

Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley

March 8, 2024



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Monroe County District
Attorney's Office

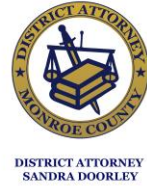
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Monroe County District Attorney's Office

Weekly Newsletter



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

Justice for Wendy Jerome

Nearly 40 years later, I am proud to finally find justice for young Wendy Jerome.

Today, a Monroe County Jury convicted 60-year-old Timothy Williams of three counts of Murder in the 2nd Degree for Wendy's murder on November 22, 1984.

As her mother Marlene stated, "Wendy was an angel." Wendy Jerome was a kind 14-year-old girl who loved her family and her many friends. One night in the most brutal way, Timothy Williams, who was 20-years-old at the time, took this sweet life from her loved ones.

Wendy never was able to graduate high school, start a career, or have a family of her own. Timothy Williams lived as a free man for 36 years. I am relieved that Timothy Williams will finally face his gruesome and violent actions he perpetrated against this 14-year-old girl.



Thank you to the many Rochester Police Investigators who worked on this case over the years which ultimately assisted in today's conviction. I also would like to personally thank former Assistant District Attorney and current County Court Judge, Judge Julie Hahn, for working on this case for many years, never giving up on Wendy.

Finding justice for Wendy and her family, who have waited for 40 years, was truly an honor. It is my sincerest hope that Timothy Williams will never again know a day outside the New York State Department of Corrections for his heinous actions against Wendy.

Justice delayed does not have to mean justice denied. This was the first conviction in New York State due to a Familial DNA test. I can only hope that this tool will continue to be used to bring justice for many more.

It does not matter how long a case has gone unsolved, all victims deserve justice. Even during the years without new information or DNA updates, Wendy was never forgotten. Her family kept her story alive, the Rochester Police

Homicide Update

To Date 2024:

City of Rochester Total: 9

Monroe County Total: 9

Department remained steadfast in this case, and my office never gave up on finding justice for Wendy.

Sandra

Highlights from the MCDA's Office

35-year-old **Willis Knight, Jr.** was convicted by a jury of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree and Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 3rd Degree. This conviction stems from an investigation led by the Rochester Police Department. Through surveillance, investigators located the defendant with an illegal handgun on May 24, 2023, in the area of N. Union and Weld Street in the City of Rochester. This case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Tony DiPerna, of the Special Investigations Bureau. Willis Knight, Jr. will be sentenced by New York State Supreme Court Justice Sinclair on April 9, 2024.

35-year-old **Ashland Clancy** was convicted by a jury of two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree and Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 3rd Degree for the possession of two illegal firearms and a large capacity ammunition feeding device on September 12, 2022. This case was investigated by the Rochester Police Department and prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Stephen Ryck, of the Special Investigations Bureau. Ashland Clancy will be sentenced by Monroe County Court Judge Hahn on May 3, 2024.

27-year-old **Hayden Cypressi** pled guilty to Attempted Rape in the 1st Degree and Sexual Abuse in the 1st Degree for sexual assaults during 2022 around the Park Avenue neighborhood in the City of Rochester. This case was investigated by the Rochester Police Department and prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Hillary Langdon, of the Special Victims Unit. Hayden Cypressi will be sentenced to 18 years in the New York State Department of Corrections plus 15 years of post-release supervision in front of Monroe County Court Judge Vacca on April 10, 2024.

55-year-old **Brian Simpson** pled guilty to Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the 2nd Degree for violating the law regarding worker's compensation. He was sentenced to 3 years of Probation supervision, along with full restitution of \$16,764.78 to be returned to the New York State Insurance Fraud. This case was investigated by the New York State Inspector General's Office and prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Ryan Lamon, of the Public Integrity and Economic Crimes Bureau.

30-year-old **Nicholas Turner** pled guilty to Unlawful Dissemination or Publication of an Intimate Image in relation to a revenge porn attempt against an ex-partner. This case was investigated by the Webster Police Department and prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Kirby Leggett. Nicholas Turner will be sentenced by Webster Town Justice Seppeler to two years of probation.

Craig Singletary was indicted on two counts of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 3rd Degree in relation to the possession of illegal narcotics on February 18, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Tony DiPerna, of the Special Investigations Bureau.

Roderick Young was indicted on two counts of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 3rd Degree in relation to the possession of illegal narcotics on December 26, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Adam VanHeyst, of the Non-Fatal Shooting Taskforce.

Prince Pressley was indicted on two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree in relation to the possession of an illegal firearm on February 16, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Ryan Mulcahy, of the Special Investigations Bureau.

