Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley

April 26, 2024



Contact Us

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Monroe County District Attorney's Office

Weekly Newsletter



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

National Crime Victims' Rights Week

April 21 – April 27 is National Crime Victims' Rights Week. I will always remind the community of this week because time and time again, victims are often forgotten members of the criminal justice system.

Over 32 years ago, I switched from private practice to public service. I joined the Monroe County District Attorney's Office to feel like I was giving back to the community. This is where I developed my passion for giving victims a voice in the courtroom.

As law enforcement and prosecutors, we come into contact with victims of crime during the most devastating period of their lives, which is why we as a community, need to acknowledge and prioritize victims and their rights.

The 2024 NCVRW theme is "How would you help? Options, services and hope for crime survivors." This year's theme is to push ourselves, and our law enforcement and agency partners, to create an environment in which victims and survivors feel safe talking about what happened to them. The theme aims to ensure that everyone in a community knows where and how victims and survivors can find help. We must all be prepared to offer support.

The Coalition for Crime Victims of Monroe County helps to remind us that this week is dedicated to helping crime survivors find their justice by enforcing victims' rights, expanding access to services, and ensuring equity and inclusion for all.

We all have a responsibility to do our part to make these victims whole again. At the Monroe County District Attorney's Office, we strive for justice for victims, whether that means a state prison sentence, restitution, or a different resolution. Together as a community, we all must prioritize the needs of victims and survivors by connecting them with services through all possible avenues, such as the Coalition for Crime Victims of Monroe County and the Office for Victims of Crime. I want to thank all of the dedicated victim advocates here in Monroe County, especially the victim advocates in my office led by Carrie Noble, for their diligent work and commitment to crime victims and witnesses.

Homicide Update

To Date 2024:

City of Rochester Total: 14

Monroe County Total: 14

Survivors of crime often experience physical, emotional, and financial trauma as a result of their victimization. Here at the Monroe County District Attorney's Office, Carrie leads our phenomenal team of victim and witness advocates. Our Victim/Witness Bureau employs five advocates and one clerk to help give victims and their families the knowledge of what to expect in the complex and ever-changing criminal justice system. Arriving to court as a victim or a member of their family is often intimidating and this team will prepare, meet, and even attend court with these individuals to make the process as clear as possible.

For more information on resources available for victims, visit <u>https://www.monroecounty.qov/da-assistance</u> and for more information on The Coalition for Crime Victims of Monroe County, please visit <u>https://www.facebook.com/coalitionforcrimevictimsofmonroecounty</u>.

The Monroe County District Attorney's Office will always do our best to protect victims' rights in and out of the courtroom.

Sandra

New York State Bar Exam

This week, the results of the most recent New York State Bar Exam were released. This exam is the culmination of three years of law school and extensive preparation. Notoriously difficult, this is the exam that permits you to practice law in the State of New York.

From law school, to the preparation, to awaiting the official results, this can be an extremely difficult times for those with recent Juris Doctorates. These men and women graduate from law school, then prepare for this lifechanging July exam. We have three Assistant District Attorneys who found out about their test results and I want to offer my heartfelt congratulations!

Congratulations to:

Assistant District Attorney Amy Crosier

Future Assistant District Attorney Carrington Wells

Future Assistant District Attorney Kaleigh Wurz



These attorneys are one step closer to being fully admitted to the New York State Bar, and I am so proud of each one of you!

To those who may have failed the exam, do not give up! This is exam does not predict your ability as an attorney and I have confidence that you will pass the test and do great things.

