



# SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

## Summit County Prosecutor

### Newsletter

January, 2007

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## Message from the Prosecutor



Prosecutor  
Sherri Bevan Walsh

**Angela Poth-Wypasek is Named 2006 Prosecutor of the Year!**

It is a great pleasure to announce **Angela Poth-Wypasek as 2006 Assistant Prosecutor of the Year**. Angela encompasses the characteristics of a successful Assistant Prosecutor, demonstrating a strong commitment and dedication to her job, while at the same time representing this office with professionalism and integrity.

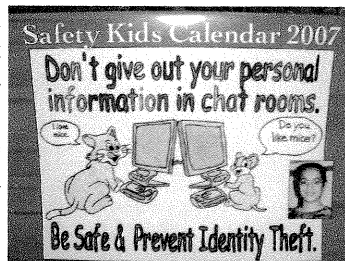
Angela prosecuted 16 trials last year and is known for being thorough and well-prepared when going into the courtroom.

She is a talented and effective courtroom prosecutor, and crime victims are fortunate to have her on their side. In fact, Angela often tries cases when the deck may be stacked against her – such as Domestic Violence cases – when the victim may change their mind about prosecuting an abusive husband or boyfriend. These are the toughest cases and Angela fully prosecutes them in spite of difficult odds.

Angela has been with my office for four years, two of those being in our Juvenile Delinquency Division. After being awarded Prosecutor of the Year, Angela said “I love my job,” capturing her spirit and outlook on being an Assistant Prosecutor for Summit County and the State of Ohio.

## Safety Kids 2007 – The Calendars are Here!

We are pleased that more than 1,450 students from 30 public and private middle schools in Summit County participated in the **2007 Safety Kids Calendar Contest**. Prosecutor Walsh said of this year’s contest, “We were very excited about the level of participation and the winners. It was a competitive year and all of these students deserve a big congratulations for their hard work!”



**Gurbani Kaur** of **Revere Middle School** won the grand prize for her illustration depicting the importance of not giving out personal information in a chat room. Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh congratulated all 48 winners at an award ceremony in November. Twelve first-prize winners will see their posters featured in the 12 months on the calendar. Kaur’s grand-prize winning work is on the front of the calendar.

**Thank You to Participating Schools: Bolich Middle, Chapel Hill Christian, Coventry Junior High, Dodge Intermediate, Erwine Middle, Goodrich, Goodyear Middle, Green Middle, Highland Middle, Holy Family, Hyre Middle, Jennings Middle, Lakeview, Lippman Day, Manchester Middle, Miller South Academy, Mogadore Jr. High, Nordon Middle, North Akron Catholic, Our Lady of the Elms, Revere Local, Roswell Kent Middle, St. Paul, St. Augustine, St. Barnabas, St. Frances De Sales, St. Hilary, St. Joseph, St. Mary Elementary, Schrop Intermediate, and Tallmadge Middle School.**

To Order a 2007 Safety Kids Calendar, Please e-mail:

[LCramer@Prosecutor.summitoh.net](mailto:LCramer@Prosecutor.summitoh.net)

## Tough Prosecution:

### Stanley Smith

A recent conviction showed the bad guy isn’t always “the man hiding in the bush.” **Stanley Smith**, 25, was sentenced to eight years in prison after he kidnapped and strangled his former fiancé. Fortunately, she was not seriously injured.

Smith visited the woman at her apartment on April 11, 2006. After speaking at the doorway for a while, Smith forced his way in. He demanded they reestablish their relationship and when she refused, Smith began to strangle her. He then forced her to leave with him and would not let her leave until a day later.

A jury found Smith guilty and Judge Murphy sentenced him to **eight years in prison** for kidnapping, felonious assault and domestic violence.

*Nice job Assistant Prosecutors Susan Manofsky and Margaret Kanellis for your hard work on this trial!*

## IT'S THE LAW!!

Effective January 2, 2007 SB 260, “**Jessica’s Law**” makes several changes in our criminal law.

The bill greatly increases penalties for rape and attempted rape when the victim is a minor.

For example, under the bill the penalty for rape of a minor less than 13-years-old must be at least ten years to life in prison. If the minor is less than ten years old, the penalty must be at least 15 years to life in prison. A sentence of mandatory life in prison without parole is possible when the victim is less than ten-years-old or when the victim is less than 13-years-old and suffers serious physical harm during the rape.

