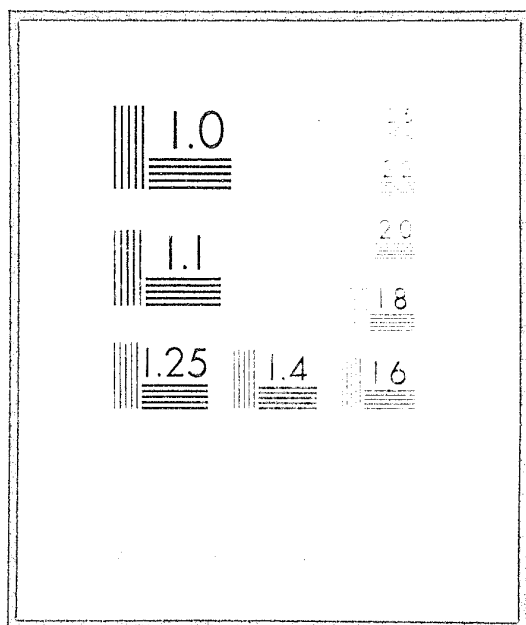


NCJRS

This microfiche was produced from documents received for inclusion in the NCJRS data base. Since NCJRS cannot exercise control over the physical condition of the documents submitted, the individual frame quality will vary. The resolution chart on this frame may be used to evaluate the document quality.



Microfilming procedures used to create this fiche comply with the standards set forth in 41CFR 101-11.504

Points of view or opinions stated in this document are those of the author(s) and do not represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION
NATIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFERENCE SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20531

3/11/77

3 a m e d

1975 ANNUAL REPORT

NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT ATTORNEY

38634

HARRY CONNICK

It is unfortunate that on the 200th anniversary of the independence of this country our nation's capital is rampant with crime the likes of which has not heretofore been known to any city or nation.

The experience which that city has had is that a small percentage of individuals are responsible for a disproportionately greater percentage of the criminal activity. A recent study pointed out that twenty-four percent of all crimes were accounted for by seven percent of those arrested. It is not unrealistic to assume the same thing applies to other cities such as New Orleans.

This is the assumption that my office has operated under for the last two years and for that reason we have concentrated our resources and efforts in the pursuit of those who make a career of crime.

The results have not been unrewarding. In the year 1975 we experienced in New Orleans a decrease in criminal activity which we feel was brought about by punishing and institutionalizing the career criminals.

The Declaration of Independence mandates government to secure the rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness to its citizens. This, of necessity, means that the rights of the few non-law abiding citizens must yield to those of the majority.

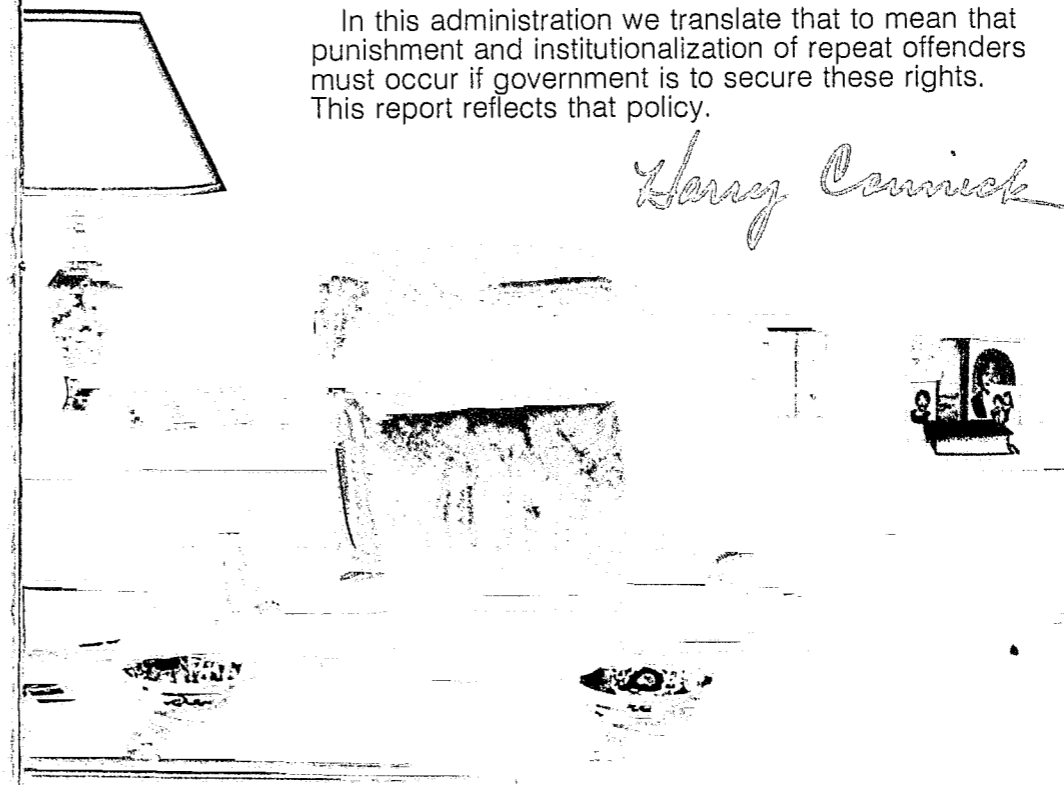
In this administration we translate that to mean that punishment and institutionalization of repeat offenders must occur if government is to secure these rights. This report reflects that policy.