Yanally Alfaro and **Shaka Brooks** were indicted on four counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 3rd Degree. Shaka Brooks was also indicted on four counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree. Yanally Alfaro was also indicted on four counts of Criminal Possession of a Firearm. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Timothy Boucher, of the Special Investigations Bureau.

Michael Colon was indicted on Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 3rd Degree and Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 3rd Degree in relation to the possession of illegal narcotics on February 16, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Timothy Boucher, of the Special Investigations Bureau.

Ruben Smith was indicted on Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree and Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 3rd Degree in relation to the illegal possession of narcotics and a firearm on December 2, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Tony DiPerna, of the Special Investigations Bureau.

Reign Tapiato was indicted on Murder in the 2nd Degree and Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree in relation to the murder of Jakarah Lopez-Moore and the illegal possession of a firearm. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Michael Caranante, of the Special Investigations Bureau.

Jesus Otero-Santos was indicted on Burglary in the 3rd Degree in relation to a burglary in Walmart on February 22, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Terance Calcagno, of the General Felony Bureau.

Sara Tombari was indicted on Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 3rd Degree in relation to the possession of illegal narcotics on September 20, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Stephen Ryck, of the Special Investigations Bureau.

Marcello Smith was indicted on Burglary in the 3rd Degree in relation to a burglary of a Walgreens on November 22, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Terance Calcagno, of the General Felony Bureau.

MCDA in the Community

Sabrina Lamar, the victim and community advocate for the Non-Fatal Shooting Taskforce, received the Woman of Distinction Award from the City of Rochester's Black Heritage Committee. As former President of the Monroe County Legislature and constant advocate for her community, Sabrina was acknowledged for her impact on the Greater Rochester area. Congratulations to Sabrina for this well-deserved honor!



Assistant District Attorney Robin Catalano, Chief of the Special Investigations Bureau, joined a panel for the Monroe County Bar Association's 2024 Leadership Academy

ADA Catalano joined partners in the community and law enforcement to discuss the way we prosecuted crimes and work with the United States Attorney's Office.



MCDA in the News

<https://13wham.com/news/local/my-life-is-over-video-of-florida-interrogation-shown-in-timothy-williams-retrial-wendy-jerome-rochester-rape-murder-thanksgiving-1984>

<https://www.whec.com/top-news/doctor-who-performed-autopsy-on-rochester-girl-murdered-in-1984-testifies-about-her-brutal-injuries/>

<https://www.wxnews.org/local-news/2024-03-01/kelvin-vickers-sentenced-to-life-in-prison-without-parole-for-murder-of-rpd-officer-and-two-others>

<https://13wham.com/news/local/da-two-key-pieces-of-dna-evidence-match-suspect-in-14-year-old-girls-1984-rape-murder-wendy-jerome-timothy-williams-rochester-sandra-doorley#>

<https://13wham.com/news/local/27-year-old-man-indicted-for-16-year-old-girls-murder-in-rochester-reign-tapiato-jakarah-lopez-moore-lyell-vanguard-weld-fishermen-found-body#>

<https://wham1180.iheart.com/content/2024-03-06-man-indicted-in-rochester-teens-murder/>

<https://www.rochesterfirst.com/crime/man-pleads-guilty-to-attempted-rape-on-park-avenue/>

<https://www.whec.com/local/man-pleads-guilty-to-attempted-rape-and-sexual-abuse-around-park-avenue-neighborhood/>

<https://13wham.com/news/local/park-avenue-rape-suspect-hayden-cypressi-pleads-guilty-to-attempted-rape-sexual-abuse-rochester-sentenced>

https://www.yahoo.com/news/man-pleads-guilty-attempted-rape-221358251.html?guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xlLmNvbS8&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAAC_dDRTxmuzunr61KqDdW9Etn1ejUq4sx24ml6cDKDgNyftvphgvfEWQ1618tnEgaevkgthU_YD7dAZS6y_vAHvHgBF_y6abqZYG8VrRdF4WvhrxTXN24GggzNDE_t5BmCayS7HIIU0-qPuEwlQeU1HeNTBrNAGCO7grHTdZ0zk1

<https://13wham.com/news/local/bail-trial-date-set-for-reign-tapiato-man-accused-of-killing-16-year-old-girl-jakarah-lopez-moore-in-rochester#>

<https://13wham.com/news/local/timothy-williams-to-testify-in-own-defense-wendy-jerome-rape-murder-trial-retrial-rochester-thanksgiving-1984#>

<https://www.rochesterfirst.com/crime/timothy-williams-takes-the-stand-in-court-for-rape-and-murder-case/>

<https://www.whec.com/local/timothy-williams-will-testify-on-thursday/>



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.