

DISTRICT
ATTORNEY
MICHAEL GUEST

2015 REPORT



Promises
Made.
Promises
Kept.

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MESSAGE FROM DISTRICT ATTORNEY MICHAEL GUEST

Eight years ago, I was humbled to be elected as your District Attorney. I made several promises during my campaign and I want you to know that those promises are being kept. With that in mind, we compile a list of some of our significant accomplishments for you to review each year.

I believe that one of the first duties of government is to keep its citizens safe and that has been job number one during my administration. Counties, such as Madison and Rankin, stay safe for a number of reasons. First, we have outstanding and dedicated law enforcement. Second, when my office receives a case we work diligently to move it quickly through the criminal justice system. I believe in swift justice with strong and appropriate sentences.

I also believe criminals should be held accountable for their actions and not allowed to simply walk out of the jail hours after being arrested to return to commit another crime. We have created a reputation among criminals that they should not commit illegal actions in Madison and Rankin Counties. To maintain that reputation we must work to see that when someone breaks the law there will be consequences for their actions. In other parts of our state, the criminals have taken over counties and in those counties criminals suffer little or no punishment for their crime. I can assure you that my office and law enforcement will not allow crime to go unchecked in our district.

Madison and Rankin counties comprise one extended community and as a community we have placed public safety as our top priority. As a member of the community you play an important part in the criminal justice system, perhaps you have



had the opportunity to serve as a juror on a grand jury or a trial jury or perhaps you have witnessed and reported illegal activity to law enforcement. Your involvement, along with the hard work of our police officers and deputy sheriffs, is a necessary and an important part in keeping our neighborhoods and businesses safe.

In an effort to keep you informed, we have constructed and maintained an interactive website, www.daguest.com, which I encourage you to visit. On the website you can find the latest news and can register to receive our enewsletter and news alerts. In addition our website contains directions on how to download our App for your smartphone. We also encourage you to follow us on Facebook at “DA Michael Guest” and Twitter “@DA_MichaelGuest”. We have embraced social media because it allows you to have access to our office anytime day or night.

As we enter another term, I can assure you that I, along with my fellow prosecutors and staff, will continue prosecuting criminals and working with the victims to see that justice is served and that criminals are held responsible. That is the job you elected us to perform and we take our responsibility very seriously.

Once again, thank you for the faith and confidence you have placed in your District Attorney’s office. We know that we work for you and we are proud to be public servants tasked with making a difference in our community. Thank you and please feel free to contact our office if you need anything at all.

