

The PROSECUTOR'S POST

FALL 2025

SUMMIT COUNTY, OH



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Elliot Kolkovich

Summit County Prosecutor

A NOTE FROM THE PROSECUTOR



Fall is a busy season here in the Prosecutor's Office, from Child Support Awareness Month, to Senior Safety Month, to our annual Responding to the Needs of Victims Conference, and expungement clinics for both juvenile and adult offenders. My office is working hard to serve Summit County by providing education and resources for law enforcement, victim advocates, first responders, survivors and their families, and all Summit County residents.

Whether you are looking for more information on Ohio's constitutional carry laws, self-defense skills to protect yourself, how to seal the record of an old mistake you made in the past, or tips to help you and your family stay safe from scams, my office is here to help.

We are also committed to promoting the rights of victims and survivors of crime. Our Responding to the Needs of Victims Conference – which is in its 10th year – is a training we provide each year for professionals from a range of backgrounds to learn how they can better support the victims and survivors they serve. This year's conference, "Practical Guidance for Marsy's Law," focused on helping professionals identify the current legal requirements (including the utilization of the Victims' Rights Request Form) when serving victims, common difficulties with implementation, lessons learned, and best practices to protect victims' rights at each stage of the judicial process.

The passage of Marsy's Law and subsequent implementing legislation—House Bill 343—increased the number of crime victims who have constitutional rights. Marsy's Law instituted additional mandates on various actors in the justice system, including law enforcement, courts, probation and parole offices, and prosecutors. Our conference seeks to help all members of the justice system navigate these new rules.

We are always looking for additional ways to support and serve Summit County. If you have any suggestions on how we can improve our service or better preserve public safety, please contact my office.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Kolkovich". The signature is fluid and stylized, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.



OHIO TAX RETURNS

Some Ohioans have been receiving texts claiming that their tax refund claim has been processed, and to go to a link to put in their bank information to receive their refund. The text also claims that if you don't submit the required payment information on time, you will forfeit your refund.

Do NOT click on any links in these texts or provide any sort of payment information. The Ohio Department of Taxation ("ODT") has confirmed that it does NOT send text messages about tax matters or request payment or payment information through text.

Taxpayers who receive a suspicious text from ODT are urged to contact the department directly by calling, sending an official message, or making an in-person visit. If you're unsure about a message, contact ODT directly through their official channels.

"FREE" GIFTS

A new phishing tactic scammers are using is sending fake promotional emails that appear to be from a reputable brand. The email claims that if you fill out a survey and pay a small shipping fee at a provided link, you will receive a free gift. However, the link is fake, and the gift doesn't exist. The "small" shipping fee is just a cover to steal your financial information, or even your identity.

Legitimate organizations won't ask for your credit card details to cover shipping for a completely free promotional item. If you're unsure about a message, go to the organization's official website or give them a call at a trusted number to check if the offer is real. Do NOT use any contact information provided in the email.

RESOURCES FOR SCAM SURVIVORS

- Ohioans can report scam attempts to the Federal Trade Commission by visiting reportfraud.ftc.gov.
- Visit the Better Business Bureau's online [Scam Tracker](#) to check their database of known existing scams, or to report a new one.
- If you believe you have been a victim of a scam, please contact your local police department. The Better Business Bureau also has an online [Scam Survivor Kit](#) that can help guide you through resources.





SENIOR SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH

September is Senior Safety Awareness Month! Prosecutor Kolkovich continues to connect with seniors through community events, senior safety speeches, and by placing ads to help seniors learn how to protect themselves. The 2026 Senior Calendar is also in production, and contains safety tips for avoiding fraud and scams, choosing caregivers, holiday travel, and more.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



In August, Prosecutor Kolkovich and staff provided resources and giveaways at National Night Out events in all 10 wards of Akron, Stow-Munroe Falls, and Cuyahoga Falls! NNO is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie.

CHILD SUPPORT SOLUTIONS



In honor of Child Support Awareness Month, our Child Support Enforcement Agency hosted Child Support Solutions – a free, all-day event to provide assistance with child support cases, along with connections to other agencies, free school supplies, games and activities, and free haircuts for children.

PERSONAL SAFETY



Prosecutor Kolkovich continues to provide free self-defense classes for women each month, as well as free concealed carry workshops with Sheriff Fatheree every other month, to help provide Summit County residents with tools and knowledge to help keep themselves safe.



