



eDynamic Learning

**Discovery**

**Criminal  
Justice**



# Federal Criminal Justice Careers

You've probably heard of the FBI and CIA. But these are just two of the agencies that offer great careers in criminal justice!

## Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)

Operates within and outside of the United States, investigates terrorism, **white collar crime**, civil rights issues, public corruption, organized crime, and **cybercrime**.

**white collar crime:** crime that generally involves stealing money from a company

## Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF)

Focuses on arson and bombings, illegal use and storage of explosives, trafficking firearms, and illegal sales of alcohol and tobacco.

**cybercrime:** crime carried out with computers or the internet

## US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)

Prevents terrorism, protects borders against illegal travel, trade, and finance, and secures border.

## US Fish and Wildlife Service

Breaks up wildlife trafficking rings, enforces hunting rules, inspects wildlife shipments, and protects wildlife and habitats.

## US Marshals

Offers protection in federal courts, runs witness security programs, houses and transports federal prisoners and captures federal fugitives.



# Life After Prison

Did you know that former inmates are 10 times more likely to be homeless than the average citizen? When prisoners are released at the end of their sentence, they often hope to begin a new life, get a job, and move on from the prison system. In reality, though, this doesn't often happen. Getting released can be the start of many challenges that put them right back in prison. In fact, 45 to 62 percent of prisoners will commit a crime again and be back in prison within three years of getting out. This is a problem for these individuals and their families, and it also costs a lot of taxpayer money to support prisoners in prisons and jails.

Fortunately, there are organizations helping prisoners get back on their feet. This can keep families together, build stronger communities, and make everyone safer. When available, **re-entry programs**, which assist individuals in becoming solid members of society, can be the difference between a life spent behind bars or the ability to become a good citizen. Here are just a few of the successful programs around the nation that are making a difference.

## Unlocking Doors

Founded in 2010, this organization is based in Dallas, Texas. The first step is to evaluate the skills and challenges of those recently released from prison to put them in touch with the right resources. Unlocking Doors then helps connect people with access to job training, mental health services, dental work, low-income housing, clothing, and food among many other services. By understanding what these people need to succeed, Unlocking Doors helps put people on a solid path.

## Homeboy Industries

When Father Greg Boyle became the priest at the Dolores Mission Church in Los Angeles, he knew he had to do something about the gang violence in his community. In 1988, he founded Homeboy Industries. Today it is the largest gang intervention, rehabilitation, and re-entry program in the world. His slogan "Nothing stops a bullet like a job" defines his mission. People who had served time or were trying to get out of gangs could not find work. So Father Boyle opened a silk-screening business. Printing t-shirts was a job and a chance for a new life. Now Homeboy Industries includes the Homegirl Café, a

## Which States Spend the Most on Prisoners?

### Daily Cost per Prisoner:

Illinois:	\$ 85.38
Florida:	\$131.96
Texas:	\$130.35
California:	\$323.29
Alaska:	\$491.98

**re-entry program:**  
a program designed to help individuals become solid members of society



bakery that caters and sells products to local grocery stores. Besides work, it offers education, job training, and legal and mental health services. Tattoo removal is another essential benefit. Leaving gangs behind is often impossible without it. Gang-related tattoos suggest someone is in a gang even if they left it and can make it hard to find a job. Removal means a clean start.

## Prison Entrepreneurship Program

Since 2004, this program has been connecting newly-released prisoners with business and leaders throughout Texas. By teaching basic business skills, it guides individuals toward good jobs, and that is an important part of helping people stay on track. This program begins with a leadership academy while the inmates are still in prison. There they build skills and get a head start on their new life. Not all inmates have the skills for this program, but those who do will get the tools they need to be a good employee or even start their own business.

## The Last Mile

Operating in California, Indiana, Oklahoma, and Kansas, The Last Mile is another program that focuses on jobs. Founder Chris Redlitz believes that technology is the answer. Participants learn skills such as designing web pages and coding while they are still in jail, so they have solid education and experience when they hit the job market.

