
2023 ANNUAL REPORT



WARREN COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

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(RIGHT) IN OCTOBER, MEMBERS OF THE WARREN COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE PARTICIPATED IN THE ANNUAL SGT. BRIAN DULLE 5K WALK/RUN



A MESSAGE FROM THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Thank you for your interest in the Warren County Prosecutor's Office and for taking the time to read our Annual Report. I am honored to be completing my 13th year as Prosecuting Attorney, and I am so appreciative of the opportunity to serve in the community where I grew up.

Each year, I use this space in the Annual Report to educate Warren County citizens on notable cases, crime trends, or responsibilities of our Office that most people may never think about. This year, you may notice that a number of our felony cases involve defendants who were incarcerated at Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections state prisons. While the overwhelming majority of counties in Ohio have no state prisons within their jurisdiction, Warren County has two: Lebanon Correctional Institution (LeCI) and Warren Correctional Institution (WCI), both located adjacent to each other on State Route 63 in Turtlecreek Township.

Not surprisingly, those who commit heinous criminal acts in a free society do not necessarily discontinue their criminal activities just because they have been incarcerated. Our Office works closely with the wardens and investigators at LeCI and WCI, as well as investigators from the Ohio State Highway Patrol (who have investigatory jurisdiction for offenses occurring on state property) to investigate and prosecute a variety of crimes including murder, rape, assaults on corrections officers, assaults on other inmates, conveyance of drugs into the prisons, harassment with bodily substances, homemade weapons offenses, and a variety of other criminal offenses. Historically, criminal offenses occurring at LeCI and WCI constitute approximately 10% of our Office's felony caseload, and a substantially higher percentage of our murder cases. Thus, while Warren County continues to be a safe county, it is actually safer than statistics even suggest, as these crime numbers are artificially increased as a direct result of two ODRC facilities that, decades ago, were constructed in our county.

On another note, 2024 is a presidential election year, which will significantly increase the workload of our Civil Division as it represents the Warren County Board of Elections in election-related litigation that has become the norm during presidential election cycles. Our Office collaborates with the Democrat and Republican board and staff members of our local board of elections, and they do an outstanding job in ensuring integrity in the process, and that every proper vote is counted.

It has been a privilege to serve you this past year. If you have any comments or suggestions where you believe we can improve our service in any way, please contact me at 513-695- 1325 or david.fornshell@warrencountyprosecutor.com.



DAVID P. FORNSHELL



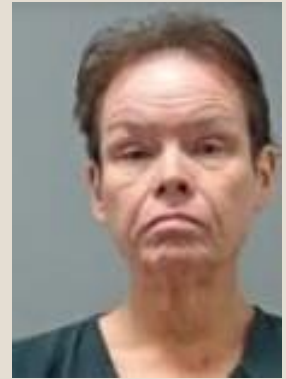
CRIMINAL DIVISION

In 2023, the Criminal Division of the Warren County Prosecutor’s Office continued its aggressive prosecution of violators of the laws of the State of Ohio, handling 3,088 misdemeanor and over 1,180 felony cases, including homicides, other violent felonies, thefts, sexual assaults, drug trafficking, domestic violence, driving under the influence, traffic offenses, and watercraft and fish and wildlife violations. The prosecutors in the Criminal Division represent the State of Ohio in the Warren County Common Pleas Court and Warren County Court. Some of the significant criminal cases prosecuted in 2023 are highlighted in this section.



HOMICIDES

BONNIE VAUGHAN, 60, of Middletown, Ohio, was sentenced to 15 years to life in prison after being convicted of murder, tampering with evidence, and gross abuse of a corpse. Vaughan shot and killed her husband, Jeffrey Fellman, 56, in their home. After the murder, Vaughan asked John Havens to come over and dismember the body and put it into a garbage can in the garage. Havens, 35, of Hamilton, Ohio, was subsequently convicted of tampering with evidence and gross abuse of a corpse.



EDWARD HALBERT, 65, an inmate at Warren Correctional Institution, was sentenced to 15 years to life in prison, consecutive to the term he was already serving, after being convicted of murder. Halbert strangled his cellmate, Kelvin Bunton, 31, with a bedsheet, resulting in Bunton's death. See page 23 for information relating to Halbert's appeal.

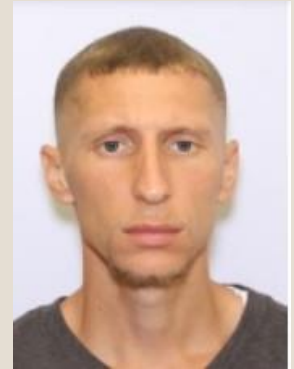


MARCUS HONSAKER, 35, an inmate at Warren Correctional Institution, was sentenced to 11 years in prison, consecutive to the term he was already serving, after being convicted of voluntary manslaughter and tampering with evidence. Honsaker killed his cellmate, Anthony Purk, 37, by strangling him with a torn piece of bedsheet that Honsaker subsequently flushed down the toilet.



