



SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

Summit County Prosecutor

Newsletter

End of the Year Wrap up — 2008

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Message from the Prosecutor



Prosecutor
Sherri Bevan Walsh

This edition of the newsletter reviews 2008 and highlights what we believe were some of the more interesting people, cases, and community events of the year.

I want to begin by commending the outstanding prosecutors that work in my office. As of the release of this newsletter, our conviction rate is up to 96% on our disposed cases, that is defendants who pled guilty or were found guilty at trial. Our trial results are also impressive, with 79% of the defendants being found guilty by a jury.

In fact, the hard work of the clerical staff, victim advocates, investigators and assistant prosecutors in this office is demonstrated by the long hours and extra effort put in daily to fulfill our office's mandate of representing the people of Summit County against criminal defendants. We take that job very seriously.

Much of our success is also due to the hard work of our police, which we recognize monthly in this newsletter. Although there isn't enough space to recognize everyone, I want to take this opportunity to once again thank all of the officers who put their lives on the line every day to keep our county safe and to remember Twinsburg Officer Josh Miktarian, who died this year in the line of duty.

The year also brought what I call "full circle" justice.

In July, Earl Mann, who in 1998 murdered Judith Johnson and raped her granddaughter, pled guilty to Aggravated Murder and Rape and received a 55 years to Life sentence. For him to take responsibility for these horrific crimes after allowing Clarence Elkins to take his rap and spend seven and a half years in prison, was nothing short of shocking. We never expected it and were pleased to see it.

Richard Cooley was executed in October, 22 long years after murdering two University of Akron women. Although he never took responsibility for his crimes, in the end, justice was served and I was glad to be with the family to support them in this final act. While it won't bring back their daughters, siblings, and friends, to finally end his appeals and his outlandish claims gave the family some peace.

Finally, I want to say a word about our Employee of the Year, Mark Anderson. Congratulations, Mark, and thank you for ALL that you do! We appreciate your hard work and dedication.

December Top Cops



Officer **Steve Hankins**, Akron Police Department
Reserve Officer **Don Prosperi**, Akron Police Department

These two **Top Cops** were nominated by **Assistant Prosecutor Susan Manofsky** for their handling of the James Davis case.

On August 24, Officer Prosperi stopped and helped a woman in distress who was walking down Market Street at midnight, in the dark, bleeding and hysterical. She pointed to her attacker, James Davis, who was retreating from the scene. Officer Prosperi tried to stop Davis and ultimately had to deploy his tazer and radio for back-up. Davis fled with a tazer prong attached!

Officer Prosperi tracked him as he headed away from Market Street towards the Mustill Store area on the towpath. This is when Officer Hankins and several other officers found Davis hiding under a bridge on the towpath. While they were leading him up to the paddy wagon, Davis (handcuffed) jerked away from Officer Hankins and tried to assault another officer. Hankins quickly took Davis to the ground and kept him under control until the paddy wagon could be brought onto the trail. The photo was taken by the sergeant who did the resisting arrest investigation. It demonstrates what these officers were dealing with.

The trial testimony of Officer Hankins was excellent. His demeanor immediately dispelled any possible notion that Officer Hankins was somehow to blame for the resisting. Of course, the photograph helped. Officer Prosperi testified clearly about the woman's condition and was able to explain the scene in a manner that left no (reasonable) doubt as to the violence that had just occurred.

Defendant Davis was convicted of Domestic Violence, Resisting Arrest, Obstructing Official Business and a Community Control Violation. He was sentenced to a total of two years in prison.



James Davis resisting arrest.

Way to go Top Cops!

TOUGH SENTENCES OF 2008

Christopher Butts

Rape, Kidnapping, Felonious Assault, Aggravated Robbery
94 Years to Life

Earl Mann

Aggravated Murder, Murder, Rape, Rape-Force
55 Years to Life with parole eligibility at age 91

Phillip Jones

Aggravated Murder, Murder, Rape
Death

David Hardges

Attempted Murder, Aggravated Robbery, Rape
63 Years

Cameron Williams

Aggravated Murder
69 Years

Joseph Romanda

Rape, Kidnapping, Felonious Assault
30 Years

Robert Murphy

Rape, Inducing Panic
16 Years

James Ginn

Rape
10 Years

Kreighammer Von-Jordsson

Murder, Tampering with Evidence
15 Years to Life

Darryl Walker

Aggravated Murder, Aggravated Robbery
Life with Parole Eligibility after 30 Years

William Benford

Murder, Felonious Assault
15 Years

Jeffrey Coffey, Jr.

