

2025



WESTCHESTER COUNTY
SUSAN CACACE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Westchester County
District Attorney
Susan Cacace

ANNUAL REPORT

**Westchester County
District Attorney**

www.westchesterda.net

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111 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
White Plains, NY 10601

A MESSAGE FROM DISTRICT ATTORNEY SUSAN CACACE

Having served for nearly 15 years as a local prosecutor and then as the longest-tenured presiding judge of the Westchester County Court's Sex Offense Part, I demanded a lot from myself when I returned to this office as District Attorney.

During the campaign, I devised a tagline for my prosecutorial approach: "Justice with Compassion," meting out justice for the victims of violent crime while offering second chances to first-time and low-level offenders. I also promised the people of Westchester that I would step up enforcement of hate crimes cases and tackle the scourge of illegal guns flooding our streets.

Over the last year, I have worked with my staff to transform these commitments from abstract policy proposals into tangible results. I am pleased to report that our office has made substantial headway in tackling these important public safety issues.

This Annual Report reflects the work product of the first year of the Cacace administration. I hope that by reading through it, you will see the dedication and hard work of the hundreds of assistant district attorneys, paralegals, trial assistants, investigators, accountants, crime analysts, secretaries and clerical staff who make the wheels of the justice system turn every day.

One of my administration's most significant commitments is our community engagement efforts, strengthening ties with each of Westchester's diverse communities to help develop proactive strategies for fighting crime. Our county is composed of 45 cities, towns and villages, most of which have their own local police department or their own courthouse. While everyone in this county deserves equal access to justice, delivering that justice cannot be through a one-size-fits-all approach. That's why we spearheaded over 227 community safety presentations in 2025, helping tailor individual anti-crime solutions to the needs of local jurisdictions, such as schools, senior centers, houses of worship and other community groups.

My father, the late Judge Robert Cacace, for whom the Yonkers City Court building is named, inspired the trajectory of my career and solidified my commitment to public service.

I would not be where I am today without his sense of civic purpose. I hope that my work in this office is deserving of his legacy.

The role of District Attorney is a tremendous responsibility, one that humbles me every day as I pass by the statue of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., which is situated outside the courthouse and is emblazoned with his immortal words, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

Each day, I strive to live up to Dr. King's promise by figuring out how to deliver justice while balancing the interests of the law, fairness, victims' rights and public safety. The balance of these considerations is different for every case and for every defendant. But the end goal is always the same, to keep the people of Westchester safe.

During the first year of my first term as District Attorney, I have endeavored to make the office more responsive to the needs of the community. I encourage you to read through this report and connect with us on our various social media accounts. If you have feedback about any of our programs or initiatives, or would like to connect with us to schedule a community presentation, do not hesitate to reach out.

I also suggest that you subscribe to our biweekly community newsletter. We offer newsletter subscribers an inside look at the inner workings of the office and an opportunity to learn of new developments in major criminal cases as they occur.

As always, I look forward to hearing from you. Thank you for your trust.



Susan Cacace
Westchester County District Attorney



Moments that Mattered



DA Cacace is sworn in as Third Vice President of the District Attorneys Association of New York (DAASNY) on June 27, 2025.

LEADERSHIP

Hon. Susan Cacace
District Attorney

Executive Team

George Hlapatsos – First Deputy District Attorney

Nancy Barry – First Deputy District Attorney

Mission Statement

The Westchester County District Attorney's Office is committed to pursuing justice with integrity, fairness and accountability. We strive to protect the safety and rights of all residents while upholding the highest legal and ethical standards. Through proactive prosecution, innovative crime prevention strategies and meaningful community engagement, we work to ensure a safer and unbiased Westchester County. Our office is dedicated to supporting victims, safeguarding due process and fostering public trust in the criminal justice system. By embracing transparency and collaboration, we endeavor to make Westchester County a place where justice is accessible, impartial and serves the greater good.



SENIOR STAFF

Local Criminal Courts & Grand Jury

Anthony J. Molea, Division Chief

Appeals & Special Litigation

Steven Bender, Division Chief

William Milaccio, Deputy Division Chief

Trials

Nadine Nagler, Division Chief

Lana Hochheiser, Deputy Division Chief

Investigations

John O'Rourke, Division Chief

Special Prosecutions

Christine Hatfield, Wendy Parra, Co-Acting Division Chiefs

Criminal Investigations

Andrew Grascia, Chief Criminal Investigator

Joseph Monaco, Deputy Chief Criminal Investigator

Dale Brickwood, Deputy Chief Criminal Investigator

Administration

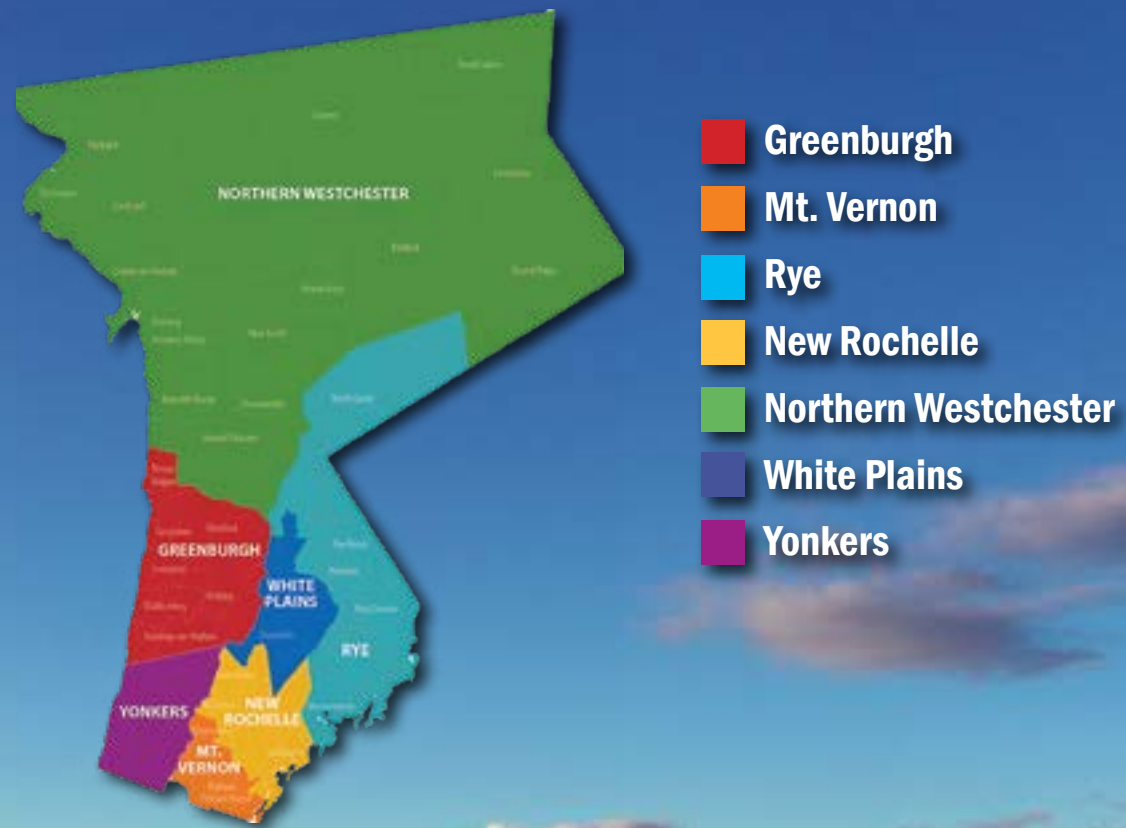
Charles Forzano, Chief Administrator

Moments that Mattered



DA Cacace welcomes educators and law enforcement officials from around the county for the office's first-ever school safety and collaboration seminar on Oct. 29, 2025.

