



SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

Summit County Prosecutor

Newsletter

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Message from the Prosecutor



Prosecutor
Sherri Bevan Walsh

So far this year, roughly 2,400 felony cases have been indicted. From drug busts to murders, all of our cases take the time and commitment of many experts and law enforcement personnel to seek justice.

One type of crime, however, is particularly disturbing: crimes against children. They are the most emotional and difficult to understand. They also represent the type of cases that require team work from a range of professionals to defend those who

cannot defend themselves.

In my office, there are two prosecutors assigned to my Child Crime Unit, or crimes against children under the age of 13: Assistant Prosecutors Greg Peacock and Jennie Shuki. This team reviews the evidence during investigation and advises police on where to go next in their investigation. They both say that given the excellent work of detectives, little advice is needed. Brian Stano teamed up with Greg and Jennie in the past two child homicide cases to convict Christopher Hoffman and John Ross of killing their infant sons. They are both serving life sentences.

When I spoke to these prosecutors, they all emphasized the outstanding professionals they work with who help them present the best possible case. It is never easy to be on one of these cases and it takes its toll emotionally on everyone. From EMS who are first on the scene, to social workers, to police officers, to doctors and nurses, it takes a team.

One prosecutor said about how he copes, "We lean on each other. From Sherri to secretaries and interns, and everyone in between, we bounce ideas and opinions off of everyone who will listen."

I want to take a moment to thank all of the professionals — inside and outside of my office — who work with the prosecutors to seek justice against those who commit these horrible crimes against innocent children.

Sadly, we have child homicides that occur from across our county. Babies Elijah Kimbrough, John Vincent Ross, III, and Cameron Allen were from Akron; Jacqueline Cooper was from Springfield Twp.; Makaila Clay, Twinsburg; and Nathan Hoffman, Cuyahoga Falls.

What it takes...the TEAM

This list only includes individuals on the Hoffman case, but we often see them on our other cases, too. Thank you everyone!

Cuyahoga Falls Firefighters/ Paramedics, who tried to save Baby Nathan Hoffman and then testified about their life saving efforts.

Cuyahoga Falls Police, who worked tirelessly on the investigation to charge Hoffman for his son's death:

Det. Kurt Dirker
Det. Jim Stanley
Det. Randy Tlumac
Det. Richard Garinger
Officer Geoff Hill

Dr. Daryl Steiner, Akron Children's Hospital, who is the expert in pediatric trauma and always willing to take our calls - anytime - and works his schedule to accommodate his critical testimony at trial.

Other **Akron Children's Hospital staff**, Social Worker **Michelle Mizda** and Respiratory Therapist **Summer Oney**.

Dr. Lisa Kohler and her staff, of the **Summit County Medical Examiner's Office**, who not only know their business, but can explain it to a jury.

Attorney General Richard Cordray's Bureau of Criminal Investigation staff who tested blood and DNA evidence, **Stacy Violi** and **Russ Edleheit**.

What a difference you make!

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

We're on the Web!

www.co.summit.oh.us/Prosecutor/Index.htm

Top Cop



Detective Michelle Porter,
Summit County Sheriff's Office

**Nominated by: Prosecutors Greg Peacock
and Teri Burnside**

Det. Michelle Porter is known as someone
"who cares deeply" about her cases.

Nominated due to her outstanding work on two
cases where parents (one mother and one father)
were involved with the rapes of their daughters,
Det. Porter went the extra mile on both and is
"the type of detective who will follow up on any-
thing you ask her to do."

When the female defendant jumped bail, Det. Por-
ter went to the victim's home and stayed with her
until her father got home from work to make sure
"mom" didn't show up.

On the male defendant, she gathered as much evi-
dence as possible to see his conviction through,
personally monitoring his jail activities.

Today, "Mom" is serving 17 years in prison — one
year for every year of her daughter's life — for
pimping her daughter out to her boyfriend.

"Dad," who raped his eight year old daughter, is
enjoying prison for Life.

Thank you, Top Cop, for all you do!

GUILTY!!

Congratulations to Assistant Prosecutors **Beth Aronson, Jon Baumel, Jay Cole (2), Michael Cody, Felicia Easter, Tom Kroll (2), Brian LoPrinzi, Kevin Mayer (2), Michael Rickett (2), Justin Richard, Norm Schroth, Omar Siddiq (2), Nicole Walker** and **Angela Walls-Alexander** who obtained guilty verdicts in July!

MEET ASSISTANT PROSECUTOR BRIAN STANO

Position: Assistant Criminal Prosecutor

Hire date: February 5, 2007

Hometown: Strongsville, OH

Law degree: Cleveland-Marshall
College of Law



Background: In 2005, I left a
large corporate law firm to prosecute in Lake
County. I've been married for six years and have two
young children.

Little known fact: I'm a heavy metal music fan, and
frequently attend shows of bands with names like
Type O Negative, Static-X, and Mushroomhead.

Most memorable case: Aside from the recent
Hoffman child homicide, my first ever case was my
most memorable. I was a juvenile prosecutor in Lake
County, trying a teenager for speeding. My boss,
Lake County Prosecutor Chuck Coulson, was in the
courtroom to see me try my first case. I lost because
I forgot to ask the Officer the age of the defendant, a
necessary evidentiary requirement. Chuck later said
he was aware of my mistake during the trial, but did-
n't say anything because he wanted to teach me a les-
son. I've carried it with me ever since.

That's Outrageous!



In 1984, Phyllis Cottle was brutally raped,
beaten, blinded and was left in a burning
car by Samuel Herring.

She, along with many other victims, is now
facing her attacker at the Ohio Parole Board sooner than
expected due to a lawsuit that declared that some crimi-
nals who had already had hearings for parole and were
denied, are entitled to be reviewed again. We will stand
with Ms. Cottle and other victims to keep brutal criminals
like Herring in prison where they belong.

Phyllis Cottle didn't expect to see her attacker until 2014,
and is now having to fight again to keep him in prison.

Now that is outrageous!