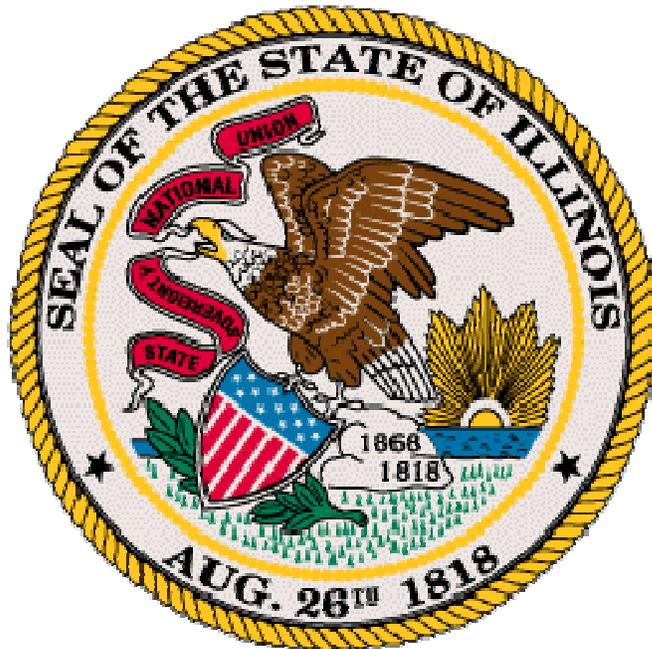


**Office of the State's Attorney  
Union County, Illinois**

**2010 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. I would particularly like to highlight this office's continued effort to reduce a multi-year backlog of open felony cases in an effort to improve case outcomes, protect the community from repeat offenders and provide closure and certainty for victims. Both 2009 and 2010 saw an increase in felony dispositions of approximately 50 percent over the average of the previous decade. During 2010, the State's Attorney's Office also partnered with the Sheriff and County Clerk to implement an Election Integrity Program and developed a new initiative to combat domestic violence and juvenile abuse.

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 2010.

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**

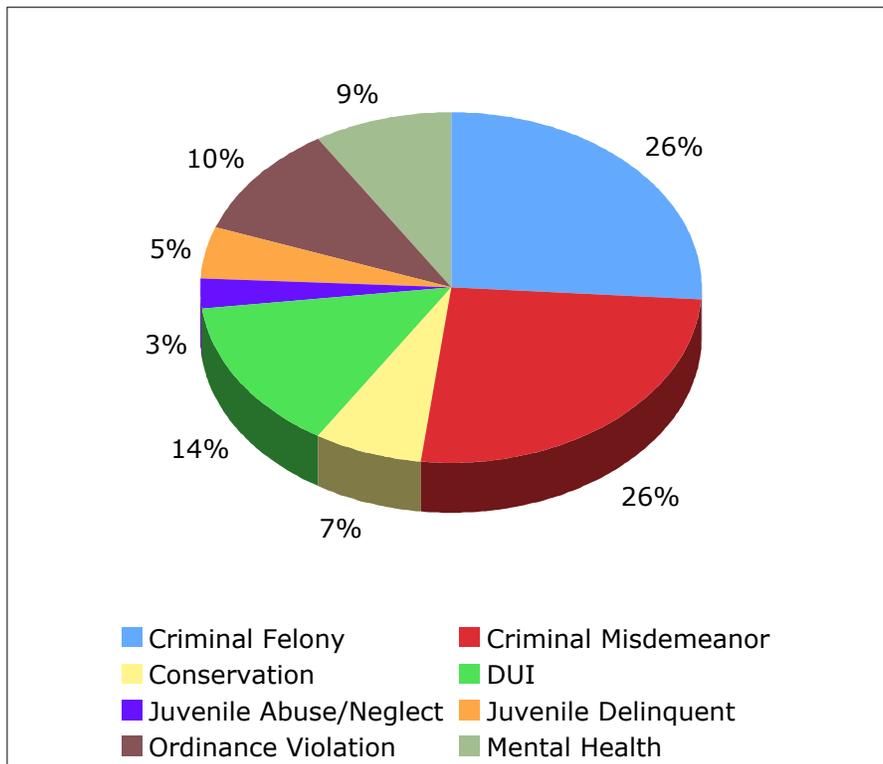
- Anna man sentenced to 23 years for Attempted Murder
- Jonesboro man sentenced to 22 years for Sexual Assault
- Anna man sentenced to 20 years for Solicitation of Murder for Hire
- Obtained judgments on over \$444,000 in fines, forfeitures and other costs to criminal defendants including nearly \$78,000 in restitution to crime victims
- Provided services to nearly 650 crime victims
- Partnered with Sheriff and County Clerk to implement an election monitoring program to protect voting rights and ensure integrity of election process
- Implemented a new domestic violence and juvenile initiative to help victims overcome the cycle of abuse and violence in the home
- Partnered with Circuit Clerk to implement program to collect past due court fines and fees