Highlights from the MCDA's Office

On Friday, April 26, 2024, 34-year-old Jacob Seffens was convicted by a Monroe County jury of Assault in the 1st Degree for the assault of his 18-yearold niece. On June 14, 2023, Rochester Police Officers arrived to a home on Chili Avenue in the City of Rochester. The victim was beaten and unresponsive. She was immediately taken to Strong Memorial Hospital where she was placed in a medically induced coma due to a traumatic brain injury with severe and life threatening swelling to her brain. Thankfully, due to the expert treatment by the medical professionals at Strong Hospital the victim was able to recover from these injuries and is physically doing better and on her way to a full recovery. After a detailed investigation by the Rochester Police Department, it was determined that Jacob Seffens, the uncle to the victim, was responsible for this brutal assault. Jacob Seffens was in a sexual relationship with his niece. When the victim attempted to end the relationship with the defendant, Jacob Seffens beat her with a baseball bat, almost killing her. After being indicted by a Monroe County Grand Jury for this assault, he was arrested by the Rochester Police Department. This case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Patrick Gallagher, Chief of the Domestic Violence Bureau.

Jermaine Shelton, Jr. was convicted by a jury of two counts of Robbery in the 2nd Degree. On October 16, 2022, in the South Wedge of the City of Rochester, Jermaine Shelton, Jr., along with co-defendants, forcibly stole property from an individual while one of the co-defendants displayed a weapon. This case was investigated by the Rochester Police Department and prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Michael Harrigan, Chief of the Major Felony Bureau. Jermaine Shelton, Jr. will be sentenced on May 28, 2024, in front of New York State Supreme Court Justice Sinclair.

Dionedre Wyatt was convicted by a jury of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree. The defendant was found to be in possession of an illegal firearm on September 15, 2023. This case was investigated by the Rochester Police Department and was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Stephen Ryck, of the Special Investigations Bureau. Dionedre Wyatt will be sentenced on May 29, 2024, in front of Monroe County Court Judge Dollinger. **Heather Derooy** was indicted on Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the 2nd Degree and Identity Theft in the 1st Degree in relation to events occurring on May 12, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Ryan Lamon, of the Public Integrity/Economic Crimes Bureau.

Trevon Collier and Jamotti Fulton were indicted on Robbery in the 2nd Degree in relation to a robbery of an individual on March 26, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Ellie Laloudakis, of the Youth Part/Major Felony Bureau.

Cyler Quinn was indicted two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree in relation to a shooting and the illegal possession of a firearm on March 23, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Timothy Boucher, of the Special Investigations Bureau.

Tarquan Monroe was indicted on Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree in relation to the illegal possession of a firearm on March 26, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Anthony Freeman, of the Non-Fatal Shooting Taskforce.

Aniya Carter was indicted on two counts of Burglary in the 1st Degree, Robbery in the 1st Degree, two counts of Robbery in the 2nd Degree, and Assault in the 2nd Degree in relation to the armed robbery and assault of an individual on March 24, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Emily Chisholm, of the Major Felony Bureau.

Serdar Ozmen was indicted on Kidnapping in the 1st Degree as a Sexually Motivated Felony, two counts of Criminal Sexual Act in the 1st Degree, and two counts of Criminal Sexual Act in the 2nd Degree in relation to the kidnapping of a child from her Brighton home on March 25, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Sara Vanstrydonck, Chief of the Special Victims Unit and Assistant District Attorney Patrick Gallagher, Chief of the Domestic Violence Bureau.

Tyrone Brown, Jr. and **Tyshawn Brown** were indicted on Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree in relation to the illegal possession of a firearm on March 29, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Timothy Boucher, of the Special Investigations Bureau.

Dsean Kelly, Jr. was indicted on Robbery in the 1st Degree, Robbery in the 2nd Degree, two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree, Grand Larceny in the 3rd Degree, and Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the 4th Degree in relation to an armed robbery on March 31, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Emily Chisholm, of the Major Felony Bureau.

Jiyair Wimbush was indicted on two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree and Assault in the 2nd Degree in relation to an assault with an illegal firearm on February 14, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Anthony Freeman, of the Non-Fatal Shooting Taskforce.

Kevin Scarborough was indicted on two counts of Driving While Intoxicated in relation to an attempted a vehicular incident on November 12, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Drew Kroft, of the Vehicular Crimes Bureau.

