

2025 FALL REPORT



Elliot Kolkovich
Summit County Prosecutor

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A Note from Prosecutor Kolkovich



As the first year of my inaugural official term as Summit County Prosecutor comes to a close, I am proud to provide my second annual Fall Report.

As your County Prosecutor, I am committed to safeguarding our community with integrity, efficiency, and the best interests of Summit County at heart. My Office handles every case with respect, ensuring justice is served while fostering trust and safety.

To continue strengthening the community's trust in my Office, I want to provide insight into my key priorities, case results and data, ways we are engaging with the community, and how I am continuing to improve public safety throughout Summit County. This report is part of my work to provide transparency to the public that I am so honored to serve.

From working to prevent crime and reduce its impacts, to getting violent offenders off the streets, to advocating for victims and the most vulnerable people in our communities, I will always fight to better protect and serve Summit County.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and flourishes.

Elliot Kolkovich
Summit County Prosecutor
November 2025

Our Principles

As an advocate for the State, the paramount aim of any prosecutor should be the preservation of justice, the consistent and fair application of the law, and the promotion of public safety. That's why Prosecutor Kolkovich is solidifying and clarifying the prosecuting principles of the Summit County Prosecutor's Office around the following case objectives:

- Pursue justice based on the objective application of the law and the evidence, while still accounting for the considerations of justice when gaps in the law persist.
- Streamlining indictments in favor of more accurate charges based on the evidence, as opposed to treating them as leverage for later plea negotiations.
- The Office will ensure all defendants who enter pleas of guilty only plead to charges that we can prove in trial.
- A prosecution is considered successful if the evidence was followed, and the law was applied consistently.

With this approach, we have already seen notable decreases in cases indicted for felonies, while still having a notable increase in the number of felony cases disposed, significantly more rehabilitation for deserving offenders, and a significant increase in the percentage of violent gun crimes resolved via trial or pleas to the indictment. The statistics beginning on page 12 display these trends.



Personnel Moves

Reorganization

Last April, Prosecutor Kolkovich reorganized the Adult Felony Unit of the Criminal Division, creating teams of six prosecutors to cover two judges' dockets together. We've already seen more convictions for high-level offenses, quicker case dispositions, and more diversionary placements for deserving offenders.

One of Prosecutor Kolkovich's priorities is to continue building on the success of this reorganization, to recruit and promote talented individuals, and to align their skills within an Office that puts them in a position to flourish. This past February, he announced several personnel moves that have continued to increase office efficiency and improve public safety in and around Summit County.



Rick Raley
Deputy Chief Counsel

Rick Raley, formerly an Assistant Prosecutor in the Appeals and Adult Felony units, has been promoted to serve as Deputy Chief Counsel. In that role, he will oversee the Office's communications, community outreach, and budget/personnel departments while also advising Prosecutor Kolkovich on all aspects of public affairs and the implementation of his policies. In addition to his service in the Summit County Prosecutor's Office, Raley has served as Chief Counsel in the Lorain County Prosecutor's Office, as an Assistant Prosecutor in the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office, and as a Judicial Attorney for the Ohio Court of Appeals. He is an honors graduate of the University of Notre Dame, where he was a member of the Pi Sigma Alpha Honor Society, and Case Western Reserve University School of Law, where he was President of the Moot Court Board and Editor of the Law Review.

Personnel Moves



Elaine Vilem

Director of Communications

Elaine Vilem, formerly the Deputy Press Secretary in the Office of United States Senator Sherrod Brown, has been named as Director of Communications. She will oversee all aspects of the Office's public relations, marketing, and media strategy. Before joining the Prosecutor's Office, Vilem rose up the ranks in Senator Brown's Office, starting as an intern before becoming a Staff Assistant, Constituent Advocate, Press Assistant, and finally Deputy Press Secretary. In those roles, she handled constituent service requests, assisted with the development of digital media strategy, and served as Senator Brown's spokesperson with state and national reporters. Vilem is an honors graduate of the University of South Carolina, where she was a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Society.



