

**REPORT  
OF THE  
STATE OF INDIANA  
HIGH-TECH CRIMES UNIT  
PROGRAM  
FOR  
CY 2022 AND 2023**



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## Executive Summary

*The High Tech Crime Unit Program.* Created through legislation passed in 2021, the program is administered by IPAC for the purposes of assisting prosecuting attorneys in the investigation of, collection of evidence for, and prosecution of high-tech crimes. Ten regional units were selected in late 2021 with the units beginning operations at various points in 2022. This report covers the first two calendar years of operations: CY22 and CY23. The ten units were funded through an appropriation of \$3,000,000 annually, a sum that was iterated in the 2023 budget bill. The key service provided by an HTCUCU is the forensic extraction of electronic devices in the search for evidence — work that can only be accomplished with specialized tools and persistent training.

*Statewide Numbers.* During CY22 and CY23 the units assisted on over 4500 cases (a rough approximation for the number of offenders affected by their work) with over 7500 devices analyzed statewide. The majority of these devices were smartphones, but other items include surveillance systems and cloud storage. Over forty percent of the units' expenses went toward specialized forensic tools, with another thirty percent spent on personnel costs.

*Looking to the Future.* As the HTCUCU program looks to the future, it requires the appropriation of additional funding during the 2025 legislative session to bring the total appropriation to \$4,500,000. Not only have the costs of the highly specialized and technical forensic tools continued to increase, but personnel costs also must remain competitive in this public sphere in order to maintain and recruit the best candidates. Critically, if the program is to grow, each unit must add personnel so that the needs of the local law enforcement agencies may be met at current levels.

*The Ten Units.* Each unit has a history and approach unique to its office and service region. Some units succeeded long-standing outfits (e.g., the St. Joseph County Cyber Crimes Unit and the Tippecanoe County High Tech Crimes Unit); whereas, most of the other prosecutors developed their units from scratch. Twenty pages of this report detail the formation and accomplishments of the units as they continue to grow and expand into the full realization of the HTCUCU mission.

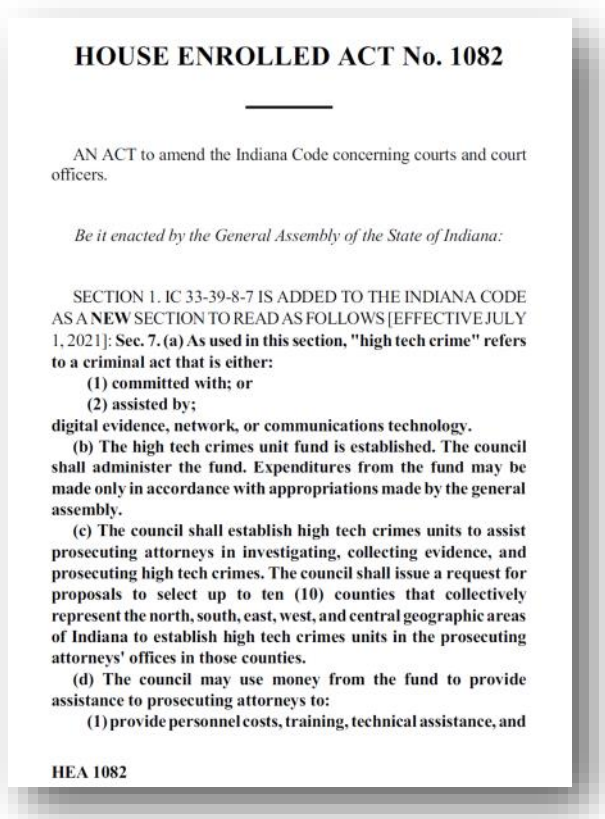
# The High-Tech Crime Unit Program

Signed into law on April 1, 2021, Public Law 16 of Indiana’s 122<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly established the High-Tech Crime Unit fund with a directive that the Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council (IPAC) create up to ten units “to assist prosecuting attorneys in investigating, collecting evidence, and prosecuting high tech crimes.” The National Institute of Standards and Technology defines digital forensics, which is the focus of high-tech crime work, as “the field of forensic science that is concerned with retrieving, storing and analyzing electronic data that can be useful in criminal investigations” to include “information from computers, hard drives, mobile phones[,] and other data storage devices.”

The hardware and software tools used in digital forensics are quite expensive, placing them out of reach of many local law enforcement agencies; similarly, the training for personnel conducting such investigations is time-consuming and requires a particularized set of skills. The model here creates geographically balanced and accessible units throughout the state. Further, the HTCUC model supplements the Indiana State Police’s Digital Forensics Unit in the Laboratory Division; the two will grow together and ensure their mutually beneficial success.

After considering the proposals submitted by seventeen prosecuting attorneys, IPAC announced on November 8, 2021 the selection of ten hub counties covering the north, south, east, west, and central geographic areas of Indiana. Those ten offices then finalized their budgets and operational plans.

Each unit is established within the prosecuting attorney’s office and uses the distributed moneys for personnel costs, training, technical assistance, and technical support. The fund was appropriated three million dollars for fiscal years 2022 and 2023,<sup>1</sup> and the legislation allowed for IPAC to allocate no more than five percent of that amount to reimburse expenses incurred in administering the fund. Notably, each of the units formed relationships with their local university as a source of future personnel and active internship programs. As described in the following pages, the units formed up at various times in 2022. Some counties had pre-existing teams that simply needed to reorganize under the HTCUC model; whereas, others started from scratch.



<sup>1</sup> The state appropriations run on the biennial budgets from July 1 through June 30. However, because county auditors, through whom the HTCUC funds flow between IPAC and the unit, operate on a calendar-year basis; the remainder of this document, except as explicitly noted, will address and discuss *calendar* years 2022 and 2023.

## The HTCU Committee

The prosecuting attorneys selected to host units met together during IPAC's Winter Conference in Indianapolis in December 2021. Thereafter, the ad hoc committee began regular meetings in early 2022. Standardized data collection and collaboration among the units started nearly immediately, aided in great part by the efforts of Mitch Kajzer, Prosecuting Attorney Ken Cotter's unit director in South Bend.

In mid-2022, the High-Tech Crime Unit Committee was codified into the council's bylaws as a standing committee and held its first formal meeting in November 2022 with membership comprised of each prosecuting attorney (or their chief deputy) who hosts a unit. Prosecuting Attorneys Pat Harrington and Lynn Deddens of the 23rd and 7th Judicial Circuits, respectively, were elected as co-chairs of the Committee.

The Committee wrestles with strategies to increase outreach into each unit's region and to encourage training opportunities for prosecutors, investigators, and officers. Because the prosecuting attorney's investigator statute appears to limit police powers to the jurisdictional footprint of the prosecuting attorney (*i.e.*, their judicial circuit), the law enforcement authority of sworn investigators remains a topic of continued conversation. *See* IC 33-39-4-1(c). While a legislative fix might be the only way to completely surmount this limitation, units will continue to coordinate with local agencies for proper evidence seizure and handling procedures.

The Committee as of December 31, 2023:

Judicial Circuit (County)	Prosecuting Attorney	Committee Member
38th (Allen)	Michael McAlexander	
7th (Dearborn/Ohio)	Lynn M. Deddens (co-chair)	
46th (Delaware)	Eric M. Hoffman	Zachary Craig
12th (Knox)	J. Dirk Carnahan	
31st (Lake)	Bernard A. Carter	
50th (Madison)	Rodney J. Cummings	
10th (Monroe)	Erika L. Oliphant	
60th (St. Joseph)	Kenneth P. Cotter	
23rd (Tippecanoe)	Patrick K. Harrington (co-chair)	
43rd (Vigo)	Terry R. Modesitt	Rob Roberts

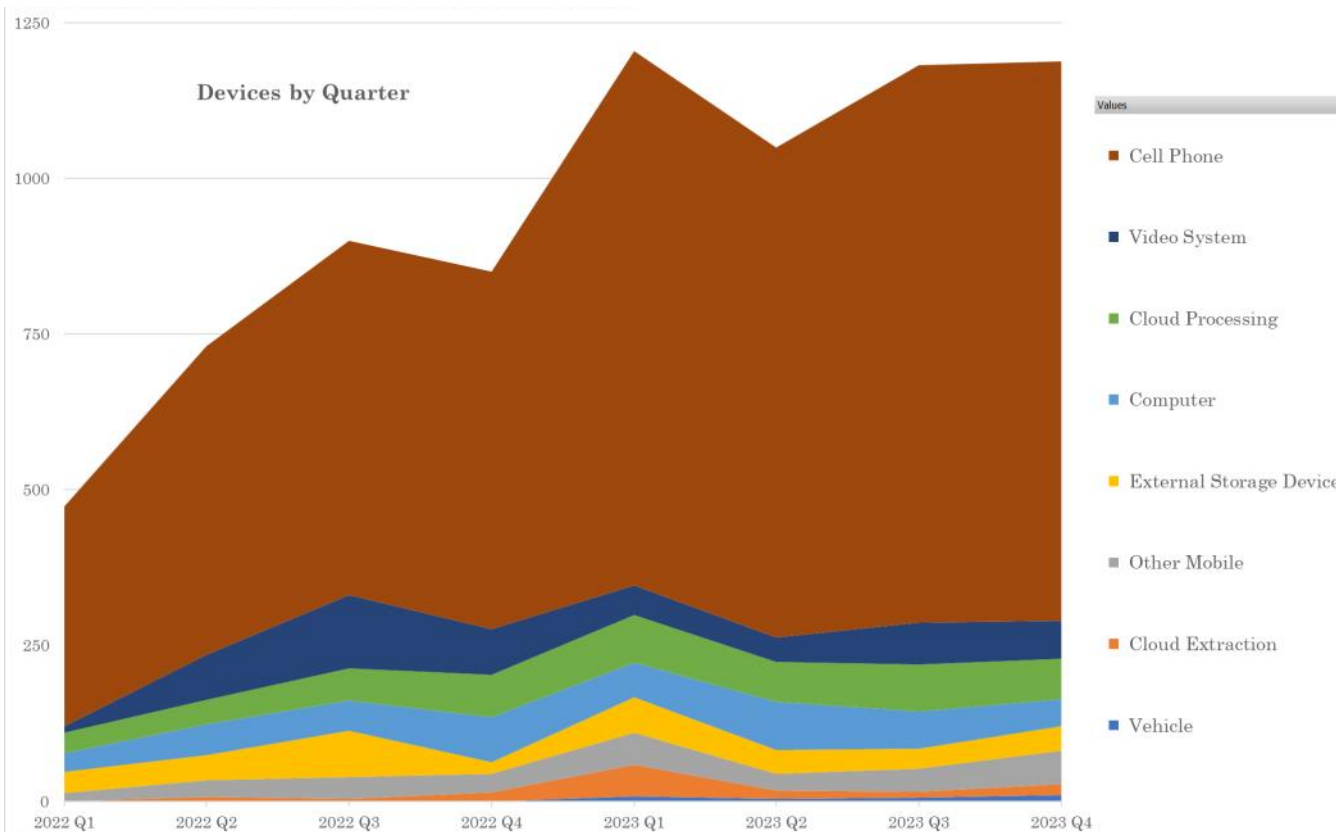
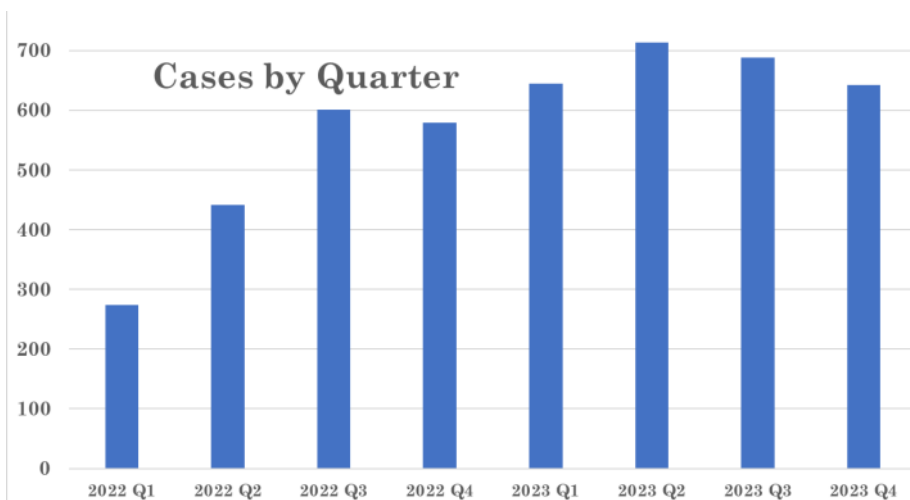
Further, the unit directors meet monthly with the IPAC Staff Attorney to discuss operations and technical matters in an effort to ensure the confederation of units remains vibrant and strong.

## Statewide Numbers

Over the course of 2022 and 2023, the State's HTCUs handled 4,583 cases.<sup>2</sup> Given the slow process involved in creating some units from scratch, the quarterly data reveal growth toward an average of 672 cases per quarter in 2023.

