

# DEDICATED PROSECUTOR STATISTICAL DATA REPORT



FISCAL YEAR 2024/2025

as required by section 626.9896, Florida Statutes



# DEDICATED PROSECUTOR STATISTICAL DATA REPORT

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

On behalf of the dedicated staff of the Florida Department of Financial Services, Criminal Investigations Division (CID), I am pleased to present the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Dedicated Prosecutor Statistical Data Report. The report includes the statistical data maintained by CID on the work performed by its investigators and administrative staff, in combination with the quarterly statistics provided by the prosecutors and paralegals working insurance and workers' compensation fraud cases in the seven circuits participating in the Dedicated Insurance Fraud Prosecutor program.

Insurance fraud transcends state borders and is costing the nation a staggering amount annually, impacting all of us through higher premiums and a strained insurance system. Lasting solutions require a unified and strategic approach, and this past year has shown significant progress in Florida's fight against fraud, waste, and abuse. The Legislature enacted several insurance reforms leading to a more reliable market which has resulted in renewed business and 14 new companies now writing insurance in Florida. The Legislature also rebranded our division to the Criminal Investigations Division, or CID. This small change strengthens our identity and highlights the changing environment and challenges faced by our State.

This past year saw CID respond to another active season with Hurricanes Debby, Helene, and Milton, as well as record setting tornado outbreaks. Our Disaster Fraud Strike Teams were quickly on the ground identifying high-damage areas, engaging with residents, and educating the public about storm-related fraud schemes commonly perpetrated by scammers and bad actors who come into Florida after such events.

This commitment by CID and the collaborative effort by our partners has been essential in protecting our communities during their most vulnerable moments. During Fiscal Year 2024-2025, CID personnel investigated over 1,249 cases, resulting in 710 presentations for state and federal prosecution, and 678 arrests.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the close working relationships with the industry's Special Investigative Units, local, state, and federal law enforcement partners and regulatory agencies, and as reflected in this report, the work of Florida's State Attorneys' Offices and the state attorneys committed to fighting fraud.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to the fight against insurance fraud.

Simon Blank Director

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## ABOUT THE DEDICATED PROSECUTOR PROGRAM

As the law enforcement arm of the Florida Department of Financial Services, the Criminal Investigations Division (CID) is tasked with investigating a wide range of fraudulent and criminal acts, including insurance fraud, workers' compensation fraud, public assistance fraud, misuse of state funds, and arson. Since prosecuting these crimes requires specialized training and expertise, the Legislature has established the Dedicated Prosecutor Program, which funds the salaries of prosecutors and paralegals dedicated solely to prosecuting fraud and related cases within various State Attorney Offices.

The Dedicated Prosecutor Program funds positions in seven of Florida's 20 Judicial Circuits which include the metropolitan areas of Jacksonville, Orlando, Miami, Tampa, West Palm Beach, Ft. Lauderdale, and Ft. Myers. The program funds a total of 29 positions, of which 16 are dedicated prosecutors and 13 are paralegals. In total, the Legislature allocated \$3,242,461 for funded positions in the Dedicated Prosecutor Program in fiscal year 2024-2025.

Pursuant to section 626.9896, Florida Statutes, each dedicated prosecutor is required to provide the Department with quarterly data, including the number of cases filed, cases closed since the last quarterly report, cases pending filing, cases currently in diversion or pretrial intervention (PTI), and cases in which the Assistant State Attorney (ASA) provided investigative assistance.

As this report shows, this valued partnership between CID and the various participating State Attorneys' Offices has been successful in dismantling numerous fraud schemes and criminal enterprises, fighting financial fraud, reducing government abuse and waste, and holding accountable those who commit fraud and take advantage of Florida's citizens and businesses.

## THE STATUTE GOVERNING THE DEDICATED PROSECUTOR PROGRAM

### 626.9896, Florida Statutes Dedicated insurance fraud prosecutors.

(1) The department shall collect data from each state attorney office that receives an appropriation to fund attorneys and paralegals dedicated solely to the prosecution of insurance fraud cases and report on the use of such funds. The data must be submitted by the state attorneys to the Division of Criminal Investigations on the last day of each calendar quarter beginning September 30, 2017, and quarterly thereafter. Data must be submitted for each attorney funded by the appropriation and grouped by case type, including Division of Investigative and Forensic Services insurance fraud cases, other insurance fraud cases, and cases not involving insurance fraud. For each type of case, the data must include the number of cases in which an information has been filed; the number of cases pending at pretrial or intake; the number of cases in which the attorney is assisting in the investigation; the number of cases closed or disposed of during the prior quarter; the disposition of the cases closed during the prior quarter; and the number of cases currently pending in a pretrial diversion program.