Samahj Williams was indicted on Attempted Robbery in the 1st Degree and Criminal Mischief in the 2nd Degree in relation to an attempted armed robbery on April 2, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Aliyah Fowler, of the Major Felony Bureau.

Tejay Gibson was indicted on two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree and Menacing in the 2nd Degree in relation to a domestic incident on December 13, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Aaron Rath, of the Special Victims Unit.

Tasha Durand was indicted on Burglary in the 3rd Degree in relation to a burglary at a Wegmans on February 12, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Caroline Rodriguez, of the General Felony Bureau.

Kim Carpenter-Fayko was indicted on Grand Larceny in the 4th Degree in relation to a theft from a JCPenney on December 23, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Caroline Rodriguez, of the General Felony Bureau.

Raif Zenelovic was indicted on three counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 3rd Degree in relation to the illegal possession of a firearm on September 14, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Stephen Ryck, of the Special Investigations Bureau.

Erick Morrabal-Montes was indicted on Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree in relation to the illegal possession of a weapon on June 4, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Timothy Boucher, of the Special Investigations Bureau.

Ashley Rice was indicted on Driving While Intoxicated in relation to a vehicular incident on February 10, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Drew Kroft, of the Vehicular Crimes Bureau.

David Pinaire was indicted on Criminal Possession of a Stolen Property in the 3rd Degree and Unauthorized Use of a Vehicle in relation to the possession of a stolen vehicle on November 16, 2022. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Courtney Kleiman, of the General Felony Bureau.

Timothy Rowe was indicted on two counts of Driving While Intoxicated in relation to a vehicular incident on September 2, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Mikael Pelkey, of the Vehicular Crimes Bureau.

Valun Lucas was indicted on Burglary in the 3rd Degree in relation to a burglary at a Walmart on March 27, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Aliyah Fowler, of the Major Felony Bureau.

Travis Mays was indicted on of Driving While Ability Impaired by Drugs and Aggravated Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle in the First Degree in relation to a vehicular incident on July 10, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Mikael Pelkey, of the Vehicular Crimes Bureau.

Jorge Arroyo was indicted on three counts of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the 2nd Degree and three counts of Identity Theft in the 1st Degree. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Ryan Lamon, of the Public Integrity/Economic Crimes Bureau.

Francheska Alamo was indicted on Assault in the 1st Degree in relation to an assault on April 6, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Emily Chisholm, of the Major Felony Bureau.

Tony Torres was indicted on Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 3rd Degree in relation to the illegal possession of a weapon on April 8, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Timothy Boucher, of the Special Investigations Bureau.

Ramon De Jesus was indicted on three counts of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 3rd Degree and three counts of Criminally Using Drug Paraphernalia in the 2nd Degree in relation to the illegal possession of narcotics on October 17, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Bridget Morgan, of the Special Investigations Bureau.

Christian Marshmon and **Jeffrey Schirtz** were indicted on Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree in relation to the illegal possession of a weapon on April 9, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Jennifer Kennedy, Deputy Chief of the Special Investigations Bureau.

Wilfredo Cruz-Rivera was indicted on Attempted Murder in the 2nd Degree and three counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree in relation to a shooting on October 22, 2023 and November 20, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Anthony Freeman, of the Non-Fatal Shooting Taskforce.

Oliver Brown, Jr. was indicted on of Driving While Intoxicated and Aggravated Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle in the First Degree in relation to a vehicular incident on June 17, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Mikael Pelkey, of the Vehicular Crimes Bureau.

Travis Brongo was indicted on Criminal Possession of a Stolen Property in the 4th Degree, Driving While Ability Impaired, Unlawful Fleeing a Police Officer in a Motor Vehicle in the 3rd Degree, and Unauthorized Use of a Vehicle in the 3rd Degree in relation to the possession of a stolen vehicle and a vehicular incident on November 10, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Diane Orosz-Roy, of the Vehicular Crimes Bureau.

