

Empire State Opioid Epidemic Innovation Challenge

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Columbia University Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science



Upon taking office, Mr. McMahon made it a priority to increase the Richmond County District Attorney's (RCDA) ability to better prosecute and prevent crime by modernizing the office, bringing more resources to Staten Island's criminal justice system, and increasing accessibility and strengthening community relations with law enforcement.

Recognizing the significant challenges facing Staten Island as the epicenter of the heroin and prescription drug crisis, Mr. McMahon has made this issue a central focus for RCDA. In his first 100 days, Mr. McMahon led the takedowns of over a

dozen drug dealers on Staten Island, restructured resources and staff within the office to better coordinate leadership between the Narcotics Bureau, Investigations Bureau, and Crime Strategies Unit, and created the City's first and only Overdose Response Initiative. Recognizing that incarcerating those battling addiction illness for short stints, then sending them back onto the streets without addressing their drug issue was not working, DA McMahon developed the Heroin Overdose Prevention and Education Program, HOPE, the first of its kind post-arrest, pre-arraignment diversion program that sends those arrested toward community health and treatment and away from jail and prosecution. This program, which has helped hundreds of Staten Islanders, has been duplicated across the City of New York, and is an invaluable component of the fight against the drug epidemic on Staten Island. In addition to these efforts, Mr. McMahon continues to lead efforts to increase awareness on the heroin and opioid crisis through education presentations made to local schools and at community meetings.

Prior to being elected District Attorney, Mr. McMahon was a practicing trial attorney for 30 years, appearing in courts at all levels throughout New York State. In 1993, he opened his own law firm on Staten Island, which he managed for fifteen years before being elected to Congress.

In 2001, Mr. McMahon was elected to represent Staten Island's North Shore in the New York City Council. After serving in the Council for eight years, Mr. McMahon was elected to represent Staten Island and South Brooklyn in Congress. After one term, Mr. McMahon returned to private practice as a partner at Herrick Feinstein LLP, leaving in 2014 to run for District Attorney. Mr. McMahon was elected District Attorney in 2015, and has served as the Borough's top law enforcement official ever since.

Mr. McMahon was born and raised in the Stapleton neighborhood of Staten Island, and is a graduate of St. Joseph Hill Academy, Monsignor Farrell High School, New York University and New York Law School. He and his wife, Judge Judith McMahon, met in law school and will celebrate their 30th anniversary this year. They reside in Randall Manor, in the home where they raised their children, Joseph and Julia, with their Westie named Scout.