BRANCH OFFICES



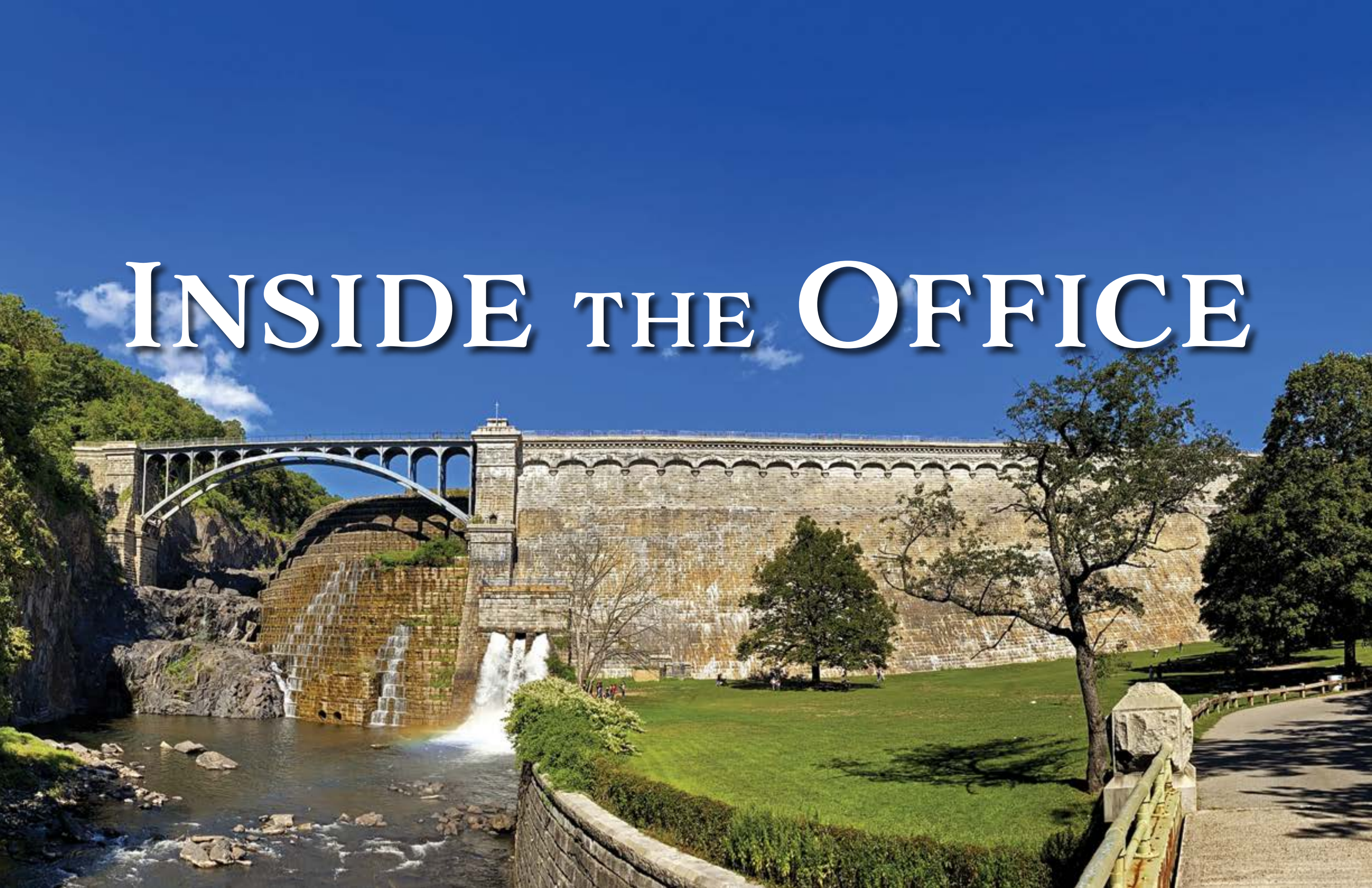
Branch Chiefs ToniAnn Gagliardi (Yonkers), Patrick Macarchuk (White Plains), Cynthia Adimari (Rye), Stephen Ronco (Northern Westchester), Kristina Dushaj (New Rochelle), Jamie Fair (Greenburgh) and Christine Cervasio (Mount Vernon), in conjunction with division staff and Grand Jury Bureau Chief Joseph Servino, coordinate the prosecution of cases across Westchester's diverse array of local courts, from stalwart city courthouses to exurban multi-use courtrooms.

Moments that Mattered



DA Cacace and members of the executive team wear purple to honor victims of domestic violence on Oct. 16, 2025.

INSIDE THE OFFICE



SPECIAL PROSECUTIONS

The Special Prosecutions Division, led by Co-Chiefs Christine Hatfield and Wendy Parra, investigates and prosecutes domestic violence, child abuse, elder abuse, sex crimes and human trafficking cases. The Victims' Justice Center, located within the division, supports crime victims throughout the office.

The division directly employs and engages trauma therapists, translators and child welfare professionals to help guide victims and families throughout the criminal justice process. Critical to the handling of Special Prosecutions cases, the division also employs a number of domestic violence aides who support victims from the moment they enter the division through and following the final disposition of their cases in court.



Domestic Violence

In 2025, the Domestic Violence Bureau intensified its focus on high-risk intimate partner violence, especially with cases involving non-lethal strangulation, which is widely recognized as a critical risk indicator for escalating harm. Reflecting this focus, the bureau doubled indictments charging strangulation in 2025 and tripled strangulation pleas compared to the prior year.

The bureau also expanded prevention and capacity-building work: the number of trainings and presentations focused on domestic violence doubled in 2025, with the majority conducted by Second Deputy District Attorney Fredric Green, Special Counsel to the District Attorney on Special Prosecutions matters.

Across Westchester, the office's seven domestic violence aides provided outreach and assistance to over 2,000 domestic violence victims in 2025.

Child and Elder Abuse

The Child and Elder Abuse Bureau investigates and prosecutes felony cases involving the neglect and abuse (including sexual abuse) of children and the elderly. In 2025, it reviewed and investigated 6,246 reports from Child Protective Services (CPS). It handled 151 forensic interviews scheduled at the Children's Advocacy Center.

In October 2025, our Westchester Multidisciplinary Team Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) was reaccredited, meeting the standards set by the National Children's Alliance to ensure that all victims receive evidence-based healing interventions at the highest quality. The reviewers were very impressed with the longevity, experience and dedication of our team, reaccrediting our CAC as a Tier 1 facility.