## **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 2010, 5038 cases were opened with the following breakdown:

| <u><b>Case Type</b></u> | <u><b>Filings</b></u> |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Criminal Felony         | 213                   |
| Criminal Misdemeanor    | 210                   |
| Conservation            | 56                    |
| DUI                     | 116                   |
| Juvenile Abuse/Neglect  | 21                    |
| Juvenile Delinquent     | 40                    |
| Ordinance Violation     | 84                    |
| Mental Health           | 73                    |
| Traffic                 | 4225                  |
| <b>Total</b>            | <b>5038</b>           |

Excluding traffic citations, these cases compare as follows:



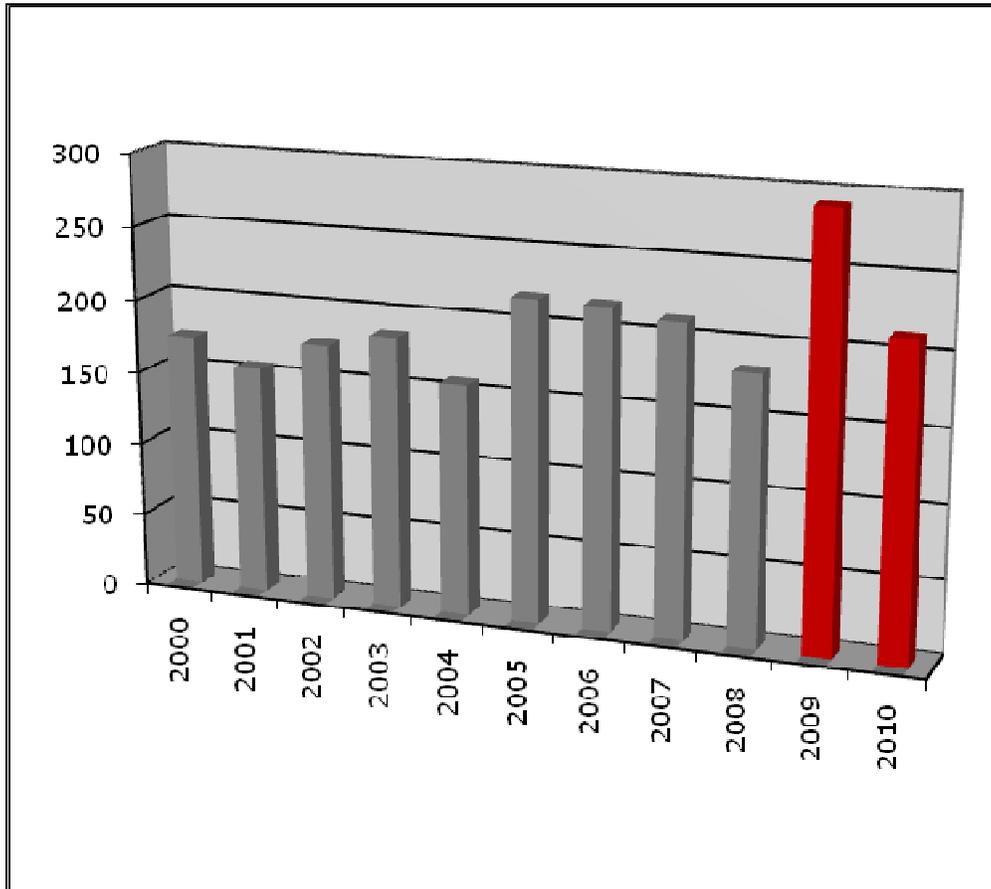
## Felony Cases

### Felonies Filed

During 2010, the State's Attorney's Office 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                |
| <b>2009</b> | <b>292</b>         |
| <b>2010</b> | <b>213</b>         |

