

Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley

April 12, 2024



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Monroe County District
Attorney's Office

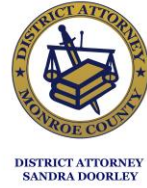
47 S. Fitzhugh Street
Rochester, NY 14614

(585) 753-4780



Monroe County District Attorney's Office

Weekly Newsletter



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

Lifetime Achievement Winner, Raymond Benitez!

Yesterday, Assistant District Attorney Ray Benitez, Chief of the Vehicular Crimes Bureau, received the Traffic Safety Board Jim Pond Lifetime Achievement Award at the Monroe County Stop-DWI & Traffic Safety Board Awards Luncheon.

The Jim Pond Lifetime Achievement Award is presented to a recipient who exemplifies the commitment to promoting safe roadways and reducing traffic injuries and fatalities in our community over an extended and significant period. There is nobody who is a better fit for this than our own Ray Benitez.

Let me tell you a little bit about Ray. He has been a prosecutor in the Monroe County District Attorney's Office for 24 years, and before that, he was an Officer with the Rochester Police Department. From a young age, Ray's parents instilled values of respect, hard work, and public service. When Ray was a child, his family moved from Puerto Rico to the Rochester area, where he was enrolled at St. Louis School and McQuaid Jesuit High School.

Ray worked his way up through the office, beginning in the Local Courts Bureau, the Domestic Violence Bureau, the Child Abuse Bureau, and was the chief of the Special Investigations Bureau. When I first took office in 2012, I knew that the Vehicular Crimes Bureau (then titled Felony DWI Bureau) needed a strong force and an excellent teacher to lead these important cases. ADA Benitez has led this bureau for over 14 years, and our community is better because of it.

Ray leads by example. He prosecutes the most difficult DWI and Vehicular Homicides in Monroe County. These cases are emotional and the laws are restrictive. Ray knows how to talk with victims and their families and he knows how to find justice in each and every case.

ADA Benitez also remains involved in the community, especially when it comes to traffic safety. Every year, you will find him at the "Lights on for Life" Stop-DWI Motorcade, a re-enactment of a DWI tragedy for teenagers before prom, information panels, and various trainings and community events. Ray stays in touch with victims and advocates for traffic safety for our entire community.

Everything I shared is what people from outside of my office think of Ray, now I would like to acknowledge how the rest of the Monroe County District Attorney's Office feels about Ray.

Homicide Update

To Date 2024:

City of Rochester Total:
11

Monroe County Total: 11

Ray is among the best supervisors and mentors that our office has to offer. He is honest and kind, but also always tells the newer ADAs what they need to hear to succeed. He is tough, fair, and is loved by his attorneys. At the end of the day, Ray cares. He cares about his employees, he cares about victims, and he cares about the community.

I could not be prouder of Ray and all that he has accomplished during his time in the Monroe County District Attorney's Office. He has made our roadways safer and he has made Monroe County a safer place to live, work, and raise a family. He is the most deserving of the Jim Pond Lifetime Achievement Award.

Sandra



Pictured above is ADA Raymond Benitez and the Vehicular Crimes Bureau



Pictured above is 1st ADA Perry Duckles accepting the award on Ray's behalf

Highlights from the MCDA's Office

The People vs. **Randy Burney** will continue into next week. The defendant is charged with Murder in the 2nd Degree, two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree, and Assault in the 2nd Degree in front of New York State Supreme Court Justice Sinclair. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Jessica Wagner, of the Special Victims Unit.

The People vs. **Shonn Todd** will continue into next week. The defendant is charged with Murder in the 2nd Degree and Arson in the 2nd Degree in front of New York State Supreme Court Justice Argento. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Sara VanStrydonck, Chief of the Special Victims Unit, and Assistant District Attorney Janna Jehlen, also of the Special Victims Unit.

27-year-old **Hayden Cypressi** was sentenced by Monroe County Court Judge Vacca to 18 years in the New York State Department of Corrections plus 15 years of post-release supervision and will have to register as a sex offender. Cypressi previously pled guilty to Attempted Rape in the 1st Degree and Sexual Abuse in the 1st Degree. During the months of May 2022 – October 2022, there were reports of sexual assaults from women walking in the area of Park Avenue in the City of Rochester. The Rochester Police Department investigated these assaults and identified Hayden Cypressi as the assailant. The defendant admitted to the attempted rape and sexual assault of four women during this time frame. All four victims were strangers. This case was prosecuted by Special Assistant District Attorney Hillary Langdon, of the Special Victims Unit.

Christopher Mccrea was indicted on Murder in the 2nd Degree and two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree in relation to the homicide of Julius June. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Tony DiPerna, of the Special Investigations Bureau.

Lavaughn Quarles was indicted on Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 1st Degree, Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 2nd Degree, seven counts of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 3rd Degree, two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree, and two counts of Criminally Using Drug Paraphernalia in the 2nd Degree. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Tony DiPerna, of the Special Investigations Bureau.

Leon Green was indicted on Driving While Intoxicated in relation to a vehicular incident on August 11, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Drew Kroft, of the Vehicular Crimes Bureau.

Rafael Colon was indicted on Driving While Intoxicated in relation to a vehicular incident on May 11, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Drew Kroft, of the Vehicular Crimes Bureau.

