

# Damian M. Sonsire, Esq.

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## EDUCATION:

*Legal*

**University of Dayton School of Law**, Dayton, Ohio  
Juris Doctorate, 1997

*Undergraduate*

**Elmira College**, Elmira, New York  
BS Criminal Justice, 1993

*High School*

**Elmira Notre Dame**, Elmira New York  
Regents Diploma with Honors, 1988

## LEGAL EMPLOYMENT:

### **Chemung County Department of Social Services**

Elmira, New York: October, 2017 – present, *Assistant County Attorney*

Advise the County Attorney and Commissioner of Social Services on a broad range of topics including temporary assistance, guardianships, fair hearings, adult protective services and confidentiality concerns. Represent the Department of Social Services in Chemung County Family Court on cases involving severe abuse, abuse and neglect, juvenile delinquency and Person in Need of Supervision (PINS). Coordinate child fatality investigations among law enforcement agencies, Child Protective Services and the Child Advocacy Center. Provide legal opinions to Department of Social Services staff and supervisors related to Family Court prosecutions. Work with Department of Social Services staff and supervisors, law enforcement agencies, schools and various service providers to ensure placements are made in the best interest of the child.

### **Office of the District Attorney of Chemung County**

Elmira, New York: 2001 – 2005 and January, 2006 – October, 2017, *Assistant District Attorney*

Extensive experience with all aspects of felony prosecution in Chemung County Court, including investigations, case assessment, charging decisions, grand jury presentation, pre-trial litigation, plea negotiations, trial, post-verdict motions and appeals. Argued before the New York Court of Appeals and Appellate Division Third Department in support of criminal convictions. Managed investigations of major crimes with local and regional law enforcement. Prepared search warrants. Expertise with the presentation of specialized evidence including ballistics, serology, toxicology, and computer forensics. Prepared and trained law enforcement officers throughout the Southern Tier on all aspects of criminal investigations and arrests. Frequent lecturer at Corning Community College's Law Enforcement Academy and Supervisor School. Oversaw prosecution in numerous local courts, including the Village of Big Flats, the Village of Horseheads, the Town of Ashland, the Village of Wellsburg and Town of Baldwin. Worked closely with the Chemung County Probation Department, Chemung County Department of Social Services, the Chemung County Child Advocacy Center, Southport Correctional Facility and Elmira Correctional Facility to investigate and prosecute criminal activity.

### **Chemung County Family Court**

Elmira, New York, May, 2005 – January, 2006, *Judicial Clerk to the Hon. M. David Brockway*

Conducted legal research regarding numerous topics related to family law. Prepared bench memoranda, drafted and edited orders and opinions, communicated with counsel regarding case management and procedural requirements, and assisted during courtroom proceedings.

### **Compliance Inc.**

Washington, DC, 1998 – 2000, *Contract Attorney*

Participated in large-scale litigation projects for corporate clients. Organized privileged documents, prepared privilege logs and interviewed clients. Worked extensively with Skadden, Arps, Slate Meagher & Flom LLP on a large-scale, 18-month antitrust litigation project for the United States Department of Justice and Federal Trade Commission.

### **Jaeger & Teras**

Washington, DC, 1997 – 1998, *Associate Attorney*

Gained valuable experience in the field of mergers and acquisitions/corporate law. Handled all aspects of pre-trial litigation in complex intellectual property actions, including responding to interrogatory and document requests, preparing internal memoranda of law, corresponding with clients, composing and editing corporate affidavits, and performing due diligence for business transactions.

### **Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas**

Dayton, Ohio, 1996 – 1997, *Judicial Clerk to the Hon. James J. Gilvary*

Conducted legal research regarding numerous topics related to criminal and civil law. Prepared bench memoranda, drafted and edited orders and opinions, verified citations, communicated with counsel regarding case management and procedural requirements, and assisted during courtroom proceedings.

### **Chemung County Public Defender's Office**

Elmira, New York, 1993 and 1994, *Summer Intern*

Conducted post-arraignment interviews with clients. Performed legal research and wrote internal memoranda on various evidentiary issues.

### **References**

- Former Chemung County District Attorney John Trice
- Retired City of Elmira Police Chief Michael Robertson
- Village of Horseheads Police Chief Thomas Stickler
- Elmira Heights Police Chief Rick Churches
- Retired New York State Police Senior Investigator Mark Procopio
- Chemung County Probation Director Stephanie Fiorini
- Retired Chemung County Probation Director Thomas Bruner
- Retired Southport Correctional Facility Superintendent Steven Wenderlich