Harry Connick

NOJRS

DEPT. OF JUSTICE

ACQUISITIONS



PROPERTY
 EVIDENCE
 DISTRICT LABORATORY ITEM NO. D-2117-16
 DATE CONFISCATED 5/16/76
 INVEST. OFFICERS M. B. ... L. B. ...
 ACCUSED John ...
 ADDRESS ...
 OWNER ...
 ADDRESS ...
 COURT ...
 PAGE NO. 178 CHARGES ...
 AFF. NO. 72691 BOOK ...
 DESCRIBE PROPERTY: OVER

Average Time from Arrest to Conviction **53** days
 Total Conviction Rate **96%**
 Average Felony Sentence **14.6** years

The Major Highlights of 1975

The New Orleans District Attorney's office normally makes the news during highly-publicized trials or investigations. But publicity highlights are relatively insignificant when compared with the day-to-day effort to make the streets of our city safe.

Two of this year's outstanding accomplishments by our office were the concentration on quick prosecution and conviction of the repeat and violent offender, and the successful passage of the district attorney's ten-point, anti-crime package in the state legislature.

It is a proven fact that the great majority of major crimes in New Orleans are perpetrated by criminals who have long histories of arrests and convictions. The district attorney's goal is simple: to remove these professional criminals from society as quickly, and for as long a period, as possible.

However, prosecution must operate within the system of state criminal laws. When some laws become inadequate to cope with the crime problem, then stronger, more effective laws must be passed. This year our Louisiana State Legislature passed a group of such new laws drafted by this office. The result is that prosecutors now have potent new weapons in their fight against crime.

The Career Criminal The attack on the professional criminal is led by the Career Criminal Bureau (CCB), a special unit of veteran prosecutors who handle each case from the moment an arrest is made to its conclusion.

CCB attorneys are on call twenty-four hours a day. When a career criminal is arrested, a CCB prosecutor goes to the crime scene or the police central booking station and begins preparing the case for trial. The case is handled by that attorney through the initial magistrate appearance, the grand jury, the trial and the parole and pardon board hearings.

In addition, four CCB attorneys are assigned to the screening division to evaluate other cases involving repeat offenders.

The focus of the CCB is on speedy, effective prosecution. It is our belief that the faster a repeat offender is convicted, the greater the deterrent factor for other criminals.

The Legislature The 1975 anti-crime package that was passed by our state legislature concentrated on three problem areas: the department of corrections, illegal use of firearms, and rape.

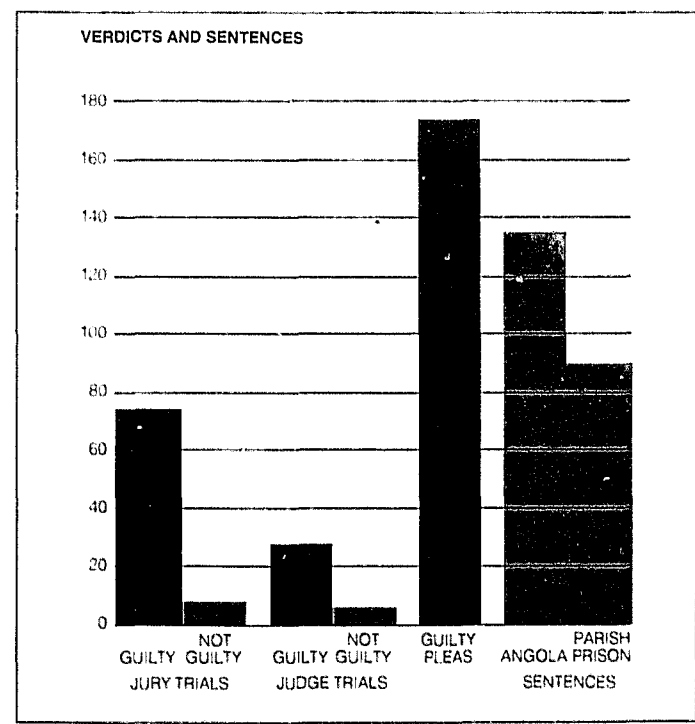
Historically, the department of corrections has attempted to solve their problems of overcrowding at the expense of the law-abiding public. One such solution has been the practice of awarding an inmate two days off his sentence for every one day of good behavior, or "good time."

The result is a steady stream of hardened, often violent, criminals back onto the streets of New Orleans. These good time releases directly undermine efforts to keep repeat offenders off the streets.

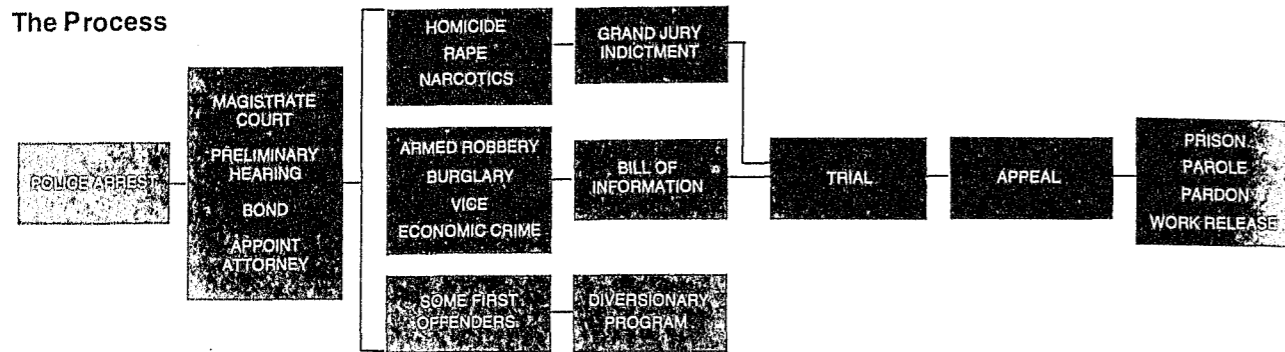
At the urging of the district attorney's office and several area legislators, a law was passed allowing the sentencing judge to prohibit good time for multiple offenders.

