



To: The Honorable Karen Spilka, Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and Means
The Honorable Brian Dempsey, Chair, House Committee on Ways & Means

cc: Christopher Marino, Fiscal Analyst, Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Taylor Shepherd, Fiscal Analyst, House Committee on Ways and Means

From: Jennifer Franco, Counsel, MDAA

Date: January 29, 2016

Re: **Report to the legislature regarding the District Attorneys use of private attorneys participating in voluntary prosecutor programs**

Pursuant to its obligations as outlined in its FY 2016 legislative appropriation (0340-2100¹), the Massachusetts District Attorneys Association submits this report detailing the District Attorneys' utilization of private attorneys in volunteer prosecutor programs, including (1) the total number of attorneys from private law firms participating in such programs at each of the eleven District Attorneys' offices; (2) the name and address of the law firms; (3) the duties performed by the private attorneys; and (4) the benefits and cost savings associated with the program.

Seven districts (Berkshire, Bristol, Cape & Islands, Essex, Hampden, Northwestern and Worcester) do not partake in a program for private attorneys to serve as volunteer prosecutors.

Two districts (Middlesex and Norfolk) report the services of a total of 10 private attorneys from 6 law firms. These volunteer attorneys worked full-time for several months. Please note that because of the relatively short terms of service for these volunteers (and usually a lack of litigation experience), these programs require considerable training efforts and substantial attention from supervisory personnel.

Two districts (Plymouth and Suffolk) have not reported whether they utilize the services of private attorneys acting as volunteer prosecutors. MDAA immediately will file an amendment to this report should it receive any information from either of these two districts.

Please do not hesitate to contact MDAA if you require additional information or have any questions.

¹ [MDAA] shall work in conjunction with the 11 district attorneys' offices to submit a report to the house and senate committees on ways and means and the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate not later than January 29, 2016, detailing the total number and use of private attorneys participating in any volunteer prosecutor program; and provided further, that the report shall include, but not be limited to: (1) the total number of personnel from private law firms participating in the program at each of the 11 district attorney's offices; (2) the name and address of the law firms; (3) the duties performed by the personnel; and (4) the benefits and cost savings associated with the program.