

Monroe County
District Attorney
Sandra Doorley

March 28, 2025



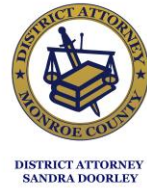
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Monroe County
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Weekly Newsletter



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

Discovery and the New York State Budget

Next week marks the deadline for the 2025-2026 New York State Budget. The budget is filled with Governor Hochul's priorities for the upcoming 12 months and how all state programs are funded.

Governor Hochul's proposed changes to discovery laws in this year's budget represent common-sense reforms aimed at ensuring justice. During our advocacy efforts, we have encountered confusion and misinformation. Let me be clear, the discovery proposals are not a repeal of the 2019 reforms; rather, they are a logical response to some of its unintended consequences.

Alongside the District Attorneys Association of the State of New York, I firmly stand behind Governor Hochul's budget proposal. These changes are imperative, as they will reduce case processing times and help prevent the exploitation of speedy trial statutes, which often lead to dismissals based on technicalities instead of the merits of a case. Moreover, the proposal introduces a harm-proportionate remedy to the discovery process, clarifying that dismissals should only occur when a defendant's case is actually harmed by a failure to provide discovery.

This week, I submitted a letter to the twelve members of the New York State Assembly and Senate who represent parts of Monroe County. In the letter, I strongly emphasized the urgent need for these changes and provided examples of cases that were dismissed due to late discovery disclosures that were beyond the control of the Monroe County District Attorney's Office. These cases included a Forcible Touching misdemeanor, a gun possession case, and a vehicular homicide. In each instance, the Assistant District Attorney acted promptly by submitting discovery as soon as it became available, but this occurred after the deadline for declaring readiness. Under the Governor's new proposal, while the defense would still be entitled to this discovery, there would be time allowed for review instead of an immediate dismissal.

We are concerned about case dismissals every day in our town and village courts, particularly for misdemeanors like DWIs. Given the extensive documentation involved—such as tow logs, breath analysis documents, weekly logs, rolling logs, calibration reports, and blood draw toxicology reports—there are simply not enough hours in the day for prosecutors, police agency staff, and employees at the Crime Lab and the Monroe County Medical Examiner's Office.

Homicide Update

To Date 2025:

City of Rochester Total: 7

Monroe County Total: 9

We cannot control the timelines of outside agencies. Therefore, we hope these new discovery measures pass, providing necessary support to prosecutors who make a good faith effort to obtain and disclose information as quickly as possible.

In Monroe County, we have maintained an open discovery policy since I started in 1992. This has always been our stance as ethical prosecutors committed to transparency and a fair criminal justice system. However, the current law mandates immediate disclosure of often excessive and duplicative materials, placing our cases at risk of dismissal. As the Governor's proposal is written, discovery within a short timeframe remains a legal obligation. The budget does not negate our responsibility to deliver timely discovery to the defense and cases can still be dismissed if discovery violations result from our mistakes and errors, which makes sense and is just.

I strongly urge our legislators to take decisive action and support Governor Hochul's budget as it relates to discovery. A vote in favor of this discovery proposal is truly a vote for justice.

Sandra

Highlights from the MCDA's Office

The People vs. Herbert Montgomery will continue into next week.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Patrick Gallagher, Chief of the Domestic Violence Bureau.

The defendant is charged with Murder in the 2nd Degree in front of Monroe County Court Judge Dollinger.

The People vs. Raymere Alexander will continue into next week.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Matthew Schiano, of the Major Felony Bureau.

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

On Monday, jury selection will begin for the **People vs. Frederick Blocker**.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Aliyah Fowler, of the Major Felony Bureau.

The defendant is charged with Robbery in the 1st Degree and Robbery in the 2nd Degree in front of New York State Supreme Court Justice Schiano.

On Monday, jury selection will begin for the **People vs. Walter Balkum, Jr.** This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Kaylee Rizzari, of the Special Victims Unit.

The defendant is charged with Manslaughter in the 1st Degree, Aggravated Criminal Contempt, and two counts of Assault in the 2nd Degree in front of New York State Supreme Court Justice Renzi.

On Monday, jury selection will begin for the **People vs. Lloyd Kennedy.** This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Bridget Morgan, of the Special Investigations Bureau and Assistant District Attorney Angela Carson, of the General Felony Bureau.

