Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley

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Monroe County District Attorney's Office

Weekly Newsletter

Welcome to the weekly newsletter from Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorlev.

District Attorneys Association of the State of New York

Last Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, Second Assistant District Attorney Michelle Crowley and Assistant District Attorney Lisa Gray, Chief of the Appeals Bureau, and I attended the annual District Attorney's Association of the State of New York Conference (DAASNY) in New York City. At this conference, prosecutors from across the state discussed trends in prosecution and best practices.

DAASNY was founded in 1909 as an organization for prosecutors in New York that provides the exchange of information and views concerning the conduct of our offices, the New York State criminal justice system, and criminal law and procedure. These conferences have become very necessary, as the criminal justice system is always changing and there is constantly new legislation that impacts our offices and the way we do business.

This week, several important topics required our attention. There was much discussion about upcoming legislation that may be considered this cycle. Some proposals give us concern, such as S.342/A.1085, The Earned Time Act, which as written would allow all inmates in the New York State Department of Corrections to be eligible for an earned time credit of one half reduction of their sentence. Additionally, this bill eliminates any distinction between non-violent felony offenders and violent felony offenders. In essence, this proposed legislation gives defendants the opportunity to cut their sentence in half. This legislation, which is sponsored by multiple members of our local delegation, goes against our pleas for truth in sentencing.

Most of the elected District Attorneys also joined Governor Hochul to support her discovery proposal in this year's budget. This plan aims to close the loopholes that were created in the 2020 criminal justice reform that often result in case dismissals across New York State. The new discovery proposal will prevent case dismissals on minor technicalities,



which are often due to confusion from outside agencies.

Homicide Update To Date 2025: City of Rochester Total: 3 Monroe County Total: 5

This proposal helps fulfill the original intent of discovery reform, to allow for early, broad disclosure to criminal defendants, so that they have all of the information that they need to defend themselves, while helping to eliminate gamesmanship and the possibility of the technical dismissals that currently burden the criminal justice system.

At the end of the winter conference, I am proud that an attorney who I admire, Bridget Brennan, of New York City's Office of Special Narcotics Prosecutors, received the Frank S. Hogan Award. This award honors an Assistant District Attorney who exemplifies the values that DA Frank Hogan stood for: integrity and an unwavering commitment to achieving justice and fairness to all who come before the court. Bridget exemplifies all of these values and is a long-time expert in narcotics, leading the office of 200 for over twenty-five years.



These conferences are very useful and it is beneficial to see what the elected District Attorneys are doing around New York State. I am grateful to be a part of this organization.

Sandra

Highlights from the MCDA's Office

The People vs. Jahlasja McLarty and Al-Tarique Mitchell will continue into next week. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Emily Chisholm, of the Non-Fatal Shooting Taskforce and Assistant District Attorney Courtney Kleiman, of the General Felony Bureau.

The defendants are charged with two counts of Burglary in the 1st Degree, Robbery in the 1st Degree, two counts of Robbery in the 2nd Degree, and Assault in the 2nd Degree in front of New York State Supreme Court Justice Argento.

The **People vs. Johnkiomi Ruiz** will continue into next week. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Adam VanHeyst, of the Non-Fatal Shooting Taskforce.

The defendant is charged with Assault in the 1st Degree and two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree in front of New York State Supreme Court Justice Miller.

The **People vs. Michael Benjamin** will continue into next week. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Jessica Wagner, of the Special Victims Unit.

The defendant is charged with Kidnapping in the 2nd Degree, five counts of Predatory Sexual Assault, two counts of Sexual Abuse in the 1st Degree, Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 3rd Degree, and two counts of Grand Larceny in the 4th Degree in front of New York State Supreme Court Justice Sinclair.

41-year-old **Serdar Ozmen** pled guilty to the indictment, which included Kidnapping in the 1st Degree as a Sexually Motivated Felony, two counts of Criminal Sexual Act in the 1st Degree, and two counts of Criminal Sexual Act in the 2nd Degree, for the kidnapping and sexual assault of a 14-year-old child. On March 25, 2024, an amber alert was issued for a 14-year-old girl who was missing from her home. Together, the Brighton Police Department, the New York State Police, and the New York City Police Department worked in tandem to locate the child less than 24 hours from her kidnapping. After a swift, high-priority investigation, it was determined that the 14-year-old victim met 41-year-old Serdar Ozmen online through social media. The defendant convinced the victim to leave her house in the middle of the night, when he restrained her in his vehicle and abducted her. Serdar Ozmen drove her from Monroe County to New York City. New York Police Officers located the 14-year-old victim in an apartment in the Bronx. During the abduction, she was sexually assaulted. She was quickly reunited with her family due to the quick work of the Brighton Police Department, the New York State Police, and the New York City Police Department. This case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Sara VanStrydonck, Chief of the Special Victims Unit, and Assistant District Attorney Patrick Gallagher, Chief of the Domestic Violence Bureau.

