

## Here are defendants in nine homicides in county past two years

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JEFFERSON — The Jefferson County District Attorney's Office is in the process of prosecuting 11 defendants in cases related to nine homicides that have taken place in the past two years.

Of the nine deaths, five involve a heroin-related death by either overdose or the defendant being intoxicated with heroin while driving (see related story on page 1).

One additional homicide case in Jefferson County is being prosecuted by the Walworth County District Attorney due to a conflict of interest.

Below is a summary of the homicide cases currently being prosecuted by the Jefferson County District Attorney's Office and the assigned prosecutors:

District Attorney Susan Happ

- Young Jae Choi of Watertown was committed to a state mental institution for the rest of his life on Oct. 21. He was charged with first-degree intentional homicide in the June 19, 2014, death of Dustin M. Vander Heyden, 27, Watertown. Choi attacked Vander Heyden with a sword in the apartments above Yangers' Bar in Watertown.
- Both Paul L. Miller, 40, of Watertown, and Christy L. Scheiber, 40, of Madison, are charged with first-degree reckless homicide by delivery of heroin, resulting in the Sept. 4, 2013, death of 37-year-old Tyler Sterwald of Watertown. Miller has pleaded no contest to the homicide and is slated to be sentenced Thursday, Nov. 19. Scheiber remains in custody on a \$25,000 cash bond and is due to appear in court for a status conference on Nov. 24.

Assistant District Attorney Brookellen Teuber

- Michael C. Henderson was found guilty in August of shooting Heather Stewart, 28, of Clyman, his former girlfriend and the mother of his child. Stewart's body was discovered in her car in the former Pick n' Save parking lot on South Church Street in Watertown on May 28, 2014. She died from a bullet wound to the head. Henderson is slated to be sentenced Dec. 3.

Assistant District Attorney Theresa Beck

- Terrance L. Curtis, 22, of the Town of Palmyra, is charged with first-degree reckless homicide in the Thursday, Oct. 22, blunt force injury death of his 5-month-old son, Rhett L. Chesson.

Assistant District Attorney Monica Hall

- Robert D. Smith, 46, Oconomowoc, is facing charges of first-degree reckless homicide by delivery of heroin and manufacture and delivery of heroin, resulting in the April 12, 2013 death of 31-year-old Michael A. Murrenus of the Town of Ixonia. His alleged co-actor, Jeffrey J. Salmieri, 32, of Watertown is charged with a single count of delivery of heroin as a party to the crime, but is not linked to the homicide. Smith's trial is scheduled for January 2016.
- Kelly Braun, 31, formerly of Watertown, who currently is incarcerated at the Green Bay Correctional Institution, has pleaded not guilty to the charge of first-degree reckless homicide by delivery of heroin in connection with the May 6, 2014 overdose death of Jacqueline A. Neubauer. His trial is set for January 2016.
- Jill M. Jazdzewski, 55, of Madison is charged with one count of homicide by operation of a motor vehicle while under the influence of a controlled substance (heroin) in connection with the Nov. 14, 2014, two-vehicle crash that led to the death of 85-year-old Helen O. Achilli of Fort Atkinson. She also is charged with one count of possession of narcotic drugs. No trial date has been set yet for Jazdzewski, who remains free on a \$50,000 signature bond.

Assistant District Attorney Jeffrey Shock

- Johnathan T. Mueller, 19, of McFarland is charged with two counts of homicide by intoxicated use of a motor vehicle and one count of homicide by negligent operation of a motor vehicle in connection with the Saturday, Oct. 25, 2014, death of Cora Rae Hosford Rugland of Oregon as the McFarland High School friends were heading home from a haunted house. Similarly, Mueller is facing two misdemeanor counts, one of operating while intoxicated and causing injury and another for operation of the vehicle with a detectable amount of a restricted controlled substance, causing injury. Mueller reportedly acknowledged that he had been smoking marijuana earlier in the night.
- Samantha A. Molken then, 20, of Oconomowoc is facing a charge of first-degree reckless homicide by delivery of heroin resulting in the June 14, 2015, overdose death of Dale A. Bjorklund of the Town of Ixonia.

Walworth County District Attorney Daniel A. Necci

- Kimberly Sullivan has pleaded not guilty and been bound over for trial on charges of second-degree reckless homicide and child neglect in the Aug. 14, 2014 methodone overdose death of her 7-year-old daughter, Jenna Violet Sullivan.