



THE REYES LAW FIRM, P.A.  
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS

# Coral Gables Police JUSTICE ADVOCATE PROGRAM



The Justice Advocate Program is a collaborative effort between the Coral Gables Police Department (CGPD) and the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office. The program's goal is to identify those defendants who repeatedly commit crimes and victimize the Coral Gables community and to ensure vigorous prosecution. The Program is facilitated by The Reyes Law Firm, P.A., Police Legal Advisors to the Coral Gables Police Department.

The Program was initiated by Chief Weiner in conjunction with City Attorney Craig Leen to insure that those individuals who repeatedly victimize the Coral Gables community are tracked through the system and to insure Coral Gables has an opportunity to be heard at all significant stages of the criminal proceedings.

# Goal

- The **goal** of the Justice Advocate Program is to **reduce repeat victimization of the citizens of Coral Gables** by offenders who commit certain target crimes (Burglary, Robbery, Vehicle-based crime) within the City of Coral Gables and are highly likely to target Coral Gables again upon their eventual release.
- The initiative is **designed to ensure that criminals, once arrested are subjected to the maximum effect of the criminal justice system**. This includes: Stay Away Order's for nuisance criminals and seeking increased bond amounts for criminals that present significant risk of public harm if released, ensuring plea deals are in the best interest of the public in general and Coral Gables citizens in particular, and that maximum sentences are sought, obtained and served.
- It is important to note that the Justice Advocate Program has **only** been **active** for approximately **6 months**. Therefore, relative to the average length of a criminal prosecution the Program remains in its infancy. Nonetheless, as illustrated by the actions taken in the presently active cases as discussed below and the results already obtained, **it is accomplishing the stated goals and proves to be a useful tool**.

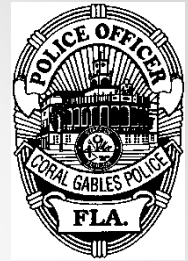
# Open Cases

- The following individuals have been identified as being worthy of special attention due to either the severity of their alleged crimes, their criminal history, or based on a continuing course of conduct in which the Coral Gables community has been adversely affected.



# Carvajal, Johnny

## F-13-021774 & F-13-021775-A



Residential Burglary Subject

**Incarcerated**

- Trial: 06/16/14
- This offender was arrested in September of 2013 and is pending trial.

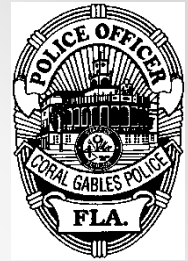
The JA has coordinated with the ASA handling the case on multiple occasions and has facilitated the receipt of documentation for the purposes of discovery.

The JA has been in frequent contact with the SAO to insure any and all needs for the eventual trial are met and is presently attempting to coordinate the testing of an impounded item for DNA.



# Ranjan Biswas

## B-13-056261

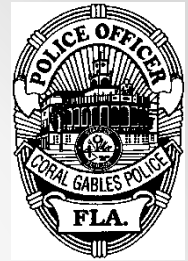


- Criminal Mischief & Trespass
- **Mr. Biswas is presently in custody and awaiting placement in a State Hospital.**
- This case is a **prime example of the utility of the Justice Advocate Program**. The JA's assistance was instrumental in obtaining the desired result.
- The **JA attended Mr. Biswas' initial Bond hearing** and requested a Stay Away Order from Downtown Coral Gables, which was **granted**. The JA **authored the Stay Away which was entered by the Court**. The Offender violated the Stay Away Order and was taken back into custody. At the subsequent Bond hearing, the JA **requested** that the Court order a **mental health evaluation** which was conducted. The JA has attended several hearings regarding Mr. Biswas' case and maintained contact with the Mental Health professionals within the Mental Health Jail Diversion Program to insure Mr. Biswas receives the appropriate treatment and does not return to Coral Gables.



