



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

Dear Community Members,

March has been a busy month in the District Attorney's Office. At the beginning of the month, we released our 2021 Annual Report, which highlights our office's work to promote safety and justice in San Francisco over the past year. We are especially proud of our work centering victims; our advancements in transparency; and our litigation in criminal court to hold those who commit harms accountable as well as in civil court to prevent crimes before they occur.

In March, we furthered our commitment to protecting victims by cosponsoring new state legislation limiting the use of assault victim DNA by law enforcement; launched a new data dashboard and created new office fact sheets; and, of course, were busy in court bringing more cases to trial. Read on to learn more about our work this month.

Chesa Boudin
San Francisco District Attorney

In Our Courts



Numerous Trials

The number of trials has been steadily increasing in recent weeks. Our prosecutors are currently in trial in four homicide cases. Additionally, we have numerous felony and misdemeanor cases currently in trial, not to mention the many other hearings that are happening daily.

Thank you to the hardworking prosecutors and staff working to bring as many cases to trial as possible, despite still-limited courtroom availability and continuous court backlogs.

Felony Charges in Robbery with a Ghost Gun

This month we filed [felony charges](#) of robbery, assault, weapons possession, and felony auto burglary against two people for violently robbing a victim using ghost guns and then subsequently committing auto burglaries. The two suspects are alleged to have robbed a victim of his watch and violently hit him in the head with the butt of their ghost gun. After the assault the suspects were observed breaking into multiple vehicles by San Francisco police officers and were arrested.

This case reminds us of the urgency of our work to get ghost guns off our streets, in addition to seeking accountability for those who cause harm with these dangerous weapons. We will continue to hold those who use ghost guns accountable and will also continue our [historic litigation](#) to stop these weapons from flooding our streets.

A picture of the recovered ghost gun in connection with this case is shown below.



Promoting Police Accountability

Earlier this month, we concluded the first-ever excessive force trial against an on-duty police officer in San Francisco history. [After four days of deliberation](#) the jury found Officer Terrance Stangel not guilty on three counts and hung on the fourth count. Officer Stangel had been charged with beating with a baton an unarmed Black man, Dacari Spiers, resulting in multiple broken bones. We respect the jury's decision and appreciate the time and effort it's members dedicated to the case. After consulting with Mr. Spiers, we dismissed the remaining count. Although the jury did not reach the result we wanted, we thank them for their diligence, and they expressed what a difficult decision this was. We will continue our work to hold officers who break the law accountable and are committed to ensuring the safety of all communities.

Second Case Filed Against Disbarred Attorney

Our office filed a [second case](#) against a disbarred attorney who has continued to engage in the unauthorized practice of law. We first filed charges against him in November of 2021, and [our press release](#) led to new victims coming forward to share additional crimes—including lying to a victim and pretending he was still litigating a case that had been dismissed because of his own inaction and

fabricating false court appearances. Our office will continue to hold those in power and privileged positions accountable when they break the law and hurt victims.