The anti-crime package also resulted in laws prohibiting convicted felons from carrying firearms, and made the possession of sawed-off shotguns and handguns with obliterated serial numbers illegal. The legislature also increased the sentences for these offenses. The district attorney's office has made extensive use of these new laws; in the last three months of 1975, 38 felons were charged with illegally carrying weapons.

Additionally, two new laws were passed on the crime of rape. One prohibits a rape victim from being cross examined on any of her prior sexual activities. The second law created a new classification of forcible rape which carries a penalty of 40 years in prison.



The Process



4

The criminal justice process is complex and frequently bewildering to those who first come into contact with it. For this reason, the District Attorney's Victim Witness Assistance Bureau was created last year to provide affirmative services, and explain to those whose lives are most severely affected by crime how and why the system works as it does. Following is a step-by-step explanation of what happens from the moment of arrest through parole and pardon hearings.

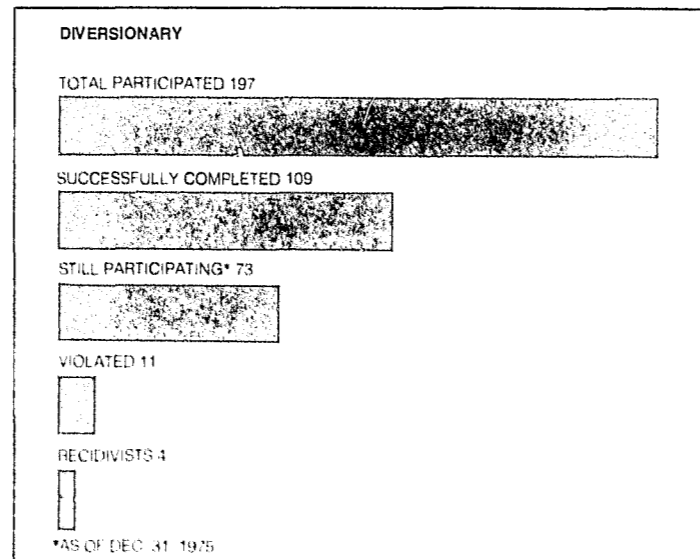
Screening Within a few hours after an arrest, the defendant makes an initial appearance in the Magistrate Court. Here the judge (or commissioner) determines if enough probable cause exists to detain the defendant. He also sets bond, and appoints an attorney if the defendant is indigent.

The district attorney's screening division then reviews the police report, talks to the arresting officers and, in many cases, interviews the victims and witnesses. Based on this information and other legal criteria, the charges are either accepted for prosecution, or refused.

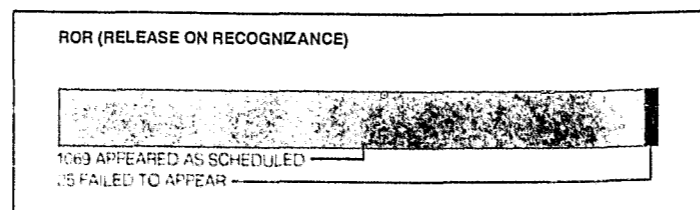
If the charges are accepted, a Bill of Information describing the offense is filed, and the case is sent to the clerk of court to be allotted for trial; if charges are refused, the defendant is released.

The screening division performs a crucial function — the success or failure of each case depends to a great extent upon this initial analysis. In 1975, the screening division accepted charges against 7,605 defendants.

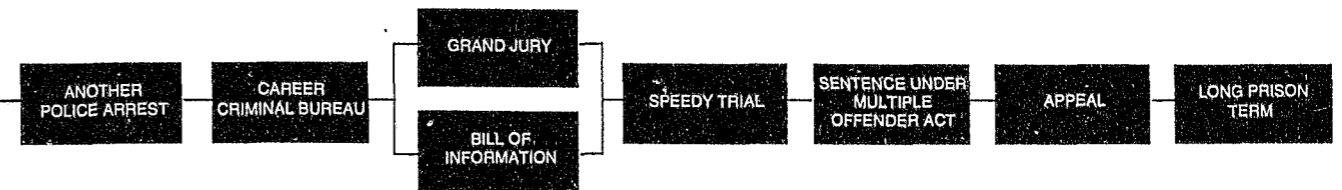
Diversionary When a defendant commits a nonviolent offense and has no prior criminal record and meets other criteria, the screening division refers the case to the diversionary program. If the defendant is accepted into the program, the charges are deferred for six to twelve months. If the defendant successfully completes the program, the charges are refused; but if the defendant is rearrested or violates other conditions, he or she will then be prosecuted.



ROR, the release on recognizance program, allows arrested subjects who meet strict requirements to be released from jail prior to trial without posting a case or property bond. This program relieves overcrowding at the parish prison and saves the city thousands of dollars in costs each year.

