

**11/8/24** Darion C. McMillian, 23, was recently released from parole after being imprisoned for a 2019 shooting. And on November 4 he was on electronic monitoring for a pending drug case when Chicago police officers approached the double-parked car that he occupied. McMillian opened fire with a pistol converted by a “switch” to full-auto, killing Officer Enrique Martinez and, apparently by accident, the driver of his own vehicle. McMillian fled but was soon arrested. Officer Martinez, himself a young person, had less than three years on the job.

**11/4/24** Anderson Blanco Diaz supposedly hung with the MS-13 gang. That’s the capacity in which Maryland prosecutors say he executed Antoine Dorsey, with a bullet to the head. Jurors convicted Blanco Diaz of 1st. degree murder. And as the law requires, he was sentenced to life. But Judge Darren Johnson suspended all of his term but ten years. “The court can consider things that the jury could not,” he said. Prosecutors and Dorsey’s family were enraged. But Blanco Diaz’s lawyer applauded the judge’s decision. After all, the shooting was an “accident,” and ten years is the penalty for manslaughter.

**11/4/24** Nineteen-year old Nhazel Warren had recent arrests for gun possession and fleeing when officers caught him illegally packing a pistol in July. He was released with an ankle monitor. Warren then committed a home invasion. He was arrested and released on bond and, again, with an ankle monitor. He went on to commit several more armed robberies; his most recent arrest was a week ago. Again, he was released on bond. And again, with a monitor. All along, Warren was supposedly being monitored by the Probation Dept. But there’s no record that they ever put his “tracking” devices to work.

**10/25/24** [In 1989 Erik Menendez, 18, and his 21-year old brother Lyle](#) used a pair of 12-gauge shotguns that they had just bought to murder their wealthy L.A. parents. The killing was originally thought to be a mob hit, and the brothers weren’t arrested for a year. While their lawyer insisted that the brothers acted to protect themselves from their fathers’ sexual abuse, prosecutors said they did it for the money. After two hung juries they were convicted of 1st. degree murder and drew life without parole. Current D.A. George Gascón, who is convinced that the brothers were indeed driven by abuse, [is moving to have them be resentenced to straight life terms](#). That would likely free them.

**10/4/24** In 2019 Crips gangster Shanice Amanda Dyer, then 17, helped gun down two rivals. But strict policies by progressive Los Angeles D.A. George Gascon led her to be prosecuted as a juvenile. She was released on probation last February. Four months later Dyer, now 22, staged a murder. In the interim Gascon, whose stance was openly resented by his staff, has given prosecutors more freedom. But one of his former prosecutors calls Dyer’s latest killing “predictable and preventable.”

**9/18/24** A 12-year old Maryland girl was struck and injured by a car in a D.C. crosswalk. Its driver was cited and released. It turns out that traffic cameras generated six speeding tickets for his vehicle this month and four for running red lights since July. In all, \$19,770 in fines levied against the car remain unpaid. In D.C., traffic infractions seem to carry few consequences. Prosecutors are reluctant to wield the hammer even in a fatal crash. According to a spokesperson, “many accidents are simply the result of a tragic mistake.”

**8/30/24** Nathaniel Radimak flaunted a lead pipe during his 2022-23 L.A.-area “reign of terror”, repeatedly bashing vehicles and threatening their drivers. Once arrested, he pled no contest, and a “lengthy criminal history” helped earn him a five year prison term for stalking and threatening. But after serving less than a year, he’s been freed. According to lawyer Gloria Allred, many of his victims are “terrified”. One who spoke out doubted that such a brief term led to any positive change. “I highly doubt Radimak has learned from his mistakes,” she said.

**7/18/24** Los Angeles-area man Malcolm Darnell Guss Jr. is a seven-time convicted felon. He received a 16-month prison term in 2022 for resisting arrest (he had also been armed). After gaining early release, he was arrested in July 2023 for violating the conditions. But he gained release a month later. This July 3rd., as officers tried to stop him for a traffic offense, Guss opened fire with an AR-15 rifle that fired fully automatically. Its bullets grazed and lightly injured two LAPD officers. Guss escaped but was arrested on July 12. He’s charged with attempted murder with a machinegun. And no, he’s not (yet) been released.