–Michael Guest

MAJOR CASES CLOSED DURING 2008-2015

RASHUN JOHNSON

kidnapping • 30 years to serve

JEROME VAN

kidnapping • 30 years to serve

TOMMY MCCRORY

sexual battery • 30 years to serve

EDWARD MYERS

armed robbery • 30 years to serve

PETER GROSSLEY

armed robbery • 30 years to serve

JAMES DAVID MEDLOCK

DUI death • 30 years to serve

PAUL JONES

statutory rape • 30 years to serve

MICHAEL MAYE

statutory rape • 30 years to serve

ANTONIO WALLACE

armed robbery / kidnapping

• 34 years to serve

JEREMY ALLEN

armed robbery • 35 years to serve

JOSHUA ALLEN

armed robbery • 35 years to serve

EDDIE DEVINE

armed robbery • 35 years to serve

EDWARD SULLIVAN

DUI death • 35 years to serve

MARCUS OLLIE

manslaughter / possession of a firearm

• 35 years to serve

JOE EARL COLE

sexual battery • 35 years to serve

LYNDON MYERS

armed robbery / possession of

a firearm • 35 years to serve

HOWARD DOYLE

armed robbery • 37 years to serve

CRAIG SALLIE

aggravated assault / possession of

a firearm • 40 years to serve

TONYA GANN

DUI mayhem • 40 years to serve

BOBBY ALLEN

armed robbery / accessory to murder

• 40 years to serve

FREDRICK SMITH

second degree murder

• 40 years to serve

JUANTEZ McDONALD

armed robbery • 40 years to serve

ROBERT WILLIAMS

evasion causing death

• 40 years to serve

MARTEZ HARRIS

manslaughter / drive by shooting

• 45 years to serve

MALCOLM WEEKS

sexual battery • 45 years to serve

MARSHALL CHANDLER

kidnapping / aggravated assault

• 45 years to serve

UNDR A WARD

second degree murder / conspiracy

• 45 years to serve

THOMAS HOOGHE

grand larceny / motor vehicle theft

• 45 years to serve

CHRIS STAPLETON

sale of cocaine • 50 years to serve

GREGORY MOORE

house burglary / automobile

burglary • 50 years to serve

DENNIS SMITH

sale of cocaine • 50 years to serve

DERRICK DRAINE

sale of cocaine • 50 years to serve

SHOVOKIE DIXON

sale of cocaine • 50 years to serve

BRUCE SHANNON

house burglary • 50 years to serve

NICHOLAS MAY

sale of cocaine • 50 years to serve

JIMMY MITCHELL

sale of cocaine • 50 years to serve

CASEY BURGESS

sexual battery / aggravated assault

• 50 years to serve

WESLEY ARCHIE

sale of cocaine • 60 years to serve

DWAYNE BOYD

sale of cocaine • 60 years to serve

DENNIS BEALE

sale of cocaine • 60 years to serve

GREGORY HOLLINS

sale of cocaine • 60 years to serve

STEWART VAUGHN

sale of cocaine • 60 years to serve

CHARLES COLLOM

sale of methamphetamine

• 60 years to serve

PUTTING YOUR SAFETY FIRST
Total Cases Closed During 2008-2015

For information on additional major cases closed,
 please visit www.daguest.com and click on the “News” section.

KIRBY SHAVERS

kidnapping and rape
 65 years to serve

KIRK MAYERS

aggravated assault on law
 enforcement • 88 years to serve

XAVIER JOHNSON

aggravated assault / burglary
 / conspiracy • 95 years to serve

JERMAINE MITCHELL

sale of cocaine as a subsequent
 offender • 120 years to serve

JASON FLORES

murder • life in prison

DANIEL BARBER

murder • life in prison

TYRONE VAUGHAN

murder • life in prison

ANTHONY PEREZ

murder • life in prison

COREY SIMS

murder • life in prison

CHANDLE HOBSON

murder • life in prison

BILLY RAY CORKEN

murder • life in prison

JERRY DURR

murder • life in prison

ROBERT HARVEY JR

murder • life in prison

GREG WILDER

murder • life in prison

ROBERT MCGUIRE

murder • life in prison

JAMES TYLER SMITH

murder • life in prison

MACK WATTS

murder / aggravated assault
 • life in prison plus 10 years

MELVIN POTTS

murder / motor vehicle theft
 • life in prison plus 10 years

ROBERT CARSON

murder / possession of
 a firearm by convicted felon
 • life in prison plus 15 years

WILLIAM TACKETT

murder • two consecutive life
 sentences in prison

PHILLIP EARL YOUNG

felony evasion / automobile
 burglary as a habitual offender
 • life without parole

KENNETH GOLDSMITH

grand larceny as a habitual
 offender • life without parole

CHRIS HOBSON

felony evasion / possession of
 a firearm by a convicted felon as
 a habitual offender
 • life without parole

TONY SWINNEY

robbery as a habitual offender
 • life without parole

JERRY WHITLOCK

automobile burglary as a habitual
 offender • life without parole

JAMES SKINNER

felony evasion as a habitual
 offender • life without parole

JERMAINE STEPHENSON

capital murder
 • life without parole

SHELIA EALEY

capital murder
 • life without parole

JONATHAN SCOTT KEEN

capital murder
 • life without parole

WALTER BURTON

capital murder
 • life without parole

CARLA HUGHES

capital murder
 • life without parole

CLARENCE JONES

capital murder and auto theft
 • life without parole
 plus 10 years

JERMAINE TYLER

capital murder and auto theft
 • life without parole
 plus 15 years

CORTELL ROSE

capital murder / kidnapping
 / failure to register / auto theft
 • life without parole
 plus 55 years

Madison County.....	6,523
Rankin County.....	10,072
TOTAL.....	16,595



Gracelyn Trailkill

I first met Gracelyn in 2008 when she was only four years old. Gracelyn is an incredible young girl who was paralyzed as a result of traffic accident caused by a drunk driver. The drunk driver, Tonya Gann, struck the vehicle that Gracelyn and her mother were traveling in as they were returning home from taking Gracelyn's brothers and sisters to school.

The accident left Gracelyn paralyzed and seriously injured her mother. Tonya Gann, the drunk driver, was arrested, convicted and was sentenced to serve 40 years in prison. I recently saw Gracelyn and her mother when Gracelyn competed in and won a talent contest at Brandon Middle School. Gracelyn's performance and courage brought the entire audience to their feet as she received a prolonged standing ovation. Gracelyn is a talented and courageous young lady who has overcome numerous challenges in her life. I cannot fully express the impact that Gracelyn and her family has had on me, as a father and a husband. Her faith and strength continues to inspire me and reminds me not to take for granted the many blessings that God has provided.



