

STATE'S ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
CALVERT COUNTY



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

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Welcome to the Annual Report of the Calvert County State's Attorney's Office. 2024 was a busy and productive year! Our Office prosecuted over 3,000 cases in the District and Circuit Courts and enabled the collection of over \$9 million in child support.

Perhaps no case was more significant than the prosecution of Brandon Alexander Turner for the attempted murder of Calvert County Deputy Sheriff James Flynt. Following a 7-day trial in June, a jury convicted Mr. Turner of 16 offenses and a judge sentenced him to a period of incarceration in excess of life imprisonment.

Although Calvert County had its share of crime in 2024, our overall crime rate was one of the lowest, if not the lowest, in the State of Maryland. According to the NIBRS Crime Data Dashboard, Calvert had a crime rate of 1,775 incidents per 100,000 population. That State-wide average was 3,868 per 100,000 people.

Calvert County remains a safe place to live, work, and raise a family. I look forward to working with our partners in the Sheriff's Office, the Maryland State Police, and the DNR Police to keep it that way in 2025.

Robert H. Harvey, Jr.  
State's Attorney

### Statistical Data

- In 2024, the State's Attorney's Office initiated 159 cases in the Circuit Court for Calvert County by way of indictment or criminal information. Most of these cases involved felony charges. In addition, the State prosecuted 75 Circuit Court cases in which a jury trial or appeal had been noted in the District Court. There was a total of 237 Circuit Court prosecutions in 2024, an increase of 26 cases over 2023.
- The State's Attorney's Domestic Violence Unit handled a total of 283 cases in 2024, an increase of 22 over 2023. Fifteen of the cases were prosecuted in the Circuit Court and the remainder in District Court.
- The Child Support Division ranked #1 in the State of Maryland in terms of child support collected and payment of arrears. A total of \$9.27 million was collected on behalf of the children of Calvert County.
- The District Court Division handled 2,495 cases in 2024, an increase of 194 cases from 2023. Of these, 360 cases involved charges of impaired driving.

### Significant Prosecutions

- Following a 7-day trial in June, a Calvert County jury convicted Brandon Alexander Turner, 22, of Greenbelt, of the attempted first degree murder of Master Deputy Sheriff James Flynt and first degree assault on Deputies Tyler Bowen and Anthony Aranda. Turner discharged a firearm at the deputies during a high-speed chase on Rte. 4 in December, 2023. One of the shots struck and severely wounded Dep. Flynt. In October, Turner was sentenced to life imprisonment plus an additional 23 years by Judge Andrew S. Rappaport. The case was prosecuted by State's Attorney Robert Harvey and Deputy State's Attorney Timothy Maher.
- In October, Stephen Louis Betz, 30, of Owings, was convicted of first degree assault and violation of probation and sentenced to 30 years incarceration, with 16 years of active time. Betz and two accomplices entered a home in Owings and confronted the occupants about some stolen medication. An argument ensued and one of the accomplices fired a shot, striking the victim and a nearby house. The case was prosecuted by Assistant State's Attorney Allison S. Walton.
- On September 16, 2024, Michael Patrick Hering, 40, of Prince Frederick, pleaded guilty to distribution of fentanyl (large volume) and was sentenced to 20 years incarceration, suspended to 5 years without the possibility of parole. A search of Hering's house revealed approximately 9 grams of fentanyl pressed into counterfeit Oxycodone pills. The case was prosecuted by Senior Assistant State's Attorney Lee A. Bell.