Mickey Valdez

Community Outreach Coordinator

Mickey Valdez, formerly a Sexual Violence Specialist and Community Outreach Specialist, has transitioned to the role of Community Outreach Coordinator. In that role, she will coordinate the Office's efforts in organizing or attending scores of community events and educational programs, including the Office's innovative programs like the women's self-defense classes and Start By Believing campaign. Before starting with the Prosecutor's Office in November 2019, Valdez served as Director of Services for the Victim Assistance Program of Summit County, where she ensured that victims of crime received appropriate support and crisis services, and as a Family Advocate for the Children's Center of Medina County, where she worked with victims of child abuse and their families. She is a graduate of Oklahoma City University and holds a Certificate in Advanced Crime Analysis, Criminology, and Criminal Justice from Portland State University.

Personnel Moves



Samantha Lisy
Special Dockets Prosecutor

Samantha Lisy has returned to the Office as Specialty Dockets Prosecutor. In this role, she will manage cases assigned to the Court's specialty dockets, including Turning Point, Valor Court, and Reentry Court, which are designed on giving deserving offenders an opportunity for rehabilitation. Lisy is a graduate of Ashland University and the University of Akron School of Law. She has held various positions in different divisions of the Prosecutor's Office and has previously served as a public defender in Stark County. Lisy has been admitted to the practice of law since 2010.



Judith Lynn Lee
Community Outreach Specialist

Judith Lynn Lee is a graduate of the University of Akron with a bachelor's degree in Media Communications - Radio/Television, and she worked radio, television, and print journalism prior to joining the Summit County Prosecutor's Office. Formerly an Administrative Secretary for the Office, this year Judith transitioned from running the front desk to conducting outreach and representing the Office at events throughout Summit County.

Personnel Moves

Major Trial Promotions

Ben Carro, Emily Hall, and Zach Neumann were promoted to Major Trial Prosecutors in the Adult Felony Unit of the Criminal Division. All three were previously Senior Prosecutors. In their new roles, they will handle prosecutions for homicides, sexual offenses, and other complex matters.



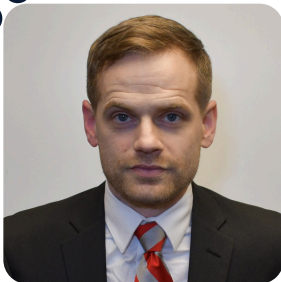
Ben Carro
Major Trial Prosecutor

Carro has been admitted to the practice of law since 2013. He first served as a public defender in both Summit County and Wayne County before becoming an Assistant Prosecutor for the City of Akron. In 2019, Carro became an Assistant Summit County Prosecutor. He is a graduate of John Carroll University and the University of Akron School of Law.



Emily Hall
Major Trial Prosecutor

Hall has also been admitted to the practice of law since 2013. In addition to her service in Summit County, she has served as an Assistant Prosecutor in Richland County, where she tried more than 25 felony jury trials. Hall is a graduate of Bowling Green State University and University of Toledo Law School.



Zach Neumann
Major Trial Prosecutor

Neumann has been admitted to the practice of law since 2015 and has spent his entire career as a licensed attorney with the Summit County Prosecutor's Office. He started in the Child Protection Unit handling abuse, neglect, and dependency cases in Juvenile Court to protect vulnerable children before transferring to the Adult Felony Unit in 2018. Neumann is an honors graduate of Loyola University of Chicago and the Ohio State University College of Law.

Personnel Moves

New Hires - Assistant Prosecutors



Tania Nemer
Deputy Chief
Civil/Tax Division



Anna Bahr-Fite
Assistant Prosecutor
Juvenile Unit



Kevin Day
Assistant Prosecutor
Criminal Division



Brianna Dietry
Assistant Prosecutor
Criminal Division



Tony Erhardt
Assistant Prosecutor
Criminal Division



Aimee Fanter
Assistant Prosecutor
Child Protection Unit



Ashley Hawkins
Assistant Prosecutor
Civil/Tax Division



Anna Liggett
Assistant Prosecutor
Child Protection Unit



Christopher Reece
Assistant Prosecutor
Civil/Tax Division



Spencer Seide
Assistant Prosecutor
Criminal Division



Christina Sickinger
Assistant Prosecutor
Criminal Division



Harrison Sorm
Assistant Prosecutor
Criminal Division

Personnel Moves

New Hires - Assistant Prosecutors



Joe Vance
Assistant Prosecutor
Criminal Division



Francesca Veres
Assistant Prosecutor
Child Protection Unit

New Hires - Criminal Division



Lisa Woods
Admin. Secretary
Reception



Elizabeth Kisner
Victim Advocate
Criminal Division



Larry Lane
Direct Indictment
Officer

Personnel Moves

New Hires - Child Support Enforcement Agency



Tierra Brown
Child Support
Specialist



Sherri Carlson
Child Support
Specialist



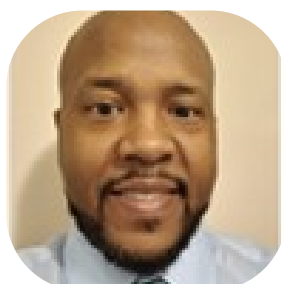
Vanthalithe Ellsworth
Child Support
Specialist



