

Charter, Section 6.103

The District Attorney shall:

1. Investigate all allegations of violations of laws which the District Attorney has the power to prosecute in court or before any other trier of fact;
2. Prosecute all criminal cases in the appropriate courts and issue warrants for the arrest of persons charged with crimes to be prosecuted in such courts; and
3. Proceed in such civil cases as authorized by state law.

From the website of the San Francisco District Attorney

SAN FRANCISCO DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Homicides

- Secured convictions in 85 to 90% of homicide trials each year
- Prosecuted 85% of homicides brought to our office each year

Neighborhood Courts

- Established Neighborhood Court program
- Restorative Justice approach aims to cut recidivism
- Cut time and money spent handling cases that diminish the livability of the City

Elder Abuse

- Secured convictions in over 95% of all elder abuse cases in 2007 and 2008
- Comprehensive evaluation of elder abuse cases through multi-agency Elder Abuse Forensic Center

Child Assault

- Run the City's first stand alone Child Assault Unit

District Attorney George Gascón

In November 2011, George Gascón was elected as District Attorney of the City and County of San Francisco after winning more than 62% of the vote. District Attorney Gascón was elected on a platform of reducing violent crime, protecting vulnerable victims, creating safer neighborhoods, and combating high school truancy.

Gascón is the first Latino to hold the office of District Attorney in San Francisco. He has pledged to make San Francisco the safest large city in America.

Born in Havana, Cuba, Gascón's parents were initial supporters of the Cuban revolution until his family became the target of harassment by the Castro government. At the age of thirteen, Gascón's family immigrated to the United States and settled in Southeast Los Angeles. As a monolingual Spanish speaker in a new country, Gascón struggled in school and eventually dropped out. He went on to earn not only his high school diploma but a Bachelor of Arts in History from California State University, Long Beach, and a Juris Doctor Degree from Western State University, College of Law.

District Attorney Gascón has over three decades of experience in law enforcement. Gascón worked his way up the ranks at the Los Angeles Police Department from officer to Assistant

Chief. He earned a positive reputation for reforming one of the nation's largest police departments by revamping officer training, teaching proper police procedure, and improving the Compstat program.

Gascón became the Chief of Police in Mesa, Arizona in July 2006. He faced an anti-immigrant climate ready to blame Arizona's crime problems on undocumented immigrants. Gascón challenged Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio and anti-immigrant groups by proving that immigrants weren't to blame for Mesa's crime problems. By the end of his three year tenure, serious crime in Mesa dropped by 30 percent and the Latino community and others had a strong working relationship with the Police Department.

In 2009, Gascón was hired as Chief of Police of San Francisco where he focused on reform, crime reduction and modernizing the department. He introduced CompStat, a computerized tracking system that collects and analyzes crime statistics, identifies trouble spots and serves as an accountability tool for the department. He also created the city's first Brady Policy and enhanced internal affairs. During his tenure, murders were the lowest they had been in over half a century.

As District Attorney, Gascón is taking a creative approach to public safety. He believes current models that rely heavily on incarceration haven't worked and are destroying communities of color. He is pioneering a new path in law enforcement prosecution that focuses on reducing recidivism. His priorities are reducing violent crime, working with the city's most vulnerable victims and preventative efforts to keep youth out of the criminal justice system.

In May 2011, District Attorney Gascón launched the Neighborhood Courts Program. The program diverts non serious cases away from overcrowded courtrooms and into the community where residents decide the proper directive. The individual avoids getting a criminal record, the case is handled more quickly for a fraction of the cost and the community has a direct say in what should happen to people committing crime in their neighborhood.

As a high school dropout, District Attorney Gascón knows the most effective way to reduce homicides and prevent crime is to keep kids in school. In partnership with San Francisco Unified School District, YMCA, and the Truancy Assessment and Referral Center, the District Attorney's Office has launched innovative programs to reduce truancy.

District Attorney Gascón is a graduate of the FBI's National Executive Institute, and is a member of the Harvard University/Kennedy School of Government's Executive Session on Policing and Public Safety.