**T**he founders of all of these organizations worked to address the problems that most people face after being released from prison. Their excellent results show what is possible when people get access to the right services. When former criminals change their lives for the better, everyone benefits. Many states are looking for ways to expand or start these kinds of programs in their own communities, so there is plenty of room for a new generation of leaders!

# How Many Criminal Justice Professionals Process a Single Crime?

The victim calls 911 and talks to a **dispatcher** who handles emergency calls and sends emergency services.

A dispatcher sends a **law enforcement officer** to the scene.

A **forensic professional** collects evidence at the scene.

A law enforcement officer takes a report and sends it to a **detective** who specializes in burglary.

A **records clerk** makes sure all documents and evidence are properly stored and recorded.

A suspect who is identified and caught will be monitored by **jail staff** while awaiting bail or trial.

The suspect hires or is given a **defense attorney**.

When a crime occurs, a lot of professionals step in to handle it. Let's look at all the criminal justice professionals involved in a burglary.



A **prosecutor** makes the government's case in court.

A **bailiff** protects the court.

A **court reporter** writes down what is said in court.

If needed, a **court interpreter** translates for suspects or witnesses who do not speak English well.

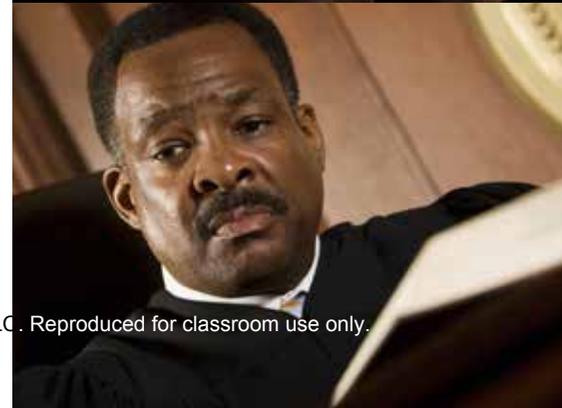
A **judge** oversees the process and may decide the verdict.

A suspect who is found guilty will go to prison and be monitored by **correctional officers**.

While serving their sentence, prisoners may work with **health professionals, psychologists, educational or vocational instructors**.

Those released from prison and serving parole will have a **parole officer** for their case.

