



# News from the Criminal Division

August 2013

## Message from Prosecutor Sherrri Bevan Walsh

Imagine trying to support your child without the necessary resources. You struggle to provide your child with the basic needs -- food, shelter and clothing. Often, parents find themselves in a financial bind with no hope.

However, some parents could better provide for their children if both parents were meeting their obligations.

Some parents become hopeless, believing the other parent will never contribute and think that nothing can be done to help them. They are unaware of the numerous services offered to custodial and non-custodial parents through the Summit County Child Support Enforcement Agency.

Countless mothers and fathers do not receive the child support they need. At the same time, many parents have trouble paying their entire monthly child support obligation because of various social and economic reasons.

With the right resources and tools, non-custodial parents can meet their monthly obligations so that custodial parents receive their support.

August is Child Support Awareness Month. Although my office does a lot to bring attention to child support issues during August, our biggest effort is our annual Child Support Solutions event.

We understand that even parents with the best intentions sometimes can't meet their obligations. That's why we created Child Support Solutions.

At Child Support Solutions, we help parents break the barriers to non-payment, including license suspensions, child support-related warrants and unemployment. We also provide information about fatherhood initiatives, employee assistance programs, genetic testing and relationship counseling.

Child Support Solutions is a great event, because it helps you address child support issues, while also providing invaluable resources to help individuals become the parent every child needs.

This year we assisted approximately 350 parents at Child Support Solutions, and we collected nearly \$4,000 in child support payments.

If you missed Child Support Solutions this year, don't worry. The caseworkers and staff at CSEA work hard every day to ensure parents have the resources they need to support their children -- emotionally and financially.

We raise awareness through educational and outreach programs throughout the year and invite you to join us. Remember, all children need love and support, both financially and emotionally.

If you have questions about your case or CSEA in general, please call CSEA at (330) 643-2765 or visit my website.

Stay safe,



# Family Support Matters

Family Support Matters, a federally-funded program created by the Summit County Child Support Enforcement Agency, is designed to address non-payment of child support without relying on formal court proceedings.

The program offers education, mediation, employment assistance, fatherhood participation and other community services in an attempt to identify and overcome the issues that can prevent parents from paying child support.

Through Family Support Matters, the Summit County Child Support Enforcement Agency, the court and community organizations work together to help parents to find long-term solutions that will result in



stronger, healthier families.

Family Support Matters has grown rapidly since we started it two years ago. Not only are CSEA caseworkers referring their clients, but community members are also making referrals. Some of the participants heard about the program and asked on their own to be enrolled.

One of the keys to the success of Family Support Matters is that it requires both parents to participate. We believe that children need both parents to be involved in their lives – physically, emotionally and financially.

Our goal is to get parents to work together to provide their children with what they need to grow and succeed.

## Tough Prosecution

These defendants will be out of our community for a lengthy period of time thanks to the hard work of my assistant prosecutors:

### **Timothy Schussler, age 28**

- Rape
- Gross Sexual Imposition
- **Sentenced to life in prison**
- **Eligible for parole in 2023**

### **Corey Hardison, age 22**

- Murder, with a firearm specification
- Participation in a Criminal Gang
- Burglary
- **Sentenced to life in prison**
- **Eligible for parole in 2031**

### **Dwayne Bulls**

- Rape
- **Sentenced to life in prison**
- **Eligible for parole in 2038**

### **Martice Bishop**

- Aggravated Robbery
- Felonious Assault (three counts), with firearm specifications
- **Sentenced to 18 years in prison**

## Guilty at Trial in July

Congratulations to the following assistant prosecutors for obtaining guilty verdicts at trial last month:

***Joe Dangelo***

***Elliot Kolkovich***

***Kevin Mayer***

***Dan Sallerson (2)***

***Great job, prosecutors!***

Is your senior group interested in learning about crime in Summit County and how to avoid it? Do you want to learn simple techniques to fend off an attacker? Contact my office to schedule a safety speech or self-defense class!

**Help us go green!**

If you currently receive this newsletter on paper and would like to receive an electronic version instead, email Melanie Hart at [hart@prosecutor.summitoh.net](mailto:hart@prosecutor.summitoh.net).



# August Top Cop

**Top Cop: Detective Patrick Leonard, Akron Police Department**

**Nominated By: Assistant Prosecutor Nik Buckmeier**

In early 2013, 37-year-old Jamie Hammonds, an Akron resident, obtained the Drug Enforcement Agency-issued prescription identification number for a Cuyahoga Falls doctor. Using that number, Hammonds called in prescriptions for hydrocodone at various pharmacies throughout Summit County. Hammonds used the names, dates of birth and social security numbers of five other people, who then picked up the prescriptions.