**7/11/24** Leroy Ernest McCrary and two associates face murder charges for fatally running over the wife of a visitor from New Zealand while the couple shopped at Newport Beach, California’s tony Fashion Island. McCrary, who allegedly wanted the husband’s fancy watch, was on probation for stealing a Rolex in 2020. He also had convictions in 2023 for gun possession and robbery. These also led to probation. Prosecutors claim that the dispositions were influenced by evidentiary problems. But police vehemently disagree. According to progressive D.A. George Gascon’s forthcoming election opponent, “malpractice appears to have cost another life.” [McCrary court record](#)

**6/24/24** In 2018 Denmonne Lee, 16, set up the robbery of an L.A.-area gas station and provided the gun that his crime partner used to kill an employee. Two years later, when progressively minded George Gascon became D.A., he barred prosecuting teens as adults. Lee was convicted of murder in 2020, but as a youth. He drew six years and gained early release in 2023. This April Lee and an accomplice were arrested and

charged with another murder. Criticism of Gascon - he's survived two recall attempts - has again ramped up.

**6/18/24** Walter Gray, a 53-year old California man, was sentenced in 2023 to two years for robbery and failure to register as a sex offender. His extensive prior record, which includes convictions for robbery and burglary, first landed him in prison in 1993. Thanks to good time and other credits, Gray was released from San Quentin State Prison on May 7. One day later he allegedly robbed a bank. During the process - it was captured on video - he took three employees hostage. So, for now, Gray's back in custody.

**6/5/24** Against D.C. prosecutor's wishes, a 20-year old Maryland man was released to home confinement pending trial for murder. Jayvon Thomas' record prohibited him from having guns, but it turns out that he kept a "ghost" gun hidden under his bed. That's how a girl "younger than 5" playing hide-and-seek came to accidentally shoot herself. Fortunately her injuries weren't fatal. Neither were the wounds suffered by a three-year old who accidentally shot herself with a handgun in a nearby county. Both happened within a two-day span.

**6/4/24** A "Sixth Amendment nightmare." That's what a three-judge 9th. Circuit Court of Appeals panel called Oregon's critical shortage of public defenders. More than 3,200 of the State's criminal accused lack a lawyer, and more than one-hundred remain locked up. Endorsed by two of the three panelists, the ruling upheld a lower-court injunction ordering the release of all in-custody defendants who lack a lawyer after seven days. [Decision](#)

**5/13/24** Two Fontana, Calif. police officers pulled over Alan Metka for a traffic infraction. During what began as a casual interaction Metka, a large man, suddenly placed the female officer in a headlock. Her partner then shot Metka, who had a pistol in his pocket. Metka survived. He reportedly has "an extensive criminal history." We confirmed through San Bernardino county court that in 2021 Metka pled guilty to felony possession of a destructive device (carjacking and assault charges were dismissed.) He apparently drew a brief jail term and was placed on probation.

**5/9/24** On April 12, 2024 Memphis officer Joseph McKinney was killed during a shootout with Jaylen Lobley. Lobley had been released without bail one month earlier after being arrested in a stolen car in which he carried a firearm that was illegally converted to a machinegun. Officer McKinney's death is now attributed to shots fired by fellow officers.

**4/25/24** [In 2019 Elliot Nowden drew three years probation](#) for a 2019 attack on an L.A.

Metro train passenger. Once released, he promptly returned to his old ways. Within a few weeks he pled guilty to assault with a deadly weapon and drew a four-year prison term. He was paroled in 2022 and discharged in 2023. Last January, police arrested him for trespassing. And three days ago he was booked on murder charges for fatally stabbing the elderly transit rider whom he had robbed.

[One-billion dollars](#). That's how much different organizations have paid out to compensate hundreds of victims of former sports medicine doc Larry Nassar, who is serving a decades-long term for sexually assaulting dozens of female athletes who came under his care. Payees include USA Gymnastics, U.S. Olympic and Paralympic committees, and, most recently, the U.S. Justice Department. They're paying out \$138.7 million for the FBI's failure to follow up on allegations against Nassar that agents received in 2016.

[4/15/24](#) Texas man Raul Meza Jr. was 32 when he was paroled in 1993 after serving 10 years for murdering an 8-year old. That caused a stir. And now there's another, as Meza is back in custody after offering to accept a 50-year term in exchange for pleading guilty to recently murdering his roommate and to killing a woman during a 2019 sexual assault. That earlier murder would have been long solved, it turns out, but for an Austin detective's [then-failure to follow up on a positive DNA match](#). It's now thought that Meza may have committed as many as ten killings after his early release.