Megan Fuller
Child Support
Specialist



Camille Johnson
Child Support
Specialist



Titus Johnson
Child Support
Specialist



Sarah Kosinski
Clerical Specialist
CSEA



Lisa Lee
Child Support
Specialist



Mia Montes Torres
Child Support
Specialist



Olivia Spano
Clerical Specialist
CSEA







Kim Sweeney
Child Support
Specialist

Criminal Division

While the primary responsibility of the Assistant Prosecutors in the Criminal Division is to prosecute felony criminal cases through the judicial process and work to ensure justice is served in every case, we also believe in doing more. The Summit County Prosecutor's Office is committed to working to prevent crime before it even happens, and to protect victims and survivors.

The Criminal Division prosecutes adult felony crimes, juvenile delinquency matters, and represents Summit County Children Services in child protection proceedings. Assistant Prosecutors in the Criminal Division represent Summit County in the General Division of the Summit County Court of Common Pleas, Summit County Juvenile Court, the Ninth District Court of Appeals, and the Ohio Supreme Court.

Adult Felony Unit Case Dispositions 7/1/2024 - 6/30/2025

	Cases		
	2023-2024	2024-2025	Change
Cases Reviewed for Felony Charges	5,406	5,149	 5%
Cases Indicted for Felony Charges	4,484	4,004	 11%
Total Cases Disposed	5,637	5,872	 4%
Diversions Placements	279	647	 132%

Criminal Division

The decrease in cases reviewed for felony charges and cases indicted for felony charges is a reflection of both declining crime across Summit County and the City of Akron, and of the Office's focus on streamlining indictments. This streamlining has resulted in fewer felony indictments, and with more cases referred for other non-felony dispositions. The Office is making the administration of justice fairer and more efficient.

High-Level Crimes and Gun Crimes by the Numbers 7/1/2024 – 6/30/2025

- **440 Convictions for 1st- and 2nd- Degree Felonies**
- **95 Convictions for Registerable Offenses**
 - **64 Sex Offenders**
 - **31 Violent Offenders**
- **23 Life Sentences Delivered – an increase of 64% from 2023-2024**
- **33 Firearm Cases Resolved with Trial or a Plea to the Indictment**
- **540.75 Total Years in Prison in Firearm Specification Cases (Indicted as Non-Life Cases)**
 - **Average Sentence of 6.4 Years per Person**

With the teams reorganization highlighted in last year's fall report, and our enforcement focus on higher-level crime, the Office has taken more cases involving gun violence to trial. This has led to fewer cases with reduced charges, and longer sentences for the worst offenders.



Criminal Division

Juvenile Delinquency Unit

The Juvenile Delinquency Unit is responsible for the prosecution of juvenile offenders in Summit County Juvenile Court. Assistant Prosecutors in the Delinquency Unit handle all cases in which the perpetrator of a crime is under 18 years of age. Cases can range from minor misdemeanors to aggravated murder. Based on the severity of the charges, and following a judge's review, a juvenile can be bound over to the Summit County Court of Common Pleas to be tried as an adult. The Unit also handles cases involving school truancy and curfew violations. From July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025, the Unit handled:

- **1,205 Delinquency Filings**
- **1,586 Traffic/Unruliness Filings**
- **521 Adult Cases (e.g. failing to send a child to school, contributing to delinquency of a minor)**

Child Protection Unit

The Child Protection Unit represents Summit County Children Services on cases regarding the safety and well-being of a child under the age of 18. The Unit reviews these cases to determine if a child is abused, neglected, or dependent, and assists Summit County Children Services in the agency's efforts to help families resolve the issue. From 7/1/2024 to 6/30/2025, the Unit handled:

- **860 Abuse, Neglect, and Dependency Case Filings**
- **288 Adjudications of Abuse, Neglect, or Dependency**
- **71 Permanent Custody Dispositions**



Criminal Division

Appeals Unit

The Appeals Unit handles post-conviction and post-adjudication proceedings that occur in Adult Felony, Juvenile Delinquency, and Child Protection matters. Our Assistant Prosecutors dedicated to handling appellate cases primarily appear before the Ninth District Court of Appeals, which also hears appeal from trial courts in Lorain, Medina, and Wayne Counties. They also appear before the Ohio Supreme Court and handle post-conviction litigation in the Summit County Court of Common Pleas.

