



SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

Summit County Prosecutor

Newsletter

September 2008

53 University Avenue
6th Floor
Akron, OH 44308
Phone: 330-643-2800
Fax: 330-643-8277

MESSAGE FROM THE PROSECUTOR



Prosecutor
Sherri Bevan Walsh

I have long been an outspoken advocate for crime victims. Since taking office in 2001, I have been privileged to have many opportunities to ensure that their voices are heard.

One of the first things I did as Summit County Prosecutor was form the Victim Services Division. This division has grown from being a clerical unit to being a fully staffed unit with a director, seven full-time advocates, and two part-time

advocates.

This division works with victims from the grand jury phase all the way to parole hearings. Earlier this month, the Ohio Parole Board denied clemency to Richard Cooley, the man who brutally raped and murdered two young University of Akron students in 1986.

I went to Columbus with Victim Services Director Kristen Arapp, to speak to the members of the Parole Board on behalf of Wendy Offredo and Dawn McCreery, two young women who had promising futures ahead of them when Cooley and his juvenile accomplice, Clint Dickens, crossed their path.

Since that day, Cooley has never shown remorse or sympathy for the lives he destroyed. On September 2, the Parole Board sent a unanimous "unfavorable" recommendation to Governor Strickland, stating that "a sufficient, justifiable basis for mercy cannot be found." He is scheduled to be executed on October 14.

While cases like Cooley are high profile, the day-to-day work of Victim Advocates is largely silent beyond our office and the victims who are being assisted. I want to recognize the outstanding team of advocates that we have on staff and thank them for all of their hard work.

Kristen Arapp, Director, Victim Services Division, Claudia Sengos, Joyce Collins, Kimberly Subotin, Teresa Sroka, Jean Workman, Nancy Foye-Cox, Maureen Vos, Lance Presley, Mark Beckwith and Janda Wallace.

Being able to serve victims, even decades after receiving a conviction, is an important function of my Office. As long as I am your prosecutor, we will continue to advocate for Victims of crime to ensure that justice is served.

Kudos to all of you for your important work!

DID YOU KNOW?

After September 30, the new DUI law goes into effect and repeat drunk drivers can no longer REFUSE to take a chemical test.



Should a drunk driver have:

- Two or more DUI convictions in the last six years; or,
- Five or more DUI convictions in the last 20 years; or,
- A felony DUI conviction...

... the law requires these offenders to submit to a breath or other chemical test to determine their level of intoxication.

Ohio ranks **sixth in the nation for alcohol-related traffic fatalities**. My Office has prosecuted numerous **drunk drivers who killed** an innocent citizen as a result of a traffic crash. In the past three years, we prosecuted more than 100 defendants who had five or more DUI convictions and were driving drunk yet again. About *half* of them were driving with suspended licenses and **85% of these defendants refused to take a breath or blood alcohol test**.

Not taking a breath test is no longer an option for chronic drunk drivers, who, up until now, opted for the automatic suspended license rather than provide evidence of their blood alcohol content.

I am looking forward to the time when providing evidence is no longer a choice.....September 30, 2008!

THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS!!



Herbert D. Twiggs, 56, of Hudson, pled guilty earlier this month to 14 child porn charges, all second-degree felonies.

Co-workers of Twiggs alerted authorities when they found his cell phone, which had a photo of a naked pre-adolescent boy set as the phone's wallpaper.

A photo album filled with nude photos of the boy was found in his home, as was a laptop and 80 CDs that contained child pornography images. Authorities also found literature from NAMBLA, or North American Man Boy Love Association, in Twiggs' home.

Twiggs will be sentenced by Judge Patricia Cosgrove on October 20.

Assistant Prosecutor Greg Peacock prosecuted this outrageous case. Good job!

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

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

Top Cop

Officer Michael Orrand
Akron Police Department



Nominated by: Assistant Prosecutor Greg Peacock

This month's Top Cop, Akron Police Officer **Michael Orrand**, did a great job investigating a pizza delivery robbery.

Corey Jones robbed a delivery driver from Europe Gyro on a snowy January evening. Officer Orrand tracked footprints in the snow for a half mile, through a ravine, in the dark, to a house where the robbers were staying.

At the trial of one of the Defendants, Officer Orrand sat at the trial table and did an excellent job testifying, in spite of the fact he had worked the night before and hadn't slept. The day before trial, Officer Orrand took his own video camera and re-traced the route he took to track down the robbers. That recording was used at trial.

On April 14 — during the trial — Jones pled guilty to Aggravated Robbery, a felony of the first degree. He was sentenced by Judge Patricia Cosgrove to three years in prison.

Way to go, Top Cop!

Tough Prosecution



Kimberly Watson, 39, attacked her ex-girlfriend in Grace Park in May 2008, slashing her face repeatedly with a sharp object.

Watson, who was with her sister, Rhonda Lee (whose case is still pending), had followed the 42-year-old woman around the country in an effort to re-establish their relationship. Watson had a history of assaulting the Victim beginning shortly after their relationship began in 2007.

Watson pled guilty on Aug. 12 to Felonious Assault and Violating a Protection Order. On September 8, she was sentenced by Judge Tom Teodosio to SIX YEARS in prison!

**Great job, Assistant
Prosecutor Susan Manofsky!**

MEET VICTIM SERVICES DIRECTOR KRISTEN ARAPP

Position: Director, Victim Services

Hire date: February 2001

Hometown: Suffield, Ohio

Degree: BA, Political Science,
University of Akron



Little known fact: As a pre-teen, I was obsessed with New Kids On the Block. My favorite was Donnie Wahlberg. I still have all of my memorabilia including dolls, pins, t-shirts, a 1000-piece poster puzzle my Mom and I did, and an embarrassing amount more. I plan on pulling some of it out for the reunion concert at the Q on October 3. Yes, I still love them!

Why I am a Victim Advocate: On April 13, 2004, I appeared in front of the Ohio Parole Board for a Full Board Hearing to argue against their decision to parole Rose Yusko. Peter Cook and his girlfriend abused and neglected Peter's daughter. When the child was taken to the hospital, she was near death. She was brought into the hospital unconscious, weighing less than 40 pounds at the age of 12.

The child had no eye reflex. Her eyes were open and the cornea was dry. There was a multitude of skin lesions from her face all the way down to her toes. She had circular burns over 15 percent of her body, similar to cigar or cigarette burns. Her wrists and ankles were raw from being tied up. The prognosis was that she would not survive 48 hours. Doctors described her as the worst case of child abuse they had ever seen.

Rose Yusko and Peter Cook terrorized this child. She was deprived of her most basic needs. She was rarely fed. She had to earn her clothes and when she didn't, she was put out in the cold, naked. She was restrained by being handcuffed to a chair or in the bathtub. Other times, she was handcuffed to the handrail in the basement over night. Or, she would be forced into a closet, which had a privacy lock so they could lock her in.

Fortunately, this victim survived and appeared with me in front of the Board. I was honored, as I always am, to sit next to this victim as she bravely described the abuse she suffered. We persuaded the Board to change their decision and they gave Rose Yusko five more years. Yusko will go before the Board again in February. *I plan to be there!*

GUILTY!

Congratulations to Assistant Prosecutors Tom Bown, Jessica Didion, Charlene Hardy (2), Margaret Kanellis (4 – WOW!), Greta Johnson, John Mascolo, Greg Peacock, Dustin Roth, Mike Todd (3), Mike Tripi, and Nicole Walker, who each had juries return **GUILTY VERDICTS** at trials in August!

GREAT JOB, ASSISTANT PROSECUTORS!