

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



**OFFICE OF DISTRICT ATTORNEY
PETER J. RINDAL, DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

Prepared by:
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Eau Claire County District Attorney's Office

A MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

As we reflect on 2024, I continue to be proud of the commitment, adaptability, and professionalism demonstrated by the staff of the Eau Claire County District Attorney's Office. This year, we made meaningful progress toward modernizing our operations, supporting victims and witnesses through significant transitions, and laying the groundwork for a more flexible and sustainable future.

In November 2024, I was honored to be elected as Eau Claire County District Attorney, continuing the work I began when first appointed in 2021. This report highlights the dedication of our office throughout the year. The accomplishments outlined in this report speak not only to what we achieved, but how we approached the work—guided by our mission to seek truth and justice, protect our community, and support those most impacted by crime. While we continue to navigate challenges across the justice system, our office remains grounded in accountability, fairness, and service.

I'm grateful for the partnerships we share across the justice system and in the community. I invite you to read this report as a snapshot of what we've done, where we're headed, and how we remain committed to our role in building a safe and just Eau Claire County.

Peter Rindal

PETER J. RINDAL

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

EAU CLAIRE COUNTY, WI



About the District Attorney's Office

The District Attorney's Office serves the people of Eau Claire County by working with law enforcement agencies, government and non-government organizations, and other stakeholders to uphold justice and support the community. The office is comprised of three divisions: General Prosecution Services, Victim Witness Services, and Diversion Programs.

General Prosecution Services

The General Prosecution Services division is responsible for prosecuting adult criminal cases, juvenile delinquency cases, and non-criminal citations issued by local law enforcement. It operates 24/7 to provide immediate legal guidance to law enforcement and conducts training to keep them informed.

Victim Witness Services

The Victim Witness Services division ensures victims' rights are upheld and provides support, information, and advocacy to victims, witnesses, and affected families. This division also plays a key role in helping victims navigate the legal process, ensuring they understand their rights and options at every step.

Diversion Programs

The Diversion Programs division focuses on alternatives to traditional prosecution. Through diversion programs and treatment courts, it helps individuals address underlying issues and avoid further involvement in the justice system, using data and research to guide decisions.

Learn more about the office's responsibilities in [Chapter 978](#) of the Wisconsin State Statutes.

Mission Statement: *To skillfully and fairly seek truth and justice, protect and support victims and the community, and hold offenders accountable.*



2024 Accomplishments



GENERAL PROSECUTION SERVICES

- Filed 3,013 criminal cases in 2024
- Maintained a 96% criminal case clearance rate, exceeding the benchmark for the sixth consecutive year
- Held 11 jury trials in 2024, with a five-year conviction rate of 70%, despite the overall trial volume being down from pre-pandemic years



VICTIM WITNESS SERVICES

- Provided support to nearly 2,000 crime victims and witnesses through Victim Witness Services programming
- Continued national and state-level engagement by attending NOVA and WVWP conferences
- Victim Witness Manager Jessica Bryan was elected to a second term as President of the Wisconsin Victim Witness Professionals Board, contributing to statewide leadership and advocacy



CONTINUED MODERNIZATION OF OFFICE STRUCTURE & PROGRAMMING

- Finalized groundwork for General Prosecution Services structure refinements to be implemented in 2025, including cross-training and shared responsibilities for the front desk/public-facing role
- Transitioned Diversion Program division oversight to new leadership to support future growth and development



EXPANSION OF FLEXIBLE WORK CAPABILITIES

- Issued laptops to all staff for the first time, enhancing mobility and flexibility
- Signed new contract with Axon, Inc. for improved digital evidence storage and management
- Published a comprehensive remote work policy in December 2024 with implementation scheduled for early 2025



INCREMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS IN COMMUNICATION & ACCESSIBILITY

- Redesigned the District Attorney's Office website for better accessibility and visual appeal
- Reviewed and updated website content to improve clarity and public understanding