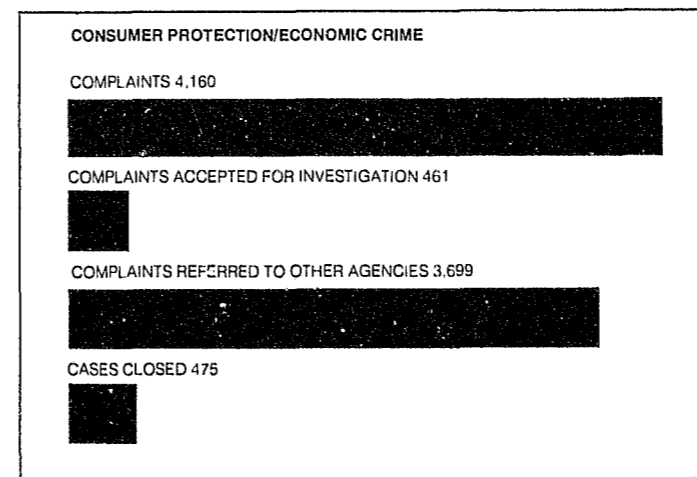


Repeat Offenders



Economic Crime and Fraud Unit The economic crime and fraud unit is a special section within the screening division devoted to the prosecution of "white collar" crime. This unit concentrates on consumer problems, such as home and appliance repair fraud, automobile titling, insurance fraud and false advertising; as well as on embezzlement and closed-account checking cases.

The unit is often successful in mediating disputes out of court, resulting in substantial amounts of restitution to victims without the necessity of prosecution. Repeat violators, though, are vigorously prosecuted.

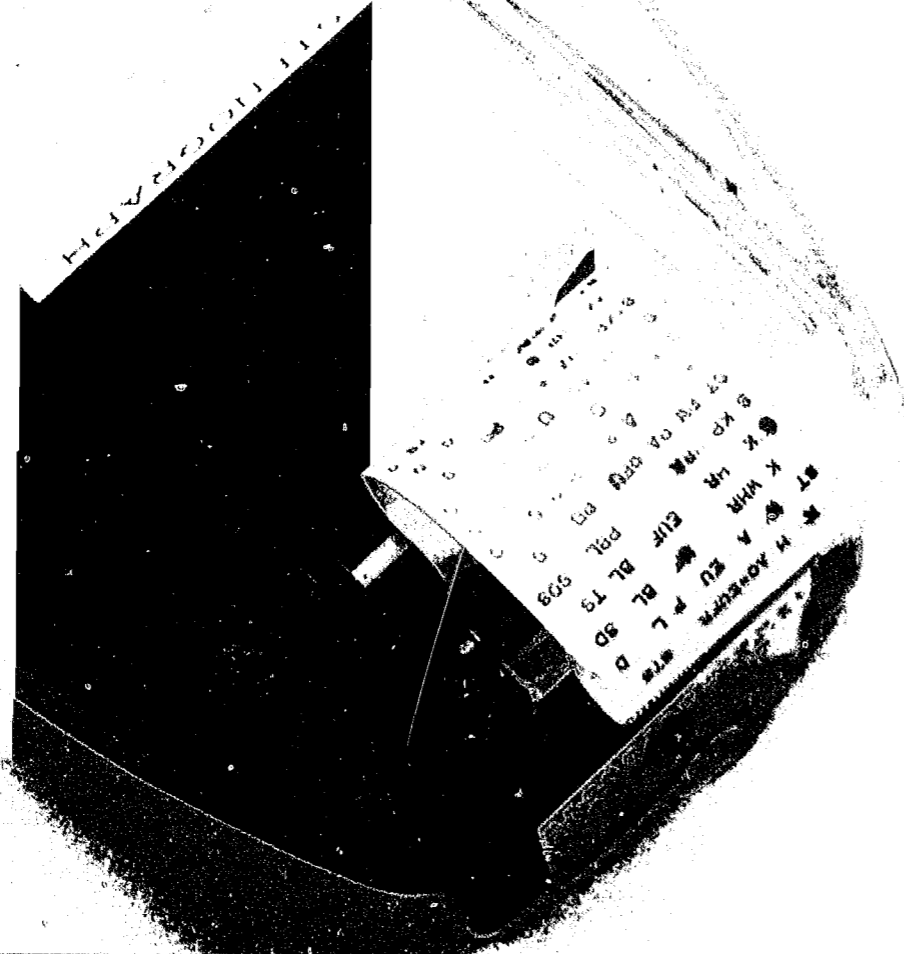


Amount recovered for victims of economic crime
\$227,376

Grand Jury In capital cases (aggravated rape and first degree murder) or cases for which the penalty is mandatory life imprisonment (such as distribution of heroin), the Orleans Parish Grand Jury determines whether probable cause exists to hold the defendant for trial. They either return an affirmative finding (True Bill) or a negative finding (No True Bill).

A second body, the Orleans Parish Special Grand Jury, handles matters which require lengthy testimony and investigation.

5



Trials The trial division is responsible for prosecuting cases which have been evaluated by the screening division, the economic crime unit and the two grand juries. Felony cases are randomly assigned by the clerk of court to the ten sections of Criminal District Court. Misdemeanor cases are tried in the ten sections of criminal court and the four sections of magistrate court.