Involuntary Manslaughter, Aggravated Robbery
13 Years

Ty Mitchell

Murder, Aggravated Robbery
Life with Parole Eligibility after 21 Years

Justin Georgakopoulos

Involuntary Manslaughter, Aggravated Robbery
16 Years

Terrence Feaster

Murder, Felonious Assault
26 Years to Life

Jesse T. Milling

Murder
15 Years to Life

Marquez Perry

Aggravated Murder, Murder, Aggravated Robbery, Tampering with Evidence
66 Years to Life

William Bearshak

Rape, Gross Sexual Imposition, Disseminating Matter Harmful to Juveniles
10 Years to Life

Vernell Patterson

Rape
10 Years

Herbert Twiggs

Pandering Sexual Oriented Matter Involving a Minor, Illegal Use of Minor in Nudity-Oriented Material
16 Years

Lee Hardy

Rape, Kidnapping
20 Years to Life

Glen Van Kleeck

Gross Sexual Imposition
15 Years

Walter Sayre

Rape, Aggravated Robbery, Aggravated Burglary
19 Years

Damien Stafford

Aggravated Robbery, Gang
9 Years

Philip Capeluck

Murder, Kidnapping, Aggravated Robbery
18 Years

Darnell Archey

Rape, Aggravated Burglary
22 Years

Joshua Loftus

Attempted Murder
18 Years

Phillip Singfield

Aggravated Robbery, Theft
14 years

MOST NOTABLE CASES OF 2008

Serial Rapist Sentenced to 94 years to Life

Prosecutor Walsh and Chief Counsel Mary Ann Kovach prosecuted Christopher Butts, 24, who is now serving 94 years to life for the rape of three University of Akron students and attempted rape of a fourth woman.

Man Sentenced for 1998 Murder

Earl Mann was sentenced to 55 years to life for the June 7, 1998 murder and rape of Judith Johnson. Her granddaughter, who was spending the night, was raped and left for dead. After a jury convicted Johnson's son-in-law of these crimes and he spent seven years in prison, Earl Mann was identified as the attacker.

Man Kills Elderly Neighbor for Drug Money

Darryl Walker, 46, was sentenced, to 40 years to Life for the Aggravated Murder of Alice Palmer, 84. Walker told officers that he forced his way into his elderly neighbor's apartment to steal money so he could buy drugs.

He stabbed Palmer to death.

Twiggs' Cell Phone Wallpaper Leads to Prison

Herbert D. Twiggs, 56, was sentenced to 16 years in prison for child pornography after co-workers called police when they saw his cell phone "wallpaper" - a photo of a nude pre-adolescent boy.

Child Molester gets 15 Years

Glen A. Van Kleeck, 70, was sentenced to 15 years in prison for the sexual assault of a 12-year-old boy. A former Florida police officer and Boy Scout Leader, he violated this child's trust in the most horrific way.

Canton Attorney Sentenced to Six Years for Child Porn

Brian J. Butler, 39, was sentenced to six years in prison on child pornography charges. A friend of Butler's who was fixing two of his computers notified police after discovering child pornography videos on the computers.

Death Verdict Issued by Jury For Cemetery Killer

Phillip L. Jones, 37, was sentenced to **Death** for the murder of Susan Christian-Yates. A jogger found the body of Susan Marie Christian-Yates, 33, in Mount Peace Cemetery, lying on her back in front of a gravestone.

Convicted for Aggravated Vehicular Homicide with help of Mandatory Chemical Test

Dominique Nolen is awaiting sentencing after pleading guilty to Aggravated Vehicular Homicide. She had two DUI's in 18 months. Her third time being caught drinking and driving ended tragically when she killed Billy Owens. Her blood test, which she had to provide given that she refused a breathalyzer test and had two prior DUI's, showed that she was severely impaired (.022).

NOTABLE EVENTS OF 2008

Take Me Home program

Our database for individuals with disabilities and senior citizens who may have difficulty communicating in a law enforcement situation now has 740 people enrolled. Coordinator Leslie Knoblauch is working with schools and the Alzheimer's Association to register those who need this vital service.

