



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

For immediate release on January 4, 2016

Contact: Ryan Lavis (718) 556-7150
Ryan.Lavis@rcda.nyc.gov

D.A. McMahon: Staten Island Prosecutor Awarded Prestigious Thomas E. Dewey Medal By New York City Bar Association

*** Award Presented Annually To Outstanding Prosecutors in New York City***

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. – Richmond County District Attorney Michael E. McMahon today announced that Assistant District Attorney Adam Silberlight, Deputy Chief of the Trials Bureau, was awarded the Thomas E. Dewey Medal by the New York City Bar Association last month during a ceremony in Manhattan.

“I am extremely proud that ADA Adam Silberlight is a recipient of the 2016 Thomas E. Dewey Medal. He is an exemplary prosecutor, who has spent the last fifteen years tirelessly serving the people of Staten Island,” said District Attorney Michael E. McMahon.

ADA Silberlight was appointed to the Richmond County District Attorney’s Office in 2001. During that time, he has served in a myriad of roles and has displayed a devotion to advancing the cause of criminal prosecution while raising the standards of ethics, professionalism, and excellence in the office. During his first assignment in the Trials Bureau, he conducted a number of narcotics and firearm investigations, and secured convictions in a number of high-profile murder cases. ADA Silberlight, who just this year secured two separate Murder in the First Degree convictions, is one of the leading homicide prosecutors in the office.

During his initial tenure in the Trials Bureau, ADA Silberlight brought the *Choices and Consequences Program* to Staten Island, a program which consists of presentations to students about the dangers of drunk, drugged, distracted, and reckless driving. During the course of his career, he has passionately presented this program to thousands of students at many high schools on Staten Island. In 2011, ADA Silberlight was instrumental in bringing to Richmond County the *Victim Impact Panel (VIP)*, a mandatory intervention program aimed at reducing drunk-driving recidivism. *VIP* is a program where DWI and DUI offenders attend

an evening session, mandated by the Court as part of a drunk/impaired/drugged driving plea, where friends and relatives of drunk-driving victims talk about their life-changing experiences. It continues to be ADA Silberlight's responsibility to oversee enforce court-ordered attendance at these sessions, and to report violators to the Court.

A further example of ADA Silberlight's commitment to the prosecution of DWI cases is his role as the Richmond County District Attorney's Office's *Ignition Interlock Device* liaison, where he is responsible for monitoring non-compliance violations filed on Staten Island cases. During his continuing assignment as Criminal Court Deputy Chief, ADA Silberlight got a ground-level view of how the prescription pill epidemic was ravaging communities on Staten Island. In 2012, in response to this escalating prescription pill problem, he co-created the *Richmond County Drug CAP Program*, a program where first-time low-level offenders are sentenced to a program featuring a panel of speakers that includes: family members whose loved ones have died due to addiction; recovering addicts; funeral directors; an ADA who discusses the legal ramifications of selling and possessing narcotics, and an addiction treatment specialist who explains the pharmacological and medical consequences of drug abuse. As a further response to the drug epidemic on Staten Island, ADA Silberlight co-developed yet another program aimed at intermediate and high school students. Taking some elements of both the *Choices and Consequences Program* and the *Drug CAP Program*, he co-crafted the "*No D Initiative*", a program which includes a powerful, interactive, thirty-five minute classroom presentation and focuses on real-life examples of opioid abuse, the horrors confronted by families of addicts, and the penalties associated with drug crimes. ADA Silberlight regularly delivers these presentations at both public and private schools throughout the school year.

The Thomas E. Dewey medal is presented annually to an outstanding assistant district attorney in each of the City's District Attorney's offices and in the Office of the City's Special Narcotics Prosecutor.

-End-