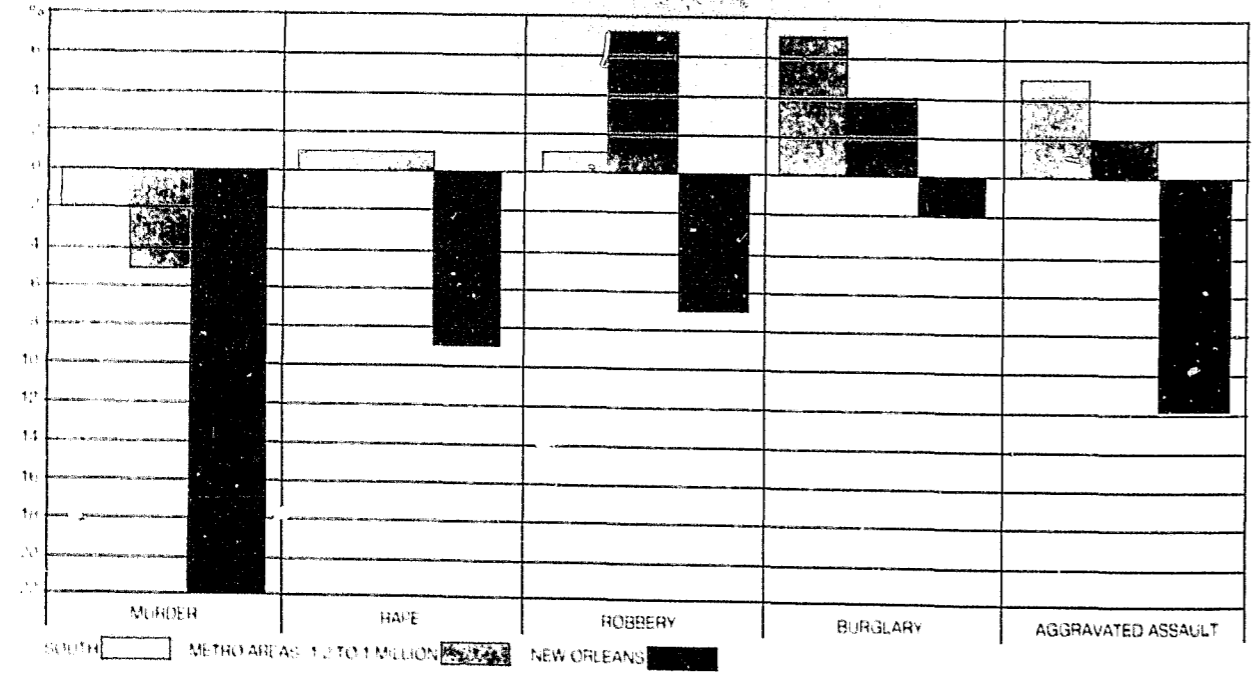
Like the career criminal bureau, the trial division emphasizes the swift prosecution of repeat offenders. This year the average time from arraignment (where the defendant enters a plea of guilty or not guilty) to trial was 63 days. This remarkable statistic is the result of hard-working judges, assistant district attorneys and investigators, and the implementation of a modern docket control system.

Outstanding progress has been made in two other areas of the trial division. Plea bargaining (where a defendant pleads guilty to a lesser charge and usually receives a light sentence) has been virtually eliminated. The other area is that of multiple billing wherein every defendant with a prior felony conviction is multiple billed, except under the most unusual circumstances, to ensure the longest possible prison term.

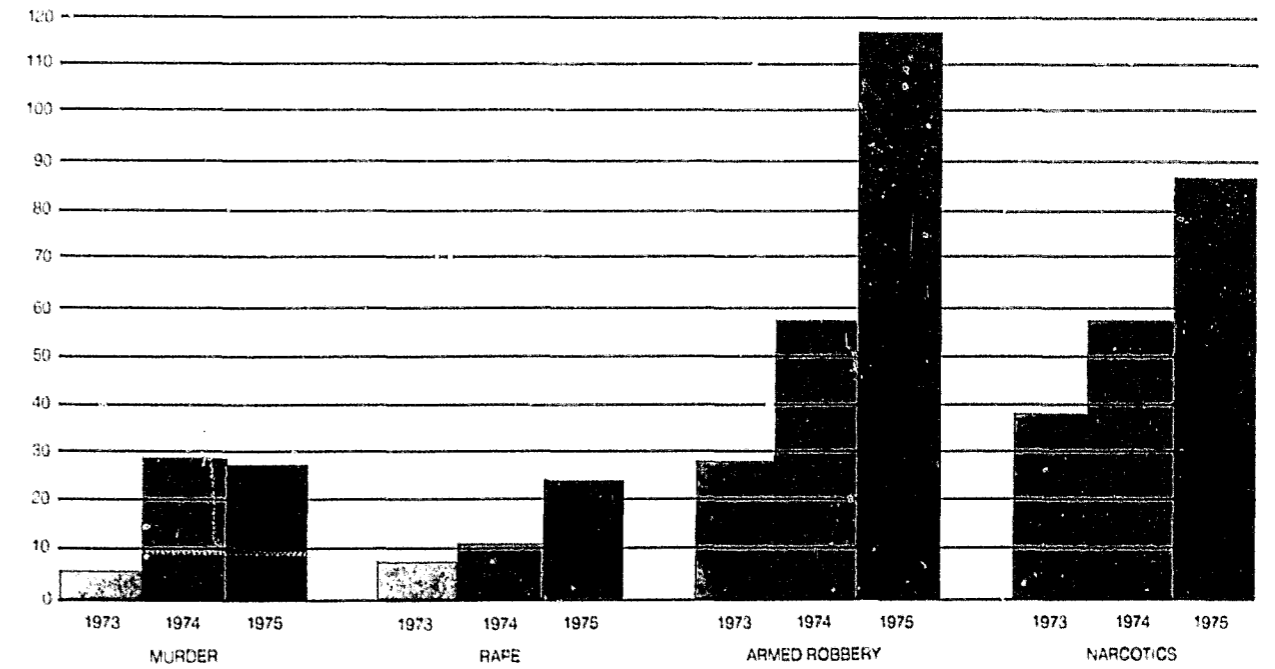
These policies — swift prosecution, limited plea bargaining, and multiple billing — form the basis of our fight to make every criminal pay dearly for the crimes he commits.

Statistics are meaningless unless they reflect progress in the continuing campaign to reduce the levels of crime in New Orleans. In 1975, for the first time in many years, the trend is favorable.

