



## A Community Update from the San Francisco District Attorney's Office

Dear Community Members:

This month I am delighted to share some personal news: the birth of my beautiful son. My wife continues to amaze me as she is an even better parent than I could have imagined. Thank you for all the well wishes and support; parenthood is an absolutely joy and I am feeling grateful for every moment, even the sleepless nights!

I am also appreciative of each and every member of the District Attorney's Office for their continuous hard work. This month's newsletter highlights some of our recent work, including a recent trial win in a serious case; our upcoming convening on interpersonal violence; and our ongoing community events.

I am so proud of our office's work and I am honored to serve the San Francisco community.

Chesa Boudin  
San Francisco District Attorney

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# In Our Courts



## Litigation Update

The courts continue to experience a significant trial backlog due to the pandemic. Even when our prosecutors and defense attorneys are ready for trial, cases are routinely being delayed due to limited trial courtroom availability. We will continue to advocate for more courtrooms to be made available for trial. Although we have been able to bring more cases to trial in recent months than during the early months of the pandemic, we are eager to try more cases so we can seek closure and healing for crime survivors, their families, and the accused.

## Guilty Verdicts in Rape Trial

Earlier this month, our office secured multiple guilty verdicts at trial in a violent 2014 rape. The jury reached guilty verdicts on seven felonies, including Forcible Rape, Assault with Intent to Commit Rape and False Imprisonment.

Our office worked closely to support the survivor throughout this case, and we commend her for her strength and courage over the many years it took to bring this case to trial. A special thanks to lead prosecutor Assistant District Attorney Courtney Burris for her hard work and dedication.

To find out more about available resources for crime victims, including victims of sexual assault, please call our Victim Services Division at (628) 652-4100, or email them at [victimservices@sfgov.org](mailto:victimservices@sfgov.org).

## Hate Crimes Charged

This week our office filed 7 felony charges, including hate crime allegations, for seven separate robberies against Asian women, many of whom were monolingual Cantonese speakers. Those who commit violence or target our AAPI community

members will be held accountable. We know the pain that crimes like this can cause to the broader community; these attacks against Asian women occurred during a time when many in the AAPI community across the nation have felt especially vulnerable. We will continue to work to protect the AAPI community and keep everyone safe.

We urge members of the AAPI community, particularly the elderly, who feel unsafe to reach out for support. Seniors in need of escorts for activities like medical appointments or grocery shopping can reach out to Self Help for the Elderly's [escort program](#). A flyer in Chinese is available [here](#).

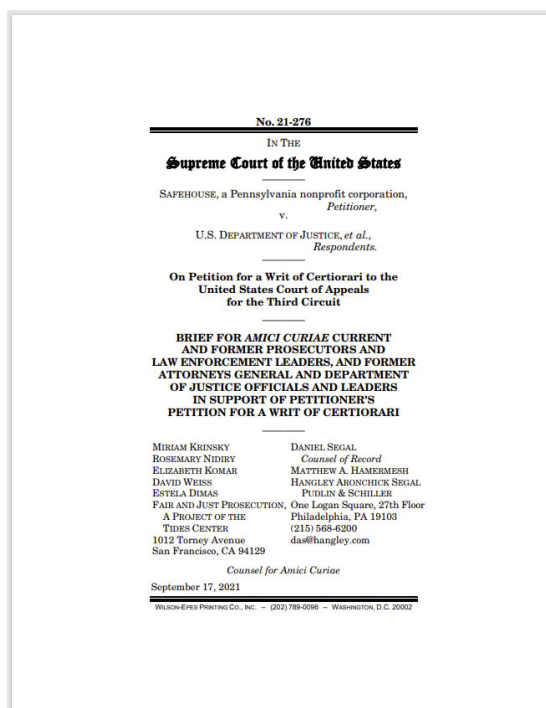
## Amicus Briefs

### Supporting Overdose Prevention Sites

This month I signed onto an amicus brief before the United States Supreme Court for the case of *United States v. Safehouse* in support of overdose prevention sites. San Francisco, like much of the U.S., has been devastated by an overdose epidemic that has only worsened during the pandemic. We know that criminalizing substance use [does not reduce drug abuse](#) and harms families and communities.