**Rehabilitation service professionals** may help the individual access services like jobs and housing.



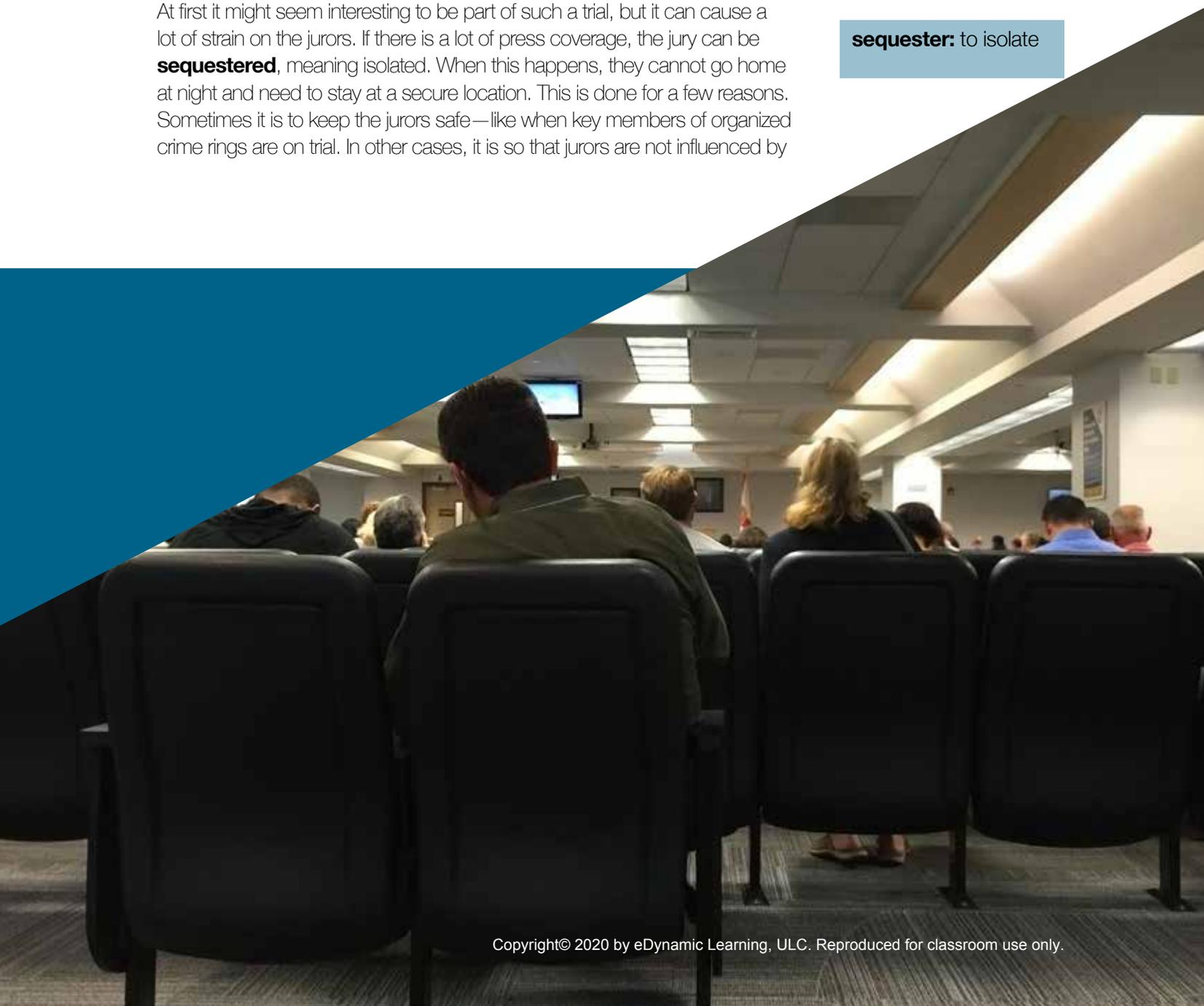
# Jury Duty: Some Extreme Cases

Can 12 people keep a secret? That is one of the most important questions for those selected for jury duty. Once chosen, jurors are not allowed to discuss the case with anyone until they reach a verdict. The longer that trials go on, the harder this becomes.

Serving on juries is an important part of the American justice system. After all, everyone accused of a crime is innocent until proven guilty. That's where the jury comes in. Jurors hear the case and decide if the accused is guilty or innocent. For some, jury duty is an opportunity to see justice in action. Others are frustrated because it interrupts their everyday lives. One of the hard parts of being on a jury is that no one knows how long trials will last. Jury members might spend several days in the courtroom, but the case could also go on for months.

One of the toughest juries to serve on is when the crime or criminal is famous. At first it might seem interesting to be part of such a trial, but it can cause a lot of strain on the jurors. If there is a lot of press coverage, the jury can be **sequestered**, meaning isolated. When this happens, they cannot go home at night and need to stay at a secure location. This is done for a few reasons. Sometimes it is to keep the jurors safe—like when key members of organized crime rings are on trial. In other cases, it is so that jurors are not influenced by

**sequester:** to isolate





coverage of the trial in the news or online. Jurors will get to stay at a hotel and be under the protection of the US Marshals. This can be a very lonely and frustrating experience.

When notorious drug smuggler Joaquin “El Chapo” Guzmán was on trial in 2018-2019, it was tough on the jury. El Chapo had a reputation as a very violent criminal. Even before the trial started, the judge ruled that the jury would need to be anonymous and sequestered for their own safety. They were even separated from the other employees in the court house so that as few people as possible would be able to identify them. Security was not just for the jurors, though. Over the nearly three months that the trial lasted, the courthouse was protected by rooftop snipers, bomb-sniffing dogs, armed guards and even a radiation detector to identify nuclear weapons. These tactics worked. The jury’s identity stayed hidden through the trial, and they found El Chapo guilty. But it was a scary and intense experience. In fact, some experts believe that they are likely to have some symptoms of **post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)**, a mental health condition due to witnessing or participating in a terrifying event.