However, because cases might involve a single device or many devices, a truer representation of the impact of the HTCUs is a study of the devices examined by the units. In total, the units examined 7,580 devices. These devices come in several forms: cell

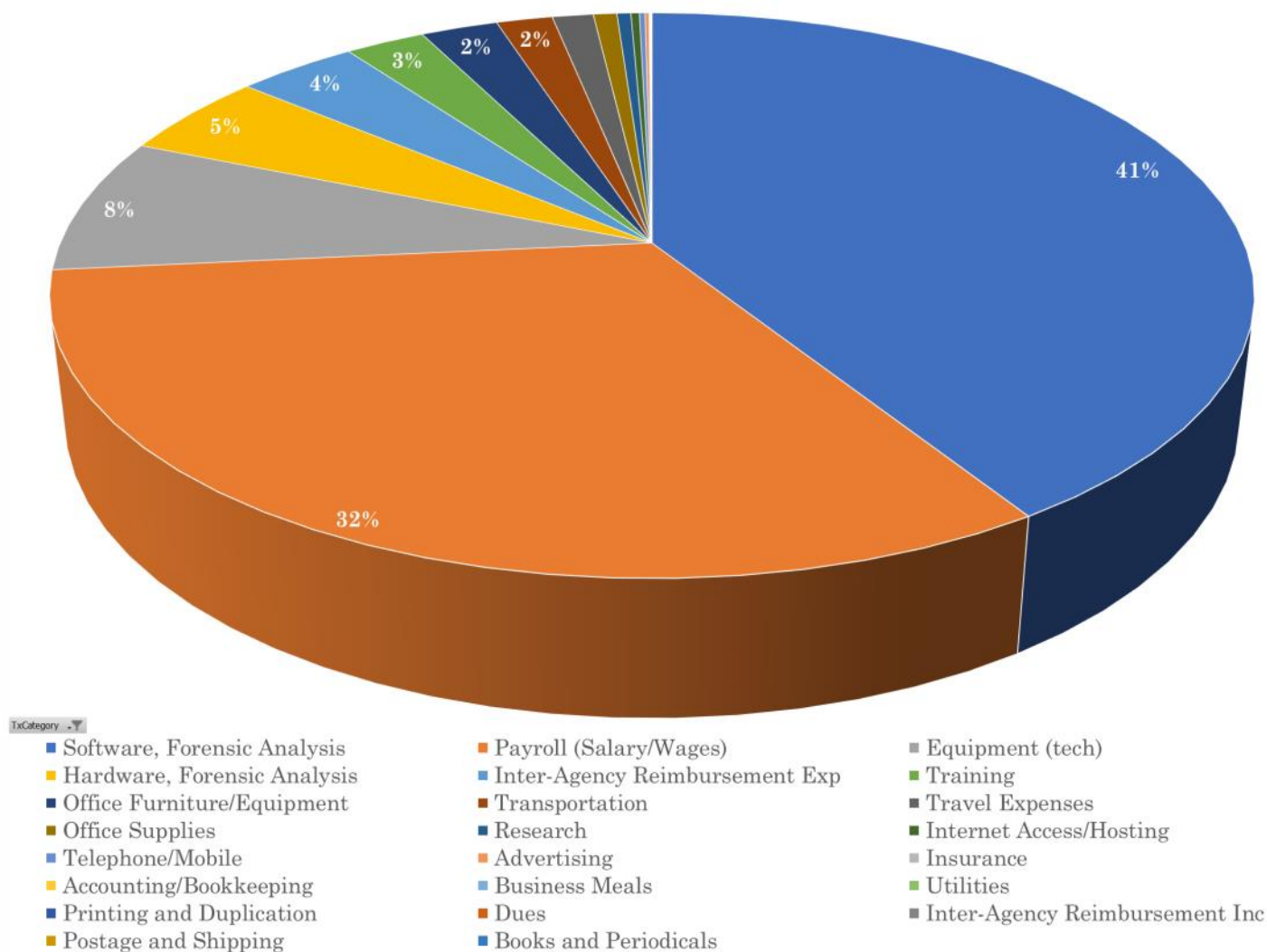
phones / smartphones; video (typically surveillance or closed-circuit) systems; search warrant responses from cloud service providers; traditional desktop or laptop computers; external storage



<sup>2</sup> Cases can serve as a rough approximation of potential offenders and, to a lesser degree, arrests or felony cases. Nearly all investigations relate to felony investigations. However, due to the limitation of resources, the units do not longitudinally track the results of the assistance provided to the various law enforcement agencies.

devices, such as SD cards, USB drives, or external hard drives; other mobile devices, such as tablets and e-readers; extractions from online/cloud accounts; and vehicle infotainment systems.

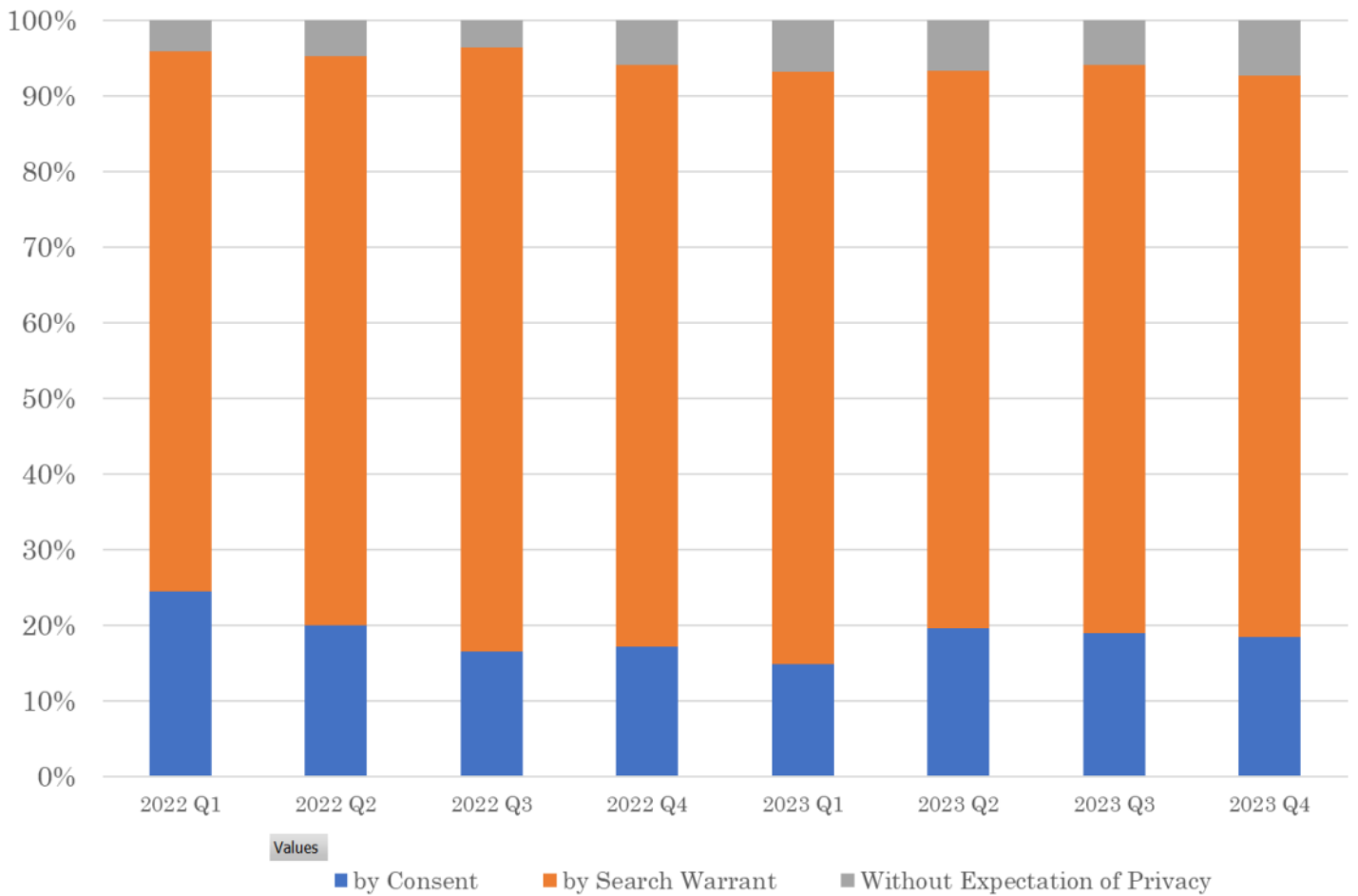
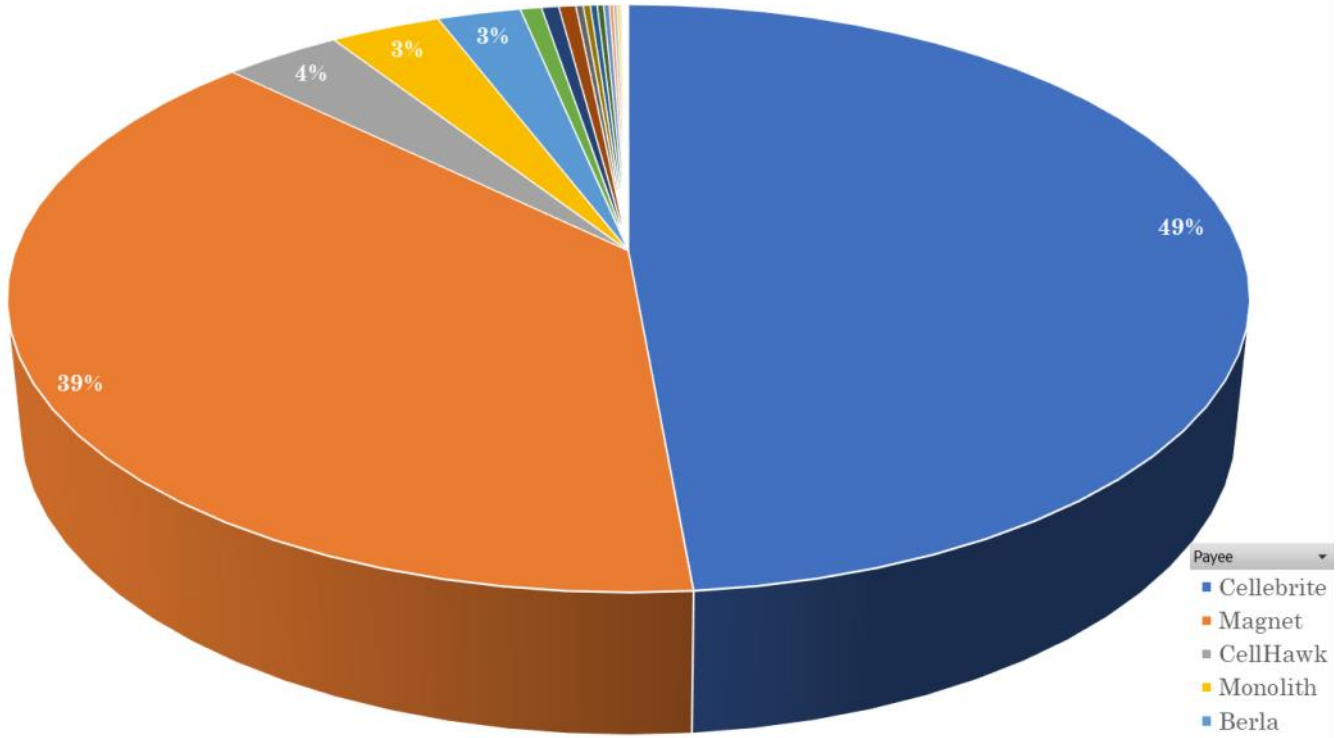
The two largest expense categories are unsurprising to anyone familiar with the field of digital forensics: analysis tools and personnel (*see chart, below*). The forensic analysis tools include those developed and offered by industry leaders such as Cellebrite, Magnet, GrayShift, CellHawk, Monolith, and Berla (*see chart, top of next page*).<sup>3</sup> The specialized software and equipment are necessary to extract data from the latest devices on the market and to prepare the data into formats readable by investigators, prosecutors, and defense counsel.



Most devices come to the units based upon the service of a search warrant, but over fifteen percent are turned over with consent to search (*see chart, bottom of opposite page*). Further, the HTCUs sought preservation letters from digital service providers over 200 times, and HTCUs personnel testified forty-nine times in court proceedings.

<sup>3</sup> Magnet and GrayShift merged in 2023, which, alongside Cellebrite, reduced the titans of smartphone extraction to two.

### Forensic Analysis Software





## Looking to the Future

In their first two-and-one-half years,<sup>4</sup> the ten units examined approximately 9,000 devices and assisted in over 5,000 cases across the state. Significantly, the average turnaround time for getting a device back to the investigating officer is reported to be around 8.5 days, a processing time of unprecedented quickness -- other labs routinely take just as many months. Further, the HTCUs continue to grow in their outreach to agencies beyond their host communities.

Nearly three-quarters of the funding for the HTCUs are used for personnel and software costs, which means that increases in either of those costs have a disproportionate impact on the unit and very little flexibility to pull from other areas. With the estimated fifteen percent (15%) inflation in the last three years generally, the status quo simply will not suffice for the continuation, let alone growth, of the HTCU program. Three specific areas justify an increase in the appropriation to the HTCU Fund:

- Rising costs of forensic software. Already the most sizeable expense for every unit, forensic software costs continue to rise, with the increases in costs outpacing inflation. For example, in late 2021 products that cost \$4774 and \$5558, respectively, cost \$5800 (21% more) and \$6495 (16%), respectively, only two years later. Inflation during this time was closer to ten percent (10%). Costs in 2024 and beyond are not expected to buck this trend. With over 40% of the total expenses going toward such software, basic inflationary trends would demand an additional \$180,000. However, because the software costs are expanding beyond these inflationary numbers, an increase of nearly double that sum is needed in order to keep pace with current technological needs.
- Rising personnel costs. General, consumer inflation impacts the units' ability to not only maintain current paid staff but also competitively recruit in the future. If personnel costs continue to be one-third of total expenses, then even maintaining the current level of service demands no less than an additional \$150,000 given current inflation.
- Expansion of the programs. Given the resounding successes of volume and throughput, the demand for HTCU work will only continue to grow. In order for the programs to grow, however, the addition of staff is necessary. Most units operate with one or two paid personnel with some relying on student interns for routine device extraction work. The addition of only one staff member at a unit would demand nearly \$100,000 in order to cover competitive salary and a typical government benefits package. This would add \$1,000,000 to the budget.

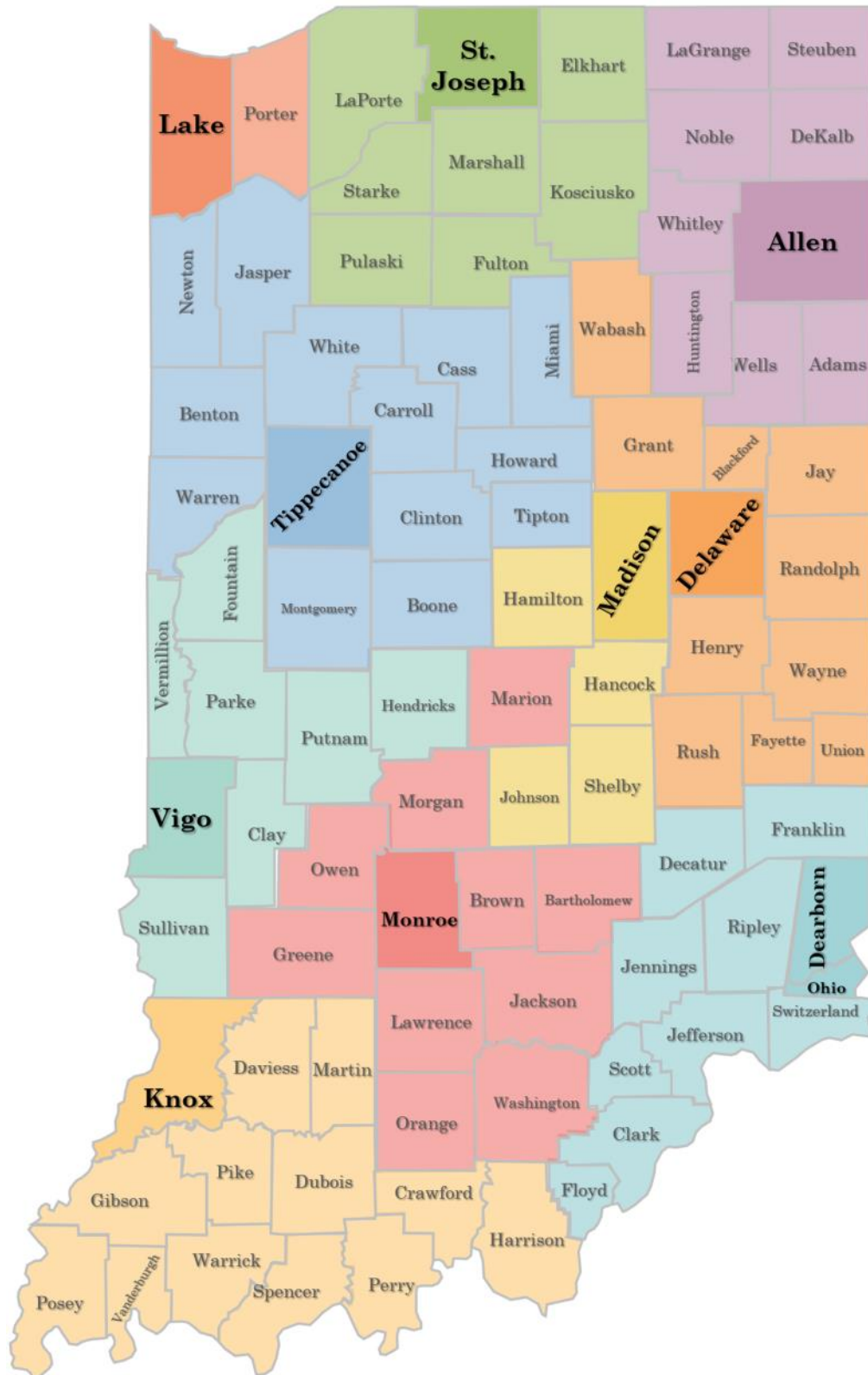
Accordingly, IPAC plans to request appropriation for the High-Tech Crime Unit Fund per annum for the budget bill under consideration during the 2025 legislative session in the amount of \$4,500,000.