SUSTAINED VICTIM SERVICES THROUGH PROGRAM TRANSITION

- Transitioned Crime Victim Crisis Response Program to Bolton Refuge House (effective Oct. 1, 2024)
- Continued support for crisis response volunteer recruitment and training through Victim Witness Services

2025 Goals & Future Opportunities



BACK2BASICS: RE-CENTERING ON CORE COMPETENCIES

- Reinforce essential prosecution skills and practices
 - Standardize victim services using best-practice, trauma-informed approaches
 - Provide foundational training and shared expectations across teams
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IMPLEMENTING STRUCTURAL CHANGES TO SUPPORT FLEXIBILITY

- Launch refinements to General Prosecution Services staffing structure, including cross-training and front desk collaboration
 - Finalize and implement department-specific flexible work policies
 - Monitor and adjust workflows to align with remote work policy
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ENHANCING INTERNAL COMMUNICATION & ACCESS

- Launch internal SharePoint site for centralized access to policies, procedures, and training
 - Review and update MOUs and internal policies for consistency and clarity
 - Improve transparency and internal information flow
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STRATEGIC PLANNING & ORGANIZATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

- Develop clear Mission, Vision, and Values statements
 - Begin a strategic planning process to define long-term goals
 - Align office culture and systems with future-focused priorities
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PROGRAM EVALUATION & INNOVATION

- Evaluate Diversion Program and DAGP for impact and cultural responsiveness
- Review and modernize Worthless Check/Financial Program
- Explore software solutions to streamline and automate workflows





By the Numbers: 2024

The Eau Claire County District Attorney's Office uses key data points to demonstrate our work, measure progress, and stay accountable to the community we serve. This page highlights notable metrics from 2024 offering a snapshot of the impact and outcomes behind the day-to-day operations of the office.

\$191,407

Restitution payments collected for crime victims

96%

Case clearance rate

94%

Success rate of OWI Early Intervention Program participants

134

New Deferred Acceptance of Guilty Plea Program participants

5,458

Total cases processed

2,084

Total case parties served by Victim Witness Services

570

Total jail bed days permanently stayed from successful completion of the OWI Early Intervention Program

