



Stephen B. Russell, State Attorney

THE RUSSELL REPORT



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Anniversaries

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Sex Crimes Against a Child

Robert Kenneth Benjamin, 36, was convicted of Sexual Activity with a Child, Battery, and Sexual Battery on a Child Less than 12 years of age by a Lee County jury following a 4 day trial.

In March 2017, the victim came forward informing her family that for almost a year and a half the defendant had been having inappropriate sexual contact with her. She told a friend who convinced her to tell her family.

When a controlled phone call was made to the defendant by the victim’s family working with law enforcement, he admitted to the abuse.

Benjamin faces up to life in prison at his sentencing on December 4th.

Assistant State Attorney Natalie Savino of our Special Victim’s Unit and Assistant State Attorney Jennifer Royal handled the case.



Robert Kenneth Benjamin

Sexual Battery Sentencing

Daniel Michael Ruiz, 32, was sentenced to 95.1 months in prison following his conviction for Sexual Battery. Ruiz was found guilty by a Lee County jury following a three day trial in October.

Ruiz sexually battered the 46 year old victim in a home in Lehigh Acres in February. The incident began when the two were listening to music and talking about musical artists. Their discussion did not go the way the defendant wanted making him angry. Ruiz then pushed and slapped her, ultimately pinning her on the floor where he violently raped her. He also broke her nose and bit her.

Assistant State Attorney Francine Donnorummo, Special Victims Unit Chief and Special Victims Unit Assistant State Attorney Mary Anderson handled the case.



Daniel Michael Ruiz



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Aggravated Assault and Battery Conviction

Alexander Michael Nickell, 33, was found guilty of Aggravated Assault with a Firearm and Battery (2nd or more) by a jury in Collier County. In July 2017, Nickell accused the victim of infidelity during an argument. Following the argument, Nickell tried to strangle her. She was able to fight him off initially but he then gained control and pinned her on the floor. Nickell hit her with a gun causing a gash to her head. He then pointed the gun at the victim's face and told her it was loaded and threatened to kill her and her family.

The woman's family couldn't get in touch with her but knew something was wrong as they knew about the earlier argument. They called the Collier County Sheriff's Office who assisted in getting the victim to safety.

Nickell faces up to 10 years in prison when he is sentenced on December 6th. Assistant State Attorney Jennifer Brown handled the case.



Alexander Michael
Nickell

Learning About the State Attorney's Office

Staff members of the State Attorney's Office are available to speak to local students or groups. Throughout the year we visit classrooms and organizations to teach people about what our office does and how the law works in Florida.

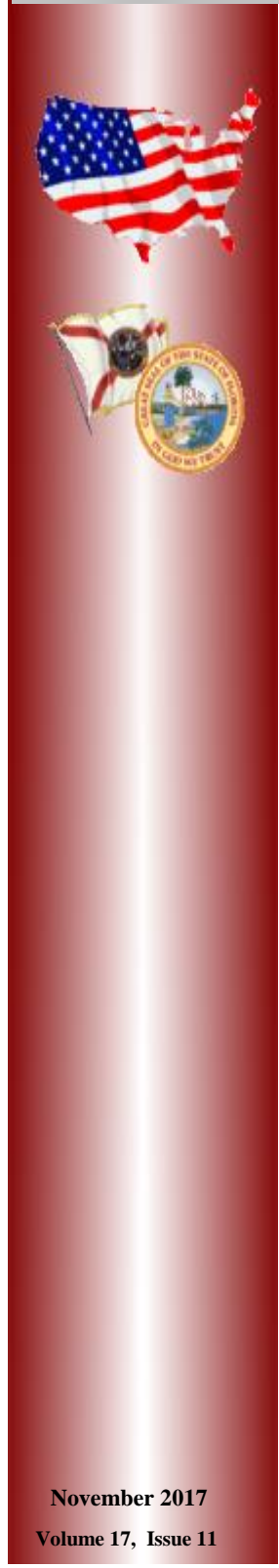
We also invite local college students to volunteer at one of our offices throughout Southwest Florida. We have many volunteers who get to work closely with our prosecutors and get an education about the criminal justice system.

If you would like to learn more about our programs, contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Nancy Cruz at ncruz@sao.cjis20.org or call her at 533-1000.



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Aggravated Assault Conviction

Christopher William Suddith, 39, was sentenced to 13 months in prison after his October conviction of Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon.

Suddith was threatening people with a miniature baseball bat this past March and forcing them to open their trunks in the parking lot of a Fort Myers treatment center.

While in the parking lot, the victim heard the commotion and stepped out of his car. As he did, Suddith demanded that he open the trunk and threatened to bash his head in.