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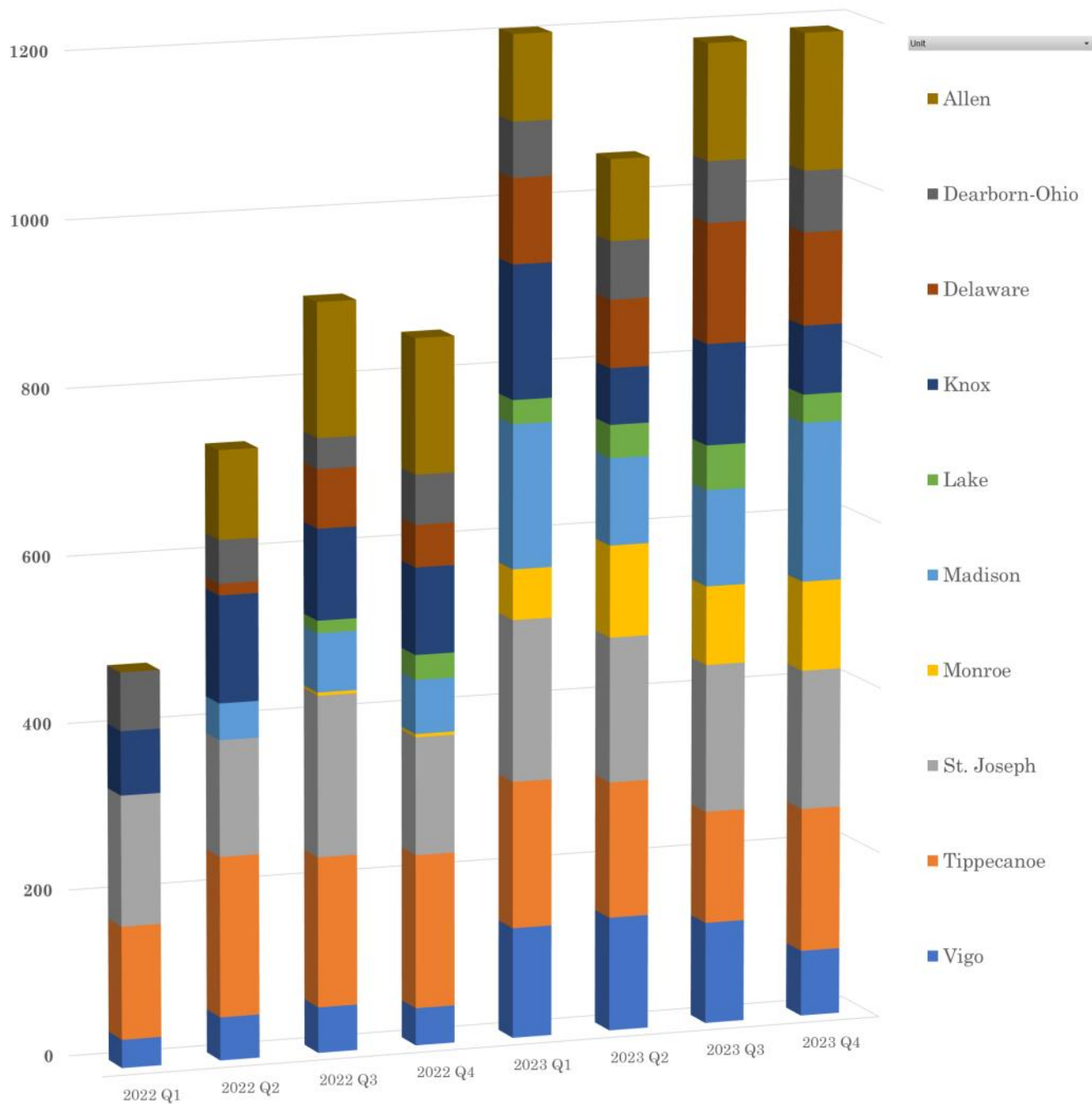
<sup>4</sup> While the remainder of this report focuses on CY 2022 and CY2023, these data include Q1 and Q2 of CY2024.

# The Ten Units

After accounting for jurisdictions that have long-standing digital-evidence units of their own (notably Marion and Vanderburgh), the ten units divide the state into roughly equivalent populations. The units are based in Lake, St. Joseph, Allen, Tippecanoe, Madison, Delaware, Vigo, Monroe, Dearborn/Ohio, and Knox Counties.



### Device Totals by Quarter and Unit



The above graph displays how the various units became operational under the HTCU umbrella, and the following pages provide details about each unit's formation, management, and operational approach.

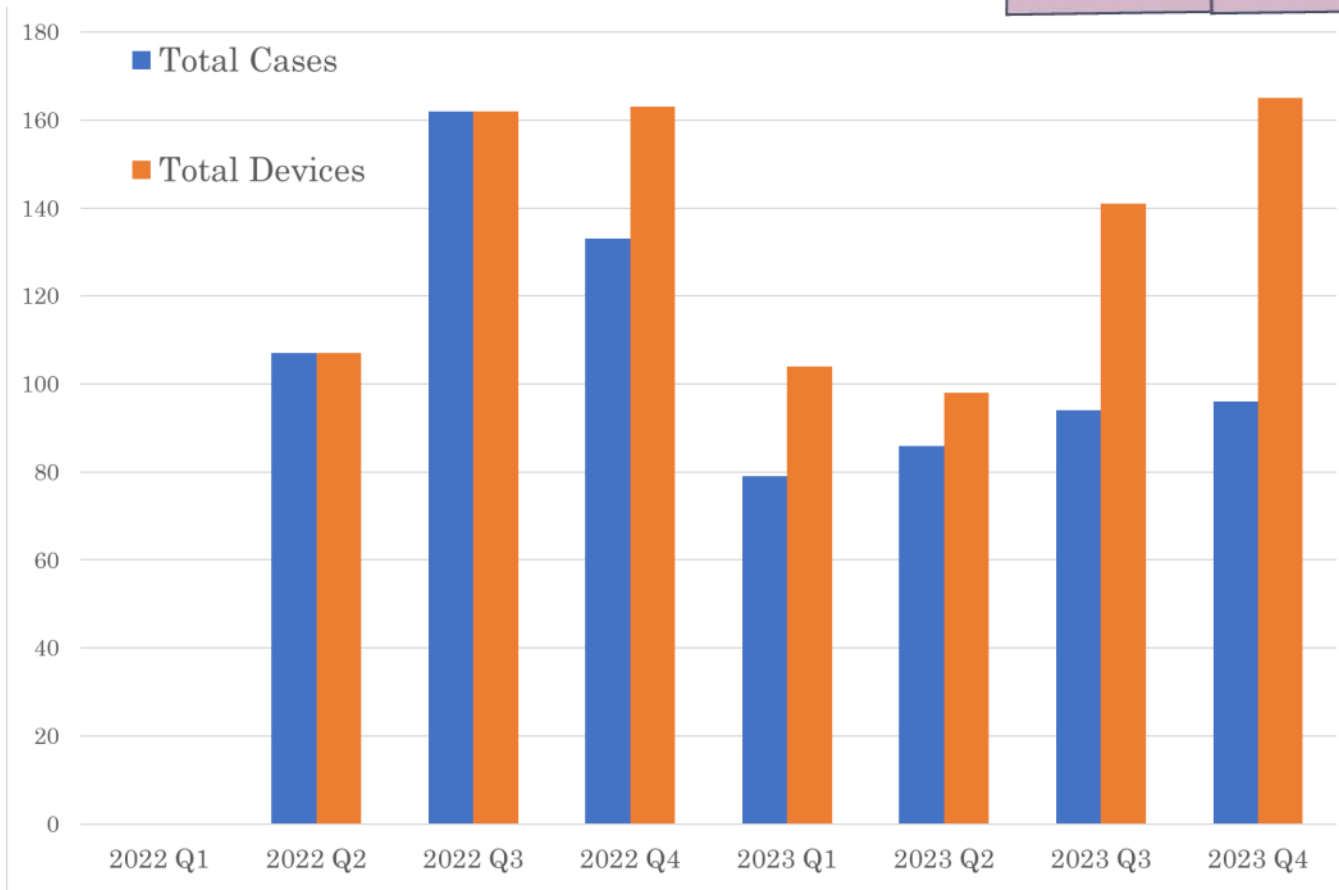
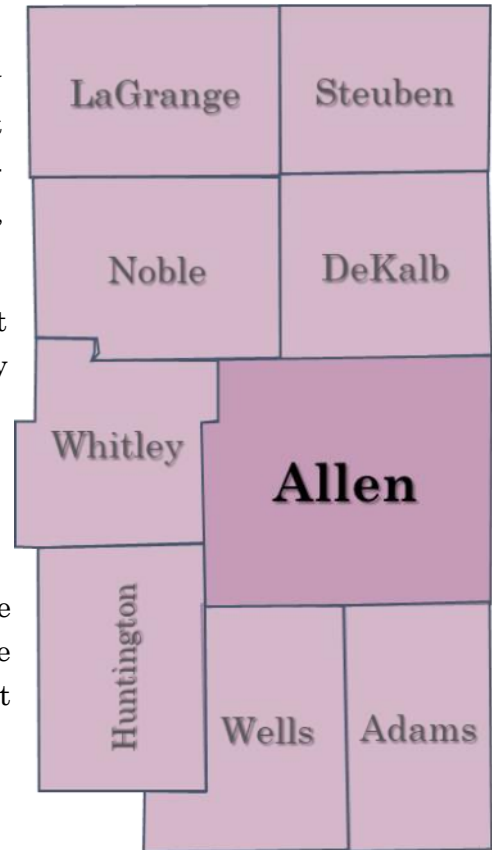
## 38th Judicial Circuit (Allen County)

Based at 602 South Calhoun Street in Fort Wayne, Prosecuting Attorney Mike McAlexander's HTCU is currently led by Dallas Colley (*photo*), who succeeded Ronald Coffelt in July 2023. This unit serves Allen County and eight nearby counties: Adams, DeKalb, Huntington, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben, Wells, and Whitley.

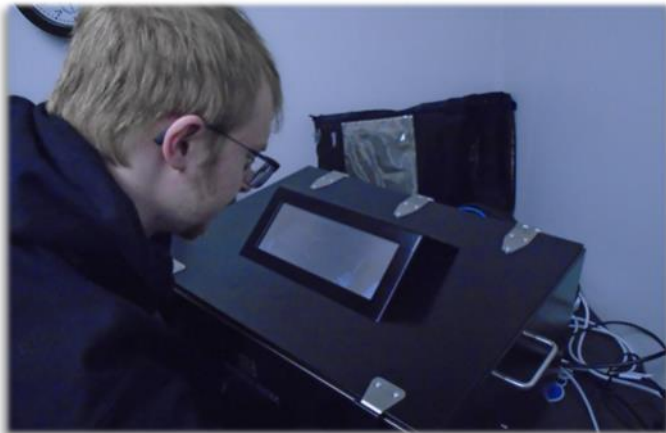
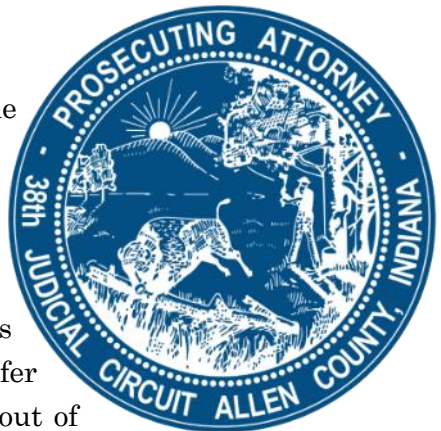


At the end of 2023, the unit was staffed by Director Colley and two interns, both students at the Indiana Institute of Technology (commonly known as Indiana Tech).

Starting from scratch, the unit has benefited from a close relationship with the Fort Wayne Police Department.



HTCU intern\* Ryan Welbaum (*far below*) proudly displays the unit's Blockbox and forensic crack cabinet (foreground, right) in the unit's workroom. The Blockbox — a heavy-duty forensic analysis enclosure designed specifically for investigating devices such as cell phones, tablets, laptops, and similar size electronics — makes it easy for operators to comfortably analyze devices, as



well as transfer devices in and out of faraday bags inside of the shielded chamber. The chamber completely isolates devices inside and blocks Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, cell signals, GPS, RFID, and radio signals, preserving the phone's data for extraction and analysis while preventing any signal from reaching or leaving the device. Ryan (*left*) works within the box by observing a device through the viewing window and manipulating it via specialized gloves.