The District Attorney's Bad Check and Asset Forfeiture Units

In addition to criminal prosecution, the District Attorney's Office operates two specialized units to assist the public and law enforcement. The first is our Bad Check Unit which assists local merchants in recovering funds from those who have written worthless checks. Since I have been in office, our Bad Check Unit has recovered more than \$3,520,000 in checks and fees. The Bad Check Unit also offers information through our public service programs allowing merchants to warn would-be criminals of the consequences of passing worthless checks. These materials are available free of charge to our local businesses. Please visit www.daguest.com to request a packet.

The District Attorney's Office also operates our Asset Forfeiture Unit which works with local law enforcement agencies in Madison and Rankin counties in the seizure of property or money that is used by those selling or transporting narcotics. This allows us to not only hold drug dealers criminally responsible but also to deny them from financially benefitting from their illegal acts. I am pleased to announce that since I became District Attorney we have able to work with our Sheriffs' Departments and Police Departments to seize and forfeit a total of 424 vehicles and more than \$17,500,000.



Public Service Programs

As District Attorney, I have worked with law enforcement officials in Madison and Rankin counties to implement two public service programs to help protect our citizens and to seek help from the public in apprehending fugitives from justice. The first is a program designed to warn would-be criminals of the consequences of their crimes. We have placed information at local businesses throughout the district warning people of potential jail time if they use a weapon in the commission of a robbery. The second program is the District Attorney's Most Wanted. This program is a partnership with Sheriff Bryan Bailey, Sheriff Randy Tucker and WJTV. The Most Wanted highlights criminals who have failed to appear for court and have outstanding indictments or warrants for their arrest. Through tips called in by area viewers, law enforcement has been able to capture more than 100 wanted felons highlighted by this program. For more information about either of these programs, or to view our current most wanted, please visit www.daguest.com.



Drug Court

We are all aware of the growing problem of drug and alcohol abuse and the effects it has on our families and our society. As District Attorney, I understand the need to see that criminals are not only held responsible for their actions, but also that these individuals are provided with the necessary tools to overcome the addictiveness to drugs and alcohol. In 2011, a drug court was established in Madison and Rankin counties to help non-violent, first time offenders to receive help. This is a multi-year program that includes intense supervision, drug and alcohol testing, and drug and alcohol counseling. The program, which began with three individuals, now has 130 participants and offers men and women an opportunity to forever rid their lives of drugs and alcohol and to return as productive members of our community.



New Circuit Court Judge

In 2015, the Mississippi House of Representatives and the Senate determined, based upon population growth and caseload, that our judicial district should receive an additional circuit court judge. A special election was held in November of 2015 to fill this newly created judgeship. Steve Ratcliff was elected to serve as our newest circuit court judge. Judge Ratcliff brings twenty five years of legal practice and many years of judicial experience to this position.

Judge Ratcliff joins current Circuit Court Judge William Chapman and Judge John Emfinger in presiding over the felony criminal cases prosecuted in Madison and Rankin counties. With the addition of a third circuit court judge, it is our belief that the criminal justice system will continue to hold criminals accountable and bring defendants to justice in a timely manner.

WORKING TO KEEP YOU INFORMED

Over the years we have worked to keep the public informed of the accomplishments of your District Attorney's Office. In addition to our website, www.daguest.com, we have now incorporated various aspects of social media in an effort to keep you better informed. Last year we added an application for your smartphone that allows you to readily receive information about your District Attorney's Office. The application can be downloaded from our website or you can search for the application at the app store by searching "DA Michael Guest." We hope that you will continue to want to receive information about your criminal justice system through social media by visiting us on Facebook at "DA Michael Guest" and Twitter "@DA_MichaelGuest."

Conclusion

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your District Attorney and for taking the time to read our annual report. We encourage you to share this information with others so that they can see the successes of our criminal justice system. If you would like more information about your District Attorney's Office, you can visit our website, www.daguest.com, by visiting us on Facebook at "DA Michael Guest" and Twitter "@DA_MichaelGuest". You can also get up to date information by downloading our smartphone application. The application can be downloaded from our website or you can search for the application at the app store by searching "DA Michael Guest." Thank you again for your support and please enjoy living in Madison and Rankin Counties.

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