



Elliot Kolkovich
Summit County Prosecutor



INTRODUCING TAVIA GALONSKI

SUMMIT COUNTY CLERK OF COURTS

The Summit County Prosecutor’s Office would like to introduce you to other members of Summit County Common Pleas Court system.

Today, meet Tavia Galonski, Summit County Clerk of Courts.

Mrs. Galonski was recently appointed to the position. She is the first African-American to lead a countywide Charter Office in Summit County.

As Summit County Clerk of Courts, Mrs. Galonski has been working towards bringing more transparency to the office and allowing the public to be more aware of the inside workings of the criminal justice system.

“One thing that I noticed coming into this position was that there was sometimes a long lag time between when a civil action or indictment was electronically filed and when it appeared on the docket. We have been able to change this so that now most items will be posted to the court’s docket within 24 hours. The quicker turnaround time helps everyone, especially the public, since the information is available sooner and any parties involved can take whatever steps needed. I’m looking forward to continuing to improve accessibility and efficiency in the clerk’s office.”

Mrs. Galonski received her Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Emory University in Atlanta, where she was a flight attendant with Delta Airlines. Her goal at Delta was for flight attendants to be unionized like pilots, as she noticed the pilots were able to negotiate as a Unit for fair and just workplace agreements.



She continued to work full time as a flight attendant while attending the University of Akron School of Law, where she was a Dean’s Club Scholar.

She graduated from the University of Akron School of Law in 1995 and was admitted to the practice of law.

Mrs. Galonski was previously a magistrate in the Summit County Court of Common Pleas and has served the state in a legal capacity for over 25 years. She served as a magistrate

in the County’s Domestic Relations court and in the County’s Juvenile Court before heading to the state legislature.

As a former teamster and daughter of a UAW worker, the former state representative knows the importance of rewarding hard work and putting family first.

From the creation of new, better-paying jobs to fully funding our schools and protecting our children, Tavia Galonski is focused on using her legal expertise and work experience to address the biggest challenges facing the state and improve the quality of life for the residents of Summit County.

Tavia is married to John Galonski, Chief of the Summit County Prosecutor’s Office Civil Division. The Galonskis have a son, a daughter, and a grandson.

I look forward to working closely with Mrs. Galonski!



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IN THE COMMUNITY

The Summit County Prosecutor’s Office was out in the community providing safety information to local residents.

Prosecutor Kolkovich spoke with seniors at Macedonia City Hall, discussing how to avoid the latest scams and be safe in the community.



Attendees learned about how scammers either call, text, or email to lure people into turning over personal information like bank account numbers. Scammers also prey on victims by using physical and psychological threats.

If you are a victim of a scam, we urge you to report the crime so we can warn others.

Prosecutor Kolkovich joined office employees at our FREE Women’s Self-Defense class at Tallmadge High School.



In the picture, Prosecutor Kolkovich teaches the wrist breakaway.

To find our upcoming FREE Women’s Self-Defense classes head to <https://prosecutor.summitoh.net/pages/Self-Defense-Classes.html>.

Prosecutor’s office employees attended two local events focused on safety.



Sexual Violence Specialist Mickey Valdez and Victim Advocate Alyse Ziga, along with our facility dog Adam, attended the Sexual Assault Awareness Month Resource Fair at the University of Akron. We provided lots of information, and people got to visit Adam!

Prosecutor Kolkovich joined Heaven DiMartino at the Firestone Park Community Center for the Center’s first ever Senior Health Fair.



GUILTY VERDICTS

April 2024

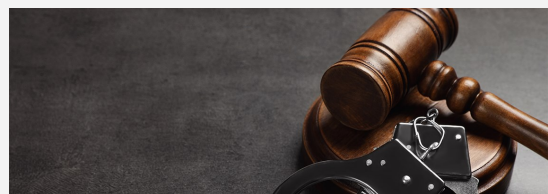
The Summit County Prosecutor’s Office had a 100% CONVICTION RATE at trial for April. Congratulations to the following assistant prosecutors for obtaining convictions at trial.

