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Judges (NAWJ)**

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ABOUT ME

Edward F. Davis is the President and CEO of The Edward Davis Company, a strategy and security services firm that advises government agencies, courts, and Fortune 500 companies on crisis response, risk management, and security planning. He served as Boston Police Commissioner from 2006 to 2013, leading the nationally recognized response to the Marathon bombing.

With more than 35 years in law enforcement, Commissioner Davis has extensive experience in judicial and courthouse security, high-profile trial protection, and strategies to safeguard judges and court staff from threats and intimidation. He has testified before Congress and the Senate on terrorism and public safety, and has served as an expert witness in cases that directly impacted judicial outcomes.

Internationally, he has advised on policing and justice issues in Europe, the Middle East, and Asia.

He holds a master's degree from Anna Maria College, honorary doctorates from Northeastern, Suffolk, and UMass Lowell, and was a Fellow at Harvard's Institute of Politics.





Paul McLaughlin

In September 1995, Boston prosecutor Paul McLaughlin was shot and killed by gang leader Jeffrey Bly, who had McLaughlin tracked before the murder. Bly was set to be prosecuted by McLaughlin on carjacking charges the next day.

Details of the case:

- **Paul McLaughlin** : An assistant attorney general, McLaughlin was assigned to the Suffolk County District Attorney's office to prosecute gang-related cases.
- **Jeffrey Bly**: A leader of the Theodore Street Posse gang in Boston's Mattapan neighborhood, Bly feared going to prison for the carjacking and decided to kill McLaughlin to stop the trial.
- **Motive**: Bly, the leader of a gang in the city's Mattapan neighborhood, had developed a vendetta against McLaughlin after the prosecutor had previously tried Bly twice on other charges. Fearing a long prison sentence, Bly plotted the murder to prevent the carjacking case from moving forward.
- **Tracking** : Bly instructed a fellow gang member to follow McLaughlin from his courthouse office to his car at a commuter rail station in West Roxbury, recording his movements.
- **The murder**: Bly waited for McLaughlin at the train station. When McLaughlin got into his car, Bly shot him once in the head and fled.
- **Aftermath** : Bly was convicted of first-degree murder in 1999 and sentenced to life in prison without parole.



*Photo of Mr. Paul McLaughlin
Source: The Boston Globe*



Edward T. Bigham III

On October 2, 1980, Middlesex County prosecutor Assistant District Attorney Bigham, 28, was shot and killed along Memorial Drive in Cambridge after his car broke down. Three Boston men were later charged in the attack.

Details of the case:

- **Assistant District Attorney Bigham:** A Middlesex prosecutor since 1979, he began in the District Court system and had been promoted to the Superior Courts only a month before the shooting.
- **The attack:** Around 1:40 a.m., Bigham's Volkswagen developed mechanical problems and was parked roadside when a large white car pulled up behind him. Three men approached. Bigham was shot in the chest.
- **Aftermath at the scene:** Bigham staggered from the vehicle before collapsing a few steps away. An MIT security guard administered emergency aid, but he was pronounced dead at Cambridge Hospital at 2:03 a.m.
- **Suspects:** Henry McLendon, Alvin Carter, and Arnold Evans, all Boston residents in their early 20s, were charged with murder, two counts of armed assault with intent to rob, and assault with a dangerous weapon.

Prosecutor who saw colleague killed urges board to deny parole

By Paul Langner
GLOBE STAFF

With controlled anger that appears to have intensified in the 18 years since she witnessed the murder of a friend and colleague, Assistant Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan yesterday asked the state Parole Board to keep the killer's accomplices behind bars.

As she did once before, in 1996, Ryan urged the board not to release Alvin Carter, now 39, because "what he tells you is a lie, not a mistake, not a conflation. It is a lie."

Carter and two other Roxbury men, Arnold Evans and Henry McLendon, were convicted in 1981 in the murder of Assistant Middlesex District Attorney Edward T. Bigham III on Oct. 2, 1980.

Evans, who shot Bigham, was found guilty of first-degree murder and is serving a life sentence without the possibility of parole. McLendon, who drove the getaway car, pleaded guilty to manslaughter and testified against the two others.

Carter pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and has been in prison since 1981. As he did in 1996, Carter is asking to be freed on parole because he says he has gained insight into the heinousness of his crime and has rehabilitated himself. While in prison, he has earned a bachelor's degree from Boston University, he testified yesterday.

He also said he was sorry for having sued Ryan in 1994 when she tried to avail herself of her right as a crime victim to learn if her assailant was planning to seek parole.

