



# 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

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

Happy New Year and welcome to the January edition of Anne Arundel Justice!

In this month's newsletter, you'll learn how the finding of a secret compartment in a vehicle led to a 60 year prison sentence, information about internship and career opportunities and so much more!

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[AnneArundelSAO on Instagram and Twitter](#)

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#### Secret Compartment Leads to 60 Years in Prison

Corey Sessoms, 31, of Baltimore was sentenced by the Honorable Mark W. Crooks to 60 years in prison on January 10, 2020. Sessoms received the maximum sentence of 40 years for possession with the intent to distribute fentanyl, a consecutive 20 year sentence for possession with the intent to distribute cocaine and a concurrent 10 year sentence for possession with intent to distribute oxycodone.

Sessoms was found guilty by a jury on November 22, 2019.

"Fentanyl, heroin and other opioids continue to wreak havoc in Anne Arundel County. Our office remains committed to fighting this epidemic by providing citizens access to

#### Pasadena Man Found Guilty in Death of Inmate in Correctional Facility

A jury found Joseph Patrick Soule, 30, guilty of one count of second degree murder and one count of wearing and carrying a dangerous weapon with the intent to injure in the death of David Stephenson, an inmate at Jessup Correctional Institution.

Prosecutors are seeking the maximum sentence of 43 years.

"Protection of the community does not stop at a prison cell door. Soule viciously murdered Mr. Stephenson and for that he was found guilty," said State's Attorney Anne Colt Leitess.

On November 2, 2018, correctional officers with Jessup Correctional

rehabilitation programs for treatment for those battling addiction while at the same time holding repeat offenders accountable for peddling this deadly poison in our community. Sessoms' sentence should send a strong message to others that choose to distribute this deadly drug," said Anne Arundel County State's Attorney Anne Colt Leitess.

On May 22, 2019, Anne Arundel County police were in the 7900 block of Liberty Circle in Pasadena when they noticed a car illegally parked over a sidewalk. Officers approached the car and saw the defendant, Corey Sessoms, sitting in the driver's seat of the vehicle. Officers asked the defendant to turn the car off and unlock the doors but he failed to do so. Officers were eventually able to remove the defendant from the automobile and during a search located a secret compartment underneath the car's dashboard filled with 246 capsules of fentanyl, 43 zip-lock baggies of cocaine and 33 oxycodone pills. Police also found several iPhones and a digital scale.

Sessoms was previously convicted five times of felony drug charges.

Assistant State's Attorney Eric Sullivan prosecuted the case on behalf of the citizens of Anne Arundel County.

Institution learned that a window to a jail cell was covered with an object blocking the view inside the cell. Officers ordered the occupants to remove the object but initially they failed to do so. Although the cell was occupied by two individuals, only one occupant, the defendant, Joseph Patrick Soule, responded to the officer's request. Upon entering the cell, officers found Soule's cellmate, David Stephenson, lying face down in a pool of blood on the floor of the cell. His body was cold and correctional officers noted that he had been bound by an electrical cord which was tied around his neck, hands and feet. Soule was taken into custody. Medical personnel attempted to attend to Mr. Stephenson injuries but were unsuccessful. Stephenson was pronounced deceased at the scene. His death was ruled a homicide by means of blunt force trauma, sharp force trauma and strangulation.

During the trial, Soule testified that the victim attacked him from behind but prosecutors countered with forensic evidence presented that refuted those claims.

Soule will be sentenced on March 5, 2020 by the Honorable Mark W. Crooks.

Assistant State's Attorneys Glen Neubauer and Luke Clippinger prosecuted the case on behalf of the citizens of Anne Arundel County.

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## The Dream Continues...



Every January, communities across the nation gather to celebrate the life and legacy of civil rights icon and champion against injustices, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

This year, I had the pleasure of attending the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Breakfast co-hosted by Anne Arundel Community College and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Committee. The event showcased the community leaders who remain committed to furthering the vision of Dr. King and serve as a voice for the most vulnerable in our county. In addition to celebrating the honorees, attendees

received an amazing keynote address from the Honorable Elizabeth Morris, who is the first African American woman to serve as a judge on the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County. Judge Morris's poignant remarks highlighted the many times in her life that she was confronted with challenges and how she found inspiration from Dr. King to speak up in spite of fear.

Click [here](#) to read more.

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## Career and Internship Opportunities

The Office of the State's Attorney for Anne Arundel County is currently hiring for the following positions:

- Assistant State's Attorney – District Court Division
- Assistant State's Attorney – Violent Crime
- Director of Attorney Training
- Forensic Social Worker
- Summer Law Clerk

For more information or to apply for a position, click [here](#) or send your resume, cover letter and three writing samples to [sao\\_resume@aacounty.org](mailto:sao_resume@aacounty.org).

We look forward to you joining our team!

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## Save-the-Date!

### **Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) 2020 Annual Domestic Violence Homicide Memorial Service**

Join community members and leaders throughout Maryland as we remember those whose lives were lost as a result of domestic violence, bring awareness to the problem of domestic violence in Maryland and propose legislative changes to support survivors.

The memorial will be held on Monday, Feb. 10 at 7 p.m. at the Legislative Services Building, Joint Hearing Room located at 90 State Circle, Annapolis, MD

All are welcome to attend.

[www.aacounty.org/departments/sao](http://www.aacounty.org/departments/sao)