[4/3/24](#) When he was thirteen, Orange County, Calif. resident Ike Souzer stabbed his mother to death. Convicted of manslaughter, he wound up in a juvenile institution. Released after a couple of years, he absconded from a halfway house and collected a series of arrests. And when returned to jail, he assaulted correctional officers and was charged with possessing a "shank". Souzer was most recently jailed for vandalism. Promptly released, he again absconded. Authorities just arrested him...in Mexico. D.A. Todd Spitzer accuses judges of ignoring public safety and giving Souzer "break after break after break."

[3/27/24](#) Illinois' top parole official has resigned in connection with his board's release of Crosetti Brand, who went on to fatally stab the 11-year old son of a woman he had chronically - and violently - stalked. Donald Shelton's exit follows on the resignation of board member Lee Ann Miller, who favored the release. Her departure had been praised as "the correct decision" by Governor Pritzker, who said that Brand's release "was not given the careful consideration that victims of domestic violence deserve." (See 3/18/24 update)

[3/26/24](#) Violence besets New York City. [Officer Jonathan Diller was shot and killed](#) by

the passenger of a car stopped by NYPD's Critical Response Team. Return gunfire wounded the shooter. He had four prior arrests, including a recent gun charge. The car's driver has eleven prior arrests. NYPD's chief of detectives called it "a recidivist problem. Same bad people doing bad things to good people." And in the city's freight subways, [a 24-year old man was arrested for murder](#) after pushing a rider into the path of an oncoming train. Hours earlier, [a dispute between passengers](#) about smoking had led to a stabbing.

**3/18/24** Chicago man Crosetti Brand, 37, had a life-long history of stalking, harassing and assaulting women. Repeatedly the subject of protection orders, he got 16 years in prison for a 2015 assault. Paroled last October, he promptly picked on a former target. Although he had been ordered to keep away, he tried to break into her residence. Brand was returned into custody. But he was released on March 12. One day later he got in. Armed with a knife, he stabbed the woman and killed her 11-year old son. (See 3/27/24 update)

**3/8/24** Once a big shot in the Bloods, Harlem resident Sheldon Johnson was released from prison last May after serving 25 years for attempted murder. Mr. Johnson, whose father had also been imprisoned, soon became well known for his work helping rehabilitate others. Acclaimed as a "community leader and mentor," he was on Joe Rogan's podcast a month ago. Mr. Johnson seemed to have accomplished his goal of leaving gangs, drugs and guns behind. Alas, he's now back in custody, charged with shooting a man dead and dismembering his body.

**2/9/24** In September 2018 Illinois man Torrey Lewis was arrested and charged with the July 2017 shooting death of a disabled man. Lewis was held on a high bond, but in 2020 he was released on electronic monitoring because of the pandemic. Since then, provisions of Illinois' 2021 SAFE-T Act, which eliminated cash bail, granted Lewis unmonitored "free time" each week. And on January 31 he took advantage, driving a stolen car at "over 100" MPH and getting involved in a car-to-car shootout in which he and three others were wounded. Prosecutors want him detained when released from the hospital.

**1/30/24** [Illinois law that eliminated cash bail](#) last September allows judges to detain persons who are provably dangerous. They've done so, and their actions have generated an avalanche of appeals. Detained defendants "have nothing to lose" by appealing. And while most of these appeals have been unsuccessful, some detention decisions were reversed for the judge's failure to demonstrate that "a less restrictive condition could keep the public safe." (See 7/19/23 update)

[Family members](#) of El Monte police officers Joseph Santana and Michael Paredes, who were slain in 2022 by an armed felon, marched in front of the police station to demand that two dispatchers be fired. According to police audio, neither supposedly warned the officers that the suspect's mother said "He's on PCP. He has a gun." That information was reportedly in an update to a "call report" that could have been read from a screen in the patrol car. But the officers may not have had the time to do so.

**1/25/24** Romeo Nance, a 23-year old Illinois man, murdered eight persons, including seven family members, during a shooting spree on January 21. Nance committed suicide as police closed in. An online search of [Will County court records](#) confirmed that Nance was out on bond and pending trial for felony discharge of a firearm and other crimes he allegedly committed in January and February 2023. Nance had a substantial adult criminal record, beginning with a robbery arrest in 2019.