(2) The Division of Criminal Investigations must report the data collected pursuant to subsection (1) for the year ending June 30, to the Executive Office of the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the President of the Senate by September 1, 2018, and annually thereafter.

## GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT PROVISIONS GOVERNING THE DEDICATED PROSECUTOR PROGRAM

Laws of Florida, HB 5001, Chapter 2024-231, Section 4, State Attorneys.

From the positions and funds appropriated from the Grants and Donations Trust Fund in Specific Appropriations 832, 868, 8882, 895, 910, 924, and 944, \$2,460,924 is provided to prosecute insurance fraud cases and \$781,537 is provided to prosecute workers compensation insurance fraud cases, as follows:

#### Insurance Fraud Cases

Fourth Judicial Circuit (3 positions)...321,138
Ninth Judicial Circuit (5 positions)...552,757
Eleventh Judicial Circuit (5 positions)...799,469
Thirteenth Judicial Circuit (2 positions)...194,844
Fifteenth Judicial Circuit (2 positions)...205,168
Seventeenth Judicial Circuit (2 positions)...205,168
Twentieth Judicial Circuit (2 positions)...182,380

#### Workers Compensation Insurance Fraud

Eleventh Judicial Circuit (2 positions)...191,112
Thirteenth Judicial Circuit (2 positions)...178,341
Fifteenth Judicial Circuit (2 positions)...206,042
Seventeenth Judicial Circuit (2 positions)...206,042

Beginning July 1, 2024, the Department of Financial Services shall release 25 percent of the funds to each state attorney's office. Prior to subsequent quarterly fund releases, each state attorney's office must submit the following caseload data to the Department of Financial Services: the percentage of cases prosecuted of the total number of cases referred by the department; the number of cases not prosecuted, and the reasons prosecution was not pursued; the staff assigned to each case; expenditures made; and the current status of each case. The Department of Financial Services shall determine if case activity warrants the continued release of funds.

## **FUNDING**

For fiscal year 2024-2025, the Legislature appropriated a total of \$3,242,461 to fund positions in the Dedicated Prosecutor Program. The appropriation designated \$2, 460,924 to prosecuting general insurance fraud cases and \$781,537 to prosecuting workers' compensation fraud cases. The appropriated funds were allocated to the seven State Attorneys' Offices listed below. The General Appropriations Act provided for the following distribution:

Judicial Circuit	Metropolitan Location	Number of Funded Prosecutors	Number of Funded Paralegals	Total Number of Funded Positions
4th	Jacksonville	2	1	3
9th	Orlando	2	3	5
11th	Miami	5	2	7
13th	Tampa	2	2	4
15th	West Palm Beach	2	2	4
17th	Ft. Lauderdale	2	2	4
20th	Ft. Myers	1	1	2
	TOTALS	16	13	29

## **ABOUT THIS REPORT**

This report is a compilation of the mandatorily reported data received from dedicated prosecutors each quarter and statistical data extracted by CID from its own case records. Data maintained by CID includes statistics for all judicial circuits, not just those with dedicated prosecutors. The inclusion of both data types allows for some statistical comparisons between circuits with and without dedicated prosecutors in addition to statistical comparisons between circuits with dedicated positions. All graphs and charts indicate the source of their information; CID or the dedicated prosecutors.

A review of the information included in this report allows the reader to see where CID insurance fraud cases are being presented and successfully prosecuted. Comparisons between dedicated circuits reveal where dedicated positions are most focused on insurance fraud prosecutions as compared to other crime types.

Lastly, the definition section below is provided to assist the reader in understanding terms used throughout the report.

#### **Definitions and Descriptions:**

- Case: An individual charged with a crime or crimes; each defendant in a multi-defendant case is considered a separate "case"
- **Declination Report:** A report that a prosecutor submits when she or he declines a presentation for prosecution
- **LEA:** Law Enforcement Agency
- PIP: Personal Injury Protection
- Presentation: The act of a law enforcement officer providing information to a prosecutor so that
  the prosecutor may consider the case for prosecution. Submission of a formal package containing
  investigation.
- Successful Prosecution: The case has been resolved by conviction, plea agreement, or successful diversion or Pre-Trial Intervention (PTI). These prosecutions often involve cases presented in previous years.
- WC: Workers' Compensation
- IF: Insurance Fraud

## CID CASES PRESENTED FOR PROSECUTION IN ALL FLORIDA COUNTIES

The Criminal Investigations Division is charged with investigating a variety of criminal acts in the State of Florida. Within the Division, the Bureau of Insurance Fraud are primarily responsible for insurance and workers' compensation related fraud investigations.

Detectives assigned Workers' Compensation Fraud cases investigate violations of Florida's Workers' Compensation laws including unlicensed contractors, false or exaggerated injury claims, presenting improper identification to obtain work and a variety of premium fraud schemes. These cases are often worked in concert with other state and local law enforcement agencies on special operations.

