



# Elliot Kolkovich

Summit County Prosecutor



## A MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR KOLKOVICH YOUR NEW COUNTY PROSECUTOR

Hi. I'm Elliot Kolkovich. And I'm the new Summit County Prosecutor.

If you have not heard, former Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh retired on February 16 due to health concerns following a battle with long-term COVID. She served a record 23 years as County Prosecutor.

I was officially sworn in on February 21, to complete the remainder of the term, which ends December 31, 2024. I hope to continue serving for years to come.

As Summit County Prosecutor I will continue the office's mission — to make Summit County a better and safer place to live.

I will hold criminals accountable for their actions and I will fight for the rights of crime victims.

I am proud to lead an office of innovation. The Summit County Prosecutor's Office is one of just a few Prosecutor Office's in Ohio with a facility dog to comfort and assist crime victims, especially children. Adam has been our



facility dog for nearly eight months. He took over for Avery who retired last year after serving the citizens of Summit County for nearly 13 years.

I am proud to lead an office of community involvement. I plan on meeting as many people as possible in the community through the office's safety speeches and FREE Women's Self-Defense classes. These events are part of the fabric of the Summit County Prosecutor's Office and I intend to continue the great work of helping keep the community safe.

I am proud to lead an office which cares



about the community. We initiated a public awareness campaign with information to help people avoid fentanyl. The message is "one pill can kill" and "one mistake is all it takes". The campaign follows the tragic death of the son of a Prosecutor's Office employee. There's a special page on our office website dedicated to providing assistance to people dealing with addiction. You can find the information here:

<https://prosecutor.summitoh.net/programs/Nick-s-Story.html>

I am proud to lead an office with so many people dedicated to finding justice. Being a prosecutor is not easy. We many times hear awful things and see the worst in people. But we can also see the best in people — people who fight for those without a voice and those who need assistance. It is my honor to be Summit County Prosecutor.



facebook.com/SummitCountyProsecutorElliotKolkovich  
facebook.com/AdamVIISPCO

www.prosecutor.summitoh.net



Follow us on Twitter  
@ProsKolkovich

# IN THE COMMUNITY

The fentanyl epidemic in our country has devastated families and left a huge impact on our community.

It has also left a huge impact on a Prosecutor’s Office employee and her family. Longtime employee Jennifer Watson lost her son to fentanyl.

Twenty-three-year-old Nickolas Siegfert died when he took a pill he did not know was laced with fentanyl. The Summit County Prosecutor’s Office has a new public awareness campaign called “A Note From Nick”, to honor Nick and let people know that one pill can kill.

Billboards around Summit County relay this message and a link to a specially dedicated webpage on the Summit County Prosecutor’s Office website. <https://prosecutor.summitoh.net/programs/Nick-s-Story.html> has resources to assist with addiction as well as helping families recover. Included in the billboard is a poster designed by Nick’s sister which says “all it takes is one mistake”.

The hope is this campaign creates conversation and provides information to help Summit County families dealing with addiction.



The Summit County Prosecutor’s Office works hard to keep the community safe.



Fifty people attended last month’s FREE Women’s Self Defense class at Akron’s OPEN M Ministries. Attendees learned simple tips to stay safe and escape an attacker like groin strikes and how to get away if someone grabs you.

Head to <https://prosecutor.summitoh.net/pages/Self-Defense-Classes.html> for upcoming dates and locations.

## GUILTY VERDICTS

### February 2024

Congratulations to the following assistant prosecutors for obtaining convictions at trial.

**Rimma Avanesyan**    **Jamila Mitchell (2)**

**Kevin Mayer**                      **Greg Peacock**

**Seema Misra**                      **Emily Williams (2)**

## TOUGH PROSECUTIONS

These defendants will be locked up for a lengthy period of time thanks to our dedicated Assistant Prosecutors:

**Erica Stefanko, 41**    Aggravated Murder  
**LIFE IN PRISON**

**Anthony Mignano, 30**    Rape  
**LIFE IN PRISON**







# ADAM'S CORNER

# EQUITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE

I love working at the Summit County Prosecutor's Office.

I got to spend time with a special girl who came to the office because something bad happened to her.



I got to sit with her and play with her during a meeting. She was very nice. I'm glad I was able to help her.

I met some new friends at a fun event at Garfield Community Learning Center.



They had their annual Valentines' Day dance Kids with the school's Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) program put on a dance for fellow classmates who have disabilities. I just love to cut a rug! I'm glad I was able to be a part of it.

Follow Adam on Facebook at:

[www.facebook.com/AdamVIISCP0](http://www.facebook.com/AdamVIISCP0)



## MONTHLY OBSERVANCES

Each month there are plenty of ways to celebrate and bring awareness to certain causes and issues. March has plenty of those opportunities.

### DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS

Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month focuses increased awareness on the needs of those with developmental disabilities.

### NATIONAL CAFFEINE AWARENESS MONTH

National Caffeine Awareness Month reminds us that our fifth cup of java may be harmful to our health. Caffeine intake can contribute to sleepless nights and increased blood pressure. However, caffeine in moderation can be beneficial.

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office "Ambassadors for Equity & Social Justice" formed to work to bring people of different backgrounds and cultures together. Each month the Ambassadors share thoughts to make our community a better place to live. Here is an article from one of the group's members.

One important issue of social injustice is food insecurity, which affects individuals and communities worldwide.

Food insecurity refers to the lack of access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food which meets dietary needs for a healthy life. With climate change, supply chain issues, and inflation, food insecurity is an ever-present issue.