- Rimma Avanesyan** **Kevin Mayer**
- Chris Delisio** **Seema Misra**
- Emily Hall** **Brian Stano**
- Amanda Hathaway**

TOUGH PROSECUTIONS

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

- | | |
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| <p>Cameron Jones, 18
Murder
LIFE IN PRISON</p> | <p>Luther Easter, 34
Murder
LIFE IN PRISON</p> |
| <p>Kaelyn Smith, 27
Murder
LIFE IN PRISON</p> | <p>Nino Jennings, 20
Aggravated Robbery
14-to-19 1/2 Years in Prison</p> |
| <p>Dacarrei Kinard, 31
Voluntary
Manslaughter
15-to-17 1/2 Years in Prison</p> | <p>Layveire Belton, 19
Aggravated Robbery
14-to-19 1/2 Years in Prison</p> |





ADAM'S CORNER

EQUITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE

April was sexual assault awareness month and I wanted to show my support for survivors of sexual assault.

Teal is the color used to show support for Sexual Assault Awareness Month—that's why I'm holding a bag with a teal rock. It says "courage".

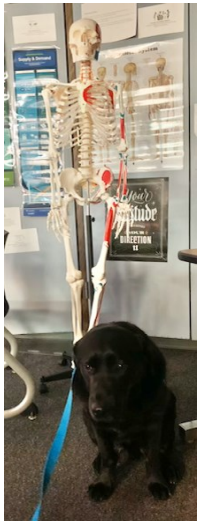


I got to go to school last month.

That's me at Cuyahoga Falls High School for the school's career tech program.

I went with some of my co-workers and they talked about what our office does. They also talked about me and how I get to help people who come to the office.

I got to say hi to all the students, although the one behind me is a little scary looking. I think his name is Bones! I do like bones, but maybe not that kind.



Follow Adam on Facebook at:

www.facebook.com/AdamVIISCP0



MONTHLY OBSERVANCES

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

NATIONAL BARBECUE MONTH

Established in 1963, National Barbecue Month encourages outdoor cooking. Check out these BBQ recipes from the Food Network — www.foodnetwork.com/grilling/grilling-central-barbecue/best-backyard-barbecue-recipes

NATIONAL CORRECT YOUR POSTURE MONTH

National Posture month urges people to get up & move! Check how you sit & stretch every 30 minutes. Learn more at <https://posturemonth.org/>

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.

Summer-like weather is here. People are out enjoying the sun and warmer weather.



The Ambassadors wish to bring attention to the dedication and unveiling of the Sojourner Truth Statue on May 29 at 5:30pm at the United Way of Summit and Medina County, located at 37 North High Street in Akron. The statue was created by Akron native and internationally recognized sculptor, Woodrow Nash.

Sojourner Truth, born Isabella Baumfree in 1797, was an American abolitionist and activist for African American Civil Rights and Women's rights. Truth was born into slavery but escaped with her infant daughter to freedom in 1826. Truth only spoke Dutch until she was nine years old.

Over six feet tall, she had the power to captivate audiences and, when necessary, to reject or sharply criticize any hecklers, with her witty responses.

Truth became a celebrity during her lifetime, and was close friends with Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony among other prominent people. She was even able to attract the ears of Presidents Lincoln and Grant.

Her best known speech was delivered in 1851, at the Ohio Women's Convention in Akron. The speech became widely known and titled "Ain't I A Woman?"

You can learn more about Sojourner Truth, her world-famous speech, and how Summit County played a role by heading to <https://www.truthstatue.org/>.

Join The Ambassadors as we attempt to bridge the gap across the divided lines one person at a time.

Peace to us all from the Ambassadors and be safe, be kind and enjoy your summer.



Help Us Go Green!

Contact Tara Fought at tfought@prosecutor.summitoh.net to receive this newsletter by e-mail



TOP COP

AKRON POLICE DET. KELLY BROWN

NOMINATED BY ASST. PROS. AMANDA HATHAWAY

Many of the cases that come to the Summit County Prosecutor’s Office can be horrible and heartbreaking. Recently, prosecutors handled the case of a three-month-old who died in June of 2023.



If not for the work of Akron Police Detective Kelly Brown, we would not have been able to hold accountable those responsible for the child’s death.

On June 23, 2023, Teresa Whitney left her baby with her boyfriend Jon Gardner while she went to work. Two hours into Whitney’s shift, Gardner said there was something wrong with the baby. Whitney went home and called 911.

