

Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley

June 7, 2024



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Monroe County District
Attorney's Office

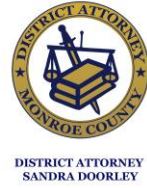
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Monroe County District Attorney's Office

Weekly Newsletter



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

End of School Year & Summer Safety

With only weeks of the school year remaining, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate this year's seniors and warn all teenagers, and their parents, about the dangers of end of the year festivities.

The end of the school year is an exciting time for teenagers and their families. From prom to the last day of school to graduation, these are momentous occasions filled with anticipation and fun.

With this time of year, comes challenging conversations. Our first priority as parents is to keep our children safe. We raise our children with the morals and values we hope they emulate, then trust them to make the right choices when it comes to drugs, alcohol, and safety. Here are some things to keep in mind when preparing for your or your child's end-of-the-year parties.

There are no safe illegal drugs. I have said this time and time again, you cannot trust a drug dealer. Dealers only care about their money. They do not care about the well-being of their client, even if they are a teenager. With the mixing of fentanyl and other narcotics, no street drugs are safe for a teenager, or anyone.

Let's talk about the most popular drug, alcohol. Perhaps the most common substance teenagers seek for parties. Alcohol can lead to dangerous circumstances for everyone involved, especially on the road. Please, remind your children, drinking that and driving is among the worst choices someone can make. You risk hurting yourself and everyone on the road. My office sees an increase in DWI cases this time of year.

This past week, the community lost an 18-year-old young woman with her entire life ahead of her. Maria Eichas from Spencerport, was hit and killed by a drunk driver in Parma, and another young woman was severely injured. There was no reason for this teenager to lose her life.

Please talk to your children about the risks that come along with these well-deserved celebrations. This should be some of the best times of a teenager's life, let us do our part to emphasize safety and preparation. I do not share this information to scare parents or cause distrust.

Homicide Update

To Date 2024:

City of Rochester Total:
21

Monroe County Total: 22

It seems like just yesterday I was taking pictures at prom and clapping at graduation for my daughters. Enjoy this time and congratulations on another milestone for your family!

Sandra

Highlights from the MCDA's Office

38-year-old **Desmond O'Neill** was convicted by a Monroe County jury of Predatory Sexual Assault Against a Child and Endangering the Welfare of a Child for the sexual abuse against a child under the age of 13. This case was investigated by Monroe County Sheriff's Office. This abuse occurred on or about and between April 1, 2017 and April 7, 2020 in the Town of Chili. The defendant and the victims were known to each other. Desmond O'Neill also was convicted of Endangering the Welfare of a Child for risking the welfare of a separate child victim between April 1, 2019 and October 31, 2023. This case was prosecuted by Special Assistant District Attorney Kevin Sunderland, of the Special Victims Unit. Desmond O'Neill will be sentenced on July 14, 2024, in front of Monroe County Court Judge Randall.

New York State Supreme Court Justice Stephen Miller sentenced 49-year-old **Shawn Appleberry** to 20 years to Life in the New York State Department of Corrections and 15 years in the New York State Department of Corrections plus 5 years of post-release supervision to run concurrent. Shawn Appleberry was previously convicted by a jury of Murder in the Second Degree and Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree for the murder of Desmin Diggs. On March 21, 2022, shortly after midnight, Rochester Police Officers and emergency responders were called for a man shot on East Ridge Road near Hollenbeck Street in the City of Rochester. Upon arriving at the scene, officers found Desmin Diggs in the parking lot of a business, where he was pronounced deceased. Rochester Police Officers identified Shawn Appleberry as Desmin Diggs' killer. Shawn Appleberry was arrested following the shooting after attempting to hide the murder weapon. The two men did not have a relationship before Shawn Appleberry pulled his illegally possessed firearm and shot Desmin Diggs. Shawn Appleberry was apprehended by the Rochester Police Department and was charged with the murder. The case was prosecuted by Special Assistant District Attorney Kevin Sunderland, of the Special Victims Unit.

The trial for People vs. **Shamere Freeman** will continue into next week. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Kristina Hinkley of the Special Victims Unit and Assistant District Attorney James Nguyen, also of the Special Victims Unit. The defendant is charged with Rape in the 1st Degree and Rape in the 3rd Degree in front of Acting Monroe County Court Judge Healy.