We need new approaches. Overdose prevention sites, also known as safe consumption sites, save lives; to date, no one inside a safe consumption site has died from an overdose. These sites serve also as harm reduction centers where people can access medical care, social services, and treatment.

I am proud to have signed the *amicus* brief along with more than 80 current and former elected prosecutors and law enforcement leaders.

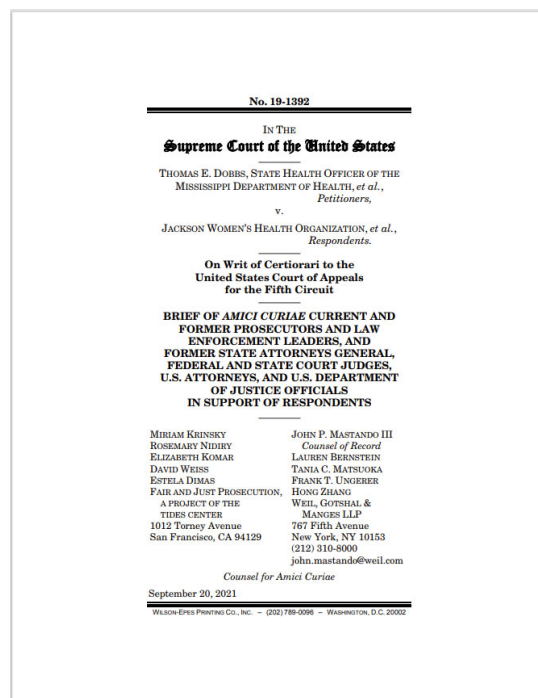




# Supporting Reproductive Rights

I signed onto an *amicus* brief before the U.S. Supreme Court to protect the constitutional right to abortion and to prevent the criminalization of women exercising their right to choose. In *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, the Supreme Court will consider Mississippi's law banning abortion after 15 weeks of pregnancy and the future of *Roe v. Wade* is on the line.

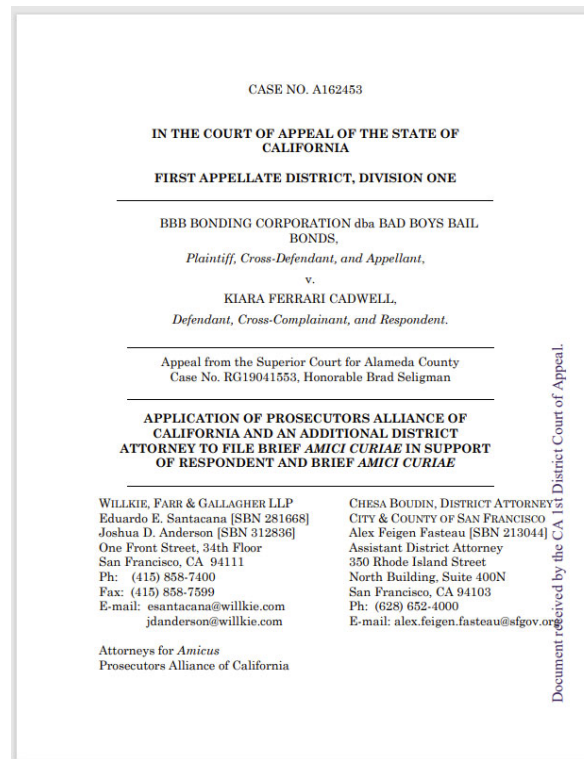
Public safety must mean protecting public health. Overturning *Roe v. Wade* would increase the incidence of vulnerable individuals seeking unsafe and unregulated abortion procedures. We must promote public safety by protecting the rights of all persons to control their bodies and access safe healthcare.