An indictment was unsealed in front of Monroe County Court Judge Hahn charging **Laurie Hoover** with Grand Larceny in the 2nd Degree in relation to a theft from Audacy on or about and between January 1, 2019 and December 22, 2022. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Christopher Folk, of the Public Integrity/Economic Crimes Bureau.

Antonio Bernard Collins was indicted on two counts of Driving While Intoxicated and Aggravated Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle in relation to a vehicular incident on September 12, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Diana Ferretti, of the Vehicular Crimes Bureau.

Shashonnie Williams, Jr. was indicted on Operator Leave Scene of Incident Resulting in Death and Tampering With Physical Evidence in relation to the vehicular death of Billy Smith on April 11, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Drew Kroft, of the Vehicular Crimes Bureau.

Ricky Casiano was indicted on Reckless Endangerment in the 1st Degree, Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 3rd Degree, and Menacing in the 2nd Degree. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Jonathan Jirik, of the Major Felony Bureau.

Nycholas Vanderbilt was indicted on Burglary in the 2nd Degree, Criminal Contempt in the 1st Degree, and two counts of Endangering the Welfare of a Child in relation to a violent domestic incident on June 3, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Karen Chung, of the Special Victims Unit.

Larry Jamison was indicted on two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree in relation to an illegal possession of a firearm on November 23, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Tony DiPerna, of the Special Investigation Bureau.

Jeremy Hanks and Terraine Staples were indicted on Burglary in the 1st Degree, Robbery in the 1st Degree, Attempted Robbery in the 1st Degree, Robbery in the 2nd Degree, Attempted Robbery in the 2nd Degree, and two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree in relation to an armed burglary and robbery on January 8, 2025. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Ryan Lamon, of the Youth Part/Major Felony Bureau.

Christopher Long, Jr. was indicted on Aggravated Vehicular Homicide, two counts of Manslaughter in the 2nd Degree, two counts of Vehicular Manslaughter in the 2nd Degree, and two counts of Driving While Intoxicated in relation to the vehicular death of Skylar Swift on November 22, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Drew Kroft, of the Vehicular Crimes Bureau.

Gabriel Medina was indicted on Assault in the 2nd Degree, Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the 3rd Degree, Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the 4th Degree, and Resisting Arrest. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Jonathan Jirik, of Major Felony.

Sarah Elizabeth Cornell was indicted on Burglary in the 3rd Degree and Petit Larceny in relation to a burglary at a Wegmans on December 17, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney William Jenkins, of the General Felony Bureau.

Kevin Martin was indicted on Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree and Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 3rd Degree in relation to the illegal possession of a firearm on January 10, 2025. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Michael Caranante, of the Special Investigation Bureau.

Lazareth Unzueta was indicted on six counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree, six counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 3rd Degree, and Assault in the 2nd Degree. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Jennifer Kennedy, Deputy Chief of the Special Investigation Bureau and Assistant District Attorney Emily Chisholm, of the Non-Fatal Shooting Taskforce.

Alfred Miller, Jr. was indicted on two counts of Rape in the 1st Degree in relation to a sexual assault on December 11, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Kaylee Rizzari, of the Special Victims Unit.

Michael Hunt-Woodruff, Jr. and Joshua Polimeni were indicted on Grand Larceny in the 3rd Degree and Unauthorized Use of a Vehicle in the 3rd Degree in relation to a car theft on December 16, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Terance Calcagno, of the General Felony Bureau.

Clem Long, Jr. was indicted on sixteen counts of Grand Larceny in the 4th Degree and Criminal Possession of a Firearm. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Nicholas Reeder, of the General Felony Bureau.

Letrell Golden was indicted on Grand Larceny in the 4th Degree in relation to a theft from a Walgreens on or about and between October 11, 2023 and October 13, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Christopher Folk, of the Public Integrity/Economic Crimes Bureau.

Hunter Patterson was indicted on Grand Larceny in the 4th Degree in relation to a theft from an individual on February 23, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Christopher Folk, of the Public Integrity/Economic Crimes Bureau.

Chevas Johnson and **Ashley Mitchell** were indicted on Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree, Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 3rd Degree, two counts of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 3rd Degree, and two counts of Endangering the Welfare of a Child. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Bridget Morgan, of the Special Investigation Bureau.

Anterio Ware was indicted on Grand Larceny in the 3rd Degree in relation to a theft from a Speedway on November 9, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Christopher Folk, of the Public Integrity/Economic Crimes Bureau.

Zenus Ponder was indicted on two counts of Burglary in the 3rd Degree and two counts of Petit Larceny in relation to burglaries at two different Home Depots on June 30, 2024, and October 15, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Nico Gonzalez, of the General Felony Bureau.

Zachary Wallace was indicted on Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 3rd Degree in relation to the illegal possession of a large capacity feeding device on January 23, 2025. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Timothy Boucher, of the Special Investigation Bureau.

Lazareth Unzueta was indicted on six counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree, six counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 3rd Degree, and Assault in the 2nd Degree. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Jennifer Kennedy, Deputy Chief of the Special Investigation Bureau.

