

Department Name	District Attorney
Account(s)	1165

Department Function
The Office of the Albany County District Attorney has the legal obligation to provide prosecutorial services to every municipality in the County of Albany as well as New York State and Federal Agencies who refer cases for which jurisdiction lies in Albany County. The District Attorney represents the interests of the people in local, county, appellate and state courts. Once an action is commenced, the prosecutors must obey timelines imposed by the courts in accordance with the Criminal Procedure Law of New York State. The nature of the offense, the proof in a case, the volume of pending cases, and the resources to prosecute each case are factors considered by a prosecutor when conveying an appropriate plea bargain offer. Decisions made by the District Attorney's Office impact on Corrections and Community Supervision, i.e., jail, probation, and state prison. The burden of proof rests with the People in all prosecutions.

Current Year Highlights
In 2017 New York recorded its lowest crime rate since the 1950s (New York Times, December 27, 2017). New York achieved public safety prominence when it was ranked the 4th safest state in the entire country and the safest large state. New York had succeeded in simultaneously achieving the two most important goals in public safety: low crime rates and reduced prison populations. Unlike most large cities with violence and gun crimes, New York City was a statistical outlier. New York's subsequent embrace of poorly thought out reforms has dramatically shifted the public safety trajectory of the state. The state plummeted from the 4th safest to the 11th safest state in 2020, as violent crimes increased by 27.9%. Homicides in New York State were up 23% compared to 10 years ago. Pre-reforms, in 2019, there were 679 shooting incidents in GIVE Jurisdictions as compared to 1,045 in 2022. Reforms such as Raise the Age and Bail reform not only contributed to these crime rates but also made it harder to effectively respond to them. Albany County, as a GIVE Jurisdiction, continues to break records for the number of annual homicides. The burdensome demands imposed upon prosecutors by Discovery reform continue to cause low morale, high rates of turnover, and difficulty in recruitment. Recent investments by the state, in the form of grants, has alleviated some of the discovery and recruitment challenges but the reforms continue to foster an environment where individuals, teenagers in particular, feel free to carry and use guns. Despite these challenges, the District Attorney's Office continues to operate at high proficiency, prevailing in the vast majority of trials including those that have garnered national attention. All of this has been accomplished while simultaneously implementing new –E-Discovery processes, improving our technological, infrastructure, and spear-heading a courthouse modernization project.

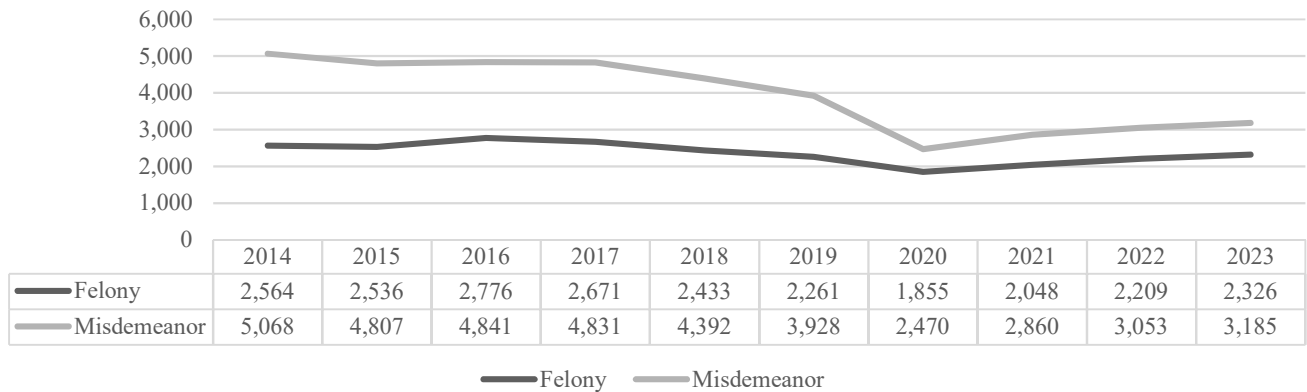
Next Year Projects
The criminal justice reforms passed by the New York State Legislature and signed by the Governor between 2017 and 2019, have brought about a tectonic shift in practice for Albany County prosecutors since 2020. This includes: • Onerous Discovery Reform mandates require that an enormous volume of material to be made available to the defense within a greatly compressed period of time. This presents significant technological challenges because law enforcement agencies are required to record most engagements. Recordings of these engagements are made by body worn cameras, dashboard cameras, and cameras located within police departments. Additionally, city cameras, business cameras, and doorbell cameras have become more commonplace in investigations and further compound the challenge of retrieving, storing, and transmitting videos in rapid fashion. All of these videos consume enormous storage space on servers. • In order to speed the discovery process, reduce workload on prosecutors and the Albany County IT Department, and reduce costs, the office has contracted with Axon for E-Discovery software and for unlimited cloud storage. • There will continue to be an increased focus by the Office on aggressively combating violent crime. The office now has a dedicated Homicide and Violent Crimes Unit (HVCU) which is staffed with very experienced personnel prosecuting primarily homicide and gun related crimes. • In our ongoing effort to divert individuals from the criminal justice system, we continue to proudly provide several alternatives to incarceration. These include the transformative LEAD program (Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion), Drug Court, Felony Youth Diversion, Community Outreach, and innovative restorative justice initiatives.

Link to Website	https://www.albanycountyda.com
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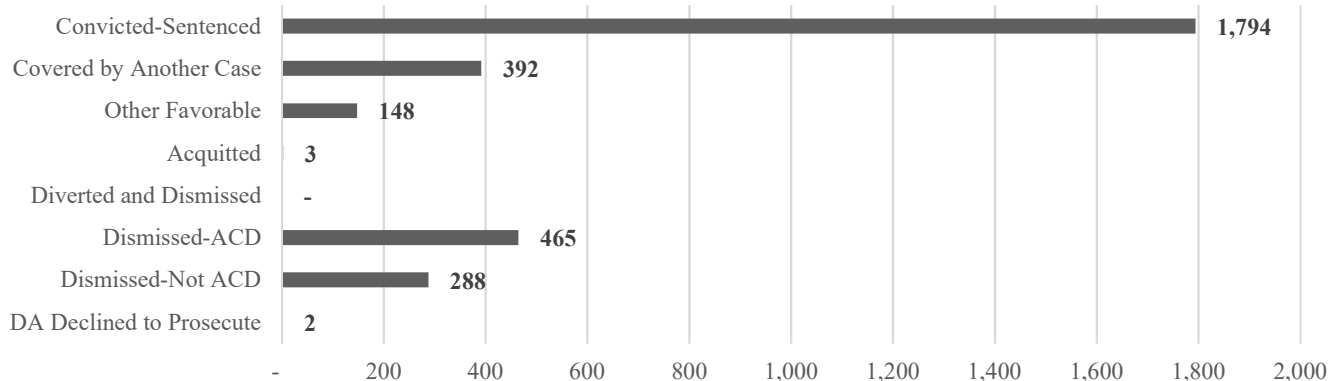
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Programmatic Highlights

2014-2023 Arrests



2023 Misdemeanor Adult Arrest Dispositions



2023 Felony Adult Arrest Dispositions