But when it comes to juries who have gone above and beyond their traditional duties, the jurors in the trial of famous football player and actor O.J. Simpson hold the record. Simpson was accused of murdering his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and Ronald Goldman, who had been visiting Nicole at the time of the murder. That jury was sequestered for 266 days. They stayed in a nice hotel but had limited visits with family and friends and were removed



**post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD):** a mental health condition due to witnessing or participating in a terrifying event

from all aspects of their normal lives. They did get a few outings, like a ride in a Goodyear blimp, a private performance by comedian Jay Leno, and a trip to Universal Studios theme park. Still, in many ways they lost their freedom while serving on this trial. The strain of the trial was so intense that after 101 days, the jurors staged a “revolt.” They refused to participate in court until they had a meeting with the judge to discuss why some of their favorite deputies were no longer assigned to guard them.

O.J. Simpson was found not guilty of the murders during his criminal trial, making it one of the most controversial verdicts of the era. For the jurors, their situation almost immediately flipped from isolation to super stardom. Everyone wanted to know what it was like being on that jury. Major media outlets interviewed them after the trial, and two even went on to publish books about it. When a 2018 miniseries brought the trial back to the public’s attention, several jurors once again found themselves in the spotlight. Participating in the “trial of the century” had a lasting impact on their lives.

Any adult can get called for jury duty at any time, but fortunately, very few of us that serve will end up on a notorious trial that upends our day-to-day lives. Most trials only last a few days, so those described here are truly exceptional. However, when that jury summons shows up in the mail, you can never be sure what jury you might end up on!



# Justice on a Global Scale

The quest for justice does not stop at a country's borders. The International Criminal Court (ICC) exists to deal with crimes committed by governments or those that are beyond what traditional justice systems can handle.

## Facts About the International Criminal Court

- The Rome Statute created the ICC in 1998.
- It can only prosecute crimes that happened after 1998.
- Headquarters is in The Hague, a city in the Netherlands.
- The ICC has 900 staff members from 100 different countries.
- It uses six official languages: English, French, Arabic, Chinese, Russian, and Spanish.
- It handles genocides, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and crimes of aggression.
- The ICC also helps and protects witnesses and victims of these crimes.
- It works with communities that have been victims so their voices are part of the process.



# Cases

Before an individual is brought to the ICC, there is a full investigation and then an **indictment**, meaning a formal charge. Then there is a trial. Some cases have ended with guilty verdicts and jail time. Others have caused the accused to flee and become fugitives from international justice. Here are a few cases the ICC has taken on.

**indictment:** a formal charge

## Joseph Kony

Kony led the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), a rebel force in Uganda that has been fighting the Ugandan government since 1987. Under Kony's orders, the LRA committed murder, kidnapped people, destroyed villages, and recruited child soldiers, among other crimes. In 2005, the ICC indicted Kony, who is currently in hiding to avoid being brought to trial.

## Muammar Gaddafi

While ruling Libya, Gaddafi persecuted and tortured many of his own people and was an international terrorist. The ICC got involved when Libyans began demanding democracy like their neighbors in Egypt and Tunisia. Peaceful protest quickly turned into a civil war. The ICC indicted Gaddafi in 2011 for the hundreds of deaths and other cruelties at this time. However, Gaddafi was killed in October 2011 before the proceedings were completed.

## Ahmad al-Mahdi

During a conflict in Mali in 2012, Ahmad al-Mahdi worked with a local al-Qaeda group to destroy significant buildings, including nine mausoleums and one mosque. Several of these were UNESCO **World Heritage Sites**, meaning that they were of international importance and deserved special protections. During his 2016 trial, al-Mahdi became the first defendant at the ICC to plead guilty. He was sentenced to nine years in prison.

For those interested in criminal justice on an international level, there are a lot of opportunities. Other organizations, like the United Nations, also deal with justice on a global scale. Many non-profits also focus on these issues, ranging from bringing criminals to justice to helping victims rebuild their lives.