Sex Crimes and Human Trafficking

NEWLY INSTITUTED BY DA CACACE

In 2025, under new leadership and an expanded bureau structure, efforts to investigate and track trafficking trends significantly increased, with over 50 human trafficking investigations commenced during the year. Human trafficking screening questions were incorporated into the domestic violence intake process to help identify potential labor or sex trafficking occurring in that context.

The bureau invested in specialized training and collaboration to strengthen trauma-informed and victim-centered practices, including field coaching sessions hosted by the Enhanced Collaborative Model Task Force. The bureau maintained regular engagement with the Westchester County Anti-Trafficking Task Force and provided professional training on trafficking indicators and response, including at the Westchester County Police Academy.

INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

The Investigations Division was re-designated as its own independent division by DA Cacace in 2025. Led by Division Chief John O'Rourke, and supported by Counsel Perry Perrone, the division oversees a sprawling array of investigators and specialized bureaus that handle both felony and misdemeanor offenses. The division's oversight encompasses matters ranging from public integrity cases to the dissemination of child sexual abuse material.

Economic Crimes

The Economic Crimes Bureau investigates embezzlement, investment scams, forgeries, identity theft, insurance fraud and other schemes designed to steal money from unsuspecting victims. In 2025, the bureau conducted 108 investigations into a variety of financial-related crimes, including larcenies, forgeries and tax crimes. The bureau also investigated various other financial scams including grandparent scams, business email compromises and check washing as well as wage theft and labor fraud investigations. The bureau was able to recuperate approximately \$1,208,779 for victims of financial crimes in 2025.

Cyber Crimes and Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM)

NEWLY INSTITUTED BY DA CACACE

The Cyber Crimes and CSAM Bureaus utilize a team of prosecutors and criminal investigators assigned to an integrated forensic laboratory to investigate and prosecute cases in which computers, online content, cellular telephones and other devices contain evidence of criminal conduct. This includes the promotion and possession of child sexual abuse material, referrals from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, unauthorized uses of computers, computer tampering, the online sale and purchase of contraband and terroristic threats using computer systems.

Internet safety, particularly for minors, is a top priority for these bureaus. In addition to investigations and prosecutions involving child sexual abuse material, prosecutors speak frequently with school children, parent organizations and community groups regarding internet safety.

Special Investigations

NEWLY INSTITUTED BY DA CACACE

The Special Investigations Bureau was created in 2025 by DA Cacace to proactively investigate and prosecute a range of complex crimes including frauds, scams and thefts. The bureau is led by skilled and experienced prosecutors who take on especially demanding cases. Among the prosecutors assigned to this specialized bureau is an Auto Crimes Coordinator who is specifically responsible for assisting and collaborating with law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute motor vehicle theft, fraud and related crimes.

Public and Law Enforcement Integrity

The Public and Law Enforcement Integrity Bureau is responsible for investigating and prosecuting allegations of misconduct by uniformed members of service, public officials, public servants and licensed professionals.

The bureau works with dozens of interagency partners to root out malfeasance where it is alleged. The bureau also conducts comprehensive investigations at the behest of local agencies and offers them recommendations that are designed to improve their ethical controls, reducing the chance of future misconduct and saving taxpayers money on potential civil rights judgments.



INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION CONT.

Hate Crimes Unit

The Hate Crimes Unit investigates bias incidents and prosecutes hate crimes which are motivated by a belief or perception regarding the race, color, national origin, ancestry, gender, gender identity or expression, religion, religious practice, age, disability or sexual orientation of a person, regardless of whether the belief or perception is correct. Specially trained prosecutors and crime analysts conduct trainings for law enforcement and the community to educate and prevent hate and bias incidents and crimes before they occur. Through collaboration with local police agencies, the unit has provided investigative support on numerous cases, pre- and post-arrest. Members of the unit frequently deliver hate crimes presentations at local schools, in partnership with the Westchester County Human Rights Commission.

Conviction Review Unit

In 2025, DA Cacace reconstituted the Conviction Review Unit. The unit is responsible for reviewing and investigating claims by convicted individuals of their actual innocence or wrongful conviction. The investigation of these claims involves the re-interview of victims, prosecution witnesses and experts across multiple scientific fields.

In 2025, the Conviction Review Unit received requests to review over 60 cases based on claims of actual innocence or wrongful conviction. In addition to these individual claims, the unit reviews cases involving institutional testing errors or departmental procedural errors that may support an underlying request for review.

Criminal Investigators Squad

Criminal investigators at the District Attorney's Office are involved in a criminal case during its entire life cycle, working with crime analysts and support staff to manage every aspect of a criminal investigation, including surveilling and identifying suspects, collecting evidence, effectuating arrests, executing search warrants, supervising wiretaps, searching seized devices, submitting affidavits to the court and testifying at trial.

Criminal investigators also help supplement local police departments' investigations, ensuring the highest possible standards for law enforcement in Westchester County.

The squad engages in robust community education efforts, in partnership with the office's Community Affairs team, reaching community groups around the county with presentations about internet safety, illicit substances and more.

Moments that Mattered



Members of the Special Prosecutions Division organize a bake sale to raise money for the New Dawn Family Resource Center, which supports victims of domestic violence, on Oct. 21, 2025.

APPEALS & SPECIAL LITIGATION DIVISION

The Appeals and Special Litigation Division handles the appeals process for criminal convictions and other post-conviction litigation in both state and federal court, under the direction of Division Chief Steven Bender and Deputy Chief William Milaccio. Appeals are litigated in the Appellate Term, Appellate Division and the New York State Court of Appeals. Freedom of Information Law requests and post-conviction motions, among other matters, are also handled by division staff.

Appeals

The Appeals Bureau litigates all direct appeals from judgments of conviction to the intermediate appellate courts (the Appellate Division and Appellate Term of the Second Department). The bureau also litigates applications for leave to appeal to the Court of Appeals and briefing in that court if leave is granted, coram nobis applications in the Appellate Division based on ineffective assistance of appellate counsel, post-conviction applications for bail pending appeal, habeas corpus petitions pending trial and all related motion practice in the appellate courts.

Motions and Training

Newly hired prosecutors begin their legal careers at the Motions and Training Bureau. The bureau was reinstated by DA Cacace to provide new prosecutors with the ability to collaborate with experienced trial prosecutors by drafting pretrial motions on felony matters. In doing so, new prosecutors gain a general overview of the life of a criminal case, an introduction to how to review a file (including digital evidence such as body-worn camera footage and interrogations) and a primer on conducting legal research on key legal topics, such as Fourth Amendment search and seizure. Notably, in 2025, 236 pretrial motions were prepared and filed by the bureau.

Aside from drafting pretrial motions, new prosecutors also participated in a three-month training program, consisting of classroom lectures provided by their more experienced colleagues from all divisions within the office, on topics including search and seizure, local court practice, ethical standards and how to prosecute specific crimes.

