

THE FULL

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS**

DISCLOSURE

P R O J E C T

Agenda

Best Practices for Tracking Police Misconduct

- 1 Who we are, what we do
- 2 Collect data : make a plan & where to look
- 3 Organize data: demos of 3 tools
- 4 Questions

OUR GOAL

Disrupt the culture of secrecy that shields law enforcement misconduct

What we do



Build.

We build open-source technology to track police misconduct



Empower.

We empower local actors with our technology and training to defend their community against police abuse



Advocate

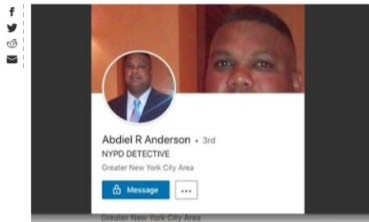
We advocate for police transparency and accountability in coalition

REXUS

NYC's Most Sued Cop Is Really On A Roll

BY TAFE OFFENWALD

NOV 21, 2018 2:33 PM • 19 COMMENTS



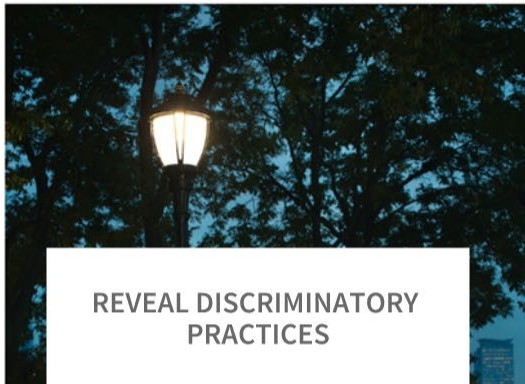
Abdiel Anderson, the city's most sued police officer. L3+8222

EXPOSE OFFICER MISCONDUCT

The NYPD Arrests Women for Who They Are and Where They Go — Now They're Fighting Back

BY MELISSA GIRA GRANT

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2016 AT 11:30 A.M.



REVEAL DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES

Medina v. City of New York, CIV 09412-AJN (SDNY)

This lawsuit challenged the NYPD's use of excessive force—specifically the continued use of chokeholds and misuse of tasers—on behalf of Tomas Medina, who was brutally assaulted by an officer arising from a noise complaint in Washington Heights in the summer of 2018. Despite the NYPD's formal policy banning chokeholds, NYPD police officers still regularly misuse this dangerous maneuver. **Between January 2015 and June 2018, the City has settled at least 30 lawsuits involving the use of chokeholds by the NYPD.** During that same time period, the New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board ("CCRB") received at least 582 allegations of NYPD officers using chokeholds against civilians. Equally disturbing, NYPD officers wrongly deploy Tasers in situations where civilians have shown no active aggression. The NYPD also overuses Tasers once they are deployed, with multiple or prolonged shocks resulting in needless pain and injury to civilians. This case was brought with co-counsel Covington & Burling LLP. In July 2021, after the court upheld our client's claim on a motion to dismiss, the City settled the case, agreeing to pay substantial damages. (Corey Stoughton, Molly Griffard, Alex Lesman)

[Complaint](#) [Order](#) [Settlement](#)

COUNTER OFFICIAL NARRATIVES

Network of Associations, Lawsuits 2015–June 2018

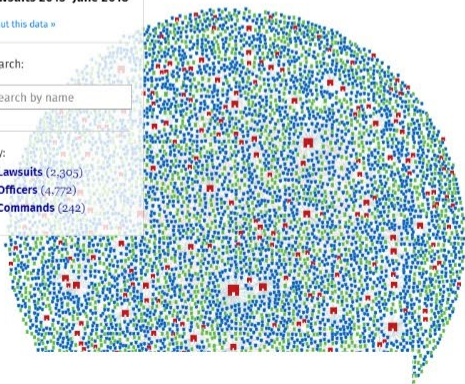
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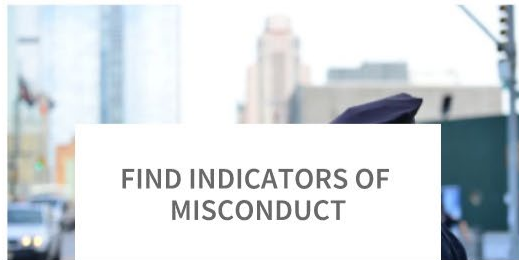
- Lawsuits (2,303)
- Officers (4,772)
- Commands (242)



IDENTIFY HOTBEDS OF MISCONDUCT

Analysis: Cops who work more overtime get sued for bad arrests at a greater rate

By GRAHAM RAYMAN
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS | MAY 02, 2019



FIND INDICATORS OF MISCONDUCT

Secret NYPD Files: Officers Who Lie And Brutally Beat People Can Keep Their Jobs

Internal NYPD files show that hundreds of officers who committed the most serious offenses — from lying to grand juries to physically attacking innocent people — got to keep their jobs, their pensions, and their tremendous power over New Yorkers' lives. A BuzzFeed News investigation.