# Ongoing Investigations

In the United States, it often takes years to gather the right evidence to begin a trial. International justice needs even more time. Processes have to be very thorough so that they are fair to everyone involved. Here are a few cases currently under investigation at the ICC. If enough evidence is found, there will be indictments then trials.

**Myanmar:** This investigation focuses on the targeting of the Rohingya, an ethnic, Muslim minority that has been persecuted and killed since 2014.

**Philippines:** The government is under investigation for its "war or drugs" campaign. Thousands of people have been killed during the campaign—many without any trial or investigation.

**Venezuela:** In April 2017, a series of protests began against the government. Thousands of demonstrators have been arrested and imprisoned, many suffering abuse in prison.

**World Heritage Sites:** a site found to be of international importance and deserving special protections

# Genetics and Justice

## The Role of DNA in Criminal Justice

If you have watched any show about police officers or crime scene investigation, you know that the characters are often collecting DNA evidence to send to “the lab.” On television, after the DNA reveals the identity of the killer, the true murderer is found. Or maybe the prime suspect is cleared and detectives have to start again. In real life, science is going even further to help solve crimes. The growth of DNA databases means that DNA can be a useful tool in identifying perpetrators, even if the suspect’s DNA is not on record.

In 2018, police used DNA evidence to identify one of the most infamous serial killers in history: the Golden State Killer. Now known by his real name, Joseph James DeAngelo, he is believed to be responsible for at least 13 murders, 50 rapes, and over 100 burglaries in California. Although it took about 42 years to find him and put him behind bars, DeAngelo’s victims may finally get justice.

**Genetic genealogy**, the use of DNA combined with traditional genealogy to determine family relationships, helped police realize he was the Golden State Killer.

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## Origins of Genetic Genealogy

Genetic genealogy was not created to help law enforcement. Instead, it came from the popularity of researching family trees. Many historical documents and databases are now online, and tracing one’s roots has become a popular hobby. At the same time, DNA tests became both cheaper and more detailed. Anyone can now test their own DNA and learn not only about where their ancestors came from but health issues that may run in their families as well. Those who have their DNA tested can also add that information to a public database called GEDmatch. That way, those who wanted to find out more about relatives they found in genealogy searches could look for them on the GEDmatch database. This could help them make connections with family members around the world. This site became a very popular resource for reconnecting adoptees and birth parents.

**genetic genealogy:** the use of DNA combined with traditional genealogy to determine family relationships among individuals



This also changed forensic science, thanks to the imagination of retired attorney and biologist Barbara Rae-Venter. When a cousin asked Rae-Venter to use genealogy to help identify a parent, she became an expert in navigating DNA databases and constructing family trees. Then a detective asked if she could use her skills to help locate an individual who had been kidnapped as an infant. Rae-Venter took the challenge and was eventually able to locate the woman, now in her 30s, and unite her with her remaining living relatives. After this success, she was asked if she could use the same methods to identify a killer based on DNA evidence the police had collected.

Once Rae-Venter discovered that she was looking for the Golden State Killer, she became even more determined to get this man off the streets and in jail where he belonged. But it was not as simple as just plugging some DNA into a database and finding a match. By itself, DNA will give you hints about a person's identity. But decoding those hints requires a lot of looking at traditional sources, like newspapers, hospital records, immigration data, and birth records. DNA might tell where a person's family was from and identify remote relatives. So if a distant cousin lived in Indiana in the 1930s, Rae-Venter could use public records to figure out who that person married, where their children lived, and other clues that could fill in the entire tree. Doing this with several distant relatives could help her narrow down who the killer could possibly be.

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Police identified a man who, based on witness' descriptions, looked a lot like the Golden State Killer and asked him to submit a DNA sample. He was not the killer, but they had a lot of DNA in common and were probably close relatives. This information, along with other pieces such as the fact that the suspect probably had blue eyes, helped police realize that DeAngelo was a prime suspect. The years of work by so many people finally led to an arrest.