# Mariano Payo

## F-11-31481, B-14-325 & B-13-55634



Burglary, Loitering & Prowling, Voyeurism, and Resisting W/O Violence

**- INCARCERATED**

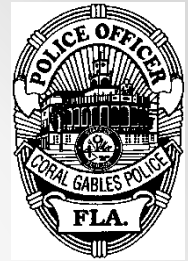
- JA has been in **constant contact with the ASA** assigned to this matter who has been very responsive to CGPD input. When arrested for second case, the presiding Judge set low bond resulting in the offender being released. Following the arrest for the third case, the Defendant's Bond was revoked. The Defendant requested that the Court consider a below guidelines plea for the felony case.
- The **JA attended the hearing with a Detective and spoke on behalf of the Department and the victim and asked the Court not to undercut the State's plea** in light of the fact that the Department believes the offer is appropriate under the circumstances.
- The **Court has refused to undercut the State's offer** and the offender is considering the offer of 30 months in prison followed by 2 years probation. Status set for 6/19/14.





# Felix Rivera

## F-13-018824



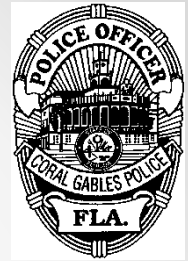
### Residential Burglary

**NOT INCARCERATED – Bond Posted – This Defendant's case pre-dates implementation of Justice Advocate Program.**

- Trial Set for 5-27-14
- JA has been in contact with the assigned ASA and has offered to assist in any way possible.



Yilberto Bueno  
F-13-3049, F-13-3052,  
F-13-23276, F-14-589



### Vehicle and Residential Burglaries

#### - INCARCERATED

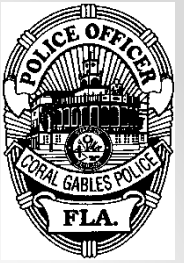
- The JA has been in contact with the assigned ASA and has discussed possible plea offers with same.
- The JA also **attended a status hearing** with the assigned Detective **to impress upon the Court and the SAO the importance of this matter** to the Coral Gables community.
- The State has offered a global plea of 6yrs in State prison followed by 3yrs house arrest. This offer is acceptable to CGPD.





# Reginald Akins

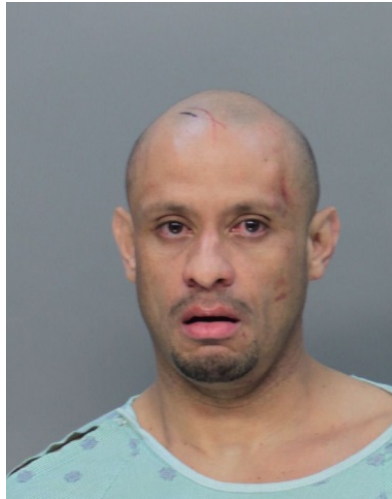
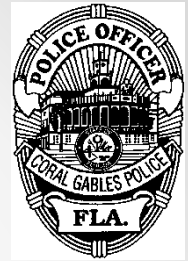
## F-14-2135



- Released on own recognizance.
- This is a MDPD case the JA is monitoring due to the fact that the vehicle was taken from Coral Gables.
- JA has offered any help possible to assist in prosecution.
- **JA has coordinated** with the assigned ASA the **transmission of multiple case documents compelled by court.**



# Tapia, Maykol - F-14-139



Fraud

- INCARCERATED

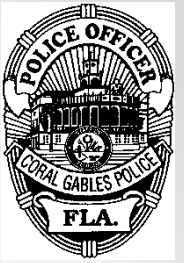
Trial: 07-14-14

- The JA has been in frequent contact with the assigned ASA and has **assisted in obtaining documentation necessary for trial**, including a business records certification from the victim.
- The JA has also **facilitated communication** between the SAO and the assigned lead detective.