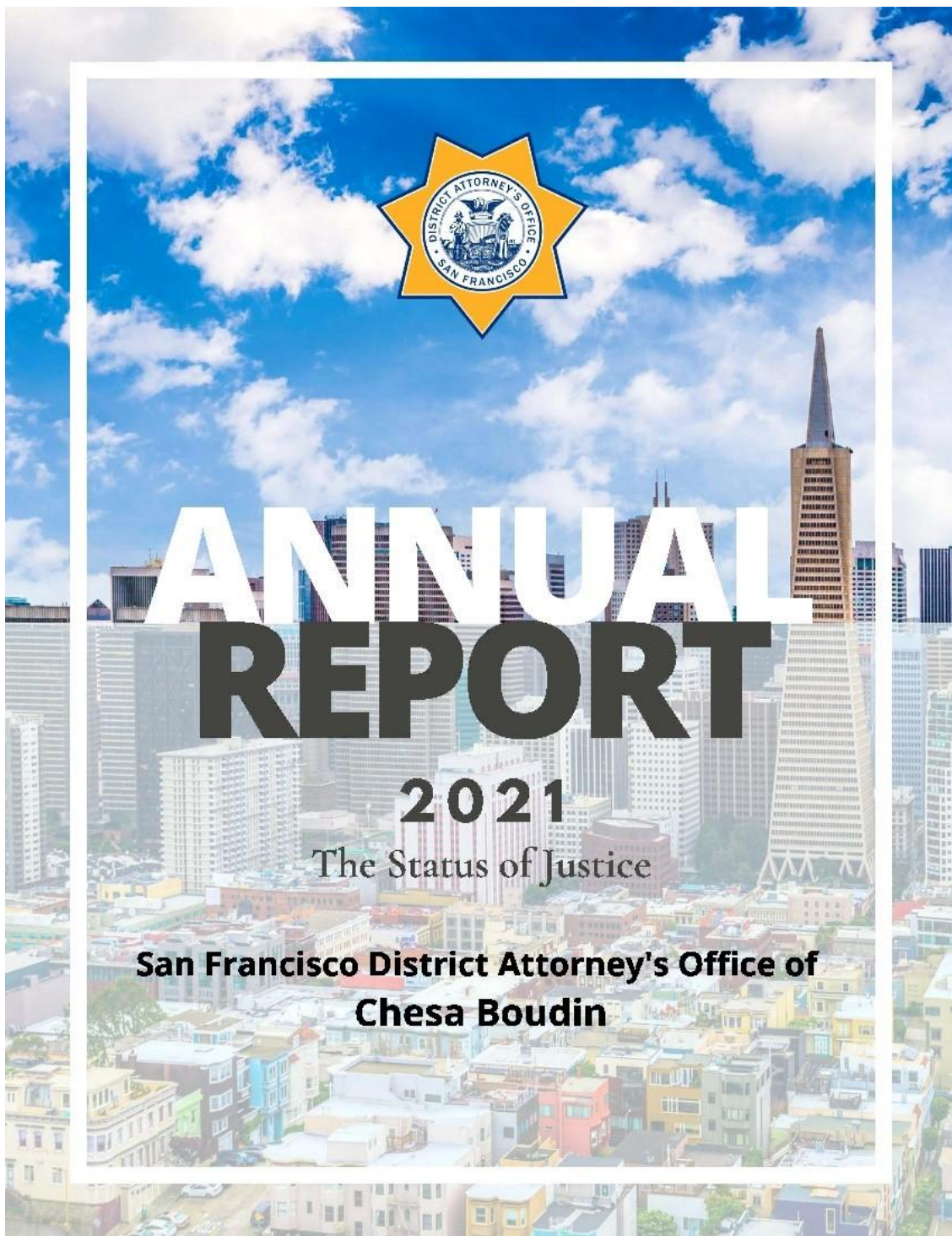
Victim Restitution in Contractor Fraud Case

This month we also announced the [recovery of over \\$300,000 in restitution to a victim's estate](#). The contractor in this case had over-charged work that was never done or done very poorly. After gaining the victim's trust, a general contractor stole \$332,777.26 over a period of ten-years while working for the victim. We are pleased that we were able to recover stolen money for the victim and we will continue to hold those accountable for the harm they commit against our elder community.

In Our Office

2021 San Francisco District Attorney's Office Annual report

Our office is proud to present our [2021 San Francisco District Attorney's Office Annual Report](#). Our Annual Report highlights the work of our office over the past year to promote safety and justice in San Francisco. It includes information about our litigation in court; our support for victims—including a dramatic expansion of Victim Services—our work to promote transparency in data; our new initiatives to stop gun violence; our public and community work; and much more. The Annual Report is available on the [SFDA website](#) in English, Spanish, and Chinese.



Improving Transparency

Our Annual Report details much of our work to promote transparency in 2021—including through the creation of new data dashboards. In March of this year, we were thrilled to launch yet [another dashboard](#): a new case resolutions dashboard that provides information on case dispositions from 2011 on. Thank you to our incredible, hardworking data team for making this much-requested data available to the public!

New Informational Fact Sheets

This month we released a number of issue-based fact sheets to help distill complex topics about which we are often asked. You can find our [Domestic Violence](#), [Diversion](#), and [Narcotics](#) fact sheets on our website, and we will be continuing to post new factsheets in the coming weeks.

Celebrating Women's History Month

March is Women's History Month. In addition to recognizing women who inspire us—like Judge (and hopefully soon-to-be Justice) Ketanji Brown Jackson—we are also celebrating the accomplishments of women in our office this month!

The majority of positions—over 64%—in the San Francisco District Attorney's Office staff are currently filled by people who identify as women.



In Our Legislature

Legislation to Protect Sexual Assault Survivors' DNA

Last month, our office exposed the San Francisco Crime Lab's practice of searching a [database containing sexual assault victims' DNA](#) to identify suspects in unrelated crimes. This practice is not only unethical, but is a violation of victims' rights and a threat to public safety, as it dissuades sexual assault survivors from coming forward.