In the last year, the Office has filed three State's appeals and won all three, producing favorable precedents regarding sentencing and rules of discovery. From 7/1/2024 to 6/30/2025, the unit had:

- **224 Appeals Handled to Decision**
- **89% Favorable Judgment Rate**



Criminal Division

Victim Services

Established in 2001, our Victim Services Division is now a full-time unit with a director and multiple Victim Advocates who serve victims and survivors in both the Adult Felony and Juvenile Delinquency Units. Our Victim Services Division works to ensure all victims are notified at each level of the criminal justice system.

Our Victim Advocates accompany victims to court, inform them of the status of their case, advocate on their behalf, provide emergency transportation, inform them of their rights, connect them to the Ohio Victims of Crime Compensation Program, discuss safety, provide referrals to other resources, and coordinate with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction to halt any unwanted contact from a prisoner. Our Advocates will also speak to community groups and schools to raise awareness on specific crime issues and share resources.

This year, our Victim Services Division has done extensive work to protect victims' rights. Our 10th Annual Responding to the Needs of Victims Conference focused on **Marsy's Law** and its companion implementing legislation, House Bill 343. This legislation increased the number of crime victims who have constitutional rights in the justice system, and instituted additional mandates on many professionals, including but not limited to those in law enforcement, courts, probation, parole, and prosecution. Our conference identified the current legal requirements – including the utilization of the Victims' Rights Request Form – and discussed common difficulties in implementation within the system, lessons learned, and best practices to equip professionals with the knowledge and tools to protect victims' rights at each stage of the court process.

Our Office also has a [Victims' Rights Request Form "how-to" video](#) available on our website as a guide to properly filling out and filing the form.



Criminal Division

Victim Services by the Numbers 7/1/2024 – 6/30/2025

- 2,353 Victims Served
- Crisis Intervention Provided 1,465 Times
- 2,839 Victim Rights Notifications/Updates Provided
- More Than 500 Meetings with Victims/Survivors

Facility Dog Program

Our Office continues to utilize our Facility Dog, Adam VII. Adam is a highly-trained assistance dog who knows approximately 40 commands. He spent two years training with Canine Companions for this position, and he was carefully matched with our Office based on his easygoing temperament and ability to sit quietly for long periods of time. Adam was provided and trained by Canine Companions at no cost to us. Adam helps victims, particularly children, feel at ease in our office and the courtroom.



Adam helped 68 victims from 7/1/2024 through 6/30/2025, with the majority being under 18 years of age.

Civil/Tax Division

The Civil/Tax Division of the Summit County Prosecutor's Office is the County's law firm. Our attorneys provide legal counsel to all county agencies and elected officials in state or federal courts, as well as a variety of administrative settings.

The Division is also vested with the task of providing written legal opinions upon the request of any of our clients, and legal counsel regarding the implementation and enforcement of a wide variety of programs and policies administered throughout the County. Additional representation both inside and outside the courtroom setting is performed in the areas of employment litigation, civil rights litigation, personal-injury litigation, contract review and enforcement, tax recoupment, real property sale and/or purchase, and land-use and zoning issues.

Statutory Clients

- County Executive
- County Sheriff
- County Engineer
- County Fiscal Office
- County Clerk of Courts
- County Council
- Board of Elections
- Public Health
- ADM Board
- Adult Protective Services
- Developmental Disabilities Board
- Office of Information Technology
- Children Services
- Medical Examiner
- Court of Common Pleas
- Human Resource Commission
- Soil & Water Conservation District
- Veteran Services Commission
- Akron-Summit Public Library
- Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library
- Hudson Public Library
- Barberton Public Library
- Cuyahoga Falls Public Library
- Bath Township
- Copley Township
- Richfield Township
- Springfield Township
- Twinsburg Township
- Boston Township
- Coventry Township
- Northfield Center Township
- Sagamore Hills Township

Civil/Tax Division

Some notable work of our Civil/Tax Division this year includes representing the Summit County Board of Health against a property owner in Akron that had raw sewage in their front yard that caused an environmental nuisance. The Judge permanently barred the defendant from occupying or using the property until the nuisance conditions have been abated and fully remedied.