# Bruno Antonio Corral Santillan

## F-13-017719



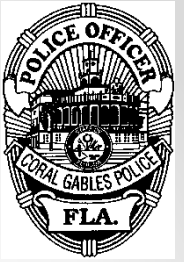
- Grand Theft (3<sup>rd</sup> Degree)

**Incarcerated – This case pre-dates implementation of JA Program.**

- Report date set for 5/29
- Trial Hearing 6/9/14
- JA has arranged opportunity to discuss potential plea offer with assigned ASA prior to upcoming hearing date.



# Ruben Arboleda

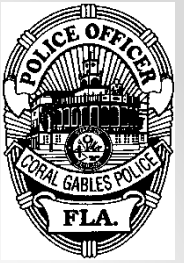


## Residential Burglary

- **Incarcerated**
- Case Status Hearing 05-21-2014
- JA has been in communication with assigned ASA and has been informed that discovery (depositions) is ongoing in this matter.



# Jaime R. Brown - F-14-003859

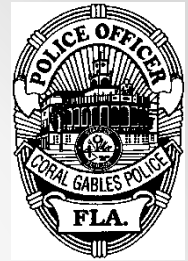


Grand Theft – Vehicle

- Very new case.
- **Not Incarcerated**
- Trial: 6-16-14 (tentative)
- JA has contacted the assigned ASA and offered to be of assistance in any way possible.



# Vaughn Cooper



Armed Burglary with Assault therein, Armed Robbery, Felon in possession of firearm, and various drug offenses.

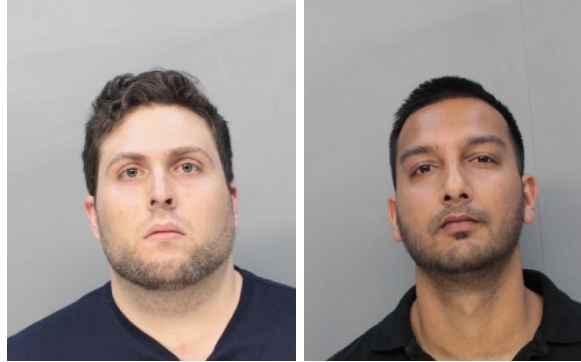
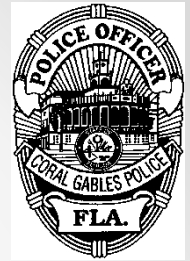
- **Incarcerated**

- Trial Hearing - 07-14-14
- JA will be **attending status hearing on 6/26** to express the communities interest in this prosecution.
- Motion to enhance penalty has been filed by SAO due to this offender's lengthy and violent criminal history. Mr. Cooper is a career criminal. The JA has contacted the assigned ASA and **offered assistance in any way possible**. JA has **offered to have officers transport victim witnesses** due to advanced age of victim (84 yrs old).





# Emilio Estevez & Shyam Zaveri

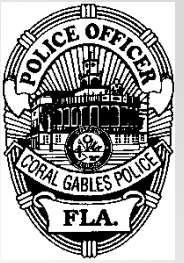


Not in Custody – Bond Posted

- This case is an example of **another useful aspect of the Justice Advocate Program**. These two individuals were involved in the discharge of firearms within the city limits recently. One of the projectiles struck an officer's vehicle, resulting in the establishment of a perimeter and a very personnel intensive investigation including the deployment of the SWAT Team.
- Though the two individuals do not fit the criteria for the involvement of the Justice Advocate, the Department has utilized the JA to coordinate communications with the SAO concerning the **recovery of the investigative costs (approximately \$10,000.00)** of the above incident. The JA has communicated with the Chief of the SAO County Court Division and the assigned ASA and insured that the SAO has all the necessary documents to recover the costs sought.



# Charles Germaine Fox - B-14-017757



**Not Incarcerated**

Petit Theft – Very New Case

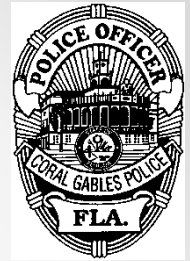
Arraignment 5-29-14

- Justice Advocate has contacted assigned ASA and offered assistance.