HOW DOES NEW ORLEANS COMPARE WITH OTHER AREAS IN MAJOR CRIMES?



JURY CONVICTIONS BY MAJOR CRIME CATEGORIES



Paroles/Appeals

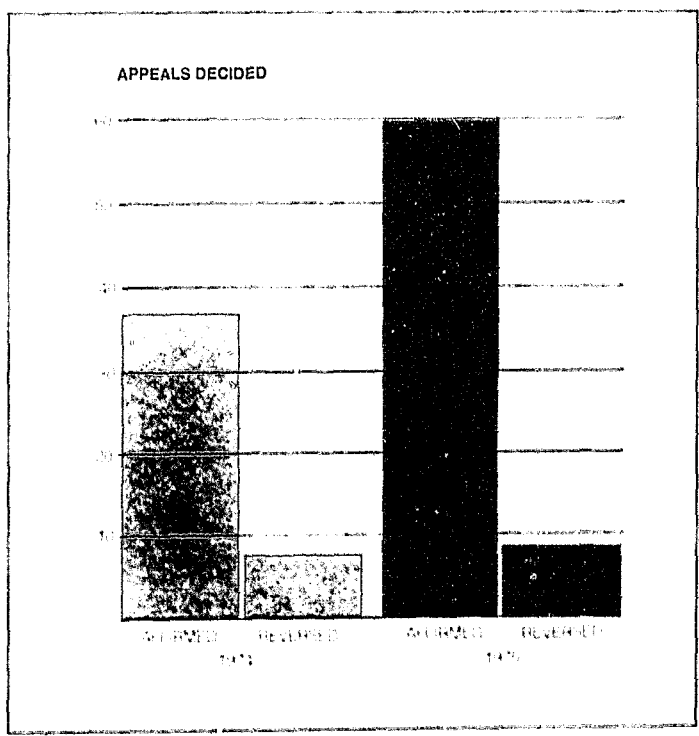
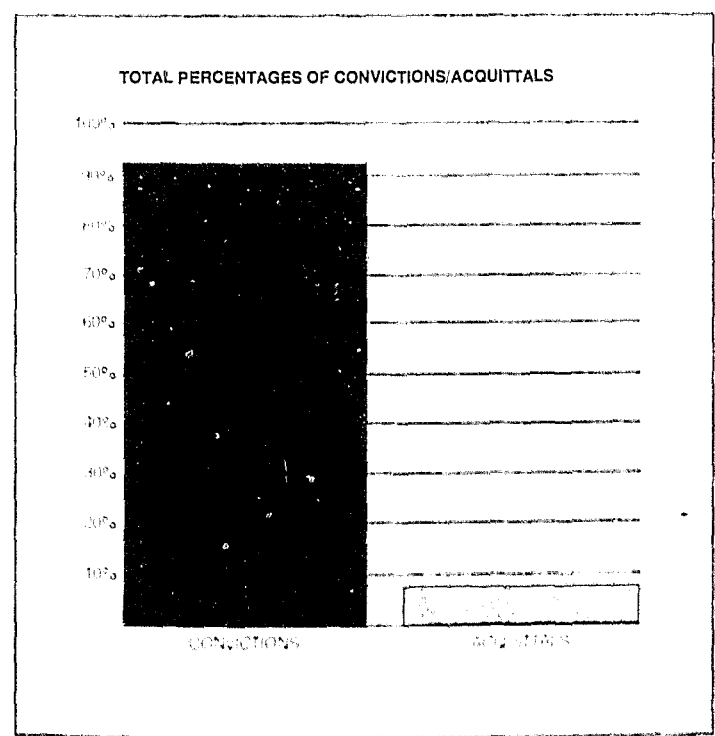
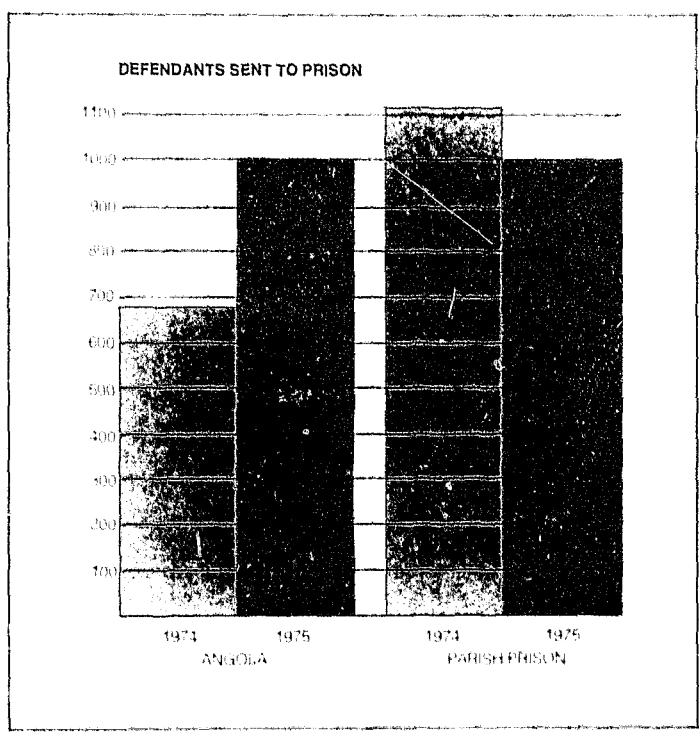
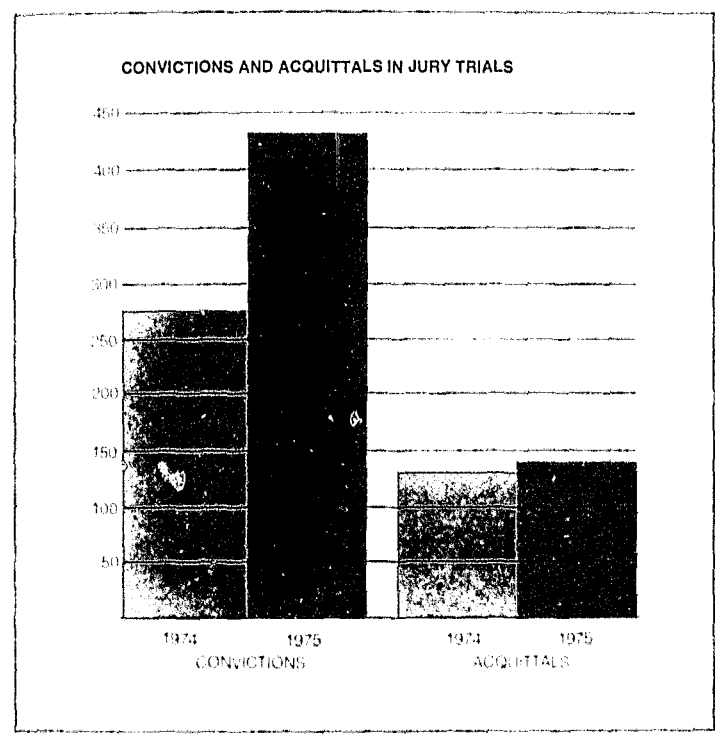
Paroles The prosecutor's responsibility does not end after a defendant is convicted and sentenced. The district attorney's office reviews the criminal history and background of each New Orleans inmate who requests pardon, parole or commutation of sentence.