Additionally, our Office, along with the Springfield Township Board of Trustees, successfully levied a complaint against the Red Roof Inn located on South Arlington Road due to a range of rampant criminal activities occurring at the hotel. Offenses included, but were not limited to: public intoxication, disorderly conduct, assault, drug possession, drug trafficking and use, overdoses, and sexual offenses. There were 210 police calls related to criminal activity and welfare checks in 2020, 398 in 2021, 366 in 2022, and 333 in 2023. Following an initial temporary abatement order, there were 113 police and 30 medical interventions at the hotel in the second half of 2024. On May 13, 2025, the Common Pleas Court found the hotel to be a public nuisance. This case was personally handled by Assistant Prosecutor John Galonski, Chief of the Civil Division.

Civil Division by the Numbers

7/1/2024 – 6/30/2025

- **212 Litigation Matters Handled**
- **316 Prosecutor Opinions Issued**



Child Support Enforcement Agency

The purpose of Child Support is to provide children with the opportunity for a better life by securing the financial and medical support that they deserve. Approximately one in four children in the state are impacted by Ohio's Child Support Program – more than any other program in Ohio, except for education.

Our Office's Child Support Enforcement Agency ("CSEA") collaborates with both custodial and non-custodial parents to establish paternity and enforce support orders. For Federal Fiscal Year 2024, our CSEA staff received the following awards from the Ohio Office of Child Support for their outstanding performance in the Metro Category:

- **Best Overall Performance**
- **Best Collections on Current Support**
- **Most Improved Collections on Current Support**
- **Best Paternity Performance**
- **Most Improved Arrears Performance**



Child Support Enforcement Agency

Child Support by the Numbers 7/1/2024 - 6/30/2025

- 35,204 Cases
- 79 Indictments for Criminal Non-Support
- \$2,499,742.19 Million Collected on Criminal Non-Support Cases
- \$66,153,044.64 in Total Collections



In the Community

Prosecutor Kolkovich knows that community trust is vital for an efficient, fair, and equitable justice system. That's why the Office's dedicated outreach team works to build relationships with Summit County residents and organizations, and provide critical information and resources to help prevent crime and preserve public safety.

Senior Safety.

Seniors are some of the most vulnerable members of our community. They are often specifically targeted by scammers and other criminals that think seniors are easier to take advantage of. Prosecutor Kolkovich travels around Summit County throughout the year to speak with senior groups to discuss safety tips and answer their questions about fraud and other issues. Between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025, Prosecutor Kolkovich delivered 36 of these speeches.



In the Community

Expungement Clinics

This year, Prosecutor Kolkovich partnered with Juvenile Court Judge Linda Teodosio, Summit Legal Defenders, and the Summit County Sheriff's Office to present multiple "Clean Slate" Expungement Clinics for individuals with juvenile records disposed of in Summit County.

Prosecutor Kolkovich also hosted another One-Stop Expungement Filing Day for individuals with adult felony convictions disposed of in Summit County, again partnering with Summit Legal Defenders as well as Summit County Clerk of Courts Tavia Galonski.

These events gave individuals who have done everything the justice system has asked of them a chance to have their record cleared. This can expand opportunities for housing and employment that they may have otherwise been barred from and allows them to move on with their futures with a clean slate. Since our first expungement clinic in October 2024, we have addressed over 350 juvenile and adult cases.



In the Community

Free Women's Self-Defense Classes

Prosecutor Kolkovich has continued providing free self-defense classes for women throughout Summit County. In 2025, we held nine classes around the county. These classes are taught by a certified instructor and former police officer, providing women with an opportunity to learn and practice both verbal and physical techniques that can help them protect themselves.



In the Community

Start By Believing



Prosecutor Kolkovich and his outreach team continue to lead the Start By Believing campaign each April in Summit County. Start By Believing is a national campaign designed by End Violence Against Women International (“EVAWI”) to raise awareness about sexual violence and to end the stigma many survivors face when speaking out. This year, we hosted community members and media to hear from a local survivor of sexual violence, who powerfully shared her experience trying to speak out about what happened to her.

When we shift our focus from skepticism to understanding, we not only empower survivors, but also ensure more thorough investigations, encourage more people to report crimes, and ultimately make communities safer.

