



SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

Summit County Prosecutor

Newsletter

July 2010

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Message from the Prosecutor



Prosecutor
Sherri Bevan Walsh

I recently reviewed surveys we gave outgoing grand jurors to answer that reminded me of how complex the judicial system can be. Several said that a list of acronyms used by police and prosecutors would help them with their job, and all noted the unique nature of being a grand juror.

Across the board grand jurors said that serving was “a learning and enlightening experience,” writing “I learned a lot about the system I never really understood.” One grand juror wrote, “Thanks for an eye opening experience. This two month period was very informative...I commend the work of prosecutors, officers, detectives and judges for what they do.”

Similarly, one juror wrote, “Citizens should realize the risk our police officers take.” We have had two officers killed in the line of duty over the past two years; Officer Josh Miktarian, whose killer was sentenced to death last month, and Officer Jerrod Dean, who was killed picking up debris when a truck hit him. I think it is hard for most people to comprehend the risks that officers take every day when they are doing their job. This month’s Top Cop recognizes the work of **Sheriff’s Office Detectives Jason Kline** and **Scott Plymire** for their outstanding investigative work into Officer Miktarian’s death. The evidence they collected supported a strong case that resulted in the conviction of his killer.

The commitment of our officers often goes beyond their daily duties. Last week, we had a parole case where a retired Akron officer, Ed Mathews, accompanied one of my assistant prosecutors to Columbus to testify against a woman being paroled. Eighteen years after he investigated the case where a mother raped her three year old daughter, he still felt strongly about keeping the woman in prison. That is commitment and for that, we also named him Top Cop.

For those of us who work in law enforcement we know that our work often boils down to commitment and dedication. Several grand jurors wrote about the emotional difficulty of knowing about certain crimes saying, “I had a hard time putting these cases out of my mind.” We all know what that is like.

Finally, one comment was, “***I could not believe how many cases we heard each day...unbelievable that in our county alone there is so much crime. With all the financial cuts in our legal system, I still feel very lucky to live in our community and feel protected by our law enforcement.***”

I echo that sentiment and also want to recognize Grand Jury Prosecutors **Shari Barton-Harrell** and **Beth Aronson**, Domestic Violence Prosecutors **Angela Poth-Wypasek** and **Angela Walls Alexander** and Grand Jury Coordinator **Debbie Glinsek**, who received high praise from the grand jurors for their hard work and dedication in getting cases through the grand jury process.

Keep up the great work prosecutors and police officers!

August is Child Support Awareness Month

The Prosecutor’s Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) will be out in the community with informational booths, and a special one-day event focusing on building parental relationships.

CSEA staff will have informational booths set up at the following locations during the month of August:

- **Wednesday, August 4**, 9am-4pm, Akron Metro Regional Transit Authority Downtown Transit Center, Community Room, 631 S. Broadway St.
- **Wednesday, August 11**, 9am-4pm, Akron-Summit County Public Library Main Branch, 60 South High St.
- **Wednesday, August 18**, 9am-4pm, Fairlawn Branch of the Akron Public Library, 1301 Smith Road.
- **Friday, August 20**, 12pm-3pm, Barberton Public Library, 602 West Park Ave.
- **Wednesday, August 25** from 12:30pm-3:30pm at Akron Urban League, 440 Vernon Odom Boulevard

On Saturday, August 14, 8:00am to 4:00pm, CSEA will host an event titled **Building Firm Foundations for Your Children** at the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority (AMHA), 100 West Cedar Street.

Parents and caretakers can establish paternity with genetic (DNA) testing or voluntary paternity acknowledgements, establish child support and medical support orders, get information about visitation and mediation services, and connect with fatherhood initiative programs. This is not an amnesty event.

More information about Building Firm Foundations is available on our website at www.co.summit.oh.us/prosecutor/childsupp.htm.

Questions? E-mail Laurie Cramer
cramer@prosecutor.summitoh.net

We're on the Web!

www.co.summit.oh.us/Prosecutor/Index.htm

Top Cops!



