



Westchester County District Attorney's Office

District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah

2023 Proposed Budget

November 21, 2022

Board of Legislators

District Attorney's Office Program Areas and Services

The mission of the District Attorney's Office is to provide the fair, effective and efficient investigation and prosecution of criminal offenses committed in Westchester County to keep our community safe, while also working in collaboration with other government and community partners to prevent the over-utilization of incarceration, conviction and fines in the criminal justice system.

In order to accomplish this mission, the Office is organized as follows:



Divisions

Appeals & Special Litigation Division: Responds to legal challenges of convictions. It is comprised of the Appeals and Special Litigation Bureaus, as well as the new Discovery Bureau.

Criminal Courts & Training Division: Comprised of the Local Criminal Court branches and the newly created Felony General Crimes Bureau, which vertically handles all low level felony offenses and replaces the former Grand Jury Bureau. The Division includes eight branch offices and also houses the pre-arraignment misdemeanor diversion program “Fresh Start.” It is also responsible for initial and ongoing training for all ADAs.

Special Prosecutions Division: Investigates and prosecutes cases of domestic violence, child abuse, elder abuse, human trafficking and sex crimes. It also houses the Victims’ Justice Center and the newly created Misdemeanor DV Bureau.

Trials & Investigations Division: Created by the DA, handles both reactive prosecutions and proactive investigations. It was created to more accurately reflect the work done by WCDAO prosecutors, make better use of the Office’s limited resources, and further the DA’s goal of adopting a fully vertical model of prosecution and increased prosecutorial accountability.



Other Parts of Our Office

Conviction Review Unit: The District Attorney established the Office's first independent Conviction Review Unit (CRU) to examine credible, investigatable claims of actual innocence and present findings to the District Attorney. CRU is staffed by attorneys hired from outside the WCDAO with extensive experience in reinvestigation and exoneration work.

Criminal Investigators: The primary mission of the criminal investigators is to provide support to the prosecutors and over 40 local police departments in the investigation and prosecution of crimes committed in Westchester County.

Administration Division: Facilitates financial reporting, budgeting and forecasting, payroll, personnel, purchasing and procurement, accounts payable, grant administration, record center operations, training and travel requests and victim witness assistance for the WCDAO.



Budget Summary

ITEM	2022	2023
Operating Positions	244	244
Trust Positions	15	16
TOTAL POSITIONS	259	260
Personal Service	27,807,039	28,862,181
Equipment	152,199	130,152
Materials & Supplies	322,270	276,525
Contractual Expenses	2,679,785	3,048,071
Inter-Departmental Charges	1,193,725	1,232,825
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	32,155,018	33,605,264



Budget Summary

ITEM	2022	2023
Inter-Departmental Revenue		
Departmental Revenue		
State & Federal Aid	630,156	630,156
TOTAL REVENUE	630,156	630,156
DEPARTMENT TAX LEVY	31,524,862	32,975,108



New Initiatives and Highlights

- **Discovery Bureau**
- **Misdemeanor Domestic Violence Bureau**
- **ERPO Trainings and Implementation/Gun Safety**
- **Hate Crimes Portal** (and expansion to overdose reporting)
- **Conviction Review Unit (CRU) Vacatur**
- **Domestic Violence Survivors Justice Act (DVSJA) Resentencing**
- **Pre-Arrest Diversion “Fresh Start” Expansion County-Wide and Misdemeanor Mental Health Court**
- **USDOJ Bureau of Justice Assistance Grant** (to fund an additional ADA in our Cold Case Bureau)
- **Efforts to Increase Diversity in the WCDAO through Minority Job Fairs, Recruiting at HBCU Law Schools, and New Intern Initiatives with High Schools in Westchester County**



Community Engagement

Our ADAS have been involved in, and presented at, various events throughout Westchester County, including:

- National Night Out (10 locations)
- Senior Law Day
- Greenburgh PD Summer Youth Camp
- High School Career Day Programs
- Neighbors Link “Know Your Rights” Presentation
- White Plains, Yonkers, and Mount Vernon Community Youth Courts
- BOCES – Superintendents Red Flag Law Training
- African American Men of Westchester Criminal Justice Workshop Series
- Asian Women’s Alliance for Kinship and Equality (AWAKE) Human Trafficking Panel
- YMCA of Central & Northern Westchester Youth in Government

And spoken on topics, including:

- Elder Abuse/Senior Scams
- Hate Crimes
- Internet Safety
- Wage Theft/Worker Safety
- Role of the DA’s Office
- Immigrant Rights
- Red Flag Laws/Gun Safety
- Teen Dating Violence



Diversity Facts and Figures

Race/ethnicity for Lawyers in Westchester:

Asian: 4%

Black or African American: 5.7%

Hispanic: 4%

White: 85.7%

Total Diverse Lawyers in Westchester: 13.7%

Race/ethnicity for Students in ABA Law

Schools in U.S.:

Asian: 6.36%

Black or African American: 7.94%

Hispanic: 12.7%

Two or More: 4%

White: 63.4%

Total Diverse Law Students: 31%

Race/ethnicity for Lawyers in the

Westchester County District Attorney's Office:

Asian: 6.5%

Black or African American: 11.4%

Hispanic: 8.1%

White: 74%

Total Diverse ADAs in the WCDAO: 26%



Where Do We Recruit From?

Albany Law School
Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law
Boston College
Boston University
Brooklyn Law School
Buffalo Law School
Columbia Law School
Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University
Emory University School of Law
Florida A&M University Law School**
Fordham University School of Law
George Washington University Law School
Harvard Law School
Howard University Law School**
New York Law School
New York University School of Law
North Carolina Central University**
Southern University Law Center**
St. Johns University School of Law
Syracuse University Law
Texas Southern University**
University of Chicago Law School
University of Michigan
University of Pennsylvania
University of the District of Columbia**
University of Virginia Law School
Villanova University's Charles Widger School of Law
Washington & Lee Law School
William & Mary Law School

** *HBCU Law Schools*



Where Do We Recruit From/Efforts to Increase Diversity?

Organizations

American Muslim Bar Association
Asian American Bar Association of New York
Association of Muslim American Lawyers
Caribbean Attorneys Network
Dominican Bar Association
Filipino American Lawyers Association New York
Hispanic National Bar Association
Hudson Valley Hispanic Bar Association
Iranian American Bar Association
Irish American Bar Association of New York
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Law Association of Greater N.Y.
Metropolitan Black Bar Association
Muslim Bar Association of New York
National Asian Pacific American Bar Association: NAPABA
National Bar Association
National Native American Bar Association (NNABA)
Puerto Rican Bar Association
South Asian and Indo-Caribbean Bar Association of Queens
South Asian Bar Association of New York
The Association of Black Women Attorneys: ABWA
Westchester Black Bar Association

Job Fairs

Asian American Bar Association of New York
Hispanic National Bar Association Career Fair
LeGal Career Fair (Lesbian Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Law Association)
National Black Prosecutors Association Job Fair
Northeast BLSA Job Fair
Public Interest Legal Career Fair (22 Law Schools Participate)

