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PRESS RELEASE

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D.A. DONOVAN: ISLAND PROSECUTORS LEAD NYC IN CRIMINAL COURT TRIAL CONVICTION RATE

STATEN ISLAND, NY - Richmond County District Attorney Daniel M. Donovan, Jr. today announced that in 2007 his office led the City of New York in conviction rate for trials conducted in criminal court. The Richmond County conviction rate of 69.2% far exceeded the 58.8% conviction rate earned by the Manhattan D.A.'s office. Criminal Court in New York City handles crimes below the felony level such as misdemeanors and violations.

District Attorney Donovan stated, "Criminal Court is the training ground for our newest Assistant District Attorneys. Before my tenure in office, Staten Island's prosecutors consistently failed to convict defendants at trial in lower court. In 2003 alone, this office took only 8 misdemeanor cases to trial and obtained 2 convictions. I am proud to announce that a four-year rebuilding project has resulted in this remarkable turnaround. Historically, outside court monitors found this office to be unprepared in the day to day court operations, let alone to take cases to trial. That was simply unacceptable for the people of Staten Island. We've improved our recruiting and implemented better supervisory practices that ensured our prosecutors are better prepared to tackle these cases. These results reflect the success of those efforts."

While the Staten Island District Attorney's office naturally prosecutes fewer cases than prosecutors in the more populous boroughs, the percentage of cases disposed at trial (.2%) is equal to Queens and Brooklyn prosecutors, while exceeding the trial rate in Manhattan (.1) and The Bronx (0).

2007 New York City Criminal Court Trial Conviction Rate

County	Conviction Rate	Verdicts	Convictions	Acquittals
Richmond	69.2%	26	18	8
New York	58.8%	102	60	42
Kings	50%	150	75	75
Queens	49.6%	129	64	65
Bronx	0%	2	0	2

Source: Office of Court Administration

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2007 Disposition of Criminal Court Cases

County	Disposition by Pleas	Trial to Verdict	Percentage Trials
Richmond	7187	26	.2
New York	54073	102	.1
Kings	46193	150	.2
Queens	36734	129	.2
Bronx	29414	2	0

Source: Office of Court Administration

Staten Island Criminal Court Conviction Rate, 2003-2007

Year	Conviction Rate
2007	<u>69.2</u>
2006	<u>61%</u>
2005	<u>52%</u>
2004	<u>41%</u>
2003	<u>25%</u>

Donovan Administration in RED

Source: Office of Court Administration

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