VIOLENT CRIMES

CHRISTOPHER HUBBARD, 39, of Middletown, Ohio, was sentenced to 56 to 61 ½ years in prison after being convicted of three counts of felonious assault on a police officer with specifications; failure to comply with the order or signal of a police officer with a firearm specification; having a weapon while under disability; improper handling of a firearm in a motor vehicle; and assault on a police dog. Hubbard was wanted for a parole violation from a prior case and fled from law enforcement when they attempted to make a traffic stop. During the pursuit, officers deployed stop sticks to disable Hubbard's vehicle. Hubbard drove his vehicle into the front yard of a residence on North Mason Montgomery Road, and Hubbard refused to comply with law enforcement's commands to show his hands and exit the vehicle. While his car was surrounded, Hubbard fired multiple shots in the direction of several officers, striking Officer Dennis Jordan from Middletown Police Department. Officer Jordan was taken to Atrium Hospital where he was treated for his injuries.



DARRIUS WILLIS, 38, of Cincinnati, Ohio, was sentenced to 13 to 15 years in prison after being convicted of one count of aggravated burglary and five counts of aggravated robbery, all with firearm specifications. Willis and two accomplices entered a Mason home, all three wearing masks and brandishing firearms. They held three adults and two children at gunpoint while demanding money. One of the children, an eight-year-old boy, attempted to run from the home and was threatened with a firearm. The gunman took more than \$900 in cash and other personal property before fleeing the scene.



IAN ADAMS, 23, an inmate at Warren Correctional Institution, was sentenced to 10 to 13 ½ years in prison to run consecutive to his original sentence after being convicted of felonious assault and possession of a weapon while under detention. Adams attacked another inmate with a sharpened toothbrush and then tossed the victim over the railing on the second-floor range, causing the victim to crash to the ground. The victim suffered a broken wrist as a result of the attack.



EDWARD LEARY, 27, of Middletown, Ohio, was sentenced to eight to 12 years in prison after being convicted of endangering children. Leary physically assaulted his four-month-old son resulting in multiple rib fractures, a femur fracture, and facial bruising. Leary became frustrated with his son because the infant would not stop crying while Leary was attempting to play a video game.



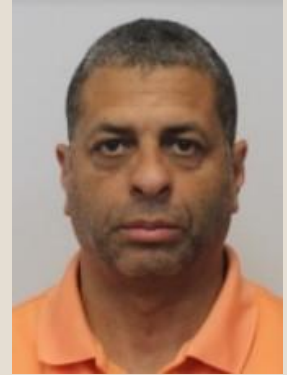
JOHN BYFORD, 36, of Franklin, Ohio, was sentenced to seven to nine years in prison after being convicted of felonious assault with a firearm specification, improper handling a firearm in a motor vehicle with a firearm specification, and operating a vehicle while under the influence. Byford fired numerous rounds into an apartment in Franklin following an argument with his girlfriend.



WILBERT KNISLEY, 43, of Fayetteville, Ohio, was sentenced to four to six years in prison after being convicted of felonious assault, abduction, and disrupting public services. Knisley went to his ex-girlfriend's apartment and violently assaulted her while holding her against her will.



JORDAN SMITH, 61, of Dayton, Ohio, was sentenced to three to four-and-one-half years in prison after being convicted of felonious assault. While driving northbound on I-75, Smith drove up beside the victim and revved the engine to race. After words and hand gestures were exchanged, Smith fired a shot at the victim's car, striking the area above the driver's side back window, and the victim pulled off at the State Route 63 exit.



JUSTIN RADER, 37, of Milford, Ohio, was sentenced to 47 months in prison after being convicted of abduction, domestic violence, and ten counts of violating a protection order. Rader violently assaulted his 34-week pregnant girlfriend at a local hotel by throwing her down a flight of stairs and then dragging her back up the steps by her hair. Upon his arrest, he solicited several family members to communicate messages to the victim in violation of a protection order.



(LEFT) PROSECUTOR FORNSHELL WENT ON TWO "RIDE ALONGS" WITH LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT IN NOVEMBER OF THIS YEAR. THE FIRST RIDE WAS WITH OFFICER DAVID WILSON OF THE LEBANON DIVISION OF POLICE, AND LATER THAT MONTH, PROSECUTOR FORNSHELL RODE WITH A HELICOPTER PILOT AND TACTICAL FLIGHT OFFICER FROM THE OHIO STATE HIGHWAY PATROL AVIATION UNIT CHOPPER ON SEVERAL ACTIVE PURSUITS THROUGHOUT THE EVENING.

SEX OFFENSES

TYLER HAGENS, 28, of Cincinnati, Ohio, was sentenced to 25 years to life in prison after being convicted of one count of rape of a child under 13 years of age, and eight counts of pandering sexually-oriented material involving a minor. Hagens was also designated as a Tier III sex offender with lifetime registration requirements. Hagens sexually assaulted a seven-year-old child and recorded the abuse on his cell phone. Hagens then texted the video of the abuse to the victim the next day.