Post Conviction

The General and Post-Conviction Litigation Bureau handles collateral challenges to a defendant's sentence or conviction and general motion practice related to a particular criminal case, post judgment. The bureau also handles the office's public records responsibilities, processing and responding to the litany of Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) requests and subpoenas that the office receives on a regular basis.

In 2025, the bureau responded to 215 FOIL requests, 50 motions to vacate a conviction or set aside sentence, 13 motions or petitions filed in federal court, 75 sealing motions and more than 50 other motions in various courts.

Discovery

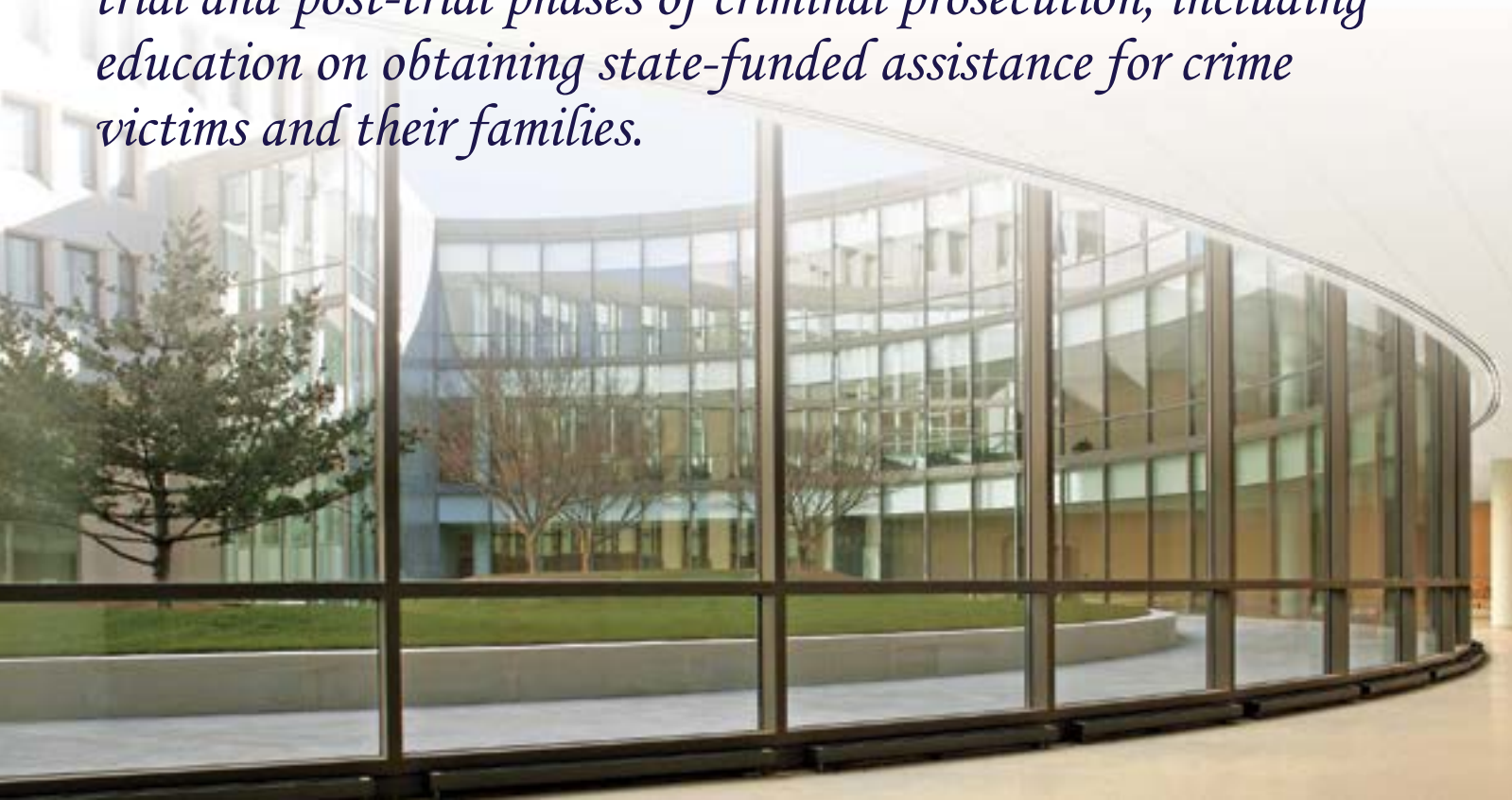
The Discovery Bureau handles the voluminous discovery obligations of the office, including cataloging and distributing documents, body-worn camera video and other items required to be disclosed pursuant to the Criminal Procedure Law. The bureau provides training and assistance with discovery-related issues to other members of the office and outside law enforcement agencies. In 2025, the Discovery Bureau played a central operational role in ensuring lawful, timely and consistent discovery practice across the Westchester County courts, with a workload that increasingly reflects the volume and complexity of digital evidence in modern prosecutions.

TRIAL DIVISION

Newly re-designated as its own separate division in 2025 by DA Cacace, the Trial Division is the workhorse of the office's prosecutorial mandate, organizing and overseeing all of the major felony prosecutions that occur within Westchester County.

The division, led by Chief Nadine Nagler, houses a multitude of specialized bureaus and employs skilled attorneys with experience handling various violent felonies, ranging from homicides to drug trafficking, and more.

The division also employs a victim services coordinator responsible for guiding crime victims through the pre-trial, trial and post-trial phases of criminal prosecution, including education on obtaining state-funded assistance for crime victims and their families.



Homicide

The Homicide Bureau is staffed with a roster of experienced trial attorneys from within the Trial Division. The bureau is responsible for prosecuting some of the most significant and notorious cases received by the office, including People v. Hasseem Jenkins, who was convicted at trial in 2025 of murdering Westchester County social worker Maria Coto, and People v. Fernando Jimenez Meza, who pleaded guilty in 2025 to murdering 15-year-old Michael Raimondi and shooting Michael's mother and brother inside their Somers home.

The bureau works with a range of stakeholders to develop robust criminal cases for trial, including the Westchester County Medical Examiner's Office and the Westchester County Department of Labs and Research.

Vehicular Crimes

The Vehicular Crimes Bureau works with police departments across Westchester to investigate and prosecute incidents of felony-level driving while intoxicated, vehicular assault, vehicular manslaughter and other felonies occurring with or inside a vehicle.

Cold Cases

The Cold Case Bureau investigates unsolved homicides and other violent crimes committed over five years ago that are no longer being actively investigated by law enforcement and have the potential to be solved through newly acquired information or advanced technologies, particularly DNA and other scientific means. The bureau unifies county resources and subject matter experts into a multidisciplinary team with the goal of holding offenders accountable and bringing long overdue justice to victims and their families.

Major Cases

The Major Case Bureau handles serious violent assaults, robberies, shootings, stabbings, kidnappings and burglaries committed in Westchester County and vertically prosecutes these cases. The bureau also handles complicated multi-jurisdictional investigations of high-profile felonies and assists law enforcement during the initial investigatory stage and through prosecution and disposition.

Pleadings & Diversion

Despite being one of the smallest bureaus in the office, the Pleadings and Diversion Bureau handles thousands of cases per year, including Superior Court Informations (conferences, pleas and sentences), bail applications in county court, extraditions to other states, environmental criminal prosecutions and prosecutions under New York's Raise the Age legislation.

