



(Photo by: Jeffrey F. Bill/Capital Gazette)

2025: Year in Review



Anne Colt Leitess
State's Attorney for Anne Arundel County

Always, for the people

Greetings

Greetings!



As I begin my eighth year as the State's Attorney for Anne Arundel County, I reflect on 2025 and the strong partnerships with local and state law enforcement who support our goal to protect our residents and keep our community safe. Last year, Anne Arundel County saw significant progress in the reduction of violent crime across several categories, including citizen and commercial robberies, contact and non-contact shootings, sex offenses and rapes, stolen autos, and carjackings. Together we work to make our community a safer place to live, work and play.

I am also proud to report that since taking office in 2019, we have obtained \$5 million in grant funding, winning multiple competitive grants year after year.

These funds allowed us to add advocates who help victims and witnesses navigate the legal system. We hired a professional social worker and counselor to serve juvenile victims of abuse and help at-risk youth avoid the justice system. We hired bilingual advocates and expanded our advocacy program to serve more victims in the District Courts. Grant funding helps us staff the many diversion programs we support. Diversion programs help individuals stay off drugs, address mental health issues, and hopefully assist them to become productive members of the community. Through drug courts, mental health courts, Veterans court and diversion programs, we work with our partners to change lives for the better.

These reductions, however, did not slow down our prosecutors, who had their work cut out with the prosecution of many serious crimes throughout the year.

I am honored to serve as the leader of a dynamic team of attorneys, victim-witness advocates, case managers, paralegals, and investigators who work to fight crime and serve those affected by crime.

State's Attorney Anne Colt Leitess

State's Attorney's Office Receives Grant Funding for Crime Victim Advocates

August 12, 2025

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Anne Arundel County State's Attorney Anne Colt Leitess is pleased to announce that her office has received grant funding to help support resources for victims of crime.

The State's Attorney's Office was awarded \$241,422 from the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (GOCPP). The funds are made available from the Federal Office for Victims of Crime from the Victim Assistance Formula Grant and State of Maryland Victims of Crime Act State General Funds (VOCG).

As the State Administering Agency for the VOCG grant, the GOCPP awards these funds only to those programs with a proven track record of service to crime victims.



Since 2019, the Office of the State's Attorney has obtained \$5 million dollars in Grant Funding for victims of crime and crime fighting.

“I am grateful that the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy has once again shown its trust in our service to crime victims with this award. Having these positions provides critical support to victims who face the daunting experience of court proceedings. Additionally, this grant funds a bilingual victim advocate who can break down language barriers that otherwise might exist. Finally, it's fiscally responsible – saving County tax dollars while providing important services.”

– *State's Attorney Anne Colt Leitess*



State's Attorney Anne Colt Leitess, Deputy State's Attorney Brian Marsh, and Deputy State's Attorney Jessica Daigle

Our mission statement:

The Office of the State's Attorney is committed to justice by employing the highest ethical standards in vigorously prosecuting the guilty, protecting the innocent, and representing the interests of the State of Maryland in court.

Commitment to Justice

Gambrills Man Receives Maximum Sentence, Lifetime Sex Offender Registry for Rape of 12-year-old Girl

A Gambrills man was sentenced to the maximum sentence allowed by law and ordered to a lifetime registration as a Tier III sex offender for the second-degree rape of a 12-year-old girl.

The sentencing followed a three-day bench trial that ended in August 2025, in which Christopher Steven McGee, 36, was found guilty of the crime.

“This young survivor showed tremendous courage, and the evidence made it unmistakably clear that McGee posed a serious ongoing threat to children,” said Leitess. “The court’s sentence reflects the gravity of his actions and the danger he presents. Our Office will always stand with survivors of sexual abuse and work tirelessly to safeguard those who cannot protect themselves.”

Linthicum Heights Man Sentenced to 30 Years for Drug Trafficking Crime

On August 6, 2025, Alpha Ibrahim Bah Mansaray, 26, was sentenced to 60 years suspend all but 30 years active in the Division of Corrections, the first five of which are to be served without the possibility of parole.

He was ordered to serve five years of supervised probation upon release. Mansaray was found guilty of possessing a firearm during a drug trafficking crime by an Anne Arundel Jury the month prior.

“Individuals who represent themselves to be “sovereign citizens” pose a daily challenge for law enforcement and the courts,” Leitess said. “This Defendant’s refusal to cooperate with law enforcement and orderly court proceedings is very unfortunate. But more importantly, an armed drug dealer will be behind bars.”

Brooklyn Man Sentenced to Life in Prison for Second Anne Arundel County Murder

On May 1, 2025, an Anne Arundel County judge sentenced 21-year-old Jaden Crowner to Life in Prison for the 2020 murder of a man at an Annapolis apartment complex under the pretense of a smartphone sale. It is the second murder Crowner has been convicted of and sentenced for in two years.