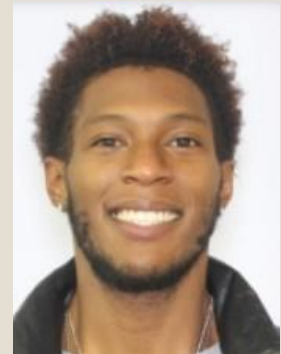
JOHN REYNOLDS, 54, of Mason, Ohio was sentenced to 18 to 23 ½ years in prison after being convicted of one count of rape and three counts of gross sexual imposition of a child under thirteen years of age. Reynolds was also designated a Tier III sex offender with lifetime registration requirements. Reynolds sexually assaulted four minor victims over the span of multiple years.



TODD ROGERS, 43, of Franklin, Ohio, was sentenced to 15 years to life in prison after being convicted of rape and five counts of gross sexual imposition. Rogers was designated as a Tier III sex offender with lifetime registration requirements. Rogers sexually assaulted a child under ten years of age over a period of several years.



ROBERT PALMER, 27, of Cincinnati, Ohio, was sentenced to nine to 13 ½ years in prison after being convicted of rape and was designated as a Tier III sex offender with lifetime registration requirements. Palmer sexually assaulted a minor in Lebanon.



TIMOTHY HOLLOWAY, 43, of Mason, Ohio, was sentenced to four to six years in prison after being convicted of two counts of Rape and was designated as a Tier III sex offender with lifetime registration requirements. Holloway sexually assaulted two different victims who were part of his social running/walking group.



ALEXANDER JACKSON, 27, of Lebanon, Ohio, was sentenced to four to six years in prison after being convicted of rape and was designated as a Tier III sex offender with lifetime registration requirements. After a night of drinking, Jackson sexually assaulted a victim who was passed out and did not consent to any type of sexual activity.



(LEFT) MEMBERS OF THE VICTIM WITNESS SERVICES DIVISION WORE BLUE TO RAISE AWARENESS FOR CHILD ABUSE AT THE ANNUAL WARREN COUNTY CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER BLUE RIBBON BENEFIT IN APRIL

DRUG-INVOLVED OFFENSES

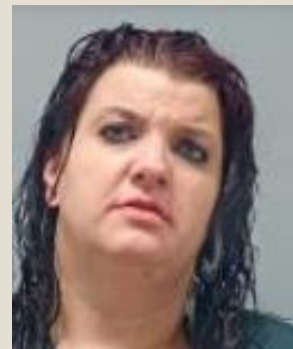
ALEX BREWER, 25, of Mason, Ohio, was sentenced to 10 to 15 years in prison after being convicted of two counts of aggravated trafficking in drugs. Brewer sold a large amount of psilocybin (aka “mushrooms”) to undercover officers in the parking lot of a Mason restaurant. A search of his nearby home produced additional large quantities of controlled substances and drug-related items.



TYLER O'BANION, 24, of West Chester, Ohio, was sentenced to eight to 12 years in prison after being convicted of four counts of trafficking in cocaine. O'Banion sold bulk amounts of cocaine to undercover agents in both Warren and Butler counties.



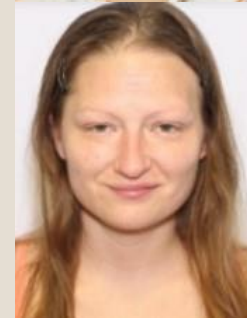
BRANDI SHELDON, 40, of Waynesville, Ohio, was sentenced to five to seven-and-one-half years in prison after being convicted of aggravated trafficking in drugs, possession of drugs, illegal conveyance of weapons onto the grounds of a governmental facility, and possession of drug paraphernalia. During a traffic stop near Lebanon Junior High School, Sheldon was found to be in possession of methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia. While being booked into the Warren County Jail, staff found additional methamphetamine and two small knives inside her bra.



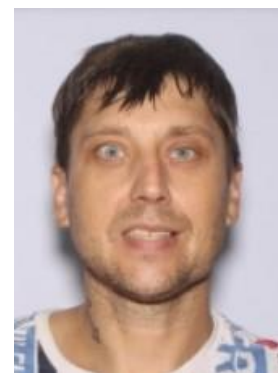
BRANDON HANA, 28, of Utica, Michigan, was sentenced to five to seven-and-one-half years in prison after being convicted of trafficking in marihuana. Hana arranged for the delivery of 73 pounds of marihuana to Warren County from Michigan.



TRISTAN SHEPARD, (top right), 38, of Middletown, Ohio, and **AMY MCGUIRE**, (bottom right), 38, of Springboro, Ohio, were both convicted of endangering children. Shepard was sentenced to two years in prison and McGuire was placed on community control sanctions for their involvement when a three-year-old child who ingested drugs and overdosed while in their care.