The Bureau of Insurance Fraud investigates alleged acts of insurance fraud that are not categorized under workers' compensation including licensee, healthcare, application, vehicle, homeowners, commercial, disability, and life insurance fraud. Within these categories are organized schemes to defraud the public and insurers, insolvency of insurance companies due to internal fraud, criminal activity by unauthorized entities illegally doing business in Florida, and viatical related fraud.

Statewide, CID presented 710 cases to prosecutors in Fiscal Year 2024-2025. Of those, 63% of the cases were presented to circuits with dedicated prosecutors. By close of the fiscal year, 199 cases were in closed status with a final disposition.

Fiscal Year 2024-2025 saw Florida's Circuit Courts order a total of \$78,031,168.85 in restitution to be paid by defendants to compensate victims for their losses.

#### **Dedicated Circuits**

4th: Jacksonville

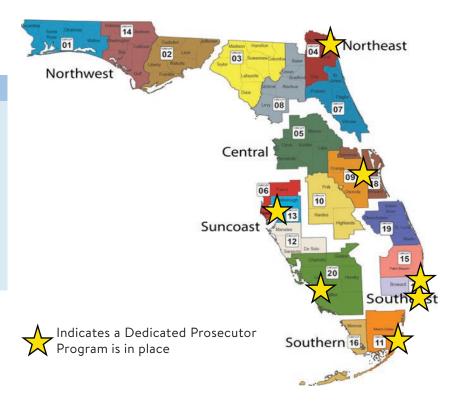
9th: Orlando 11th: Miami

13th: Tampa

**15th:** Palm Beach

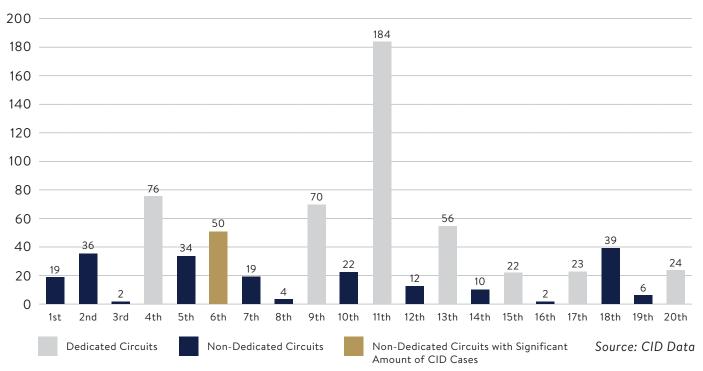
17th: Ft. Lauderdale

20th: Ft. Myers



The following two pages display the total number of case presentations per individual circuit, a breakdown of those cases by type and circuit, the number of presented cases in which prosecutors declined to file charges and the number of successful prosecutions of CID cases in all circuits. The data for these two pages were obtained from CID records.

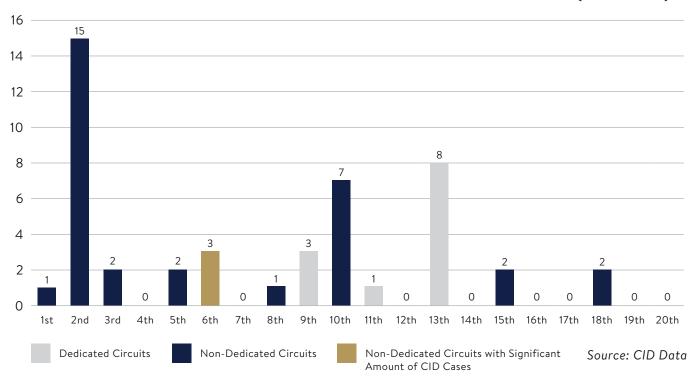
#### TOTAL FRAUD CASE PRESENTATIONS BY CID TO ALL CIRCUITS (710 TOTAL)