OPEN M COMMUNITY COOKOUT

In July, the Summit County Prosecutor's Office served lunch and ran registration for Open M Ministry's annual Community Cookout. Numerous staff spent the whole afternoon serving food, providing resources, and connecting with community members.

PUTTING WITH POLICE



Prosecutor Kolkovich helped local campers work on their swings at the Putting with Police event in July, along with officers from the Akron Police Department, Summit County Sheriff's Office, Ohio State Highway Patrol, and more.

SUMMER FESTIVALS



The Summit County Prosecutor's Office was excited to be a part of numerous community festivals this summer, including the African American Festival, Latin Festival, and Akron Pride!

BARK IN THE PARK



Prosecutor Kolkovich and SCPO's Facility Dog Adam threw out the ceremonial first pitch at an Akron Rubber Dicks game during one of their dog-friendly nights!

EVENTS FOR SENIORS

Senior Day at the Akron Art Museum

October 7, 1 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

1 South High St., Akron 44308

WAKR Halloween Luncheon

October 29, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

3204 Ridgewood Rd., Akron 44333

Safety Speech

November 13, 11 a.m.–12 p.m.

Richfield Senior Center

4410 W. Streetsboro Rd., Richfield 44286

City of Green Senior Holiday Lunch

December 4, 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m.

4340 Mayfair Rd., Green 44685

WAKR Holiday Luncheon

December 10, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

3204 Ridgewood Rd., Akron 44333



**Interested in hosting a safety speech
in your community? Call us!
(330) 643-6506**



OUR EVENTS

Join us for events we are hosting throughout Summit County to serve our communities!

Adult Felony Expungement Clinic

October 10, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Summit County Courthouse
209 S. High St., Akron 44308

Women's Self-Defense Class

October 21, 6 p.m.–8 p.m.
Tallmadge Middle School
484 East Ave., Tallmadge 44278

Clean Slate Juvenile Expungement Clinic

October 22, 1 p.m.–6 p.m.
Summit County Juvenile Court
650 Dan St., Akron 44310

Concealed Carry Workshop

October 15, 6:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m.
1795 Steese Rd., Green 44720

SCPO Ambassadors' Trunk or Treat

October 16, 4:30 p.m.–6:30 p.m.
Summit County Juvenile Court
650 Dan St., Akron 44310

Citizens Academy

November 7, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Summit County Courthouse
209 S. High St., Akron 44308

CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

Do you have child support concerns? Come see CSEA out in the community for assistance with general questions, DNA testing, job assistance, license reinstatements, and more.

Citizen Circles

October 9, 12:30 p.m.–4 p.m.
November 13, 12:30 p.m.–4 p.m.
December 11, 12:30 p.m.–4 p.m.
798 Grant St., Akron 44311

Front Porch Re-Entry Meetings

October 21, 3:30 p.m.–5:30 p.m.
November 18, 3:30 p.m.–5:30 p.m.
December 16, 3:30 p.m.–5:30 p.m.
798 Grant St., Akron 44311

"Justice Bus" Free Legal Clinics

October 10, 10:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
Springfield-Lakemore Branch
Library
December 12, 10:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
Barberton Public Library

Akron Urban League Expungement Clinic

November 19, Time TBA
440 Vernon Odom Blvd., Akron 44307

If you have any questions regarding CSEA, please contact:

Travis Johnson (330) 643-8468

James Brewer (330) 643-8703

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO SEE US

Twinsburg Safety Forces Open House

October 8, 5 p.m.–7:30 p.m.

Twinsburg Police Department

10075 Ravenna Rd., Twinsburg 44087

Zane's Family Fun Fair

October 18, 12 p.m.–3 p.m.

Church in Silver Lake

2951 Kent Rd., Silver Lake 44224

Downtown Akron Fall Fest

October 18, 4 p.m.–7 p.m.