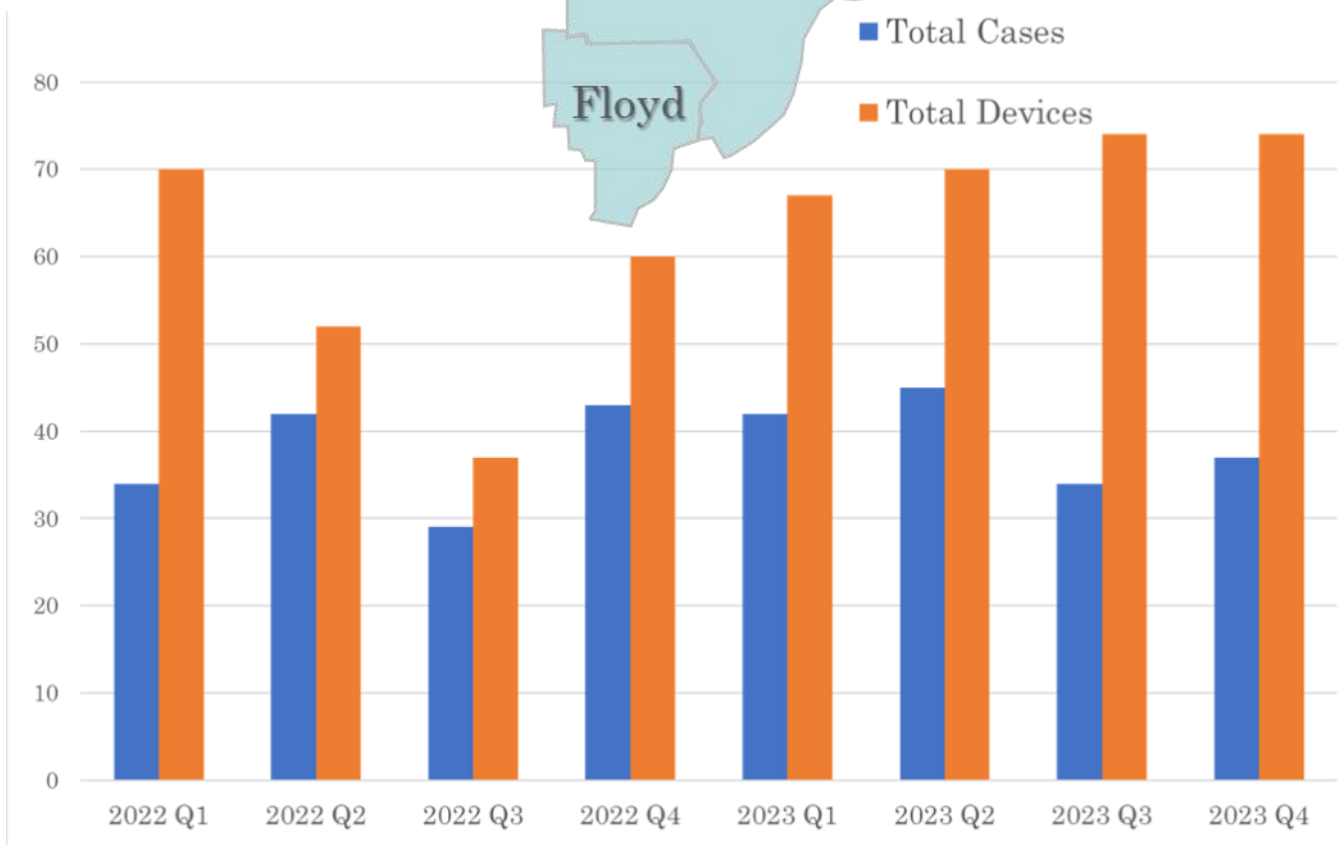
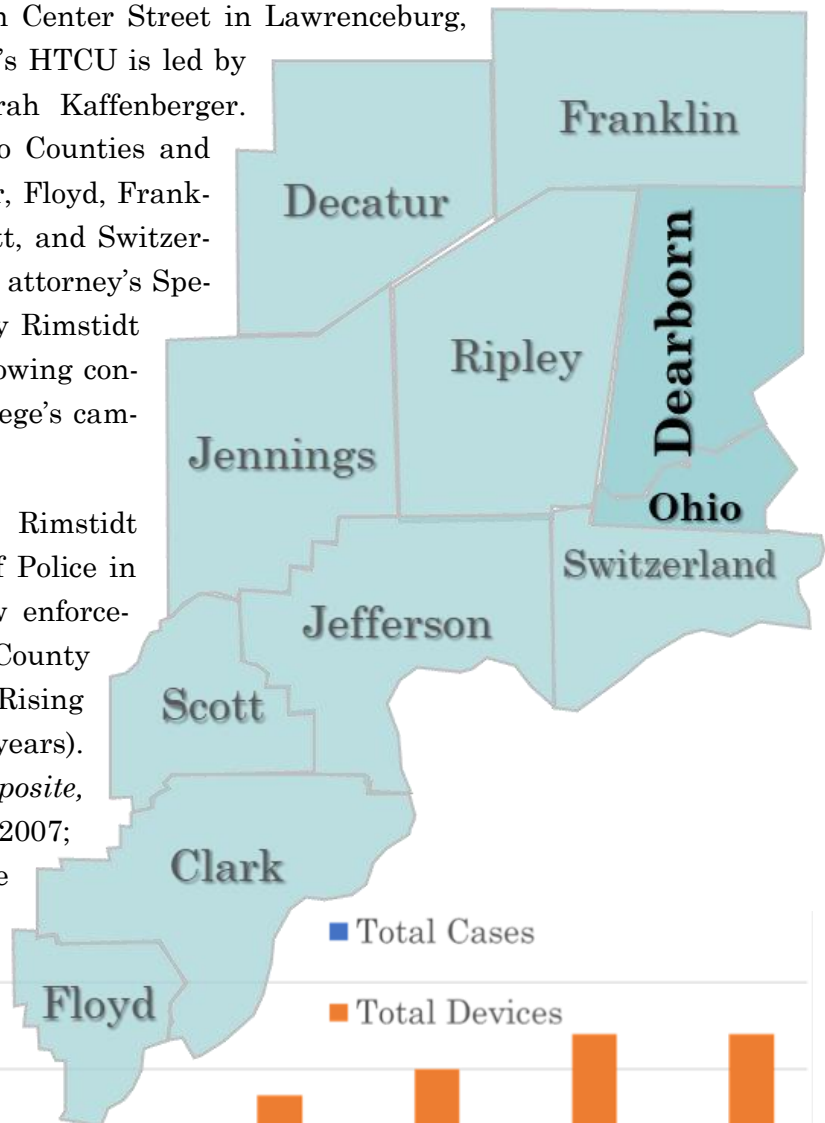


\* *2024 update:* Ryan served as an intern with the unit from May 2023 until his graduation in May 2024. After earning his degree in Cybersecurity from Indiana Tech, Ryan was hired by the unit as a full-time digital forensic examiner!

## 7th Judicial Circuit (Dearborn and Ohio Counties)

Based within a secure facility on Center Street in Lawrenceburg, Prosecuting Attorney Lynn Deddens’s HTCUC is led by Norman Rodney Rimstidt and Sarah Kaffenberger. This unit serves Dearborn and Ohio Counties and nine nearby counties: Clark, Decatur, Floyd, Franklin, Jennings, Ripley, Scott, and Switzerland. Evolving from the prosecuting attorney’s Special Crimes Unit and staffed only by Rimstidt and Kaffenberger, the unit has a growing connection to Ivy Tech Community College’s campus in Lawrenceburg.

Prior to becoming a co-director, Rimstidt most recently served as the Chief of Police in Rising Sun, having served as a law enforcement officer since 1992 for the Ohio County Sherriff’s Office (eight years) and Rising Sun Police Department (twenty-two years). As a detective, Rimstidt (*photo, opposite, left*) started in computer forensics in 2007; he also served in and retired from the



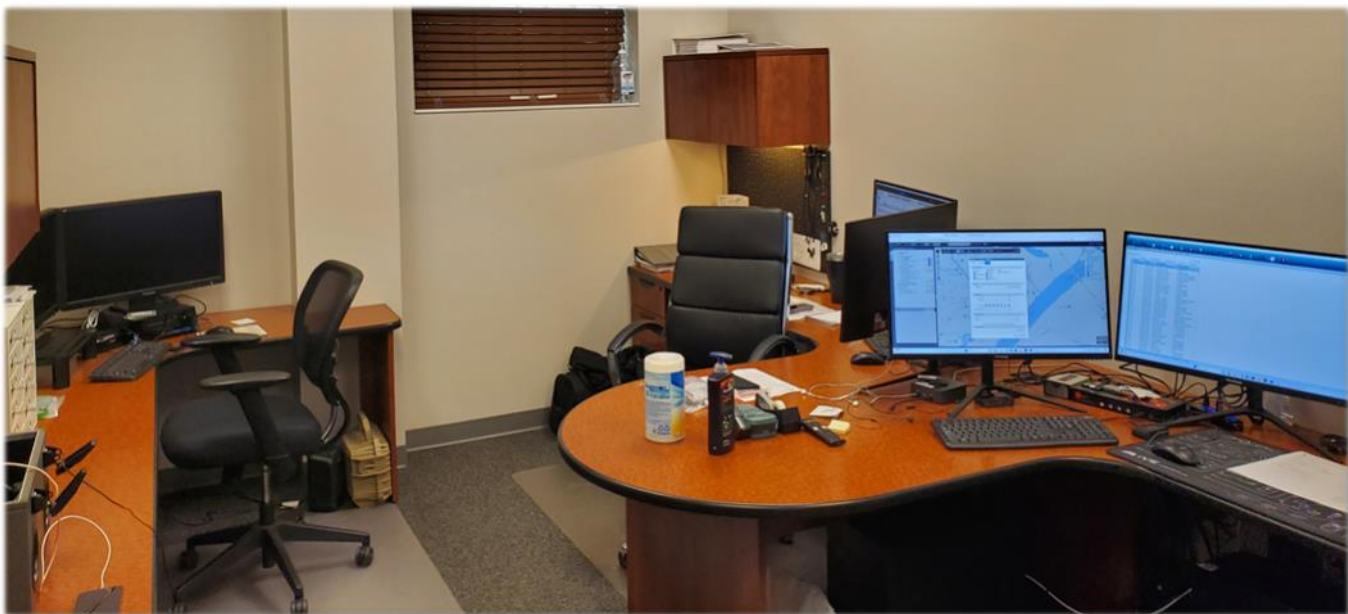


Indiana Army National Guard.

A steady presence at the prosecutor's office, Co-Director Kaffenberger (*photo, right*) joined the HTCUC upon its formation, having served over fifteen years as a paralegal and administrative assistant to the prosecuting attorney.



An internship program was created for students at the Lawrenceburg campus of Ivy Tech. One student began working for the unit in fall 2023, and the program intends to have interns continue annually.

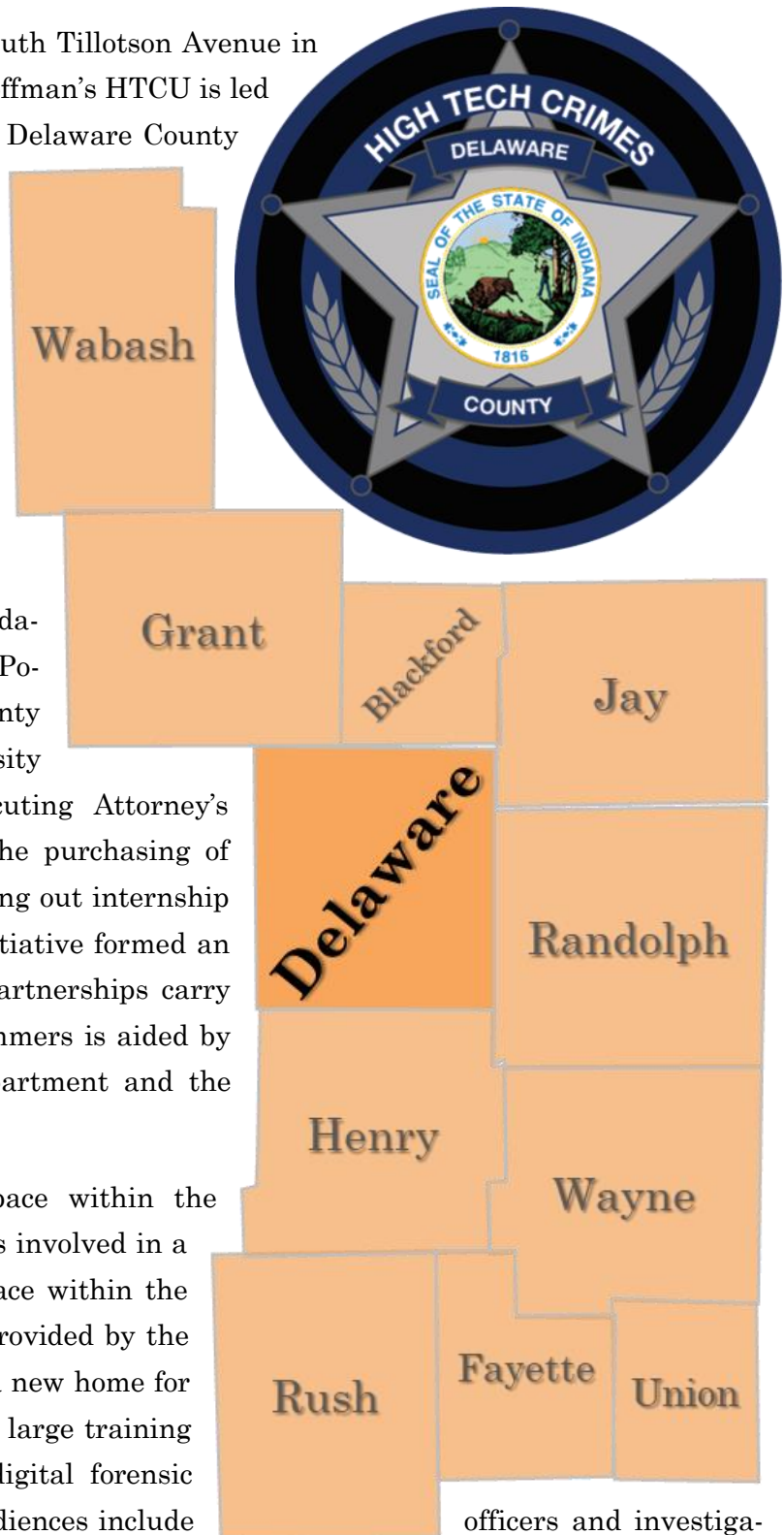


## 46th Judicial Circuit (Delaware County)

Based within his office at 3100 South Tillotson Avenue in Muncie, Prosecuting Attorney Eric Hoffman’s HTCUC is led by Chuck Zimmers. This unit serves Delaware County and ten nearby counties: Blackford, Fayette, Grant, Henry, Jay, Randolph, Rush, Union, Wabash, and Wayne. Zimmers (*photo, opposite page*) brings nearly twenty years of investigation experience to his directorship, having served as an Investigator for the Prosecuting Attorney since April 2006.

In 2021, the Ball Brothers Foundation provided funding to the Muncie Police Department, the Delaware County Sheriff’s Office, the Ball State University Police Department, and the Prosecuting Attorney’s Office to fight cybercrime through the purchasing of equipment, obtaining software, building out internship opportunities, and training. That initiative formed an early basis for the HTCUC and the partnerships carry through to today’s unit. Director Zimmers is aided by officers from the Muncie Police Department and the Delaware County Sheriff’s Office.