RODNEY MARSHALL, 41, of Dayton, Ohio, was sentenced to 54 months in prison after being convicted of failure to comply with the order or signal of a police officer, receiving stolen property of a motor vehicle, obstructing official business, and three counts of criminal damaging. Marshall broke out a car window and then fled from police in the stolen vehicle. Marshall led police on a pursuit that caused a substantial risk of serious physical harm to other motorists and ultimately ran into a fence. He continued to flee from law enforcement on foot. Marshall was apprehended and found to be in possession of methamphetamine.



MATTHEW SWANSON, Matthew Swanson, 43, of Miamisburg, Ohio, was sentenced to 48 months in prison after being convicted of operating a vehicle while under the influence, with specifications. Swanson, who had six prior OVI offenses, was speeding and driving recklessly on I-75. During the traffic stop, the officer smelled a strong odor of alcohol and Swanson failed a field sobriety test.



(LEFT) PROSECUTOR FORNSHELL VOLUNTEERED AS A SUBJECT TO DEMONSTRATE THE WARREN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE POLYGRAPH (LIE DETECTOR) TECHNOLOGY AT THE WARREN COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE ANNUAL TRAINING IN OCTOBER 2023.

FINANCIAL CRIMES

PATRICK THAYER, 42, of Lebanon, Ohio, was convicted of aggravated theft, unlawful securities practices, and identity fraud and sentenced to serve 15 to 17 ½ years in prison. He owned and operated a local tax preparation business in Lebanon, Ohio. He was also a licensed securities salesperson and investment advisor. Thayer stole more than \$1.3 million from one of his clients by using her personal information to open a bank account in her name without her knowledge or consent. He then sold her investments, transferred the proceeds to the fraudulent bank account, and used the money to pay his own personal expenses.



AARON PITMAN, (top right), 26, of Morrow, Ohio, and **RYAN GOLDSCHMIDT**, (bottom right), 30, of Cincinnati, Ohio, were convicted of multiple counts of theft, securities fraud, and telecommunications fraud. They stole approximately \$796,000 from investors all over the country by soliciting them to invest in medical marijuana farms and CBD manufacturing in California. Pitman was sentenced to 60 days in the Warren County Jail, and both defendants were placed on community control by Judge Don Oda, after making restitution payments of \$300,000 before sentencing. They are ordered to pay the balance of the \$796,000 while on community control.





PAROLE WATCH

When inmates incarcerated with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction become eligible for parole, the Parole Board contacts the Prosecuting Attorney in the county where the inmate’s conviction occurred. This year, the following inmates, who were some of the worst Warren County offenders, were denied parole after the Warren County Prosecutor’s Office wrote to the Parole Board to oppose their release.

KENNETH SANDLIN, INMATE A154-534



In April 1979, Sandlin was convicted of aggravated murder, kidnapping, and three counts of rape. Sandlin and his companion, Michael Barrett, encountered Tracey Molen and her boyfriend, Arnold Davis, at a pool hall in South Lebanon. Sandlin asked Molen to drive them to a wooded area of a field known as the “Yellow Barn,” where he said a party was in progress. When they arrived, Molen realized that there was no party and began to turn her vehicle around to leave. At that time, Sandlin ordered Molen out of the car and told her to remove her pants. Sandlin and Barrett then murdered Davis. Sandlin led Molen to where Davis was lying in the weeds and said, “you must not believe he is dead,” at which point he stomped on Davis’ head and put a knife in Davis’ throat and twisted it. Sandlin then took Molen out into the field and raped her. He then directed Molen to drive to an old well where they dumped Davis’ body before Sandlin instructed Molen to drive to additional locations where he raped her two more times.

Sandlin was sentenced to life in prison for the aggravated murder and consecutive sentences of 7 to 25 years on the three counts of rape and one count of kidnapping. He was previously denied parole in 2018. In 2023, he was eligible again. The Prosecutor’s Office received over 300 community responses opposing Sandlin’s release. Sandlin was denied in 2023, and will be eligible again in June 2026.

DAVID MARSH, INMATE A181-693



In October 1984, Marsh was convicted of the murder of his two-month-old daughter, Ashley. The evidence at trial showed that Marsh willfully inflicted severe injuries to the child over a period of time. The infant suffered from multiple injuries, including blunt impacts to the head, skull fractures, multiple rib fractures in, bruising and hemorrhaging of the brain, and contusions to the face, scalp, chest, shoulder, buttocks, and leg.

Marsh, his wife, and Ashley lived with the child's maternal grandparents in Warren County. At Marsh's jury trial, maternal grandmother testified that there were occasions when Marsh would take Ashley into the bathroom and they would hear the baby screaming and crying. In the morning after such episodes, they often found bruises on the baby's face. They noticed that Ashley would cry when Marsh picked her up.