## Supporting a Class Action Lawsuit Against the Bail Bonds Industry


Earlier this month, we joined Prosecutors Alliance of California in filing an *amicus* brief in support of a class action lawsuit against Bad Boys Bail Bond Corporation. The lawsuit alleges predatory lending practices and harassment.

One of my first acts as District Attorney was to eliminate the use of money bail in our office. The bail bond industry profits off charging exorbitant fees to primarily low-income people—disproportionately people of color. We support the application of consumer protection laws to protect vulnerable consumers from misleading, unlawful behavior by the bail bond industry. Thank you to Assistant District Attorney Alex Feigen Fasteau for the excellent work on this issue.




# In Our Office


## Centering Survivors: Creating Interventions that Heal, Not Harm

  
SAN FRANCISCO DISTRICT ATTORNEY CHESA BOUDIN  
AND THE SFDA VICTIM'S SERVICES DIVISION  
PRESENT

Centering Survivors of  
Interpersonal Violence:  
Creating Interventions that Heal,  
Not Harm



September 30 | 10 AM – 3 PM PDT | Manny's, 3092 16th St



RSVP at [bit.ly/SFDACenteringSurvivors](https://bit.ly/SFDACenteringSurvivors)

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, when we raise awareness, support survivors, and continue to work to stop interpersonal violence. On September 30, the eve of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, our office will hold a convening of survivors, community leaders, researchers, and practitioners focused on how we can better serve survivors and developing effective responses to interpersonal violence. I will moderate two panels, one focused on uplifting

survivors' perspectives and another devoted to intervention strategies. This will be a hybrid event; panelists and attendees can join [in person](#) at Manny's in the Mission or [via Zoom](#).

According to [CDC data](#), 1 in 4 women and 1 in 10 men will experience physical violence by an intimate partner at some point during their lifetimes. Our office works every day to hold those who commit acts of violence accountable, including domestic violence. In addition to criminal prosecution, we support interventions that address the root causes of violence and can prevent violence before it happens. We are looking forward to bringing experts and community members together to discuss effective solutions to this widespread problem. If you'd like to attend, please click on one of the links above to register.

## **Partnership to Prevent and Improve Responses to Campus Sexual Assault**

We recently announced a new partnership between our office; the San Francisco Police Department, the San Francisco Department of Public Health; and the San Francisco State University Police Department to enhance the reporting and investigation of campus sexual assaults, violent crimes, and hate crimes, and improve support for survivors. Our newly signed Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") establishes roles, procedures, and practices across these agencies for responding to reports of sexual violence crimes and hate crimes and ensuring that survivors' needs are met. It provides that a victim will receive information and assistance accessing services like counseling, medical examinations, and, when the victim consents, a free sexual assault forensic examination (SAFE) regardless of the victim's engagement with law enforcement.

The MOU establishes ongoing communication and coordination between each agency during pending investigations. The MOU also facilitates access to victim services for survivors of campus sexual assault, when a survivor reports a sexual assault or hate crime on campus, our office's Victim Services Division will be contacted to help link survivors to medical treatment, therapy, victim compensation, and community-based services. This agreement bolsters crime prevention efforts and provides protections for particularly vulnerable groups.

We will continue to develop ways to prevent sexual assault and ensure that survivors are always centered and supported.

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## **In Our Community**

### **Community Outreach**

# Community Walks

In the last month, our office conducted outreach in Districts 1, 7, 9, 10, and 11 as part of our weekly neighborhood walks to talk to merchants and community members about public safety. During last week's San Bruno Avenue walk in District 9, I was joined by Supervisor Hillary Ronen, SFPD Bayview Captain David Maron, OEWD Corridor Manager Valerie Luu, and Family Connections Center Executive Director Yensing Sihapanya. It was a pleasure to chat with store owners like Ferdie of Ruth's School Uniforms and Ms. Fang of Ming Hui Restaurant about their decades of investment in this vibrant neighborhood.

