

# Nanuet driver gets 1-3 years in Ossining lawyer's death

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Michelle Sergio, of Nanuet, got state prison time of 1 to 3 years Friday for running down John Mangialardi, a prominent attorney who was crossing an Ossining street.



(Photo: Westchester County District Attorney's Office)

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A Nanuet woman was sentenced Friday to one to three years in state prison for running down a prominent attorney on an Ossining street.

Michelle Sergio, 39, a social services worker, originally was promised a non-prison sentence when she pleaded guilty in May to two counts of second-degree vehicular manslaughter, a felony, and two misdemeanor counts of driving while intoxicated.

Her sentence was upped after discussions among the judge, her lawyer and the prosecutor, according to the Westchester District Attorney's Office.

Driving with a blood-alcohol level of 0.12 — more than the 0.08 legal limit — Sergio killed 55-year-old John Mangialardi of Briarcliff Manor, a Republican candidate for Ossining town justice who was posting campaign signs around 10:15 p.m. Sept. 3 on Route 9A.

Sergio had been drinking sake at a restaurant, her mother has told The Journal News, and was driving her Nissan Altima to work at Cardinal McCloskey Community Services, a nonprofit social services agency for at-risk children.

She was heading north when she struck Mangialardi, who was pronounced dead at the scene.

Sergio, the daughter of a retired New York City police officer, was first charged with misdemeanor driving while intoxicated before the charge was upgraded to vehicular manslaughter.

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She could have received up to seven years in prison, but her original plea agreement gave her shock probation — six months in jail and 4 ½ years of probation. Jay Sherman, Sergio's defense attorney, said Friday that his client accepted the prison sentence after Judge James T. Rooney revised his position on the probation, offering her the options of prison or going to trial.

A crying Sergio apologized to the Mangialardi family in court Friday, the District Attorney's Office said.

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