

# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT



**OFFICE OF DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
PETER J. RINDAL, DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

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# A MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

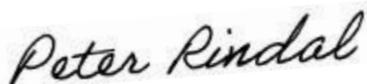
As I look back on 2025, I am reminded that the work of the District Attorney's Office is ultimately about people—victims seeking support, community members expecting fairness and accountability, and a dedicated team of professionals committed to doing difficult work well. While our work is often measured in cases filed, trials conducted, and outcomes achieved, behind every number is a story of individuals and families navigating difficult circumstances and relying on the justice system to act with fairness and integrity.

I continue to be proud of the staff of our office. Their professionalism, integrity, and commitment to public service make it possible for our office to fulfill its mission each day. Whether supporting victims through the court process, working closely with law enforcement partners, or reviewing complex cases and evidence, their efforts are the foundation of everything we accomplish.

This past year brought progress and opportunity while also presenting challenges. Our office maintained strong case outcomes, including a 98% case clearance rate and securing more than \$135,000 in restitution payments to crime victims. At the same time, we continued improving how we operate by implementing new technology to manage digital evidence, strengthening professional development opportunities, and growing diversion programs that help individuals address underlying issues while maintaining accountability. These accomplishments were achieved despite significant staff shortages throughout the year.

The work described in this report reflects the ongoing collaboration between our office, law enforcement agencies, victim advocates, and community partners. I am grateful for those partnerships and the shared commitment to building a justice system that is fair, effective, and responsive to the needs of our community.

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about the work of the Eau Claire County District Attorney's Office and the priorities that will guide our efforts in the year ahead.



**Peter J. Rindal**  
District Attorney  
Eau Claire County, WI



## ABOUT THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

The District Attorney's Office serves the people of Eau Claire County by working with law enforcement agencies, government and non-government organizations, and other stakeholders to uphold justice and support the community. The office is organized into three primary divisions: General Prosecution Services, Victim Witness Services, and Diversion Programs. Together, these divisions work collaboratively to prosecute cases, support victims, and promote accountability within the criminal justice system.

### General Prosecution Services

The General Prosecution Services division is responsible for reviewing law enforcement referrals, making charging decisions, and prosecuting adult criminal cases, juvenile delinquency cases, and certain non-criminal citations issued by local law enforcement. Prosecutors also provide 24/7 legal consultation to law enforcement officers and conduct training to support effective investigations and case preparation.

### Victim Witness Services

The Victim Witness Services division works to ensure victims' rights are upheld while providing support, information, and advocacy to victims, witnesses, and affected families. Staff assist individuals in navigating the court process, help coordinate victim notifications required by law, and connect victims with resources and services available in the community.

### Diversion Programs

The Diversion Programs division administers programs that provide structured alternatives to traditional prosecution. These programs promote accountability while helping participants address underlying issues that contribute to criminal behavior, allowing the justice system to focus resources on more serious offenses.

Learn more about the responsibilities of Wisconsin district attorneys in [Chapter 978](#) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

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## Mission Statement

*To skillfully and fairly seek truth and justice, protect and support victims and the community, and hold offenders accountable.*



# 2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2025, the Eau Claire County District Attorney's Office continued to focus on effective prosecution, robust victim support, and thoughtful use of diversion and alternative prosecution programs. The office maintained strong case outcomes while implementing operational improvements, strengthening partnerships with community organizations and law enforcement, and investing in staff development. These efforts reflect an ongoing commitment to balancing accountability, efficiency, and public safety in the administration of justice.

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## Effective Prosecution and Case Management

The office continued to manage a complex and evolving caseload while maintaining strong outcomes and operational efficiency. Investments in technology and improved internal processes strengthened the office's ability to review evidence, manage cases, and resolve matters effectively.

- Seventh consecutive year exceeding a 95% criminal case clearance rate, demonstrating sustained effectiveness in resolving cases and managing caseloads efficiently.
- Deployment of the Axon Justice digital evidence management system, improving the review and organization of increasingly large volumes of digital evidence.
- Despite being the 14th largest county by population, Eau Claire County ranked 6th statewide in felony filings in 2025, highlighting the significant prosecutorial workload handled by the office.

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## Strengthening Victim Services

Supporting victims and ensuring their voices are heard throughout the justice process remains central to the office's mission. In 2025, the Victim Witness Services team reinforced partnerships and contributed to statewide efforts to improve services for victims.