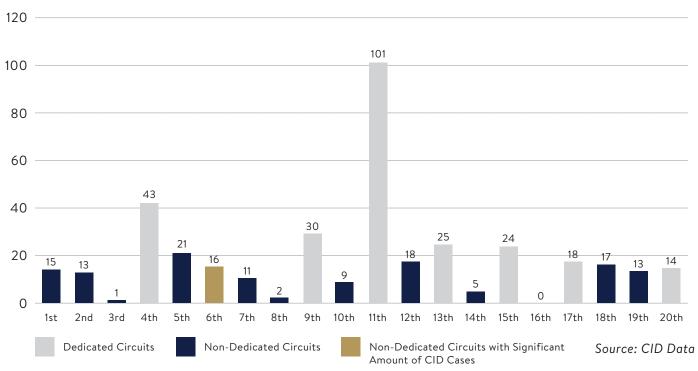
#### CID PRESENTATIONS SORTED BY CASE TYPE AND CIRCUIT

Circuit	WC	PIP	Homeowners	Vehicle	Healthcare	Licensee	Other	Grand Total
1st	4	2	4	5	0	1	3	19
2nd	3	3	3	13	1	0	13	36
3rd	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
4th	26	1	6	19	6	6	12	76
5th	6	1	11	7	3	0	6	34
6th	28	2	10	5	3	1	1	50
7th	2	5	5	3	0	0	4	19
8th	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	4
9th	13	13	17	10	1	8	8	70
10th	2	4	2	5	0	7	2	22
11th	47	102	5	3	0	20	7	184
12th	1	1	6	1	0	0	3	12
13th	7	14	5	7	7	8	8	56
14th	1	0	1	5	1	2	0	10
15th	6	1	0	7	2	1	5	22
16th	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
17th	5	1	5	2	0	6	4	23
18th	7	2	7	9	0	2	12	39
19th	3	0	2	0	0	0	1	6
20th	4	2	8	2	0	3	5	24
Grand total	166	156	100	103	24	65	96	710

#### TOTAL DECLINATIONS OF CID FRAUD CASES BY ALL CIRCUITS (47 TOTAL)

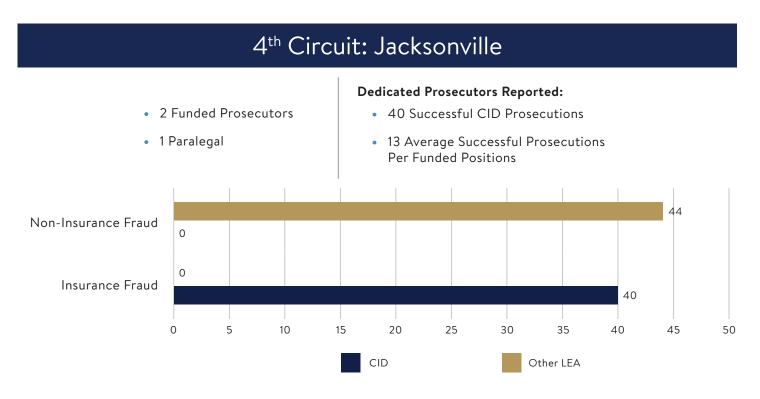


#### SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTIONS OF CID FRAUD CASES BY ALL CIRCUITS (396 TOTAL)

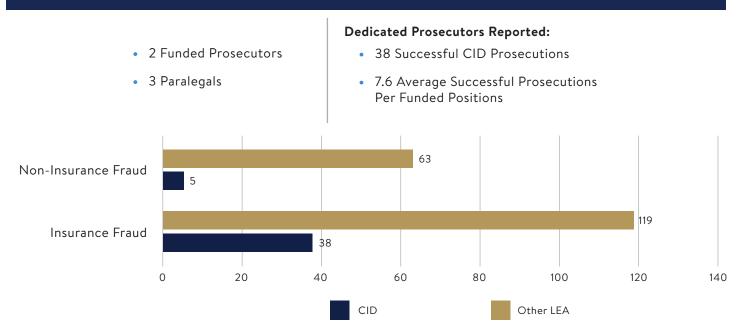


## **CIRCUIT OVERVIEWS**

The following eight circuit overviews highlight individual circuits' statistical information. The charts display the aggregate data reported for all quarters of Fiscal Year 2024-2025 by the dedicated prosecutors.





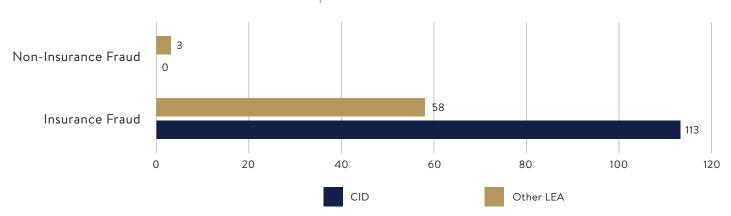


#### 11th Circuit: Miami

- 5 Funded Prosecutors
- 2 Paralegals

#### **Dedicated Prosecutors Reported:**

- 113 successful CID Prosecutions
- 14 Average Successful Prosecutions Per Funded Positions