By Kendall Taggart and Mike Hayes

Posted on March 5, 2018, at 5:58 a.m. ET



Secret files obtained by BuzzFeed News reveal that from 2011 to 2018, officers who committed the most serious offenses — from lying to grand juries to physically attacking innocent people — got to keep their jobs, their pensions, and their tremendous power over New Yorkers' lives. A BuzzFeed News investigation.

HIGHLIGHT SYSTEMIC FLAWS

New Resources

bit.ly/trackpolice

Getting Started Tracking Police Misconduct

The following articles provide guidance on how to get started for anyone interested in tracking police misconduct. They cover hidden places to look for data, how to create a feasible collection plan, and effective systems for organizing your data. The approaches range from the advanced and involved to the low-tech and simple - so you can apply these methods with whatever resources you have. Whether you're a defender, NGO, or community activist, use these to better track police misconduct in your community.

Collect data

[Data sources for police misconduct](#)

[Scope your project: make a data collection plan](#)

[How to search PACER](#)

[Tips for effective public record requests](#)

Organize data

[Systems for organizing law enforcement misconduct data](#)

[Organize data: simplified FDP data table](#)

[Organize data: shared folders](#)

[Introduction video to the FDP Application](#)

[How to collaborate on an FDP database](#)

[FDP Application staffing needs](#)



Collect Data

Make a data collection plan

You can't gather everything on your own

- What data exists?
- How can you get it?
- Is it worth your time?



Where to look: Data Sources

Official Police Data

- **Internal Affairs Department** by the law enforcement agency, investigating themselves
- **Oversight Agencies** review boards, watchdog groups, or oversight agencies that investigate complaints of police misconduct
- **Internal Agency Forms** police departments may have to document when they engage in certain kinds of activity, such as a stop and frisk or use of force.
- **District Attorneys** keep lists of officers they know have credibility issues or substantial impeachment material. These are sometimes referred to as brady lists.

Case-Related Data

- **Info obtained from lawyers and clients** about police officers & actions of prosecutors
- **Info obtained by investigators**, including social media posts of police officers that are potentially useful as impeachment material;
- **Court disclosures** made about officer misconduct under protective orders
- **Internal disciplinary data** obtained via a subpoena
- **Judicial findings** that are not publicly reported;
- **Case dismissals** as a result of other types of police misconduct
- **Arrest data** analyzed to identify suspicious patterns of arrests/dismissals.

Where to look: Data Sources

Public Data - Misconduct

- **Civil rights lawsuits** filed against police officers obtained through PACER, state court websites, and courthouses;
- **Media reports** about police misconduct tracked through news alerts, web scraping of local newspapers, and relationships with local reporters
- **Civilian complaint data** made through public sources like Open-Police Complaints or Raheem.AI
- **Judicial decisions** available in legal databases like Westlaw and Bloomberg
- **FOIA requests** for overtime data, decertification data, declined prosecutions, civil rights notices of claims and lawsuits, civilian complaints, use-of-force reports, and other jurisdiction-dependent public data;

Public Data - Background

- **Department Rosters** name and badge number for every officer in the entire department
- **Department Internal Structure of** who reports to who and which groups report to which groups
- **Discipline infractions** how agencies officially categorize misconduct of their officers
- **Department Policy Guide** most agencies will have an official guide with information about their policy, procedures, and internal structure

Collaborate

Are there potential partners also interested in this data?

- **Universities**
- **Journalists**
- **Innocence Projects**
- **Community Groups**
- **Civil Rights Attorneys**





How to Organize Your Data

FDP Methodology

Data Model



GROUPS

Police Departments,
Precincts, DA's Offices



PEOPLE

Officers, victims, informants,
prosecutors



CONTENT

Lawsuits, internal
investigations, news articles



INCIDENTS

The event that happened

Key principles to organizing data

for data integrity and simplicity...

Unique identifiers for officers & docs

for clean, consistent data ...

A few, coordinated people add data

for future analysis & organization...

Add a document only once

to save time...