Detective Kelly Brown investigated the matter. She interviewed both Whitney and Gardner, and followed up with Whitney’s employer. The autopsy and toxicology report revealed the baby died of a fentanyl overdose.

Whitney denied using drugs and denied Gardner used drugs as well. Whitney stated she’d only known Gardner

for a couple of months.

Gardner later confessed he was a fentanyl user, and had used that day but could not imagine how the drug got to the baby.

The investigation could have ended with Gardner. However, Detective Kelly Brown was relentless in her pursuit of justice for this three-month-old baby. She began to listen to jail calls the moment Gardner was arrested. She learned that not only did Whitney have knowledge of Gardner’s drug use, but that she was well aware it was around the baby. The calls revealed that Whitney told Gardner to clean up all of the drugs and that she was keenly aware of all of the circumstances.

Both Whitney and Gardner plead guilty. Whitney received six to nine years in prison. Gardner received four to six years in prison.

Great job and congratulations Det. Brown!

HONORING POLICE

During the month of May, we take time to pay tribute to those who serve and protect our communities.

National police week began on Sunday, May 12 with six days of events and commemorations.



The annual National Peace Officers’ Memorial Service was Wednesday May 15 on the west front of the U.S. Capitol in Washington D.C.

In 1962, President Kennedy signed a proclamation which designated May 15 as Peace Officers Memorial Day. That grew into a week-long celebration and service.

For more information click www.policeweek.org.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

Mental health is a big concern throughout the United States. May is National Mental Health Awareness month—a time to bring greater attention, support, and education about the impact of mental illness. It was established in 1949 to increase awareness of the importance of mental health and wellness.

The Summit County Prosecutor’s Office works closely with the Summit County Court’s Mental Health Court. “Hope Court” is dedicated to helping offenders who have been diagnosed with a serious mental illness which contributed to their arrest. Defendants have access to treatment and resources to help improve their overall quality of life. “Hope Court” is the first felony specialized court in Summit County for people diagnosed with a mental illness.



SUMMER SAFETY

Warmer weather is here. Kids are wrapping up their school year. It's time to open those windows and let in the fresh air! But beware. As you work in the garden or plan that vacation, criminals are out there targeting their latest victim.

The Summit County Prosecutor's wants to make sure you are prepared and ready if a criminal comes knocking.

We all love to open our windows to let the cool air in. But an open window can be an open invitation for criminals. Close and lock your windows when leaving your house or going to sleep. It might sound simple, but doing this will make a huge difference in whether a criminal wants to target your house or move on to someone else's.

Be aware of what's happening in your neighborhood when you're working in the yard or walking the dog. Does something seem out of place? Maybe you notice the same vehicle slowly driving up and down the street for several minutes.

We've heard of criminals just walking into a home through an open garage while the homeowner is busy in the yard. Being more in tune with your surroundings could keep you from becoming a victim.

This is especially important if you're distracted or using loud equipment.

Many times, criminals will work in pairs to try and distract you. If someone comes up to you soliciting their business, or saying they have left over materials from another job, do not allow them in your home. You might want to think twice if someone claims to have a great deal. If it seems too good to be true—it probably is.

When you're on vacation, hold off posting any pictures or information on social media. We all get excited about capturing that perfect moment, but you don't have to tell everyone right away. Posting on Instagram, Facebook, or any other social media outlet announces to the world that you're not home.

We hope you have a wonderful and safe summer!



If you are outside working in your yard, close your garage door and lock the entrance to your home.



OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

May is Older Americans Month, the 61st annual recognition of the monthly event. It is a time to celebrate and support our seniors—and to address issues specific to older people. According to the Ohio Department of Aging, there are 2.8 million Ohioans ages 60 and older.

Seniors are also many times targeted by scammers. Summit County Prosecutor Elliot Kolkovich is teaming up with Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro and Summit County Sheriff Kandy Fatheree for two upcoming events to help protect seniors from scams.

“Outsmart the Scam” will take place on June 22, 2024, from 10am-noon at Stow City Hall, and then again on August 17, 2024, from 10am-noon at the Green Administration Building. The events will feature resources and information from various Summit County organizations to help seniors avoid being a target of scammers. We hope to see you there!



POWERED BY CONNECTION: MAY 2024



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