



# SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

## SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR

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## **Akron Man Sentenced to 31.5 Years in Prison for Sexually Assaulting Teen**

AKRON, Ohio (date) – Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Summit County Common Pleas Court Judge Tammy O'Brien sentenced Craig McClellan, 50 of Falls Avenue in Akron, to 31.5 years in prison for the sexual assault of a teen he knew.

On March 16, 2021, Judge O'Brien found McClellan guilty of the following charges:

- Two Counts of Rape – felonies of the 1<sup>st</sup> degree
- Five Counts of Illegal Use of a Minor in Nudity Oriented Material or Performance – felonies of the 2<sup>nd</sup> degree
- Three Counts of Gross Sexual Imposition – felonies of the 4<sup>th</sup> degree

“Our community is safer with Craig McClellan spending a significant amount of time in prison. The survivor of this assault showed tremendous strength in coming forward and testifying against McClellan,” Prosecutor Walsh said.

In 2019, the teen disclosed McClellan touched her private areas on several occasions. Police later discovered McClellan had raped the teen after finding several pictures and videos on his phone.

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Avery, the Summit County Prosecutor's Office facility dog, sat with the teen as the teen testified at trial. Avery was also with the teen every time she came to the Prosecutor's Office.

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office received Avery II in August of 2013 from Canine Companions for Independence. Avery is a highly trained nine-and-a-half-year-old Labrador/Retriever mix facility dog, whose primary job is to provide emotional support to adults with developmental disabilities and children who are victims of crime. Since 2013, Avery II has been involved in 196 cases in Summit County.

Prosecutor Walsh added, "I also want to remind everyone that April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The Summit County Prosecutor's Office recently re-launched its "Start By Believing" awareness campaign. Many survivors of sexual violence are reluctant to come forward. Start By Believing helps build a foundation of belief and support, rather than doubt, shame, or blame."

As part of the awareness campaign, billboards are up throughout Summit County asking "how would you respond if someone discloses they are a victim of sexual assault?" Information is also being posted on the Summit County Prosecutor's Office Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter accounts to help inform the community about how to support survivors of sexual assault.