On the morning of May 22, 1984, maternal grandparents left the house. When they left, the baby was uninjured. When grandparents returned, grandfather heard Ashley crying loudly. By the time Marsh entered the house with Ashley, she had stopped crying. Shortly thereafter, Ashley stopped breathing.

Ashley was rushed to Cincinnati Children's Hospital and placed in the Intensive Care Unit. Marsh claimed the child had fallen from a counter during a diaper change. When he was confronted about the critical nature of the baby's injuries, Marsh became hostile. He admitted that he heard Ashley's ribs popping when he picked her up. When the child abuse team informed him they were making an official report, Marsh fled from the hospital.

As a result of her injuries, Ashley died the following day at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. Marsh was convicted and sentenced to 15 years to life in prison on one count of murder, and a consecutive two to five years on one count of child endangering.

This office received notice that Marsh was eligible for parole in August 2023, we wrote to the Parole Board opposing his release. The Parole Board denied his release until he becomes eligible again in June 2025.

JAMES HUNT, INMATE A171-210



Hunt was a prisoner at Lebanon Correctional Institution on August 13, 1982. At that time, he was serving a sentence for involuntary manslaughter and aggravated robbery, imposed by the Scioto County Common Pleas Court.

Hunt was involved in dealing drugs within the Institution. On the afternoon of August 13, 1982 Hunt had a conversation with another inmate, Gary Inman, concerning drug transactions. Thereafter, Hunt requested that another inmate recover a knife which had been concealed in another area of the cell block and bring it to his cell.

After obtaining the knife, Hunt used white adhesive tape to tape the handle of the knife. He told his cell mate that if anybody attempted to “walk down” on him that evening he was going to kill them.

Inman came to Hunt’s cell at approximately 7:45 that evening and a fight ensued. Hunt then stabbed Inman in the chest with the sharpened butter knife. After he was stabbed, Inman attempted to get out of the cell, but Hunt prevented him from doing so and slammed Inman’s head against the sink in the cell multiple times, while continuing to stab him. Hunt then left the cell and locked the door behind him.

Inman died as a result of a stab wound to the heart. Hunt was indicted for murder. At trial, Hunt claimed that he was acting in self-defense, but the jury ultimately returned a verdict of guilty to the lesser offense of voluntary manslaughter for which Hunt received a seven-to-twenty-five-year sentence, to be served consecutively to the sentences that he was already serving from his Scioto County convictions.

Hunt was already in prison for killing an innocent victim during the commission of a robbery. When an inmate, already convicted of a homicide, commits another homicide while in prison, his release creates a clear and present danger to the safety of the citizens of this State.

This office wrote to the Parole Board opposing Hunt’s release in April 2023. The Parole Board denied his release until he becomes eligible again in May 2026.

FRANK DUNAWAY, INMATE A273-234



On July 29, 1995, while incarcerated at Lebanon Correctional Institution, Frank Dunaway stabbed a fellow inmate four times. The victim fled from the attack and jumped from a stairwell to escape Dunaway. In addition to the stab wounds inflicted by Dunaway, the victim suffered a fractured ankle, bruising, and required hospitalization for his injuries. Following the attack, Dunaway was indicted and later found guilty of aggravated assault. Dunaway received a three-to-five-year prison term to be served consecutively to any prison sentence that he was serving as of September 18, 1996. At the time of this

offense, Dunaway was serving sentences from Cuyahoga County for involuntary manslaughter, felonious assault, and attempted rape.

This office wrote to the Parole Board in January 2023 opposing Dunaway's release. His parole was denied at this time. He is eligible again in December 2027.

RAYMOND KARL ALLEN WARREN, INMATE A308-640



In 1995, Raymond Warren was less than eighteen years of age when he was found guilty of murder and sentenced to life in prison by the Montgomery County Common Pleas Court. In 2010, while incarcerated at Warren Correctional Institution and acting in complicity with another inmate, Warren arranged to have his girlfriend visit him and attempt to smuggle high potency marijuana into the Institution. Investigators with the Ohio State Highway Patrol and Warren Correctional Institution discovered their plans, and on September 19, 2010, Warren's girlfriend was searched at the time of her visit. She handed over

three latex balloons filled with approximately 4 ½ grams of marijuana. Warren pled guilty to attempted illegal conveyance, a felony of the fourth degree. He was sentenced to six months in prison to run consecutive to his sentence for his murder conviction.

In March 2023, this office wrote to the Parole Board to oppose Warren's release, which was denied. Warren will again be eligible for parole in November 2027.

MICHAEL PARDON, INMATE A401-386



In March of 2000, Pardon was employed at an auto parts factory located in Franklin Township, where his wife was also employed. On March 24th, Pardon learned that his wife was having an affair with a coworker. After hearing this news, Pardon drove to his home, retrieved a loaded handgun, and returned to the factory. Upon arriving at the factory, Pardon fired eight shots. One struck and killed his wife; another struck and injured a coworker; and another shot was aimed at the coworker alleged to be having the affair, but missed. Immediately after the incident, Pardon

attempted to flee, but he was detained by another coworker until the police arrived.