John Gokey was indicted on two counts of Criminal Contempt in the 1st Degree and Strangulation in the 2nd Degree in relation to a domestic incident on March 27, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Kenisha Flowers, of the Special Victims Unit.

Bianca Gibson was indicted on Criminal Mischief in the 2nd Degree and four counts of Attempted Assault in the 2nd Degree in relation to a domestic incident on October 13, 2022. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Kristina Hinkley, of the Special Victims Unit.

Melanie Eckert was indicted on Burglary in the 3rd Degree in relation to a burglary at a Walmart on January 31, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Caroline Rodriguez, of the General Felony Bureau.

Davon Macon was indicted on Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 3rd Degree and Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 5th Degree in relation to the illegal possession of narcotics on April 9, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Stephen Ryck, of the Special Investigations Bureau.

Kenneth Thompson was indicted on Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree in relation to the illegal possession of a weapon on April 11, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Matthew Hogestyn, of the Major Felony Bureau.

Alfonso Campbell, III was indicted on 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 on March 21, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Kenisha Flowers, of the Special Victims Unit.

Hermes Laureano was indicted on Rape in the 1st Degree and Sexual Abuse in the 1st Degree in relation to a sexual assault on December 24, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Kenisha Flowers, of the Special Victims Unit.

Travis Brongo was indicted on Burglary in the 3rd Degree in relation to a burglary at a Walmart on November 16, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Courtney Kleiman, of the General Felony Bureau.

David Garcia was indicted on Criminal Possession of a Stolen Property in the 3rd Degree, Criminal Possession of a Stolen Property in the 4th Degree, and Unauthorized Use of a Vehicle in relation to the possession of a stolen vehicle on March 14, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Diana Ferretti, of the General Felony Bureau.

Keyon Wright was indicted on three counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree in relation to the illegal possession of a weapon on both December 30, 2023 and March 21, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Monica O'Brien, Deputy Chief of the Local Courts Bureau.

Jose Fontanez was indicted on two counts Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 3rd Degree and Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 5th Degree in relation to the illegal possession of narcotics on June 22, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Robin Catalano, Chief of the Special Investigations Bureau.

Jason Resinger was indicted on Criminal Possession of a Stolen Property in the 3rd Degree, Criminal Possession of a Stolen Property in the 4th Degree, and Unauthorized Use of a Vehicle in the 3rd Degree in relation to the possession of a stolen vehicle on February 23, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Angela Carson, of the General Felony Bureau.

Dante Weiford was indicted on Murder in the 2nd Degree and two counts Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree in relation to the murder of Ziheir Roberts and the illegal possession of a firearm. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Matthew Hogestyn, of the Major Felony Bureau.

Myles McCray was indicted on Criminal Possession of a Stolen Property in the 3rd Degree and Unauthorized Use of a Vehicle in relation to the possession of a stolen vehicle on February 14, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Diana Ferretti, of the General Felony Bureau.

Luis Rivera-Candelaria was indicted on Burglary in the 3rd Degree in relation to a burglary at a Home Depot on October 10, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Courtney Kleiman, of the General Felony Bureau.

Mark Allen was indicted on Driving While Intoxicated in relation to a vehicular incident on November 8, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Mikael Pelkey, of the Vehicular Crimes Bureau.

Vladimir Tabachuk was indicted on two counts of Driving While Intoxicated, Aggravated Driving While Intoxicated, and Consumption or Possession of Alcohol in a Motor Vehicle in relation to a vehicular incident on April 6, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Kelly Pettrone, of the Vehicular Crimes Bureau. **Derick Peters** 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 a weapon and illegal possession of narcotics on April 12, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Ryan Mulcahy, of the Special Investigations Bureau.

George Vaughn was indicted on Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree and **Michael Williams** was indicted on 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 on April 14, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Bridget Morgan, of the Special Investigations Bureau.

