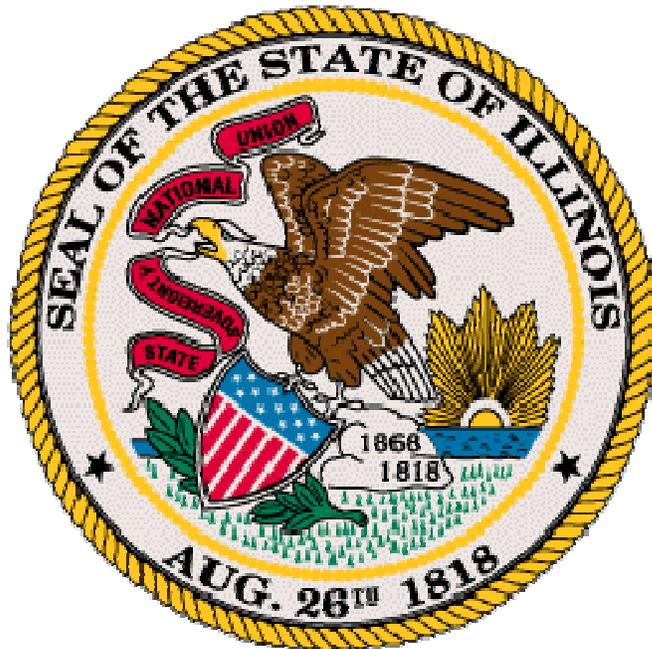


Office of the State's Attorney Union County, Illinois

2011 Annual Report



**Tyler R. Edmonds,
State's Attorney**

The qualities of a good prosecutor are as elusive and impossible to define as those which mark a gentleman. And those who need to be told would not understand it anyway. A sensitiveness to fair play and sportsmanship is perhaps the best protection against the abuse of power, and the citizen's safety lies in the prosecutor who tempers zeal with human kindness, who seeks truth and not victims, who serves the law and not factional purposes, and who approaches his task with humility.

*- Robert H. Jackson, United States Attorney General,
April 1940*

A Letter from the State's Attorney

It continues to be my honor and privilege to serve as your State's Attorney and I am again pleased to present our Annual Report for your review. Publication of the State's Attorney's Annual Report is an important means to promote transparency and accountability while also updating elected officials, law enforcement and social service agencies, and the citizens of Union County on efforts of the State's Attorney's Office during the past year.

This Annual Report provides information regarding the structure, staffing, funding and expenditures of the State's Attorney's Office as well as a breakdown of cases filed, fines and restitution to crime victims.

The services provided by the State's Attorney's Office are only possible because of a dedicated staff and the efforts of law enforcement and other agencies such as the Department of Children and Family Services and the Child Advocacy Center. I hope this Annual Report increases public awareness of the hard work of these individuals while also providing important information regarding the efforts of this office in 2011.

Sincerely,



Tyler R. Edmonds
Union County State's Attorney

Office Overview

The Union County State's Attorney's Office is responsible for prosecuting all violations of criminal law occurring within Union County on behalf of the People of the State of Illinois. Additionally, the office serves as legal counsel to Union County government including the Board of County Commissioners and other elected officials. The State's Attorney's Office also prosecutes violations of Union County ordinances and represents the County in civil court proceedings.

The State's Attorney's Office consists of three full-time attorneys and two full-time legal assistants. The office's Victim Advocate Unit provides services to crime victims and consists of one full-time Victim Advocate and a part-time Victim-Witness Coordinator.

The guiding principle for the Union County State's Attorney's Office is found in Illinois Supreme Court Rule 3.8:

The duty of a public prosecutor . . . is to seek justice, not merely to convict.

In each individual case, the office seeks to ensure that justice is served for all parties involved and for the People of the State of Illinois.

