

News Release from
The Honorable Sandra Doorley
Monroe County District Attorney

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Franklin Leonard Sentenced to 40 Years to Life the Attempted
Murder of a 74 Year Old Woman**

Rochester, NY- Today, Supreme Court Justice Francis Affronti sentenced 62 year old Franklin Leonard to 40 years to life for his December 5, 2017 jury trial conviction of Attempted Murder in the First Degree, Kidnapping in the Second Degree, Robbery in the Second Degree, and Menacing in the Second Degree. On the afternoon of October 21, 2015, Franklin Leonard entered the Stefanou Realtors with a ski mask and a gun near the Westgate Plaza in the Town of Gates. Unable to get any property from the Office, Leonard fled to the nearest residential street where he encountered 74 year old Lois W. alone in her driveway. Leonard then abducted the victim by forcing her into her own car and telling her he would kill her if she yelled for help. Leonard ultimately drove the victim to 22 Flint Street in the City of Rochester where he drove up to the Genesee River bank. Leonard then robbed the victim by stealing her purse and other personal belongings. Leonard then dragged the victim out of her car and pushed her into the river. The victim survived, despite being unable to swim. Eyewitness testimony, DNA evidence, and surveillance video helped lead to the Defendant's conviction.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney David Dys, Chief of the Non-Violent Felony Bureau.

“Today's sentencing will ensure Franklin Leonard spends the remainder of his life in the NYS Department of Corrections, unable to harm another innocent person. Leonard's actions on the October 21, 2015 demonstrated he is a danger to any community and has no regard for human life.” said Assistant District Attorney

David Dys. “The successful prosecution of this case was the direct result the collaborative efforts of our office, the Gates Police Department, the Rochester Police Department, the Monroe County Public Safety Laboratory and the NYS Police.”