



# Sherri Bevan Walsh

## Summit County Prosecuting Attorney

Issue VII

August 5, 2011

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CSEA will be providing information on child support and offering paternity testing at the following locations during the month of August:

August 10 and 24, 2011  
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Akron-Summit County Main Library  
60 S. High Street  
Akron, Ohio

August 16 and 30, 2011  
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Metro Regional Transit Authority  
631 S. Broadway  
Akron, Ohio

August 20, 2011  
10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Summit for Kids  
John S. Knight Center  
77 E. Mill Street  
Akron, Ohio



### Message from the Prosecutor

#### August is Child Support Awareness Month!

August is celebrated nationally as Child Support Awareness Month to highlight the importance of paying child support so our children have a stable home environment. We know that without the emotional and financial support of a father, children are more likely to experience poverty, illness, drug and alcohol abuse, incarceration, teen pregnancy, and physical, emotional, or educational neglect. The support of a father is priceless.

Upon taking office in 2001, I created a Criminal Non-Support Unit (CNS Unit). The CNS Unit in the Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) is responsible for enforcing Ohio's criminal non-support laws. The unit's aggressive approach to child support enforcement has resulted in the collection of more than \$24 million for the children of our community.

Sending parents to prison for not paying child support is our last resort. The ultimate objective of my office is to see that children get the support they deserve. This year, I wanted to recognize those fathers who have overcome obstacles to ensure their children have the love and support they need. During the month of June, "Fatherhood Month," my office held a "Dad and Me" photo contest.



efforts to turn his life around, he is attending the University of Akron and has his own photography business.

Michael Wilmoth, an individual who was previously convicted for criminal non-support, won the "Dad and Me" contest by submitting a photo of himself and his son Tahj. Once Mr. Wilmoth realized my office wanted to help him get on the right track, he took the steps necessary to begin building a relationship with his son. Tahj is now receiving the financial and emotional support of his father. In Mr. Wilmoth's

My office offers many programs to assist parents with supporting their children. As Mr. Wilmoth demonstrated, these programs work! I am proud of the progress he continues to make in his life and hope that by listening to Mr. Wilmoth's story, others will take the initiative to start building a relationship with their child.

## GUILTY AT TRIAL

**Congratulations** Assistant Prosecutors, Jon Baumoel, Teri Burnside, Mike Cody, Tom Kroll, Brian LoPrinzi, Katy Milane, Angela Poth-Wypasek (2), Justin Richard, Dustin Roth, Jennie Shuki, Brian Stano (2) and Ryan Stickel, who obtained **GUILTY** verdicts at trial in July.

## Contact Us

For information about the Summit County Prosecutor's Office, go to our website at:  
Prosecutor - Summit County

53 University Avenue  
Akron, OH 44313  
(330) 643-2800

## NUMBER OF DRUNK DRIVERS ON THE RISE

Summit County, as well as the entire State of Ohio, has a serious problem with repeat drunk drivers who continue to drive drunk, even though their driver's license has been repeatedly suspended for drunk driving. Statistics from the Department of Public Safety verify that in 2010, 744,723 individuals in Ohio received their first Driving Under the Influence (DUI) conviction, an increase of 15,784 from 2009. The total number of individuals having five or more convictions rose to 43,588, an increase from the previous year of 1,260.

In 2010, my office convicted 22 individuals with five or more prior DUI convictions and so far this year, we have convicted nine.

As DUI convictions continue to rise in the state of Ohio, so have the number of deaths. In an effort to protect our streets, legislators have passed laws making the penalties for drunk drivers much harsher.

On September 30, 2008, the "No Refusal" law, which I actively pursued, went into effect in Ohio, no longer allowing certain repeat drunk drivers to choose whether they take a breathalyzer test or not. This law requires offenders facing their third offense in six years, or their sixth offense in 20 years to take a breath test and, if the offender refuses to cooperate with a breath test, a blood or urine test can be performed.

In 2009, Christopher Slates was prosecuted under the "No Refusal" law and was convicted. Early this year, the Ninth District Court of Appeals affirmed Slates' DUI conviction and held that R.C. 4511.191(A)(5)(b), which permits compelled blood draws under limited circumstances, is constitutional. Slates appealed; however, the Supreme Court of Ohio declined jurisdiction to hear the case and dismissed the appeal as not having any substantial constitutional question.

In my role as Prosecutor, I will continue to fight against drunk drivers!

