

**News Release from**  
**The Honorable Sandra Doorley**  
**Monroe County District Attorney**

December 5, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COORDINATOR: Mary Wilmot  
Monroe County District Attorney's Office  
47 South Fitzhugh Street  
Rochester, NY 14614  
(585) 753-4532

**Franklin Leonard Guilty of Attempted Murder in the First Degree for the  
Kidnapping of a 74 Year Old Gates Woman**

Rochester, NY- Today, a Monroe County Court Jury convicted 62 year old Franklin Leonard of Attempted Murder in the First Degree, Kidnapping in the Second Degree, Robbery in the Second Degree, Robbery in the Third Degree and Menacing in the Second Degree. On the afternoon of October 21, 2015, Franklin Leonard attempted to rob Stefanou Realtors with a ski mask and a gun near the Westgate Plaza in the Town of Gates. Unable to get any property from the Office, Leonard fled to the nearest residential street where he encountered 74 year old Lois W. alone in her driveway. Leonard then abducted the victim by forcing her into her own car and telling her he would kill her if she yelled for help. Leonard ultimately drove the victim to 22 Flint Street in the City of Rochester where he drove up to the Genesee River bank. Leonard then robbed the victim by stealing her purse and other personal belongings. Leonard then dragged the victim out of her car and pushed her into the river. The victim survived, despite being unable to swim. Eyewitness testimony, DNA evidence, and surveillance video helped lead to the Defendant's conviction.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney David Dys, Chief of the Non-Violent Felony Bureau.

"Franklin Leonard is a career criminal who has no regard for the value of human life. He put the life of an innocent 74 year old woman at risk when he abducted her and then tossed her in the cold waters of the Genesee River. Fortunately, the victim is an incredibly strong and courageous person who survived the ordeal despite being unable to swim," said Assistant District Attorney David Dys. "The successful prosecution of this case was the direct result of tireless efforts of our office, the Gates Police Department, the Rochester Police Department, the Monroe County Public Safety Laboratory, NYS Police and others. This was truly a team effort."

Franklin Leonard will be sentenced by Supreme Court Justice Francis Affronti on January 17, 2017.

#####