- Statewide leadership through participation on the VAWA STOP Advisory Committee, helping develop Wisconsin's four-year plan for Violence Against Women Act grant funding.
- Reinforced collaboration with Bolton Refuge House by supporting volunteer recruitment and training following the transition of the county's crisis response program.
- Continued enforcement of Marsy's Law protections, reinforcing victims' constitutional rights five years after the amendment's adoption in Wisconsin.

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## Enhancing Law Enforcement Partnerships

Collaboration between prosecutors and law enforcement agencies is essential to effective case development and public safety. In 2025, the District Attorney's Office continued working closely with local law enforcement agencies to support investigations, provide legal guidance, and strengthen case preparation practices.

- Provided in-service training to county law enforcement agencies, reinforcing prosecutorial priorities, legal standards, and best practices for case development.
- Participated in patrol and detective briefings with local law enforcement agencies, creating opportunities to discuss investigative practices, answer legal questions, and strengthen communication between agencies.
- Continued providing 24/7 legal consultation to law enforcement officers, supporting investigative decision-making and ensuring strong case preparation.

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## Diversion Programs Success

Diversion programs continued to produce strong outcomes in 2025, providing structured alternatives to traditional prosecution that promote accountability while addressing underlying causes of criminal behavior. These programs allow the justice system to focus resources on the most serious offenses while supporting rehabilitation and positive outcomes for participants.

- 25th year of the Deferred Acceptance of Guilty Plea (DAGP) Program, enrolled 134 new participants and collected more than \$85,000 in restitution for crime victims.
- Pre-Charge Diversion Program saw both increased utilization and stronger outcomes in 2025 with referrals increasing to 357 participants, while the program achieved a 96% successful completion rate—an improvement of nearly 12 percentage points over 2024.
- OWI Early Intervention Program maintained steady, strong results, with a 90% completion rate and 756 jail days avoided through treatment-focused intervention.

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## Improving Efficiency Through Alternative Prosecution

In 2025, the office implemented a new approach allowing certain low-level criminal referrals to be issued as county ordinance violations rather than criminal charges when appropriate. This process streamlines case handling of lower-level offenses while preserving accountability and restitution for victims.

- Applies to qualifying offenses such as low-level retail theft, possession of THC or drug paraphernalia, and disorderly conduct when diversion is not appropriate.
- Reduces unnecessary criminal filings and improves efficiency for prosecutors, law enforcement, defense attorneys, and the courts.
- Ensures justice system resources remain focused on more serious offenses while still allowing restitution to be collected.

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## Workforce Development and Organizational Improvements

Recruitment, training, and internal process improvements remained a major focus in 2025 as the office worked to stabilize staffing and strengthen long-term organizational capacity.

- Successful recruitment and onboarding of multiple Assistant District Attorneys and Legal Analysts, helping stabilize staffing following a prolonged period of vacancies.
- Launch of the *Back2Basics* training series, reinforcing core competencies, promoting consistency in case handling, and offering professional development.
- Implementation of remote work policies and expanded flexible work options, supporting employee retention and workplace flexibility.
- Revised staffing structure within General Prosecution Services, including rotating front-facing responsibilities and shared operational roles to improve workload balance.
- Initiation of strategic planning and mission, vision, and values development to guide the office's long-term direction.

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The progress made in 2025 provides a strong foundation for continued improvements in 2026 as the office focuses on professional development, operational efficiency, and long-term organizational planning.

## 2026 GOALS & FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

Looking ahead to 2026, the office will continue building on the progress made in 2025 while focusing on professional development, operational improvements, and long-term organizational planning. These priorities reflect an ongoing commitment to strengthening core prosecutorial functions, improving collaboration across the criminal justice system, and ensuring the office remains well-positioned to respond to evolving demands.

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### Reinforcing Core Competencies

Delivering effective prosecution and high-quality victim services requires consistent professional development and clear expectations across the office. In 2026, the office will continue strengthening the foundational skills and practices that support strong case outcomes and consistent service to the community.

- Continue and expand the *Back2Basics* training series, including opportunities to incorporate presentations from external partners.
- Reinforce a victim-centered and human-centered approach in all aspects of the office's work.
- Maintain focus on core prosecutorial responsibilities to ensure staff resources remain aligned with the office's mission.

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### Strengthening Communication and Partnerships

Strong communication and collaboration are essential to an effective criminal justice system. In 2026, the office will focus on improving information sharing, strengthening relationships with partner agencies, and ensuring consistent communication with program participants and victims.

