



PROSECUTOR

– part of the legal system



ÅKLAGARMYNDIGHETEN
Swedish Prosecution Authority



The Swedish Prosecution Authority is a transparent authority that shares information about its work and allows its operations to be examined. The Authority's expertise is highly valued in public debates.

Central role in the judicial system

Prosecutors have a prominent role in a democratic society based on law and order. No other professional group within the judicial system is as fully involved in all stages of a legal case.

The Swedish Prosecution Authority is a modern government agency, the high competence of its employees being its primary asset. We work in collaboration with other authorities in the legal process to ensure that criminal investigations are carried out efficiently with legal certainty.

Objectivity and respect for the individual are key to all investigations by the Swedish Prosecution Authority. We strive to be as transparent and accessible as possible within the constraints of confidentiality and the effects on persons subject to our decisions. Great responsibility follows naturally from the extensive power invested in prosecutors.

Petra Lundh
Prosecutor-General





“Justice is my motivation”

About 950 prosecutors work at the Swedish Prosecution Authority. Most of them work with a variety of cases at public prosecution offices around the country. One of them is Henrik Campner, Public Prosecutor at the Public Prosecution Office in Örebro.

– My main tasks are leading preliminary investigations, deciding on prosecutions and processing cases in court. All of these are important since they represent different phases of a criminal case. I enjoy court proceedings most,

but some colleagues prefer preliminary investigations and working alongside the police.

What crimes are investigated at a local public prosecution office?

– Many different types of crime with a large degree of variation, including violence, sexual offences, theft, drug offences and fraud. Certain types of crime, such as serious economic crime and environmental crime are dealt with by the Swedish Economic Crime



You are guaranteed a high level of tension as an on-call prosecutor during the night shift.

Authority or by the Prosecution Authority's national units, which have overall responsibility for specific categories of crime.

Can you describe your cooperation with other authorities?

– I work with the police every day in all my cases. I have also worked with young offenders where you then cooperate with the social services. In cases relating to offences against children, in addition to working alongside the police and social services, we also cooperate with forensic medical examiners or paediatricians and child psychiatrists.

What distinguishes prosecutors from other legal professionals?

– Unpredictability and the pace of work are the first things that come to mind. Working at the Prosecution Authority is based on incoming events and you don't know what you'll be doing until you get to the office.

– Another big difference is that we work throughout the whole criminal process, from when the case is received until the hearing in court.

– Judges focus more on the legal process in court, whereas counsels for injured parties or public defence counsels represent the client and must concentrate on their particular interests. It's within these areas that you'll probably find the greatest differences.

Why did you choose the prosecution profession?

– I've always found crime and punishment a fascinating area and I decided to aim for becoming a prosecutor during my legal training, which I've never regretted.

What is the motivation behind prosecutors?

– I can't speak for all of my colleagues, but my motivation comes from working for justice and redress for the victims.

What qualities do you need to become a prosecutor?

– You need to have sound judgement, be sure of yourself and be courageous in your decisions. Particularly when on call, you have to make important decisions on limited evidence since there are seldom many details about what happened at the beginning of a preliminary investigation. You must be able to manage this situation.

We work so that people can feel safer

The overall objective of Swedish criminal policy is to reduce crime and increase people's feeling of safety. The Swedish Prosecution Authority helps to achieve this goal by ensuring that criminals are accountable for their actions in an efficient and legally grounded manner.

Crime develops at the same pace as changes in society. There are a number of challenges ahead for the legal system, which must develop at the same rate as the rest of the world. Depending on the nature of the crime, some categories are given particular priority by the Prosecution Authority.

Different types of crime

Everyday crimes, also known as high-volume crimes, make up the majority of all crimes. These include driving offences and car theft, shoplifting, theft, burglary and vandalism; in other words, crimes that affect people in their everyday lives and make society less safe. The large volume of everyday crimes means that efficient procedures and working methods are essential in our prosecution offices.