- Calvert County continued to be at the forefront of animal cruelty prosecutions in the State of Maryland. On December 2, 2024, Marliana Zahedi-Mullis, of Chesapeake Beach, was convicted of animal cruelty in connection with a “rescue” operation run out of her home. Seventy-three dogs were located within the residence lacking food, water, and sanitary conditions. In a separate case, Luis Alberto Hinojosa-Morales, of Huntingtown, was convicted of 10 felony animal cruelty charges involving cockfighting and sentenced to a term of incarceration. These cases were prosecuted by Senior Assistant State’s Attorney Christopher Monte.
- In September, Theodore Frederick Harris, 65, of Lusby, was sentenced to 18 years in prison for two charges involving sex abuse of a minor. A child reported the abuse to her mother who contacted the police. When interviewed, Harris admitted to his involvement. A second victim subsequently came forward. The case was prosecuted by Senior Assistant State’s Attorney Rebecca N. Cordero.
- Hunter Lee Kirby of Prince Frederick was convicted of distribution of child pornography and sentenced to 35 years in prison, with 10 years of active time. Based upon a cyber tip, a search warrant was obtained for Kirby’s electronic devices. The search revealed multiple images of child pornography. In a similar case, Nathan S. Lindgren, 28, of Lexington Park, received a sentence of 12 years for possession and distribution of child pornography. Both of these cases were prosecuted by Senior Assistant State’s Attorney Rebecca N. Cordero.
- Anthony Hill of Washington, DC, was convicted of second degree murder and use of a firearm in the shooting death of Dakari N. Milburn in Yardley Hills. Judge Mark S. Chandlee sentenced Hill to a total of 55 years incarceration, with 20 years active. Five years of the sentence are without the possibility of parole. The case was handled by Senior Assistant State’s Attorney Lee A. Bell and Assistant State’s Attorney Allison S. Walton.
- Jonathan P. Santos, of Marietta, GA, was sentenced to 30 years incarceration, with 10 years active, for sex abuse of a minor. Santos groomed and assaulted a 12-year old girl over a 9-month period. In another unrelated case, Jonathan F. Huffman, 38, of Prince Frederick, received 18 years of active incarceration for sex abuse of a minor. Evidence revealed that Huffman had abused his victim over many years.
- On February 8, 2024, Jemel Anthony Brown, of Washington, DC, was sentenced to 32 years of active incarceration for his role in the 2023 robbery of the M&T Bank in Dunkirk. The sentence was imposed by Circuit Court Judge Mark W. Carmean.



- In August, Joshua Walter Messick was convicted by a jury of involuntary manslaughter and second degree assault. Sentencing is scheduled for early 2025. Messick was working as a security guard at CalvertHealth Medical Center when he was called upon to escort the victim from the lobby. Once outside the building, Messick shoved the victim to the ground. The victim sustained a brain injury and subsequently died.
- Three persons were successfully prosecuted for a theft that occurred at the Harris Teeter in Dunkirk that ultimately resulted in serious injury to two Maryland State Troopers. In June, Jordan Green, Malik Lewis, and Shadeed Graham were observed stealing merchandise from the grocery store. They fled in a vehicle driven by Green. During the attempt to apprehend the suspects, two troopers were struck by Green's vehicle and seriously injured. Lewis and Graham each received 27 years in prison, with 8 years of active time. Green pleaded guilty to attempted murder and is set for sentencing in 2025.
- In December, Henry Joseph Rupinski and Richard Kenneth Selby, III, each received a sentence of 15 years, suspended to 18 months active, for possession of child pornography. Upon release, both defendants will be on 5 years supervised probation and be required to register as a sex offender for life.

#### Diversions Programs

- Teresa L. Weeks was appointed to serve as the Victim/Witness Advocate for active duty and former military service members. In this capacity, Ms. Weeks will direct current and former military personnel to resources and programs through the Circuit Court Adult Treatment Program and the District Court Mental Health Docket. She will also act as liaison to the Calvert County Commission for Veterans and Military Families.
- The Calvert County Adult Treatment Program (drug court) graduated 19 individuals in 2024. These graduates completed 18 months of intensive substance abuse treatment and therapy, while maintaining their sobriety.