The defendant is charged with two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree, two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 3rd Degree and Menacing in the 2nd Degree in front of New York State Supreme Court Justice Sinclair.

20-year-old **Jymere Feliciano** pled guilty to Manslaughter in the 1st Degree for the fatal shooting of Jaden Scott. On July 26, 2024, Rochester Police Officers responded to Nassau Street for reported gunshots. Upon arrival, they located 17-year-old Jaden Scott in the street with a gunshot wound to his upper body. He was immediately transported to Strong Memorial Hospital, where he died from his injuries two days later. After a thorough investigation by the Rochester Police Department, Jymere Feliciano was identified as the shooter. He was located in the State of Georgia and was arrested by local authorities. The investigators determined that the two walked past each other on Nassau Street, both armed, when the defendant pulled out his illegally possessed weapon and shot Jaden Scott. Jymere Feliciano will be sentenced to 20 years in the New York State Department of Corrections plus 5 years of post-release supervision. The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Adam VanHeyst, Deputy Chief of the Major Felony Bureau.

39-year-old **Anthony Hall** pled guilty to an indictment charging him with Assault in the 2nd Degree for the assault of a Rochester Police Department Officer. He will be sentenced to 2 years in the New York State Department of Corrections plus 2 years of post-release supervision. On January 2, 2025, Rochester Police Officers were called to a home on East Main Street for a reported domestic incident. When officers responded, Anthony Hall refused to comply and leave, requiring them to detain him. While attempting to take him into custody an altercation ensued, resulting in a Rochester Police Officer suffering a broken thumb. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Adam VanHeyst, Deputy Chief of the Major Felony Bureau.

20-year-old **Anastasia Weaver** pled guilty to the indictment charging her with Manslaughter in the 2nd Degree for recklessly causing the death of her infant, Sulamain Hawkins, Jr. on August 3, 2024. This case was investigated by the Rochester Police Department and prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Sara VanStrydonck. New York State Supreme Court Justice Argento sentenced her to 1-3 years in the New York State Department of Corrections.

Monroe County Court Judge Hahn sentenced 64-year-old **Roy Timmons** to the maximum sentence allowed by law, 25 Years to Life in the New York State Department of Corrections. Roy Timmons was previously convicted by a jury of Attempted Assault in the 1st Degree, two counts of Assault in the 2nd Degree, and Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 3rd Degree for attacking a man with a hatchet on January 11, 2023 in the City of Rochester. Roy Timmons was sentenced as a Persistent Violent Felony Offender due to his multiple prior violent felony convictions, including Attempted Robbery in the 2nd Degree, Assault in the 2nd Degree, Robbery in the 1st Degree, Attempted Robbery in the 1st Degree, and Murder in the 2nd Degree. Roy Timmons was on Parole for Murder in the 2nd Degree at the time of this hatchet attack. On January 11, 2023, Rochester Police Officers responded to the Hyatt Regency Hotel on East Main Street for a report of a male yelling for help. Upon arrival, a 42-year-old man was found with stab wounds to his hand, forearm, and shoulder blade. The man also suffered a fractured heel bone that he sustained after jumping down a flight of stairs in an attempt to escape from the defendant's hatchet attack. The man was immediately transported to Strong Memorial Hospital, where he eventually recovered from his injuries. The case was prosecuted by Special Assistant District Attorney Anthony Freeman, of the Non-Fatal Shooting Task Force.

MCDA in the Community

Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley and the Assistant District Attorneys in the Vehicular Crimes Bureau attended the annual Stop-DWI and Traffic Safety Board Awards Luncheon. Assistant District Attorney Merrick Sadler, Chief of the Vehicular Crimes Bureau, gave the keynote presentation on upcoming legislation and the challenges of drugged driving prosecutions.



Congratulations to all of this year's award winners, these law enforcement officers are on the roads every day making our community safer.



Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley attended Lifespan's annual Celebration of Aging Luncheon. Every year, this luncheon brings in an excellent keynote speaker and honors those in our community who are making it better for older adults! This year's speaker was John Quinones, from ABC's network show "What Would You Do?" John spoke about the importance of helping others. This annual fundraiser was sold out, with 1,400 people in attendance. Congratulations to Lifespan CEO, Ann Marie Cook on the successful event!





To see the entire list of services offered by lifespan, visit <https://www.lifespan-roch.org/resource-lists>.