- Terrorist crimes, money laundering and financing of terrorism are becoming ever more frequent. These crimes are often organised and involve international networks. The National Security Unit at the Prosecution Authority

specialises in work with terrorist offences and espionage, among other things.

- IT-related crime involves offences connected with computers or computer systems, including data breaches and crimes in which computers or other digital equipment are used as an aid in criminal activities, or where evidence may exist in the digital environment. Examples are unlawful threats, abuse, defamation, fraud, crimes involving child pornography and sexual offences primarily committed against children. There are prosecutors who are specially trained in the area of IT-related crime.

- Crimes against children, violence in close relationships and sexual offences are high-priority but often difficult to investigate due to poor or non-existent evidence. In the case of sexual crimes against children, methods of interviewing victims can be problematic. There are special courses for prose-



Each prosecutor has an obligation to be objective and must also investigate and examine evidence that is beneficial to a suspect. Prosecutors must be objective when they initiate legal actions.

cutors involved in these types of crime and their work is carried out in close cooperation with the police. In order to ensure quality and consistency of investigations into rape, there are checklists and other aids for police and prosecutors.

- The Swedish Prosecution Authority continuously works in parallel with other authorities on youth crime. When a young person is suspected of a crime, a rapid response from society is particularly important so that the link between the criminal offence and the punish-

ment is clear to the offender. To this end, there are statutory time limits on investigations.

There are three development centres at the Swedish Prosecution Authority that collates information of importance for daily prosecution work. It collects knowledge of different types of crime and analyses the legal situation surrounding them. The centre develops efficient methods for processing different crimes and relevant information is then passed on to prosecutors working with those crimes.

Prosecutors and police work in close cooperation.



Crime is becoming increasingly international

Society is constantly changing and crime has become increasingly complex and international. There is a national unit at the Swedish Prosecution Authority with experienced prosecutors who specialise in this type of crime.

The national unit for international and organised crime investigates cross-border crime. The unit also covers organised or other forms of serious national crime and certain special categories of crime such as war crimes and international criminality.

– The most common types of cases we handle at the national unit are cross-border, drug-related crimes and human trafficking, says Public Prosecutor Karolina Lindekrantz. But there are other cases; recently, for example, we completed proceedings on a very large case of serious fraud regarding the welfare system.

Increased internationalisation has resulted in more legal and political cooperation on criminality across borders. New procedures and agreements are made between countries through different cooperation schemes.

Prosecutors have missions abroad

Swedish prosecutors are also sent out on international missions. These may include cooperation on development or peace-promoting, security and conflict prevention activities, in particular within the EU and the UN. Prosecutors from the Swedish Prosecution Authority have been involved in EU missions in Kosovo, Palestine and Ukraine, for example.





The rule of law is the guiding principle

The Swedish Prosecution Authority has a special department responsible for internal supervision and auditing of its own activities. The purpose is to ensure high quality and the rule of law. Examinations are often related to prosecutors' processing of individual cases, such as looking into time limits that have been exceeded. The supervisory department also deals with the national prosecutor's special supervisory tasks and referrals from the Parliamentary Ombudsman, the Chancellor of Justice and the Commission on Security and Integrity Protection.

Supervisory activities should not be confused with investigations of offences committed by prosecutors, such as professional misconduct, which are dealt with by the Special Prosecution Authority. Sensitive issues are investigated here, including reports and suspicions regarding police employees, prosecutors, judges, members of parliament and others. The operations are separate from normal police and prosecution activities to ensure legal correctness.



Swedish prosecutors are independent when making decisions concerning prosecution or coercive measures, such as search and arrest.

This means that each prosecutor is solely responsible for his or her decisions, and that these decisions cannot be changed by a prosecutor's superior, for example. However, people affected by a prosecutor's decision may request that it be reviewed by another prosecutor at a higher judicial level.