Ohio Department of Public Safety's DUI Stats as of 12/31/2010	
Number of DUI Convictions	Number of Individuals
1	744,723
2	223,421
3	94,404
4	43,326
5	21,541
6	10,721
7	5,518
8	2,877
9	1,384
10	755
11	369
12	191
13	104
14	51
15	35
16	20
17	10
18	5
19	5
20	2

Want to receive crime safety alerts and other information from the Prosecutor's Office?

E-mail Melanie Hart at  
Hart@prosecutor.summitoh.net

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## Meet Assistant Prosecutor Joseph Fantozzi



**Hire date:** August 11, 2008

**Hometown:** Huron, Ohio

**Law Degree:** University of Toledo

**Background:** I grew up in Huron, Ohio which is located just east of Sandusky. I spent my summers washing boats and saving money for college. My education has taken me to Ohio State, Oxford, Notre Dame, and finally Toledo. I currently live in Green and spend my free time serving as President of the Board of Directors for Pegasus Farm, which is a premier therapeutic equestrian riding center in Hartville.

**Little Known Fact:** I proudly served on the Cedar Point Police Department for one summer while in college. It was a great opportunity to experience and appreciate the criminal justice system from the perspective of police officers.

**Most Memorable Case:** *State of Ohio v. Lester Lane*. Lane was indicted on various charges relating to manufacturing methamphetamine. The charges stemmed from his bragging/"hitting on" a CSB worker that he was a meth cook. Apparently he thought this was a good pick-up line. The CSB worker told law enforcement and Lester found himself indicted. Later on, during the trial there was a fire alarm and the entire courthouse was forced to exit the building. As we waited for the "all clear" to return inside, Lester sat outside right next to his mother who was utilizing an oxygen tank. The jury proceeded to watch Lester chain smoke cigarettes next to his ailing mother until we were permitted to reenter the court. Lester was found guilty of the charges.

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## That's Outrageous!



Michael Segal was charged with multiple thefts as well as engaging in a pattern of corrupt activity involving more than 30 victims. He allegedly created a mini Ponzi scheme in which he told victims he was an official consultant with the Tiger Woods Golf Course and that they could invest with him and see an instant return. He also told victims he had a contract with Apple and could provide them with merchandise for less than half price.

The court granted the defendant's request for a signature bond in his case under the condition that he would be on house arrest and surrender his passport. After his release from jail, Segal never reported to the meeting to establish his house arrest and he called the office saying he was too sick to come in but would not disclose his location.

There is currently a warrant for Segal's arrest. Anyone with information regarding his whereabouts should contact Secret Service Agent Adam Clements at (216) 525-6501 or Hudson Detective Kaija Jeantet at (330) 342-1871.

Help us go GREEN!

*If you are currently receiving this newsletter on paper and would like to receive an electronic version, please e-mail: Hart@prosecutor.summitoh.net*

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## TOP COPS

**Top Cops:** Akron Police Department  
Street Narcotics Uniform Detail (SNUD) Unit



**Nominated by:** The Criminal Prosecutors

On August 6, 2010, the Akron Police Department Street Narcotics Uniform Detail (SNUD) Unit was conducting surveillance at 1373 Gurley Circle for drug activity as a result of information given to them by a confidential source. The officers secured the house and obtained a search warrant. Inside a garbage bag, they found three guns, crack cocaine and powder cocaine. Inside the house, they found drug paraphernalia and \$15,000 in cash.

This effort, like most of the SNUD investigations, are extremely coordinated and professionally executed. In this investigation, they received the tip *that morning* so they had to coordinate and plan very quickly. Detectives were in both unmarked and marked cars, with each having a specific task, either surveillance, stopping suspicious cars coming from the house, or in executing the search warrant. This case was very serious based on the number and caliber of guns found in the house, all there to protect what was found, in this case a large amount of drugs and cash.

As a result of the SNUD Unit's outstanding investigation in this case, Darren Tomlinson was sentenced to 11 years in prison and Symphone Smith was sentenced to five years in prison on drug trafficking and weapon charges. The money found was forfeited to the Law Enforcement Trust Fund to fight future crime.

Prosecutors who have had the experience of working with the SNUD Unit had this to say, "Every case I have they are top notch. They are fantastic witnesses, great detectives, well-prepared, and always available. Akron PD is lucky to have this unit." "These guys are on the front lines of street-level drug activity, doing their best to keep Akron neighborhoods safe from drug activity and the violence and crime that flows from it."

I would like to add my own thank you for your hard work and dedication to providing a safe environment for the citizens of our community!

**Way to go, Top Cops!**