

MONROE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

WEEKLY BULLETIN

August 21, 2026

From Monroe County District Attorney Brian Green

As summer begins to wind down, families across Monroe County are preparing for a new school year. Soon, our mornings will be filled with school buses, busy crosswalks, children walking and biking to school, and parents adjusting to new routines.

For many children, the first day of school is one of the most exciting days. As adults, it is our responsibility to make sure they can get there and home safely.

Back-to-school safety starts with all of us. I encourage drivers to slow down, stay alert in school zones and residential neighborhoods, put away distractions, and always stop for school buses when required. A few extra seconds of patience behind the wheel can make an enormous difference.

I also encourage parents and caregivers to take a few minutes before the school year begins to talk with children about safety. Remind them to use crosswalks, look both ways before crossing the street, stay aware of their surroundings, and know which trusted adults they can turn to if they ever feel unsafe.

At the Monroe County District Attorney's Office, protecting children is among our most important responsibilities. Our prosecutors see firsthand how profoundly a single dangerous decision can affect a child, a family, and an entire community. Prevention is preferable to prosecution, and we all have a role to play.

The beginning of a new school year represents a fresh start and so much possibility. To every student returning to the classroom, every parent preparing for that first-day drop-off, and every teacher, administrator, bus driver, crossing guard, and school employee welcoming our children back: I wish you a safe, successful, and wonderful school year.



MCDA In the Courtroom

45-year-old **Robert Johnson** was sentenced by Monroe County Court Judge Julie Hahn to 19 years in the New York State Department of Corrections plus 5 years of post-release supervision. He previously pled guilty to Attempted Murder in the 2nd Degree for shooting a woman multiple times with the intent to kill her. Rochester Police Department detectives determined that the victim's ex-boyfriend and the father of her child, Robert Johnson, deliberately targeted the victim. Their child was also inside the residence at the time of the shooting. The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Patrick Gallagher, Chief of the Domestic Violence Bureau, and Senior Assistant District Attorney Courtney Kleiman, of the Special Victims Unit.

41-year-old **Tarrell Carter** was convicted by a jury of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 1st Degree and two counts of Criminally Using Drug Paraphernalia in the 2nd Degree. This conviction resulted from a long-term narcotics investigation led by the Greater Rochester Area Narcotics Enforcement Team. Tarrell Carter will be sentenced by New York State Supreme Court Justice Renzi on September 16, 2026. This case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Aaron Rath, of the Special Investigations Bureau.

35-year-old **Leonel Yas-Pena** was sentenced by New York State Supreme Court Justice Alex Renzi to an indeterminate range of 5-10 years in the New York State Department of Corrections, consecutive to 2 and 1/3 – 7 years in the New York State Department of Corrections, following his plea to Vehicular Manslaughter in the 1st Degree for the death of Henry Brown. This case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Drew Kroft of the Vehicular Crimes Bureau.

Notable Indictments

36-year-old **Tanisha Joyner-Pounds** was indicted on Attempted Assault in the 1st Degree, Assault in the 2nd Degree, Driving While Intoxicated, Endangering the Welfare of a Child, and Resisting Arrest. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Merrick Sadler, Chief of the Vehicular Crimes Bureau.

20-year-old **McKenzie Priest** was indicted on Attempted Murder in the 2nd Degree, two counts of Assault in the 2nd Degree, three counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree, and Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 3rd Degree. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Aliyah Fowler, of the Non-Fatal Shooting Taskforce.

42-year-old **Matthew Lanzatella** and 35-year-old **Sandra Lanzatella** were indicted on Criminal Sexual Act in the 3rd Degree. Matthew Lanzatella was also indicted on an additional four counts of Criminal Sexual Act in the 3rd Degree and two counts of Rape in the 3rd Degree. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Janna Jehlen, of the Special Victims Unit.

44-year-old **Steven McFadden-Sanchez** was indicted on Attempted Murder in the 2nd Degree, Assault in the 1st Degree, and Rape in the 3rd Degree. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Philip Alvaro and Assistant District Attorney Jonathan Jirik, both of the Major Felony Bureau.

25-year-old **India Duncan** and 30-year-old **Joshua Miguel Velez** were indicted on Murder in the 2nd Degree and five counts of Endangering the Welfare of a Child. India Duncan was also indicted on Manslaughter in the 2nd Degree. Joshua Miguel Velez was also indicted on an additional count of Endangering the Welfare of a Child, Grand Larceny in the 4th Degree, Obstructing Governmental Administration in the 2nd Degree, and Harassment in the 2nd Degree. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Hillary Langdon, Chief of the Special Victims Unit and Assistant District Attorney Kaylee Rizzari, also of the Special Victims Unit.

Upcoming Trials

The People vs. **Rudolph Eady**

This defendant is charged with Attempted Arson in the 2nd Degree in front of New York State Supreme Court Justice Victoria Argento. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Ryan Lamon, of the Major Felony Bureau.

The People vs. **Eugene Smith**

The defendant is charged with Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree and two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 3rd Degree in front of Monroe County Court Judge Julie Hahn. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Bridget Morgan, of Special Investigations Bureau.