

Monroe County Clerk of the Legislature

Nayeliz Santiago
Clerk



Isabela Mulcahy
Deputy Clerk

MEMORANDUM

TO: Legislators, Directors, Staff and Media
FROM: Isabela Mulcahy, Deputy Clerk of the Legislature
DATE: June 18, 2026
RE: Matter of Importance – File No. 26-0199

Matter of Importance:

26-0199 - Confirmation of the Appointment of the Conflict Defender – As a Matter of Importance – County Executive Adam J. Bello

This referral was not made to committee at the preceding meeting of the Legislature on June 9, 2026, but has been determined by Yversha Román, President of the Legislature, to be of sufficient importance to warrant referral between Legislative meetings, pursuant to Section 545-24 (C) of the Rules of the Monroe County Legislature.

Attachments

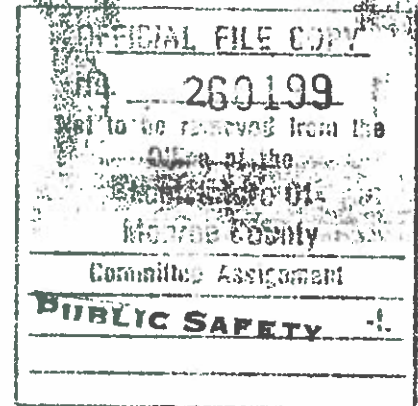


Office of the County Executive

Monroe County, New York

Adam J. Bello
County Executive

June 18, 2026



To The Honorable
Monroe County Legislature
407 County Office Building
Rochester, New York 14614

Subject: Confirmation of the Appointment of the Conflict Defender

Honorable Legislators:

I recommend that Your Honorable Body confirm the appointment of Chelsea Palmisano as Conflict Defender, pursuant to the Monroe County/Monroe County Bar Association Plan Regarding the Conflict Defender's Office and Assigned Counsel Program.

A copy of Ms. Palmisano's resume is attached.

The specific legislative action required is to confirm the appointment of Chelsea Palmisano as Conflict Defender, pursuant to the Monroe County/Monroe County Bar Association Plan Regarding the Conflict Defender's Office and Assigned Counsel Program, effective immediately.

The legislative action requested in this referral is not an "Action," as that term is defined in 6 NYCRR § 617.2 (b), and is not subject to review under the State Environment Quality Review Act.

This confirmation will have no impact on the revenues or expenditures in the current Monroe County budget.

I recommend that this matter be referred to the appropriate committee(s) for favorable action by Your Honorable Body.

Sincerely,

Adam J. Bello
Monroe County Executive

Attachment

Chelsea Palmisano
10 Glen Valley Drive
Penfield, New York 14526
Chels356@yahoo.com
(585) 755-1468

New York State Bar Admission: February 26, 2009

Education

University at Buffalo, Law School
Juris Doctor

Graduation Date: May 2008

University at Buffalo, The State University of New York
Bachelor of Arts: Communication Minor: Dance
Concentration: Political Science

Graduation Date: May 2004

Work Experience

Monroe County Conflict Defender Office Rochester, NY

Acting Conflict Defender

1/2026-present

- Oversee a staff of 30-40 employees, consisting of attorneys, paralegals, investigators, social workers and office clerks
- Coordinate with New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services and Public Safety Finance Director to implement grant funding and comply with all state requirements
- Collaborate with the Monroe County Public Defender Office, Assigned Counsel Program, and NYS Office of Indigent Legal Services to strategize for attorney shortages and case overflow between offices
- Recruit, interview, and implement training processes for new attorneys
- Oversee all budgetary, HR, payroll and disciplinary processes for the office
- Implement new internal policy manuals for Family Court, City Court, Appeals bureaus, and paralegals

Monroe County Conflict Defender Office Rochester, NY

Assistant Conflict Defender, Family Court Supervising Attorney

7/2023-12/2025

- Extensive experience representing clients in Article 4, Article 5, Article 6, Article 8, and Article 10 matters under the Family Court Act, including appearances, motions, hearings and trials
- Organizational skills and client management to handle approximately 500 Family Court cases per year
- Excellent communication skills
- Draft orders and motions
- Complete legal research
- Trial preparation including subpoena practice, witness preparation, and developing trial strategy
- Manage Family Court intern program, and directly supervise interns
- Train and supervise Family Court attorneys, paralegal, social worker and office clerk, oversee attorney rotations and coverage scheduling
- Assist in hiring process for all new employees, including interviewing
- Meet with Family Court judges and referees to manage caseload issues, coverage issues, and attorney conflicts

Monroe County Conflict Defender Office Rochester, NY

Assistant Conflict Defender

1/2020-7/2023

- Extensive experience representing clients in Article 4, Article 5, Article 6, Article 8, and Article 10 matters under the Family Court Act, including appearances, motions, hearings and trials
- Organizational skills and client management to handle approximately 500 Family Court cases per year
- Excellent communication skills
- Draft orders and motions
- Complete legal research
- Trial preparation including subpoena practice, witness preparation, and developing trial strategy

Monroe County Conflict Defender Office Rochester, NY

Assistant Conflict Defender, Appeals & Assigned Counsel Administration

9/2017-7/2019

- Represent clients in Family Court and Criminal Court appeals, including assembling the record, drafting briefs, and participating in oral argument at the Appellate Division, Fourth Department
- Assist in hiring process for all new employees, including interviewing
- Assist in Assigned Counsel Administration, including assignment of cases, reviewing vouchers, attorney complaints and voucher issues
- Assist in implementation of legal representation standards promulgated by New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services

Monroe County Conflict Defender Office Rochester, NY

Assistant Conflict Defender, Family Court Supervising Attorney

7/2009-9/2017

- Extensive experience representing clients in Article 4, Article 5, Article 6, Article 8, and Article 10 matters under the Family Court Act, including appearances, motions, hearings and trials
- Organizational skills and client management to handle approximately 500 Family Court cases per year
- Excellent communication skills
- Draft orders and motions
- Complete legal research
- Trial preparation including subpoena practice, witness preparation, and developing trial strategy
- Manage Family Court intern program, and directly supervise interns
- Train and supervise Family Court attorneys, oversee attorney rotations and coverage scheduling

Legal Experience

Monroe County Conflict Defender Office Rochester, NY

Law Clerk – Family Law and Appeals

1/2007-7/2009

- Assisted attorneys with motion and trial preparation, drafting orders, and researching and writing memorandums of law
- Completed legal research
- Interviewed clients in preparation for hearings and trials

United States Attorney's Office – Western District of New York Buffalo, NY

Law Clerk – Criminal law

9/2007-12/2007

- Assisted attorneys with researching and writing memorandums of law
- Completed legal research