

FROM THE OFFICE OF PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH
2005 – 2006 Annual Report



I am pleased to offer the Summit County Prosecutor Office's 2005 – 2006 Annual Report. My employees and I are proud public servants to the citizens of Summit County, with responsibilities that range from representing the State of Ohio in the prosecution of criminals to managing child support cases through the Child Support Enforcement Agency.

My Office consists of the following divisions: Criminal Felony, Appellate, Juvenile, Civil, Tax, and Victim Services. The Child Support Enforcement Agency is also a division of the Summit County Prosecutor's Office.

I am pleased to report that we continue to have strong relationships with Summit County law enforcement, working together in our respective roles to uphold the judicial system. With a case load that almost doubled since I took office in 2001, it has taken a team effort – from the investigation, to charges being filed by the police departments, to the case coming to my office for prosecution – to handle the tremendous case load.

In 2006, I was awarded "Prosecutor of the Year" by the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association. A great honor, this association represents Summit County police departments in Barberton, Bath, Boston Heights, Copley, Fairlawn, Macedonia, Munroe Falls, Norton, Reminderville, Richfield Village, Twinsburg, Stow and Springfield.

On a day-to-day basis, we not only strive to uphold the ethics of the Office of the Prosecutor, we also are active members of our community. Here are some of the highlights of our community activities:

- **Crime Prevention Outreach:** I, along with the Assistant Prosecutors, give dozens of crime prevention speeches to senior citizens, parent groups, and other organizations, on how to stay safe. I also co-teach self-defense classes to senior citizens – almost 1,800 individuals in 2005 and 2006 – along with the University of Akron's Police Department.
- **Project Safe Neighborhood:** PSN is a national grant we have been a part of since 2003. This grant helps law enforcement officers serve warrants and supports the creation of the Northern Ohio Fugitive Task Force. This task force focuses on arresting the hardest to find and worst of the worst, including sex offenders.

- **National Night Out:** The *National Night Out Against Crime* offered an opportunity for us to “march” with neighbors to “take back the streets” from criminals. We participate annually in this event. Assistant Prosecutors and Victim Advocates also participated in neighborhood “Block Watch” meetings discussing neighborhood concerns as well as disseminating helpful crime prevention information from our office.

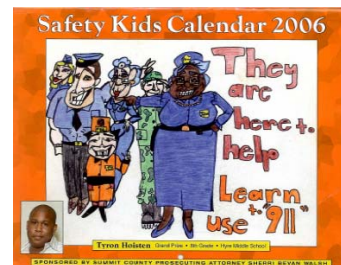


- **Supporting Victims:** Victim Advocates attend the Victim Assistance Program’s *Candle Light Vigil* and *Angel Tree Ceremony* every year to remember victims of crime. They also help staff the annual children’s fair, sponsored by the Akron Police Department, for children who are victims of crime.

- **Introduction to Criminal Justice:** Assistant Prosecutors continue to teach about the criminal justice system through my office’s Introduction to Criminal Justice (ICJ) program. The ICJ program offers guest lecturers for the classroom, a competitive mock trial program for middle-schools, mock-trials for elementary schools, informative reading with the “Did Not, Did Too” book, tours of the courthouse and other educational opportunities.



- **Safety Kids Calendars:** We sponsor an annual calendar contest with area middle schools on “12 Rules for Staying Safe.” A very popular program, we typically have more than 2,500 entries. The top 12 winning posters depicting safety rules are published into a calendar and, thanks to ClearChannel Outdoor, are featured on billboards around the county.



- **Student Shadows, Undergraduate Intern Program, Law Clerks:** For those wanting to learn more about the Prosecutor’s Office, we offer high school students the opportunity to “shadow” a prosecutor for a day. Working with local universities, we also offer internships to undergraduate students and clerkships to law students.

- **Community Relations Committee (CRC):** A very active committee made up of assistant prosecutors, support staff, and CSEA staff, this committee coordinates community service opportunities for employees of the prosecutor’s office. The activities are all paid for through “dress down” day funds that are held to raise money for the CRC. Staff serve hot meals to those less fortunate at several area churches; create baskets to donate for auction to area charities; adopt individuals and families for the holidays; hold fundraisers for charities (such as a bake sale); sponsor boxes in our offices for employees to donate needed items to shelters and so much more.

