



MARY JANE BURTON (MJB) CASE FILE REVIEW

Update to the Scientific Advisory Committee

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MARY JANE BURTON REVIEWS

- ▶ Two distinct reviews are being conducted on the work of Mary Jane Burton (MJB):
 - *Case File Review* - 2024 budget language; and,
 - *Review Panel* - 2025 legislation.

MJB CASE FILE REVIEW

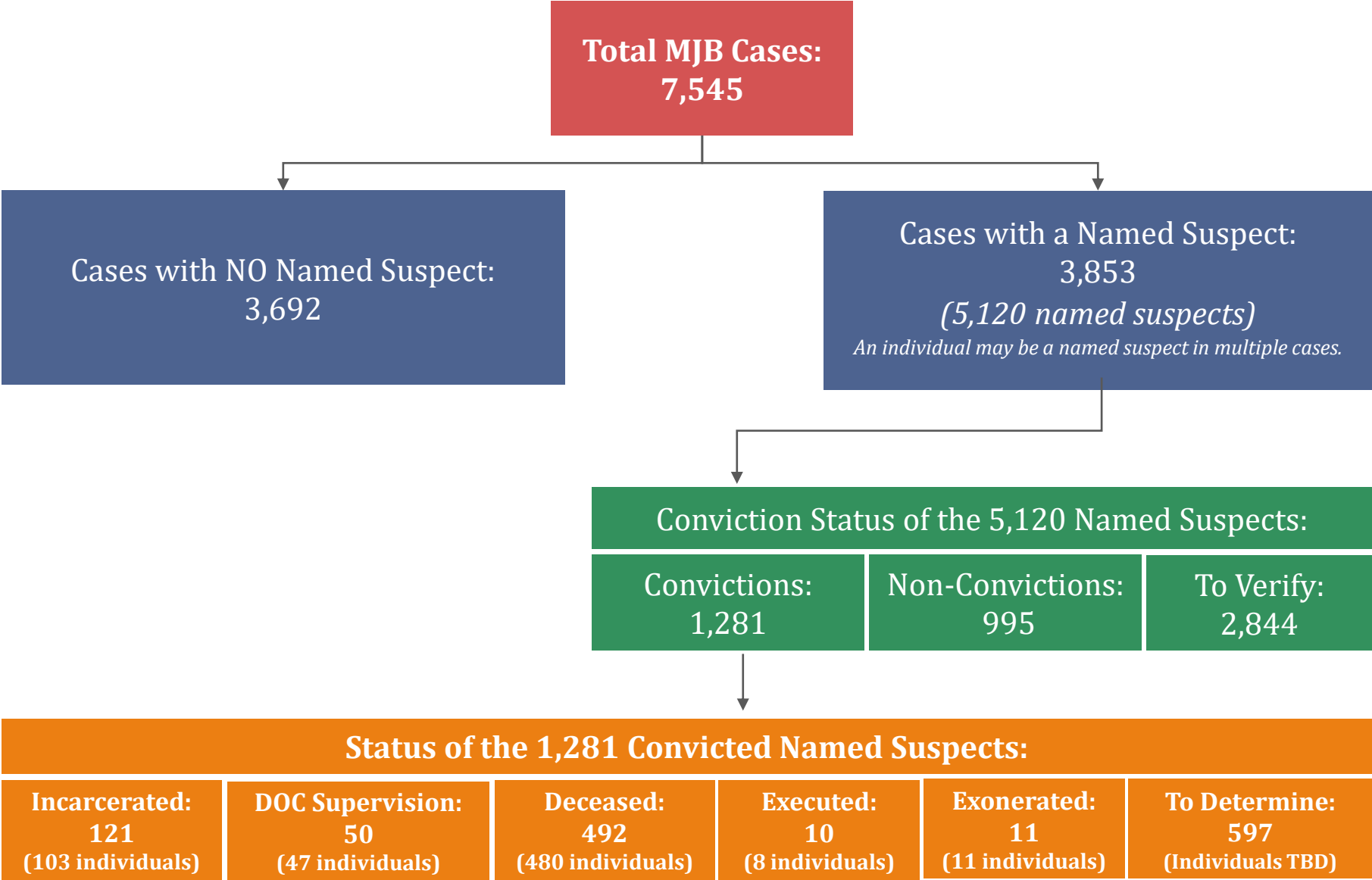
- The Crime Commission is directed to determine the scope of MJB's work at DFS, including the total:
 1. Case files that contain at least one named suspect.
 2. Named suspects who were convicted of an offense where testing was performed by MJB, categorized by:
 - Incarcerated;
 - On DOC supervision (probation or parole);
 - Deceased; or,
 - Executed.
 3. Cases where MJB testified.

MJB CASE FILE REVIEW

- All known MJB cases have been reviewed and cross-validated.



MJB Case File Review Status (October 2026)



Source: Virginia Department of Forensic Science, Historic Case File Project, 1973-1988, MJB certificates of analysis only. Analysis by Virginia State Crime Commission staff. Staff identified at least 199 cases with an indication that Ms. Burton testified.

MJB CASE FILE REVIEW – NEXT STEPS

- In September 2026, staff requested assistance from 294 court clerks to research the conviction status of the 2,844 named suspects:
 - 33% (96 of 294) of circuit and district courts have responded:
 - 26% (29 of 110) of circuit courts; and,
 - 36% (67 of 184) of general, J&DR, and combined district courts.
- If a named suspect was convicted, classify by their status:
 - Incarcerated, DOC supervision, deceased, or served sentence.



MJB CASE FILE REVIEW – NEXT STEPS

- Continue to work and share information with stakeholders, such as DFS and the Innocence Project of the University of Virginia School of Law (UVA-IP).
 - Provide conviction status findings to DFS for its notification efforts.
 - 26 of the responding courts have verified convictions and provided orders.
 - Notify UVA-IP if any additional incarcerated individuals are identified.
- An update will be published in January 2027.



QUESTIONS?

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