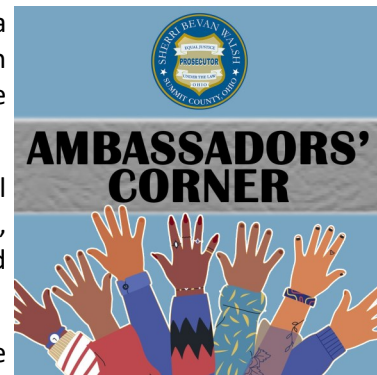
When a large portion of the population lacks access to nutritious food, it can hinder economic development and perpetuate poverty. Malnourished individuals are less productive and more prone to illness, which can lead to reduced workforce productivity and increased healthcare costs. Food insecurity exacerbates social inequalities and contribute to social unrest, as marginalized communities are often disproportionately affected by this issue.

It is crucial to recognize the importance of addressing this problem and work toward sustainable solutions that ensures access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food for all. A few things we can do in our own community is organize or volunteer at a food drive, volunteer at a local food bank, or sponsor a family in need.

By doing so, we can create a healthier and more equitable society.

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office is very involved in helping ease the problem of food insecurity.

Throughout the year, Prosecutor's Office employees assist in handing out meals to the community provided by Open M Ministries. Our hope is that this helps ease the burden on families.



Help Us Go Green!

Contact Melanie Hart at [hart@prosecutor.summitoh.net](mailto:hart@prosecutor.summitoh.net) to receive this newsletter by e-mail



# TOP COP

## ROGER PATRICK, OHIO DEPT. OF COMMERCE

### NOMINATED BY ASST. PROS. JAMIE MORRIS

As prosecutors we often see victims struggle to become whole again following a crime. Many are impacted by financial crimes, where they lose tens of thousands of dollars.



**Department of Commerce**

Investigator Patrick did a thorough investigation and obtained numerous documents such as bank records, wire transfers, promissory notes, and mortgages. He worked closely with victims to piece together their stories and saw the case through to the end. His work ensured that we had a solid case!

Then there are times where we are surprised that a person convicted of a crime follows through with a promise to return stolen money. That's why this month's TOP COP is Roger Patrick, an investigator with the Ohio Department of Commerce.

Because of Inspector Patrick's work, Cantwell pled guilty to several of the charges and agreed to pay back the money he stole—all \$91,500!!!

The case involves defendant Mark Cantwell of Norton. Mr. Cantwell was charged with 16 counts, including securities fraud and grand theft. He was accused of convincing two people to invest in his company—just over \$91,000. Cantwell said the money would be used for purchasing, rehabilitating, and selling real estate for profit. However, Cantwell used their investment to pay for personal expenses unrelated to his business.

Patrick said this is just the third time in his 13 years with the Department of Commerce that he has seen victims get paid in full. As you can imagine, the victims were extremely pleased with the result.

**Great job and congratulations  
Inspector Patrick!!!**

## LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING

Laws can change frequently in Ohio and the Summit County Prosecutor's Office works hard to help keep local law enforcement departments up to date on those changes.



Recently prosecutors provided information to over 100 officers about recent changes to Ohio's marijuana law.

In November, Ohio voters approved Issue 2 which legalized the adult use of marijuana.

Now state lawmakers are working on implementing the new law and working on potential changes to the law.

## SENIOR SAFETY

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office reaches out to the community as often as possible to provide safety information.

Recently, Prosecutor Kolkovich joined now retired Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh at the February WAKR Senior lunch event and discussed how to stay safe in the community and avoid becoming a victim of a scam.



We'll be at the next WAKR Senior Lunch at the St. George Fellowship in Fairlawn on Wednesday, May 6.

If you would like someone from the Prosecutor's Office to speak to your group or organization, please contact Tara Fought at [tfought@prosecutor.summitoh.net](mailto:tfought@prosecutor.summitoh.net).

# WHY I'M A PROSECUTOR

## ELLIOT KOLKOVICH

"Why I'm A Prosecutor" gives our prosecutors the chance to tell their own story and why being a prosecutor is so important to them.

Newly appointed Summit County Prosecutor Elliot Kolkovich talks about why being a prosecutor is so important to him.



### • WHAT'S THE BEST PART OF BEING A PROSECUTOR?

The best part of being a prosecutor is when you have a case and you get everything right. You were able to find out exactly what happened, prove the case you have, and hold someone accountable, and at the end of the day justice

was done.

### • WHY DID YOU BECOME A PROSECUTOR?

I remember wanting to become a prosecutor the first time I was in a courtroom. I interned for a prosecutor's office while I was in law school and we were able to watch some court proceedings. I remember walking into a courtroom for the first time and I had never felt anything like it before. When you're in court everyone is treated the same; the law applies equally to everybody. It's the one place where there are no special treatments. I went to law school because I really wanted to go into public service. Prosecutors can not only impact the community but each individual on every case you have.

### • WHAT'S THE MOST DIFFICULT PART OF BEING A PROSECUTOR?

One of the hardest things about being a prosecutor is no one wants to get your phone call. When you call and say you're from the prosecutor's office, they're generally not going to be happy to hear from you. It can be difficult to learn the truth when you don't get answers.

You can watch Elliot's complete video on our website, Facebook and YouTube page.

# WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

March is National Women's History Month, a time each year to honor the women who came before us and fought for equality among all races and genders.

Following years of Presidents issuing proclamations declaring the second week of March as National Women's History Week, Congress in 1987 passed a law designating March as "Women's History Month".

Summit County is unique as women hold all County judge positions, the County Executive's Office, the County Fiscal Office, the County Clerk of Courts Office and many other political positions.

We also want to honor and thank Summit County's longest serving County Prosecutor, Sherri Bevan Walsh for her trailblazing and historic tenure.

**WOMEN'S**  
**HISTORY MONTH**  
MARCH 2024



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