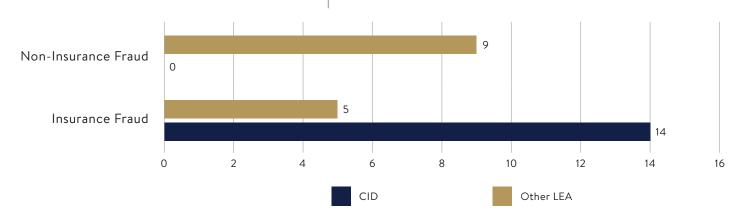


### 13th Circuit: Tampa

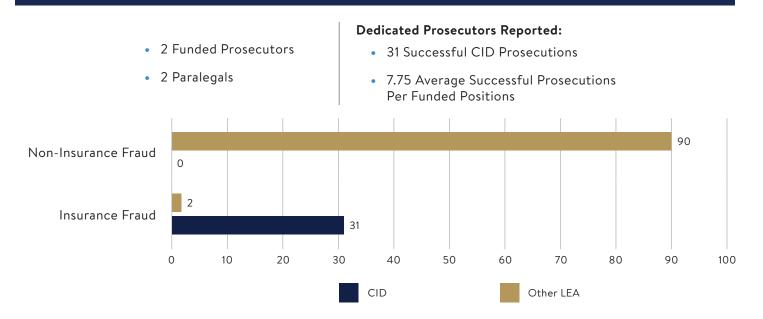
- 2 Funded Prosecutors
- 2 Paralegals

#### **Dedicated Prosecutors Reported:**

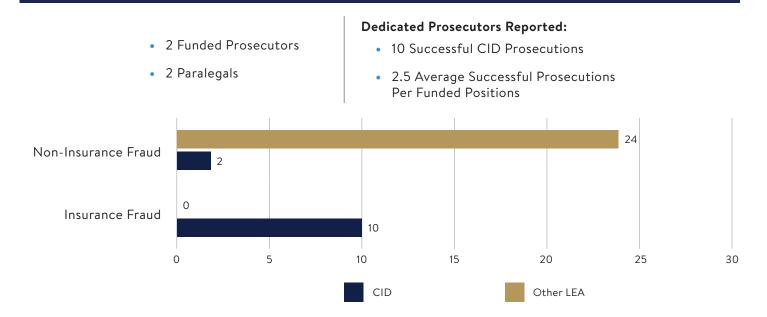
- 14 Successful CID Prosecutions
- 3.5 Average Successful Prosecutions Per Funded Position



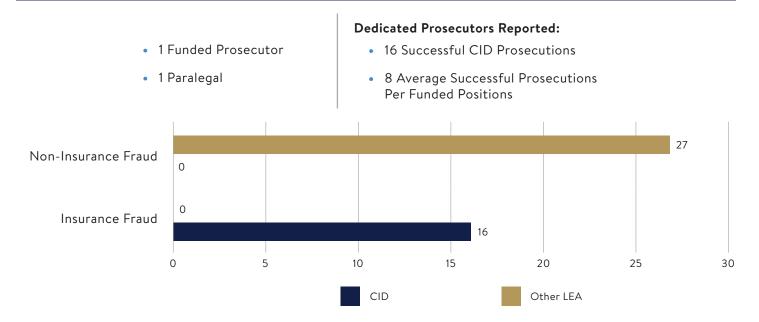
#### 15th Circuit: West Palm Beach



#### 17th Circuit: Ft. Lauderdale



### 20th Circuit: Ft. Myers



#### 6th Circuit: St. Petersburg (A Non-Dedicated Circuit)

Although not part of the Dedicated Prosecutor Program, the Sixth Circuit prosecuted a significant number of CID workers' compensation fraud investigations.

In Fiscal Year 2024-2025, CID presented 50 cases for prosecution to the Sixth Circuit, which constitutes 7% of all CID presentations.

56% of the cases presented were workers' compensation fraud cases.

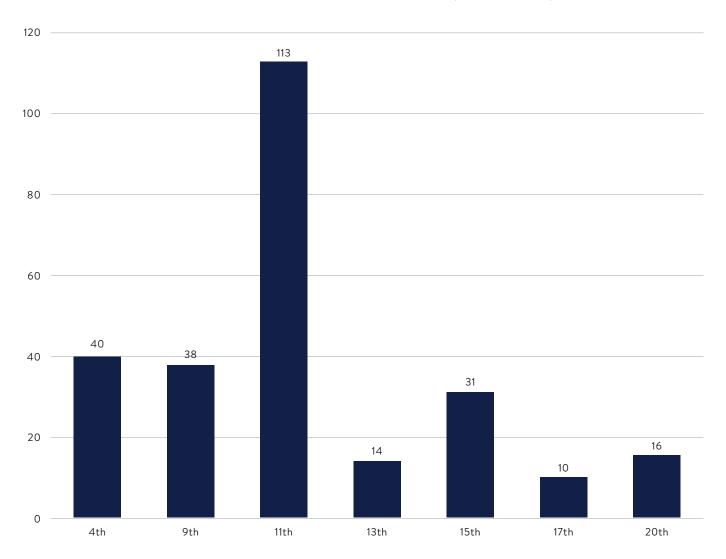
The Sixth Circuit achieved 16 successful prosecutions during the fiscal year, eight of which were worker's compensation cases.

### SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTIONS

The following graphs illustrate the number of successful prosecutions of CID cases by dedicated prosecutors separated by circuit; the average number of successful prosecutions of CID cases by funded positions, and the number of insurance fraud contrasted with other crime types successfully prosecuted during the fiscal year.

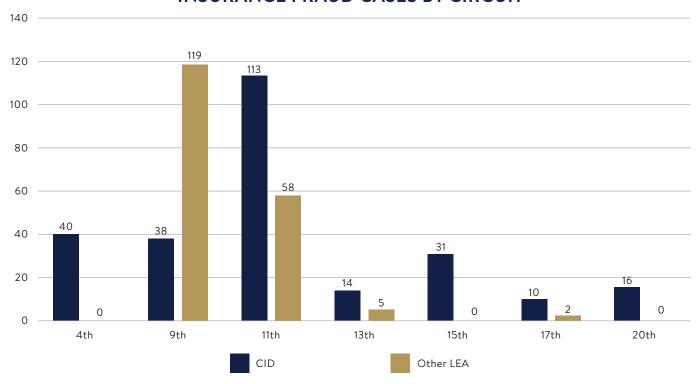
The data in these graphs was obtained from the quarterly reports submitted by dedicated prosecutors.

## SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTIONS OF CID INSURANCE FRAUD CASES BY DEDICATED PROSECUTORS (TOTAL 262)

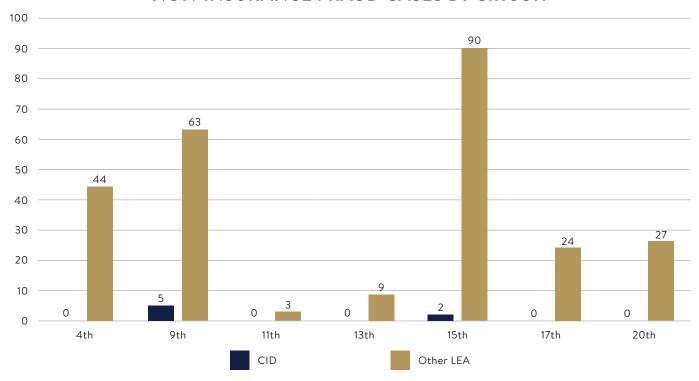


The charts below depict the total number of cases that have been successfully prosecuted by Dedicated prosecutors during FY 24/25. Each circuit's yearly total is separated by Insurance Fraud versus Non-Insurance Fraud Cases. Totals include cases referred by both CID and other LEAs.

## NUMBER OF SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTIONS OF INSURANCE FRAUD CASES BY CIRCUIT



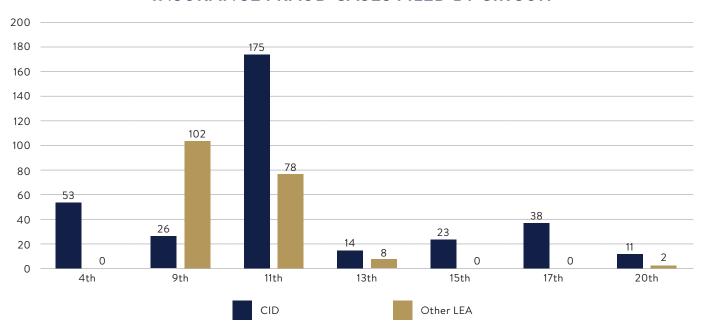
## NUMBER OF SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTIONS OF NON-INSURANCE FRAUD CASES BY CIRCUIT



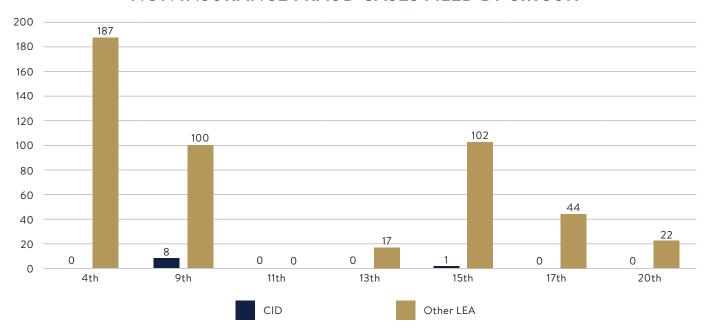
## REQUIRED STATISTICAL DATA

The following graphs display the statutorily required reported data: cases filed, cases closed, cases pending a filing decision, cases in which a prosecutor provided substantial investigative assistance, and cases in diversion for each of the circuits participating in the Dedicated Prosecutor Program. The data in these graphs was obtained from the quarterly reports submitted by dedicated prosecutors.