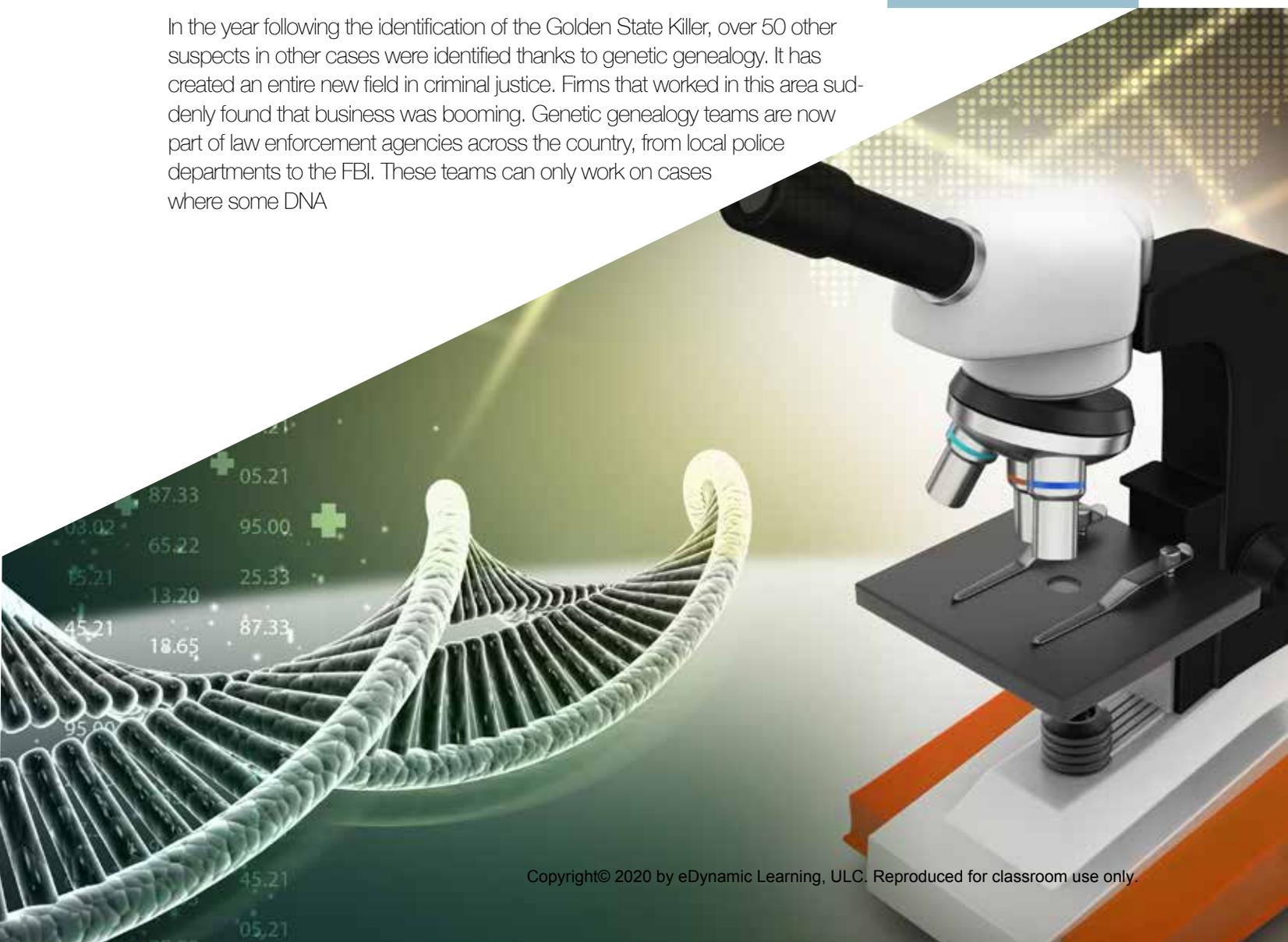
## The Future of Genetic Genealogy

When news of the alleged Golden State Killer's capture broke on the news, genetic genealogy instantly got a lot of attention as a law enforcement tool. Agencies quickly began seeking out experts like Rae-Vanter to help them solve cases—especially **cold cases**, or those that cannot be solved without new evidence being found. For companies that specialize in DNA and genetic research, this was great news. Their products now had another use, one that could help crime victims and bring criminals to justice.

