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DA's OFFICE CONTINUES HIGH CONVICTION RATE IN 2015, ANNUAL REPORT SHOWS

NORRISTOWN, Pa. – Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele today released the 2015 District Attorney's Office Annual Report, noting that the office continued its prosecutorial success with a 98.1 percent overall conviction rate for the 9,387 criminal cases handled in 2015.

"The success of this office in getting criminals off the street is built on strong work by our lawyers coupled with excellent investigative work by the Montgomery County Detective Bureau and police departments throughout the county," said Steele. "We continue to build on this successful base."

The 2015 Annual Report provides an overview of the DA's Office and each division: Juvenile, Pre-Trials, Trials and Appellate divisions, as well as the Montgomery County Detective Bureau. Also included are a number of 2015 cases that were notable for the prosecutorial result or for the investigations by County Detectives.

By the numbers, the District Attorney's Office handled 9,387 criminal cases, with 205 cases going to trial and verdict. There were 15 homicide case convictions, all guilty, with one first-degree murder, one second-degree murder, six third-degree murder, one involuntary manslaughter and six homicide by vehicle. The Juvenile Division handled 2,787 court hearings, while there were 149 summary appeals dispositions with a 94.3 percent success rate in upholding the conviction.

The 2015 Annual Report also highlighted efforts beyond the courtroom, including the educational programs offered by the District Attorney's Office on a variety of topics related to the well-being and safety of Montgomery County residents; the prescription drug disposal program; and the charitable efforts undertaken by members of the DA's team such as the Wheels of Justice bicycle team that raises money for the families of fallen first responders. It also includes a profile of one of the most popular Courthouse workers: the DA's K-9 comfort dog "Turks," who frequently can be found greeting jurors and employees at the Courthouse or in court helping an anxious witness.

The 2015 District Attorney's Office Annual Report can be viewed and downloaded at <http://www.montcopa.org/da>.

Approved for release:

Kevin R. Steele