- Launch SharePoint as the office's internal communication platform, improving access to policies, procedures, and shared resources.
- Continue review and development of internal policies, including policies related to remote work, paid time off, restitution practices, and other operational areas.
- Review existing memoranda of understanding (MOUs) with partner agencies and identify opportunities to formalize collaborative practices.
- Update written communications provided to individuals participating in Diversion Programs and individuals served by Victim Witness Services.

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### Strategic Planning and Organizational Development

The strategic planning process initiated in late 2025 will continue into early 2026 and will help guide the office's long-term direction. This work will focus on clarifying priorities, strengthening organizational alignment, and supporting sustainable operations.

- Finalize and implement updated mission, vision, and values statements.
- Complete the office's strategic planning process and begin implementing identified priorities.
- Integrate strategic priorities into training, supervisory practices, and operational decision-making across the office.

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## Technology and Digital Evidence Management

The growing volume of digital evidence continues to reshape how criminal cases are investigated and prosecuted. Building on the deployment of the Axon Justice platform in 2025, the office will continue refining technology tools and processes that support efficient evidence review and discovery compliance.

- Continue implementation and optimization of the Axon Justice digital evidence management system.
- Improve digital evidence review and discovery workflows to support efficient case preparation and disclosure.
- Strengthen collaboration with law enforcement partners to ensure consistent digital evidence submission practices.

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## Workforce Stability and Professional Development

Maintaining a skilled and stable workforce remains a key priority as prosecutor and support staff recruitment challenges continue across Wisconsin. In 2026, the office will continue investing in onboarding, professional development, and workplace practices that support long-term staff retention.

- Continue refining onboarding and mentoring practices for new prosecutors and staff.
- Expand professional development opportunities to support skill development and career growth.
- Monitor workload distribution and staffing needs as the office works to fill newly authorized prosecutor positions and maintain operational stability.

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## Enhancing Performance Measurement and Reporting

The office will continue developing tools and practices that support data-informed decision-making and transparent reporting of prosecutorial outcomes and program performance.

- Continue refining internal performance metrics used to monitor case outcomes and program effectiveness.
- Improve internal data tracking practices to support operational planning and resource allocation.
- Identify opportunities to expand public reporting of key performance indicators in future annual reports.

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Together, these priorities reflect the office's continued commitment to delivering fair and effective prosecution, supporting victims, and maintaining strong partnerships across the justice system. Through thoughtful planning, professional development, and operational improvements, the office will continue working to serve the people of Eau Claire County with integrity and accountability.

The following section highlights key activity and outcomes from 2025 and provides a snapshot of the scope and impact of the office's work.

# BY THE NUMBERS

By the Numbers provides a snapshot of key activity and outcomes from the District Attorney's Office in 2025. These highlights illustrate the scope of the office's work and the impact of its services across the criminal justice system.

**\$135,190**

Restitution payments collected for crime victims

**98%**

Case clearance rate

**2,126**

Victims and Witnesses served

**756**

Jail days permanently stayed through OWI Early Intervention Program

**96%**

OWI Early Intervention Program success

**96%**

Pre-Charge Diversion Program success

**5,083**

Total cases filed

**587**

Search warrants & subpoenas processed

**412**

Participants in Diversion Programs

## PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

Performance management helps the office monitor workload, evaluate program effectiveness, and identify opportunities for improvement. The following measures reflect case activity, service delivery, and program outcomes across the office's three divisions: General Prosecution Services, Victim Witness Services, and Diversion Programs.

Several internal benchmarks help guide performance monitoring, including maintaining a case clearance rate of at least 95%, an average of 15 days or fewer to first prosecutorial action, and a jury trial conviction rate of at least 75%.

### General Prosecution Services

The General Prosecution Services division reviews law enforcement referrals, makes charging decisions, and prosecutes criminal and juvenile cases in Eau Claire County. The following tables summarize case filings, prosecutorial decision-making, and key performance indicators used to evaluate workload and case outcomes.