#### Awards

- Assistant State's Attorney Anthony R. Navalaney received the Calvert County Optimist Club Respect for Law Award. Mr. Navalaney was recognized for his work in domestic violence prosecutions.
- Senior Assistant State's Attorneys Kyle Tores and Christopher Monte each received a \$500 scholarship from the Maryland State's Attorneys' Association to be used for training purposes.

- Senior Assistant State's Attorney Rebecca N. Cordero received an award from the Maryland U.S. Attorney's Office, Project Safe Children, for her work in the prosecution of Moshe Imel. Imel, a youth football coach, was convicted in 2023 of sex abuse of a minor and sentenced to 40 years in prison.
- State's Attorney Robert Harvey presented the Detective of the Year Award to Calvert County Sheriff's Office Detective Wyatt McDowell. The Deputy of the Year Award was presented to Sheriff's Office Deputy Andrew Ridgely.

### Training

- Four Assistant State's Attorneys attended the Top Gun XXI training course on undercover drug investigations at the Northeast Counterdrug Training Center in Indiangap, PA. The training was held from April 21-27, 2024.
- On May 1-2, 2024, Assistant State's Attorneys Benjamin Lerner and Christopher Monte attended the Connected Vehicle Investigation course at the Maryland Police and Training Commission in Sykesville, MD.
- The Maryland State's Attorneys' Association (MSAA) Summer Convention was held on June 12-14, 2024, in Ocean City. Nineteen staff members attended. Two-and-a-half days of training was provided for attorneys, investigators, and victim/witness advocates.
- Four attorneys attended a 1-day training session in June on the prosecution of auto manslaughter and DUI homicide cases. The training was held at the James N. Robey Public Safety Training Center in Marriottsville, MD.
- Three attorneys attended the week-long Homicide Investigation Seminar sponsored by the Harvard University Associates in Police Science. The seminar was held at the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Baltimore.
- On November 7-8, State's Attorney Harvey attended the MSAA Board of Directors overnight meeting in Cambridge, MD. He received a briefing from the Governor's Chief of Staff on legislative initiatives for the 2025 session of the Maryland General Assembly.
- Three staff members attended a 2-day symposium on problem-solving courts in November. The symposium was held in Towson.
- The State's Attorney's Office continued with its in-house training program. In April, Chief Judge E. Gregory Wells of the Maryland Appellate Court spoke to attorneys about opening statements and closing arguments in trials.

## **Policies and Procedures**

- The State's Attorney's Office issued a policy governing the retention and disposition of its Circuit and District Court case files.
- In July, a policy was issued setting forth the procedure for notifying crime victims whenever a criminal indictment or information is filed in the Circuit Court.

## **Community Outreach**

- The State's Attorney's Office continued to be active in Calvert County Public Schools. Assistant State's Attorney Patrick Cathro spoke to criminal justice students at each of the County high schools. State's Attorney Harvey spoke at Career Day at Calvert Middle School and addressed students at Calverton School. Senior Assistant State's Attorney Chris Monte spoke at the mock crash training at Huntingtown High School in April.
- State's Attorney Harvey hosted home-schooled students at the Courthouse for the annual Day of Law program on November 22, 2024.
- Attorneys provided training at the Maryland Criminal Justice Academy to law enforcement officers on new developments in the criminal law. The training consisted of 1-hour sessions over approximately 9 weeks. Attorneys also instructed rookie Calvert County deputies on the role of the State's Attorney's Office in the criminal justice system.
- On November 16, 2024, State's Attorney Harvey testified before the Maryland Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Leonardtown, MD.
- The State's Attorney's Office participated in National Night Out functions in various communities throughout the County. Once again, the Office maintained a booth at the Calvert County Fair.
- In April, State's Attorney Harvey was interviewed by National Public Radio on the topic of juvenile crime.
- State's Attorney Harvey continued to serve on the Maryland State Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy and the Sentencing Guidelines Subcommittee. The Commission is responsible for the issuance of guidelines to assist judges in sentencing decision in Circuit Court cases.