The Supreme Court guides

Senior Legal Manager Hedvig Trost is one of three people responsible for appeals by the Prosecution Authority, and responses to, the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court is the final legal instance of the public courts and the court of record, which means that it primarily takes up appeals which require indicative statements in a legal issue. This may relate to how a specific statutory clause should be interpreted, whether a clause is compatible with EU law, or how long a custodial sentence should be for a particular offence.

– My work with Supreme Court cases is particularly focused on legal issues relevant to prosecuting operations that the Supreme Court should clarify. Sometimes cases are decided after a hearing in the Supreme Court. Working with Supreme Court cases is very interesting and stimulating for those who, like me, enjoy writing about and looking into legal matters in great depth.

The Prosecutor General is the only public prosecutor in the Supreme Court. Leave to appeal is required for

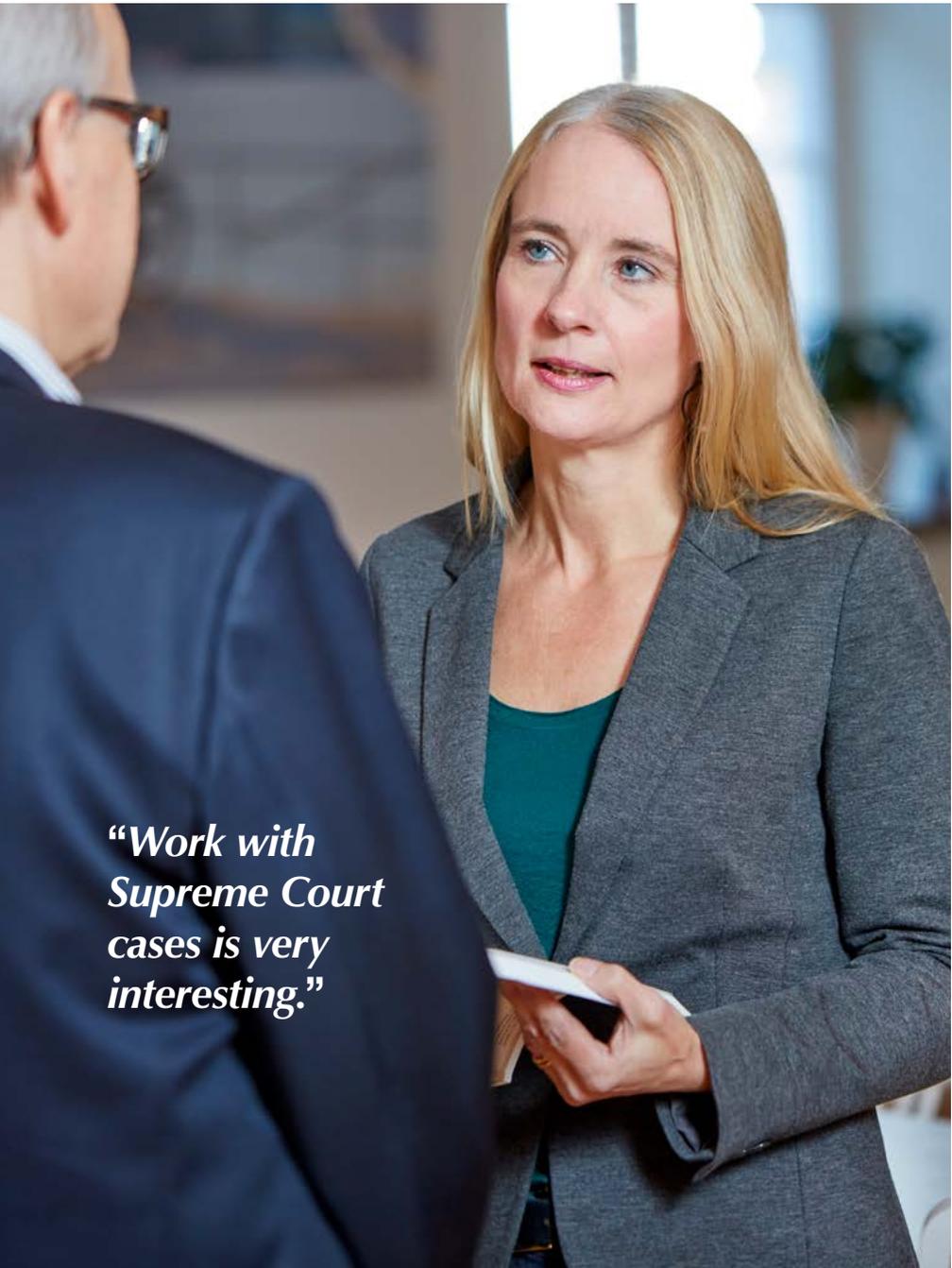


the Supreme Court to examine a case. The Supreme Court tries about 25 criminal cases each year.

The Prosecutor General appeals around 10–20 appeal court judgements per year. When a defendant appeals a judgement, the Supreme Court may ask the Prosecutor General to give an opinion.