MCDA in the News

<https://13wham.com/news/local/rochester-man-pleads-guilty-to-manslaughter-in-teens-shooting-death-nassau-street-jaden-scott-jymere-feliciano>

<https://www.rochesterfirst.com/crime/manslaughter-plea-in-2024-shooting-death-of-17-year-old-in-rochester/>

<https://13wham.com/news/local/former-city-of-rochester-employee-pleads-guilty-to-assaulting-police-officer-anthony-hall-pathways-to-peace-monroe-county-community-resource-collaborative>

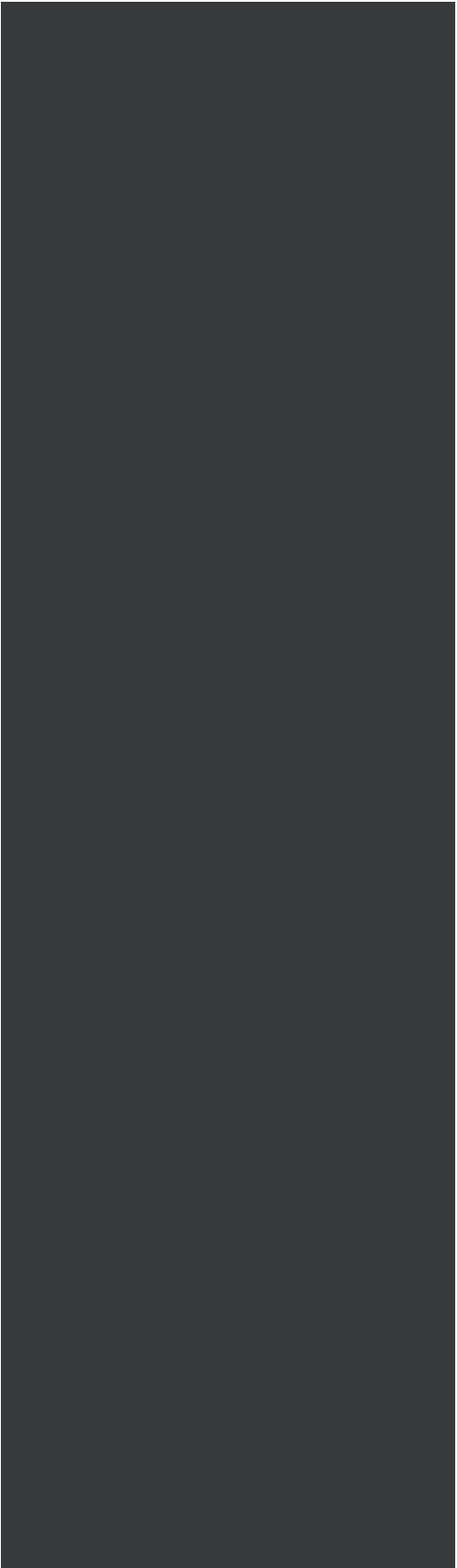
<https://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/news/2025/03/25/anthony-hall-admits-to-injuring-officer-in-rochester-ny/82647826007/>

<https://www.whec.com/top-news/former-city-employee-due-to-be-sentenced-for-stealing-from-neighborhood-association/>

<https://www.rochesterfirst.com/crime/anthony-hall-will-be-sentenced-on-grand-larceny-charge/>

<https://13wham.com/news/local/rochester-woman-pleads-guilty-to-manslaughter-in-dog-attack-that-killed-infant-son-anastasia-weaver-sulamain-hawkins-smoke-marijuana-bidwell-terrace>

<https://www.rochesterfirst.com/crime/mother-of-3-month-old-mauled-to-death-headed-to-prison-after-pleading-guilty-to-manslaughter/>



<https://www.whec.com/top-news/teen-mother-of-baby-mauled-to-death-by-dogs-pleads-guilty-to-manslaughter/>

<https://13wham.com/news/local/teen-arraigned-in-rochester-court-for-march-19-homicide>

<https://www.rochesterfirst.com/news/rochester-police-arrest-man-linked-to-spencer-st-shooting/>

<https://wdkx.com/teen-arraigned-in-rochester-city-court-for-homicide-of-38-year-old-woman-on-spencer-street-pleads-not-guilty-to-murder-charges/>

<https://www.whec.com/top-news/teen-arrested-after-accused-of-shooting-and-killing-a-woman-on-spencer-street-wednesday/>