

Judicial and Courthouse Security

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Fall Judges Conference 2021

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What's driving the conversation about Courthouse and Judicial Security?

- A shooting at a North Carolina courthouse sent one person to the hospital and injured two deputies. The Person County Sheriff's Office and Roxboro Police Department said the shooting happened during a trial at the Person County Courthouse, just before noon on Thursday, when the defendant tried to attack people inside the courtroom, including the bailiff. Officials said two deputies were involved in an altercation with the suspect, and one deputy fired and shot the defendant. (9-9-2021)

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- The gunman who opened fire at a Pennsylvania courthouse Wednesday afternoon was scheduled for a hearing on assault charges he received weeks ago, according to authorities. Four people were shot at the municipal building that houses the Fayette County Magistrate Court in Masontown, Pennsylvania, a spokesperson for the Fayette County Emergency Management told ABC News. (9-19-2018)

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Two brothers from Rocky Mount have been charged with shooting and wounding two men outside the Nash County courthouse Tuesday morning. Authorities arrested Demond Levar Morris, 36, early Thursday in Raleigh, said Nash County Sheriff Richard Jenkins. His brother, Brandon Tremaine Morris, 31, later turned himself in at the sheriff's office, according to Nashville Police Chief Thomas Bashore. During a press conference Thursday, Jenkins said he did not know the motive for the shooting. Asked if it could be gang-related, he said, "That's a possibility, but I have no idea." Each brother faces two counts of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill inflicting serious injury, Bashore said. He described Brandon Morris as the one who fired the gun. (10-31-14)

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The Marshals Service protects approximately 2,700 federal judges and approximately 30,300 other court officials at 866 court facilities throughout the nation.

2020 - 4,261 threats and inappropriate communications against the judiciary assessed by the Marshals.

2019 - 4,449 threats and inappropriate communications against the judiciary assessed by the Marshals.

2018 - 4,542 threats and inappropriate communications against the judiciary assessed by the Marshals.

2017 - 2,847 threats and inappropriate communications against the judiciary assessed by the Marshals.

2016 - 2,357 threats and inappropriate communications against the judiciary assessed by the Marshals.

2015 - 926 threats and inappropriate communications against the judiciary assessed, mitigated and deterred by the Marshals.

2014 - 768 threats and inappropriate communications against the judiciary assessed, mitigated and deterred by the Marshals.

2013 - 1,155 threats and inappropriate communications against the judiciary assessed, mitigated and deterred by the Marshals.

2012 - 1,370 threats and inappropriate communications against the judiciary assessed, mitigated and deterred by the Marshals.

CNN Targeted Fast Facts, 4-26-2021

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March 18, 1999 - Los Angeles County Court Commissioner H. George Taylor and his wife Lynda Taylor are shot and killed at their home in Rancho Cucamonga, California. Investigators believe the shootings are "court-related" but the case remains unsolved.

February 28, 2005 - The husband and mother of US District Court Judge Joan Humphrey Lefkow are shot to death inside the Lefkow's Chicago home. A former plaintiff whose case had been dismissed by Judge Lefkow claims credit for the murder in a suicide note.

August 21, 2017 - Common Pleas Judge Joseph J. Bruzese Jr. is [ambushed and shot](#) outside the Jefferson County Courthouse in Steubenville, Ohio. Bruzese and an accompanying probation officer returned fire, killing the assailant. According to public court records, the suspect, Nate Richmond, is a plaintiff in a wrongful death case overseen by Bruzese.

July 19, 2020 - A man wearing a FedEx uniform opens fire at the home of US District Court Judge Esther Salas. [The suspected gunman, a hate-filled men's rights attorney](#) who had argued a case before Judge Salas, [kills her son and seriously wounds her husband, Mark Anderl](#), when they open the door. The next day, law enforcement officials report the gunman died from self-inflicted wounds. Two weeks after the shooting, [Judge Salas calls for greater privacy protections for judges](#).

CNN Targeted Fast Facts, 4-26-2021.

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Why am I part of this Discussion?

- April 28, 2021: Hearing on releasing body and car cam video of the events surrounding the shooting of Andrew Brown Jr. by police in Elizabeth City serving an Arrest Warrant.
- It was the most secure hearing I have ever seen or been a part of.
- Rodney Parker of ALE was responsible for the security detail, and together with Elizabeth City, Pasquotank County, State Highway Patrol and State Probation, security was very well conceived and carried out.

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What happened After the Hearing

- Call from Greenville's Chief of Police before I even got back to Greenville
- Someone had posted a photo of my home, my home address, and invited people to express to me their displeasure regarding my ruling.
- This is when I became aware of what the Chief Justice had put into place to protect Judges in our State Courts.

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Ricky Parks
Chief Deputy Marshal, Supreme Court of North Carolina

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Steven Holmes, Special Agent In Charge
North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation
Fusion Center/NC ISAAC

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Fusion Centers

- Created after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 to facilitate intelligence and information sharing
- North Carolina's Fusion Center is the Information Sharing and Analysis Center (ISAAC)
- Created in 2006 within the NC SBI
- Mission to be a focal point for collection, analysis, investigation, and dissemination of terrorism and criminal information relating to threats and attacks within North Carolina
- There are 80 Fusion Centers in the country networked together to further the information sharing mission
- Currently the section is made up of more than 16 different agencies with hundreds of other law enforcement, public safety, and private sector partners.

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General: ISAAC & Threats against Judicial Officials (ongoing work with NC Supreme Court)

- Local/state/federal network
 - Field Liaison Officer Program
 - Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Private Sector Partners
 - Coordination during emergency responses

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Analytical / Investigative assistance

- Research and collection
- Produce products
- Identification / location / assessment of threat
- Investigative tips / leads / suspicious activity
- Provide investigative assistance with local jurisdiction in criminal investigations
- Respond to Emergency Operation Centers