The sentence will run consecutively to the sentence Crowner received for his prior conviction. Crowner was convicted in 2023 of another murder in which he received Life in Prison with all but 50 years suspended.

“Walters Elangwe met with the defendant for what he expected to be a quick sale of a smartphone,” said Leitess. “Instead, the Defendant shot him without a second thought of the life he was taking.”

Commitment to Justice

Glen Burnie Man Pleads Guilty, Sentenced to DOC for Vehicle Theft and Eluding Police

On the morning of October 22, 2025, Zachary Ernesto Rolf, 44, of Glen Burnie, pledged guilty to felony motor vehicle theft and fleeing and eluding police.

Following the plea, the Honorable Mark Crooks sentenced Rolf to a total of six years in the Division of Correction, the maximum possible sentence.

“This was a really brazen move by the Defendant to steal a truck while the owner was loading lumber into it,” said Leitess. “This Defendant is a repeat offender who had just been released from jail a few days prior to this incident. I want to thank our prosecution team and investigators for their work to take this public safety threat off the streets.”

Pasadena Man Sentenced for February 2025 Domestic Violence Incident

In early November, 66-year-old Robert Wallace Grim, of Pasadena, was sentenced to 25 years suspend all but nine years active incarceration in the Division of Corrections for committing Felony First-Degree Assault during a domestic violence incident.

He must also serve five years of supervised probation upon release.

“This was not only a terrible assault by the victim’s boyfriend, but what makes this particularly egregious is that he held the injured victim against her will for hours,” said Leitess. “The Defendant has shown no remorse or accountability for his actions. This top-of-the-guidelines sentence addresses the need for significant prison time for protection of the victim.”

Jury Finds Jessup Man Guilty of First-Degree Felony Murder in 2021 Glen Burnie Homicide

On November 7, 2025, a jury found Andy Daniel Aguilar-Amaya, 21, of Jessup, guilty of First-Degree Felony Murder and Robbery.

Aguilar-Amaya was charged in May 2024 in the October 2021 homicide of 26-year-old Gene Fayga Martin. Sentencing is scheduled for a later date.

“The Defendant killed the victim during the course of a robbery, thereby making this a felony first-degree murder,” said Leitess. “Our laws are meant to deter people from committing dangerous felonies where death of any person is a foreseeable result. I am glad the jury saw this clearly and their verdict will provide some peace for Mr. Martin’s family.”

Commitment to Justice

Annapolis Man Found Guilty of First-Degree Assault in Violent Domestic Attack

On November 20, 2025, an Anne Arundel County jury found Timothy Lee Styles, 57, guilty of First-and Second-Degree assault, Reckless Endangerment, and False Imprisonment in a domestic assault that took place in an Annapolis home in April.

Following the jury verdict, State's Attorney Anne Colt Leitess commented: "This was a verbal argument that turned increasingly violent against the victim as she attempted to flee to safety. The Defendant threatened to kill the victim, held a knife to her neck, and strangled her to the point that she could not breathe. I am grateful to the jury, who heard the facts and agreed to the seriousness of this domestic attack."

The investigation was led by the Annapolis Police Department.

DOC Inmate Enters Guilty Plea to First-Degree Murder in February 2025 Jessup Prison Homicide

On the morning of December 16, 2025, Wallace Dudley Ball, 64, entered a guilty plea to First-Degree Murder of his cellmate while serving time at the Jessup Correctional Institution.

Ball is currently serving a Life plus 30-year sentence for a 1994 murder. Sentencing for this case will be scheduled at a later time.

"I want to commend Maryland State Police and DPSCS for their thorough investigation, which helped secure a strong case against this defendant," said Leitess. "Hopefully today's plea provides some peace for the victim's family, and we look forward to sentencing."

Investigation revealed Ball had made a written statement confessing to the crime, which was found to match a writing sample.

Annapolis Man Sentenced for May 2025 Armed Robbery of Taxi Driver

Jermaine Donte Mitchell, 44, of Annapolis, was sentenced in December 2025 to 15 years suspend all but 10 years active incarceration for the May 2025 armed robbery of a taxi cab driver in Severna Park.

On November 6, 2025, a jury found Mitchell guilty of Armed Robbery, Robbery, Second-Degree Assault, Reckless Endangerment, and handgun offenses following a two-day trial.

Mitchell was also ordered to serve five years of supervised probation upon release.

"This is certainly the worst nightmare for taxi and rideshare drivers, to be attacked and robbed by a passenger," Leitess said. "This Defendant had a chance to pay the fare and exit the taxi, but chose to pistol-whip the driver and take his phone."