Having already outgrown its space within the Prosecutor’s Office itself, the HTCUC is involved in a multi-phase expansion program. Space within the Delaware County Building is being provided by the Delaware County Commissioners as a new home for the unit. The facilities will include a large training room to host trainings concerning digital forensic tools and related topics. Projected audiences include officers and investigators from within the law enforcement community, interns, students, and members of the community. Further, such a facility will allow for experts in the field to travel to Muncie to train the unit’s analysts and share their expertise in person. The final phase calls for the creation of



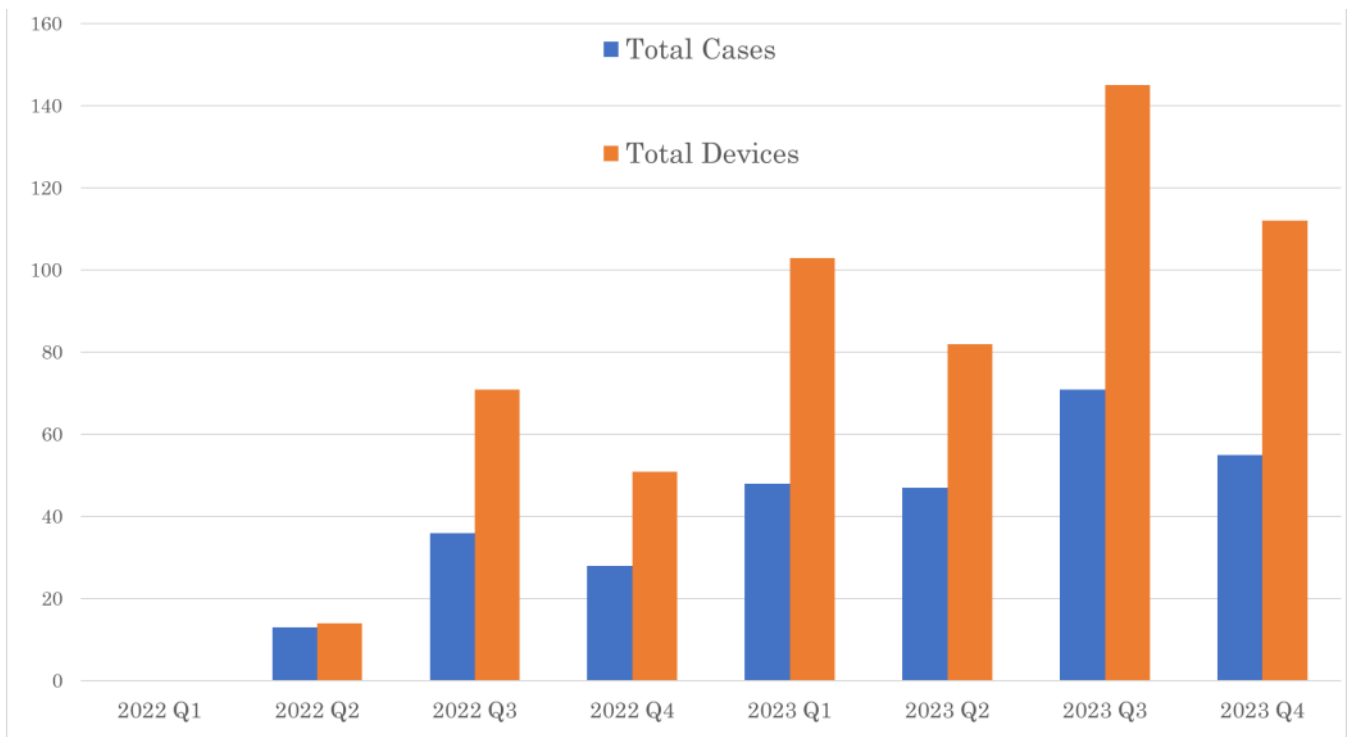


smaller training rooms to allow for the expansion of the internship program and trainings available to students — primarily from nearby Ball State University (BSU).

Toward that end, the HTCUC has been working with the BSU Department of Computer Science to create an internship program with the hopes that the program



would require a two-year commitment and offer practical experience in the field of digital forensics. This would be a unique experience for students because the tools and training are not typically available outside of the law enforcement community. A recent program graduate was hired as an analyst for the HTCUC, too.



\* 2024 update: The Richmond Police Department in Wayne County has also joined in a serious way by assigning a full-time officer to the unit.

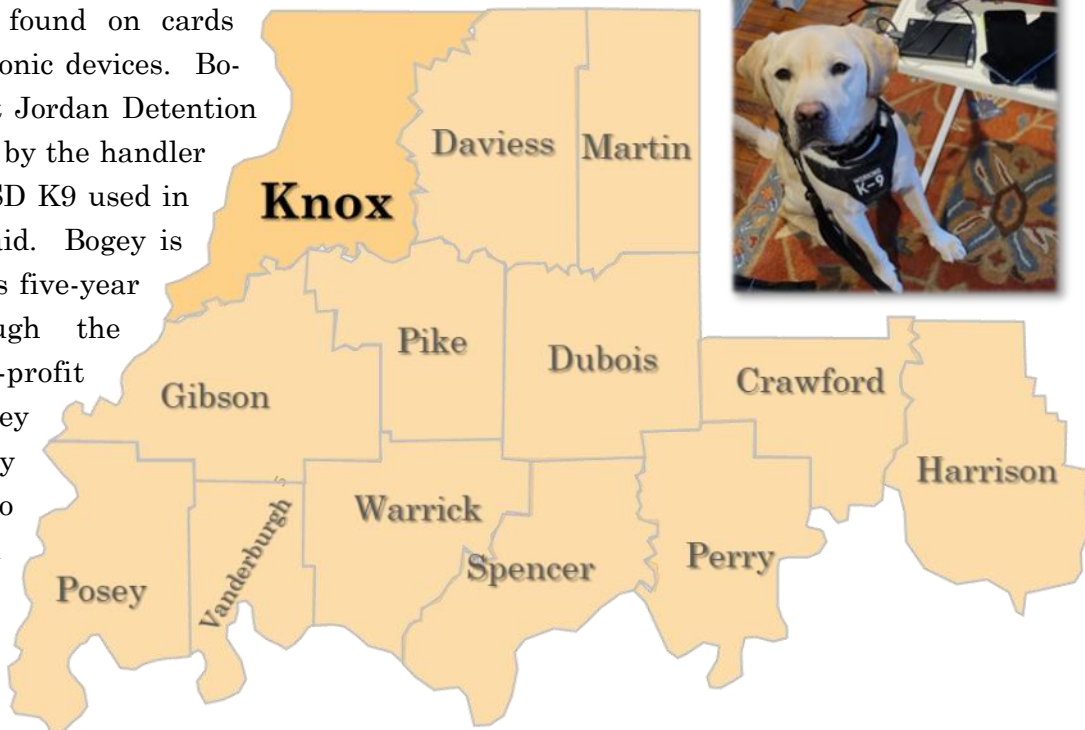
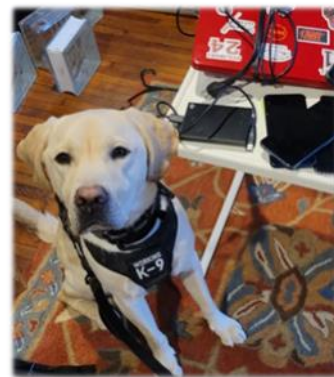
## 12th Judicial Circuit (Knox County)

Based within office space on the second floor of the Vincennes Police Department in the former U.S. Post Office building on Busseron Street in Vincennes, Prosecuting Attorney Dirk Carnahan's (*photo, left*) HTCU is led by Karen O'Connor (*photo, opposite page, right*). This unit serves Knox County and twelve nearby counties: Crawford, Daviess, Dubois, Gibson, Harrison, Martin, Perry, Pike, Posey, Spencer, Vanderburgh,<sup>3</sup> and Warrick. O'Connor comes to the directorship with a degree in Homeland Security, prior military service, and thirteen years in the pharmaceuticals industry, including five years as an assistant professor of pharmacy technology at Vincennes University.

In early 2023, former Vincennes City Police Detective Jon Alexander (*photo, right*) was hired and sworn as an investigator for Prosecutor Dirk Carnahan to assist Director O'Connor with the work of the HTCU, extracting and analyzing digital evidence.

This HTCU is lucky enough to have a Electronic Storage Detection (ESD) canine. Bogey (*photo*), a labrador retriever, is like most such dogs working in this field and came to electronics detection after withdrawing from comfort-dog school. ESD K9s are trained on the scent of a unique substance found on cards and chips in electronic devices. Bogey was trained at Jordan Detention K9 in Indianapolis by the handler of K9 Bear, the ESD K9 used in the Jared Fogle raid. Bogey is fully funded for his five-year deployment through the Utah-based non-profit OUR Rescue. Bogey is handled by O'Connor, who trains with him daily.

This HTCU



<sup>5</sup> Vanderburgh County has a digital forensics lab supported by the Prosecuting Attorney's Office in Evansville. The HTCU and that lab have a strong working relationship that frees up the HTCU to focus on the outlying areas.

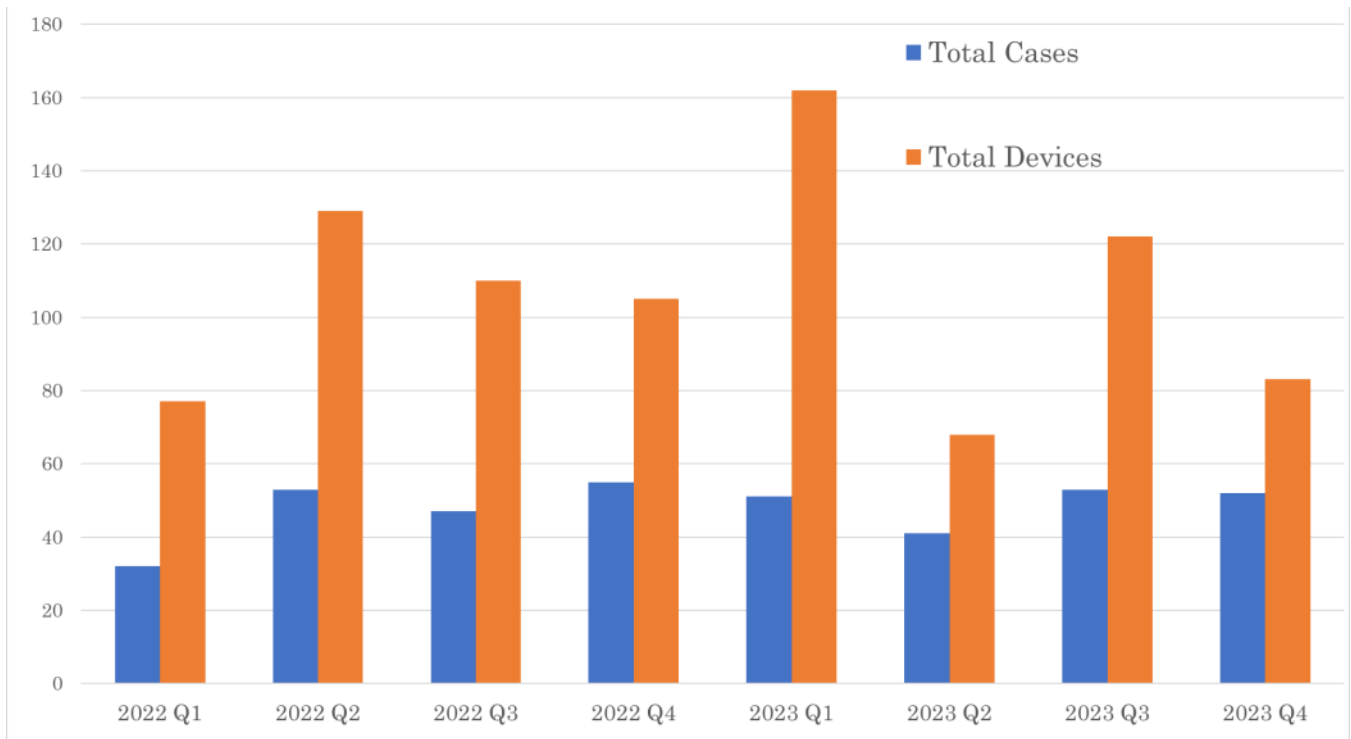


also prides itself in providing investigative services using open-source and law enforcement tools and experience for which smaller agencies might not be able to afford the time for training or cost of the tools.

At left, K9 Bogey poses for a photo between O'Connor (*right*) and Jordan Carr (*left*), who serves as the Chandler Police Department's Assistant Chief of Police. The photo follows a training conducted by the HTCUC for law enforcement officers from CPD, nearby Boonville Police Department, and the Warrick County Sheriff's Office. Such proactive outreach is a hallmark of this HTCUC but is made challenging by, for ex-



ample, the hour-plus drive from Vincennes to Chandler for the event featuring training, donuts, and canine belly scratches.



## 31st Judicial Circuit (Lake County)

Now based out of the Millard E. Gyte Science Building on the campus of Purdue University Northwest (PNW) on Woodmar Avenue in Hammond, Prosecuting Attorney Bernie Carter's HTCUC is led by Edgar Rodriguez (*photo*). This unit serves Lake County

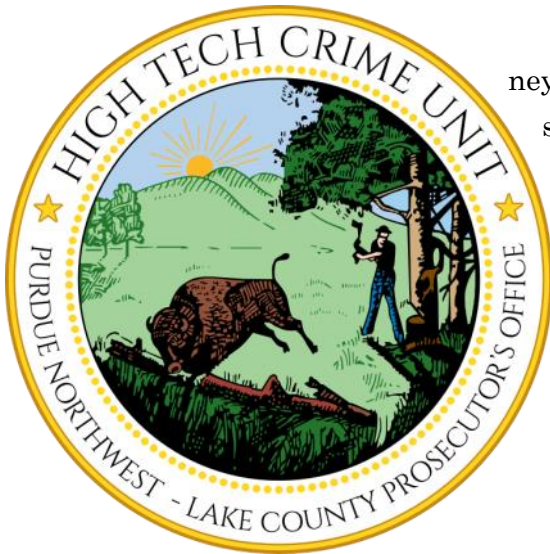


and neighboring Porter County to the east. Despite being comprised of only two counties, the Region's population puts it on par with the other units.

