

District Attorney's Office

17th Judicial District

**Serving Adams and
Broomfield
Counties**

**District Attorney
Brian S. Mason**

**AC-REP LEAD
Metro North**

**Wednesday
May 31, 2023**



The District Attorney's Office

LEADERSHIP:

Elected District Attorney Brian Mason
Assistant District Attorneys
Rhoda Pilmer and Jess Redman

DIVISIONS:

District Court (Felonies)
County Court (Misdemeanors and Traffic Cases)
Juvenile
Child Victim Unit
Special Victims Unit
Financial Crimes Unit
Drug Trafficking Unit
Appeals
Felony Intake
Investigations
Paralegals/Support Staff
Victim Witness
Restitution/Crime Victim Compensation
Diversion



17th Judicial District

Counties:

ADAMS AND BROOMFIELD

Municipalities:

Westminster (Part)

Broomfield

Commerce City

Brighton

Federal Heights

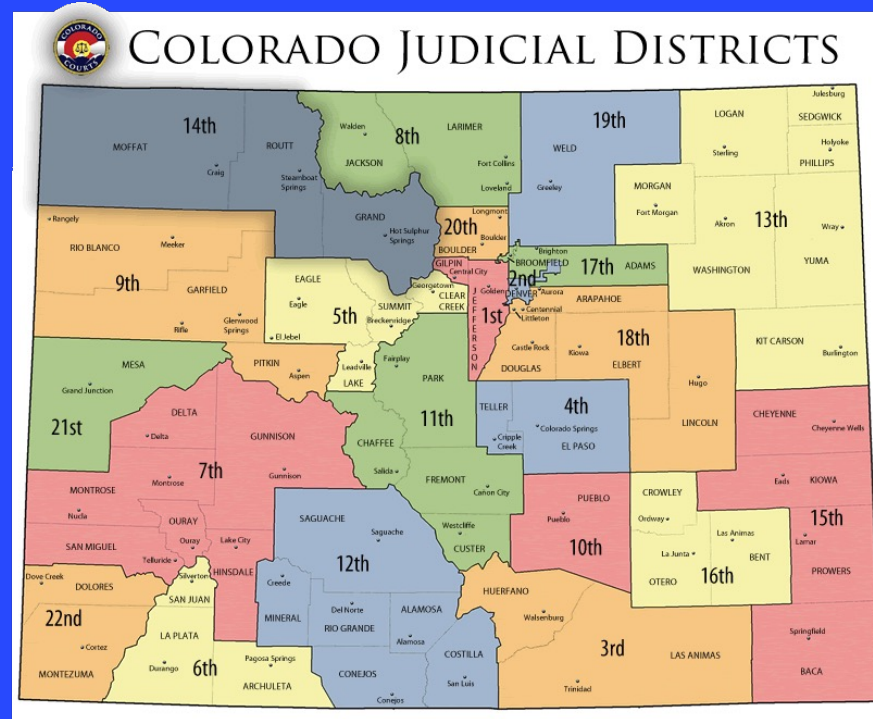
Aurora (Part)

