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**D.A. BROWN: MANHATTAN MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO MANSLAUGHTER**  
**IN 2007 FATAL STABBING OF BOUNCER**  
*Faces 15 Years In Prison*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that an East Harlem man has pleaded guilty to manslaughter in the stabbing death of a bouncer outside of a Jamaica bar.

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendant has admitted to taking another man's life by viciously attacking him with a knife. The defendant's conduct was violent and irresponsible and the sentence to be imposed is, under the circumstances, more than warranted."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Michael Oquendo, 25, of 165 East 112<sup>th</sup> Street in Manhattan. Oquendo, who has been held without bail since his arrest in May 2007, appeared yesterday before Queens Supreme Court Justice Arthur Cooperman and pleaded guilty to first-degree manslaughter. Justice Cooperman set sentencing for February 28, 2008, at which time he indicated that he would sentence the defendant to a determinate term of 15 years in prison.

The District Attorney said that, in pleading guilty, the defendant admitted that he caused the death of Douglas Caranza-Castillo, 20, in the early morning hours of May 6, 2007, by repeatedly stabbing him about the body with a knife outside of Las Playitas, a bar located at 170-03 Jamaica Avenue in Jamaica. Caranza-Castillo was stabbed after an earlier altercation in which he tried to quiet down Oquendo and his boisterous friends inside the bar.

The investigation was conducted by Detective Vincent Santangelo, of the New York City Police Department's 103<sup>th</sup> Precinct Detective Squad.

Assistant District Attorney Denise Tirino of the Homicide Trials Bureau prosecuted the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Peter T. Reese, Bureau Chief and Assistant District Attorney Peter J. McCormack, Deputy Bureau, and the overall supervision of Executive District Attorney for Major Crimes Charles A. Testagrossa and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Daniel A. Saunders.

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**Note to Editors: Press release e-version posted at [www.queensda.org](http://www.queensda.org).**