Pardon pled guilty to one count of murder and two counts of attempted murder, all with firearm specifications. He was sentenced to 24 years to life in prison. In December 2023, Pardon was denied parole. He is next eligible in October 2030.

DENNIS EUGENE MCFADDEN, INMATE A162-638



On January 21, 1981 the victim arrived at a Holiday Inn located in Mason, Ohio on a business trip. He went to retrieve something from the car. Less than ten minutes later, hotel employees found the victim lying in the parking lot, with a gunshot wound to his head. The door to his car was open and the car had been broken into. Less than an hour later, McFadden was arrested in Northern Kentucky. Upon his arrest, police officers found airline tickets made out to the victim, a .22 caliber revolver, a screwdriver, and a bent coat hanger, which

were consistent with the items used to break into the victim's car. On autopsy, it was discovered that the victim died as a result of a single gunshot wound from a .22 caliber weapon, consistent with the weapon found on McFadden.

Beginning almost from age 19, McFadden had numerous criminal offenses. In 1974, he was sent to prison for the first time, and he was paroled in 1975. He violated parole and was returned to prison in 1979. During the brief period while he was out of prison, he was involved in additional criminal offenses, mostly involving drugs and theft. He was again released from prison in August of 1980, and he committed the above-described offense in January of 1981. Following a trial, McFadden was convicted of aggravated murder and aggravated robbery. He was sentenced to Life in prison for the aggravated murder charge and an additional term of five to 25 years for aggravated robbery, to be served consecutively.

In November 2023, McFadden was denied parole. He will be eligible again in September 2025.

JUVENILE DIVISION

(BELOW) ASSISTANT PROSECUTOR JOHN RYE, ALONG WITH OTHER NEW ASSISTANT PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS FROM THE OFFICE, ATTENDED THE OHIO PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S ASSOCIATION NEW PROSECUTOR BOOT CAMP IN AUGUST 2023



The delinquency cases handled by the Juvenile Division range from truancy and traffic to school threats to rape and other violent felonies. The goal in these cases is to protect Warren County from juvenile delinquency, while at the same time preventing juvenile offenders from becoming the next generation of defendants in the adult criminal system.

The Juvenile Division handled a number of notable cases in 2023.

D.R., AGE 15, was committed to a secure facility to complete a residential treatment program after he was adjudicated a delinquent child for the offense of making a terroristic threat, a felony of the third degree. The juvenile posted plans to carry out mass shootings at synagogues, grocery stores, schools, and water parks. He accompanied these threats with photographs of himself holding an AK47-style rifle, face cover, and tactical vest. The Federal Bureau of Investigation's Joint Terrorism Task Force initiated the investigation and transferred the case to Warren County Sheriff's Office, who filed charges.

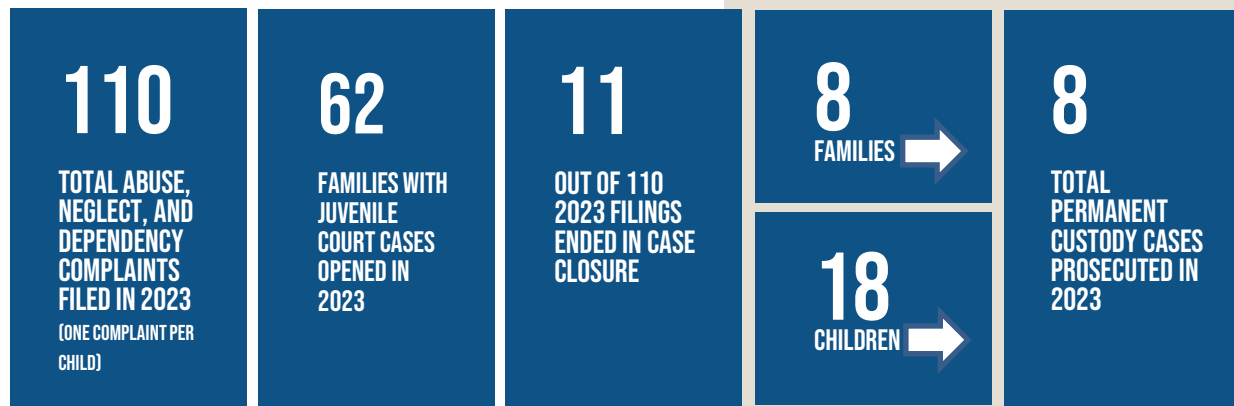
J.F., AGE 14, was sentenced to ten days in the Warren County Juvenile Detention Center and a suspended commitment to the Ohio Department of Youth Services. He was also ordered to complete the First Step portion of the Mary Haven program. J.F. was adjudicated a delinquent child for the offense of rape by force, and the offense of rape of a substantially impaired victim. J.F. was hanging out with his sister and her friends during a sleepover at their home, during which the juveniles were drinking alcohol. After the victim, a friend of J.F.'s sister, was asleep, J.F. sexually assaulted her.