If the district attorney feels the inmate still poses a threat to society, a detailed letter is sent to the parole or pardon board opposing the inmate's early release. In addition, representatives from the district attorney's office personally attend each hearing to further oppose early release.

This procedure is designed to prevent a steady stream of repeat and violent offenders from returning to the streets. Unfortunately, it is an established fact that many inmates released early from prison will often return to criminal activity.

Appeals In our judicial system every defendant has an automatic right to appeal a felony conviction to the Louisiana Supreme Court. In the last two years, because of the increase in the number of convictions, the number of appeals has tripled.

The district attorney's office represents the state in all appeals of New Orleans' criminal convictions. In the great majority of cases, the state's position is upheld.



The Juvenile Unit headquartered at Juvenile Court, is made up of two divisions: delinquency and non-support. The delinquency division is one of the busiest in our system since over one-half of all crimes in New Orleans are committed by juveniles (sixteen years or younger.)

In 1975, the division convicted 360 juveniles; 223 of them were sent to the Louisiana Training Institute. Over 550 cases involving unruly or ungovernable children were referred to the delinquency unit, and 460 cases of child neglect were handled.

Non-Support Division Unit In criminal and civil proceedings, the non-support enforcement unit provides legal representation to mothers and wives whose husbands refuse to provide financial support or have deserted them.

In mid-1975, this unit was expanded through a federal HEW grant. Its primary goal is to locate and obtain support payments from absent fathers whose wives and children currently receive welfare. This new effort has already resulted in the removal of some mothers and children from welfare rolls by enforcing paternal support obligations.

NON SUPPORT COLLECTIONS	
MOTHERS INTERVIEWED	10,488
CHARGES FILED	2,144
COURT HEARINGS	4,941
WELFARE CLAIMS HANDLED	4,076
\$1,066,895	
TOTAL AMOUNT COLLECTED IN NON-SUPPORT PAYMENT FOR WIVES AND MOTHERS	

Investigative Unit This division acts as the investigative arm of almost every other division within the district attorney's office. Investigators are assigned to the magistrate section, screening division, grand juries, economic crime unit, trial division, parole and pardon review, juvenile division and career criminal bureau.

Most investigators are police officers assigned to the district attorney's office; the remainder are civilian investigators with prior local, state or federal law enforcement experience.

Female investigators are assigned primarily to the investigation and preparation of rape, carnal knowledge, indecent behavior, child abuse and other sex-related crimes. Their specialized training and knowledge has greatly improved the treatment of sex crime victims, and contributed to the increased number of convictions of sex offenders.

Administrative Unit The district attorney's office could be characterized as the largest law firm in New Orleans. Operating this complex organization is the job of the administrative officer who is responsible for the budgetary, accounting, clerical and supply needs of this complex organization.

In late 1975, the District Attorney's Record Tracking System (DARTS) was installed. This computerized, sophisticated program provides instant information retrieval on any criminal case, and makes possible more direct and efficient control of the court dockets.

DARTS will also automatically print subpoenas for the clerk of court, produce a daily inmate inventory for the criminal sheriff, and provide daily, weekly and monthly dockets for each judge.

The district attorney also employs a court planner to assess the current and future needs of the office, and to seek funding for those needs.





DIVISION HEADS

1. WILLIAM F. WESSEL
First Assistant
2. LT RAYMOND J. COMSTOCK
Chief Investigator
3. TIMOTHY W. CERNIGLIA
Chief, Trial Division I
4. MAURINE A. CARROLL
Administrative Officer
5. WILLIAM GURVICH
Chief, Economic Crime Unit
6. ROBERT E. DONNELLY
Chief, Diversionary IROR Program
7. HERBERT C. JONES
Chief, Victim-Witness Bureau
8. ALBERT C. ETIENNE
Data Processing Manager
9. RALPH CAPITELLI
Chief, Screening Division
10. RIVERS R. TRUSSELL
Planner
11. JERRY K. SCHWEHM
Chief, Non-Support
12. LOUISE KORNS
Chief, Appeals Court
13. HARRY R. HULL, JR.
Chief, Delinquency
14. KURT F. SINS
Chief, Trial Division II
15. LAWRENCE J. CENTOLA, JR.
Chief, Career Criminal Bureau.