Ryan escaped with powder burns to her face from a .22 caliber derringer on the night that Bigham, 28, was killed with one shot to the chest as the two sat in Bigham's Volkswagen Beetle on Memorial Drive in Cambridge at about 1:15 a.m.

The car had broken down and Bigham had just made emergency repairs. Detectives have theorized that Carter and his two accomplices were trying to rob Ryan and Bigham.

But Ryan emphatically disputed that theory yesterday and attacked Carter's claim that he touched her only gently.

"He tried to pull me from the car and my nails were broken as I tried to claw the seat to keep from being dragged out. I tried to kick my big paw to him so he would leave me be, but he ignored it," she said. "It was not a robbery. There is not a shred of doubt in my mind."

Her theory that she and Bigham were targeted for attack gained support from an admission by Carter yesterday that he and the others had passed up another couple parked along Memorial Drive that night.

That car was parked directly behind the Volkswagen and McLendon pulled his Buick directly behind it.

Carter told the Parole Board that the three waited, hoping the presence of three men in the car would prompt the "in-between car" to move.

But the couple in that vehicle, Michael Toomajanian and Sheila Paris, stayed parked until Evans got out, approached them, and asked for some paper with which to roll a marijuana joint, Carter said.

Once they left, Carter said, he and Evans went to rob the blue Volkswagen. They had picked it, he said, "[Because] it looked like a nicer car and the guy wore a white shirt. We thought he would have money."

But Ryan said the rusty Volkswagen had just broken down and Bigham had repaired it.

"Both doors were yanked open," Ryan said, "in one incredibly practiced move."

The Parole Board's presiding chairman, Daniel Dewey, expressed concern that Ryan was trying to keep Carter in jail for life despite prosecutors' agreement to a second-degree plea, which they understood would mean parole eligibility for Carter in 15 years.

"I was a victim and did not understand a victim's rights then. Today, I would never have agreed to second [degree murder]," she said, adding that Bigham's family, after "the shooter was convicted, wanted nothing more to do with this. They have been unable to come to these hearings."

Dewey said the Parole Board will take the testimony of Ryan, Carter, and other witnesses under advisement and release its decision at an unspecified date.

Alvin Carter raised his right hand prior to testifying yesterday before his Parole Board hearing. Carter has been in prison since 1981.

GLOBE STAFF PHOTO / MICHAEL ROBINSON-CHAVEZ

UPI. (1980, October 2). An assistant district attorney was shot and killed early... - UPI archives. UPI. <https://www.upi.com/Archives/1980/10/02/An-assistant-district-attorney-was-shot-and-killed-early/9722339307200/>

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DANIEL ANDERL JUDICIAL SECURITY & PRIVACY ACT

BACKGROUND & ORIGIN

- > Named in memory of Daniel Anderl, the 20-year-old son of U.S. District Judge Esther Salas, tragically murdered in a home attack in July 2020.
- > The assailant impersonated a delivery driver and had obtained Judge Salas’s personal info online.

KEY PROVISIONS

- > Bans data brokers from posting, selling, sharing information
- > Protects judges’ & families’ Personally Identifiable Information
- > Judges: request removal → 72-hour takedown
Exceptions: voluntary disclosures, news, gov’t records
- > Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. may seek removal/ injunctions; grants for redaction

IMPLEMENTATION

- > Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts Threat Management Branch offers Information removal services & threat monitoring services.
- > Home Intrusion Detection System program reimburses home security enhancements. · Up to \$2,500 for equipment plus increased monitoring support (\$800 annually).

Feature	Federal (Daniel Anderl Act 2022)	New Jersey (Daniel's Law 2020)
Who is protected?	Federal judges & their families	State judges, prosecutors, law enforcement & families
What info is protected?	Addresses, phones, vehicle info, SSNs, schools, property	Primarily addresses and phone numbers
Scope	Nationwide	State of New Jersey only
Obligations for Public Entities	Must redact PII from publicly available records/websites upon request	Must remove/redact PII from online public records within specific timelines
Criminal Penalties	Civil penalties; potential injunctions and fines for noncompliance	Criminal penalties (disorderly persons offense); fines and potential jail time
Online Platform Liability	Platforms may be required to remove info or face fines	Platforms must comply or face civil/criminal penalties under NJ law



PERSONAL SECURITY

Home Security

- Layered defenses: alarms, cameras, reinforced doors, trimmed landscaping
- Use P.O. Box for mail; scrub home address from public records
- Establish and regularly practice family safety protocols (safe words, emergency plans, lockdown drills)

Digital & Daily Life Protection

- Layered defenses: alarms, cameras, reinforced doors, trimmed landscaping
- Use P.O. Box for mail; scrub home address from public records
- Family Preparedness: Coordinate with family to coordinate safety protocols
- Community familiarity increases digital risk: neighbors or local acquaintances may share personal info online.