Child Support Days

Almost 1000 people with child support problems came to Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church this August to work them out. Over a two day period, we collected \$25,314 in child support payments; 105 individuals worked on war-

rants; 415 driver's licenses were approved reinstated; 92 individuals sought information from Job & Family Services.

Strengthening DUI Laws

On September 30, 2008, our DUI laws became stronger. I was proud to work with Senator Grendell on legislation to require certain repeat drunk drivers to submit to a chemical test if they refuse a breathalyzer test. This new law has already helped us to gain a conviction, getting one drunk driver off our roads. More to come.

CRC

Our Community Relations Committee was busy again this year serving hot meals at Open M, sponsoring fundraising baskets for justice-related charities, collecting supplies for the Battered women's Shelter and much more. During the Christmas season they organized toy giving, Salvation Army Bell Ringers and adopting families for Christmas. Numerous employees of my Office - secretaries, prosecutors, and administrators - participate in this important committee. Thank you Asst. Prosecutor Felicia Easter for continuing to chair this Committee.

Questions? E-mail Laurie Cramer:
cramer@prosecutor.summitoh.net

We're on the Web!
www.co.summit.oh.us/prosecutor

*Did you know
we work with victims
even after Defendants are convicted?*

Victim services go beyond supporting crime victims throughout the trial process. Kristen Arapp, Director of the Prosecutor's Victim Services Division, also works with victims to oppose a criminal being paroled from prison.

In 2008, eight defendants were scheduled for parole and she assisted the victims with the full parole board hearing process. Once a defendant has been granted a release, the victim and/or prosecutor's office may request a hearing in front of the full Ohio Parole Board. We had a very successful year. Of the eight cases, five were given more prison time, two were released, and one died prior to the hearing. The successes resulted in a total of 26 more years.

One of those cases was Dale Fish, who received eight additional years for sexually abusing his girlfriend's eight-year-old niece. After arrest, Fish denied the abuse and even went so far as to say the victim would beg men in bars for drug money in exchange for favors.

Our most recent hearing was held on December 12, 2008. Jason McNeal attacked a 14 year old girl as she walking to her home. He threatened to "cut her face up" and then raped her. McNeal was a complete stranger to the victim. He was given five more years in prison.

Nice Job, Kristen!

GUILTY in November!

Congratulations to Assistant Prosecutors **Jessica Didion, Jay Cole, Charlene Hardy, Shauna Hill, Susan Manofsky, Angela Poth-Wypasek, and Angela Walls-Alexander**, who had juries return **GUILTY VERDICTS** at trials in November.

GREAT JOB, ASSISTANT PROSECUTORS!

2008 EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR MARK ANDERSON PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE INVESTIGATOR



Mark epitomizes an outstanding employee with his hard work, positive attitude, and ability to get the job done.

Mark was featured as a *Top Cop* last month because of his outstanding investigatory work on several difficult cases. His "niche" is getting phone records faster than anyone else can; so what is the trick?

Mark makes it his business to know the likes and dislikes of the people he is working with and is sure to send flowers, cookies, notes or whatever it takes so they know he appreciates their work. That carries over into his work with all of us as well.

Interns also know Mark very well, as he is often one of the first people they meet when he teaches them how to screen jail calls. Another one of Mark's "niches" is he works to be sure valuable information is utilized in convicting criminals.

For these and many other reasons...

Mark is our 2008 Employee of the Year.

That's Outrageous



This is a tough one because there could be so many "outrageous" categories, for example: "Absurd Crime of the Year," for the guy who ordered his pit bull to attack his neighbors; to "Sicko Crime of the Year," Glenn Van Kleeck, who was a child molester for what appears to be most of his life; to "Scariest Crime of the Year," the University of Akron rapist, Christopher Butts, who snuck in windows at night and raped women; to "Shameless Crime of the Year," Jerelyn Sue Estright, who stole money from her elderly mother in excess of \$100,000 to buy herself and friends gifts; to "You-Can't-be-That-Stupid of the Year" for the robbers who were found by tracking their footprints in the snow; to "Most Shocking Plea" of the Year, Earl Mann, for pleading guilty to a 1998 murder and rapes and to this point, allowing someone else to take the rap; to the all time "You-Can't-be-Serious of the Year" claim, Richard Cooley, who claimed he was too fat to be executed.

We could go on for pages, but in the interest of space, we'll stop here.

**Happy Holidays Everyone
and Stay Safe!**