In the year following the identification of the Golden State Killer, over 50 other suspects in other cases were identified thanks to genetic genealogy. It has created an entire new field in criminal justice. Firms that worked in this area suddenly found that business was booming. Genetic genealogy teams are now part of law enforcement agencies across the country, from local police departments to the FBI. These teams can only work on cases where some DNA

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**cold case:** a case that cannot be solved without new evidence being found



evidence remains; victims in cases without DNA evidence will not benefit from this technology. Experts are also hoping that these methods will help organizations like Project Innocence, a non-profit that works to get people who have been wrongfully convicted out of jail. As the technology and methods continue to be improved, there is no doubt that more uses for genetic genealogy will emerge.

## Ethical Issues

While all of this is great news for law enforcement, this technology is not without controversy. It is such a new field that there is no formal training or certificate process for experts. Furthermore, many critics worry about ethical issues. When people agreed to put their information on GEDmatch and share their information, they were thinking that they might find unknown relatives not provide evidence to get family members arrested. Privacy advocates fear that access to these databases can cause police to target people based only on genetics. Also, people might not have agreed to make this information public if they thought it could be used in this way.

So far, states have had different responses. In Maryland, a law was proposed that would ban law enforcement from using DNA databases in their investigations. In Arizona, the legislature is working on a bill that would build a DNA database strictly for police use. While the Maryland law did not pass, it shows that there is more work to be done to find the middle ground between protecting privacy and assisting law enforcement.

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# Working in the System

Most of us have seen prisons represented in movies or on television, but what is really like to work with those who are incarcerated? This interview from a prison psychologist provides a little perspective.

## **1. Can you describe the “typical” person that you work with? How does your work help them?**

I work with people who are incarcerated and who also have mental health struggles, including problems like anxiety, depression, PTSD, bipolar disorder, and sometimes schizophrenia. Many also have problems with substance abuse. They are in jail for many different reasons, like violating parole, drug possession, theft, or violent crime.

## **2. What is the most rewarding aspect of working with prisoners?**

Prison is a very difficult place to be. It is rewarding to help people feel less overwhelmed while they are locked up. My hope is that by treating their mental illness appropriately, they may also lead more positive and healthy lives when they get out.

## **3. What is the biggest challenge your clients face?**

Most of the offenders I work with have a long history of very traumatic experiences. These experiences impact their emotions and behavior. Many offenders also have a history of mental health problems that they did not get treatment for.

## **4. If you could change one thing about the criminal justice system, what would it be?**

For many different reasons, some people are more likely to go to jail than others. Our system needs reform to change this. The system also needs more money for services that will help them once they are out of prison.

## **5. What do you wish that the public understood about the individuals that you work with?**

Many of the people I work with have been in very difficult situations since childhood. This experience contributes to their choices and behaviors.

## **6. What advice would you give to someone starting a career in criminal justice?**

In addition to meeting and talking to people working in the field, I think it is important to hear the personal stories of offenders themselves by either meeting them in person or reading personal accounts of their experiences. This will broaden your perspective about the criminal justice system.



As this interview shows, compassion is an important quality in those seeking careers in criminal justice. There are many reasons that people end up behind bars. For some, it will be the result of a desire to harm. For others, it can be a combination of desperation and poor decisions. Professionals in the field of criminal justice will work with individuals from a range of life experiences. Determining who needs a better opportunity and who is a real threat to society is just part of the job.

## Key Terms

**cybercrime:** crime carried out with computers or the internet

**cold case:** a case that cannot be solved without new evidence being found

**dispatcher:** a person who handles emergency calls and assigns emergency services

**genetic genealogy:** the use of DNA combined with traditional genealogy to determine family relationships among individuals

**indictment:** a formal charge

**post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD):** a mental health condition due to witnessing or participating in a terrifying event

**re-entry program:** a program designed to help individuals become solid members of society

**sequester:** to isolate

**white collar crime:** crime that generally involves stealing money from a company

**World Heritage Sites:** a site found to be of international importance and deserving special protections

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