Jonathan Dobbs was indicted on 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 on April 14, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Jennifer Kennedy, Deputy Chief of the Special Investigations Bureau.

Chad Brown was indicted on 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 on April 15, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Bridget Morgan, of the Special Investigations Bureau.

Joe Torres was indicted on Assault in the 2nd Degree and Grand Larceny in the 3rd Degree in relation to an assault on a police officer on April 6, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Camille Ingino, of the Major Felony Bureau.

Eli Gray, Jr. was indicted on Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree, Assault in the 3rd Degree, three counts of Aggravated Family Offense, two counts of Criminal Contempt in the 2nd Degree, and two counts of Endangering the Welfare of a Child in relation to an incident on April 2, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Anthony Freeman, of the Non-Fatal Shooting Taskforce.

Bryant Byrd was indicted on Assault in the 2nd Degree, Resisting Arrest, Grand Larceny in the 4th Degree, Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the 4th Degree, Unauthorized Use of a Vehicle in the 3rd Degree, and Criminal Mischief in the 4th Degree in relation to an assault on a police officer and the possession of a stolen vehicle on April 11, 2024. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Aliyah Fowler, of the Major Felony Bureau.

Bivona Child Abuse Summit

Assistant District Attorney Sara VanStrydonck, Chief of the Special Victims Unit, presented at this year's Bivona Child Abuse Summit. ADA VanStrydonck shared information about child homicide prosecutions and the importance of community involvement.



Willow Ball

Last weekend was the Willow Ball to benefit the Willow Domestic Violence Center. The mission of Willow is to prevent domestic violence and ensure every survivor has access to the services and support needed along the journey to a safe and empowered life. The ADAs who prosecuted domestic violence cases, including ADA Patrick Gallagher, Chief of the Domestic Violence Bureau, and other staff from the Monroe County District Attorney's Office attended the event to support Willow and its great work!



Welcome to the MCDA's Office

Welcome to our newest Assistant District Attorneys, Amy Crosier and Tessa Rossi!

ADA Crosier will begin her career in the Monroe County District Attorney's Office in the Towns of Brighton and Greece. ADA Rossi will also join the office beginning in the Towns of Webster and Greece. Welcome!





MCDA in the News

https://www.whec.com/top-news/fed-up-and-heartbroken-a-rochestermans-plea-for-accountability-after-cousin-is-killed/

https://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/news/2024/04/23/markburdick-charged-in-death-of-myron-fair-in-rochester-ny-south-clintonavenue/73425082007/

https://www.whec.com/top-news/police-and-ambulance-at-pinnacle-placeapartments-on-south-clinton-ave/

https://13wham.com/news/local/ontario-county-man-arrested-for-fatalstabbing-outside-rochester-apartment-south-clinton-avenue-pinnacle-placeapartments

https://13wham.com/news/local/man-arrested-for-taxi-cab-drivers-murderin-rochester-bay-street-robbery-shooting

https://wham1180.iheart.com/content/2024-04-24-man-arrested-in-killingof-rochester-taxi-driver/

https://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/news/2024/04/24/davidporter-charged-in-death-of-david-treese-in-rochester-ny/73438825007/

https://www.whec.com/local/man-charged-with-murder-of-cab-driverduring-robbery/ https://www.rochesterfirst.com/news/local-news/rpd-mayor-evansprovides-updates-on-recent-weekend-homicides/

https://m.13wham.com/news/local/man-arrested-for-taxi-cab-driversmurder-in-rochester-bay-street-robbery-shooting

https://13wham.com/news/local/rochester-homicides-mayor-malik-evanspolice-chief-david-smith-bay-street-taxi-driver-south-clintoon-avenuemurder-day-place-shooting-weekend

https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/rochester/news/2024/04/22/rpdinvestigating-3-homicides-over-2-day-span-

https://www.nydailynews.com/2024/04/22/3-dead-during-bloody-stretch-inrochester-n-y/



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.