



Michael O. Freeman
Hennepin County Attorney

2015 Highlights



In January of 2015, I began my fifth term as Hennepin County Attorney. As always, my staff and I are dedicated to bringing justice to crime victims and protecting the 1.2 million citizens of Hennepin County.

Some of the cases we prosecute are heartbreaking and hard to comprehend, such as the **murder of 10-year-old Barway Collin** by his father.

Others are surprising for their blatant disregard for the law: **Stephanie Castillo stole more than \$1.2 million** from the company owned by her mother. Our office filed charges for embezzlement and won a sentence of 80 months in prison for Ms. Castillo, above the 49-68 months recommended in Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines.

We also deal with far too many cases related to gun violence. You may recall **an innocent mother and her 15-month-old child were injured in a shooting** at Peavey Park in Minneapolis. At the end of the year, a 28-year-old man pleaded guilty to this senseless crime and was sentenced to 189 months in prison.

In November, I joined Mayor Hodges and Police Chief Harteau in rolling out a **new police and prosecution initiative to help combat violent crime**. My office assigned a seasoned prosecutor to work with six veteran investigators to create a task force, which will focus on cases related to gun violence and gang activity. This is a tough problem to tackle, but for the safety of all citizens, we must find ways to solve it.

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The Hennepin County Attorney's Office
is here to serve residents.



We seek justice.

As the largest public law office in Minnesota, with more than 400 employees, we handle tens of thousands of adult felony, juvenile and civil cases each year. Our office is grouped into:

Civil Division

- Civil
- Adult Services
- Child Protection
- Child Support

Criminal Division

- Adult Prosecution
- Community Prosecution
- Juvenile Prosecution
- Special Litigation
- Victim Services

We advocate for victims and witnesses.

Victim Services offers assistance and protection for crime victims and witnesses in a safe and respectful environment.

In 2015, **20,149 people contacted our Domestic Abuse Service Center** for legal support and social services they needed as a result of domestic violence experienced personally or by a family member or friend.

We support and protect children and families.

Our *Child Support division* works to ensure children have the support they need from both parents by enforcing child support enforcement laws. In 2015, **we worked with 10,296 families and helped collect over \$100 million.**

The goal of our *Child Protection division* is to keep children safe from ongoing abuse or neglect. In 2015, **866 child protection court petitions were filed.**

Our *be@school program* strives to increase school attendance through early intervention and partnerships with community agencies. In 2015, **we connected with 15,422 students** who had three or more unexcused absences.

Juvenile diversion provides services to eligible youth and holds them accountable instead of having their case charged in juvenile court. In 2015, **968 juvenile cases were diverted.**

We engage with the community.

Court Watch gives community members a voice in the court room. Concerned citizens, police, prosecutors and probation officers meet monthly to discuss criminal cases and the impact they have on our neighborhoods. Individuals then write impact statements about how these particular crimes affect their daily life so that judges can take this information into account prior to sentencing.



Community Leadership Awards For the past 15 years, we have annually recognized individuals and organizations who make Hennepin County a better place to live and work. We honored former Hennepin County Attorney Tom Johnson; Crystal Police Chief Stephanie Revering and investigators from her department; Roosevelt High School social worker Suzanne Tema; attorney Ellen Krug; managing Hennepin County Attorney Judy Johnston; and 11-year-old Thalia Williams.



National Night Out is an annual event that encourages neighbors to hold block parties to get to know each other as a way to prevent crime. In 2015, more than 200 staff members from our office attended 140 block parties and 25 community events. We enjoy having the chance to meet residents, talk with them about the justice system and answer their questions.



Mission and overview

We serve justice and public safety through our commitment to ethical prosecution, crime prevention, and through innovative and reasoned client representation.



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