Significant Office Accomplishments

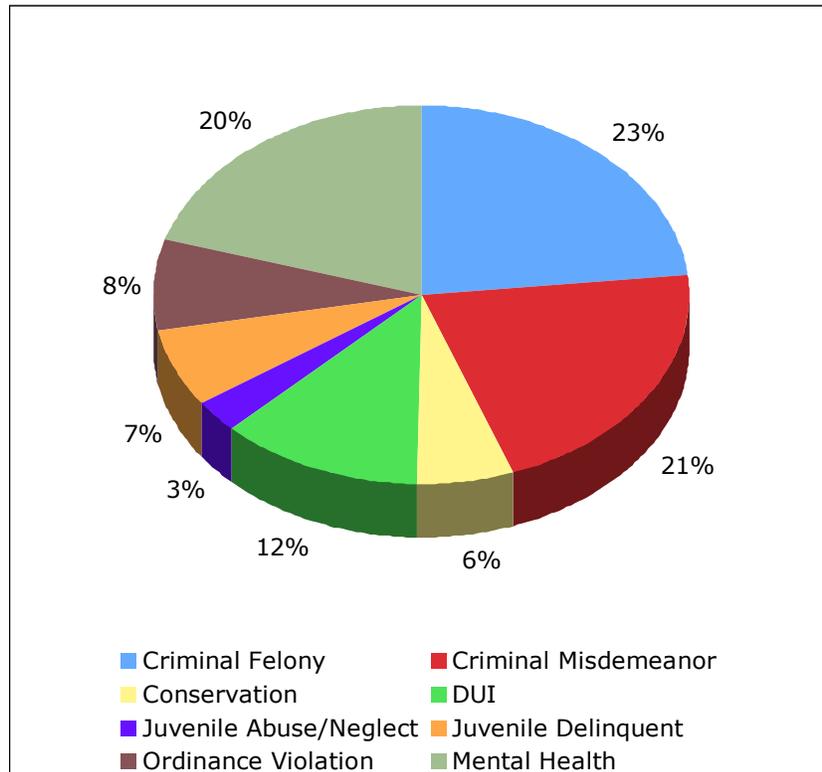
- Anna man sentenced to 25 years for Vehicular Highjacking
- Cobden man sentenced to 8.5 years for Reckless Homicide
- Carbondale man sentenced to 7 years for Aggravated DUI
- Collected nearly \$300,000 in fines, forfeitures and other costs to criminal defendants including more than \$28,000 in restitution to crime victims
- Provided services to 771 crime victims
- Negotiated new jail contract resulting in significant savings to county taxpayers

Criminal Prosecution

The State's Attorney's Office is responsible for prosecuting all crimes that occur within Union County and pursuing certain civil matters including Juvenile Abuse and Neglect cases and involuntary mental health commitments. During 2011, 5038 cases were opened with the following breakdown:

<u>Case Type</u>	<u>Filings</u>
Criminal Felony	203
Criminal Misdemeanor	186
Conservation	51
DUI	108
Juvenile Abuse/Neglect	23
Juvenile Delinquent	58
Ordinance Violation	68
Mental Health	178
Traffic	2912
Total	3787

Excluding traffic citations, these cases compare as follows:



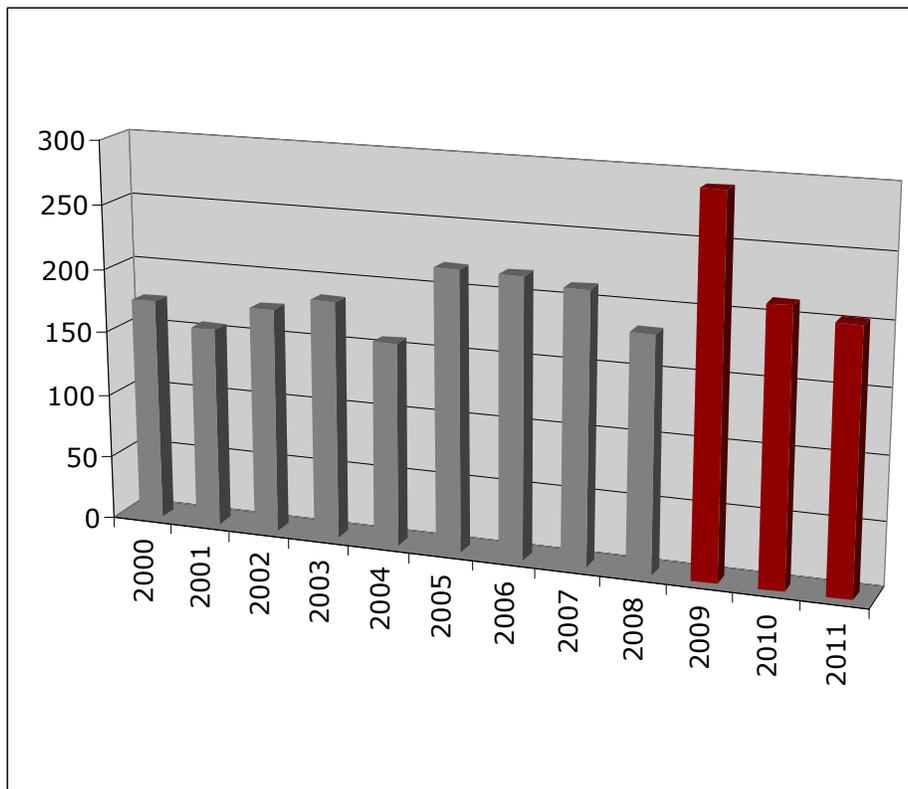
Felony Cases

Felonies Filed

During 2011, the State's Attorney's Office again filed more than 200 felony cases.

