

KNOW YOUR DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Now is the Time! CCJRC is encouraging our members and the broader community to 'Know Your District Attorney' - THEY ARE ELECTED OFFICIALS!

The District Attorney (DA) is one of the most powerful players in the criminal justice system and very politically influential! In Colorado, the district attorney represents the people of the state and is responsible for prosecuting violations of the criminal laws that occur in their districts.

DID YOU KNOW?

DA's have decision- making power to determine:

- Whether or not to file criminal charges
- Plea-bargaining
- Whether or not a diversion program is implemented
- Whether or not the death penalty is sought
- Services, compensation and funding for victims of crime

DA's have power and influence beyond the courtroom!

- Public policy
- State and local budgets
- Public opinion on public safety issues
- Other government and elected officials

The power of the state to punish for crimes is profound, and the prosecutor directs this awesome power. How might 'We the People' control the choices of such a pivotal public servant?

Ronald F. Wright - Professor at Wake Forest University

WHAT IS THE IMPACT?

Community	A "tough on crime" view of DAs may not align with community values and can lead to mistrust and over-criminalization, particularly in communities of color.
Individuals & Families	Plea bargain decisions by DAs can significantly affect a person's freedom, family stability and long-term opportunities to get employment, housing, or financial assistance for college.
Local & State Budgets	The DA's decision-making drives prison and jail cost. As taxpayers, we foot the bill!

WANT TO GET INVOLVED!

- **CCJRC will** - send a DA candidate survey to all candidates to get their perspective on policy matters and his/her goals if elected DA and share the results with our members and the broader community.
- **CCJRC will** - host a Denver DA candidate forum on **April 28, 2016** to provide the community with a chance to hear from candidates and share their perspective with the candidates on public safety and the role of the DA.
- **Contact us** - to sign up for our mailing list, as we would like to keep you informed on opportunities to engage in DA races across the state and on advocacy for greater DA accountability to voters.