Your reaction when someone discloses to you that they experienced sexual violence makes a difference.

This year, about 100 Summit County residents joined us in signing our pledge to Start By Believing, and we provided 4 separate educational presentations to the public. EVAWI recognized us for our efforts on this campaign.



Start By Believing

In the Community

Citizens Academy

Last fall, we revamped our free Citizens Academy into an efficient and more accessible one-day event. The Academy offers insight into how the Prosecutor serves the community, and provides a hands-on experience where attendees learn how charging decisions are made, gain insight into plea negotiations, and learn more about our complex justice system. They tour the courthouse, hear from professionals who have expertise in their fields, learn about forensic evidence, grand jury proceedings, the use of body cameras, child support, victim services, human trafficking, sentencing, and much more.



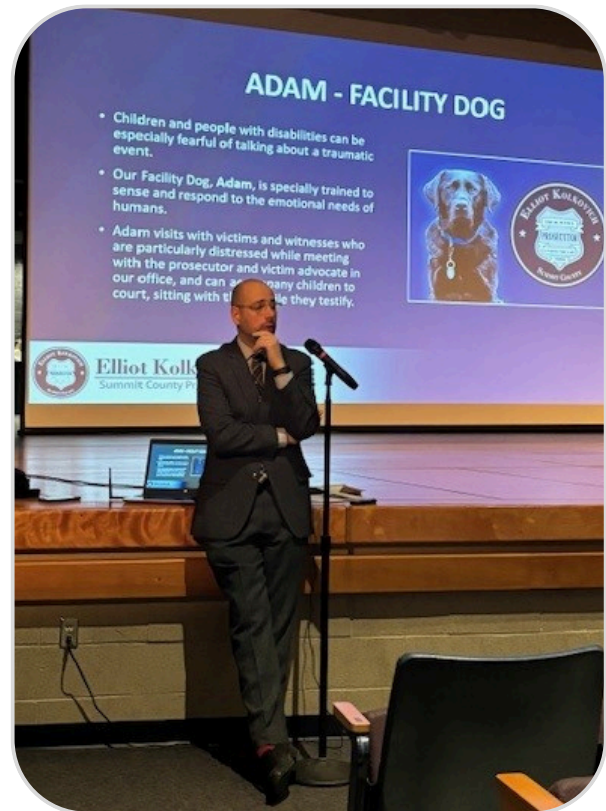
In the Community

Internet Safety Presentations

The Prosecutor's Office also provides age-appropriate education on internet safety to various grade levels in many Summit County school districts. Tailored to the grade-level of the audience, these presentations cover important topics for children and teenagers such as their digital footprints, dangers of the internet, social media and online gaming safety, privacy settings, cyberbullying, and sexting and sextortion. Between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025, our office provided these presentations to 7 different schools in grades 6th through 9th, reaching approximately 3,358 students (based on public enrollment numbers for each school and grade).

Erin's Law Trainings

The Prosecutor's Office also provides education and training to faculty and staff in Summit County school systems on Erin's Law. Ohio Law requires city and exempted village school districts, educational service centers, community schools, and STEM schools to provide in-service training to educate school personnel on child sexual abuse. Our Office helps school boards, teachers, and faculty, understand the legal requirements of Erin's Law, as well as how to recognize, report, and prevent child abuse. Last year, our Office provided 3 Erin's Law trainings to different schools.



In the Community

Child Support Solutions

In honor of Child Support Awareness Month in August, members of our Child Support Enforcement Agency hosted a free, walk-in “Child Support Solutions” event for individuals to discuss their child support case. Members of our Child Support Enforcement Agency provided assistance with driver’s license reinstatements, debt reduction, payment modifications, and additional resources from other community agencies. The event included free backpacks and school supplies giveaways for children, free haircuts from Beyond Expectations Barber College, and games and activities for children and families.



In the Community

Akron Corporate Challenge

This year, members of the Summit County Prosecutor's Office competed together in the Akron Corporate Challenge. The challenge is a team-building and wellness event that allows employees to compete against other local companies and organizations in various sporting events.



In the Community



Thank You for Allowing Us to Serve You



Visit our website and connect with us on social media!

Scan the QR code below:



Contact Us:

**53 University Avenue, 6th Floor
Akron, OH 44308**

(330) 643-2800

All statistics in this report are subject to continuous quality review and may be subject to modification.