Lock 3

200 S. Main St., Akron 44308

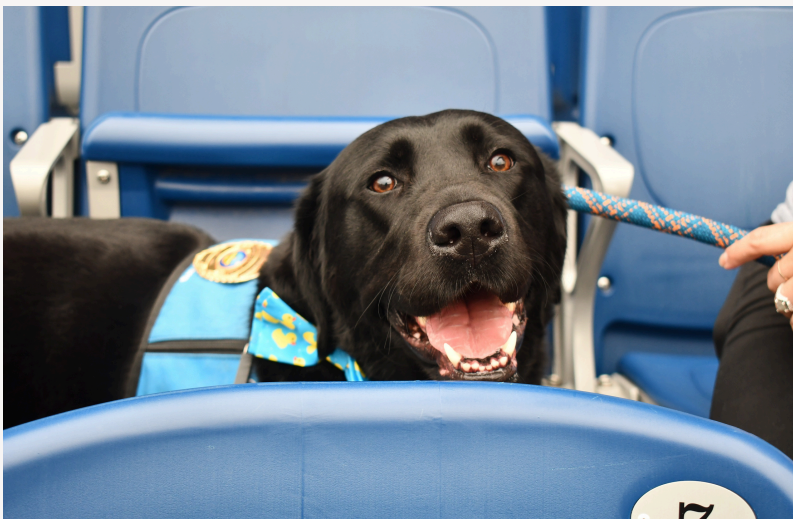
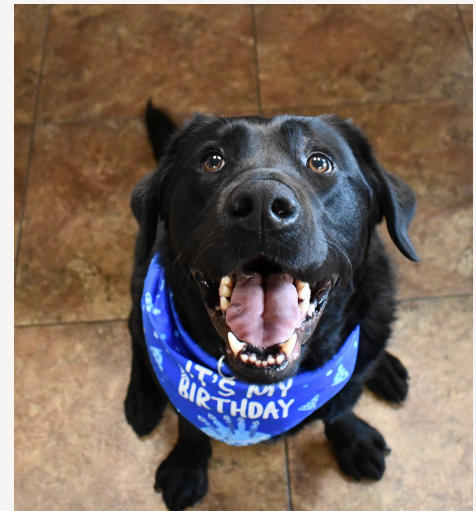


NEWS FROM OUR FACILITY DOG

In August, I celebrated my birthday AND my 2nd anniversary working in the Prosecutor's Office! The humans say that I'm 4 years old in "human years," but 28 years old in "dog years." I'm not really sure what that means, but I still feel like a pup!

September was Service Dog Awareness Month, and I went to County Council to help introduce a resolution recognizing service dogs, facility dogs, and therapy dogs in Summit County! While all three of us are different, we all work really hard to help humans be more independent and feel calmer and safer. I'm so proud of my friends, and so happy I get to help people every day when I go to work! They are all so brave for talking about what they experienced and testifying in front of a jury.

I also got to go to a baseball game, which was exciting because the ball is my favorite toy! I also met some strange, giant dogs at National Night Out in Cuyahoga Falls. Apparently they are also dogs that work to help people. I'm not sure why I don't get to wear a fun hat like them.



TOP COP: Officer Taylor Paxton Stow Police Department



Officer Taylor Paxton was nominated by Assistant Prosecutor Mackenzie Godwin for her outstanding work in a theft and credit card fraud case. Officer Paxton pursued multiple leads, visiting five different locations and speaking with various witnesses to detail the defendant's actions. She also spoke with the defendant's family members, checked prior incidents the defendant was involved in, and eventually figured out the defendant's license plate number. She then searched Flock cameras and located the defendant's vehicle at every location where the victim's credit card was used. Her report was incredibly detailed, yet concise and easy to follow.



Officer Paxton's thorough and dedicated work provided the Prosecutor's Office with everything needed to prosecute the case, and her efforts were described as "above and beyond."

TOP COP: Detective Edward Hornacek Akron Police Department



Detective Ed Hornacek was nominated by Assistant Prosecutor Jamila Mitchell for his investigative work into the tragic death of Paige Calich in July of 2024. From the onset of the case, Detective Hornacek worked quickly to investigate all possible leads. He reviewed hours of body camera footage, identified potential witnesses, issued subpoenas, executed search warrants, and reviewed all digital evidence in the case. His diligent and efficient work led to suspects being identified within hours of the murder, and captured within days.



Detective Hornacek promptly responds to every email, returns every phone call, attends every meeting, and will always follow through on anything that is requested of him. His work ethic is unrivaled, and he has brought closure to many families that have been impacted by crime. His work investigating the death of Paige Calich was instrumental in putting the offenders behind bars and making Akron safer.

