

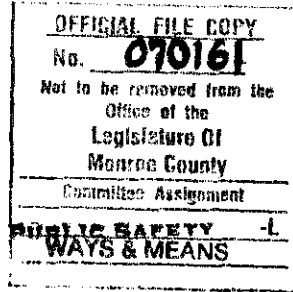


Monroe County Legislature

C. STEPHEN ECKEL  
LEGISLATOR - DISTRICT 26

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LEGISLATOR - DISTRICT 26  
270 SENECA PARKWAY  
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14613  
OFFICE (585) 733-1940  
HOME (585) 989-5170  
E-MAIL: seckel16@steveeckel.com

May 7, 2007



To The Honorable  
Monroe County Legislature  
39 West Main Street  
Rochester, NY 14609

**RE: Recruitment and Retention Grant for the Monroe County  
District Attorney's Office**

Honorable Legislators:

We request that this Honorable Body authorize the acceptance a grant from the New York Division of Criminal Justice Services for Assistant District Attorney Recruitment and Retention in the amount of \$66,000. District Attorney Michael Green submitted an application for this grant after consultation with the County's budget and human resources departments, and therefore no technical obstacles to acceptance should remain.

The District Attorney's Office provides an indispensable bulwark between law-abiding citizens and the individuals whose actions constitute acts against the peace of this community. The attorneys of the DA's office, when trying cases before judges and juries, represent "the People," and we in Monroe County are fortunate to have professional and effective representation in these matters.

This is especially true, given that assistant DA salaries are not competitive with those earned by attorneys in the private sector. Consider, too, that while ADAs may have student loan debts in excess of \$100,000, they often earn substantially less than their colleagues in the criminal justice system, including police officers, and in many instances their benefits are not commensurate as well. In fact, the salaries for ADAs have been frozen in three of the past five years, further exacerbating this problem.

Thus, the realities of the marketplace and personal finance combined with increased work load and performance expectations make it difficult for local district

attorneys across the state and nation to retain and attract prosecutors who could easily find more lucrative careers elsewhere.

As an alternative to requests for budget increases that would be borne by local property taxpayers, District Attorney Green has been proactive in seeking grant-based relief for his department. The grant referenced herein would provide small bonuses for prosecutors employed by the DA's office at the end of this fiscal year. This would be a supportive and important gesture for those who sacrifice and work on our behalf.

We believe this is a prudent and responsible effort to ensure that a consistent pool of capable, dedicated legal professionals will continue to represent "the People" of Monroe County in the District Attorney's Office. This request shall have no net impact upon the 2007 Monroe County Budget, in that it is an entirely dedicated revenue stream that will not require new receipts to or expenditures from any county fund.

We, therefore, request that this Honorable Body amend the 2007 Monroe County Budget to accept a grant from the New York Division of Criminal Justice Services for Assistant District Attorney Recruitment and Retention in the amount of \$66,000 and that this action take place within one (1) legislative cycle, and that confirmation of acceptance and receipt of this grant be transmitted to all legislators via the President's Office.

This request shall have no negative impact upon the 2007 Monroe County Budget. Revenue account 404000 (State Aid) in Department 25, Division 2501 will be increased by \$66,000 and expense account 501000 (Salaries) in the same department and division will be increased by the same amount.

Please forward this request to the appropriate committee(s) for review and favorable action.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla M. Palumbo  
Democratic Leader

C. Stephen Eckel  
Legislator - District 26

Ted O'Brien  
Legislator - District 17

Willie J. Lightfoot  
Legislator - District 27