity, Call the Police -- Trust Your Instinct!

- If You Witness a Crime, Call 911 Immediately, and Remember Key Details

- Get to Know Your Neighbors

- Get to Know Your Neighborhood Police Officers

- Come to Court and the Warrant Office when You Witness or Are the Victim of a Crime

MESSAGE FROM JENNIFER M. JOYCE

As the Circuit Attorney, I take my responsibility as your prosecutor seriously. Part of my job is to enforce the laws our State has in place to protect the safety and welfare of all children who live in the City of St. Louis.



Jennifer M. Joyce
Circuit Attorney

In each community newsletter, I provide a Child Support Update. This number represents the amount of money seized from drug dealers and re-directed to their outstanding child support payments. When a drug dealer is caught and his cash is taken as evidence by the Police Department, our Child Support Unit investigates the defendant's history to determine if he owes child support. If he has outstanding payments due, the CAO files a request with a judge to turn over all cashed seized to the defendant's children so they have the support they deserve.

In 2009 alone, the Child Support Unit was able to take a staggering \$57,320 from the hands of these drug dealers and donate it instead to their children's futures. My office takes pride in these numbers and the Child Support Unit will continue to work with the Police Department and other state agencies to ensure that all children's rights to child support are protected under Missouri law.

This quarter's newsletter is dedicated to giving you the information you need to best utilize the services of our Child Support Unit.

THE CHILD SUPPORT UNIT

Led by Director John Dockery, the Circuit Attorney's Child Support Unit is comprised of 8 attorneys, 10 investigators, and 5 support staff members who together handle approximately 150 new cases each month.

The primary purpose of the Unit is to establish and enforce orders referred to the CAO by the State of Missouri's

Department of Social Services Family Support Division in the case that the FSD is unsuccessful in establishing and/or enforcing a child support order.

The first step in the process is a review of each case by an Assistant Circuit Attorney to determine the next step. If the ACA determines that legal action is necessary,

the Child Support Unit works together to gather evidence and the facts of the case before it is filed in court.

The most common types of court proceedings available to the Child Support Unit are: establishing parentage, actions for contempt of child support orders, and prosecuting the crime of Criminal Non-Support.

From the Courtroom Central Patrol

ACA Jennifer Szczucinski finally secured justice for a young victim of a rape case that had gone unsolved for more than 10 years with the help of Investigator Bob Glynn. **Julius**



Worthy was 27 years old in 1996 when he dragged a 15 year-old girl from a bus stop into a gangway where he

threatened to kill her, raped her and stole her purse. Worthy was identified in 2008 from a CODIS hit matching his DNA to DNA from the victim's underwear. Worthy pleaded guilty midway through his trial and was sentenced by Judge Garvey in Division 3 to 20 years MDC.

North Patrol

ACA John Bird worked with Investigator Donnie Williams to obtain a life sentence for a murderer with a violent criminal history. In February 2008, defendant **Ronald Halkmon** shot his victim in the back without warning at a resident in the Wells/Goodfellow neighborhood. Dragging the dead man onto the front porch, Halkmon then enlisted two friends who together dug through his pockets to steal his money and possessions. Halkmon was convicted by a jury of Murder 1st, 2 counts Armed Criminal Action, and Robbery 1st and sentenced on November 19, 2009 by Judge Wilson in Division 23. He will serve Life without Parole at MDC.

South Patrol

ACA John Wright worked with Investigator Joe Hoeing in a gambling theft at Downtown's Lumiere Casino in May 2009. Defendant **Terry Grau** was caught on video sliding his neighbor's chips over to his own stack when the unsuspecting victim left the table to use the restroom. He was convicted by a jury of Stealing Under \$500 on February 1, 2010 and is currently awaiting sentencing.

CHILD SUPPORT UNIT STAFF PROFILES

John Dockery Director

John Dockery has devoted over 35 years to his work as an attorney at the CAO, dedicating the past 25 to his current position as Director of the Child Support Unit. He oversees a staff who together handle approximately 4,000 pending child support establishment and enforcement cases.

Dockery takes pride in his team's commitment and perseverance. "We are challenged every day by both clients who feel they deserve more and parents who want to avoid financial responsibility for their children." Despite the daily struggles, Dockery points to a staggering statistic. "95% of single parents should be either paying support, getting support, or have a friend who needs support." By ensuring that State orders are enforced,

Dockery's Child Support Unit dutifully seeks justice for children, and that duty, maintains Dockery, "is the greatest satisfaction of all."

Marta Tilney Team Leader

Attorney Team Leader Marta Tilney has practiced law for over 30 years and currently works on federal bankruptcy matters relating to child support collection. She is passionate about mentoring new Assistant Circuit Attorneys in the Unit and is inspired by her colleagues' motivation, taking pride in their "ability to tackle extremely large caseloads and to work together with integrity during tough budget times."