#### **INSURANCE FRAUD CASES FILED BY CIRCUIT**



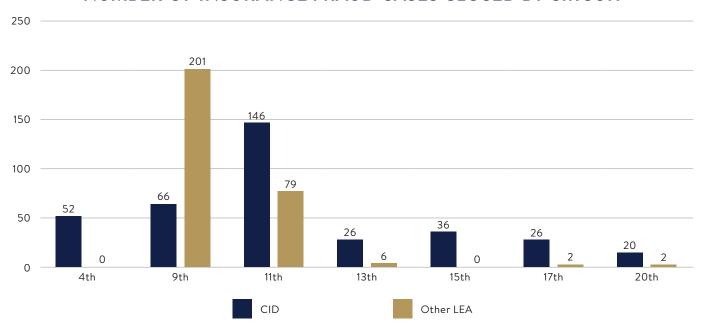
#### NON INSURANCE FRAUD CASES FILED BY CIRCUIT



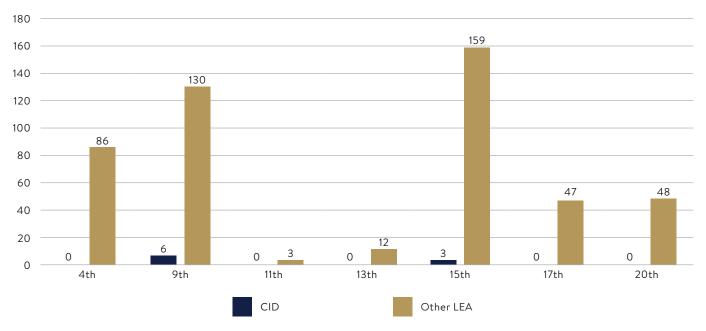
The charts below depict the total number of cases closed by dedicated prosecutors in FY 24/25. The totals reflect all disposition types (quilty pleas, conviction, PTI, declination, nolle prose, dismissal, etc.).

Each circuit's yearly total is separated by Insurance Fraud versus Non-Insurance Fraud cases. Totals include cases referred by both CID and other LEAs.

#### NUMBER OF INSURANCE FRAUD CASES CLOSED BY CIRCUIT



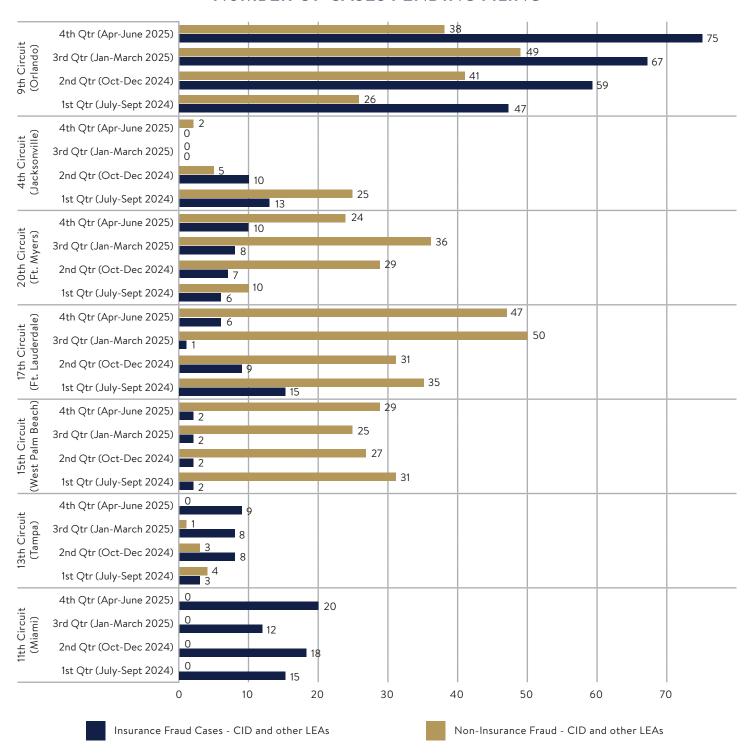
#### NUMBER OF NON INSURANCE FRAUD CASES CLOSED BY CIRCUIT



The chart below depicts the total number of cases pending a filing by dedicated prosecutors in FY 24/25.

Each circuit's quarterly total is separated by Insurance Fraud versus Non-Insurance Fraud cases. Totals include cases referred by both CID and other LEAs.