A.D., AGE 17, was committed to a secure facility with the Ohio Department of Youth Services (ODYS) after entering an admission to one count of conspiracy to commit aggravated murder, a felony of the first degree, and one count of domestic violence, a misdemeanor of the first degree. The juvenile shoved and wrestled the victim, his guardian, during an altercation over his cell phone. In the weeks that followed this incident, the juvenile made payments to a third party with the intention of having that party murder the victim. Law enforcement was able to take custody of the juvenile and detain him in a secured facility prior to any of these plans being carried out.

A.B., AGE 17, a juvenile from Hamilton County, was found guilty after a trial of one count of felonious assault, a felony of the first degree, one count of failure to comply, a felony of the third degree, one count of obstructing official business, a felony of the fifth degree, and one count of criminal damaging, a misdemeanor of the second degree. Police responded to reports of an after hours party that involved concerns of juveniles, alcohol, and weapons. The juvenile defied orders of the Warren County Sheriff's deputies by fleeing an active investigation in his vehicle at high speeds. While fleeing, the juvenile observed Sergeant Thomas Naumovski of the Sheriff's Office standing in the middle of the street and proceeded towards him at a high speed. Sgt. Naumovski jumped out of the pathway of the vehicle to avoid an impact. The juvenile continued to flee deputies at speeds exceeding 100 miles per hour. Because the juvenile is a resident of Hamilton County, the case was transferred there for disposition.

ABUSE, NEGLECT, AND DEPENDENCY CASES

The Juvenile Division is also responsible for handling child protection cases on behalf of Warren County Children Services. These cases involve situations where children must be removed from their parents because of abuse, neglect, or dependency, while WCCS works with the parents to reunify the child and parent in a safer environment from which the child was removed.



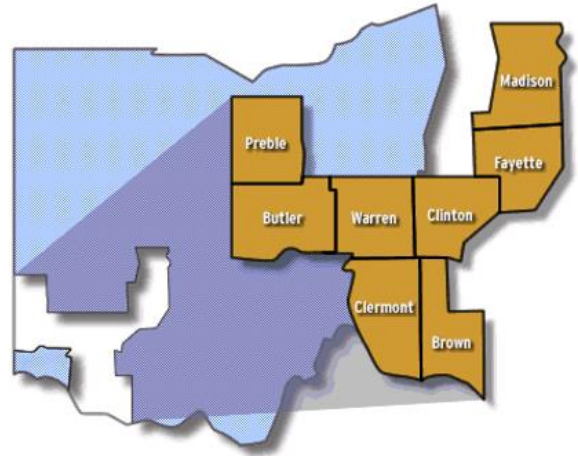
(BELOW) IN APRIL, MEMBERS OF THE OFFICE DRESSED IN BLUE FOR OHIO WEARS BLUE WEEK TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION.



APPEALS

In Warren County, most criminal appeals are heard by the Twelfth District Court of Appeals, which also hears appeals from the trial courts in Brown, Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Fayette, Madison, and Preble counties.

The Supreme Court of Ohio hears cases appealed from the Twelfth District Court of Appeals, and death penalty cases are appealed directly to the Supreme Court of Ohio.



TWELFTH DISTRICT COURT OF APPEALS

THE WARREN COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE ARGUED 64 OF THE 117 TOTAL APPEALS FILED AT THE TWELFTH DISTRICT COURT OF APPEALS IN 2023

THE WARREN COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE HANDLED 5 APPEALS TO THE OHIO SUPREME COURT IN 2023

THE SUPREME COURT OF OHIO



STATE OF OHIO V. JOHN HOPKINS

While acting as a gym teacher at an elementary school in Springboro, Hopkins systematically singled out the female children in his classes for the purpose of inappropriately touching them. After a jury trial, he was convicted of 34 counts of gross sexual imposition. He appealed his conviction and sentence to the Twelfth District Court of Appeals but voluntarily dismissed his appeal in 2020. In 2023, he asked the Court of Appeals to reopen his appeal. The Court of Appeals denied his request.

STATE OF OHIO V. EDWARD HALBERT

See page 4 for a summary of facts that led to Halbert's conviction by a Warren County jury. Halbert appealed his conviction and sentence to the Twelfth District Court of Appeals. On appeal, he argued that he was not guilty of murder and felonious assault because his victim, his cellmate, asked him to help him fake a suicide to obtain a transfer to another facility. According to Halbert, he did not intend to cause his cellmate's death but, rather, only to strangle him until he passed out and then call for medical assistance. However, Halbert's conduct went far beyond strangling him until the point of passing out. He then placed a sheet over his cellmate's body and waited until the corrections officers did their normal rounds. He did not call for help. The Court of Appeals affirmed his conviction, but remanded the case to the common pleas judge for re-sentencing.

