



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
RICHMOND COUNTY

MICHAEL E. MCMAHON
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

130 STUYVESANT PLACE
STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK 10301
TELEPHONE (718) 876-6300

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Douglas Auer (718) 556-7150

Douglas.Auer@rcda.nyc.gov

D.A. McMahon: Experienced Prosecutor Thomas C. Ridges To Join Office

**** Ridges will serve as Special Counsel to the District Attorney ****

STATEN ISLAND, NY – Richmond County District Attorney Michael E. McMahon today announced that Thomas C. Ridges will be joining the office as Special Counsel to the District Attorney. In this newly-created post, Ridges will advise DA McMahon on legal matters, as well as oversee cases being prosecuted by the Narcotics Bureau, Investigations Bureau and the Crime Strategies Unit. Ridges will start on Feb. 1.

“Tom Ridges is an excellent litigator with more than 17 years of experience. His prosecutorial prowess and years spent with the NYPD will be an asset to my office as we bring strong cases against drug dealers, gunslingers and other violent individuals,” said District Attorney Michael E. McMahon. “Tom has a proven track record of success in the courtroom and brings with him a wealth of knowledge gained from working on some of the City’s most high-profile crimes. Adding Tom to our already impressive roster of prosecutors will help us to continue to keep Staten Island safe.”

Ridges, a longtime Staten Island resident, most recently worked in the Kings County District Attorney’s Office as the Bureau Chief and Supervising Attorney in Charge of Trial Bureau 5 – Orange Zone. He oversaw the prosecution of crimes committed within the confines of the 62nd Precinct (Bensonhurst), the 73rd Precinct (Brownsville), the 77th Precinct (Crown Heights), the 78th Precinct (Park Slope), as well as criminal activity in the N.Y.C.H.A. housing developments and transit systems situated within those police jurisdictions.

Ridges was born and raised in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn, and has resided on Staten Island since 1988. He began his career in law enforcement with the New York City Police Department. He was assigned to various commands, including the 88th Precinct, the Brooklyn North Task Force, the City-Wide Street Crime Unit, and the elite Emergency Services Unit (ESU). While working full-time as a New York City Police Officer, Ridges earned a B.A. in Criminal Justice from John Jay College of Criminal Justice in 1995, and a Juris Doctorate (J.D.) from St. John’s University School of Law in 1998.

After graduating St. John’s University School of Law, Ridges joined the Kings County District Attorney’s Office. There, as a trial attorney, he worked in various units including the Assault on Police Officer Program, where he handled cases involving law enforcement officers who were shot or seriously injured. He also prosecuted approximately 50 homicides in the Homicide Bureau and worked on several high-profile cases, including the murders of *P.O. Dillon Stewart*, who was shot and killed as he and his partner attempted a car

stop; *Detective Patrick Rafferty* and *Detective Robert Parker*, who were shot and killed trying to arrest a suspect on a domestic violence complaint; and college co-ed *Imette St. Guillen*, who was brutally raped and murdered by a nightclub bouncer.

As Bureau Chief and Supervising Attorney in Charge of Trial Bureau 5 – Orange Zone, he oversaw all legal and non-legal staff assigned to the Trial Zone, and interacted with the commanding officers of each precinct in the zone. He also regularly communicated with civilians living within the precincts regarding their concerns.

During his time in the Kings County District Attorney's Office, Ridges trained newly-hired ADAs and experienced prosecutors on subjects such as "Witness Preparation", "Opening Statements", "Direct Examination", "Cross-Examination" and "Closing Arguments." Additionally, he has conducted various training programs for police officers and supervisors assigned to the New York City Police Department. Ridges has also taught as an adjunct professor at Long Island University's Brooklyn Campus and the John Jay College of Criminal Justice.