84%

Success rate of Pre-charge Diversion Program participants

Performance Management

General Prosecution							
In carrying out the duties of the General Prosecution Program, attorneys and support staff provide investigative support to Eau Claire County Law Enforcement agencies, review law enforcement referrals, make criminal charging decisions and complete a wide array of case prosecution activities. As part of this program, attorneys and support staff are responsible for the enforcement of criminal, juvenile, conservation and traffic matters within Eau Claire County.							
OUTPUTS		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Cases Filed:	Felony	1,850	1,589	1,400	1,392	1,326	1,328
	Misdemeanor	1,407	1,223	1,047	1,087	1,023	1,259
	Criminal Traffic	435	366	413	451	478	426
	Civil Traffic/Ordinance/Miscellaneous	2,035	1,883	2,070	1,934	1,661	1,824
	Juvenile Delinquency Cases	59	52	38	58	42	66
	Juvenile Ordinance	4	6	1	11	6	11
Total Cases Filed		5,790	5,119	4,969	4,933	4,536	4,914
Other Cases Processed:	No Prosecution Adult Criminal Cases	580	380	381	650	370	365
	No Prosecution Juvenile Cases	264	184	131	206	257	179
	Total No Prosecution Cases	844	564	512	856	627	544
	Total Cases Filed/Processed	6,634	5,683	5,481	5,789	5,163	5,458
Jury Trials:	Number of Jury Trials	25	5	17	23	23	11
	Number of Jury Trials Result in Conviction	17	5	13	17	15	5
OUTCOMES		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Average Number of Days for Prosecutorial Action at or under 15 days		10.05	7.36	8.20	10.50	10.31	11.89
Case Clearance Rate at or above 95%		98%	98%	99%	100%	103%	96%
Jury Trial Conviction Rate at or above 75%		68%	100%	76%	74%	65%	45%
Victim Witness Services							
Victim Witness staff provide legally-required case notification to victims, provide crisis response support to victims prior to the filing of criminal charges, provide support to victims and witnesses during the course of case litigation, and prepare various forms of reports required by state/federal authorities.							
OUTPUTS		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Victim Witness Services:	Number of Victims Served	2,284	2,426	1,641	1,977	1,746	1,844
	Number of Witnesses Served	279	390	282	154	102	91
	Number of Other Case Parties Served	203	235	176	168	137	149
	Total Case Parties Served	2,766	3,051	2,099	2,299	1,985	2,084
	Initial Contact Letters Sent	2,338	2,383	1,752	2,061	1,822	1,867
	No Contact Orders in Place	949	496	454	541	624	584
	Number of Follow Up Contacts	163	596	404	691	282	365
Restitution Payments Collected	\$194,678	\$125,355	\$168,734	\$260,960	\$156,877	\$191,407	
Diversion Programs							
<i>Deferred Acceptance of a Guilty Plea (DAGP), Pre-charge Diversion, & OWI Early Intervention</i>							
The Deferred Acceptance of a Guilty Plea Program (DAGP) is a post-charge program which involves informal supervision of defendants in criminal cases. The community benefits because defendants receive necessary domestic abuse, alcohol abuse, or other counseling services that would often not otherwise occur.							
The Pre-charge Diversion Program is offered to first time or low risk offenders. The Pre-charge Diversion Program is designed to keep those offenders out of the Criminal Justice System, reduce recidivism, and preserve limited prosecution resources.							
The OWI Early Intervention Program provides for a more comprehensive disposition for impaired driving convictions that includes drug/alcohol testing, incarceration, and other targeted programming. Successful completion of the program results in reduced monetary penalties and reduced incarceration time.							
OUTPUTS & OUTCOMES		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
DAGP Program:	Number of Participants	228	222	212	175	172	134
	DAGP Fees Collected	\$56,068	\$57,438	\$53,058	\$48,202	\$46,509	\$41,339
Pre-charge Diversion Program:	Number of Participant Referrals	247	303	260	283	243	322
	Number of Participants Enrolled	207	237	196	229	204	256
	Number of Successful Participants	202	234	191	226	197	215
	Success Rate	98%	99%	97%	99%	97%	84%
Diversion Program Fees Collected	\$59,240	\$58,653	\$48,920	\$66,000	\$62,873	\$65,910	
OWI Early Intervention Program:	Number of Participants Enrolled	26	7	29	25	30	31
	Number of Successful Participants	22	5	27	18	23	29
	Success Rate	85%	71%	93%	72%	77%	94%
	Jail Days Permanently Stayed	707	646	*	*	*	570

*Data not available

Closing Remarks

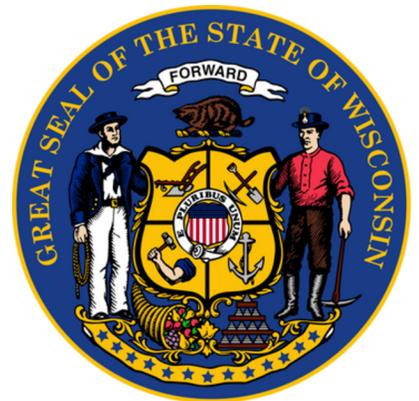
As this report reflects, our work is grounded in accountability, compassion, and a commitment to justice. I'm proud of what we've accomplished and look forward to continuing our efforts in partnership with the community, the courts, and our colleagues across the justice system.

We remain focused on strengthening our core services, supporting innovation in justice, and aligning our work with community needs. Through continued investment in people, policy, and process, we're preparing for the future while remaining rooted in our responsibility to the present.

— Peter Rindal, Eau Claire County District Attorney

Acknowledgements

This report reflects the efforts of many dedicated individuals. I extend my sincere thanks to the staff of the District Attorney's Office for their professionalism and perseverance, to our partners in law enforcement and the courts for their collaboration, and to the community for their continued support and engagement. Your trust makes our work possible.



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