Jedidiah Aikin was indicted on Assault in the 2nd Degree in relation to the assault of a Gates Police Officer on December 26, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Matthew Schiano, of the Major Felony Bureau.

Brandon Decapua was indicted on Burglary in the 1st Degree as a sexually motivated felony, three counts of Sexual Abuse in the 1st Degree, three counts of Attempted Rape in the 1st Degree, and Public Lewdness in relation to an attempted rape at the University of Rochester on January 17, 2025. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Sara VanStrydonck, Chief of the Special Victims Unit.

Mitchell Norton was indicted on Burglary in the 3rd Degree and Petit Larceny in relation to a burglary at a Home Depot on March 28, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Nico Gonzalez, of the General Felony Bureau.

Gena Omeara was indicted Grand Larceny in the 4th Degree in relation to a theft from Kohl's on January 5, 2025. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Nicholas Reeder, of the General Felony Bureau.

Meghan Willis was indicted on Driving While Intoxicated, Aggravated Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle in the 1st Degree, Unlawful Fleeing A Police Officer In a Motor Vehicle in the 3rd Degree, Reckless Endangerment in the 2nd Degree, and Reckless Driving in relation to a vehicular incident on May 25, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Mikael Pelkey, of the Vehicular Crimes Bureau.

Kaitlyn Schulz was indicted on Aggravated Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle in the 1st Degree, Driving While Ability Impaired by Drugs, and Driving While Ability Impaired by the Combined Influence of Drugs or of Alcohol and any Drug or Drugs in relation to a vehicular incident on June 7, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Mikael Pelkey, of the Vehicular Crimes Bureau.

Angel Fernandez was indicted on Assault in the 2nd Degree in relation to an assault with a dangerous instrument on January 15, 2025. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Aliyah Fowler, of the Major Felony Bureau.

Xavier Acevedo was indicted on Burglary in the 3rd Degree and Petit Larceny in relation to a burglary at a Wegmans on November 5, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Nicholas Reeder, of the General Felony Bureau.

Federic Ortiz-Garcia was indicted on Burglary in the 3rd Degree and Petit Larceny in relation to a burglary on December 5, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Nicholas Reeder, of the General Felony Bureau.

Paul Skelly was indicted on two counts of Driving While Ability Impaired by Drugs and Driving While Ability Impaired by the Combined Influence of Drugs or of Alcohol and any Drug or Drugs in relation to a vehicular incident on August 14, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Courtney Kleiman, of the Vehicular Crimes Bureau.

Taisha Garcia was indicted on Burglary in the 3rd Degree and Petit Larceny in relation to a burglary at a Wegmans on December 11, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Nicholas Reeder, of the General Felony Bureau.

Tajmeik Hawkins was indicted on Robbery in the 1st Degree and Robbery in the 2nd Degree in relation to an armed robbery on December 26, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Ellie Laloudakis, of the Major Felony Bureau.

Victor Leon Jackson, Jr. was indicted on Driving While Intoxicated, Aggravated Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle in the 1st Degree, and Driving a Vehicle Not Equipped With an Ignition Interlock Device in relation to a vehicular incident on January 24, 2025. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Mikael Pelkey, of the Vehicular Crimes Bureau.

Danny Pabon was indicted on Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the 3rd Degree and Unauthorized Use of a Vehicle in the 3rd Degree in relation to the possession of a stolen car on January 13, 2025. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Terance Calcagno, of the General Felony Bureau.

World Read Aloud Day!

Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley was proud to participate in World Read Aloud Day at John James Audubon School #33. She read the book "Exquisite: The Poetry and Life of Gwendolyn Brooks," to Mrs. Connolly's fourth grade class. There were many book lovers in the class and the students asked great questions about education, reading, attorneys, and writing. Keep reading!



MCDA in the News

https://nypost.com/2025/01/31/us-news/hochul-backs-nyc-das-push-to-reform-discovery-laws-by-closing-loopholes-that-let-criminals-walk-free-on-technicalities/

https://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/news/2025/02/04/serdar-ozmen-pleads-guilty-kidnapping-sexually-assaulting-brighton-ny-teen/78205195007/

https://13wham.com/news/local/nyc-man-pleads-guilty-to-kidnapping-teen-from-brighton-home-serdar-ozmen-restrained-sexually-motivated-felony

https://www.whec.com/top-news/new-york-city-man-pleaded-guilty-to-kindapping-and-sexually-assaulting-local-teen/

https://www.rochesterfirst.com/brighton/nyc-man-admits-to-kidnapping-sexually-assaulting-brighton-teen/

https://brooklyneagle.com/articles/2025/02/05/brooklyn-man-pleads-guilty-to-sex-crimes-upstate/

https://www.rochesterfirst.com/crime/driver-arrested-in-deadly-i-490-crashfaces-more-charges/ https://www.rochesterfirst.com/news/news-8s-james-gilbert-visits-schoolno-33-for-world-read-aloud-day/ https://www.whec.com/top-news/rochester-central-library-and-others-willcelebrate-world-read-aloud-day/