Commitment to Justice

Glen Burnie Woman Sentenced to Ten Years in DOC for Toddler's Fentanyl Death

On July 24, 2025, Tiffany Lynee Carr, 35, of Glen Burnie, entered a guilty plea to First-Degree Child Abuse in the death of her two-year-old daughter Nevaeh. The toddler accidentally ingested Carr's drugs and then died from an overdose while Carr was passed out nearby.

Carr was sentenced to 25 years suspend all but 10 years active incarceration in the Maryland Division of Correction. She must also serve five years of supervised probation upon release, and undergo substance abuse and mental evaluations as ordered by the court.

"To say this is a tragedy is an understatement," Leitess said. "The actions of this defendant were reckless, inexcusable, and showed total disregard for the safety of her toddler. This defendant failed this child terribly and will have to live with the consequences."



Community Engagement: Martin Luther King, Jr. Awards 2025



Bottom, left-right: State's Attorney Anne Colt Leitess joined County Councilwoman Allison Pickard, Anne Arundel County Police Chief Amal Awad, Major Sara Shriver, and Deputy Chief Katherine Roberts at the annual dinner hosted by the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee formed in 1988 by Carl Snowden to honor the civil rights leader and those who carry on his legacy.



Joan Stammnitz, SAO
Director of
Victim-Witness
Services and local
artist Audrey Lee
unveil artwork
honoring child victims
and witnesses

Community Engagement: National Crime Victims Week “Kinship: Connecting and Healing”

In honor of National Crime Victims’ Rights Week, the Office of the State’s Attorney hosted an Awards Ceremony on April 16, 2025, in the Historic Courtroom in Annapolis. Those who helped victims of crime—from law enforcement to witnesses and even sweet four-legged companions that comfort child witnesses, were celebrated for their contribution to others.



Joan Stammnitz, SAO Director of
Victim-Witness Services, Taylor Pyles of the
Blue Ribbon Project, and SA Leitess.



Caring Canines handler Rebecca
Ostrow and her adorable pup Ziggy



Members of Caring Canines Courthouse Dog Program that accompanies child witnesses to court

Community Engagement: National Crime Victims Week “Kinship: Connecting & Healing”

The 2025 theme focused on leveraging shared humanity and community bonds to support survivors



Director of Victim-Witness Services Joan Stammnitz, Tameka Houston, Monéc Glasper, ASA Casey Marson, and Victim Advocate Jennifer DuLaney



Members of the Caring Canines Courthouse Dog Program, sponsored by Dogwood Acres Pet Resort



Director of Victim-Witness Services Joan Stammnitz, Victim Advocate Jennifer Hincks, Jieshika Delbo, and ASA Casey Marson



Taylor Pyles of the Blue Ribbon Project and local artist Audrey Lee. Pyles received the 2025 Warren B. Duckett, Jr. Commitment to Justice Award, while Lee donated artwork honoring child victims and witnesses.

Community Engagement

Fallen Officers Memorial Service – In May, State's Attorney Anne Colt Leitess joined Chief Amal Awad and the Anne Arundel County Police Department for their Fifth-Annual Fallen Officers Memorial Service. Keynote speaker Debbie Sorrells spoke about her daughter, fallen Baltimore County Police Officer Amy Caprio



State's Attorney Anne Colt Leitess and Anne Arundel Police Chief Amal Awad

Mrs. Debbie Sorrells, Chief Awad and State's Attorney Leitess



Community Engagement: National Night Out 2025

The SAO participated in National Night Out, an annual community-building event that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer and more caring places to live. Members of the SAO were located throughout Annapolis and Anne Arundel County in six locations: Brooklyn Park, Kinder Farm Park, Annapolis Mall, Crofton Country Club, Michael E. Busch Library, Bay Ridge Gardens, Woodside Gardens, First Baptist Church of Annapolis and Annapolis Gardens.



SAO's Kate Anthony, SA
Anne Colt Leitess,
Joan Stammnitz, and Anna
Trull



Annapolis Police Department Chief
Edward Jackson, State's Attorney Leitess,
and Deputy Chief Stanley Brandford



SAO's Calista Plante, Isabelle Miller, Jesse Smith,
Michelle Pitts, and Tricia Richardson



Jen Sibiga and Katie Gordon of SAO
Body Worn Camera Unit with AACPD



SAO's Courtney Johnson, Shaneek Green, and
Sherrish Contee

Community Engagement: National Night Out 2025

The Office of the State's Attorney turned out to volunteer at all nine locations. There were games and candy for the kids. For adults-lots of information about our Office and services.

It was a great way to meet the community where they live and work.