**12/5/23** A 21-year old man opened fire in a Dallas residence, killing three adults and a 3-year old. He then stole a vehicle and drove to Austin. Byron Carillo, 21, shot himself dead as officers closed in. Carillo had been wearing an ankle monitor since his 2021 conviction for aggravated assault. But he apparently cut it off shortly before or after the murders. [Dallas PD release](#)

**8/18/23** To reduce recidivism, SWIFT, a Tarrant County, Texas program, provides selected high-risk felony probationers, including gang members, with intensive supervision. An academic study that compared the outcomes of gang members in the program with gang members who were on conventional probation determined that revocations were less likely for participants. But members of both groups were equally likely to be re-arrested.

**8/3/23** Actuarial risk assessments are used to help make decisions throughout the criminal justice system, from who must be detained pre-trial to who can be safely released. But a journal article warns that they're imperfect tools, and false positives and negatives are common. They should accordingly not become the sole means for determining whether someone is detained or released. Instead, their results should be used alongside "other factors that may affect individuals being assessed that are not included in the algorithms."

**7/20/23** An 11-year old Washington D.C. boy committed "an assault and two robberies" in May. But in June charges were conditionally dismissed provided he kept out of trouble. Eleven days later he was arrested for "robbery while armed, threats to injure a person and carrying a pistol without a license" for the brazen taking of a delivery person's moped. But he's been released again. A probation officer reports

there's been "issues" with the GPS bracelet; his mother admits that her son's drug use was concerning.

**7/19/23** On September 18 Illinois will become the first State to do away with cash bail. On July 18 its Supreme Court ruled 5-2, with conservative Justices on the losing side, in favor of a hotly challenged provision of the reform-minded "SAFE-T Act". To detain someone pre-trial, [prosecutors will have to demonstrate](#) by "clear and convincing evidence" that an accused "poses a real and present threat to the safety of a specific, identifiable person or persons." Governor J.B. Pritzker said he's open to making changes should they prove necessary. (See 1/30/24 update)

**7/5/23** Middle-aged Minneapolis resident Sylvester Vaughn got four years for causing a fatal December 2022 collision by speeding through an intersection at 85 mph while drunk. That sentence seemed wholly inadequate to the 22-year old victim's grieving parents. Vaughn, "a repeat drunken driver operating on a revoked license," will serve 2 1/3 years and the rest on release. He pled guilty to one count of vehicular negligent homicide, avoiding a second count that alleged he was impaired. His case follows that of [Derrick Thompson](#), another Minneapolis drunk driver who killed five women in a similar accident last month.

**6/22/23** "We're very disgusted, sick to our stomachs." That was the reaction of a disbelieving relative as a California jury returned involuntary manslaughter convictions for the stabbing deaths of a 59-year old woman and her 82-year old mother. According to his lawyers, Shawn Shirck, 29, was in the throes of PTSD and far too intoxicated when he committed the crimes to be conscious of his acts, and thus have the requisite intent to commit murder. According to jurors, prosecutors failed to adequately rebut that contention. Shirck had spent nearly four years in jail awaiting trial, and he was released on parole.

**6/12/23** An alleged gang member who is wanted for an Oakland murder and has "numerous" active warrants for gun violations in two counties reportedly opened fire during a block party in San Francisco's Mission District. Nine persons, ages 19 to 35, were wounded. Javier Campos, who's connected with the notorious Sureno gang, reportedly sped away from the scene in his vehicle. He is being sought by police.

**6/6/23** A 31-year old San Jose, Calif. man with a "violent, delusional past" is in custody after an inexplicable series of attacks that left three persons dead and five injured. Kevin Parkourana, who was on felony probation and has a string of convictions and mental-health detentions, stole vehicles, stabbed drivers, and ran over pedestrians and a man on a scooter. Parkourana was most recently arrested in January for a knife attack but

was not charged. [Santa Clara Co. court history](#)

**6/5/23** In 1982 Texas man Raul Meza was on parole for a robbery and shooting when he pled guilty to the rape/murder of an 8-year old girl. He got 30 years and was released in 1993 after serving one-third of his term. Meza was then “run out” of a string of cities. He’s now back in custody, charged with two murders in the Austin area (he turned himself in and admitted to one). Meza is also being looked at in ten “cold cases”. Austin’s City Manager complains that “somebody made a bad decision 41 years ago and let this guy for whatever reason manipulate the system and justice was not served.”