The purchasers split the pills among themselves, Hammond and a 28-year-old Barberton man named Daniel Ellis. Hammond and Ellis typically sold their share of the pills.

This case was a mash-up of six defendants, numerous fake

prescriptions and multiple pharmacies. Akron Police Detective Patrick Leonard was faced with the difficult task of determining who did what and when.

A complex case like this only comes together through hard work and determination. And that is exactly what Detective Leonard brought to this case.

Even after closing the investigation, Detective Leonard remained committed to bringing these defendants to justice, offering his assistance throughout the prosecution of the case.

Hammonds and Ellis were both charged with and found guilty by a jury of Deception to Obtain a Dangerous Drug, a felony of the third degree; Aggravated Trafficking

in Drugs, a felony of the third degree; and Illegal Processing of Drug Documents, a felony of the fourth degree.

Judge Teodosio sentenced Ellis to three years in prison and Hammonds to one year in prison.

Hydrocodone is a powerful and addictive drug, and Hammonds and Ellis were profiting off the misery of people who are hopelessly addicted to the drug. Detective Leonard's commitment and hard work were instrumental in taking these criminals off the street.



**Way to go, Detective Leonard!**

## SUMMIT COUNTY CRIME STOPPERS

**Crime doesn't pay, but WE do!**

**Do you have information about a crime or criminal activity? Submit an anonymous tip to Summit County CrimeStoppers. Your tip could be worth up to \$2,000!**

Call: 330-434-COPS (2677)

Text: TIPSCO plus your tip to CRIMES (274637)

Online Tip Submission: [www.tipsubmit.com/webstips.aspx?AgencyID=1156](http://www.tipsubmit.com/webstips.aspx?AgencyID=1156)

Facebook: Summit County Ohio Crime Stoppers



# Meet a Prosecutor: Joe Fantozzi



**Hire Date:** August 2008

**Title:** Chief Assistant Prosecutor, Child Support Enforcement Agency

**Hometown:** Green, Ohio

**Fun Fact:** I was once deputized by the Probate Court to execute a marriage license between my client and an inmate inside Trumbull Correctional Institute.

**Education:** I earned my bachelor's degree in humanities from The Ohio State University and my juris doctorate from the University of Toledo.

**Job Duties:** I supervise the Legal Division of the Child Support Enforcement Agency. That includes Administrative Hearing Officers, Civil and Criminal Non-Support Prosecutors, and support staff. I also litigate criminal and civil actions for failure to pay child support.

**Most Memorable Case:** State v. Rodney Hackney. A jury trial was scheduled for 8:30 a.m., but Hackney did not appear until after 10:00 a.m. The judge revoked his bond and took Hackney into custody to ensure his appearance throughout the rest of the trial. As the deputies patted him down in the courtroom, they discovered \$4,193.10 in his pocket. I contacted CSEA and learned that Hackney owed thousands of dollars in child support. Prosecutor John Galonski rushed a Domestic Relations Court Order to seize the money from Hackney when he was booked into the jail that night. The child's mother was thrilled with her unexpected payment.

**Why I Wanted to Become a Prosecutor:** Serving the community in Prosecutor Walsh's office provides me the opportunity to ensure that justice prevails, as opposed to winning or losing.

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## Agency Spotlight: Man 2 Man

Pastor Benjamin Drone and Frank Williams founded Man 2 Man in 2008 to help fathers bond with their children. Williams and Pastor Drone work together to teach fathers the basic parenting, conflict resolution and communication skills they need to be great dads.

Man 2 Man also participates in community outreach events, including Family Support Matters and Child Support Solutions. The organization's involvement in the community has positively influenced the lives of many fathers and their children.

Man 2 Man offers several programs. The Fatherhood Initiative and 24/7 Dads Program provide comprehensive tools and skills to fathers of all races, religions, cultures and backgrounds. The Inside Out Dads program helps

incarcerated fathers reconnect with their children before being released from prison.

In 2012, Man 2 Man partnered with Fathers and Sons of Northeast Ohio and Fame Fathers to create the Summit County Fatherhood Initiative. This organization provides services and resources to fathers throughout the area. They are planning a Father Walk in September, in which fathers walk their children to school.

For more information on Man 2 Man programs, call (330) 724-6823.

Thank you, Man 2 Man, for everything you do to make our dads the best they can be!



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Contact the Summit County Prosecutor's Office

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