Tilney emphasizes her commitment to the larger community in her work with local groups and family courts to seek grant funding for education and training initiatives. She maintains, "Child support programs can break the cycle of poverty and bring a genera-

tion into self-sufficiency."

Carrie Spencer Chief Investigator

Chief Investigator Carrie Spencer has worked for the Circuit Attorney's Office for 30 years, the last 15 of which have been devoted to her current career supervising a team of investigators who undertake a variety of tasks including establishing child support orders, monitoring payments of defendants on probation, and preparing cases for criminal consideration. Spencer works directly with the Asset Removal Unit of the St. Louis Police Department in the CAO's project to obtain information on drug offenders who owe child support payments and re-allocate seized cash. The Chief Investigator modestly reflects on her valuable and essential work as "not the most glamorous job" and finds inspiration in the "personal satisfaction that what we do is so important for the children of Missouri."

DID YOU KNOW...

THE RIGHT TO SELF-DEFENSE AND THE CASTLE DOCTRINE

Part of the CAO's role in defending justice includes making sure St. Louis citizens are aware of all their rights under Missouri law. As Circuit Attorney Jennifer Joyce maintains, "St. Louis citizens deserve to know their legal rights *before* they are attacked. By working together to proactively prevent crime, we are far more powerful as a community."

The Right to Self-Defense

According to Missouri statute, if a person *reasonably believes he is in imminent danger of harm from another*, he is entitled to use the *amount of force he reasonably believes is necessary* to protect himself. More simply, if a

person *believes* that another is going to cause him harm, the law allows him to protect himself.

In fact, according to the law it does not matter if the victim is actually attacked. He must only believe that there is a real threat to his person. "Reasonable" then means that if a rational person in the same situation would act similarly.

A person can use *deadly force* in self-defense only if he believes another is going to either kill or seriously injure him and it is the only means to prevent that outcome.

The Right to Defend Another

The right to defend another person is very similar. If a

person *reasonably* believes that another person is about to be hurt, he may use force to protect a victim who cannot defend himself.

The Right to Defend a Premises

Many states have different versions of what is commonly known as the "Castle Doctrine," or the right to defend yourself against an intruder on your property. If a person unlawfully enters or attempts to enter a residence or vehicle lawfully occupied by another, the victim may use deadly force to defend against that intruder's entry. However, the victim must reasonably believe force is necessary to defend himself against the unlawful intruder.

THE CAO CRIME FILES

GLENNON ENGLEMAN

On January 14, 1980, officers of the St. Louis Police Department were dispatched to the scene of a reported explosion at 3530 Miami. To their horror, the officers arrived to discover what appeared to be a woman trapped inside a burning vehicle. The blast had completely severed her left hand and lower abdomen from the rest of her body. The victim was later identified as Sophie Barrera, the 58 year-old owner of Barrera Dental Laboratory.

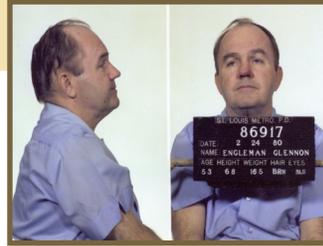
Upon further investigation, officers discovered an eerie twist in the case they now realized was no accident but in fact a carefully planned murder. A year before the explosion that took her life, a bomb was detonated outside Ms. Barrera's apartment. No one was injured.

In an interview with police, Barrera maintained that the only individual with a potential motive to harm her was dentist Glennon

Engelman. Ms. Barrera had recently filed a lawsuit against Engelman for approximately \$14,000 in unpaid lab fees. Her untimely death would clearly benefit the dentist. Barrera was in fact ultimately killed exactly seven days before the case was scheduled to be tried.

After her death, police interviews with Barrera's ex-husband strengthened the case against Engelman. Mr. Barrera revealed that he and his ex-wife had together openly reached the conclusion that Dr. Engelman unquestionably perpetrated the apartment bombing. Strikingly, Ms. Barrera's son even disclosed to detectives that his mother had months ago insisted she would die a violent death but refused to elaborate further.

Glennon Engelman was arrested and charged with Capital Murder in the death of Sophie Barrera. On



Glennon Engelman

March 16, 1981, Engelman was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of probation or parole for 50 years. In yet another twist, Engelman had already been convicted of murder in a case of attempted insurance fraud. The violent criminal was a suspect in a shocking five additional murders for hire.

This article was contributed by CAO staff member Katie Barbeau. For more information on historic St. Louis trials, visit our website at www.circuitattorney.org.

