



# SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

## Summit County Prosecutor

### Newsletter

#### July 2009

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 am pleased to once again partner with the U.S. Marshal, The House of the Lord and others to bring **Fugitive Safe Surrender (FSS)** to Akron. Akron is the first city in the country to host FSS twice, the first time in 2007.

In honor of August as **Child Support Awareness Month**, a major addition to FSS this year is that the Child Support Enforcement Agency will also be on site to support not only individuals with outstanding criminal non support warrants, but also those who need to work out their child support payments. I am glad that my office can offer this service to enhance our FSS program.

FSS will be at **The House of the Lord** for four days. Individuals with outstanding warrants in Summit County can surrender safely and peacefully at the church. FSS does not offer amnesty; instead, it offers people with nonviolent warrants an opportunity to take their first step toward a second chance. Temporary courtrooms are built out in administrative church offices. Judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, deputy sheriffs, police and court clerks then partner on site, for four days, to lift warrants and fairly resolve cases for those who surrender.

Persons with warrants for violent offenses, as well as those with violent criminal histories, are also strongly encouraged to surrender. FSS has no religious requirements.

More than 1,100 people surrendered in 2007 and we hope to have even more this year! Just like in 2007, however, the Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force will be going after those with outstanding warrants after FSS is complete.

## Fugitive Safe Surrender

**Wednesday, July 29— Saturday, August 1, 2009**  
9:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.

**The House of the Lord**  
1650 Diagonal Road  
Akron

- Never shake or hit a baby.
- Always ask for help.
- Contact a health care provider.

## Tough Prosecution

Christopher Hoffman, of Cuyahoga Falls, was sentenced to life in prison after being found guilty for murdering his infant son, Nathan. He will not be eligible for parole for 20 years.



His wife, Heidi Hoffman, pled guilty to Child Endangering, a misdemeanor, and received six months in the Summit County jail, suspended, and one year of community control, taking some of the responsibility for not protecting baby Nathan.

An autopsy revealed that in December of 2007, Nathan Hoffman died in the family's apartment as a result of asphyxiation from a wadded up facial tissue lodged in the child's throat. Christopher claimed he was wiping Nathan's mouth after a feeding and Nathan sucked in the tissue. Expert testimony refuted that claim as impossible.

Heidi Hoffman testified regarding her husband's behavior leading up to Nathan's death. An autopsy revealed the 10-week-old infant had 23 rib fractures, some recent, some healing and some re-breaks on old healing fractures. Christopher Hoffman was the primary caregiver of the baby before his death and the evidence showed he was the individual who killed Nathan.

**Great work on this conviction**  
**Assistant Prosecutors**  
**Jennie Shuki and Brian Stano!**

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

We're on the Web!

[www.co.summit.oh.us/Prosecutor/Index.htm](http://www.co.summit.oh.us/Prosecutor/Index.htm)

## Top Cop



**Sgt. Jamie Mackie**  
Northfield Village Police Department

**Nominated by: Assistant Prosecutor Omar Siddiq**

Sgt. Jamie Mackie was the sole investigator on the Raymond White case. White shamelessly conned a disabled woman out of \$84,000. Sgt. Mackie worked tirelessly on the case over a two-and-a-half year period to bring White to justice.

Once a case is indicted the job of an officer is often finished. In this case Sgt. Mackie's work had only begun. Sgt. Mackie found that White had written checks to his stepfather in an effort to hide the stolen money. To track down the money, Sgt. Mackie drove out to Ravenna to speak with the stepfather. Once he learned that the stepfather had no involvement, the Court ordered a handwriting analysis to show the endorsement on the checks was not the stepfather's writing. Sgt. Mackie drove out again to get a sample of the stepfather's writing. That very day, Sgt. Mackie received a call from the stepfather that White had been there and had intimidated him into signing a false statement. Sgt. Mackie drove to Ravenna again to obtain a statement about the witness intimidation. Even on the first day of trial, Sgt. Mackie was trying to find witnesses who could help prove the case against White.

Due to Sgt. Mackie's dedication and tremendous work, White was convicted by a jury and will be sentenced on August 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Way to go, Top Cop!**

## That's Outrageous!



In 2007, Nabil Misleh was ordered to pay \$621.00 per month for child support plus an additional \$124.20 towards his arrears. Misleh rarely paid a full month of support, claiming he wasn't working. The Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) ultimately blocked his passport.

Misleh needed his passport because he traveled to Jordan to visit his family. CSEA stood firm, believing that if he could afford to travel out of the country, he could afford to pay his child support.

After numerous attempts to persuade CSEA to cease enforcement action, he paid his arrearages in full: \$16,810.25!

**Now that is outrageous!**

## MEET ASSISTANT PROSECUTOR

**JOHN GALONSKI**

**POSITION:** Legal Division Director, CSEA

**HIRE DATE:** January 16, 2001

**LAW DEGREE:** University of Akron

**HOMETOWN:** Macedonia, Ohio



**LITTLE KNOWN FACT:** I was pound-for-pound the strongest in my high school class. I bench pressed 240 pounds and only weighed 145 pounds.

**MOST MEMORABLE CASE:** Richard Caycedo was an airline pilot who asserted numerous defenses as to why he couldn't be his child's father. Caycedo asserted his defenses and proceeded to trial in spite of the fact that the Genetic Probability of Paternity Index was 1,296,989,598 to 1, or in English, a billion to one that someone else was the father. Caycedo was found to be the father of the child and was ordered to pay \$1,390 a month in child support.

**HOBBIES:** Swimming and weightlifting

## MEET ASSISTANT PROSECUTOR

**JOSEPH FANTOZZI**

**POSITION:** Assistant Prosecuting Attorney

**HIRE DATE:** August 11, 2008

**LAW DEGREE:** University of Toledo

**HOMETOWN:** Huron, Ohio



**LITTLE KNOWN FACT:** Due to various internships, I attended three different law schools (Toledo, Ohio State, and Notre Dame).

**MOST MEMORABLE CASE:** When I was in private practice I represented a wealthy divorce client whose wife caught him cheating on her with his secretary. The wife took a sledge-hammer and smashed the windshield of my client's prized 1958 Corvette roadster. Afterwards, my client stated "If I had known it would only cost me a windshield to get rid of her I would have told her about the affair a long time ago."

**HOBBIES:** Ohio State and Notre Dame sports, boating, and cycling.

## GUILTY!!



Congratulations to Assistant Prosecutors **Jay Cole, Tom Kroll, Kevin Mayer, Dustin Roth, Jennie Shuki (2), Omar Siddiq (2)** and **Brian Stano** who obtained guilty verdicts in June!