The victim got into his car and Suddith started hitting the car with the bat, busting the tail light. The victim was able to drive away. Deputies were on scene in minutes and arrested the defendant.

Assistant State Attorney Ashley Adams prosecuted the case.



Christopher William Suddith

Robbery Conviction

Kali Gumbo Jackson, 21, was sentenced to 7 and a half years in prison. His sentence was for one count of Robbery and one count of Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon. He also pled to a second count of Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon for another case.

In the newest case, a victim was offering a shotgun and rifle for sale online and arranged a meeting with a potential buyer but instead Jackson and another man showed up. Jackson took the guns from the victim while the second unidentified man held the victim at gunpoint. A fingerprint left by Jackson on the victim's car, led to his arrest and prosecution.

In the first case, Jackson was in a car with guns inside. A violation of the law since he is a convicted felon.

Assistant State Attorney Christine Cummins prosecuted both cases.



Kali Gumbo Jackson



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GUILTY VERDICTS

ASA's Natalie Savino and Jennifer Royal: Sexual Activity with a Child, Battery, Sexual Battery
On a Child Less than 12 years of age

ASA Paul Thomas: Worthless Check

ASA Kimberlee Mitton: Resisting or Obstructing an Officer Without Violence

ASA Jennifer Justham: Driving Under the Influence

ASA Christine Cummins: Robbery

ASA Heather Searcy: Lewd or Lascivious Molestation, Lewd or Lascivious Conduct

ASA Tino Cimato: Aggravated Assault on a Person 65 Years or Older, Aggravated Assault on a
Law Enforcement Officer

ASA Brian Ashby: Resisting or Obstructing an Officer Without Violence

ASA Kimberlee Mitton: Driving Under the Influence

ASA Jennifer Brown: Aggravated Assault with a Firearm, Battery (2nd or more)

ASA Kiely Keesler: Burglary, First Degree Petit Theft

ASA's Cynthia Rebholz-Rubin and Garrick Soja: Driving Under the Influence, Driving Under the
Influence with Seriously Bodily Injury, Driving Under the Influence with Property Damage

ASA Jennifer Toussaint: Burglary of a Dwelling, Violation of Injunction for Protection against
Domestic Violence, Battery, Criminal Mischief Less than \$200

ASA Andrew Riordan: No Valid Driver's License

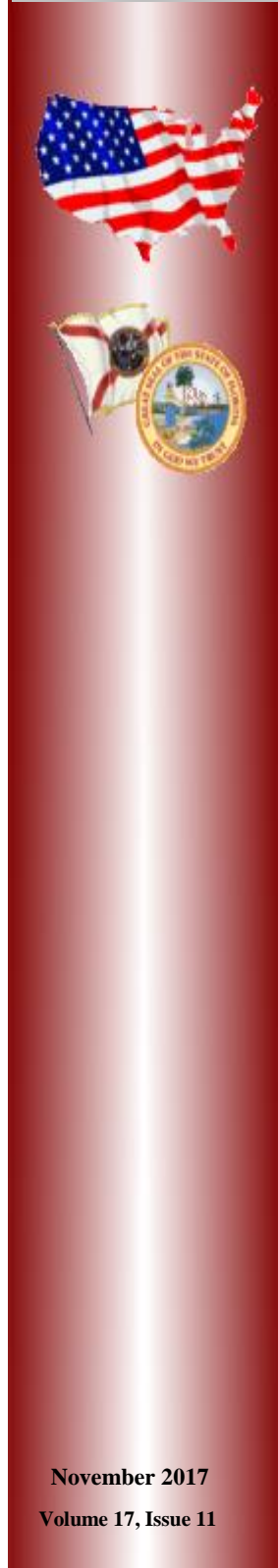
ASA Kimberlee Mittion: Driving While License Suspended



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Serving Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee Counties

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NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:

In recognition of service to the citizens of Southwest Florida, and dedication to their jobs with the State Attorney’s Office, a heartfelt thank you goes to the following people on their November employment anniversary dates:

Susan Anderson ‘98
Ashley Davis ’13
Laura Farrell ’06
Beverly Ferster ’16
Dawn Finger ’09

Joshua Fredickson ‘13
Mara Marzano ‘00
Keith Munzert ’08
Scott Patterson ’08
J Purdy ‘99

Jessica Rimes ‘13
Robert Rodriguez ‘16
Daniel Santiago ‘05
Nancia Smith ‘16

Holiday Closings

The State Attorney’s Office 20th Judicial Circuit will be closing at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, November 22nd. Our offices in Lee, Collier, Hendry, Glades and Charlotte Counties will also be closed November 23rd and 24th for the Thanksgiving holiday. Have a safe holiday weekend!