Eddie Williams was indicted Assault in the 2nd Degree and Strangulation in the 2nd Degree in relation to a domestic assault on October 22, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Aaron Rath, of the Special Victims Unit.

Javaris Owens was indicted on Criminal Possession of a Firearm in relation to the possession of an illegal weapon on April 16, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Robin Catalano, Chief of the Special Investigations Bureau.

Shaundale Williams was indicted on Criminal Possession of a Stolen Property in the 3rd Degree, Criminal Mischief in the 3rd Degree, and Unauthorized Use of a Stolen Vehicle in relation to the possession of a stolen vehicle on July 25, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Courtney Kleiman, of the General Felony Bureau.

Joseph Mullen was indicted on Burglary in the 1st Degree in relation the armed burglary of a home on March 21, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Camille Ingino, of the Major Felony Bureau.

Wayne Barrett was indicted on Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree in relation to the possession of an illegal firearm on March 21, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Ryan Mulcahy, of the Special Investigations Bureau.

Jesse Himes was indicted on Attempted Robbery in the 1st Degree in relation to an attempted armed robbery on March 28, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Emily Chisholm, of the Major Felony Bureau.

Jamel Agee was indicted on Assault in the 2nd Degree in relation to the assault of a parole officer on Mach 21, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Megan Hausner, of the Major Felony Bureau.

Samuel Ciaramaglia was indicted on Driving While Intoxicated in relation to a vehicular incident on July 17, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Diane Orosz-Roy, of the Vehicular Crimes Bureau.

Dillon Stanton was indicted on Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree in relation to the illegal possession of a weapon on October 4, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Stephen Ryck, of the Special Investigations Bureau.

Tomas Christie was indicted on Predatory Sexual Assault Against a Child. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Janna Jehlen, of the Special Victims Unit.

Devonne Parris was indicted on Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance, 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 weapon and narcotics on March 26, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Stephen Ryck, of the Special Investigations Bureau.

Shaundale Williams was indicted on Robbery in the 3rd Degree in relation to a robbery at a 7-Eleven on August 18, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Aliyah Fowler, of the Major Felony Bureau.

Terry Manuel was indicted on Tampering with Physical Evidence and Petit Larceny. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Armando Benitez, of the General Felony Bureau.

Frederick Blocker and **Joy Gauson** were indicted on Robbery in the 1st Degree and Robbery in the 2nd Degree in relation to an armed robbery located at a Dollar Tree on March 23, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Aliyah Fowler, of the Major Felony Bureau.

Diego Mojena was indicted on Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree in relation to the possession of an illegal firearm on March 22, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Jennifer Kennedy, Deputy Chief of the Special Investigations Bureau.

Tisa Willis was indicted on Burglary in the 3rd Degree in relation to a burglary at a Walgreens on March 22, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Courtney Kleiman, of the General Felony Bureau.

Richard Fecik was indicted on Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Fourth Degree in the 4th Degree in relation to the possession of a stolen vehicle on May 3, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Courtney Kleiman, of the General Felony Bureau.

Bivona MOU

Bivona Child Advocacy Center held its annual Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Signing press conference. This MOU is for the partners of the Multidisciplinary Team, a multi-agency collaborative effort that is coordinated, integrated, and facilitated by Bivona Child Advocacy Center. This team includes local law enforcement agencies, victim services, medical professionals, and other organizations.

Signing on behalf of the Monroe County District Attorney's Office was Assistant District Attorney Sara Vanstrydonck, Chief of the Special Victims Unit. Like the attorneys in the Special Victims Unit, the members of the Bivona Multidisciplinary Team know what it takes to be an advocate for the children in our community. At this year's MOU signing, Bivona also shared information about their expansion. Thank you to Bivona for your continuous advocacy for the children in our community.



MCDCA in the News

<https://www.whec.com/local/man-sentenced-to-18-years-in-prison-for-string-of-attempted-rapes-in-park-avenue-neighborhood/>

<https://13wham.com/news/local/park-avenue-neighborhood-attempted-rape-suspect-hayden-cypressi-man-sentenced-for-string-of-sex-abuse-in-rochester-sexual-assault-attempted-rape>

<https://www.minorityreporter.net/post/man-sentenced-to-18-years>

<https://www.rochesterfirst.com/crime/man-sentenced-to-18-years-in-prison-for-attempted-rape/>

<https://wham1180.iheart.com/content/2024-04-10-accused-park-ave-attacker-sentenced-to-18-years-in-prison/?pname=www.wham1180.com&sc=dnsredirect>

<https://www.rochesterfirst.com/news/garson-avenue-murder-arson-trial-begins/>

<https://www.rochesterfirst.com/irondequoit/bivona-child-advocacy-center-opening-irondequoit-location/>

<https://www.rochesterfirst.com/irondequoit/bivona-child-advocacy-center-opening-irondequoit-location/>

<https://13wham.com/news/local/bivona-child-advocacy-center-announces-plans-for-second-location-child-abuse-prevention-month-rochester-irondequoit-beacon-place>

<https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/rochester/news/2024/04/10/bivona-child-advocacy-marks-child-abuse-prevention-month-with--memorandum-of-understanding->



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.