#### Cases Filed (2020-2025)

Case Category	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>Felony</b>	1,589	1,400	1,392	1,326	1,328	1,404
<b>Misdemeanor</b>	1,223	1,047	1,087	1,023	1,259	1,049
<b>Criminal Traffic</b>	366	413	451	478	426	419
<b>Civil Traffic, Ordinance, and Other</b>	1,883	2,070	1,934	1,661	1,824	2,149
<b>Juvenile Delinquency</b>	52	38	58	42	66	52
<b>Juvenile Ordinance</b>	6	1	11	6	11	10
<b>Total cases filed</b>	<b>5,119</b>	<b>4,969</b>	<b>4,933</b>	<b>4,536</b>	<b>4,914</b>	<b>5,083</b>

**Charging Decisions (2020-2025)**

Measure	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Adult cases filed	5,061	4,930	4,864	4,488	4,837	5,021
Adult referrals declined	380	381	650	370	365	610
Adult charging rate	93%	93%	88%	92%	93%	89%
Juvenile cases filed	58	39	69	48	77	62
Juvenile referrals declined	184	131	206	257	179	89
Juvenile charging rate	24%	23%	25%	16%	30%	41%
Total cases filed	5,119	4,969	4,933	4,536	4,914	5,083
Total referrals declined	564	512	856	627	544	699
Total charging rate	90%	91%	85%	88%	90%	88%

Note: Charging rate represents the percentage of referrals that result in charges being filed.

**Key Performance Indicators**

Performance Measure	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Average days to first prosecutorial action (Target ≤15 days)	7.36	8.20	10.50	10.31	11.89	11.32
Case clearance rate (Target ≥95%)	98%	99%	100%	103%	96%	98%
Jury trial conviction rate (Target ≥75%)	100%	76%	74%	65%	45%	80%

**Jury Trial Outcomes (2020-2025)**

Metric	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Jury trials conducted	5	17	23	23	11	15
Jury trials resulting in conviction	5	13	17	15	5	12

## Victim Witness Services

Victim Witness Services staff provide legally required notifications and ongoing support to victims and witnesses throughout the court process. The following measures summarize the number of individuals served and key services provided by the program.

### Victim Witness Services Case Parties Served (2020-2025)

Case Party Type	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Victims served	2,426	1,641	1,977	1,746	1,844	1,851
Witnesses served	390	282	154	102	91	104
Other case parties served	235	176	168	137	149	171
<b>Total case parties served</b>	<b>3,051</b>	<b>2,099</b>	<b>2,299</b>	<b>1,985</b>	<b>2,084</b>	<b>2,126</b>

### Victim Witness Services Activity (2020-2025)

Service Measure	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Initial contact letters sent	2,383	1,752	2,061	1,822	1,867	1,846
No contact orders in place	496	454	541	624	584	698
Follow-up contacts completed	596	404	691	282	365	410
Restitution payments collected	\$125,355	\$168,734	\$260,960	\$156,877	\$191,407	\$135,190

## Diversion Programs

Diversion programs provide structured alternatives to traditional prosecution while promoting accountability and rehabilitation. The following tables summarize participation levels and outcomes across the office's three diversion programs.

### Deferred Acceptance of Guilty Plea (DAGP) Activity (2020-2025)

Measure	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Participants enrolled	222	212	175	172	134	132
Program fees collected	\$57,438	\$53,058	\$48,202	\$46,509	\$41,339	\$38,279

### Pre-Charge Diversion Activity (2020-2025)

Measure	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Referrals	303	260	283	243	322	357
Participants enrolled	237	196	229	204	256	249
Successful participants	234	191	226	197	215	238
Success rate	99%	97%	99%	97%	84%	96%
Program fees collected	\$58,653	\$48,920	\$66,000	\$62,873	\$65,910	\$70,219

### OVI Early Intervention Program Activity (2020-2025)

Measure	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Participants enrolled	7	29	25	30	31	31
Successful participants	5	27	18	23	29	28
Success rate	71%	93%	72%	77%	94%	90%
Jail Days permanently stayed	646	N/A	N/A	N/A	570	756

Note: Data not available for some years due to changes in program tracking methods

## CLOSING REMARKS

The work of the Eau Claire County District Attorney's Office is rooted in fairness, accountability, and service to the community. The progress outlined in this report reflects the dedication of our staff and the strength of our partnerships across the justice system. As we look ahead, we remain committed to supporting victims, holding offenders accountable, and continually improving how we serve the people of Eau Claire County.

— Peter J. Rindal, Eau Claire County District Attorney

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report reflects the work and commitment of many individuals and organizations. I extend my sincere appreciation to the staff of the Eau Claire County District Attorney's Office for their professionalism, dedication, and public service.

I also thank our partners in law enforcement, the courts, victim advocacy organizations, and other community partners whose collaboration is essential to the fair and effective administration of justice. Their shared commitment to public safety and accountability makes this work possible. Finally, I thank the residents of Eau Claire County for the trust they place in our office. That trust guides our work each day and reinforces our responsibility to serve the community with integrity and fairness.



**OFFICE OF DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
PETER J. RINDAL, DISTRICT ATTORNEY**