FINANCE and HUMAN RESOURCES



Jennifer Bheam Finance Director

Ms. Bheam manages the budget and finances of the Office of the Prosecutor. She also is the Office liaison to County Council on all matters relating to budget, grant approval, personnel, and any other required legislative matters. In addition, Ms. Bheam oversees the Personnel, Property and Evidence Management, and Information Technology departments as well as financial matters for the Child Support Enforcement Agency. Other duties include the financial administration of grants, serving on the county's Records Commission, fleet management, and the coordination of training and travel.

Year	2005	2006
Budget	\$18,706,090	\$19,180,400
General Fund	\$ 5,239,900	\$ 5,403,400
CSEA Fund	\$11,924,600	\$11,939,900
DRETAC Fund	\$ 925,800	\$ 1,150,500
Grand Funds	\$ 557,662	\$ 632,000
Other Funds	\$ 58,128	\$ 54,600
Employees		
Full Time	*99	*100
Part Time	4	6

*Excluding CSEA

CRIMINAL FELONY DIVISION



Mary Ann Kovach Chief Counsel, Criminal Division

Mary Ann Kovach has served as Chief of the Criminal Division since 2001. In both 2005 and 2006, the Criminal Felony Division maintained its 95 percent conviction rate (Guilty at Trial or Pled Guilty). Both years, the division also had 11 Life sentences on Child Sexual Assault cases (in 2005, only one case was dismissed). The Criminal Felony Division has special units of prosecutors who handle Violent Crimes, Domestic Violence, and Child Homicide/Rape. The Violent Crime Unit (VCU) handles the most serious cases from the grand jury phase through the trial phase, and advises the police during the investigation of homicides, RICO, and offenses involving the use of a firearm. The Domestic Violence Unit is supported by federal grant money from the Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women. This grant also enables the Prosecutor's Office to collaborate with the Battered Women's Shelter, the Victim Assistance Program, and other important agency partners in the battle against family violence. Finally, the Child Homicide/Rape Unit handles cases involving the death or abuse of a child.

Year	2005	2006
Assistant Prosecutors	29	29
Support Staff	14	17
Disposed Cases	4,824	4,895
Guilty at trial or pled guilty	4,592 (95% conviction)	4,657 (95% conviction)
*Homicide Cases	27	24
*Aggravated Vehicular Homicides	6	7
*Domestic Violence Cases	440	460
*Domestic Homicides	5	2
*Individuals prosecuted 5/20 (five or more DUI's in 20 years, mandatory one to five years sentence)	43	26

* Cases disposed in those years.

VICTIM SERVICES

Kristen Arapp
Director of Victim Services



The Victim Services Division assists more than 5,000 victims annually through the criminal justice process. The Division provides support services for victims of crime, including Internet access to case information through the Prosecutor's COPS system, notifying them of their financial rights as victims, keeping them abreast of what is happening in their case and accompanying them to case hearings and trials. In addition, the Division works with victims to oppose parole for homicide and sexual assault offenders. The Unit also collaborates with the Battered Women's Shelter, Rape Crisis, the Victim Assistance Program and the Child Advocacy Center.

Year	2005	2006
Victim Advocates	10	14 (incl. interns)
Grant Funding	\$149,180	\$130,767.46
Federal Violence Against Women Act	\$41,157	\$32,102.46
Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)	\$71,468	\$72,899
State Victims Assistance Act (SVAA)	\$3,433	\$3,685
Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)	\$33,122	\$22,081

APPELLATE and FORFEITURE



Philip Bogdanoff Supervising Assistant Prosecutor

The Appellate Division handles cases after the defendants have been convicted of a crime in Summit County Common Pleas Court. The Appellate assistant prosecutors also represent the County before the Ninth District Court of Appeals, the Ohio Supreme Court and the United States Supreme Court.

The Forfeiture Division acts as the “Robin Hood” of the Summit County Prosecutor’s Office. This division seizes from the corrupt drug dealers who get rich and transfers the property to local police departments where it is auctioned or used to combat crime. In the Prosecutor’s Office, this money is utilized for crime prevention and education within the community.

Year	2005	2006
Assistant Prosecutors	2	2
Support Staff	2	2
State Briefs Filed	96	102
State Cases Reversed or Remanded	7	4
Total Forfeiture Petitions Filed	362	402
Total Dollars Received by Summit County Prosecutor’s Office	\$94,787.24	\$94,180.73

CIVIL DIVISION

John Manley
Chief Counsel, Civil Division



The Civil Division provides counsel and representation to approximately 35 county agencies, as well as a variety of townships, school districts and public libraries. The attorneys in the Civil Division are the legal advisors to all county elected officials and boards, including boards of township trustees.