The unit moved from Director Rodriguez's office in Crown Point and onto the PNW campus in mid-2023 through a partnership with the school's Center for Crime and Forensics, which provides education training, research, and testing services to academia, law enforcement, and the legal community. Toward that end, PNW has two full-time forensics faculty members with decades of experience in crime lab management. Thus, the partnership is a natural one to leverage these

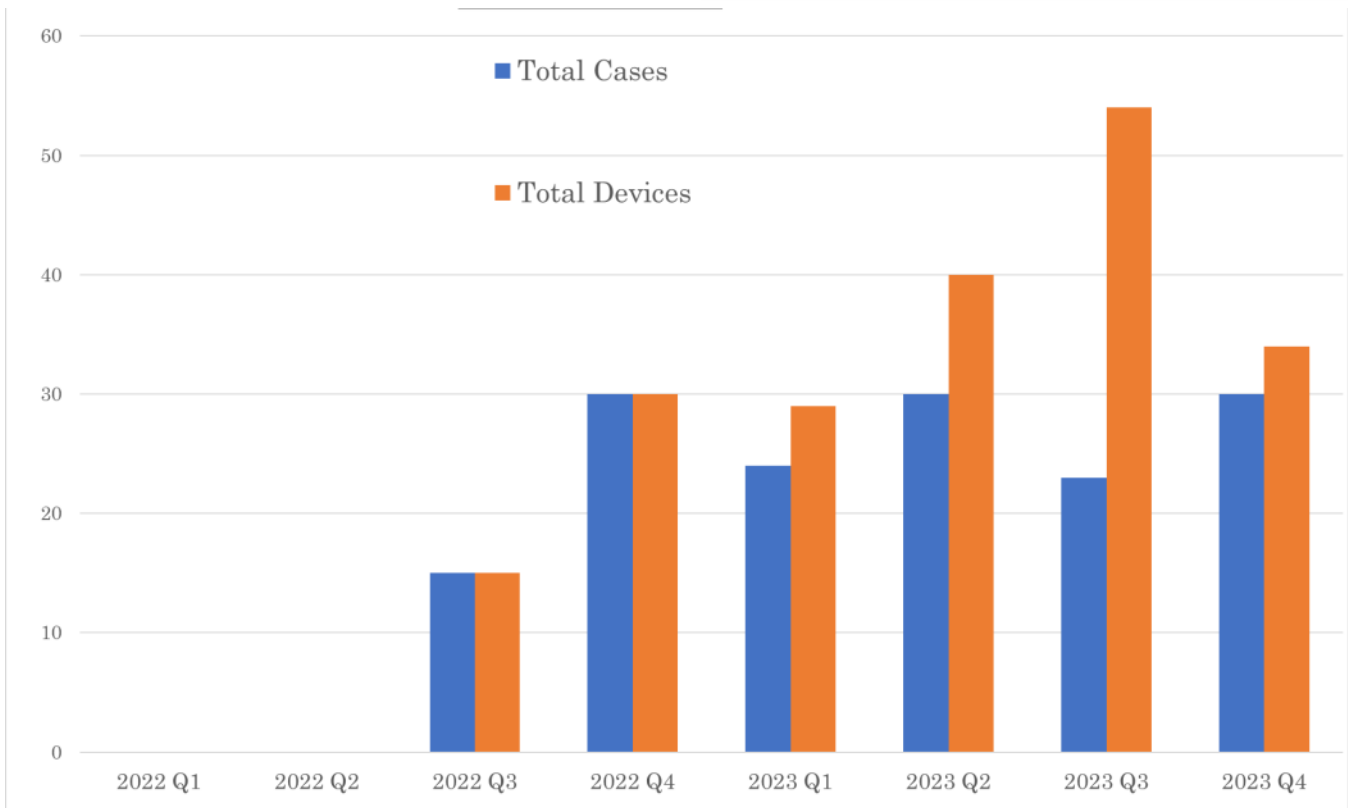


existing resources in academics and research in forensics, criminal justice, and digital technology. A ribbon cutting kicked off the partnership in September 2023 (*photo*) and featured many dignitaries, including PNW Chancellor Thomas Keon (*front, third from left*), PNW Provost and Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs (and now Chancellor) Chris Holford (*holding ribbon on far left*), and Prosecuting Attorney Carter (*center, red tie*).



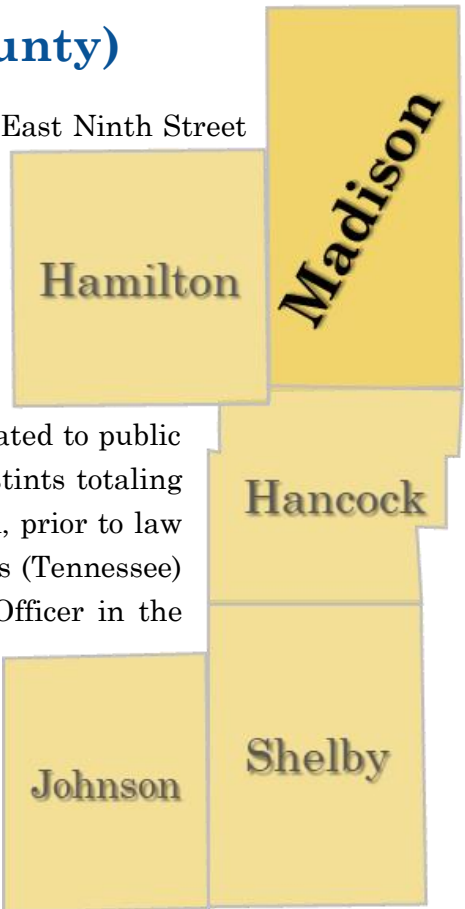
Director Rodriguez has been a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for Mr. Carter for nearly twenty-five years, with time spent with Lake County's Drug Task Force and its Metro Homicide Unit.

The unit's core work area contains multiple work stations (example: *photo, left*), while other former classrooms have been adapted for training and internship activities (*photo, right*). With the new location and resources, the unit is poised for tremendous growth.

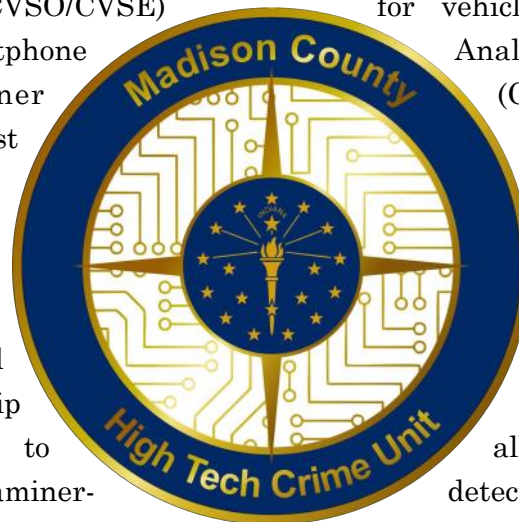


## 50th Judicial Circuit (Madison County)

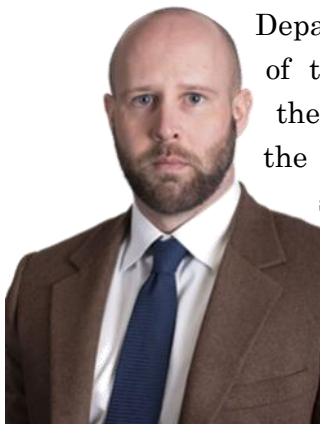
Based within offices of the city’s police department at 16 East Ninth Street in Anderson, Prosecuting Attorney Rodney Cummings’s HTCU is led by Ben Jaqua. This unit serves Madison County and four nearby counties: Hamilton, Hancock, Johnson, and Shelby. Jaqua (*photo, below left*) is joined by Andy Byers (*photo, below right*). Jaqua has been a deputy prosecutor in Madison County since September 2021 and was named the new unit’s director only a few months later. In a career dedicated to public service, Jaqua previously prosecuted in Marion County (two stints totaling about 4.5 years) and in Anne Arundel County (Maryland) and, prior to law school, served as a police officer and detective for the Memphis (Tennessee) Police Department for nearly 3.5 years and as an Infantry Officer in the United States Army from July 2007 through November 2012. Byers came to work for the unit following a 26-year career in the Indiana State Police, serving in both the patrol and investigative divisions.



Given their careers in training-focused professions, Jaqua and Byers pride themselves in obtaining advanced trainings and certifications, which include Berla Certified Forensic Vehicle Technician/Operator/Examiner (CVST/CVSO/CVSE) for vehicle infotainment forensics; Cellebrite Advanced Smartphone Analysis (CASA); Cellebrite Certified Mobile Examiner (CCME) certification; CompTIA A+ training; Post-Blast Explosives Recognition & IED Intelligence Analysts (through media enhancement software processing call detail records. is home to fairly established HTCU formed a partnership



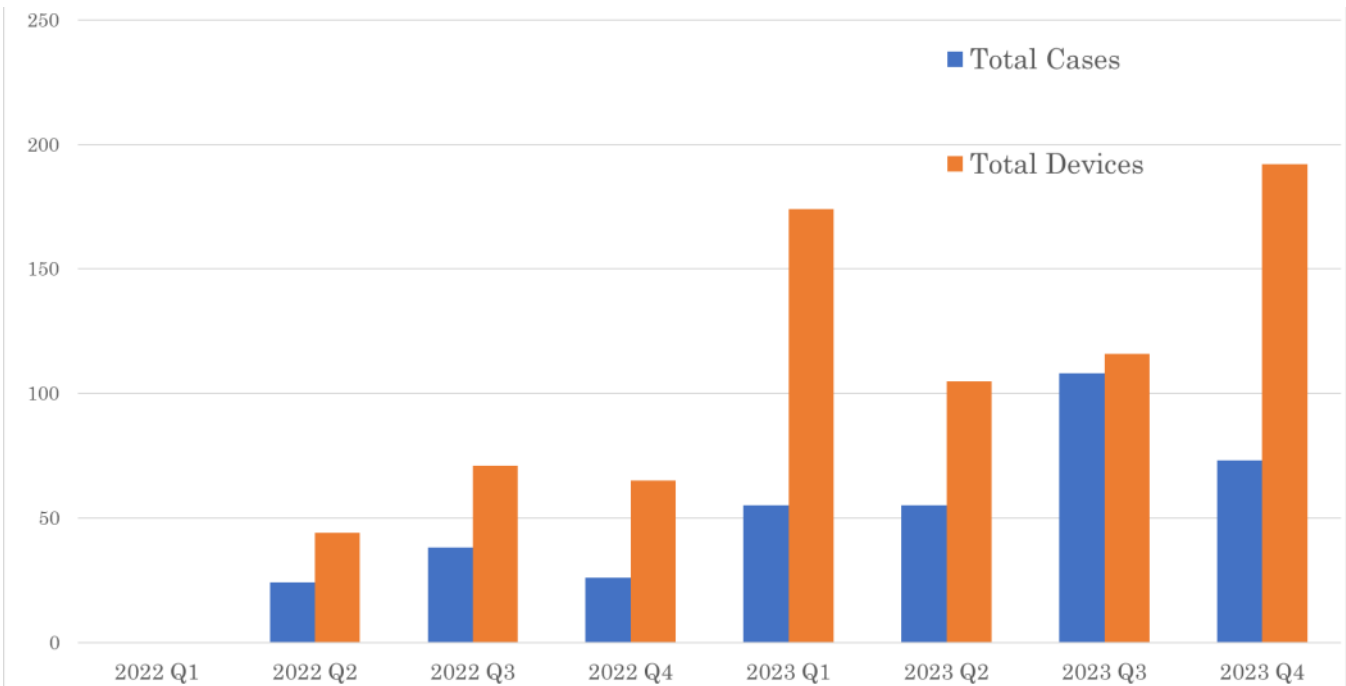
Department to allow for one of their examiner-detectives to use the HTCU equipment and software to boost the unit’s intake and productivity. Jaqua also aggressively seeks out additional funding, having the unit awarded over \$235,000 from the federal Edward Byrne Memorial JAG grant, which allowed the unit to expand its capabilities — for example, Berla vehicle forensics, Amped FIVE video & image fo-





rensis, Cellebrite Premium, backup servers for long-term evidence preservation, and three specialized forensic computer workstations.

The training and equipment have paid off in a variety of ways. Of the nearly 300 new cases opened by the unit during CY2023, fifty-seven involved lead charges of a Level 2 felony or higher, including eighteen homicides and seven attempted homicides. The examiner duo maintained an average turnaround time of less than two weeks, notwithstanding successful processing of over 550 devices in 2023! Further, the National White Collar Crime Center (NW3C) has recognized Jaqua as a subject-matter expert in mobile device forensics, and Cellebrite’s research and development team invited Jaqua on as a consultant. Outreach has also been a key point of success, with many presentations provided throughout their five-county region and with audiences ranging from detectives and prosecutors to judges about the capabilities and limitations of digital forensics and its evidentiary data.



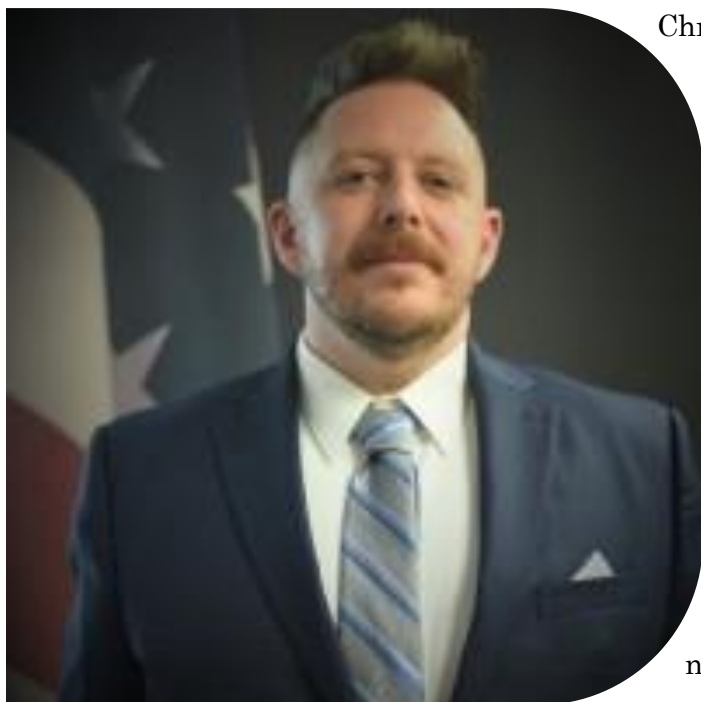
## 10th Judicial Circuit (Monroe County)

Based within offices of the Indiana University Police Department (IUPD) at 301 North College Avenue in Bloomington, Prosecuting Attorney Erika Oliphant's HTCUCU is led by Levi Minnick. This unit serves Monroe County and ten nearby counties: Bartholomew, Brown, Greene, Jackson, Lawrence, Marion,<sup>4</sup> Morgan, Orange, Owen, and Washington

Minnick (*photo*) comes to the directorship with fifteen years in law enforcement, having started with IUPD in 2007 and spending the most recent six years as a crime scene investigator and a property room manager, responsibilities that led him to develop interest and expertise in the processing of digital evidence.

As a true startup, the unit officially came online in October 2022 after Minnick was hired by Prosecutor Oliphant in early summer 2022. IUPD provided secure office space in its old Investigations Division on 17th Street near North Jordan Avenue. Minnick was also supported by Detective

Chris Brummett, a detective from IUPD.



An investigation from early in this HTCUCU's existence highlights the value of these units. A shooting occurred in rural Monroe County in which a homeowner was injured when he confronted two people seemingly attempting to steal the truck parked outside his home. One of the two suspects was located quickly near the scene, but the other had fled further and evaded authorities. The apprehended suspect was in possession of a smartphone, which was locked. The Sheriff's investigators were unsuccessful in obtaining data from the device notwithstanding a search warrant being ob-

<sup>6</sup> Marion County also has a digital forensics lab in Indianapolis. Accordingly, those local agencies rely less on the HTCUCU.