# Jeffrey Paulino Rodriguez

## F-14-008446



Stabbing at Havanna Harry's

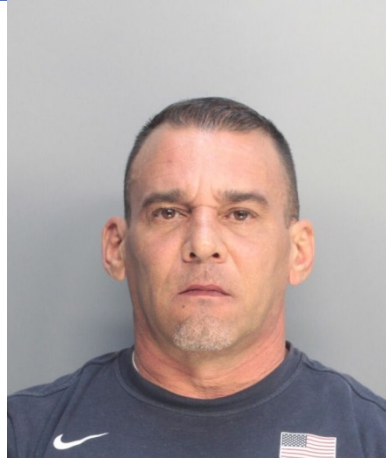
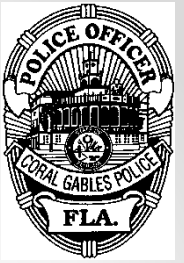
**Bonded Out 4-16-14**

**Trial: 8-18-14**

- SAO has No Actioned the Attempted Murder Charge – Defendant is charged with Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon and Aggravated Battery
- Justice Advocate has set up meeting with Division Chief to discuss charging Decision.



# Juan Companion Claro - F-14-007454



Burglary

Bonded out 04-22-14

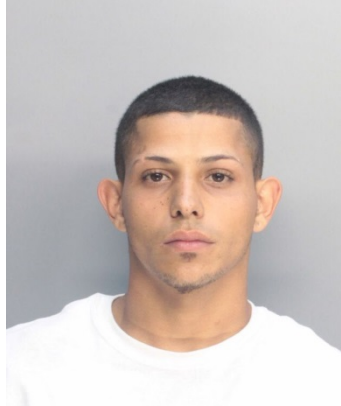
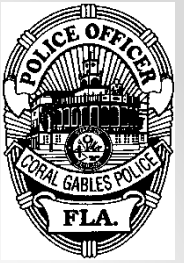
Status Date: 5/20/14

Trial: 6/16/14

- Justice Advocate has reached out to Assigned ASA and offered to assist in prosecution in any way possible.



# Miguel Angel Sierra – Multiple Cases



## Defendant In Custody

Report date Trial Date 05-22-14

- This Defendant has multiple open felony cases and is being held in custody.
- JA has offered to be of assistance in these matters to SAO and has requested input in plea negotiations.





# Ricardo & Leonardo Sanchez



In Custody  
Arraignment 5-19-14



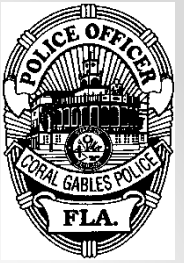
Not In Custody  
Arraignment 05-28-14

- These Defendants committed tire thefts in Coral Gables.
- JA has offered to be of assistance in these matters to SAO





# Sergio Noel Perez – F-14-7701-B



Bike Theft

**In Custody**

Trial: 07-14-14

- This is a companion case / co-defendant with Miguel Angel Sierra. Both Defendant's are being held pending trial.
- As with the Sierra case, the Justice Advocate has contacted the Assigned ASA and offered to render any assistance necessary to obtain a successful prosecution.



# David Oliva Multiple Cases



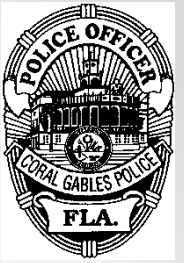
Defendant has 13 Counts related to Organized Fraud and Grand Theft  
In Custody

Arraignment on New Case 5-21-14

- 3 of the 4 cases associated with this individual predate the Justice Advocate Program. However, the Justice Advocate has contacted the Assigned ASA and offered to render any assistance necessary to obtain a successful prosecution on the previously existing cases and the new cases initiated in April of 2014.