It is comprised of four attorneys and two support staff who work together in teams to achieve consistently superior results. Cases and assignments to the attorneys are based upon areas of legal concentration that result in more efficient job performance while providing continuity to our clients. Through their collective efforts, our office has developed a positive working relationship with County Council, the County Executive and other elected officials and boards. These efforts aid considerably in the successful resolution of litigation and other issues.

Year	2005	2006
Assistant Prosecutors	4	4
Support Staff	2	2
Number of case files opened	175	188
Number of workers' comp. files	56	34
Legal Opinions	164	161

TAX DIVISION



Anita Davis
Supervising Assistant Prosecutor

The Tax Division serves as legal representation for the County Fiscal Officer and the Board of Revision. In addition, tax appeal cases and the collection of delinquent taxes fall under its jurisdiction. The Tax Division also handles over 250 foreclosures each year.

Year	2005	2006
Assistant Prosecutors	4	4
Support Staff	4	4
Foreclosures	254	268
Bankruptcy	231	361
Board of Tax Appeal	57	370
Personal Property Tax Cases	84	105
Personal Property Tax Bankruptcy	16	30
Misc. Cases	95	125

JUVENILE DIVISION

**Paula Sawyers, Delinquency
Supervising Assistant Prosecutor**



**Christine Mastran, Dependency & Neglect
Supervising Assistant Prosecutor**



The Juvenile Division is located at 650 Dan Street, Akron, and has two divisions: the Delinquency Division and the Dependency and Neglect Division. The Juvenile Division prosecutes cases in Juvenile Court where an individual is younger than 18 and prosecutes all felonies committed by juveniles. This division also serves as the Municipal Court for juveniles who commit misdemeanors within all of Summit County. Juvenile includes both attorneys who prosecute juvenile cases and attorneys who represent Summit County Children Services Board throughout all phases of the dependency and neglect cases. The Juvenile Division also serves on numerous community task forces to promote ingenuity in dealing with special issues regarding at risk youth, and provides services to our victims through the Victim Advocates.

Year	2005	2006
Assistant Prosecutors	11	11
Support Staff	3	3
Victim Advocates	2	3
Juvenile Cases		
Delinquency	8,234	7,000
Bindover	58	21
Traffic	3,359	3,079
Failure to send children to school	947	700 (adults)
Unruly	824	422
Total	13,384	11,201
Dependency & Neglect Cases		
	1,276	924

CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT AGENCY (CSEA)



Edward Harshbarger
Director

CSEA is a division of the Summit County Prosecutor's Office. Since Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh took office in 2001, collections have increased from \$85.4 million in 2000, to \$97.3 million in 2006, a 14 percent increase. This amount includes more than \$9.8 million in collections from the criminal prosecution of 1,996 individuals who were charged with criminal non-support for continuously not paying their child support obligations.

With 54,798 cases in 2006, the sixth largest caseload in Ohio, Summit County CSEA continues to search for ways of functioning more efficiently while maintaining a customer-friendly environment for our clients. Initiatives utilizing technology, such as direct contact e-mail and voicemail, along with a new telephone prompting system, have proven successful in meeting the growing demand for expedited communication.

Year	2005	2006
Employees	195	163
Criminal Non-Support	7	7
Assistant Prosecutors	13	10
Case Workers	84	78
Support Staff	89	68
Cases	52,025	54,798

Most Improved Child Support Program in the Country, awarded by the National Child Support Enforcement Association (2005)

Best Practice: *Operation Monopoly*, as awarded by the Ohio Family Support Association and Ohio Child Support Director's Association for the highly successful sting operation that resulted in the arrests of 42 non-custodial parents with outstanding warrants for their arrest for perpetually not paying their child support (2005)

Best Practice: *REACH Program*, as awarded by the Ohio Family Support Association and Ohio Child Support Director's Association for providing information and services to local incarcerated population to enable them to have the proper tools necessary to support their children financially and emotionally. This program resulted in collecting more than \$80,000 in arrearages in 2005

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office sponsors dress down days for charities around the county. CSEA employees generously donated the following amounts:

2005 Charitable Contributions from CSEA Employees: \$12,212.95

2006 Charitable Contributions from CSEA Employees: \$9,799.54