On March 7, California State Senator Scott Wiener and I announced the [introduction of Senate Bill 1228: Genetic Privacy for Sexual Assault Victims](#), of which Assemblymember Phil Ting is a principal coauthor. If passed, SB 1228 will prohibit law enforcement agencies from retaining the DNA profiles of sexual assault survivors in a database that could be searched for reasons unrelated to the sexual assault. Additionally, we have worked with Supervisor Hillary Ronen, who has crafted [local legislation](#) to prevent the San Francisco Police Department from retaining victims' DNA for future reference.

We will continue to fight to protect survivors and eliminate barriers to reporting in every way we can.



First-In-The-Nation Approach to Addressing Wrongful Convictions

Wrongful convictions undermine trust in our criminal legal system and violate fundamental principles of justice and due process. Following our creation of the [San Francisco Innocence Commission](#) during my first year in office, this month I was proud to join Assemblymember Marc Levine, to [introduce AB 2706, Innocence Commission Pilot Programs](#).

This bill would expand on the model we created here in San Francisco and establish Innocence Commission Pilot Programs in three counties in California. These pilots would create panels of experts, selected by the County District Attorney, to review credible claims of wrongful conviction. AB 2706 is a first-in-the-nation approach to addressing wrongful convictions and fulfilling district attorneys' duty to prevent and rectify the conviction of innocent persons.

In Our Community

Launching the “Be The Jury” Pilot Program

Last year, I co-sponsored AB 1452 with Assemblymember Phil Ting; Senator Scott Wiener; San Francisco Treasurer José Cisneros; and Public Defender Mano Raju to promote more diverse juries that are more representative of San Francisco's diverse communities. The [“Be The Jury”](#) pilot program established through AB 1452 was signed into law by Governor Newsom and will compensate low-to-moderate-income jurors \$100 a day for their jury service. Starting March 7th, potential jurors have been allowed to apply for this compensation through the San Francisco Superior Court's website.

To build community awareness for this first-of-its-kind pilot program, we partnered with the [Golden State Warriors](#) to release two social media Public Service Announcements. I am grateful to [Coach Steve Kerr](#) and [Kevin Looney](#) for their support of our work to ensure our juries can best reflect the victims and accused persons whose lives they impact.



Warriors In The Community ✓
@DubsCommunity

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Through a partnership between @TreasurerSF, @sfdefender, @SFDAOoffice, @sfbar, and @FairFinesFees, the “Be The Jury” program will compensate low- to moderate-income jurors in criminal trials \$100 a day for their jury.

➡: bit.ly/BeTheJury

#BeTheJury
#JuryDutyIsMyDuty



11:38 AM · Mar 17, 2022 from San Francisco, CA · Twitter for iPhone

Celebrating Black Women Trailblazers

In recognition of Women’s History Month, the Department of Police Accountability invited me to participate in celebrating Black Women Trailblazers in law enforcement. I was honored to present four of amazing trailblazing women who are dedicated to promoting justice in San Francisco through their work for our office. I am so grateful to be able to recognize the work of Senior Human Resources Analyst **Shavaun Tolliver**, Assistant District Attorney **Courtney Burris**, Victim Services Manager **Monica Wheaton-Howell**, and Paralegal Supervisor **Jasmine Moore**. These women, along with all the members of the San Francisco

District Attorney's Office, work tirelessly to promote public safety for all San Franciscans.

Community Townhall

Last week I joined community members for a Public Safety Townhall hosted at Manny's Cafe. It was great to have an opportunity to answer questions from San Franciscans—in person. We are looking to plan additional, topical Townhalls, so stay tuned for more information. If you would like more information about our townhalls, feel free to email DistrictAttorney@sfgov.org.

Protect Our Elders event

Last weekend, members from our Victim Advocate Division joined the Protect Our Elders event in Oakland Chinatown in partnership with local organizations. The team shared Victim Rights and Crime Prevention materials and answered questions from the community. In addition, one of our staff members was able to serve as a Chinese interpreter for monolingual attendees for the duration of the event. I am very appreciative of our team's work to build bridges and share best practice with partner organizations and the community in ways that are culturally competent and linguistically accessible.

In Closing

Thank you for reading our March update and Happy Women's History Month to the many women who serve our community. As we start spring, the weather warms, and our city continues to reopen, I look forward to seeing you out in the city!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chesa Boudin".

Chesa Boudin, San Francisco District Attorney

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