For attempted rape, when the defendant is also convicted of a specification if the minor is less than 13 years old, the penalty must be five to 25 years in prison. If the minor is less than ten years old, the penalty must be ten years to life in prison.

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 Cops

*Sgt. Bryan Taylor  
Detective Brian Moore  
Officer Sheri Shannon  
Officer Jamie McKinley*



Due to a thorough investigation by these *Top Cops*, Assistant Prosecutors **Margaret Kannellis** and **Susan Manofsky** were able to obtain a conviction in the Stanley Smith case (case reviewed on page one) that could have easily been lost in a "he said/she said" conundrum. The Defendant and the Victim had been engaged, but when she ended the relationship, he became dangerous by kidnapping, assaulting and holding his ex-fiancé against her will. The officers went above and beyond by tracking down and interviewing all witnesses, even discovering one witness who the Defendant had stalked and assaulted years earlier. During the search of the Defendant's dorm room, officers collected evidence that at first glance, would not have been obviously relevant; however, this evidence ended up being key to the State's theory of the case.

He was convicted of Kidnapping, Domestic Violence and Felonious Assault.

## Con Alert

**Grandma, I need help!**

Watch out for the "grandson scam" or the "it's me!" scam. This con involves a middle of the night frantic phone call from a grandchild asking for emergency money. The grandparent is so intent on helping the grandchild that they fail to notice the caller is actually a thief. If you get a frantic call asking for help, verify the caller before giving out personal information or money. Within the past year, a senior citizen told me this scenario happened to her. The *Akron Beacon Journal* also covered this scam not too long ago where a woman lost \$3,000.



## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UNIT

**Director:** John Mascolo, Assistant Prosecutor  
**Supervisor:** Susan Manofsky, Assistant Prosecutor

**Members:** Assistant Prosecutors Angela Walls Alexander, Teri Burnside, Greta Johnson, Angela Poth-Wypasek, Felicia Easter, Adam Van Ho, Dan Sallerson, Emily Laube-Haughton and Beth Aronson; Investigator Joe Sands; SAFE advocates Kim and Meggan; Probation Officer Dave Siko; Secretary Patti Walker

**Duties:** Oversee cases of felony violence offenses between intimate partners, such as husband and wife or boyfriend and girlfriend.

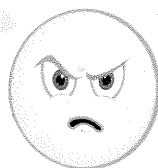
**Infamous Cases:** **Clarence Fry** was initially arrested for assaulting and threatening to kill his girlfriend. After he was released on bond at Akron Municipal Court, he stabbed her to death in front of her grandchildren. Clarence Fry was convicted of Aggravated Murder and the jury authorized the death penalty. **Adam Smith** was found guilty of Murder by a jury for stabbing his wife to death. The two had been married less than a year when he killed her. Smith was sentenced to 15 years to Life. The pending case of **Joseph Gorospe**, indicted by the Summit County Grand Jury for allegedly causing the death of his wife at their home in Hudson, will be prosecuted by the DVU.

**Background:** The DVU was established by Prosecutor Walsh in 2004, the first of its kind in the Summit County Prosecutor's Office. The DVU prosecuted some 975 cases between February, 2004 and August, 2006. The DVU has had 98 cases go to trial and obtained guilty pleas in 852 cases. The overall felony conviction rate in the unit is 85 percent, with an additional eight percent being convicted of misdemeanor offenses.

Domestic violence cases often have Victims who may have difficulty with prosecution because of the relationship they have maintained with the offender. The work of the Assistant Prosecutor is sometimes to try a case without the victim's support, preventing escalation of the violence, which is often the pattern of the offenders. These cases are "evidence-based" and are sometimes pursued if it has been determined that there is sufficient evidence to demonstrate the defendant's guilt.



## Outrageous Crime of the Month



In early December, Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh and the Summit County Sheriff's Department participated in the **10th Annual Statewide Sheriff's Round Up**, arresting 39 Summit County residents for not paying their court-ordered child support. These dead-beat parents had outstanding warrants, owing their combined 44 children \$398,966.85. Summit County was one of over 40 counties that participated in the Round Up, and came in fourth in the State for the number of individuals arrested.

During the 2006 fiscal year, the state of Ohio collected almost \$2 billion in child support payments. The nearly one million child support cases ranks Ohio third in the nation in child support caseload, third in total collections, and first in collections for non-public assistance cases.

*Now that is outrageous!*