



# Elliot Kolkovich

Summit County Prosecutor



## A MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR KOLKOVICH

# START BY BELIEVING

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office works hard every day to fight for the victims of crime and give a voice to the voiceless.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month and my office recently re-launched our Start By Believing campaign.

Sexual assault survivors often face disbelief and blame when they disclose their abuse, decreasing the chance they'll report to police or seek help. This is why End Violence Against Women International (EVAWI) created Start By Believing, the global campaign on challenging each of us to do better. This initiative was created to change the way society responds to sexual assault and emphasize that every response matters.

You will see billboards posted throughout Summit County with the Start By Believing message, including the 24-hour hotline number for the Summit County Hope & Healing Resource Center. Where the Rape Crisis Center and Battered Women's Shelter is housed.



### Start by Believing



Rape Crisis Center Hotline: 330.434.7273



You will also see posts on our office social media accounts providing information.

The campaign starts by believing, then follows an evidence-based and complete investigation with the goal of holding offenders accountable and finding justice for survivors.

To bring attention to the campaign, my office took part in "Turning the Town Teal" with the City of Twinsburg, Summit County Clerk of Courts Tavia Galonski, State Representative Casey Weinstein, Summit County Victim Assistance, and Akron Children's Hospital. Many locations lit up their buildings in teal to show support. Teal is the color used to spread awareness of Start By Believing Day and Sexual Assault Awareness Month.



I urge people to support victims of crime and avoid "why" questions – like "why did you do that" or "why were you in that part of town". "Why" questions sound accusatory and could make people blame themselves for what happened.

My hope is that this will help support victims and make it more likely they will report the crime. That will also help my office prosecute these crimes and hold criminals accountable for their actions.

Stay safe,



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[www.prosecutor.summitoh.net](http://www.prosecutor.summitoh.net)



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# IN THE COMMUNITY

Summit County Prosecutor’s Office employees were busy throughout the month of March. The first stop was at Revere High School for our monthly FREE Women’s Self-Defense class.

Attendees learned ways to minimize their chance of becoming a crime victim, including the trachea notch push off, groin kicks, and wrist breakaways.



To find out future dates and locations for our FREE Women’s Self-Defense classes, go to <https://prosecutor.summitoh.net/pages/Self-Defense-Classes.html>

Prosecutor Kolkovich and several office employees were proud to attend the annual Summit Developmental Disabilities Board’s Appreciation Breakfast and Awards Celebration.

The event included inspiring stories about people who work closely with those living with developmental disabilities.



Prosecutor Kolkovich provided safety information to seniors at Riverside Alliance Church.

The group discussed the latest crime trends and the latest scams targeting seniors.



Tips to avoid being a victim of a scam include not answering phone calls from numbers you don’t recognize.

If you would like Prosecutor Kolkovich to speak to your group, contact Tara Fought at 330.643.2800 or via email at [tfought@prosecutor.summitoh.net](mailto:tfought@prosecutor.summitoh.net)

## GUILTY VERDICTS March 2024

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

- Rimma Avanesyan    Zach Neumann
- Jon Baumoel        Devorah Pasternak
- Amanda Koren        Greg Peacock
- Emily Hall            Dan Sallerson
- Amanda Hathaway    Emily Williams
- Matt Kuhn

## TOUGH PROSECUTIONS

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

**Christopher Jones, 31**  
Murder  
**LIFE IN PRISON**

**Timothy Christian, 34**  
Aggravated Arson  
**22-to-26 Years in Prison**







# ADAM'S CORNER

# EQUITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE

I had a very busy month meeting new friends and working hard to help those who come to the office.

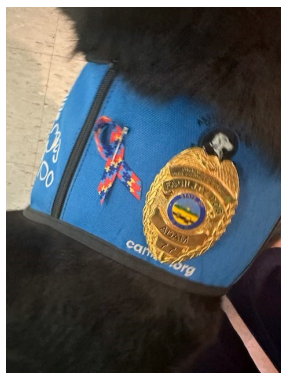


That's me sitting on one of my favorite pillows with a nice bowl!

I like getting dressed up and showing off. But my favorite thing is to sit with people when they come to the office.

I also like to wear special things to show my support for others.

That's me wearing an Autism Acceptance ribbon. My human friends tell me that April is Autism Acceptance Month.



April is when we get to celebrate the wonderful things people living with Autism have to offer, although I think we should celebrate it all year long!

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. April has plenty of those opportunities.

### NATIONAL BRUNCH MONTH

April is National Brunch Month! The term brunch originated in England in the 19th century as a light afternoon meal following church. Check out these top Akron spots <https://www.downtownakron.com/guide/breakfast-and-brunch>

### NATIONAL HUMOR MONTH

Founded in 1976, National Humor Month celebrates humor, laughter, and fun for all. Time to watch a funny movie or check out your favorite comedian!

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.



April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month and as the month draws to a close, it is important to recognize why the conversation and prevention efforts must continue. Every 68 seconds an American is sexually assaulted, yet sexual assault remains the most underreported crime in our country. The effects of these crimes are devastating, and often debilitating, to the survivors. Although the impact of sexual violence extends across social, economic, and racial boundaries, there are additional obstacles and concerns unique to people of color.

While each community faces distinctive challenges and circumstances, there are some common factors which could explain many of the hurdles survivors encounter when seeking assistance.