The bureau also manages the diversion of criminal cases to alternative and treatment courts, which include the Drug Treatment Court, aiding those defendants who need substance abuse treatment and services, and Mental Health Court, which connects defendants suffering from mental illness to treatment and services. The Veteran's Treatment Court is also available to veterans who become criminal defendants, helping connect them to needed services and mental health treatment.

Violent Criminal Enterprise Bureau

The Violent Criminal Enterprise Bureau investigates and prosecutes violent criminal activity including shootings, felony assaults, firearm possession and trafficking, arson, hate crimes and bias incidents, organized criminal activity such as pattern burglary and robbery, narcotics trafficking and group violence networks.

Animal Cruelty Unit

The Animal Cruelty Unit of our office oversees all criminal matters in which abuse, neglect or abandonment of animals is suspected. We assist local municipalities and SPCA Westchester with investigations and prosecute cases in which animals are our victims. We seek justice for our four-legged community members who are not able to advocate for themselves.

LOCAL CRIMINAL COURTS AND GRAND JURY DIVISION

The Local Criminal Courts and Grand Jury Division contains branch offices in Greenburgh, Mount Vernon, New Rochelle, Yorktown (Northern Westchester), Rye, White Plains and Yonkers. Led by Chief Anthony Molea, the division prosecutes the bulk of local criminal matters originating in Westchester's city, town and village courts. The branch office model enables the District Attorney's Office to work closely with local law enforcement and to maintain a consistent presence in the communities where cases are prosecuted, supporting victims and witnesses while advancing public safety.

Local branch chiefs are an integral part of this model and supervise local offices that handle the vast majority of misdemeanor and lower-level criminal matters that arise within their respective jurisdictions. The local branches are also responsible for arraigning higher-level felonies before an indictment is sought and returned by a Grand Jury.

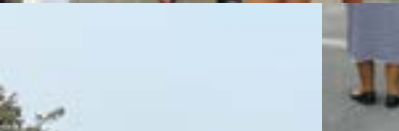
Branch Chiefs ToniAnn Gagliardi (Yonkers), Patrick Macarchuk (White Plains), Cynthia Adimari (Rye), Stephen Ronco (Northern Westchester), Kristina Dushaj (New Rochelle), Jamie Fair (Greenburgh) and Christine Cervasio (Mount Vernon), in conjunction with division staff and Grand Jury Bureau Chief Joseph Servino, coordinate the prosecution of cases across Westchester's diverse array of local courts, from stalwart city courthouses to exurban multi-use courtrooms.



Westchester

County

2025 NATIONAL NIGHT Out



BY THE NUMBERS



Nearly **20,000** prosecutions across Westchester County Court and 40+ local courts

About **350** matters presented to **39** Grand Juries

Over **60** trials and over **140** hearings

49 guilty verdicts at trial

348 indictments

Professional Development

- **27** accredited Continuing Legal Education programs, in-person and hybrid, covering ethics, cybersecurity, changes to law and practice efficiency

Discovery & Digital Evidence

- More than **50,000** body-worn camera videos received
- **687** Discovery Disclosure Index filings for local court certifications

Digital Forensics (High-Tech Unit)

- **313** cases handled
- **636** devices examined
- More than **70** terabytes of data analyzed

Community Engagement

- **227** outreach events, about a 180% increase from the prior year
- **14** National Night Out outreach tables staffed countywide
- **2,500** age-calculator placards mailed to alcohol vendors

Victim Assistance

- Over **2,000** domestic violence victims supported by domestic violence aides countywide
- **6,246** Child Protective Services reports reviewed and investigated
- **151** forensic interviews scheduled at the Children's Advocacy Center
- **34** Sex Offender Registration Act hearings handled
- Over **50** human trafficking investigations commenced

Moments that Mattered



DA Cacace presents her administration's inaugural Civilian Hero Award to Armando and Shayla Gramajo, who intervened in a murder in progress in White Plains, during an award ceremony on Oct. 22, 2025.

MAJOR INITIATIVES

Hate Crimes Advisory Board

Building on a campaign promise, DA Cacace created the Hate Crimes Advisory Board, a first-of-its-kind initiative within her office to build partnerships with community stakeholders in furtherance of rooting out hate and bias in Westchester County.

The Hate Crimes Advisory Board is composed of 13 members who will meet quarterly with DA Cacace and members of the Hate Crimes Unit to bring to their attention concerns from their respective constituencies. This direct feedback will allow the office to more closely monitor trends in the spread of hate-fueled incidents, both criminal and non-criminal, in Westchester.

Members of the Board do not receive compensation and volunteer their time and expertise for the benefit of the office. The inaugural meeting of the Board was Monday, Sept. 29, 2025.

“The surge in hateful incidents over the past several years has alarmed all of us in this county, but it has especially concerned those who bear a disproportionate share of the hate dispensed by violent offenders.”



AI-Based Harassment

DA Cacace and her staff attorneys worked with the County Legislature to craft new prohibitions on the use of “deep fakes” to engage in sexual harassment or criminal impersonation. Thanks to these efforts, the law now criminalizes the use of digitally deceptive materials in Westchester. Such content includes images, videos or text that have been created or modified by artificial intelligence to present false information, closing a gap in the law that had previously only targeted visual impersonations.

The new local law also expands penalties for the creation and distribution of digitally enhanced media, ensuring Westchester County’s residents are better safeguarded from the circulation of harmful content. Those who violate the law repeatedly face the possibility of incarceration for up to one year.



MAJOR INITIATIVES

Discovery

Working in concert with her District Attorney peers, the District Attorneys Association of the State of New York (DAASNY) and Gov. Kathy Hochul, DA Cacace helped secure passage of critical reforms to New York's discovery laws. Between 2019 and 2024, case dismissal rates in Westchester nearly doubled, in large part due to discovery changes that took effect in 2020.

After sustained advocacy in 2025, including multiple trips to Albany, these changes were reined in through passage of the FY 2026 Budget, right-sizing the discovery process so that meritorious cases will no longer be thrown out on technicalities when there is no prejudice to the defense.



Moments that Mattered



Community Affairs Liaison Angela Liga and First Deputy District Attorney Nancy Barry deliver the proceeds of the office's Thanksgiving food drive to Feeding Westchester on Nov. 25, 2025.

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

The office runs a robust, year-round Community Affairs operation, educating the public about the work of the office, engaging vulnerable constituencies about best practices for security and delivering public safety presentations on a wide range of relevant topics.

The Community Affairs unit is the public-facing representative of the office, ensuring that our prosecutorial mandate isn't simply reactive but proactive, helping to inspire a culture of safety and self-empowerment before crime occurs.



School Presentations:

In 2025, the office expanded and enhanced our presence across schools in Westchester County, with assistant district attorneys and criminal investigators making presentations and engaging in discussions with elementary, middle and high school students around the county on topics such as healthy relationships, driving while intoxicated and hate crimes. As new public safety trends emerged, we proactively created and delivered presentations tailored to the specific needs of the community, addressing issues such as underage cannabis use and digital safety.