**5/24/23** In a long-delayed decision, the Los Angeles City Council voted 8-4 to approve the donation of a “robot dog” for use by LAPD SWAT officers in high-risk situations. But opposition continues. According to the “Stop LAPD Spying Coalition”, its acceptance augurs an era where such devices will be “walking all over the place.” Others fear that the gadget will be used “to harm and spy on Black and brown communities.” Facing similar concerns, NYPD recently gave its version back. (See 4/12/23 update)

**5/6/23** When he took office, George Gascon, L.A.’s progressive D.A., forbid prosecutors from seeking sentence enhancements. That allowed Justin Flores, a felon with multiple prior convictions, to be on supervised release instead of prison on the day he shot and killed El Monte police officers Michael Paredes and Joseph Santana. And now their families are suing the D.A. over his policy and the probation department, which allegedly failed to adequately monitor Flores.

**5/5/23** Under attack about her office’s alleged failure to vigorously prosecute serious crime, St. Louis’ embattled chief prosecutor resigned. Kim Gardner, a “Blue” and the first Black person in that role, said she wanted to avoid giving the majority “Reds” an excuse to enact a law that would bypass her prosecutors altogether. But there’s also the matter of Daniel Riley, who was allowed to remain free while awaiting trial for robbery despite “nearly 100” bond violations. And while under “house arrest,” his speeding car struck a 17-year old Tennessee volleyball star and caused him to lose both his legs.

**5/4/23** In 2017, while imprisoned for rape, Jesse McFadden was charged with using a smuggled cellphone to solicit nude photos from a teen. Even so, he was freed in 2020, three years before his 20-year term would have normally expired. On May 1, 2023, when McFadden’s trial on the solicitation charge was set to begin, he shot and killed his wife and five other persons, then committed suicide. (He blamed his accuser: “This is all on you.”) His victims’ survivors are now demanding to know why, given his looming criminal case, McFadden was granted early release.



**5/1/23** In 2017, thirty-three years into a life-without-parole term for a double murder he committed as a 16-year old, Chicago resident Steven Hawthorne was a free man. Celebrated for his reformist work while in prison and after release, he had a seemingly bright future. But within a couple of years he was arrested for having a gun. He was arrested again in January with five guns, including an AR-15. But he was released. Hawthorne is now back in custody, accused in the April 15 double killing of an ex-girlfriend, whose head was crushed with a rock, and of her new boyfriend, whom he allegedly shot in the face.

**4/19/23** A Maine man with an extensive criminal record was arrested for murdering four persons in a Bowdoin residence and killing three more as he fled on a highway in Yarmouth. Joseph Eaton, 34, posted recent accounts of his emotional struggles online. He was most recently released from prison in 2021 after serving three years for felon with a gun and aggravated assault against a law enforcement officer. He also has prior convictions for felony assault and domestic violence.

**4/8/23** George Sydnor Jr., 43, the D.C. man who allegedly murdered a Virginia woman who was visiting the District, had a long criminal record, including an armed robbery last October. But he was allowed to plead to attempt, as no gun was found. Sydnor also had a larceny warrant from a nearby jurisdiction. But the judge released him on probation on condition that he take care of that charge. D.C. has had 59 murders, 31% more than last year. According to the *Post* editorial board, it's "failing victims."

**3/27/23** On bail awaiting trial for a 2017 Arkansas murder, Kirkland Warren moved to Washington state. In 2020 and 2021 authorities in Vancouver investigated him for gun violations. Then on March 2, 2023 he was arrested for assaulting a woman and shooting into her apartment last December. But he was again released on bail. That woman and her daughter were recently found murdered. Warren hasn't been charged with this crime. But Arkansas revoked his bail on the old murder, and he's back in custody.

**3/20/23** "Blue" moves to eliminate cash bail and facilitate pre-trial release have become the target of "Reds" who warn they would seriously compromise public safety. As an example they cite the murderous November 2021 rampage of Darrell Brooks, [a multi-convicted felon and registered sex offender](#) who was on \$1,000 bail for domestic violence when he plowed his speeding SUV into a Waukesha (WI) Christmas parade, killing five and injuring 48.