The principle of public access means that the public has a right to insight and access to information about operations by the authority.

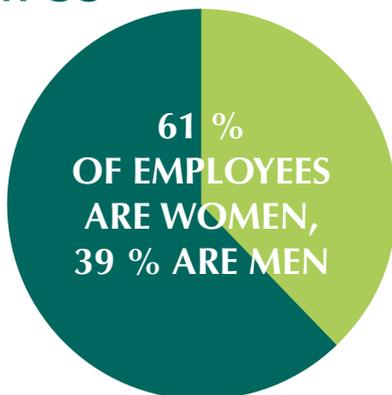
Among other things, this means that anyone may read the Swedish Prosecution Authority's public documents, except those that are protected by secrecy.



*“Work with
Supreme Court
cases is very
interesting.”*

The Swedish Prosecution Authority in figures

4 NATIONAL UNITS WITH SPECIALISED OPERATIONS



32 PUBLIC PROSECUTION OFFICES IN 27 PLACES

3 DEVELOPMENT CENTRES FOR METHODS AND LEGAL DEVELOPMENT

THE AVERAGE AGE OF EMPLOYEES IS

44



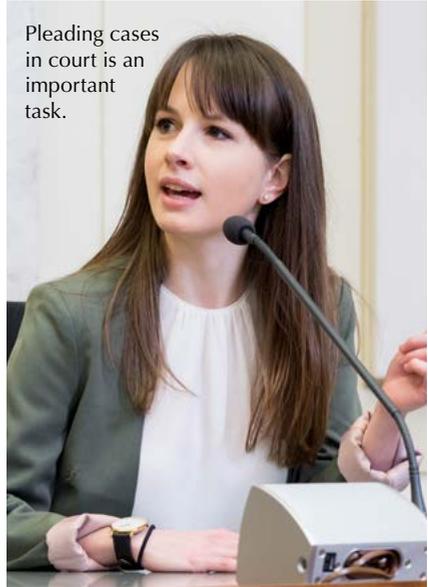
437,000 REPORTS OF SUSPECTED CRIMES RECEIVED IN 2018

167,000 CASES RECEIVED IN 2018



On average, prosecutors work with 30 investigations at the same time. In addition to formal legal qualifications and court practice, a number of personal qualities are needed to work as a prosecutor. You must be independent, mature, analytical, able to make quick decisions and have integrity and courage.

Pleading cases in court is an important task.



Prosecutors' work is often followed by the media.

© Åklagarmyndigheten 2019

Cover photo: Johan Nilsson/TT. Photos: Thomas Carlgren, Thomas Gillberg, Per Groth, Kicki Nilsson och Peter Wixtröm/Aftonbladet IBL.

Graphic design: Sinfo Yra

www.aklagare.se
LinkedIn: Åklagarmyndigheten
Facebook: Åklagarmyndigheten Jobb & karriär
Twitter: aklagareSE



ÅKLAGARMYNDIGHETEN
Swedish Prosecution Authority