School Safety Seminar:

On Oct. 29, the office hosted over 150 superintendents, principals, school resource officers, police chiefs and commissioners, counselors, social workers and security coordinators to a first-of-its-kind school safety seminar. Administrators from both public and private schools were represented, spanning every portion of our county, to discuss the issues most acutely affecting our student population. Attendees heard presentations on student drug and alcohol usage, internet safety and confronting physical and sexual abuse of children.

The meeting was designed to kick off a new era of coordination and cooperation among this office, the school districts and local law enforcement, to ensure we are all acting in concert to achieve student safety.

Community Education

In 2025, assistant district attorneys, criminal investigators, domestic violence aides and support staff participated in over 227 events in schools and community settings, a 180% increase in presentations from the previous year.



Heritage Festivals:

In 2025, the office re-established its presence at the county's various heritage festivals. Members of our office actively participated in a variety of heritage festivals – including Polish, Asian, Albanian, African American, Hispanic, Irish, Italian, Arab, Indian, Jewish and Muslim, celebrating the diverse cultures that shape our community. These engagements reinforced our commitment to community connection, providing opportunities to share educational resources and meet face-to-face with the residents we serve.



National Night Out:

National Night Out is an annual national community-building campaign that fosters police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. On Aug. 5, 2025, the office deployed teams of assistant district attorneys, criminal investigators and support staff to manage 14 tables across Westchester, distributing educational literature and meeting the residents of the communities we serve.

Moments that Mattered



DA Cacace hosts a delegation of members of the state Assembly and County Board of Legislators for a working breakfast on Sept. 17, 2025.

ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION AND RE-ENTRY

DA Cacace approaches public safety with the understanding that accountability and rehabilitation are not mutually exclusive. In appropriate cases, alternatives to incarceration and problem-solving court interventions can address the underlying causes of criminal conduct, reduce recidivism and strengthen community safety. In 2025, the office continued to support diversionary and treatment-based responses for individuals whose involvement with the criminal justice system is linked to mental health challenges, substance use disorders, trauma or other instability. These efforts reflect a core principle of the office: being tough on crime also means being smart about how crime is prevented.

Among the key alternatives to incarceration is Fresh Start, a pre-arraignment diversion program for certain non-violent, first-time, low-level offenders. Eligible participants are referred to the Westchester County Department of Community Mental Health for counseling, support services and other

interventions designed to address the issues underlying the charged conduct. The office also continued its participation in Drug Court, Mental Health Court, Veterans Court, Wellness Court, OPT-In, the Mount Vernon Emerging Adult Justice Part and the New Rochelle Opportunity Youth Part. Each of these programs is intended to combine accountability with treatment, supervision and social support.

This same philosophy guides the office's approach to re-entry. The office recognizes that the period following release from incarceration is one of the most important points for crime prevention, and that individuals returning to the community are far less likely to reoffend when they have access to stable housing, mental health care, substance use treatment, employment support, educational opportunity and other essential services. DA Cacace has underscored that re-entry policy is crime-prevention policy. As co-chair of the Westchester County Re-entry Task Force, she has emphasized a hands-on, collaborative approach to helping formerly incarcerated individuals access the support necessary for successful reintegration.



Moments that Mattered



Members of the office participate in the Law Enforcement Torch Run to benefit the Special Olympics on May 19, 2025.



VICTIM ASSISTANCE

Supporting victims is a core part of DA Cacace's approach to prosecution. The office is committed not only to holding offenders accountable, but to ensuring that victims are treated with dignity, compassion and respect throughout the criminal justice process.

Victim support is anchored by the Victims' Justice Center, which provides crime victims and their families with information, crisis intervention, referrals, court-related support and help navigating available financial assistance and related services.

The Trial Division also employs a full-time victim services coordinator who guides crime victims and their families through the pre-trial, trial and post-trial phases of criminal prosecution.

The office's goal is to ensure that victims are protected, informed of their rights, supported throughout the court process and connected with services that promote safety, stability and healing. For many victims and loved ones, a trial verdict is only the beginning of their journey toward finding closure and securing a renewed normalcy that had been shaken by the underlying criminal offense. Our office remains available to them as they proceed along that journey, which can last a lifetime.



RICHARD J. DARONCO

WESTCHESTER COUNTY
COURTHOUSE

Moments that Mattered



DA Cacace and members of the office wear purple in honor of World Elder Abuse Day on June 16, 2025.

optimum.
news12
WESTCHESTER

Nearly a year after she was elected to the highest prosecutorial office in Westchester County, Susan Cacace sits down with News 12 Senior Reporter Tara Rosenblum for an exclusive one-on-one conversation.



The New York Times

N.Y.P.D. Officer Accused of Theft to Pay for 'Booty' Exercises and BMW

Yeison Rodriguez Acosta used data he had obtained as a Wells Fargo employee to spend customers' money on luxury car payments and a body-shaping program, among other expenses, prosecutors said.

PIX11

NORTHERN SUBURBS

Hired painter pleads guilty to raping 11-year-old girl in Peekskill: DA

by: Ben Mitchell
Posted: Sep 3, 2025 / 09:40 PM EDT
Updated: Sep 3, 2025 / 09:42 PM EDT

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (PIX11) — A 60-year-old man pleaded guilty to raping an 11-year-old girl in 2024 in Peekskill, Westchester County District Attorney Susan Cacace announced Wednesday. The defendant, Anselmo Yambay Pena, was hired to paint apartments at a residential building in Peekskill, prosecutors say.

DAILY VOICE

'Surge In Hateful Incidents' In Westchester Prompts New Hate Crimes Advisory Board, DA Says

In response to what officials describe as a troubling surge in hate-fueled incidents, Westchester County District Attorney Susan Cacace has launched a first-of-its-kind initiative to strengthen community partnerships and fight bias.

NEW YORK POST

Youth basketball coach, 62, charged with 'grievous sexual acts' against girl under 13: NY prosecutors

By David Propper and Jorge Fitz-Gibbon
Published May 15, 2025, 8:23 p.m. ET

A "reprehensible" Westchester County youth basketball coach was charged with molesting a young girl on at least two occasions over a five-month period, prosecutors said Thursday.

Dwayne Murray, 62, who coached the Mount Vernon Junior Knights basketball team, was ordered held without bail after being hit with a felony charge of sexual conduct against a child, Westchester District Attorney Susan Cacace said at a press briefing.

Cacace said Murray made "some admissions" concerning the alleged abuse.

Miami Herald

NATIONAL

Off-duty NYPD officer points pistol at teens in fit of road rage, official says

An off-duty New York City police detective pulled out his pistol and pointed it at three 16-year-olds on the road in front of him after officials said the teens were forced to suddenly stop, causing him to also brake.

New Rochelle man gets 13 years for sexually assaulting teen boys

August 13, 2025 by Shore News Network

White Plains, NY – A 53-year-old New Rochelle man has been sentenced to 13 years in state prison for sexually assaulting three teenage boys between the ages of 14 and 15, Westchester County prosecutors announced Tuesday.