Top Cops: **Detectives Jason Kline** and **Scott Plymire, Sheriff's Office**
Nominated by: **Prosecutors Brian LoPrinzi and Brad Gessner**

Jason Kline and **Scott Plymire** from the Summit County Sheriff's Office investigated the murder of Twinsburg Police Officer Josh Miktarian. A very emotional duty, the two conducted themselves professionally at all times and spent hundreds of hours dedicated to conducting a thorough investigation that led to justice for Officer Miktarian, his family and his fellow officers. These two Top Cops gathered evidence and information that were invaluable to the conviction of his murderer, who was sentenced to death last month for this horrible crime.

Top Retired Cop

Top Cop: **Detective Ed Mathews (Ret)**
Akron Police Department
Nominated by: **Director of Victim Services Kristen Arapp** and **Prosecutor Greg Peacock**

Retired **Akron Detective Ed Mathews** returned to duty 18 years after he investigated the heinous crime of a mother who raped her own daughter. He volunteered his time and drove to Columbus to testify to the Ohio Parole Board that the woman should not be paroled as planned. His testimony helped to ensure our success at blocking her release. The board gave her five more years in prison.

Way to go, Top Cops!



GUILTY at TRIAL!

Congratulations to Prosecutors Jon Baumuel, Mike Cody, Jessica Didion, Felicia Easter, Joe Fantozzi, Brad Gessner, Brian LoPrinzi, Stephen Neumeyer, Mike Rickett, Dustin Roth, Norman Schroth, Jennie Shuki, and Ryan Stickel who obtained **GUILTY** verdicts at trial in June.

MEET ASSISTANT PROSECUTOR JAY COLE, CRIMINAL DIVISION



Hire Date: April 2001

Hometown: Pepper Pike, Ohio

Law Degree: JD – Case Western Reserve University

Background: Ohio University, Orange High School; worked at 30 Rock in NYC for four years at NBC; scuba diver, whitewater rafter; enjoy working with electronics and wood; built my own furniture and computer; am rebuilding a 1951 Seaburg jukebox.

Little Known Fact: Soccer Referee since age 10

Most Memorable Case: *State v. Matthew Morris* – He was charged with murder, felonious assault, and child endangering for the shaken baby death of his infant daughter. The case first went to trial in January 2004. Before the trial started, the defense attorney appeared to be very sick and asked for a continuance, which was denied. The trial went forward when the court received a telephone call from a doctor ordering the defense attorney into isolation for a possible case of tuberculosis (T.B). The court declared a mistrial and everyone in the courtroom — the judge, jurors, and attorneys — were required to be tested for T.B. Luckily, the defense attorney did not have T.B. and the trial went forward a few months later. The defendant was convicted of murder and is serving life. Prior to the death of the infant the defendant had just returned to his family after serving in the military, where he received training in parenting and information about shaken baby syndrome. The baby in the case had 24 healing and six new rib fractures, along with a skull fracture, retinal hemorrhages, optic nerve hemorrhages, and subdural hemorrhage.



THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS!

"Keys to Criminal Success," left for us by a past Grand Jury. We just had to share some of these....

1. Make sure your getaway car is gassed-up *before* the heist.
2. Ask a friend to double-check spelling on forged checks.
3. Be aware of winter weather advisories...footprints in fresh snow are bad.
4. Don't keep your crack in your sock drawer. If you do, don't ask the arresting officer to grab a pair of socks for you as you're being carted off to jail.
5. If you decide to run from the police, run *away* from the cruiser spot light that is blinding you.
6. Dress for success. While the bathrobe may hide your pistol, it can make fleeing from the police awkward and embarrassing.
7. Drug dogs are trained to bite...don't stash your pot down your underwear.
8. Avoid sissy street names (e.g "Foo-Foo")...OK, this won't help you be a better criminal, but it will help you avoid the endless mockery of the Grand Jury.

Now those are pretty funny!