# Daniel Paniagua – F-14-10357



Grand Theft (Decoy Bike)

**In Custody**

Arraignment 5-27-14

- This is a very new case.
- The Justice Advocate has contacted the Felony Screening Unit to ensure they do not require additional information to prosecute.
- Justice Advocate coordinated with Felony Screening to insure appearance of Officer for Pre-File Conference.

# Closed Cases

- The following individuals have been convicted and sentenced during the course of the existence of the Justice Advocate Program while being monitored by the Justice Advocate. In addition to assisting in insuring the rigorous prosecution of these individuals, the Justice Advocate is monitoring the individuals in order to advise the Department when the are going to be released.



# Arnaldo Rafael Pino



## Commercial Burglary

### - Incarcerated – Sentenced to 4 years State prison

- This individual is a prime example of the usefulness of the Justice Advocate Program. From the initial arrest, the JA was consulted regarding possible ways to strengthen case, including the gathering of additional evidence and documenting the clothing the individual was wearing at time of offense to corroborate with video recording of crime.
- The JA also provided the statutory basis for an enhanced charge thereby increasing the Defendant's exposure to an elevated bond amount.
- The JA was in contact with assigned ASA and discussed possible enhancement of charges as well as possible pleas.



# James Henry McCain - F-14-001930

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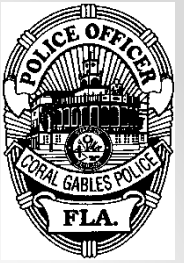
Charges: Grand Theft (Decoy Bicycle Case) & Cocaine Possession

Sentence: 100 Days at Arraignment





# Christian Kali Contreras - F-13-2660



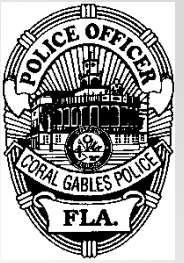
Charges: Burglary, Grand Theft, Criminal Mischief, and several others.

Sentence: 364 Days in Jail

- The JA was in contact with the assigned ASA and discussed the plea offer. The Defendant was convicted of all charges in 4 separate felony cases.
- The minimal sentence reflected the fact that the Defendant was to be transported to Broward to face trial for potential life felonies.



# Abram Cumba - F-13-029550-A



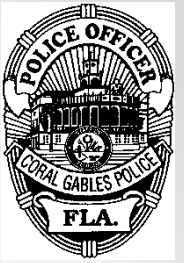
Grand Theft

**In Custody – Sentenced to 1 year in State Prison**

- Justice Advocate was highly active with lead Detective Baena in having this matter assigned to the organized crime section of the SAO and coordinating with ASA Rosen and ASA Page-Schwartz.



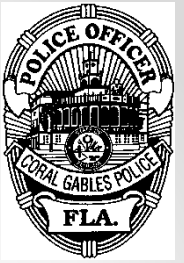
# Important Note Concerning Community Involvement



**CGPD cannot be 100% effective on its own.** Through the Justice Advocate Program, we have been able to identify numerous instances in which subjects have been apprehended, often caught red-handed, and **prosecutions are derailed by residents in the community who refuse to cooperate.** This has the decidedly undesirable effect of encouraging the commission of crime in Coral Gables. Criminals are emboldened by the knowledge that they can commit crimes against the citizenry and they will often not face any consequences because the public refuses to cooperate.



# Important Note Concerning Community Involvement



## Case Study:

- There have been multiple cases where the perpetrator of a vehicle burglary is apprehended while in possession of the stolen property. Despite this, the **victims more often than not, refuse to cooperate with the State Attorney's Office.**

In particular, there was a case where a **group of juvenile offenders** were committing a rash of vehicle burglaries. After apprehending the offenders, the JA went to the Court house and successfully argued for the offenders to be held in custody. The next day, the SAO contacted the JA and informed him that the victims did not want to prosecute the matter. Having been informed of this, the Department spoke to the citizens in an attempt to obtain their cooperation. Despite assuring the members of the command staff who spoke with them that they would cooperate, the victims in fact refused resulting in the dismissal of the cases.