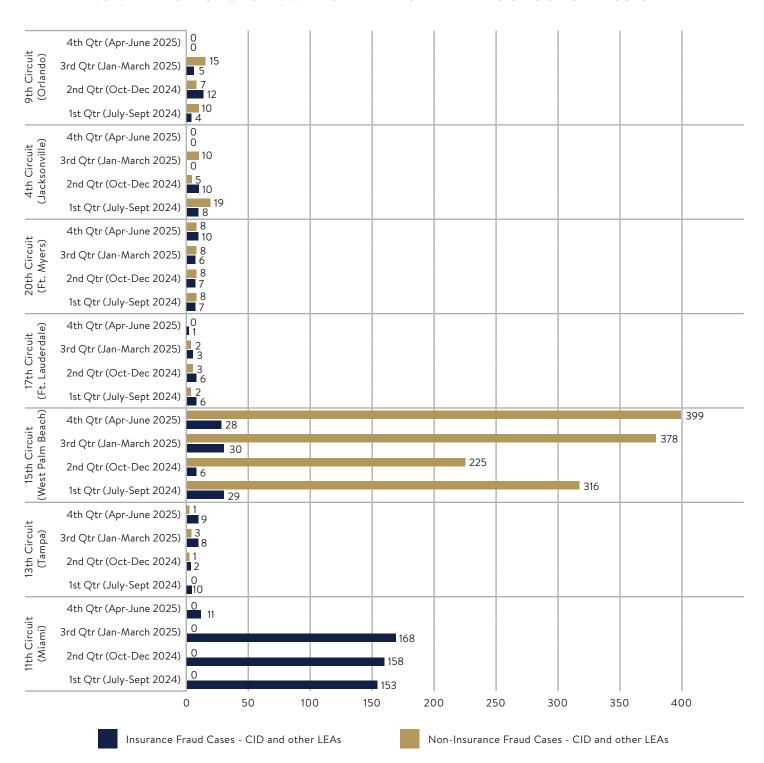
#### NUMBER OF CASES PENDING FILING



## CASES IN WHICH A PROSECUTOR PROVIDED SUBSTANTIAL INVESTIGATIVE ASSISTANCE DURING THE LAST FISCAL YEAR

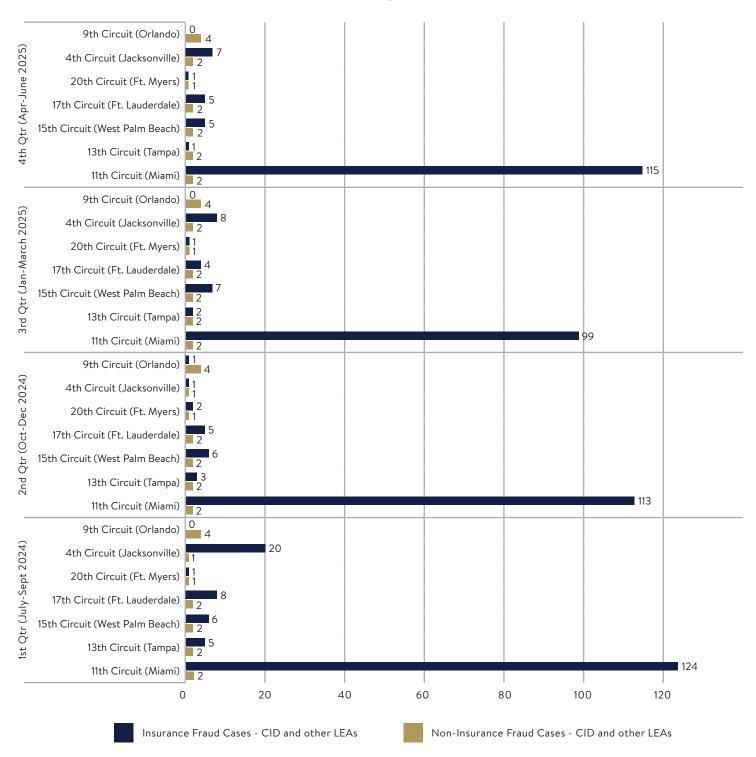
The following two charts reflect the number of investigations dedicated prosecutors reported providing substantial assistance to during the last fiscal year. The investigation may or may not yet have been presented for a filing consideration. Because a prosecutor may provide assistance on the same investigation in more than one quarter, yearly totals are not provided. Rather, the numbers reflect the number of investigations in which assistance was given in each quarter.

#### NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH DEDICATED PROSECUTOR ASSISTED



This chart shows the number of cases in the dedicated prosecutor's case load that are in diversion. Diversion means that the defendant and the state have entered into an agreement in which the defendant's compliance with certain conditions may result in a dismissal of the case charges. A case will generally be in diversion across multiple quarters. The numbers here reflect the number of cases in the dedicated prosecutor's workload in diversion at the close of the quarter.

#### CASES IN DIVERSION: QUARTERLY SNAPSHOT



## FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

200 East Gaines Street Tallahassee, FL 32399-0318