NY gym teacher got creepy with female student using dog collar, then threatened to 'stalk' her: prosecutors

By David Propper
Published July 16, 2025, 6:53 p.m. ET

A Yonkers gym teacher allegedly called a female student a "bitch" and implied he wanted to put her in a dog collar he had in his hands, prosecutors said Wednesday.

Yonkers Middle-High School Matthew Hausman, 50, was arrested by Yonkers police for a string of unsettling accusations including asking the victim if he could "send my daughters" and "my wife" to the pupil's father and he could "get" the student in return.

Westchester County District Attorney Susan Cacace slammed the Somers resident for allegedly sending the girl inappropriate romantic and sexual overtures.

Queens Burglar On the Run Sentenced In Absentia To Prison For Targeting Asian Business Owner's Home

The 27-year-old fugitive from justice was caught while trying to steal over \$1000 in designer handbags from the Ossining home in 2023.

By Jeff Edwards, Patch Staff

Posted Thu, Jul 31, 2025 at 3:39 pm ET Updated Thu, Jul 31, 2025 at 3:49 pm ET

Xmas Eve Assault: Woman Attacks Pregnant DSS Worker Inside Yonkers Office, DA Says

A 30-year-old woman has been arrested and charged after prosecutors say she assaulted a pregnant Department of Social Services employee inside a Westchester County office on Christmas Eve.

By Ben Cincic

Melissa Cochrane, 30, of Yonkers, was taken into custody Wednesday afternoon, Dec. 24, in connection with the alleged attack at the county's DSS Yonkers district office, the Westchester County District Attorney's Office announced on Friday, Dec. 26.

Staffer at Mount Kisco rehab sentenced for sexual abuse of developmentally disabled woman



Jonathan Bandler

Rockland/Westchester Journal News

Aug. 6, 2025, 12:45 p.m. ET

A former staff member at a rehabilitation center for developmentally disabled adults was called "the lowest of the lows" by a Westchester County judge before being sentenced for sexually abusing a woman in his care.

Yonkers Attorney Charged with Threatening Westchester Judge Day before Minnesota Rep. Shot Dead

June 15, 2025

Accessibility, Archive, Blog, civil rights, Community, Crime, Criminal Justice, Deaths, Domestic Violence, Elections, Families, Health, Kids, Latest, News, Politics, Safety, violence

By SÍLE MOLONEY



HERITAGE FESTIVALS

Westchester County Police

Westchester County

WESTCHESTER COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

WESTCHESTER COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
SUSAN CACACE

PARKS

TIME

Moments that Mattered



DA Cacace attends the Yom HaShoah commemoration ceremony at the Garden of Remembrance, in White Plains, on April 24, 2025.

CASES OF NOTE

POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS



People v. Hasseem Jenkins

On May 14, 2024, Maria Coto was conducting home visits in the City of Peekskill as part of her job as a senior caseworker for the Westchester County Department of Social Services. While looking for a client, Coto inadvertently knocked on the wrong door and fatefully encountered 31-year-old Hasseem Jenkins. Unprovoked, Jenkins attacked Coto, savagely punching and kicking her and causing catastrophic injuries. Coto went into a coma but never regained consciousness and later died from her injuries, on June 19.

Following a multi-count indictment, a murder trial began in October of 2025. Prosecutors Nadine Nagler and Kevin Jones, along with investigators from the Peekskill Police Department, worked diligently to show how Jenkins brutally beat and murdered Coto in an adjacent apartment, in which she had sought refuge.

After a multi-week trial, a jury found Jenkins guilty of several charges including Murder in the Second Degree (Felony Murder) and Manslaughter in the First Degree.

On Jan. 8, 2026, Jenkins was sentenced to 23 years to life in state prison by Westchester County Judge George Fufidio.

Upon sentencing, DA Cacace stated, “the safety of our public servants is non-negotiable. Maria Coto’s death will not be in vain. Her boundless spirit will live on through her family, friends, DSS colleagues and all others who had the pleasure of knowing her. May she forever rest in peace.”

People v. Eleuterio Duran

Yonkers resident Eleuterio Duran repeatedly preyed upon the young and vulnerable. Between Nov. 1, 2020, and March 2, 2022, Duran engaged in multiple acts of sexual conduct with a child. Among his predations was an instance of rape by forcible compulsion, which was committed several months later, on or about July 5, 2022.

Even after this incident, the defendant continued to engage in sexual abuse, subjecting his victim to sexual contact by forcible compulsion in 2023. But Duran's predations did not start with this spree of abuse. Approximately 10 years earlier, Duran raped another person who was incapacitated.

In August 2023, Duran was arrested and charged with Course of Sexual Conduct Against a Child in the First Degree. The following June, those charges were significantly expanded in an indictment to encompass both victims, including multiple counts of Rape in the First Degree, Rape in the Second Degree and Sexual Abuse in the First Degree, among other charges.

Following a multi-week trial, Duran was convicted in December 2025 by a Westchester County jury on every single count submitted to the jury. DA Cacace noted that "sexual abuse and assault survivors will always have a champion in my administration" and urged victims of abuse to report their assailants.

Thanks to the committed advocacy of the trial attorneys, including Sr. Assistant District Attorneys Stephanie Baehr and Charlotte Gudis, and to the bravery of the testifying victims, Judge Robert Prisco gave the defendant a 45-year prison sentence.

"We are pleased with the substantial prison sentence given to Eleuterio Duran.

We hope that this sentence will offer some relief to the victims in this case, both of whom testified courageously in this trial. They will continue to be in our thoughts and prayers.

The hard work and determination of the investigators and prosecutors in this case have not gone unnoticed.

I am extremely grateful for their efforts."

People v. Dwayne Murray

On May 14, 2025, investigators with the Westchester County District Attorney's Office arrested Dwayne Murray, a prominent youth basketball coach in Mount Vernon, and charged him with one count of Course of Sexual Conduct Against a Child in the First Degree, a class B violent felony.

It is alleged that between Oct. 1, 2023, and March 1, 2024, Murray engaged in two or more acts of sexual conduct with a child who was less than thirteen years old, including at least one act of oral sexual conduct.

On April 12, 2025, our office received a tip containing allegations of troubling conduct committed against the victim in this case. Immediately thereafter, the

DA's Office launched an investigation. Investigators interviewed relevant witnesses and analyzed electronic devices belonging to the victim.

A search of these devices revealed that the defendant had exchanged text messages with the victim in which he discussed performing oral sex on the victim.

As DA Cacace said at a press conference concerning this case, the office is "fully committed" to investigating and prosecuting any crimes involving child victims, no matter whom the perpetrator or their stature in the community.

The Murray case remains ongoing, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.



People v. Deshawn Nunez

On Aug. 11, 2022, members of the Yonkers Police Department entered an apartment on Nepperhan Ave. after receiving a report of a female down. Upon entering, officers discovered 68-year-old Renee Spencer, lying lifeless in a pool of blood.

An examination from the Westchester County Medical Examiner's Office revealed that she had been stabbed 17 times. Surveillance footage later identified Deshawn Nunez, of Yonkers, then 21 years old, as the primary suspect, and subsequent evidence further confirmed his culpability.