Year	Felony Cases Filed
2000	174
2001	156
2002	176
2003	186
2004	158
2005	219
2006	218
2007	212
2008	183
2009	292
2010	213
2011	203

These numbers can be compared as follows:

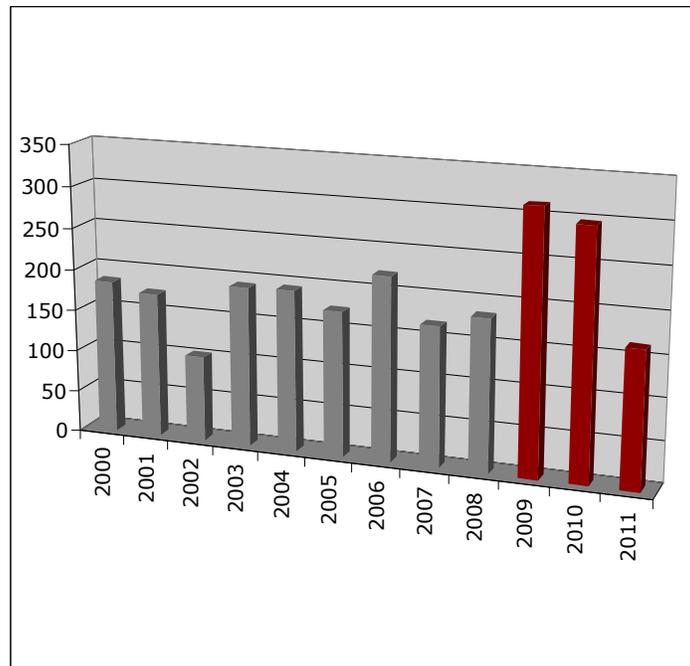


Felony Dispositions

Since 2009, the State's Attorney's Office has undertaken a concerted effort to reduce the backlog of open cases and achieved dispositions in approximately 300 felony cases in both the years 2009 and 2010. Reduction of this backlog allowed 2011 dispositions to return to a number more in line with the average of the past decade. Moving cases quickly and efficiently through the court system results in better outcomes at trial, protects the public from repeat offenders and provides certainty and closure for victims and the community.

Year	Felony Dispositions
2000	184
2001	174
2002	103
2003	192
2004	194
2005	174
2006	221
2007	168
2008	183
2009	314
2010	297
2011	164

These numbers can be compared as follows:

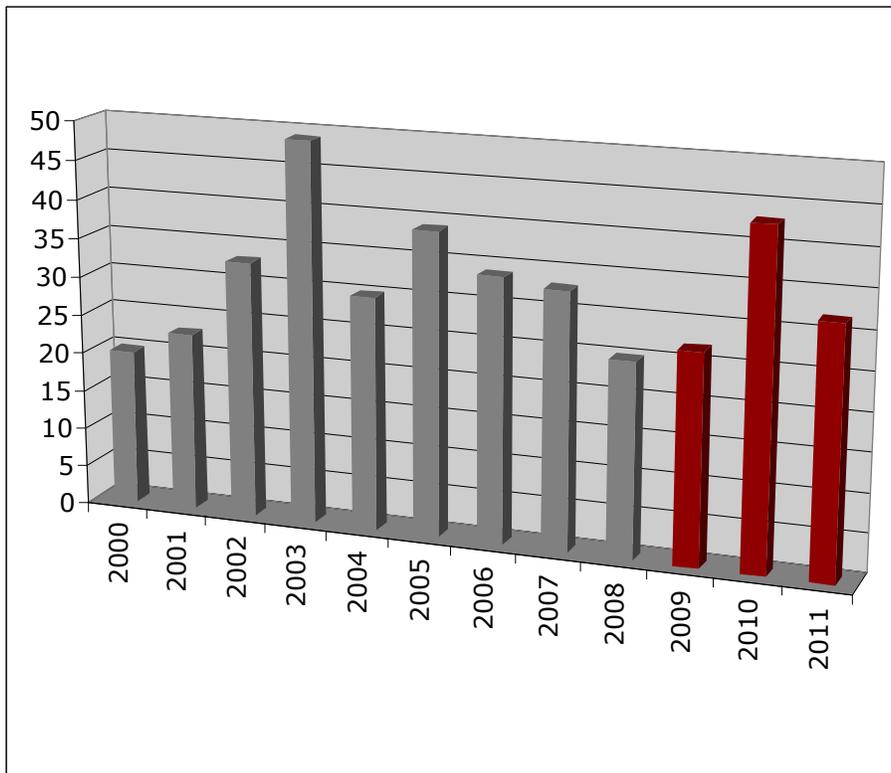


Department of Corrections Sentences

In certain felony matters, sentences to the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) are necessary to protect the public. In 2011, the State's Attorney's Office obtained convictions resulting in 32 IDOC sentences.

