



Annual Report

St. Landry Parish District Attorney's Office



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To the citizens of St. Landry Parish,

As you may already know, we work extremely hard to keep you informed about your District Attorney's office. I host a weekly radio show, "The District Attorney's Report," on KSLO every Friday morning at 7:10 a.m., and publish a monthly e-mail newsletter, "The Good Guys," that is distributed to everyone whose e-mail address is on file.

As part of our ongoing efforts to improve the lines of communication between you and your District Attorney's Office, please allow me this opportunity to present to you our "Annual Report." In an effort to reach more people, we have adopted this new format that is being used in many governmental offices across the State of Louisiana.

This Annual Report is our way of keeping you informed as to what services are available to you through the District Attorney's Office. Many visitors to the Justice Building are amazed at the programs that we provide. Often their response is, "I didn't know that you guys did all of this."

We want you to have confidence that, should you be a victim of crime, you have a voice — all of us in the District Attorney's Office. Our commitment is posted as you enter our office:

"As employees of Earl Taylor, District Attorney of St. Landry Parish, we are committed to providing the highest quality of professional service in a friendly, courteous, responsive and helpful manner. We also commit to treating with dignity and respect every person who contacts our office."

"Our common goal is to render justice through fair and effective prosecution, insightful and helpful prevention programs, and efficient rehabilitation services."

This commitment is signed by every employee of the District Attorney's Office, as well as by myself.

I believe that by working together, communicating more effectively, and providing the services that our parish needs, **WE CAN BUILD A BETTER TOMORROW.**

Sincerely,

Earl Taylor
District Attorney, St. Landry Parish

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Your District Attorney at work . . .

Prosecuting Criminals

• **More than 500 felony criminals, including four murderers and hundreds upon hundreds of misdemeanor offenders, were convicted by the District Attorney in 2007.** All four murderers brought to trial in 2007 were convicted. These murderers put behind bars are only the beginning of the story. Other dangerous criminals were also locked up ... child molesters, burglars, drug dealers, armed felons. Our efforts to bring these criminals to justice are never ending.

• **St. Landry Parish has consistently ranked among the very top jurisdictions in the state for felony convictions.** Statistics for the rest of the state for 2007 have

not been officially released, but the 27 felony trials conducted by your DA's office is sure to rank in the top five jurisdictions. This number is even higher than many jurisdictions that serve more than one parish.

• **It is the policy of the DA's office not to engage in the wholesale practice of plea bargaining.** Generally, felony defendants must plead guilty as charged. While the District Attorney has been given statewide recognition for his innovative programs to rehabilitate young people, the no plea bargain policy also has established Earl Taylor as one of the most

unyielding chief prosecutors in Louisiana. Today's criminals are ruthless and relentless. Our District Attorney is fair, but equally diligent in his work to bring criminals to justice.

• **In 2007, Earl Taylor petitioned the governor and Louisiana legislature to provide assistance in the fight against crime in St. Landry Parish.** As a result of

this effort, St. Landry Parish was granted an additional prosecutor by a special committee appointed by the governor. The District Attorney immediately filled that slot and simultaneously appointed another new assistant to fill an existing vacancy. These two new

felony prosecutors will help to insure that prosecutions remain high in St. Landry Parish for years to come.

• **St. Landry Parish continues to be a safe place to live and work.** Earl Taylor cannot take all the credit for that fact, but he promises to work just as hard to continue aggressive prosecution of criminals and to continue to seek justice for victims.

• **The year 2007 is complete, but the fight against the criminal element continues, and the St. Landry Parish District Attorney's Office will continue to lead the way in 2008.**



District Attorney's Staff

2007 AT A GLANCE . . .

Kearney Alsandor
found guilty of murder

48 Felony
Convictions
in July

37 Felony criminals convicted
in August, 100 in last 3 months

Jury finds Gary Lafleur
guilty of murder

Terrell Barker
found guilty
of murder

Francis Brown
convicted of
murder after
jury trial

Worthless check
round-up nets
\$10,000 for
merchants

38 Felons convicted in
November, 29 in December

Worthless Check Division

The Worthless Check Division tracks down bad check writers, returning the money to the victims and deterring future offenses. In 2007, this department recovered \$230,376.13.

Community Service Hours

In the past 12 months, 11,737 community service hours were performed by offenders in fulfillment of their court-ordered sentences.

Support Enforcement Section

The Support Enforcement Services Division handles all legal issues relating to child support. The total collections for 2007 in St. Landry Parish were \$2,304,990.00.

Probation Division

The Probation Section has the responsibility to monitor individuals and ensure compliance with the requirements as stipulated in court ordered probation. 289 persons are on or have completed probation in 2007. Probation fees collected totaled \$19,295.00.

Representation of Parish Governments

The purpose of the Civil Division is to provide legal assistance to the St. Landry Parish Council, various boards, commissions and other agencies within St. Landry Parish. In 2007, this office represented the parish government in 17 civil cases.

Your District Attorney . . .

Making A Difference



TASC (Truancy Assessment Service Center) was implemented to target students in kindergarten thru sixth grades who reach five unexcused absences. Research has shown that children who are truant are more likely to become juvenile delinquents. Early intervention is essential in stopping this cycle.

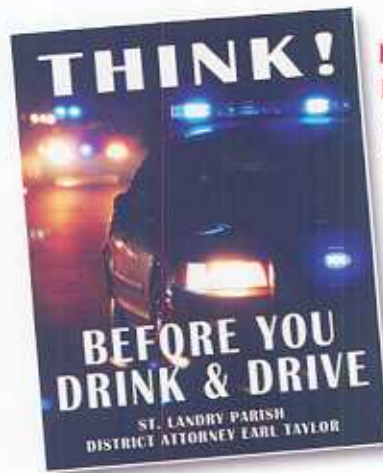


is a program sponsored by the DA's office that helps teens improve study skills, increase educational performance, strengthen self-discipline, and learn to prevent drug and alcohol abuse.



The Elder Abuse Outreach Program

protects the rights of our senior citizens who are not able to protect themselves. It prosecutes offenders to the fullest extent of the law while providing services to victims and educating law enforcement, health care professionals, and community advocates in elder abuse and prevention.



District Attorney Promotes Safe Driving!

Area high school students and the general public were alerted to the risks of drinking and driving during Earl Taylor's "Think! Before You Drink & Drive" campaign. Ads and posters were distributed throughout the parish.

The DA's **Parental Responsibility Program** aims at increasing the number of parents financially and emotionally involved in their children's lives. The process helps parents become confident, responsible, and able to guide their children through life's tough choices.



Crime-Scene Trailer

The District Attorney's Office, as a result of a competitive grant, received a state of the art Mobile Crime Scene Trailer. In partnership, this unit is housed at LSUE and used extensively in educating and training law enforcement officers and students.

Visit the official website of the St. Landry Parish District Attorney's Office. If you would like to subscribe to our monthly email newsletter, please send your email address to subscribe@the-good-guys.org.

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