The defendant was quickly apprehended and arraigned on a felony complaint that same month charging him with Murder in the Second Degree.

Following an indictment on numerous felony charges, the defendant pleaded guilty in late July 2025 to murdering Renee Spencer. In August, he was sentenced by Judge George Fufidio to 25 years to life in prison, the maximum possible sentence for this charge.



CITY COURT OF THE CITY OF RYE
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

v.
YEISON E. RODRIGUEZ ACOSTA
Defendant

FELONY COMPLAINT

COUNT ONE: The Offense of GRAND LARCENY IN THE THIRD DEGREE OVER, a violation of Penal Law PL1553500DF3.

The Defendant at the date and place did steal property and the value of the property exceeded three thousand dollars.

COUNT TWO: The Offense of IDENTITY THEFT 1: ASSUME ANOTHER'S IDENTITY- CAUSE FINANCIAL LOSS>\$2000 => CLASS D, a violation of Penal Law PL1908002DF1.

TO WIT: The defendant at the date and place, on or about and in between May 1, 2024 and June 13, 2025, as a Wells Fargo branch operations coordinator accessed fourteen (14) customer accounts obtained their banking account numbers and thereafter made or cause to be made unauthorized ACH transactions to pay for his and/or third party credit card accounts; personal purchases for travel, food, clothing and other personal items, such as payments for a BMW vehicle, Booty by Jack, trip to Aruba, AirBNB, various restaurants, GEICO insurance with a value in excess of one thousand dollars from one or more such customers.

People v. Yeison Rodriguez Acosta

On July 16, 2025, New York City Police Department Officer Yeison Rodriguez Acosta was arrested and charged in a 30-count complaint with allegedly stealing over \$87,000 from Wells Fargo client accounts, using information he had gleaned during his time as a branch operations coordinator with the bank.

Between May 2024 and June 2025, Rodriguez Acosta used private customers' banking information to steal \$87,243.81 from 14 customer accounts, according to a felony complaint filed in the case. These alleged thefts occurred during the defendant's employment with the bank and are alleged to have continued occurring after the defendant left the bank in September 2024 to join the NYPD.

As outlined in the felony complaint, the defendant is accused of using these funds to pay for his own and/or others' credit card bills; to make payments for a BMW vehicle; to purchase a subscription to "Booty By Jacks," which, according to its website, describes itself as "the world's best glute building program;" to pay for a trip to Aruba; to pay for an Airbnb; to pay for meals at various restaurants; and to pay for GEICO insurance, among other transactions.

The Rodriguez Acosta case remains ongoing, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.

People v. Fernando Jimenez Meza

On Oct. 28, 2024, Westchester experienced one of its most shocking cases of domestic violence in recent memory when a shooting occurred in Somers. Following a verbal dispute, then-40-year-old Fernando Jimenez Meza left the home of his romantic partner Christina Raimondi, retrieved a revolver from his car and then returned to the home and shot Christina. After shooting Christina, Jimenez Meza went into her sons' bedroom and shot her two sons — Michael, 15 years old at the time, and Matthew, 13 years old at the time — multiple times. Michael died from his injuries.

Jimenez Meza was apprehended by police after an hours-long manhunt involving multiple jurisdictions, including the New York State Police, the Westchester County Police Department and the Putnam County Sheriff's Office.

On Oct. 24, 2025, Jimenez Meza pleaded guilty to every count in his indictment which included one count of Murder in

the Second Degree and two counts of Attempted Murder in the Second Degree.

On Dec. 18, 2025, Jimenez Meza was sentenced by Judge George Fufidio to 37 years to life in state prison for this horrific crime.

This case was prosecuted by Division Chief Nadine Nagler and Bureau Chief James Bavero.

At sentencing, Christina said in a statement that "the grief of losing my son is a lingering pain. It follows me every day. It is a fire in my chest. A knife in my throat. Unbearable."



People v. Carlos Obed-Tovar

On May 4, 2024, a White Plains woman was inside her basement apartment with her daughter, then 6 years old, and her husband, Carlos Obed-Tovar. Upon overhearing a conversation that she was having on the phone with a male colleague, Obed-Tovar became irate. He went to the kitchen to retrieve a knife and stabbed his wife all over her body, puncturing her throat and cutting the insides of her fingers when she held her hands up as a means of self-defense. He did this in the presence of their daughter, who at one point, tried to jump on his back to prevent him from hurting her mother further.

The victim managed to wrest the knife away from Obed-Tovar, only for him to go and retrieve another knife from the kitchen with the aim of continuing to stab her. Taking advantage of this critical moment, the victim fled from the apartment. But Obed-Tovar decided to pursue her down the street, catching up to her and repeatedly stabbing her with a second knife with such force that the handle broke off and the blade was lodged in her head.

Obed-Tovar's homicidal pursuit caught the attention of a good Samaritan, later identified as White Plains resident Armando Gramajo, who demanded that the defendant cease his conduct, which he did. Gramajo summoned for the assistance of his daughter, Shayla, then a nursing student, who ran outside with clean bedsheets to apply pressure to the victim's open wounds.

Obed-Tovar was charged with and later pleaded guilty to Attempted Murder in the Second Degree. During a statement read aloud at sentencing, the victim stated: "I still don't understand how I survived after 35 cuts and stabs you inflicted. The only thing clear to me is that God is great. He knows my heart and knows I was not a bad person. The only thing I know is that I survived for a purpose, and I am grateful to everyone who has helped and supported me through this process."

On Aug. 14, 2025, Obed-Tovar was sentenced to 12 years in state prison. For their part, the Gramajos were awarded DA Cacace's inaugural Civilian Hero Award for their interventions on that day that very well may have spared the victim her life.





People v. Ahmed al Jabali

On Aug. 29, 2024, Ahmed al Jabali of Yonkers was arrested for his role in a brutal act of hate and antisemitism. After entering a Yonkers barbershop and asking Jewish shop owner Slava Shushakov for a shave, al Jabali grabbed a pair of scissors and attempted to stab the barber in the face and body. Al Jabali, then 34 years old, allegedly shouted, “I want to kill you, you (expletive) Jew” as he was attempting to stab the victim. Shushakov was able to fend off the assailant but suffered a deep cut to his right hand during the attack. Al Jabali was arrested by Yonkers Police shortly after the attack.

On April 17, 2025, following an indictment on multiple counts including several hate crimes, al Jabali pleaded guilty to Assault in the Second Degree as a Hate Crime, a class C violent felony. Mr. Shushakov said, “no one should have to go through what I went through. This attack is a reminder that we have a lot more to do to eradicate

hate and antisemitism in Westchester County. I want to thank DA Cacace and the Yonkers police for helping me get through this difficult time and for making sure I could get justice.”

On May 29, 2025, al Jabali was sentenced by Judge James McCarty to six years in state prison and three years of post-release supervision.



Moments that Mattered



Members of the Trial Division wear jeans in honor of Denim Day, recognizing the struggles faced by survivors of sexual abuse, on April 30, 2025.

PUBLIC INFORMATION, CONTACTS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



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