



# OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND

Anne Colt Leitess, State's Attorney



## Anne Arundel Justice

A Monthly News Digest from the Office of the State's Attorney for Anne Arundel County

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### A Message from Anne Arundel County State's Attorney Anne Colt Leitess

Hello everyone

February is Black History Month!

During this month, and throughout the year, we recognize the many African American civil rights icons, trailblazers and advocates who sacrifice their lives so that we can live in a more inclusive, equal and equitable nation. The significant contributions of these pioneers - which range from advocacy to education to innovation - continue to serve as the backbone for this country. Racial inequities persists within our country and we must work together as a community to uplift each other and make a concerted effort to end racism, discrimination and all forms of oppression.

On a solemn note, I'm sad to announce the passing of Ms. Maureen Gillmer, who was the Director of the Victim/Witness Services Program for 24 years from 1988 until her retirement in 2007. Maureen was instrumental in the growth of the program and for her dedicated support of crime victims. Her contribution to our office is still evident today and we will remember her always. In this newsletter, you'll learn more about Maureen's impact, our newly created Child Survivors Justice Program and about a Baltimore man whose long-standing drug dealing career ended with the maximum sentence.

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Thank you for your continued support!

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The Office of the State's Attorney Mourns the Loss of Maureen Gillmer



It's with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of Maureen Gillmer, who was employed by the State's Attorney's Office for 24 years as Director of the Victim/Witness Services Program from 1988 until her retirement in 2007. Maureen's drive, passion and dedication to fighting for Crime Victims' Rights in connection with former State's Attorney Frank Weathersbee's devotion to expanding the program, built the well-respected program that became a model throughout Maryland.

Maureen led with professionalism, grace, respect and a genuine smile. She cared deeply about her family, her work and her staff. She understood the value of camaraderie and teamwork. Throughout her years of service to the citizens of Anne Arundel County, she was awarded countless honors. Here are just a few of the kind tributes friends and colleagues have shared:

"Maureen was a wonderful person who brought the highest level of dedication and professionalism in her work. It is an enormous loss to her family and her many friends. May her memory always be a blessing."  
– William Katcef, prosecutor

"She was truly one of a kind and she touched everyone that she came in contact with. I learned so much from her."- Jen Dulaney, advocate

"She was a wonderful, caring and compassionate person. She will be dearly missed." - Frank Ragione, former prosecutor.

"Maureen was really a pioneer in the field and created such a supportive environment for victims with Frank Weathersbee who set the policy for all the ASAs. Her work was replicated statewide."- Nancy Hirshman, retired mediator

"Maureen was a trailblazer in advocating for victims of crime. She was an incredible leader and a mentor for so many of us in the SAO. Her legacy will live on through all of us who were touched by her grace and leadership." - Kathy Rogers, former prosecutor

Maureen is survived by her devoted husband, Charley, her two sons, Jeff and Andy, and five granddaughters.

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## **State's Attorney Anne Colt Leitess Announces Creation of Child Survivors Justice Program, Hires Kendall Patterson to Lead Grant-funded Program**

Recently, Anne Arundel County State's Attorney Anne Colt Leitess had the pleasure to announce the creation of the Child Survivors Justice Program and the hiring of Ms. Kendall Patterson to lead the innovative program.

Ms. Patterson, a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor, will develop the Child Survivors Justice Program which will provide trauma informed training for Assistant State's Attorneys, Victim/Witness Advocates, police officers and other key stakeholders; provide expert testimony on trauma and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and participate in community outreach to vulnerable communities. The program is funded by the Children's Justice Act Committee (CJAC) which aims to improve the assessment, investigation and prosecution of cases of suspected child abuse and neglect, including sexual abuse and exploitation, by limiting additional trauma to the child victim and the entire family during the criminal justice process. This program is facilitated by the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth and Victim Services (BJAG-2009-9000).

"I am extremely grateful our office can serve the many vulnerable children we encounter who are survivors of such terrible crimes committed against them," said State's Attorney Anne Colt Leitess. "Ms. Patterson will educate our employees and partnering agencies how to respond to various types of trauma. She will also serve as a key expert in court cases by explaining to judges and juries the behaviors traumatized children might display such as their delayed reporting of crimes committed against them. And, most importantly, she will help our prosecutors in supporting the victims so we can bring their abuser to justice."

Click [here](#) to read more.

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## **Repeat Offender Receives Maximum Sentence for Conspiracy to Distribute Cocaine**

Sharniel Baker, 42, of Baltimore was sentenced to 20 years of active incarceration for one count of conspiracy to distribute cocaine, Anne Arundel County State's Attorney Anne Colt Leitess announced. This conviction represents Baker's fifth felony conviction relating to the distribution of cocaine. Baker was previously convicted of both possession of and distribution of more than 50 grams of cocaine base in 1999 and 2004, possession with the intent to distribute cocaine in 2010 and possession with the intent to distribute cocaine in 2020.

"While our office remains committed to offering resources and rehabilitation opportunities to individuals who suffer from drug addiction, Mr. Baker was in the business of distributing drugs and had no regard for the devastating impact of this deadly poison on the lives of families in our community," said State's Attorney Anne Colt Leitess. "Previous, shorter jail sentences, supervised probation, drug treatment and being on parole did nothing to alter the defendant's behavior. On multiple occasions, the defendant was arrested for a new offense, while he had one or more outstanding warrants

for his arrest for other offenses.”

Assistant State’s Attorney Marot Williamson prosecuted the case on behalf of the citizens of Anne Arundel County.

Click [here](#) to read more.

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