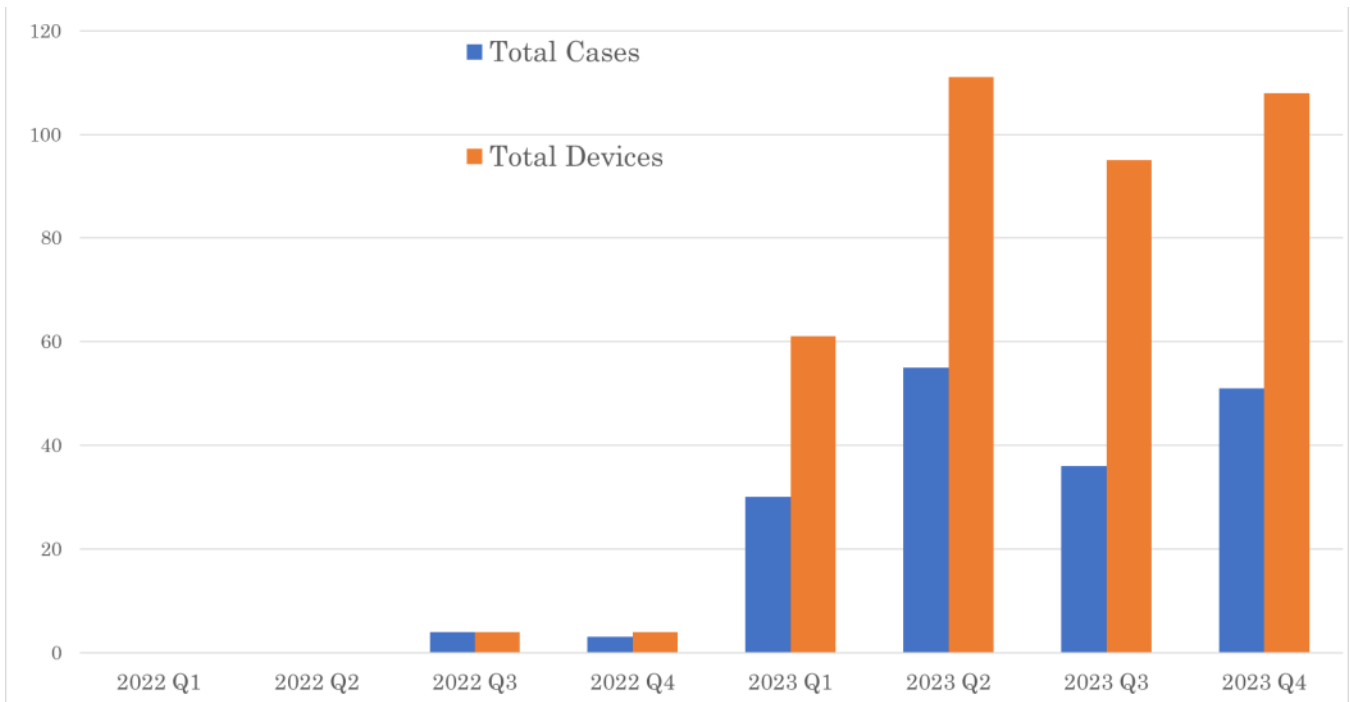




tained to authorize a forensic analysis of its contents. Investigators sought the assistance of the HTCUC in Bloomington, and, given the severity of the crime and that a suspect remained at large, the unit expedited its processing and was able to produce a full file system extraction from the phone within hours. The HTCUC parsed the extraction the next morning and provided the lead investigating officers with a report within less than twenty-four hours. The data provided from the phone was used to confront the second suspect, who confirmed his involvement and even took the detectives to the brush pile where he had left the shotgun used against the victim.

An example falling outside the typical set of circumstances arose in fall 2023 when the Indiana State Police (ISP) initiated an investigation through a tip made to the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force. The HTCUC worked with ISP once it was established the suspect worked for the university. Minnick and Det. Brummett assisted two ISP investigators on the date of arrest. In fact, Det. Brummett and one of the ISP investigators conducted the suspect’s interview, during which the suspect confessed to possessing child pornography. ISP conducted its analysis of the devices seized from the suspect’s residence, but the expertise and experience of the HTCUC personnel were also important to the investigation’s success.

*Stories like these are plentiful among the HTCUCs.*



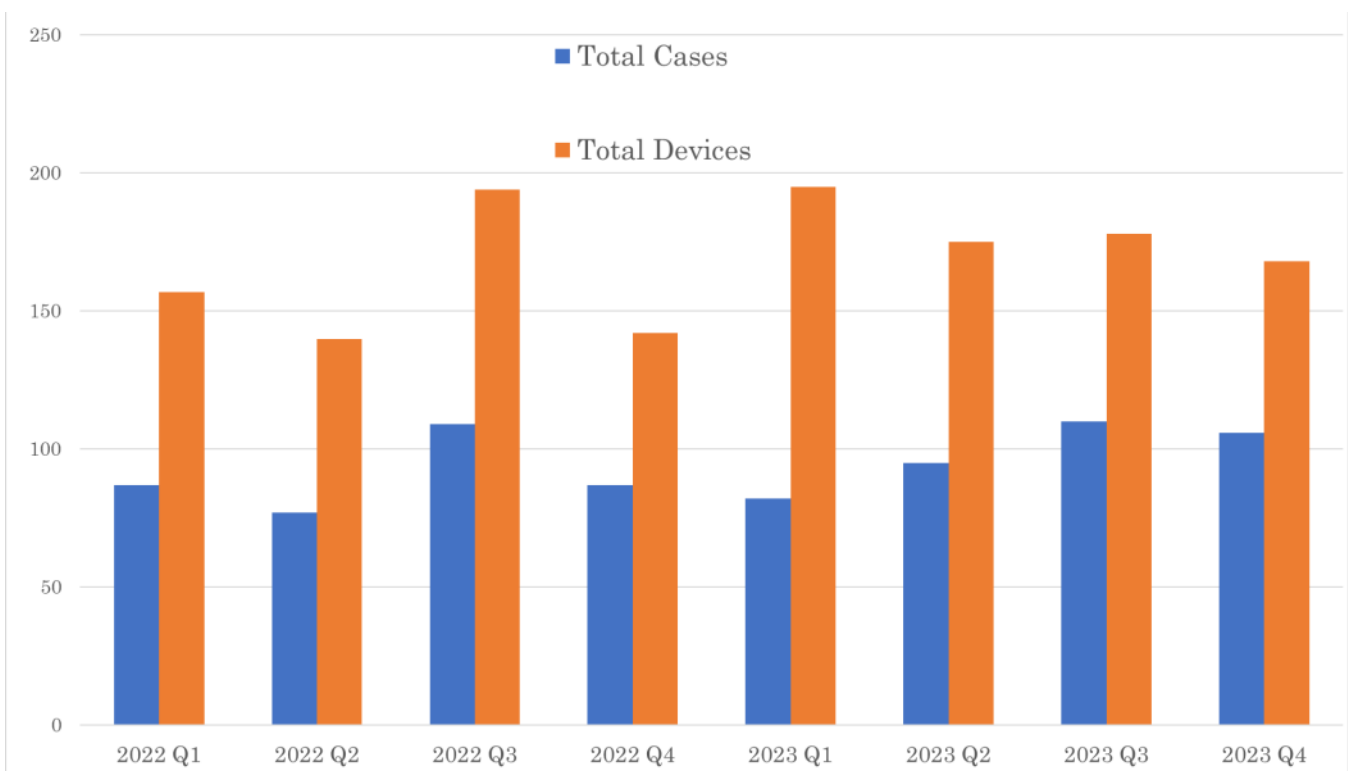
\* 2024 update: The formal relationship with Indiana University dissolved at the end of June 2024. The unit quickly found a new home at the Ellettsville Police Dept. at 1406 West Guy McCown Drive just minutes from Bloomington.

## 60th Judicial Circuit (St. Joseph County)



Based in Hammes Mowbray Hall on the University of Notre Dame’s campus, Prosecuting Attorney Ken Cotter’s HTCUC is led by Mitch Kajzer (*photo, opposite page, top*). This unit serves St. Joseph County and seven nearby counties: Elkhart, Fulton, Kosciusko, LaPorte, Marshall, Pulaski, and Starke. Kajzer could be hailed as the Father of the High-Tech Crime Unit.

Kajzer has served in law enforcement for three decades, retiring from South Bend Police Department many years ago. In 2003, he helped to start the first local high-tech crime unit in the state. This fledgling unit lasted six years before succumbing to budget cuts. Kajzer returned to school and earned a graduate degree. By 2012, Kajzer was teaching at Notre Dame. Prosecutor Cotter hired Kajzer to help with digital evidence, and by 2017 the two had launched the St. Joseph County Cyber Crimes Unit using a student/law enforcement model in which university students are sworn as prosecutor investigators (*photo, opposite page, middle*) to do most of the forensic analysis tasks under the leadership and supervision of the director. Starting with three students, the program quickly grew in size to six, then ten, then fifteen, then twenty-one student-investigators. Not all of the students come from Notre Dame, as one recent student-investigator was a Purdue student, and an agreement with Ivy Tech is in the works. Typically, the unit hosts three or four student-investigators each summer who can work full-time. During the academic year, each student’s work hours are



capped at ten per week, so the number of students increases greatly. Students going through the program and the related coursework at Notre Dame have gone on to impressive careers in digital forensics, including local law enforcement agencies and major federal agencies, such as the NSA.

With such a large staff, the HTCU hired two deputy directors a few years ago: Mariah Donley and Carline Torie. A native of South Bend, Donley earned a degree in criminal justice from Indiana University and interned for the HTCU for a summer before being hired on three years ago. Torie, using her political science and communi-



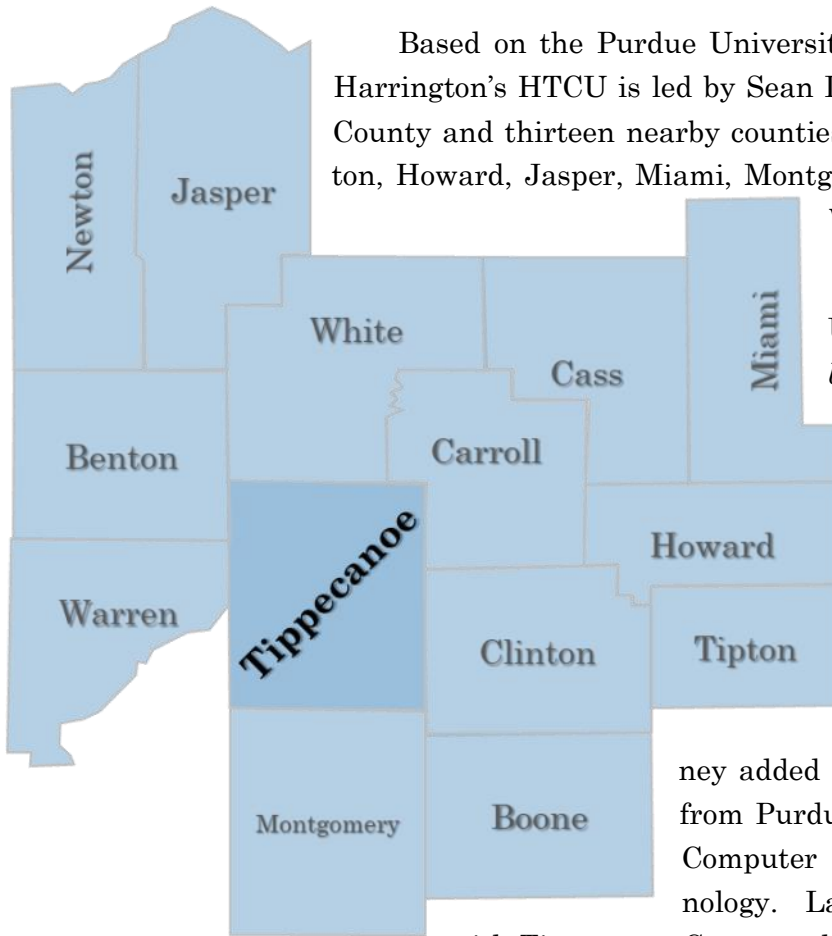
communications degree from DePauw, worked as a news and investigative reporter in South Bend. She interviewed Kajzer several times before leaving journalism and joining the HTCU for a career in digital evidence. The two began managing the day-to-day operations after Kajzer retired from full-time employment with the prosecutor's office in 2022 but remained on in a part-time capacity to administratively supervise the HTCU and conduct training.

The unit (*photo, below*) created in St. Joseph County not only has served as a prototype for the statewide HTCU program but has also worked with several agencies outside Indiana to assist them in creating units using the student/law enforcement model pioneered at Notre Dame. Such interest came from as far away as Beaufort County, South Carolina; San Jose, California; and Santa Barbara, California.



\* *2024 update:* After a long and distinguished career in digital evidence, Kajzer completely stepped away from his roles at the University of Notre Dame and this unit in May 2024. Kajzer now trains and develops curriculum for Magnet Forensics, a titan in the field of digital forensics. The unit is currently led by Donley and Torie who manage the team as co-directors.

## 23rd Judicial Circuit (Tippecanoe County)



Based on the Purdue University campus, Prosecuting Attorney Pat Harrington’s HTCUC is led by Sean Leshney. The unit serves Tippecanoe County and thirteen nearby counties: Benton, Boone, Carroll, Cass, Clinton, Howard, Jasper, Miami, Montgomery, Newton, Tipton, Warren, and White.

After serving seven years in the United States Navy, Leshney (*photo, below*) joined the Lafayette Police Department for almost five years with most of that time as a reserve and some as a sworn officer. By 2005, Leshney was an instructor in Information Technology-related courses at Purdue University and coordinated training for law enforcement students. In 2008 Leshney

added a Masters in Cyber/Digital Forensics from Purdue to his Purdue bachelor’s degree in Computer Technology/Computer Systems Technology. Later that year he began employment

with Tippecanoe County, where he has served as Prosecutor Harrington’s Chief Digital Forensics Investigator, a position now known as Director of Forensic Investigations. Leshney also teaches at the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy.

