



For Immediate Release Saturday, March 15, 2025 CONTACT: <u>Elaine Vilem</u> (330) 643-8386

PROSECUTOR KOLKOVICH, JUDGE TEODOSIO, SHERIFF FATHEREE, AND SUMMIT LEGAL DEFENDERS HOST CLEAN SLATE JUVENILE EXPUNGEMENT CLINIC





AKRON, OH – Today, Summit County Prosecutor Elliot Kolkovich, Summit County Juvenile Court Judge Linda Teodosio, Summit County Sheriff Kandy Fatheree, and the Summit Legal Defenders hosted Clean Slate, a juvenile expungement clinic for individuals requesting that their juvenile court records be sealed or expunged. 47 different cases were addressed.

"People who make a mistake as a juvenile and who have done everything that we and the court have asked of them deserve a clean slate," said Prosecutor Kolkovich. "The Prosecutor's Office is proud to sponsor this event as part of our commitment to giving deserving offenders a second chance."

"The Juvenile Court is about accountability, but it is also about accessibility," said Summit County Juvenile Court Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio. "This clinic provides a vital opportunity for youth to clear their record and look to their future with more confidence."

"We are stronger together and working as partners on the Clean Slate program is another example of our commitment to serve Summit County. The Sheriff's Office is grateful to be a part of such a meaningful project," said Summit County Sheriff Kandy Fatheree.

"We are excited to partner on this project to help young people move forward with their lives without the burden of a public criminal record so they don't face discrimination in housing and employment once they become adults," said Andrea Whitaker, Director of Summit Legal Defenders.

This free walk-in event provided individuals and families with the opportunity to file applications to seal and expunge records as permitted under Ohio law, to proceed with any applications that do not require hearings, and to schedule hearings for those applications that required them. After checking in with Juvenile Court

staff, attendees conferred with representatives from the Summit Legal Defenders Office and the Summit County Prosecutor's Office, and many had a hearing on the spot with Judge Teodosio to resolve their case. Summit County Sheriff Deputies were present to ensure that everyone was safe and secure during the event.