

# Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorneys and Missouri Office of Prosecution Services

JAMIE PADGETT, MSW

STATEWIDE VICTIM ADVOCATE COORDINATOR

MISSOURI OFFICE OF PROSECUTION SERVICES

[JAMIE.PADGETT@PROSECUTORS.MO.GOV](mailto:JAMIE.PADGETT@PROSECUTORS.MO.GOV)

# Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (MAPA)

Established in 1969

501C6

Goal is to provide uniformity in the discharge of duties to Missouri's 115 elected Prosecutors and Circuit Attorney

MAPA Board is made up of current Elected Prosecutors

MAPA Provides ongoing training year round to Elected and Assistant Prosecutors

- Spring Prosecutors Conference
- Fall Prosecutors Conference

The MAPA Board has many different subcommittees including

- Judicial subcommittee, Best Practices Subcommittee, Training Counsel, Finance Committee, VOCA Committee.....

# Missouri Office of Prosecution Services (MOPS)

Created in 1981

- Collaboration between MAPA and the State of Missouri

Goal is to assist prosecuting attorneys in their efforts against criminal activity within the state.

MOPS is a State Government Agency and hires prosecutors and other professional staff to stand with Missouri's prosecutors in protecting our communities

MOPS is an autonomous entity governed by the Prosecutors Coordinators Training Council

# MOPS Staff

---

Darrell Moore-  
Executive Director

Susan Glass- Deputy  
Executive  
Director/Senior Traffic  
Safety Resource  
Prosecutor

Stephen Sokoloff-  
General Counsel

Catherine Vannier-  
Special Victims Resource  
Prosecutor

Stephanie Watson-  
Traffic Safety Resources  
Prosecutor

TBH- Child Abuse  
Resource Prosecutor

Jamie Padgett-  
Statewide Victim  
Advocate Coordinator

Kathy Tofall- VOCA Fiscal  
Officer

Sheila Kemp- Executive  
Assistant

Thomas Clinton-  
Information Technology  
Specialist

# MOPS Programs

---

## Traffic Safety

- assist prosecutors and law enforcement officers in the investigation and prosecution of traffic safety offenses, with a special emphasis on impaired driving
- The program is funded through a grant provided by the Missouri Department of Transportation, Traffic and Highway Safety Division.

## Technology and Automation

- The Case Management and Criminal History Records Improvement program is funded through grants from the National Criminal History Improvement Program and the National Records Improvement Program in cooperation with the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

# MOPS Programs

---

## John R Justice Loan Repayment

- The JRJ Program provides loan repayment assistance for local, state, and federal public defenders and local and state prosecutors who commit to continued employment as eligible public defenders and prosecutors for at least three (3) years. An attorney must not be in default on repayment of any federal student loans.

## Witness Protection

- prosecuting attorney, the attorney general, or a law enforcement agency may apply for funding to provide for the security of witnesses, potential witnesses and their immediate families in criminal proceedings instituted or investigations pending against a person alleged to have engaged in a violation of state law.

## Special Victims

- The program strives to maximize the effectiveness of prosecutors, law enforcement and all of our allied professionals on family violence, sexual assault and child abuse cases through training, technical assistance and resources.

## Victims Rights

- Statewide Victim Advocate Coordinator

## MOPS Programs

# The Need for System Based Advocacy

## MAPA VOCA Grant

595.212-1. Each prosecuting attorney shall create and maintain, but not be limited to, a program to afford victims and witnesses of crimes the rights and services described in sections 595.200 to 595.215.

- Prior to 2015: approximately 41 Counties had Prosecutor Based Victim Advocates using either grant funds or General Revenue
  - Statewide Victim Advocate provided services to 38 Counties
  - 36 Counties had no Prosecutor Based Services



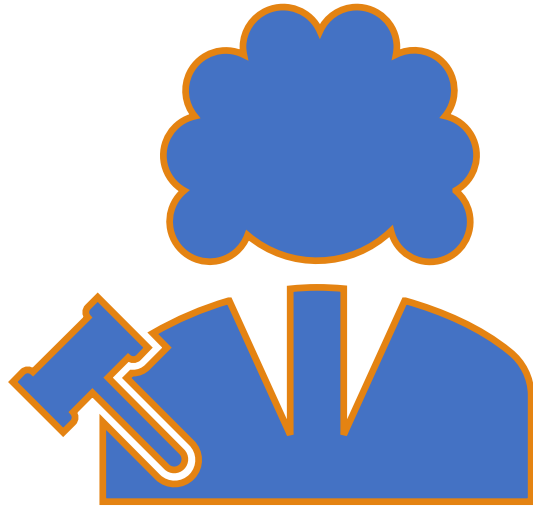
# MAPA Programs

## MAPA VOCA Circuit Based Victim Advocate Grant

- Acts as a pass-through agency for VOCA Funds
- Local Prosecuting Attorney's Offices are able to apply to participate in the MAPA VOCA Circuit Based Victim Advocate Grant to receive reimbursement for a Prosecutor Based Victim Advocate
- This grant began in 2015 with 43 Victim Advocate Positions across the state of Missouri- Many in small rural counties who are unable to apply for grant funds on their own.
- As of the 2020 grant cycle the MAPA VOCA Grant has 72 Victim Advocate Positions throughout Missouri's Counties.
- Our Program currently serves 75 Counties throughout Missouri

# System Based Advocates

---



Work within government offices- Prosecutor Offices, AGO, Law Enforcement

Work with victims usually begins once a police report is filed

- Sometimes not until the prosecutor actually charges the case

Provide services to victims throughout the criminal justice process

- Criminal justice information, court notification, court accompaniment, referrals to community resources

Services specific to the direct victim

Services are limited to the length of the court process

# System Based Advocates

---

System Based Advocates work with any crime

- Murder, Kidnapping, Rape, Robbery
- Domestic Violence, Child Abuse
- DWI, Burglary, Stealing, Unlawful Use of a Weapon

Generally, they are experts and have in depth knowledge of the court process

Concerned with victims' safety, victims' access to case information, and victims' right to be heard and present in court proceedings

System Based Advocate do not have confidentiality

# Collaboration between Community and Systems Based

---



Collaboration is a must in order to provide quality overall direct services to victims



While both system based advocates and community advocates have similar goals, each advocate can bring different expertise



Working together can ensure that victims have access to all community resources they need as well be knowledgeable about what is happening in the court process.



MAPA/MOPS encourage all System Based Advocates to form relationships with the Community Based Advocates in their areas.

# Questions?

---



[JAMIE.PADGETT@PROSECUTORS.MO.GOV](mailto:JAMIE.PADGETT@PROSECUTORS.MO.GOV)



314-669-1210