The story of this HTCUC is similar to St. Joseph County’s path — *i.e.*, as the successor to a unit formed *many* years ago. In 2011, Harrington and Leshney began to form a partnership with local agencies (who also joined the ICAC Task Force) in order to combine resources to investigate cases with digital evidence more broadly. By early 2013, the High Tech Crimes Unit was borne from cooperation among Lafayette P.D., Tippecanoe County Sheriff’s Dept., West

Lafayette Police Dept., Purdue University

P.D., the Indiana State Police, and Purdue University’s Cyber Forensics Dept. By 2016, Purdue had provided a secure location to centralize the unit’s resources. The university relationship has grown over time to include providing real-world experience for students, helping with research

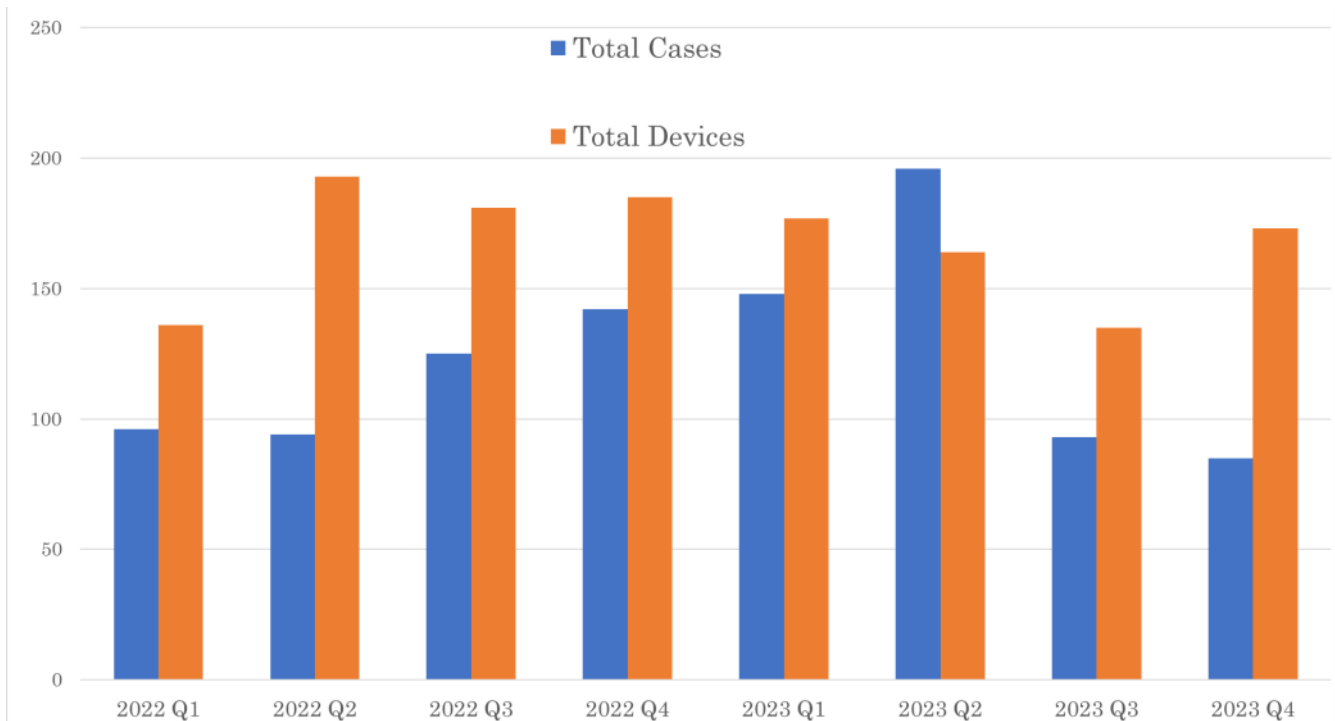




topics, and testing tools developed by the university. By 2017, the unit was civilianized, and an Electronic Storage Detection (ESD) canine was made a part of the team in 2021. K9 Roger (*photo, left, with Prosecutor Harrington*) continues to serve to this day along side Leshney and three internal staff members of the unit.

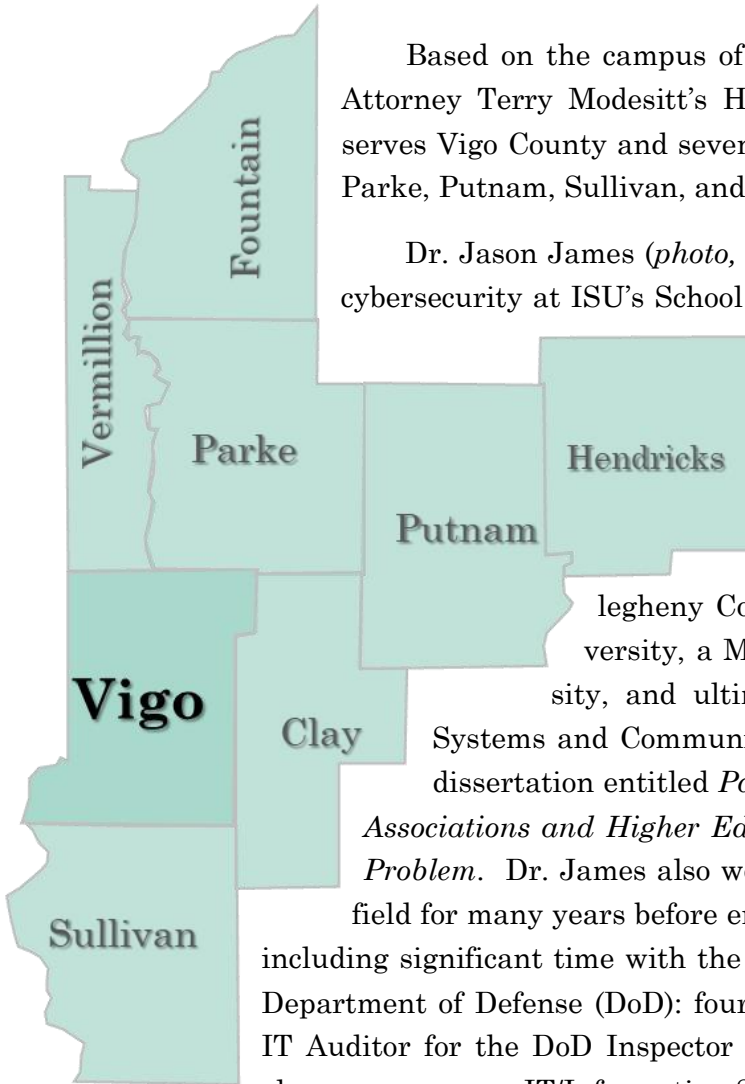
Success stories are plentiful for this long-standing unit. In February 2023 the HTCUC, including Roger, assisted with the execution of a search warrant at a Clinton County hotel, where a 65-year-old man from the State of Maine was staying. The HTCUC's work led the prosecutor's office in Frankfort to file one count of possession of child pornography, as a Level 6 felony, and twenty-two counts of possession of child pornography, as Level 5 felonies.

Further, the unit has been woven deeply into the university's development of tools for use by law enforcement. In 2023, for example, Purdue researchers created a new version of the FileTSAR+ forensic tool, improving its functionality to make it easier and more cost-effective for law enforcement agencies to set up and maintain, especially in the area of network forensics. After testing the tool, the unit now uses this cutting-edge technology with confidence that the researchers are only a few blocks away.



\* 2024 update: After a few moves to, from, and within the Purdue University campus in recent years, the unit is moving back into newly renovated and dedicated space within the prosecutor's office.

## 43rd Judicial Circuit (Vigo County)



Based on the campus of Indiana State University (ISU), Prosecuting Attorney Terry Modesitt's HTCUC is led by Dr. Jason James. The unit serves Vigo County and seven nearby counties: Clay, Fountain, Hendricks, Parke, Putnam, Sullivan, and Vermillion.

Dr. Jason James (*photo, below*) is a tenure-track assistant professor of cybersecurity at ISU's School of Criminology and Security Studies and has

taught at ISU since 2018. Prior to that and still to this day, Dr. James also serves as an adjunct professor of cybersecurity at other schools, including Indiana Wesleyan University. Dr. James added to his Bachelor's degree in Economics/Finance from Al-

legheny College with an MBA from Robert Morris University, a Masters in Cybersecurity from Purdue University, and ultimately earned his Doctorate in Information Systems and Communication from Robert Morris University with a dissertation entitled *Partnerships between Professional Cybersecurity Associations and Higher Education Institutions: The Solution to a Social Problem*. Dr. James also worked within the Information Technology (IT) field for many years before entering academia,

including significant time with the United States Department of Defense (DoD): four years as an IT Auditor for the DoD Inspector General and eleven years as an IT/Information Security Senior Auditor and Team Lead for the Defense Finance and Accounting Service.



The unit operates as a collaboration between Prosecutor Modesitt's office, the ISU School of Criminology and Security Studies, the

Terre Haute Police Department (THPD), and the Vigo County Sheriff's Office (VCSO). The unit also predates the creation of the statewide program. Following a presentation from the St. Joseph County Cyber Crimes Unit in January 2020, Prosecutor Modesitt began discussions with ISU's criminology department that same month. Planning stalled during the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic until January 2021, when an instructor and advisor in the ISU School of Criminology and Security Studies expressed that a partnership could be developed with ISU's new Cyber Security pro-

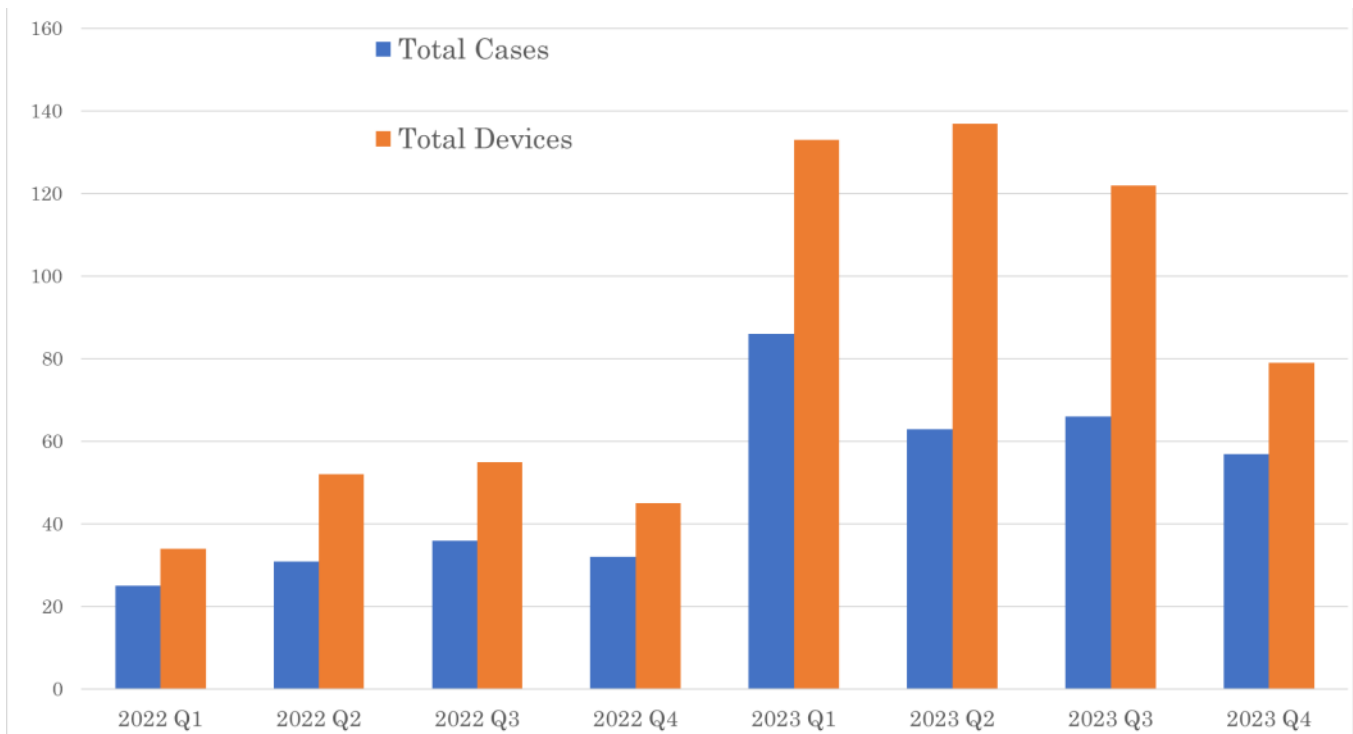


gram. The program developed through discussions in February and March 2021. Using a model similar to that pioneered in St. Joseph County, the unit's student investigators are sworn in by Prosecutor Modesitt as digital forensic investigators and have law enforcement powers while on duty in that role. By April 2021, three intern investigators had been selected and sworn in as forensic investigators. One such swearing ceremony can be seen in the photo above; Prosecutor Modesitt (*right*) shakes the hand of a newly sworn student-



investigator while Dr. James (*far left*) bears witness. By February 2023, the unit had grown to seven student-investigators: five undergraduates and two graduates. The selection process for student investigators remains vigorous, too. A grade-point average of 3.6 or greater and successful completion of computer and mobile forensics classes are prerequisites. Further, THPD and VCSO representatives interview interested students and make recommendations to the director of the unit. Once accepted into the program, student-investigators hold the position for the remainder of their academic year, contingent upon the continued quality of their work

The unit is also home to an Electronic Storage Detection dog: K9 Stark! Certainly a booklet such as this one cannot have too many pictures of working dogs, especially beautiful yellow labrador retrievers, but for sake of space just know that Stark looks a lot like Bogey and Roger although his temperament is a bit more chill than the other (younger) K9s.



# High Tech Crime Units

## Lake County

Lake and Porter

2293 N. Main St.  
Crown Point, IN 46307  
219-755-3720

## St. Joseph County

Elkhart, Fulton, Kosciusko, LaPorte,  
Marshall, Pulaski, Starke, and St. Joseph

227 W. Jefferson Suite 10  
South Bend, IN 46601  
574-235-9544

## Allen County

Allen, Adams, DeKalb,  
Huntington, LaGrange, Noble,  
Steuben, Wells, and Whitley

602 S. Calhoun St.  
Fort Wayne, IN 46802  
260-449-7641

## Tippecanoe County

Benton, Boone, Carroll, Cass,  
Clinton, Howard, Jasper,  
Miami, Montgomery, Newton,  
Tippecanoe, Tipton, Warren,  
and White

Mann Hall Room B16  
203 S. Martin Jische Dr.  
West Lafayette, IN 47907  
765-496-7017

## Vigo County

Clay, Fountain, Hendricks,  
Parke, Putnam, Sullivan,  
Vermillion, and Vigo

33 S. 3rd St.  
Terre Haute, IN 47807  
812-462-3305

## Knox County

Crawford, Daviess, Dubois,  
Gibson, Harrison, Knox, Martin,  
Perry, Pike, Posey, Spencer,  
Vanderburgh, and Warrick

102 N. 7th St.  
Vincennes, IN 47591  
(812) 885-2531



## Delaware County

Blackford, Delaware, Fayette,  
Grant, Henry, Jay, Randolph,  
Rush, Union, Wabash, and  
Wayne

3100 S. Tillotson Ave. Ste. 270  
Muncie, IN 47302  
765-747-7801

## Madison County

Hamilton, Hancock, Johnson,  
Madison, and Shelby

16 E. 9th St.  
Anderson, IN 46016  
765-641-9585

## Dearborn & Ohio Counties

Clark, Dearborn, Decatur, Floyd, Franklin,  
Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Ripley, Scott,  
and Switzerland

165 Mary St.  
Lawrenceburg, IN 47025  
812-537-8884

## Monroe County

Bartholomew, Brown, Greene, Jackson,  
Lawrence, Marion, Monroe, Morgan,  
Orange, Owen, and Washington

1406 W Guy McCown Dr.  
Ellettsville, IN 47429  
812-876-2270