Successful Prosecutions and New Staff in the Office

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SUCCESSFUL TRIAL PROSECUTIONS

Congratulations to the following assistant prosecutors who obtained convictions at trial during July, August, and September:

RIMMA AVANESYAN (2)

JOVANA ILIC (2)

JON BAUMOEL

SEEMA MISRA

RYAN CASH

JAMILA MITCHELL

BAILEY COLE (2)

CHARLES ROMAN

KEVIN DAY

JOE VANCE (2)

FELICIA EASTER

NEW SCPO STAFF

We are excited to welcome these folks to the Summit County Prosecutor's Office!



Anna Bahr-Fite
Assistant Prosecutor
Juvenile Division



Brianna Dietry
Assistant Prosecutor
Criminal Division



Tony Erhardt
Assistant Prosecutor
Criminal Division



Camille Johnson
Child Support Specialist

RESPONDING TO THE NEEDS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS



Domestic violence remains a critical public safety and public health issue throughout Ohio, and Summit County is no exception. Survivors and their families face complex challenges that intersect with housing instability, child welfare, mental health, and the justice system. In response, agencies across our region, including Hope & Healing Survivor Resource Center, ACCESS, Inc., and Victim Assistance Program, work tirelessly to provide services, support, and advocacy to survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

This fall, the Summit County Prosecutor's Office hosted its 10th Annual Responding to the Needs of Victims Conference, bringing together professionals across law enforcement, legal services, advocacy, and social work to deepen their understanding of Marsy's Law and other key legal protections. This article highlights recent statistics, community resources, and ongoing efforts to respond to the needs of victims in equitable, trauma-informed, and culturally responsive ways.

Recent Data & Key Statistics

Economic Cost of Intimate Partner Violence in Ohio

- Estimated annual cost: Nearly \$1.2 billion
- Major components:
 - Physical health care: ~\$264.8 million (~22.9%)
 - Loss of life: ~\$239.9 million (~20.8%)
 - Lost worker productivity: ~\$227.7 million (~19.7%)

Fatalities (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024)

- 114 intimate partner-related fatalities recorded
- Among the deceased:
 - At least 79 minor children lost a parent
 - 51 children lost a grandparent
 - 33 children were present during the fatal incidents

Ambassadors for Equity and Social Justice

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RESPONDING TO THE NEEDS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS

Housing & Homelessness

- In 2023, Ohio Domestic Violence Network's Relocation & Safety Assistance Program:
 - Supported 699 adult survivors and 928 children
 - Assistance included rent, deposits, utilities, and moving costs
 - Total funds distributed: Over \$551,600
 - Most recipients were women, and the majority had children
- REACH Rapid Rehousing Program (2023):
 - Provided short-term rental assistance to 928 survivors
 - Support splits nearly evenly between adults and children
- Student Homelessness – 2023–2024 School Year (ACCESS, Inc.)
 - Among Ohio students experiencing homelessness:
 - 1 in 2 were chronically absent
 - There was a 33% increase in student homelessness compared to recent years

Although difficult, these statistics are vital in understanding lived experiences, and where gaps in domestic violence prevention and assistance services persist. Summit County has a strong foundation through agencies, advocates, and legal protections. Through collaboration, we can work toward a community where survivors are not only supported, but validated, empowered, and made whole. Together, we can forge a response system that truly centers on the needs of survivors.

Key Agencies & Local Resources in Summit County

- Hope & Healing Survivor Resource Center - 24/7 Hotline: (330) 374-1111
 - Serves Summit and Medina Counties. Offers free, confidential services, including emergency shelter, counseling, court advocacy, support groups, crisis hotlines, and outreach/education.
- Victim Assistance Program - 24/7 Hotline: (330) 376-0040
 - Provides crisis intervention, legal and court assistance, safety planning, and support for children who witness violence; connects survivors with resources.
- ACCESS, Inc. - 24/7 Shelter Assistance Hotline: 2-1-1
 - Focuses on emergency shelter for women and children, support with educational access, essential services, and long-term stability. Their recent reports highlight the pronounced need in our community.

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office's Ambassadors for Equity and Social Justice bring together coworkers from different backgrounds and cultures, and foster education and engagement to make the community a better place.



Return to Sender Address:

**53 University Avenue, 6th Floor
Akron, OH 44308**



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social media! Scan the QR code below:**

