

**Monroe County
District Attorney
Sandra Doorley**

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Weekly Newsletter



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

Farewell my friend, a Goodbye to Ray Benitez!

Today is bittersweet, as it is the last day at the Office for Assistant District Attorney Raymond Benitez, Chief of the Vehicular Crimes Bureau. After 25 years in the Monroe County District Attorney's Office and his years with the Rochester Police Department before that, Ray is ready for his well-deserved retirement.

Joining the Monroe County Office in 2000, Ray started in the Local Courts Bureau and also spent his career in the Domestic Violence Bureau, the Child Abuse Bureau, and Chief of the Special Investigations Bureau through 2011. 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 13 years, and our community is better because of it.

Ray means so much to so many. Last night, he was honored by not only the District Attorney's Office, but by Monroe County Executive Adam Bello, the New York State Police, and the Rochester Police Department. Over the years, Ray has assisted many police agencies throughout his impressive career.



In the Monroe County District Attorney's Office, all of the newest ADAs want to complete their felony training under Ray. He is kind and he is tough. He is considerate and he is intelligent. He is quick to lighten the mood with a story or a joke and he also takes his job very seriously. If a family member was a victim of a crime, Ray is exactly the type of prosecutor I would want to find justice for my loved one.

As a supervisor, Ray leads by example. He takes the most difficult vehicular homicide cases and serves as a role model to his bureau. These cases are difficult, emotional, and the laws can be restrictive based on the facts and circumstances of the incident. All of this considered, Ray remains empathetic with victims and their families. In each of these cases, he is fully committed to executing the law and finding justice in every case.

Ray is truly an expert inside and outside the office on roadway safety. He takes calls and questions from law enforcement officers daily, often in the middle of the night. Over the past thirteen years, Ray has responded to brutal vehicular homicide scenes at all hours. He is known throughout the county and the State as an advocate for safe roads and sober driving.

From advocating in Albany for safer legislation, to speaking at schools about making good choices, to the annual "Lights on for Life" Stop-DWI Motorcade, Ray is active in the community, especially when it comes to traffic safety.

I could not be prouder of Ray and all that he has accomplished, personally and professionally. He has made our roadways safer and he has made Monroe County a safer place to live, work, and raise a family.

Ray is the best of us, while I will miss seeing him every day, I could not be happier for him.



Sandra

Highlights from the MCDA's Office

53-year-old **Chad Williams** pled guilty the day of his scheduled trial to Rape in the 2nd Degree, the top count of the indictment. The defendant admitted to the rape of a teenager on or about and between May 19, 2021 and May 20, 2021. This case was investigated by the Gates Police Department and prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Kevin Sunderland, Chief of the Local Courts Bureau. Chad Williams will be sentenced on March 11, 2025, in front of New York State Supreme Court Justice Walsh.

Joeseff Moses Shaibi was indicted on two counts of Aggravated Driving While Intoxicated With a Child Passenger, two counts of Driving While Intoxicated, Aggravated Driving While Intoxicated, and two counts of Endangering the Welfare of a Child in relation to a vehicular incident on June 5, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Mikael Pelkey, of the Vehicular Crimes Bureau.

William Owen, Jr. was indicted on Attempted Arson in the 2nd Degree in relation to an attempt to damage a building on January 10, 2024. These cases are being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Matthew Schiano, of the Major Felony Bureau.

Shahiem Miller was indicted on Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree in the relation to the possession of an illegal firearm on October 9, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Michael Caranante, of the Special Investigations Bureau.

Kenny Couser was indicted on Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree in relation to an illegal possession of a firearm on November 9, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Stephen Ryck, of the Special Investigation Bureau.

Darryl Washington was indicted on Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree in relation to an illegal possession of a firearm on October 16, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Stephen Ryck, of the Special Investigation Bureau.

Anthony Hall was indicted on Assault in the 2nd Degree in relation to an assault against a Rochester Police Officer on January 2, 2025. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Michael Harrigan, Chief of the Major Felony Bureau.

Michelle Vongherichten was indicted on Assault in the 2nd Degree in relation to an assault against a Rochester Police Officer on October 5, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Matthew Hogestyn, of the Major Felony Bureau.