Every data point should have a purpose

Systems for organizing data

	Data				Access		
	Link source documents	Easy search tool	Officer Profiles	Analyze trends	Cloud access	Pool data with other groups	Limit what data you share
<u>FDP Application</u>							
<u>Simplified FDP table</u>							
<u>People's Database</u>							
<u>Cloud-based Drive</u>							
<u>Spreadsheet</u>							
<u>Shared Folder</u>							



Shared Folder

Remember:

- **Use Consistent Naming Conventions**
 - Folders: OfficerName_identifier
 - Documents: type_identifier
- **_underscore_no_spaces**
- **Save a document only once, then use shortcuts**

ID	Content Type	Identifier
1	Civil Rights Lawsuit	Docket Nu
2	Media Article	Headline
5	Civilian Complaint	Civilian Co
6	Media Article	Headline
7	Criminal Case Finding	Federal Cri
8	Civil Rights Lawsuit	Docket Nu
10	Subject's Social Media A...	URL

Simplified Data Table

Remember:

- Use officer unique identifiers
- Use document unique identifiers
- Name & categorize documents consistently

FDP Application

Remember:

- You own the application & your data
- Officer profiles and easy search features
- Track confidential data, pool data with other groups while limiting what you share
- Flexible, use only the fields useful to you
- Upload and save source documents

Full Disclosure Project WELCOME, MARGARET [SETTINGS](#) / [ADMIN](#) / [LOG OUT](#)

[Home](#) > Officer Search

Person Search

Addams

Search by names and identifiers

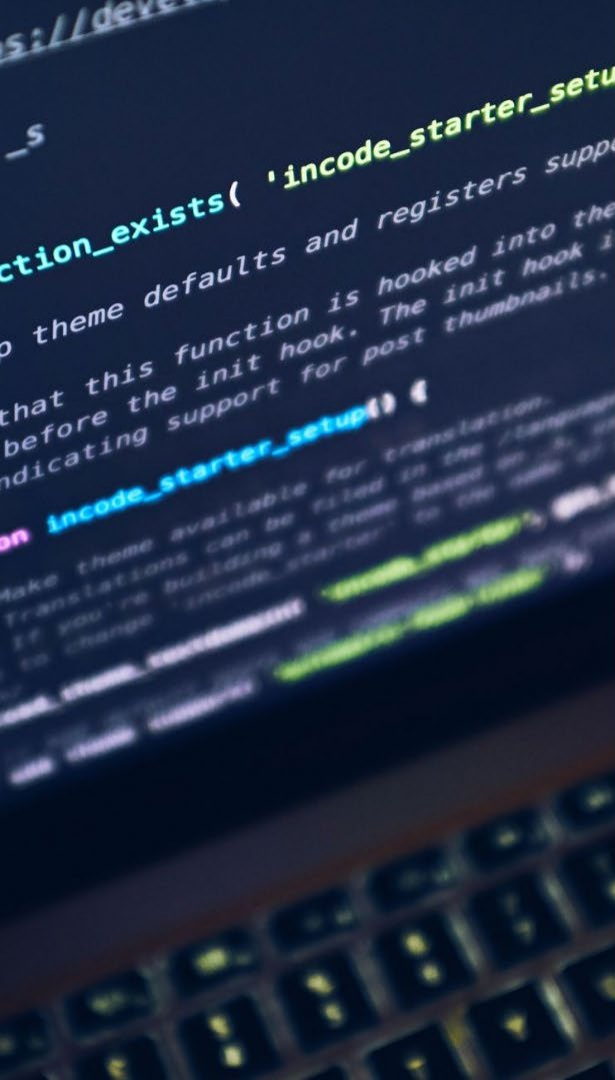
1 results found for "Addams", sorted by relevance [Start over](#) Order by: [name](#) / [relevance](#)

Commands	Arthur Addams a.k.a. Arthur Adam, Arthur Adams, Arty Adams
All	4th District NYPD (4D), 3D Substation, Gun Recovery Branch POST Identification Number: 763098
3D Substation	Shield/Badge Number: 2038691
4th District	Detective

FDP App in use

- Helped partners collect records on over 100,000 officers from 1,800 agencies across seven states
- 8 Locations in 7 states





Scaling big

With our partners, FDP is building tools to process data at scale
- and save you time



PACER Scraper



Roster Processing

Questions?

Remember:

bit.ly/trackpolice

1

Make a data collection plan

know what, who, when, how to collect

2

Gather data

Set up alerts, send record requests, check sources

3

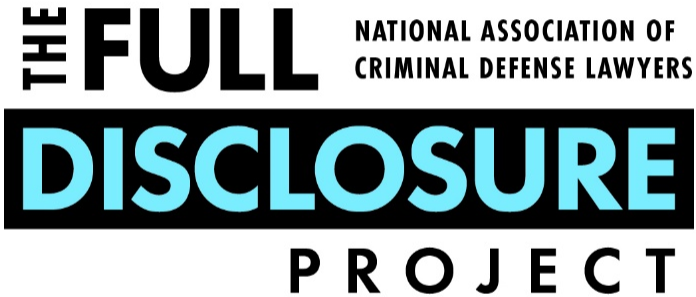
Set up a tool to organize data

FDP App, simplified data table, folder system...



you've heard from us...

We want to hear from you



- Questions: mringler@nacdl.org
- FDP App: bit.ly/fdpinterest
- Newsletter: bit.ly/fdpupdates