Thornton

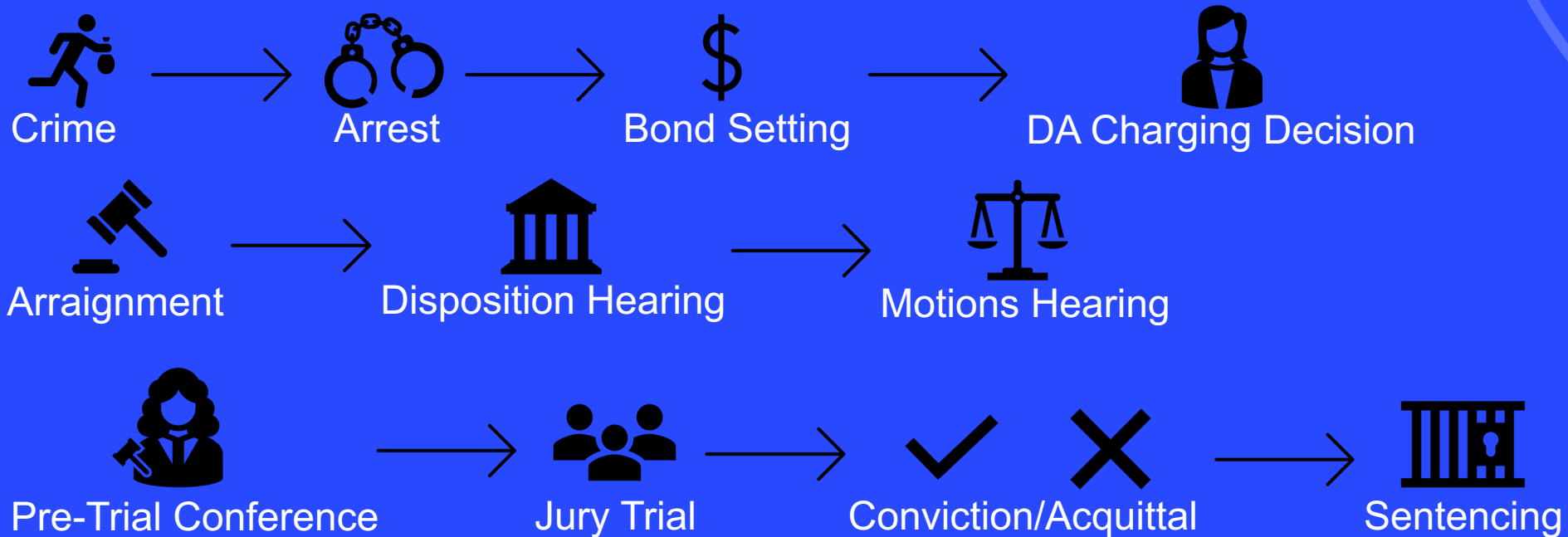
Northglenn

Arvada (Part)

Rural Adams County (Bennett/Strasburg)



Criminal Justice Process



Jury Trial Process – Important Citizen Service

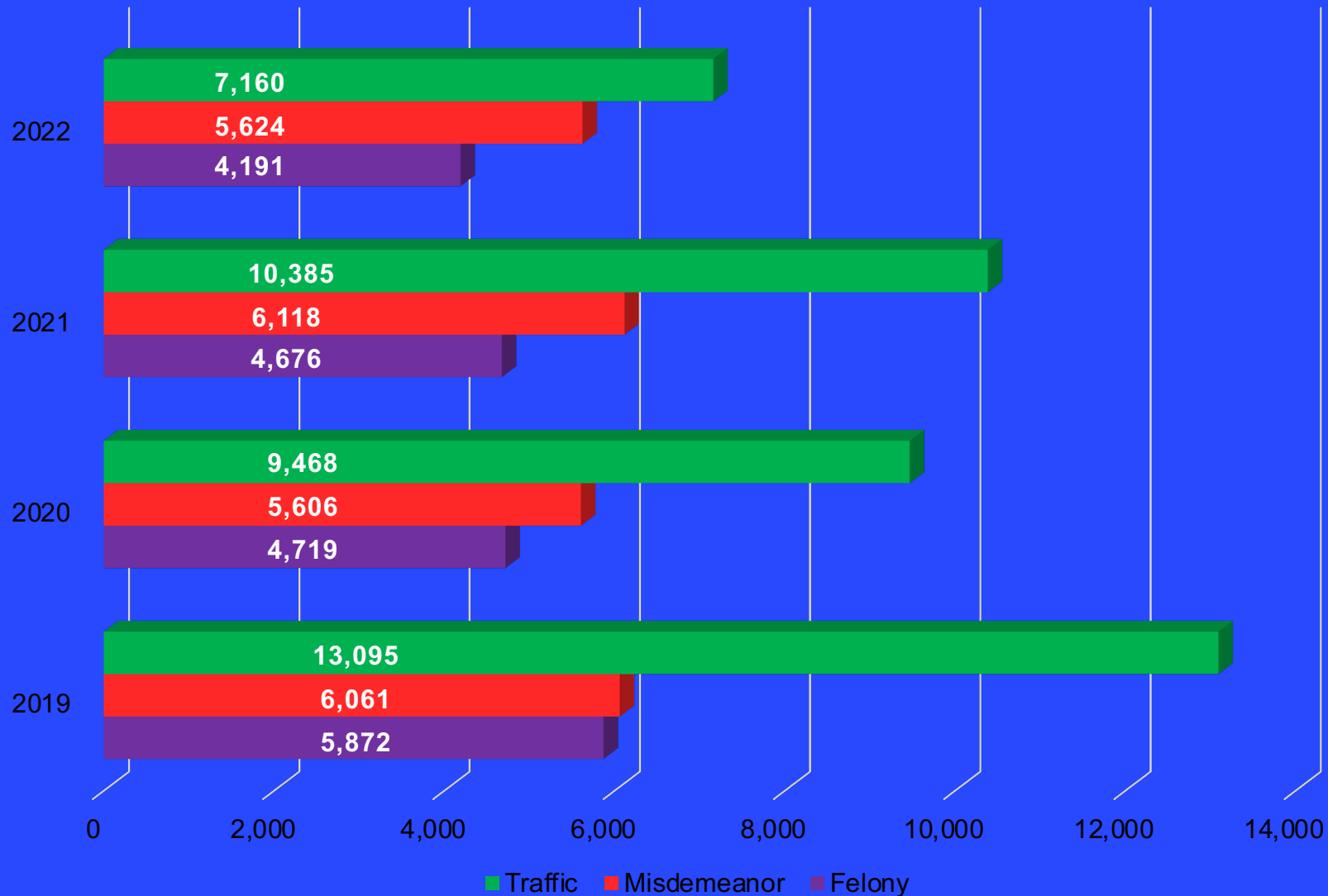
What you will see/hear as a Citizen Juror:

- Jury Summons
- Jury Selection Process – Voir Dire
- Openings
- Prosecution’s Case – The People
 - Objections during
- The People Rest
- Defense Case – may be nothing
- Closings
- Jury Instructions
- Deliberation

What you will not see/hear:

- Evidence or statements that violate our Rules of Evidence
- Legal Arguments – Judge decides matters of law
- Sentencing

District Attorney's Office Caseload



Types of Charges

FELONIES:

Murder

Robbery

Sex Assault

Sex Assault Against a Child

Kidnapping

1st-Degree Assault

Drugs

MISDEMEANORS:

Theft of Property

DUI/DWI

Criminal Mischief

Indecent Exposure

Domestic Violence

Traffic

Drugs

Harassment

Office Priorities

VIOLENT CRIME:

- **Number of Murder Cases Open in the 17th Judicial District: 52**
 - *2017-Current: Murder 1 and Murder 2 (Numbers Pulled on 5/25/2023)*
- **Recent Cases:**
 - **Defendant Sentenced to Prison for Fatally Shooting Man 13 Times in Northglenn**
 - **Guilty Plea to 2nd Degree Murder**
 - **40 Years DOC**
 - **Drug Dispute: Victim Owed Defendant Money**
 - **Victim's BIL, SIL, and Child Were in Home**
 - **Defendant Convicted of First-Degree Murder; Sentenced to Life in Prison for Beating, Fatally Shooting Westminster Man**
 - **Convicted of First-Degree Murder by Adams Co. Jury**
 - **Sentenced to Life in Prison W/O Parole**
 - **Victim and Defendant Involved in Ongoing Dispute**
 - **Defendant Shot Victim in Parking Lot of his Apartment Complex**
 - **Defendant Convicted of Murder for Shooting Man in Head, Dumping Body in Field**
 - **Convicted of Second-Degree Murder by Adams Co. Jury**
 - **Sentencing in October**
 - **20-Year-Old Defendant Shot Victim in Head While Driving His Truck in Westminster During a Drug Deal; Dumped Body in a Field in Westminster**
 - **Defendant Tried to Use Self-Defense**

Office Priorities

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:

- Created a Special Victims Unit to handle complicated and sensitive DV cases
- Worked to form the 17th's first ever Domestic Violence High-Risk Team to better support survivors of DV



FENTANYL:

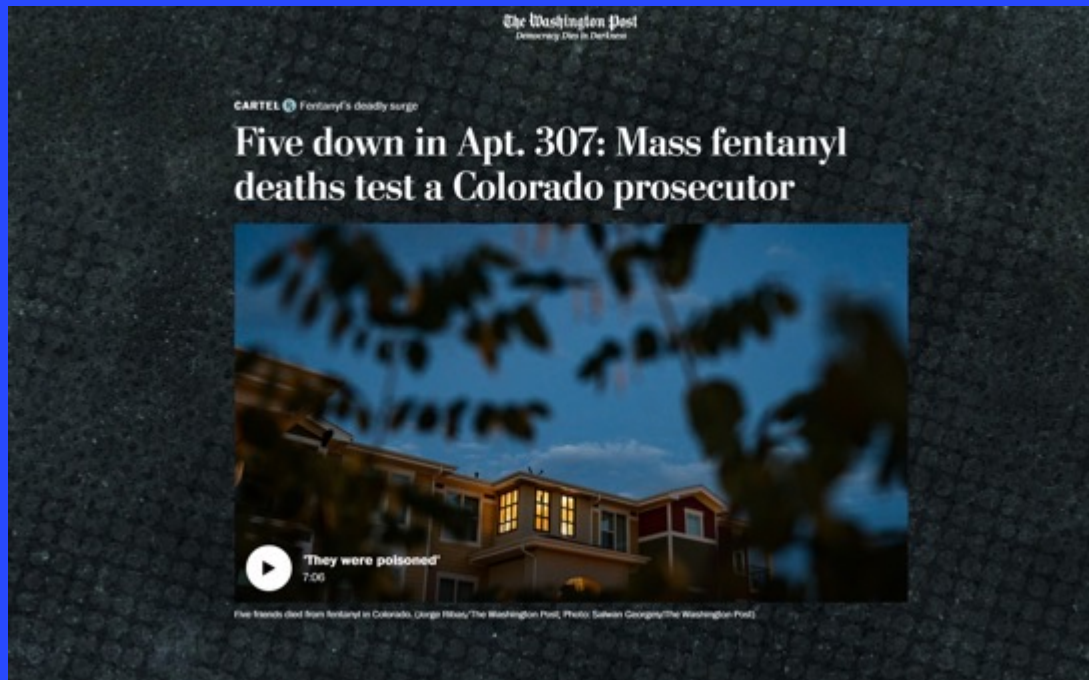
- Helped to pass a law at the Capitol during the 2022 Colorado Legislative Session that will strengthen our ability to police and prosecute fentanyl cases
- 17th DA's Office taking deeper approach to combating fentanyl through prosecution



KDVR Story on Fentanyl Deaths in Commerce City



Washington Post Article on Commerce City Fentanyl Case



Office Priorities

MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT:

- Convened Local Law Enforcement Working Group
- Liaisons Assigned to Metro Auto Theft Task Force
- Flag Auto Theft Cases
- Fight for Stiffer Sentences



MENTAL HEALTH:

- Created Mental Health Hotline for Kids
- Helped Pass Legislation to Improve Colorado's Mental Health System for Adults, Youth, and Those Who Work in Law Enforcement



CBS 4 Story on Motor Vehicle Theft



What Does the District Attorney Do?

Administrative:

- Run an office of 230 employees
 - Hire new employees
 - Make decisions on salary, promotions, performance reviews, etc.
 - Handle personnel related matters

Legal:

- Oversee 30,000+ criminal cases
- Personally file all homicide cases
- Make legal decision on appeals, filings, and major case resolutions
- Make legal decisions on all officer-involved shooting cases
- Prosecute a limited number of cases personally
- Go to homicide scenes and officer-involved shooting scenes



What Does the District Attorney Do?

Community:

- Host In-Person and Virtual Town Halls
- Collaborate with the Adams County Commissioners and all municipal city councils in my jurisdiction on issues from housing to crime reduction
- Speak to various community groups and city councils about criminal justice topics that impact their lives
- Partnership with Home Depot to address retail crime across 17th Judicial District – national model
- Represent the office at community events, fairs, etc.
- Quist Middle School Art Collaboration/Lemonade Stand Project



Political and Policy:



- Work with the Governor and State Legislators on criminal justice issues and legislation. For example:
 - Mental Health - HB21-1258 Free Mental health, HB21-1068 - three free mental health visits for youth, SB22-188 Mental Health/Peer Support programs for DAs and PDs
 - HB22-1326 Fentanyl Accountability & Prevention Act
 - SB23-097 - Motor Vehicle Theft & Unauthorized Use
 - Firearm Safety Bills regarding Safe Storage, Raise Age of Purchase, 3-day Waiting Period, and Ghost Guns
- Convene Events to Improve Criminal Justice and Community Safety
 - Statewide Fentanyl Summit
 - Financial Crimes Investigation Training
 - School District SRO Summit
 - Chair of Adams/Broomfield Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

Questions??

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