SAO's Calista Plante and
Isabelle Miller



State's Attorney Anne Colt Leitess with a future crimefighter



SAO's David Russell, Sherrish Contee, Kate Smeltzer,
Courtney Johnson, and Shaneek Green



Advocate Jen Hincks and Senator Shaneka Henson in
Annapolis



Jen Sibiga and Katie Gordon of the SAO BWC Unit with AACPD's Ron Kessler



Beth Wilson, Chris Gran, Heather Stone



SAO's Millie Smith with the Chick-fil-A Cow

Community Engagement: National Night Out 2025



SAO's John Compere, Dylan Wingate, and Ryan Davis



SAO's David Russell and Kate Smeltzer



SA Leitess with the cutest NNO visitor

Community Engagement

Purple Light Nights – In October, the State’s Attorney’s Office joined Sheriff Everett Sesker and the Anne Arundel County Sheriff’s Office for the Second-Annual “Purple Light Nights” Event in Annapolis. The event focused on raising awareness about domestic violence, bringing together guest speakers, community groups, and vendors to support survivors, and advocate on this important issue.



Michelle Obama Awards - State’s Attorney Anne Colt Leitess was the featured keynote speaker for this March event honoring women in Anne Arundel County. County Executive Steuart Pittman recognized women “who have stepped up with the strength that it takes to move us through challenging times.”

Community Engagement: Prevention Through Education

Deputy State's Attorney Brian Marsh presented to 5th-8th-grade students at St. Martin's Lutheran School in Annapolis on cyber safety, with a focus on social media usage, cyberbullying, and the negative consequences of certain online behavior.



By visiting every corner of our county to host educational seminars, the Office provides citizens with the skills they need to recognize potential criminal activity and avoid becoming a victim. These informative discussions cover everything from the serious consequences of drug abuse, fraudulent schemes that exploit senior citizens, and the dangers of online predators and cyberbullying.

If you are interested in having our Office speak to your organization, please click [HERE](#) to select a program and fill out the corresponding request form.



Celebración del Bienestar (Hispanic Wellness Event) – SAO Juvenile Justice Therapeutic Crisis Intervention Project Coordinator Maxine Smith was invited to the event to share her work within Anne Arundel County Public Schools helping to provide at-risk students with services and resources to keep them in school, out of the justice system, and on the path to success.

Community Engagement: Giving Back



Left to right: Will Cockey, SAO PIO, Stacie Gold, YWCA Chief Operating Officer, Molly Knipe, YWCA CEO, ASA Victor Francis, SA Anne Colt Leitess, JaNese Simon, YWCA Residential Director, and ASA Ann Potthast

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

The SAO collected donations from our staff of personal care items to give to the YWCA of Annapolis during October's Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

The donations will help individuals who are in shelter at the YWCA's modern and hospitable safe house. The YWCA serves as a critical lifeline for people in our community experiencing domestic abuse at home.



Assistant State's Attorney Victor Francis helps to deliver boxes of donations to the YWCA of Annapolis



Community Engagement: Giving Back

State's Attorney Anne Colt Leitess, members of the SAO, and Drug Court Peer Support Specials Ms. Sylvia Snowden (left center)



Thanksgiving Turkeys

Through generous donations, employees of the SAO contributed \$600 in funds to assist Ms. Sylvia Snowden and the Circuit Court Drug Program to continue the work of the late Michelle Ludlow for the 34th Annual Community Turkey Dinner, benefitting community members in need. The donations assisted in the purchase of 50 turkeys, roasted by Annapolis Police volunteers, while others provided delicious side dishes!



SA Leitess, Law Clerk Jackeline Flores-Barnett, and Juvenile Justice Therapeutic Program Director/SW Maxine Smith



Members of the Empowering Believers Church volunteer twice a month to help their community



SA Leitess assists a community member with Thanksgiving staples

Fall Food Drive

During the fall, the Office collected cash and food donations for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank and volunteered with Apostle Larry Lee Thomas and members of the Empowering Believers Church to distribute fresh produce, turkeys, baked goods and a bag of staples to 115 families in Glen Burnie. A line formed more than two hours before distribution, serving as a stark reminder of the great need that exists in our community.

Community Engagement: Giving Back

Holiday Angel Tree Program

During the holiday season, the Office of the State's Attorney staff, SAO family and friends, and members of the Criminal Clerk's Office donated hundreds of gifts for 200 children within the county as part of the Anne Arundel County government employee Angel Tree program.

Each year, the SAO staff has increased their giving, with 2025 being a record-breaking year!



Members of the SAO helped sort and load presents at the Circuit Courthouse, which were brought to the Anne Arundel County Department of Public Works for distribution.



Service to Anne Arundel County



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