



# PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 29, 2023

## **Macomb County Prosecutor ties office record for national awards**

Mount Clemens, MI - Macomb County Prosecutor Peter J. Lucido's office received an impressive seven Achievement Awards from the National Association of Counties (NACo) - tying the record set by the office last year for the most awards the county prosecutor's office has ever received at one time!

"This national recognition shows remarkable progress is taking place in the Macomb County Prosecutor's Office where significant and positive changes continue," said Macomb County Commission Chairman Don Brown.

The awards honor innovative, effective county government programs that strengthen services for residents. Until last year, it was at least 13 years since the Prosecutor's Office received this national recognition, according to the NACo Web site.

"As the chair of the Records and Public Safety Committee, I am thrilled to witness the incredible progress and achievements taking place within the Macomb County Prosecutor's Office. It is truly remarkable to see how this office is making great strides," said County Commissioner Joseph V. Romano.

The recent achievement awards continue the Macomb County Prosecutor's path towards becoming one of the leaders in using technology to enhance Michigan law enforcement.

Since its inception in 1970, the NACo's annual Achievement Awards program has been dedicated to recognizing county government innovations. Each nominee is judged on its own merits, emphasizing the individual impact and significance of their initiatives. The awards show the Macomb County Prosecutor's Office exemplifies the spirit of innovation, service, and dedication.

"Together, we celebrate these achievements as a reflection of our collective commitment to serving and protecting the residents of our county. These accolades stand as a testament to the remarkable efforts and dedication of our assistant prosecutors and staff," said Macomb County Prosecutor Peter J. Lucido. "We are in an environment conducive to innovation and excellence, allowing us to implement

groundbreaking programs and initiatives that positively impact our community."

The prosecutor's office received 2023 National Association of Counties Achievement awards in the category of Criminal Justice and Public Safety for the following:

1. Death case dashboard improves administration of cases involving death.
2. Paperless victim rights requests improve service.
3. Payment processing tech improves criminal case "discovery digital media fee" processing
4. Prosecutor converts digital evidence platform to staff training platform
5. Prosecutors streamline access to justice with electronic victim advocate assistance requests
6. Technology pushes instant warrant and courtroom manual updates to assistant prosecutors
7. Weekend warrant authorization improved with jail duty tracker

The programs recognized by the NACo Achievement Awards are not the only improvements Prosecutor Lucido has made since January 2021. In addition to successfully prosecuting crimes throughout the county, other progress includes:

- **Child support collections increased.** Prosecutor Lucido's office increased focus to collect child support from parents who owe \$5,000 or more. Thanks to support from the County Commission and County Executive, the office collected over \$100,000 so far this year for the direct benefit of Macomb County children.
- **Mental health assessments sought as a condition of bond in gun crime cases.** With this first-in-Michigan policy to seek mental health assessments as part of bond in *all* gun crime cases, Prosecutor Lucido recognizes that some defendants struggle with mental health issues, which might be addressed through early identification and provision of appropriate services before defendants get an opportunity to commit another crime with a gun.
- **School threats are taken seriously.** Prosecutor Lucido has authorized several school threat cases. "We promise to prosecute every one of these threats," said Lucido.
- **Conviction Integrity Unit exoneration.** This unit investigates claims of innocence to determine whether there is clear and convincing new evidence that the convicted defendant was not the person who committed the offense and to review claims of factual innocence based on new evidence. Thanks to support for this unit from the County Commission and County Executive, a person was exonerated this year.
- **Major Crimes Unit launched:** Prosecutor Lucido organized the top-ranked assistant prosecutors to focus on major crimes, and train more APAs to handle these types of cases.

- **Warrant Appeals Unit launched:** Victims and law enforcement officials are now given the right to have a second set of eyes to review cases where charges are denied, the first known unit of its kind in the state.
- **Digital Evidence Management platform implemented.** With more than 400,000 pieces of digital evidence in the system, the volume of digital evidence is higher than it's ever been, and keeps increasing. Police agencies now upload digital evidence, the Prosecutor's Office reviews it, and defense lawyers can directly download the evidence.
- **More interns equals more justice.** Prosecutor Lucido hosted over 200 law school and college interns, so far! Michigan Court Rules allow law students this exciting opportunity to handle court hearings under supervision, which helps the office move cases forward more quickly.
- **Paperless crime victim rights.** Prosecutor Lucido implemented the county's first paperless system for crime victims to request rights and notification. Crime victims may now request victim information via text message, or entirely online via the Prosecutor's Office Website.
- **Providing police training.** Prosecutor Lucido regularly sends assistant prosecutors to every police agency in Macomb County to provide training, including updates on recent court cases.