Cultural and/or religious beliefs that prevent a survivor from leaving an abusive relationship or involving "outsiders."

Strong loyalty ties to race, culture and family.

Fear that their experience will reflect negatively on or confirm a stereotype placed on their ethnicity.

Lack of service providers who look like the survivor or who share common experiences.

Lack of culturally and linguistically appropriate services.

Legal status in the U.S. of the survivor and/or the abuser.

We must consider the additional barriers faced by communities of color, their cultural influences, and life experiences that affect survivors' journey to healing.

To learn more, visit: <https://oaesv.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/oaesv-sexual-violence-women-of-color.pdf>



Help Us Go Green!



Contact Tara Fought at [tfought@prosecutor.summitoh.net](mailto:tfought@prosecutor.summitoh.net) to receive this newsletter by e-mail

# TOP COP

## AKRON POLICE DET. JAMES PASHEILICH

### NOMINATED BY ASST. PROS. DAN SALLERSON & MATT KUHN

Many of the cases we prosecute are complicated, with investigators having to gather evidence, coordinate witnesses, and present the information to prosecutors.

Without the work of two people in the Akron Police Department, our office would not be able to secure a conviction of a murderer who is now serving a life sentence.

The work of Akron Police Detective James Pasheilich and Analyst Mary Infantino was essential in jurors finding Luther Easter guilty of killing Dartanian Howard in September of 2022.

Det. Pasheilich interviewed an accomplice multiple times, eventually developed a rapport with her, and got a full statement which implicated not only herself but the murderer. This was vitally important as Easter's trial approached. Because of the work of Det. Pasheilich, the accomplice became more comfortable with the prosecution.

The work of Analyst Mary Infantino was extremely important as well. Infantino was able to check phone records to track the location of Mr. Easter as well as his accomplice to match what was said in the statement to police. Through mapping we were able to place Mr. Easter at the location of the murder.

Thank you to both Det. Pasheilich and Analyst Infantino. Their work helped prosecutors hold Mr. Easter accountable for his actions.

We also want to thank Det. Pasheilich for his years of service and dedication to the Akron community as he is retiring soon. His work has truly made an impact in our community and helped make Akron safer.

Det. Pasheilich was sworn in as an officer with the Akron Police Department in April of 1993, 31 years ago!



He has worked on several units in the department and took part in hundreds of hours of trainings and classes.

Prosecutor Kolkovich worked with Det. Pasheilich on several cases. "Det. Pasheilich has had an exemplary career. His work over the years has shown his clear dedication to police work and serving the community. Our office wishes him the best in his retirement, but will miss working with him."

Brian LoPrinzi, Chief of the Prosecutor's Office Criminal Division, added "good detectives solve crimes every day, it's the great ones, like Jimmie, that know that figuring out 'who did it', is oftentimes only half the battle. Jimmie knows the case isn't over until the verdict, which requires doing all the follow-up necessary to anticipate, and respond to potential defenses. However, of all the detective skills Jimmie possesses, probably his most valuable tool is his natural ability to communicate. His innate talent for making a defendant feel at ease during interviews, led to confessions from even the most savvy defendants. At trial, Jimmie was a prosecutor's dream witness. His ability to clearly explain the case to the jury, and also maintain his congenial disposition while being cross-examined, revealed to the jury his character, and his sense for justice. Having Jimmie in trial with you, is like taking a walk on a well-worn path, in a comfortable pair of shoes."

Chief Counsel Brad Gessner said, "As an investigator Det. Pasheilich always had a passion for doing his job and getting us every bit of information we would need. I'm not sure if I ever met or talked with him when he didn't have a smile on his face. He was enthusiastic about his job and getting it right."

We all wish Det. Pasheilich a happy, and restful retirement!



**Great job and congratulations  
Det. Pasheilich!**

## CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. Did you know over seven million children in the United States are referred to their local child protective services agency? A report of child abuse is made every 10 seconds.

During the month of April extra emphasis is placed on working together to strengthen families to prevent child abuse and neglect.

President Ronald Reagan first proclaimed April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month in 1984 to raise awareness of the issue. You can help stop the abuse of these innocent children. If you think a child may be abused or neglected, monitor the situation as closely as you can and contact authorities. In Summit County, call 330.434.KIDS (5437) to report abuse or neglect. Together we can stop child abuse.



## DISTRACTED DRIVERS

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office strives to find the latest information to help keep our communities safe. That includes making sure drivers keep an eye on the road and not their cell phones.

April is Distracted Driving Awareness month. Did you know that every day one person dies and 100 more are injured in distracted driver crashes?

Safe driving should not be a one month thing. When behind the wheel, know what is going on around you. Put your phone down and pay attention, especially in construction zones.

That decision could save a life—maybe even your own.



## AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH

April is Autism Acceptance month. The nationwide effort was launched over 25 years ago to promote awareness, inclusion, and ensure that each person on the Autism Spectrum is given the opportunity to achieve the highest possible quality of life.

It's also a good time to remind you about our Take Me Home program.

Take Me Home is a secure database, accessible only by law enforcement, which is used to help reconnect caregivers with children and adults who have a difficult time communicating and may wander from home. If you know someone who could benefit from this program and is not registered, please have them contact Leslie Knoblauch at [knoblauch@prosecutor.summitoh.net](mailto:knoblauch@prosecutor.summitoh.net), or 330-643-2800.



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