Public & Community Presence

- Anticipate that litigants may see you in the community afterward.
- Deflect case-related conversations politely
- Avoid apparel, license plates, or vanity markers that identify you as a judge.
- Vary where you shop, dine, and attend services to avoid predictable patterns.

In the Courtroom & Commuting

- Park in well-lit, populated areas; avoid signs marking reserved “Judge” parking.
- Never preside without a security officer present.
- Keep proceedings orderly —remove disruptive individuals immediately to prevent spillover intimidation outside court.
- For virtual hearings from home, always use an official virtual background to hide personal surroundings.

Special Emphasis for Female Judges

- Recognize that gendered harassment may target your role as both judge and woman —often spilling into family or community life.
- Family-centered protections (school safety, digital monitoring, awareness training).
- Work closely with local police to extend security beyond the courthouse —including home patrols, faster response times, and ongoing communication.



THREAT MANAGEMENT

How to Assess Threats

Evaluate credibility and capability:

- Determine whether the threat is specific (who/what/when/where), feasible (does the person have the ability to act), and persistent or escalating in intensity. Distinguish between impulsive outbursts and credible, planned actions.

Analyze context and risk level:

- Consider whether the threat violates law or protective orders, appears in public forums (e.g., online), or targets family members, all of which elevate risk. Use a structured threat assessment scale (low/moderate/high).

Leverage documentation to reveal patterns:

- Record every incident (date, time, subject, evidence, witnesses, response) in a centralized, secure log. Repeated vague threats or unusual contacts can signal escalation when viewed collectively.

Threat Response



- Always document: every threat including date/time, subject details and nature of the incident, maintain originals of every concerning contact.
- Adhere to organizational or institutional protocols designed for handling threats.
- Involve authorities promptly, especially when there is a credible or immediate risk.

Muted Threat Response



Respond quietly when threats are:

- Vague, impulsive, or non-specific.
- Isolated outbursts with no evidence of capability.
- Risk of prosecution would escalate the threat actor's behavior.
- Insufficient evidence for charges

When do Threats Lose Relevance?



- Threats lose relevance only with **continued oversight, not silence.**
- Reduced frequency, intensity, and proximity could indicate that the threat environment is becoming less severe.
- Judges may hesitate to report repeated or low-level threats or harassment.
- Institutional encouragement and a clear reporting culture are essential to ensure proper evaluation and ongoing protection over time.



EDC COURT ASSESSMENTS

WHAT WE LEARNED

What Prompted Security Assessments in the Court System?

- Increase in emotionally charged family/domestic cases
- Rising harassment, intimidation, and doxxing of judges
- Courthouse facilities uneven, security systems untested
- Growing concern about workplace violence and active shooter threats

What We Learned (System -Wide)

- Post orders are inconsistent across courthouses
- Duress/panic switches are often untested or unknown
- Judges report threats, follow them beyond courtrooms
- Awareness and culture are as critical as physical security
- Fobs are being used instead of keys; fobs can be easily duplicated

What We Learned (Courtroom)

- Zoning opposing parties reduces flash points
- Pre-court '5 -minute huddle improves readiness
- Bailiff placement critical in family/domestic dockets
- Judges' parking spaces are identified by their names

What We Learned (Travel/Commute)

- Parking lots and transitions are consistent risks
- Vary routes/times when possible
- Escorts are effective but underutilized
- Safe-haven routes (police/fire stations) are not widely known

WHATS CHANGING

What's Changing (Judges' Personal Safety)

- Issue safety packets with home/travel checklists
- Train families on household and social media safety
- Routine late -day escorts for high -risk sessions
- Follow threats across a judge's career, not just cases

What's Changing (System Level)

- Standardized post orders across courthouses
- Quarterly duress alarm tests with tracked response times
- Risk-rating of dockets, especially family/domestic cases
- Unified threat intake and triage process
- Replace fobs with something more secure
- Change names from parking spots to "reserved"

What's Changing (Daily Habits)

- Reverse-in parking, well -lit/staffed areas
- Delayed posting on social media, don't post location
- Lighting, locks, and cameras at home
- Household plan for unexpected visitors

What Can Be Done Now

"QUICK WINS" (0 - 90 DAYS)

- Issue judge safety packets
- Repair chokepoints, re -key doors (if needed)
- Adopt pre -court huddles and docket risk -ratings
- Offer quick home security consults



THANK YOU

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