Theodore Harrison was indicted on Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree in relation to an illegal possession of a firearm on June 18, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Stephen Ryck, of the Special Investigation Bureau.

Kole Butts was indicted on Attempted Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree in relation to the attempted illegal possession of a firearm on November 16, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Stephen Ryck, of the Special Investigation Bureau.

Jernyvette Santiago was indicted on Aggravated Driving While Intoxicated With a Child Passenger, two counts of Driving While Intoxicated, Aggravated Driving While Intoxicated, and Endangering the Welfare of a Child in relation to a vehicular incident on July 19, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Mikael Pelkey, of the Vehicular Crimes Bureau.

Scott Knapp was indicted on Aggravated Driving While Intoxicated and two counts of Driving While Intoxicated in relation to a vehicular incident on March 2, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Diane Orosz-Roy, of the Vehicular Crimes Bureau

Travis Mitchell was indicted on Criminal Contempt in the 1st Degree and Aggravated Criminal Contempt in relation to the violation of an order of protection on May 25, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney James Nguyen, of the Special Victims Unit.

Hunter Milton-Hall was indicted on Assault in the 2nd Degree, Aggravated Criminal Contempt, Criminal Contempt in the 1st Degree, and Aggravated Family Offense in relation to a domestic assault on September 11, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney James Nguyen, of the Special Victims Unit.

Anthony Kearse was indicted on Robbery in the 2nd Degree in relation to a robbery of an individual on January 13, 2025. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Aliyah Fowler, of the Major Felony Bureau.

Connor Lawrence Baker was indicted on Robbery in the 3rd Degree in relation to a robbery of a Tops employee on December 29, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Nichols Reeder, of the General Felony Bureau.

Inauguration of the 47th President of the United States of America

Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley represented the citizens of Monroe County at the Inauguration of President Donald Trump. We would like to thank Congressman Joseph Morelle for securing this exciting opportunity for several Monroe County residents. At the Inauguration, President Trump discussed his vision for our great country over the next four years.



MCDA in the News

<https://13wham.com/news/local/man-sentenced-in-deadly-point-blank-shooting-in-rochester-north-goodman-street-herley-williams-todd-jones-diringer-place-murder>

<https://www.rochesterfirst.com/crime/man-sentenced-to-prison-for-2023-fatal-shooting-in-rochester/>

<https://www.whec.com/top-news/home-hit-by-gunfire-on-mead-street/>

<https://www.rochesterfirst.com/crime/police/brighton-police-car-break-ins-impacting-suburban-towns/>

https://www.yahoo.com/news/man-sentenced-prison-2023-fatal-195459883.html?guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xlLmNvbS8&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAAC_dDRTxmuznr61KqDdW9Etn1ejUq4sx24ml6cDKDgNyftvphgvfEWQ1618tnEgaevkghU_YD7dAZS6y_vAHvHgBF_y6abqZYG8VrRdF4WvhrxTXN24GggzNDE_t5BmCayS7HIIU0-qPuEwlQeU1HeNTBrNAGCO7grHTdZ0zk1

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/crime/man-sentenced-in-deadly-point-blank-shooting-in-rochester/ar-AA1xoEuV?ocid=BingNewsVerp&apiversion=v2&noservercache=1&domshim=1&renderwebcomponents=1&wcseo=1&batchservertelemetry=1&noservertelemetry=1>

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/crime/general/rochester-man-in-carrabba-s-police-shootout-sentenced-40-years-to-life/ar-AA1xok09?ocid=BingNewsVerp&apiversion=v2&noservercache=1&domshim=1&renderwebcomponents=1&wcseo=1&batchservertelemetry=1&noservertelemetry=1>

<https://13wham.com/news/local/man-sentenced-for-shooting-at-monroe-county-sheriffs-office-deputy-inside-henrietta-restaurant-carrabbas-italian-grill-west-henrietta-road>

<https://www.rochesterfirst.com/crime/rpd-teen-arrested-cuts-family-member-with-sword-multiple-times/>

<https://13wham.com/news/local/2-arrested-in-caniseo-car-theft>

<https://13wham.com/news/local/greece-police-rochester-man-stabbed-during-fight-outside-urgent-care-facility-ur-medicine-west-ridge-road#>