These numbers can be compared as follows:

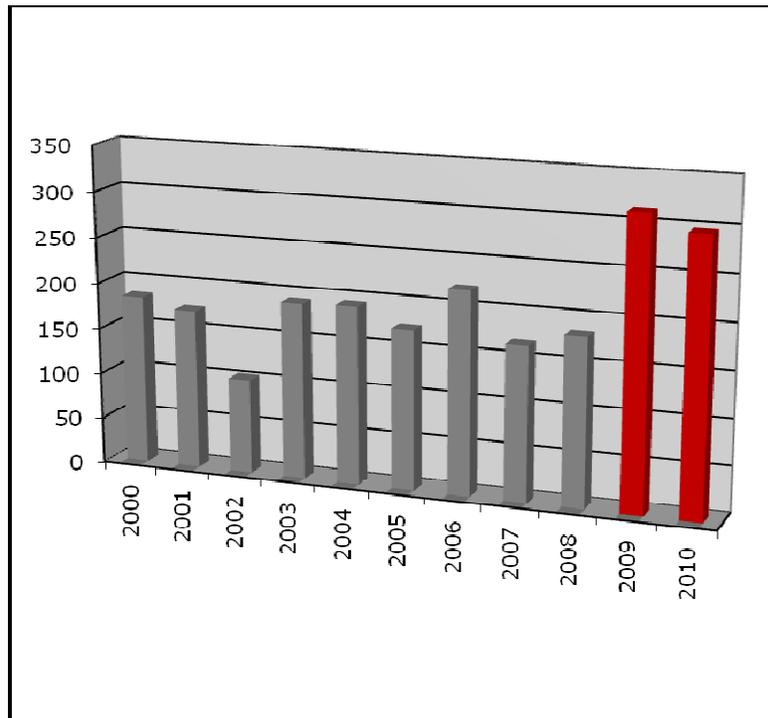


**Felony Dispositions**

Since 2009, the State's Attorney's Office has undertaken a concerted effort to reduce the backlog of open cases and has achieved dispositions in approximately 300 felony cases in both the years 2009 and 2010. These numbers are significantly higher than 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.

| <b>Year</b> | <b>Felony Dispositions</b> |
|-------------|----------------------------|
| 2000        | 184                        |
| 2001        | 174                        |
| 2002        | 103                        |
| 2003        | 192                        |
| 2004        | 194                        |
| 2005        | 174                        |
| 2006        | 221                        |
| 2007        | 168                        |
| 2008        | 183                        |
| <b>2009</b> | <b>314</b>                 |
| <b>2010</b> | <b>297</b>                 |

These numbers can be compared as follows:

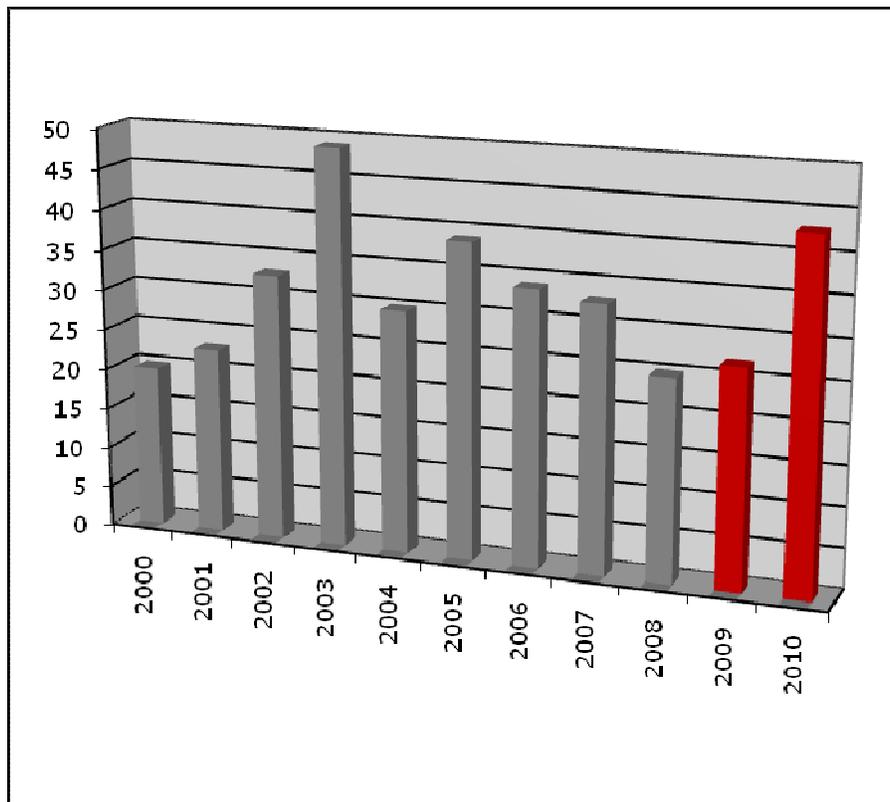


***Department of Corrections Sentences***

In certain felony matters, sentences to the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) are necessary to protect the public. In 2010, the State's Attorney's Office obtained convictions resulting in 43 IDOC sentences. This number is significantly higher than the average of the past decade.

| <b>Year</b> | <b>IDOC Sentences</b> |
|-------------|-----------------------|
| 2000        | 20                    |
| 2001        | 23                    |
| 2002        | 33                    |
| 2003        | 49                    |
| 2004        | 30                    |
| 2005        | 39                    |
| 2006        | 34                    |
| 2007        | 33                    |
| 2008        | 25                    |
| <b>2009</b> | <b>27</b>             |
| <b>2010</b> | <b>43</b>             |

These numbers can be compared as follows:

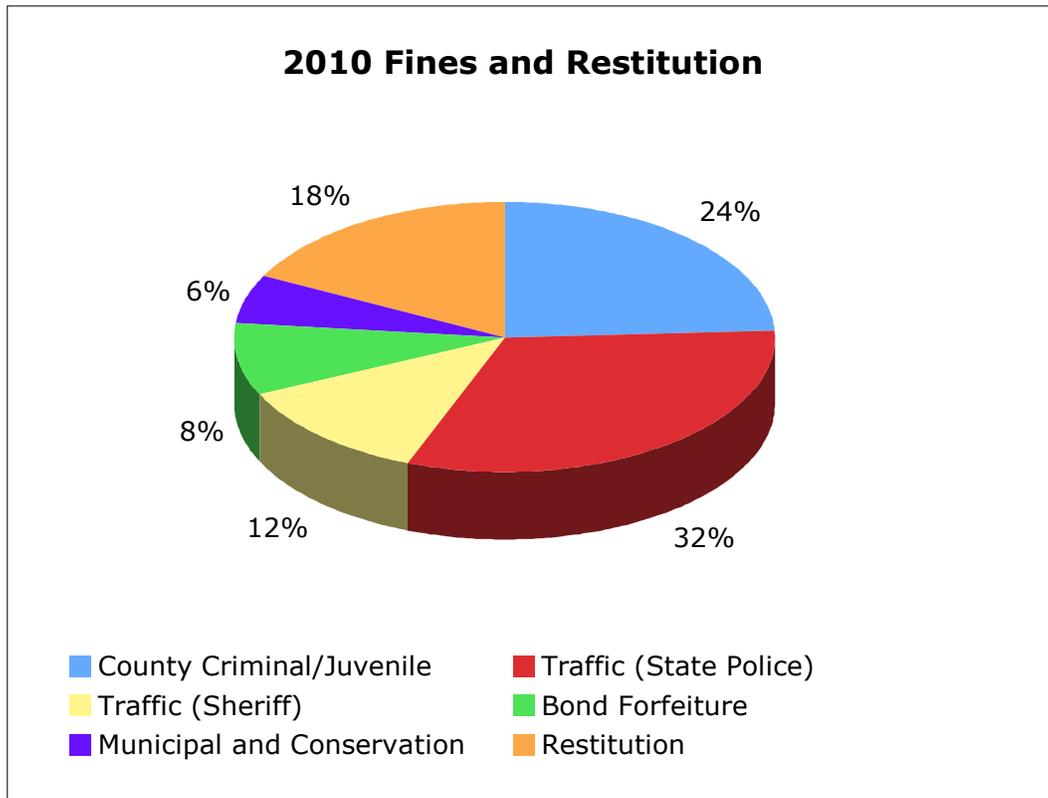


## Fines and Restitution

During 2010, the State's Attorney's Office obtained judgments on over \$444,000 in fines, forfeitures and other costs to criminal defendants. This amount also includes nearly \$78,000 in restitution to crime victims.

| Type of Fine / Judgment            | Amount              |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| County Criminal and Juvenile       | \$107,701.41        |
| Traffic (State Police)             | \$140,467.65        |
| Traffic (Sheriff)                  | \$54,427.97         |
| Bond Forfeitures                   | \$37,518.50         |
| Restitution                        | \$77,772.66         |
| Municipal Traffic and Conservation | \$26,227.99         |
| <b>Total</b>                       | <b>\$444,116.18</b> |

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 2010, the VAU provided services to nearly 500 crime victims and more than 140 significant others of crime victims.

## **New Initiatives**

### **Election Integrity Program**

During 2010 the State's Attorney's Office partnered with Union County Sheriff David Livesay and Union County Clerk Bobby Toler, Jr. to implement an Election Integrity Program. During both the 2010 Primary and General Elections, prosecutors and Sheriff's investigators monitored Union County polling places for vote fraud, electioneering, voter intimidation and other Election Code violations. Additionally, the State's Attorney's and Sheriff's Offices worked with the County Clerk to monitor absentee and early voting.

### **Domestic Violence and Juvenile Initiative**

2010 also saw the creation of a Domestic Violence and Juvenile Initiative in the State's Attorney's Office. As part of this effort, one Assistant State's Attorney (ASA) has been assigned to handle all domestic and juvenile cases. Along with staff from the Victim's Advocate Unit, this ASA works with victims and with social service agencies to help victims overcome the often repeated cycle of violence and abuse in the home. This new initiative has seen dramatic results; including more expeditious movement of juvenile cases through the court system and numerous domestic violence convictions in cases where victims face pressure to withhold cooperation from law enforcement. This program is made possible through a federal grant obtained in 2009 which funds the full salary and benefits of a third prosecuting attorney.

## **Funding Sources and Expenditures**

During 2010, expenditures of the State's Attorney's Office were more than \$12,000 under budget. Allocated budgetary funds totaled \$372,531.58 with \$89,864.00 coming from state and federal grant funding, \$116,961.04 coming from state reimbursements and the remaining \$165,736.54 coming from the county general fund. Expenditures for 2010 totaled \$360,025.06. The funding sources and expenditures for 2010 are broken down as follows:

### **Budgetary Funding Sources**

|                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Grants            | \$89,864.00         |
| State of Illinois | \$116,961.04        |
| County            | \$165,736.54        |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>\$372,531.58</b> |

### **Expenditures**

|                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Salaries        | \$335,977.62        |
| Office Expenses | \$17,047.44         |
| Appellate Fees  | \$7,000.00          |
| <b>Total</b>    | <b>\$360,025.06</b> |



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

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