53-year-old **Elona Roberts** was arraigned in Irondequoit Town Court before Judge Jennifer Whitman-Devoe on Grand Larceny in the second degree and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the first degree in relation to the alleged theft of over \$121,000 in state pension checks. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Greg Clark, Chief of the Public Integrity/Economic Crimes Bureau. She is scheduled to return to Irondequoit Town Court on June 18, 2024.

33-year-old **Alexander Hackett** was arraigned on Vehicular Manslaughter in the 2nd Degree in relation to the vehicular death of 18-year-old Maria Eichas. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Raymond Benitez, Chief of the Vehicular Crimes Bureau.

Brighton Citizens' Police Academy

On Wednesday, Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley attended the Citizens' Police Academy hosted by the Brighton Police Department. The participants this year were engaged and had a lively discussion about the criminal justice system. Thank you to Chief Catholdi and Sergeant Halpin for coordinating this year's presentations!



MCDA in the Community

Assistant District Attorney Raymond Benitez, Chief of the Vehicular Crimes Bureau attended the annual DWI Reenactment for Rush Henrietta High School.

In preparation for prom, this event reminds the seniors at Rush Henrietta High School the dangers of driving while under the influence. Programs like these are important to have serve as a reminder for the young people in our community of the dangers connected to committing DWI or DWAI Drugs. Always remember, if you feel different, you drive different! To everyone who will be celebrating this weekend, be safe and have fun.



Assistant District Attorney Ryan Lamon was featured in the Rochester Institute of Technology's alumni spotlight for his work at the Monroe County District Attorney's Office. ADA Lamon began in the Local Court Bureau, was promoted to the Public Integrity/Economic Crimes Bureau, and now serves as the Youth Part ADA in the Major Felony Bureau. Good work, Ryan!

[Assistant DA Lauds RIT's Criminal Justice Faculty for Outstanding Support | RIT](#)

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Assistant DA Lauds RIT's Criminal Justice Faculty for Outstanding Support

RIT | **Features Profiles and Work** | Assistant DA Lauds RIT's Criminal Justice Faculty for Outstanding Support

May 30, 2024 **Ryan Lamon**

From student to senior assistant district attorney, Ryan Lamon credits RIT's supportive faculty and diverse opportunities for his journey to success in the criminal justice field.



MCDA in the News

<https://13wham.com/news/local/local-man-gets-20-years-to-life-for-east-ridge-road-murder>

<https://www.whec.com/top-news/justice-was-served-mother-of-desmin-diggs-speaks-out-after-shawn-appleberry-sentenced-for-sons-murder/>

<https://wham1180.iheart.com/content/2024-06-04-rochester-man-sentenced-in-homicide-outside-restaurant/>

<https://www.whec.com/local/man-sentenced-for-deadly-shooting-on-east-ridge-road-after-months-of-appeals/>

<https://www.whec.com/local/man-found-guilty-of-child-sexual-assault-tuesday/>

<https://13wham.com/newsletter-daily/man-38-convicted-of-predatory-sexual-assault-against-a-child-in-chili-desmond-oneill->

<https://www.rochesterfirst.com/news/local-news/man-convicted-of-sexual-assault-against-a-child-and-endangering-the-welfare-of-a-child/>

<https://www.rochesterfirst.com/crime/rochester-woman-accused-of-stealing-121k-of-dead-grandmothers-pension-payments/>

<https://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/news/2024/06/03/maria-eichas-killed-in-parma-ny-crash-alexander-hackett-charged/73960811007/>

<https://www.13wham.com/news/local/driver-charged-with-vehicular-manslaughter-following-fatal-crash-in-parma-burritt-butcher-road-hilton-spencerport-high-school-victim>

<https://www.rochesterfirst.com/crime/rochester-woman-accused-of-stealing-121k-of-dead-grandmothers-pension-payments/>

<https://www.osc.ny.gov/press/releases/2024/06/dinapoli-rochester-woman-arrested-stealing-121k-pension-checks-sent-her-late-grandmother>



We are hiring attorneys! If you are a recent law school graduate or an experienced attorney and are interested in a career in criminal law and public service, apply with us today! More information is available on monroecounty.gov/da.