Year	IDOC Sentences
2000	20
2001	23
2002	33
2003	49
2004	30
2005	39
2006	34
2007	33
2008	25
2009	27
2010	43
2011	32

These numbers can be compared as follows:

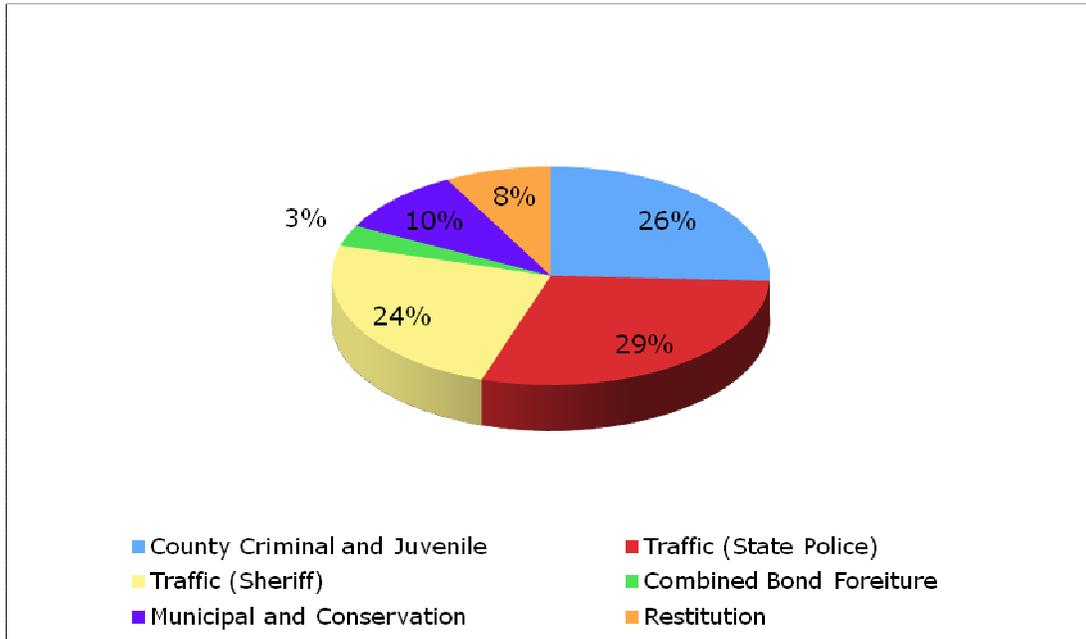


Fines and Restitution

During 2011, the State's Attorney's Office collected nearly \$300,000 in fines, forfeitures and other costs to criminal defendants. This amount includes over \$28,000 in restitution to crime victims.

Type of Fine / Judgment	Amount
County Criminal and Juvenile	\$76,731.85
Traffic (State Police)	\$87,573.76
Traffic (Sheriff)	\$72,634.30
Bond Forfeitures	\$9,181.00
Restitution	\$28,583.76
Municipal Traffic and Conservation	\$23,473.63
Total	\$298,178.30

These numbers can be compared as follows:



Victim's Advocate Unit

The State's Attorney's Office's Victim's Advocate Unit (VAU) provides a variety of services to crime victims to help lessen the trauma associated with victimization. The VAU consists of one Victim's Advocate and one Victim/Witness Coordinator providing a variety of services including:

- assistance in seeking orders of protection
- 24-hour crisis intervention
- orientation to court process and procedure
- regular updates regarding case status and disposition
- personal, legal and medical advocacy as well as emotional support
- referrals to appropriate social service agencies
- assistance in applying for victim compensation through the Illinois Attorney General's Office.
- enrollment in Illinois Automated Victim Notification System providing victims with automatic updates regarding case and custody status

During 2011, the VAU provided services to 771 crime victims.

Civil Practice

The State's Attorney's Office is responsible for legal representation of the County of Union as well as Union County elected officials. The office provides a variety of services in fulfilling these obligations including pursuing and defending civil litigation, negotiating collective bargaining agreements, real property transactions and contracts, and representing the County in grievance and administrative proceedings.

Funding Sources and Expenditures

During 2011, expenditures of the State's Attorney's Office were more than \$3,000 under budget.

Allocated budgetary funds totaled \$382,631.99 with \$93,681.99 coming from state and federal grant funding, \$116,961.04 coming from state reimbursements and the remaining \$171,988.96 coming from the county general fund. Expenditures for 2011 totaled \$379,397.41. The funding sources and expenditures for 2011 are broken down as follows:

Budgetary Funding Sources

Grants	\$93,681.99
State of Illinois	\$116,961.04
County	\$171,988.96
Total	\$382,631.99

Expenditures

Salaries	\$352,498.24
Office Expenses	\$17,047.44
Appellate Fees	\$7,000.00
Total	\$379,397.41



**Office of the State's Attorney
Union County, Illinois**

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State's Attorney**

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