

Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley

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Monroe County District Attorney's Office

Weekly Newsletter



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

Message from Sandra Doorley

Commitment to Prosecution

I believe that as law enforcement, it is our job for prosecutors to evolve. It is our responsibility to adapt to changes in the law and evolve with the meaning of justice. With this preface, it is first and foremost, our responsibility to prosecute, follow the law and promote public safety.

Recently, the newly elected Manhattan District Attorney, who serves a population of over 1.6 million residents, came into office making a series of soft-on-crime policies that are contradictory to common-sense prosecution.

From the promise to the outright dismissal of many offenses to seeking light prison sentences for the most violent of offenses, it is disheartening to see one of the most prominent District Attorneys in New York State take this irresponsible approach. Already in his short time in office, the New York County District Attorney's new policies led to a career criminal accepting a misdemeanor plea after being charged with Robbery in the 1st Degree, which is an armed robbery.

Diversion and alternatives to prosecution are avenues I wholeheartedly support for the right case. In Monroe County, we divert hundreds, sometimes even thousands of cases a year. However, anything involving violence toward a victim or the community is not appropriate for 'light' prosecution or alternatives.

I will continue to do my job – protect the rights of the accused while defending our victims and public safety to the best of my ability. I pledge to fully prosecute crimes on the merits of each case and will not issue blanket policies that are a direct contradiction to the laws and guidelines set forward by the New York State Legislature.

Last year, Monroe County witnessed a record high number of homicides and shootings. Cities around the country are facing a similar uptick in these violent crimes. This is not the time for sweeping policies that favor those who wreak havoc and promote violence in our communities.

Homicide Update

So far in 2022:

City of Rochester Total: 2

Monroe County Total: 2

As prosecutors, we have the responsibility to look at a case from all perspectives. This includes the impact of the victim(s), defendant, community and most importantly, the rule of law. I am committed to doing my part to promote a safer Monroe County.

Sandra

Year End Firearm Activity

2021 Totals in the City of Rochester

- Shooting Incidents Involving Injury – 350
 - *Up 100.5% from 5 Year Average*
- Shooting Victims (Persons Hit) – 419
 - *Up 105.2% from 5 Year Average*
- Individuals Killed by Gun Violence – 55
 - *Up 120.0% from 5 Year Average*

Conviction Integrity Unit Updates

The Monroe County District Attorney's Office has outsourced the Conviction Integrity Unit in order to make it a more independent unit with increased resources. We are thrilled to welcome two retired judges, Judge Joseph D. Valentino and Judge Thomas VanStrydonck.

Judge Valentino

Judge Valentino has an impressive history in the Monroe County Legal field. He has served as a judge in Rochester City Court, the 7th Judicial District of New York State Supreme Court and most recently, retired from Appellate Division, Fourth Department. He is known for his compassion and ability to see every side of a case. He spent time working for a private defense firm and later as an Assistant District Attorney before joining the bench.

Judge VanStrydonck

Judge Vanstrydonck became a State Supreme Court Judge in 1998 and was appointed Administrative Judge in 2000. Prior to taking the bench, he practiced for nearly twenty years at a private law firm where he became a managing partner. Previously, he served as a prosecutor in the Monroe County District Attorney's Office following his service in the U.S. Navy. The legal community is very familiar with Judge Thomas Vanstrydonck, as he has served as president of the Monroe County Bar Association, Volunteer Legal Services and the Monroe County Bar Foundation.

These two men are true experts in their fields and are the perfect candidates to run the CIU. As active attorneys, former judges and respected members of the community, I have complete confidence that they will take a fresh look at the CIU and revamp it as needed. Both the judges and the Monroe County District Attorney's Office will continue to search for additional resources for this important entity. Stay tuned for more updates from the CIU!

Highlights from the MCDA's Office

The trial for **Anthony Love** began with openings on Wednesday, January 12. Anthony Love has been charged with Murder in the 2nd Degree in relation to the murder of 3-year-old Kei'mere Marshall. This trial is expected to go into next week. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Sara Vanstrydonck, Chief of the Special Victims Unit and Assistant District Attorney Amanda Balling, Deputy Chief of the Special Victims Unit.

Austin Williams was indicted on Burglary in the 1st Degree, Burglary in the 2nd Degree, Criminal Contempt in the 1st Degree, Menacing in the 2nd Degree, Criminal Trespass in the 2nd Degree, two counts of Criminal Contempt in the 2nd Degree, Criminal Mischief in the 4th Degree and Unlawful Imprisonment in the 2nd Degree. These charges are in relation to a series of domestic incidents and the violation of an order of protection during the month of December 2021. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Patrick Gallagher, Chief of the Domestic Violence Bureau.

Lonnie Gandues was indicted on Vehicular Manslaughter in the 1st Degree and two counts of Driving While Intoxicated in relation to the death of Khadijah Stanley on December 20, 2021. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Raymond Benitez, Chief of the Felony DWI Bureau.

Ronnie Brooks was indicted on Assault in the 2nd Degree, four counts of Criminal Contempt in the 1st Degree and Unlawful Imprisonment in the 2nd Degree in relation to domestic violence incidents on November 2021, in violation of an Order of Protection. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Karen Chung, of the Domestic Violence Bureau.

MCDA in the Community

Members of the Monroe County District Attorney's Office participated in a virtual proclamation event in recognition of Human Trafficking Awareness, hosted by the Rochester Regional Coalition Against Human Trafficking. Thank you to Assistant District Attorney Kevin Sunderland of the Special Victims Unit for representing the District Attorney's Office to show our support. If you have questions about Human Trafficking, click the website below:

<https://www.rcaht.org/>



Thank you to Assistant District Attorney Aaron Rath and Assistant District Attorney Diana Ferretti for participating in this week's Crimestoppers through 13WHAM! Aaron and Diana Discussed the increase of COVID numbers within the court system and the Monroe County District Attorney's Office's commitment to continue to seek justice during this pandemic.

If you have a tip for Crimestoppers, call the tip line at 585-423-9300 or submit a tip at <https://roccrimestoppers.com/>!



MCDA in the News

<https://13wham.com/news/local/opening-arguments-begin-in-trial-of-man-accused-of-killing-child-3-in-rochester>

<https://www.whec.com/rochester-new-york-news/family-cries-out-for-justice-for-3-year-old-who-died-due-to-alleged-abuse/6356609/>

<https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/rochester/public-safety/2022/01/13/trial-underway-for-rochester-man-accused-of-killing-toddler#>

<https://13wham.com/news/crime-stoppers/crime-stoppers-covids-impact-on-courts>

<https://nypost.com/2022/01/08/si-prosecutor-michael-mcmahon-rips-manhattan-da-alvin-bragg/>

<https://www.whec.com/rochester-new-york-news/in-depth-mcso-releases-2021-opioid-od-data/6355644/>

<https://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/news/2022/01/07/one-dead-another-injured-crash-st-paul-east-main-rochester-ny/9127926002/>

<https://13wham.com/news/local/grand-jury-indicts-driver-accused-of-being-drunk-and-killing-rochester-woman-on-sidewalk>

MCDA Moves

Congratulations to Legal Secretary Vanessa Matos, who was promoted from the Local Courts Bureau to Secretary of the Major Felony Bureau! Vanessa is an example of our hard working support staff who keep the office running every day!



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.