CHILD SUPPORT UPDATE

The drug money seized and re-allocated by the Child Support Unit so far in 2010 is an incredible \$6,037.00. **That's money taken out of the hands of drug dealers and given to needy families instead.**

From the Courtroom Central Patrol

The College Hill neighborhood is a safer place after [ACA Jennifer Matthew](#) and [Investigators Vince Kolafa](#) and [Paul Kurczynski](#) successfully prosecuted dangerous drug offender **Cory Riley**. Charged with Trafficking 2nd, the defendant might have escaped a tough sentence if Detective Dan Sweeney had not testified during Riley's sentencing about the criminal's violent past. Riley pleaded guilty and was sentenced by Judge Ohmer in Decision 13 to 15 years MDC.

North Patrol

After openly firing a previously concealed firearm into the air in the Walnut Park West neighborhood in November 2008, prior and persistent drug offender **Shelton Larkin** was immediately arrested by officers. Already on federal parole, Larkin was charged with Unlawful Possession of a Firearm and Unlawful Use of a Weapon. [ACA Mahrya Fulfer](#) and [Investigator Bob Glynn](#) handled the case in Division 20, and Larkin was sentenced by Judge McCullen to 9 years at MDC.

South Patrol

Burglar **Donald Lewis** can no longer terrorize the Downtown and Dutchtown neighborhoods. Between January and July of 2009, Lewis stole from St. Louis residents by invading their properties and making off with their valuables. Many of these crimes remained unsolved, as Lewis was often able to escape before the victims returned. Finally confronted by one resident, Lewis was forced to flee and leave his car behind. When arrested, Lewis bragged that he had been responsible for over 50 burglaries and provided addresses to match reports with previously unknown suspects. Lewis pleaded guilty to 12 counts of Burglary 2nd and 11 counts of stealing for a series of copper theft burglaries. [ACA Jason Steinmeyer](#) and [Investigator Lenny Deschler](#) handled the case and Lewis was sentenced by Judge Riley in Division 7 to 3 years MDC.

POLICE OFFICER OF THE QUARTER: OFFICER NICHOLAS MARTORANO

We are extremely pleased to announce that the Winter 2010 Police Officer of the Quarter is **Officer Nicholas Martorano**.

Officer Martorano spotted defendant George Treadway walking aimlessly across a vacant lot in the Fairground neighborhood in June 2009. Without warning, Treadway suddenly threw an item into the bushes and the officer immediately retrieved what turned out to be a loaded firearm.

Officer Martorano served as the State's primary witness in the January 2010 trial of

this prior drug offender now charged with Unlawful Possession of a Firearm and Unlawful Use of a Weapon. Although it was his first time testifying, Martorano's meticulous preparation, extensive knowledge of the facts of the case and familiarity with the neighborhood allowed him to offer such strong testimony that several members of the CAO staff endorsed his nomination.

ACA Jeff Ernst remarked on Martorano's dedication, "He not only clearly knew the facts and his report, he even requested that we meet

early in the morning before trial. He made it a priority to improve upon his skills." Observing the trial, Ernst's Team Leader Krista Boston immediately noticed Martorano's exceptional composure under intense cross-examination from an experienced defense attorney. Boston maintains, "He calmly articulated his point when the defense twisted his testimony." Due in part to Officer Martorano's contribution, George Treadway was found guilty by a jury of both counts and sentenced on January 8, 2010 to 11 years MDC by Judge Bush in Division 4.

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Jennifer M. Joyce,
 Circuit Attorney

OFFICE INFORMATION AND IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

The Circuit Attorney is the prosecutor for State-level criminal cases in the City of St. Louis. The Circuit Attorney's Office stands against those who break the law by holding them accountable for their actions. The Circuit Attorney is elected by the citizens of the City of St. Louis. The current Circuit Attorney, Jennifer M. Joyce, works with a staff of lawyers, investigators, and other professionals to protect the public by pursuing justice for all.



Mel Carnahan Courthouse

The Office is one of the largest law firms in the St. Louis region. It has more than 60 attorneys, 30 investigators, 11 victim professionals, and 20 support professionals. The Office handles approximately 4000 felonies and 8000 misdemeanors per year; and has a remarkable 98 percent over all conviction rate.

Fire, Police & Ambulance -----	911
Victim Services -----	(314) 622-4373
Child Abuse Hotline -----	1-800-392-3738
Circuit Clerk -----	(314) 622-3728
Orders of Protection/Adult Abuse Hotline -----	(314) 622-4434
City Hall -----	(314) 622-4000
Sexual Abuse Response Team (SART) -----	(314) 531-7273
Neighborhood Stabilization Office -----	(314) 657-1392
Fraud Assistance Line -----	(314) 612-1412