ADMINISTRATION

JOYCE BIAGAS
J. RODERICK BURFIELD
MARTHA COLEMAN
MARGARET CRANE
RANDI DE LA GUERONNIERE
RUTH GERHARDT
DEBRA GOULD
WALTER GRIFFIN
VYONNE HEBERT
ALOMA HUTCHISON
ZULLY JIMENEZ
LINDA LEBLANC
LORRAINE LEBOUF
KENWIN LAGARDE
JOHN LEWIS
BARBARA RONQUILLO
HYACINTH STIAES
CARMEL STROUD

CAREER CRIMINAL BUREAU

Legal:
CHARLES BRANDT
VINCENT CUCCIA
ALAN DUSSOUY
PATRICK FANNING
JOHN LENFANT
JOHN MESSINA
JAMES MILLS
NICK NORIEA

Investigators:
ORIN MILLS
JOHN MONTGOMERY
JOHN MORIATES
JOSEPH POLIT

Statistician:
KAY CAPELLA

Secretaries:
TERRY DICKSON
SANDRA GEBBIA
LORRAINE GUEYDAN
SHIRLEY MAGÉE

CHILD SUPPORT PROGRAM

Legal:
GLENN BOURGEOIS
BETTYANNE BUSSOFF
JOSEPH DIROSA
BARRY KATZ
THOMAS OUSLEY

Investigators:
RONALD BECHET
HENRY CHARLOT
GUS GONZALES
DANIEL TEEN
SAMUEL WASHINGTON

Other:
MARY BANKS
DAVID BIENVENU
JUANITA BOYKINS
KATHY CANTU
MARY DALIER
ALPHONSE DEGRASSE
WILLIAM DEVILLE
CHARLES FALL

ADMINISTRATION

GWYNNE KENNEY
LUCILLE LAILHENGUE
JEAN LEDANOIS
LEONTINE LUKE
KATHLEEN MONTECINO
JOANN ROACH
GLENDA ROCHE
RAMONA ROUSSEL
DOROTHY SIGNAL
LARRY SMITH
KAATJE VAN BREDA KOLFF
MARY VEDILAGO

DATA PROCESSING:

GLEN CHRISTINA
CATHERINE GLEASON
RICHARD HOOSE
EILEEN SALVAGGIO
LISA SCHULTZ
JACK WINTERS

DIVERSIONARY/R.O.R. PROGRAM

Counselors:
ANDREW DOUGLAS
JOSEPH GOULD
CHARLES HAINES
SHERYL ODELL

Secretary:
MARY GRIMSAL

Investigators:
MARK BURTON
ELWARD SAUL
CAROLYN TAPLIN
SHARON THOMAS

INVESTIGATION

Police Officers:
YVES BENOIT
JAMES BETBEZE
THOMAS BIRD
JOSEPH GALLODORO
NICK GERACI
MICHAEL MAUNOIR
ALVIN PUDERER
FRANK RUIZ
GUSTAVE THOMAS
WILLIAM TOLAR

Special Investigators:
HEZEKIAH CLARK
ROSE EADY
DON GUILLOT
RALPH LEVY
WILLIAM MARGIOTTA
RANDY SCHEUERMANN
LARRY WILLIAMS

Secretary:
CARMEN PAUL

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

Legal:
CLAUDE AUCOIN
THOMAS BRESLIN
JOHN FITZMORRIS
HAROLD GILBERT
VINCENT PACIERA
ALAN TUSA

Investigators:
LEON FLOT
CHARLES RODGERS

Secretary:
ANNE CAZAUBON

Clencal:
MARY PREJEAN

SCREENING

Legal:
BRUCE ASHLEY
BRIDGET BANE
WILTON BLAND
ROBERT EARLY
PAULINE HARDIN
RONALD HARRIS
CHARLES JONES
MARK MCTERNAN
JOSEPH MEYER
RAL EIGH OHLMEYER
HOWAT PETERS
FRANCIS SCHULTZ
DENNIS WALDRON

Investigators:
GREGORY BROADBRIDGE
ROBERT KESSEL
HARRY NELSON
ANTHONY QUIRK
GARY RAYMOND

Paralegals:
DEBORAH GALLINGHOUSE
JACK GRANEN
FREDRICKA HOMBERG
REBECCA MACKE
JOHN SARPY
CHARLES SWANSON

Stenographers:
DIANE POISSENOT
JOYCE WOOD

Secretary:
KAREN MUSGROVE

TRIALS

Legal:
GREG ABRAMSON
ROBERT BARNARD
WILLIAM BROCKMAN
JAMES BRODTMANN
GEORGE BURVANT
CLIFFORD CARDONE
DONALD GIGLIO
GEORGE S. INGALLS, JR.
DAVID JENNINGS
JOSEPH JOHNSON
HENRY JULIEN
ROBERT LONG
JAMES MCKAY
BRIAN MEISSNER
RONALD MONROE
THOMAS MULL
SHEILA MYERS
PATRICK QUINLAN
NORMAN ROBINSON
WALTER SENTENN
ROBERT SIMMONS
JOSEPH TOSTERUD
EMERY VOORHIES

Secretary:
SUSAN CALONJE

Paralegal:
JULIE LEBLANC

VICTIM WITNESS

ALDINE CANNON
GERARD ROESCH
SHIRLEY WILLIAMS

END

7. 10/15/1960