Additionally, our Community Affair and Community Liaison Teams have conducted neighborhood walks on Leland Street in District 10's Visitacion Valley and Mission/Geneva Ave in District 11's Excelsior. Our Community Liaisons also spent time in District 7 as they walked along Ocean Avenue between Miramar and Faxon Streets. Our team stopped in to speak with shop owners and employees at some of our favorite businesses including Java Ocean Café, Cherry Blossom Bakery, and Win Long Ocean Hardware. Thank you to Pierre Smit, the Executive Director of the Ocean Avenue Association and Jordan Mar, the Small Business & Marketing Manager of the Ocean Avenue Association for accompanying us.



D9 Merchant Walk with Supervisor Ronen, Captain Maron, Officer Ng & Officer Deng of Bayview Station, SFDA Chief of Staff David Campos, and Director of Community Affairs Francis Chan





D11 Neighborhood Walk with Supervisor Safai's Legislative Aide Lauren Chung, Excelsior Action Group Board Chair Cathy Mulkey-Meyer, SFDA Assistant District Attorney Daniel Amador, Director of Community Affairs Francis Chan, and AAPI Community Relations Manager Kitty Fong.



D7 neighborhood walk with Hassam Kaddoura, Owner of Java on Ocean, community members, Assistant District Cecily Brewster, and Director of Community Affairs Francis Chan.

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## Community Events

### Hispanic Heritage Month

September 15 marked the beginning of Hispanic Heritage Month, when we celebrate the histories, cultures and contributions of Hispanic Americans and their ancestors. We celebrate from mid-September to mid-October because this time period captures many days of significance to Hispanic Americans, including the anniversaries of independence for Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala,



Honduras, Nicaragua, and Mexico . This year, our office held a bilingual celebration on our [Facebook Live](#). Chief of Staff David Campos and Chief of Ethics, Professional Responsibility, Training, Culture, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Arcelia Hurtado joined me to speak about their experiences as Latinx immigrants and their paths to senior leadership positions within the DA's Office. We are grateful for the contributions of the diverse immigrant communities in San Francisco and enjoyed celebrating our Latinx community members.



## Rally with Mothers of Murdered Sons

Last Saturday was National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims. As part of that day of honor, I joined San Francisco Police Chief William Scott at a rally organized by Mothers of Murdered Sons. We stood together to remember all the loved ones—children, siblings, parents, and community members—who have been lost to gun violence in our community. Thank you to the mothers who invited us to be a part of this difficult but important day of remembrance.

We will continue to prioritize violent crime and finding ways to prevent homicides and gun violence. Every life lost to violence is a tragedy. We are committed to doing whatever we can together to make San Francisco the safest city it can be.



## **Autumn Moon Festival**

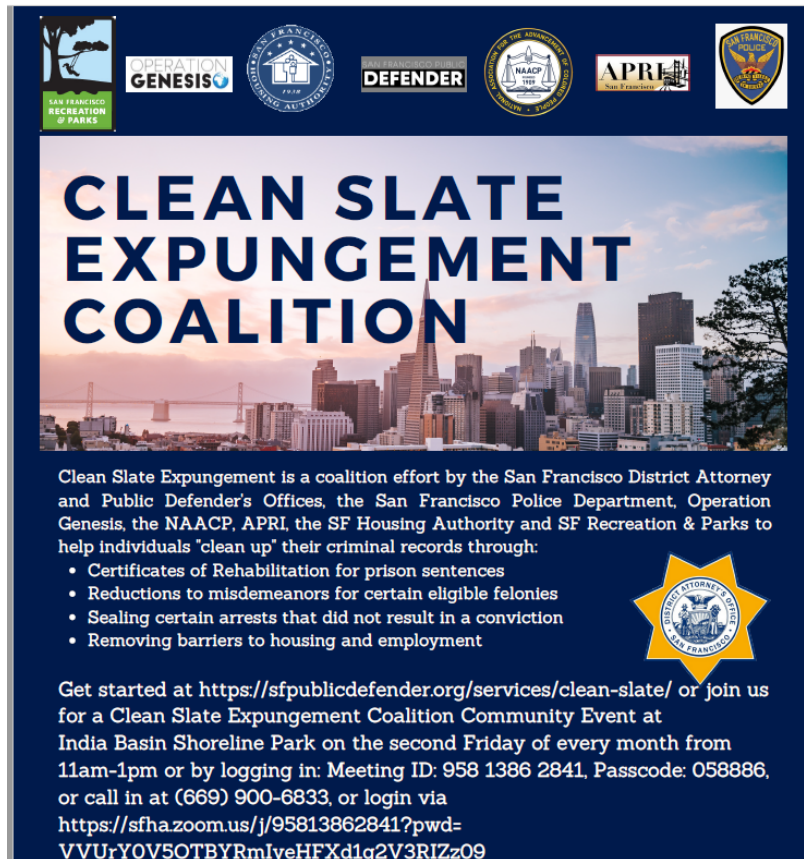
Many countries in Asia— including China, Taiwan, and Vietnam—celebrate Mid-Autumn Festival, also known as Autumn Moon Festival, when farmers traditionally harvest their crops to prepare for winter. We were delighted to join the celebration at San Francisco's Mid-Autumn Festival in the Richmond District, along with Mayor London Breed, Supervisor Connie Chan, and Assemblymember Phil Ting. Festivities included a lion dance, live music, and delicious mooncakes. Thank you to the organizers, performers and vendors who made this memorable event possible; we are already looking forward to next year's celebration.



## The Clean Slate Expungement Coalition

We are proud to be part of the Clean Slate Expungement Coalition, a joint effort between our office, the San Francisco Public Defender, the San Francisco Police Department, and other community partners to help more than 37,000 eligible San Franciscans expunge non-violent and low-level criminal records and remove barriers to employment, education, and housing. This process plays a critical role in promoting public safety and help build stronger communities. Through extensive outreach efforts, the Coalition has reached thousands of community members and handled more than 1,300 cases in the past year alone. The Coalition attended SF First Responder's Bike Safety Rodeo + Ride event earlier this month, and will be presenting at the Department of Human Resources' SmartRecruiter event on September 29, 4-5:30. You can find out how to attend the event [here](#).





## CLEAN SLATE EXPUNGEMENT COALITION

Clean Slate Expungement is a coalition effort by the San Francisco District Attorney and Public Defender's Offices, the San Francisco Police Department, Operation Genesis, the NAACP, APRI, the SF Housing Authority and SF Recreation & Parks to help individuals "clean up" their criminal records through:

- Certificates of Rehabilitation for prison sentences
- Reductions to misdemeanors for certain eligible felonies
- Sealing certain arrests that did not result in a conviction
- Removing barriers to housing and employment

Get started at <https://sfpublicdefender.org/services/clean-slate/> or join us for a Clean Slate Expungement Coalition Community Event at India Basin Shoreline Park on the second Friday of every month from 11am-1pm or by logging in: Meeting ID: 958 1386 2841, Passcode: 058886, or call in at (669) 900-6833, or login via <https://sfha.zoom.us/j/95813862841?pwd=VVUuY0V5OTBYRmIyeHFXd1g2V3RlZz09>

## In the Media

Here are a few highlights from recent media coverage:

- The Atlantic: [His Dad Got a Chance at Clemency. Then His Baby Was Born](#)
- The Nib: [Can One DA Change a Whole City?](#)
- The New York Times: [Deadly and Untraceable, "Ghost Guns" Are Becoming More Common in NY](#)
- KPIX/CBS: [San Francisco Jury Convicts Man of Rape, Multiple Felonies in Brutal 2014 Assault](#)

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## In Closing

Thank you to everyone in San Francisco for being a part of what makes our city the [best city in the world](#).

All of us at the District Attorney's Office will continue to work to make our city even better: more fair, more safe, and more just.



Chesa Boudin, San Francisco District Attorney

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