STATE OF OHIO V. JOEL DRAIN NKA VICTORIA DRAIN

In 2019, while an inmate at Warren Correctional Institution serving a life sentence for a prior conviction for aggravated murder, Drain lured another inmate into her* prison cell and brutally beat, strangled, kicked, and stomped him to death. Drain pled no contest to two counts of aggravated murder, death penalty specifications, and possession of a deadly weapon while under detention. The three-judge panel accepted her pleas, found her guilty, and sentenced her to death. Her convictions and death sentence were affirmed on appeal. Drain also filed a petition for post-conviction relief and a petition to void her sentence due to serious mental illness in 2021. However, the common pleas judge dismissed her petitions in 2023.

*During the pendency of the appeal, Drain changed her first name to Victoria.

STATE OF OHIO V. AUSTIN MYERS

In January 2014, Myers and his co-defendant, Timothy Mosley, planned and then carried out their plan to murder Myers' childhood friend. Myers was convicted of aggravated murder, with death penalty specifications, kidnapping, aggravated burglary, aggravated robbery, grand theft of a firearm, safecracking, tampering with evidence, and abuse of a corpse, and he was sentenced to death. His convictions and death sentence were affirmed by the Supreme Court of Ohio in 2018. Myers also challenged his convictions and death sentence in a petition for post-conviction relief. When the common pleas court judge dismissed the petition in 2019, Myers appealed the decision to the Twelfth District Court of Appeals. The Court of Appeals upheld the judge's dismissal of the majority of Myers' post-conviction claims in 2021. The Court of Appeals remanded three of Myers' post-conviction claims to the common pleas court for an evidentiary hearing. To date, that hearing has not been held due to litigation of Myers' pre-hearing motions. In preparation for the hearing, Myers' counsel filed a motion to authorize funding for three defense experts and a defense investigator at state expense. The common pleas judge granted funding for two defense experts, but denied Myers' request for funding for the third expert and an investigator as being unreasonable. The post-conviction proceedings are paused while the Supreme Court of Ohio decides his appeal of the judge's decision on funding for experts.

STATE OF OHIO V. TERRY FROMAN

Froman was convicted of aggravated murder and kidnapping and sentenced to death for his fatal shooting of his ex-girlfriend, Kimberly Thomas, and her 17-year-old son, Eli Mohny. The Supreme Court of Ohio affirmed his convictions and death sentence in 2020. Froman also attacked his convictions and death sentence in a petition for post-conviction relief filed in the common pleas court. When the common pleas judge dismissed the petition in 2020, Froman appealed the decision to the Twelfth District Court of Appeals. The Court of Appeals upheld the dismissal of the petition in 2022. Froman was unsuccessful in getting the Supreme Court of Ohio to consider his appeal from that decision. In 2023, the United States Supreme Court also denied his request to appeal. Froman has also filed a petition for habeas corpus, which is pending in federal district court.

CIVIL DIVISION

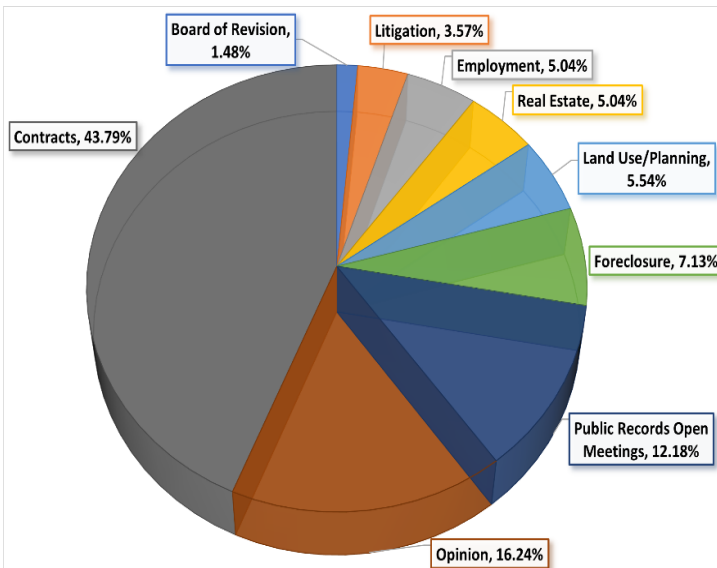
In 2023, the Civil Division handled over 814 separate civil matters. The Civil Division represents roughly 60 different clients, including county offices, commissions, and boards. Some of these clients are listed to the right, along with the apportioned percentage of the matters handled by the Civil Division on behalf of those clients this year.

As seen below, the largest volume of this work was related to contracts, providing written legal opinions, and public records law. However, volume of work does not directly correlate to time, and this year, with an election and an uptick in litigation and employment matters, the Civil Division devoted a bulk of its time to these topics.

STATUTORY CLIENTS

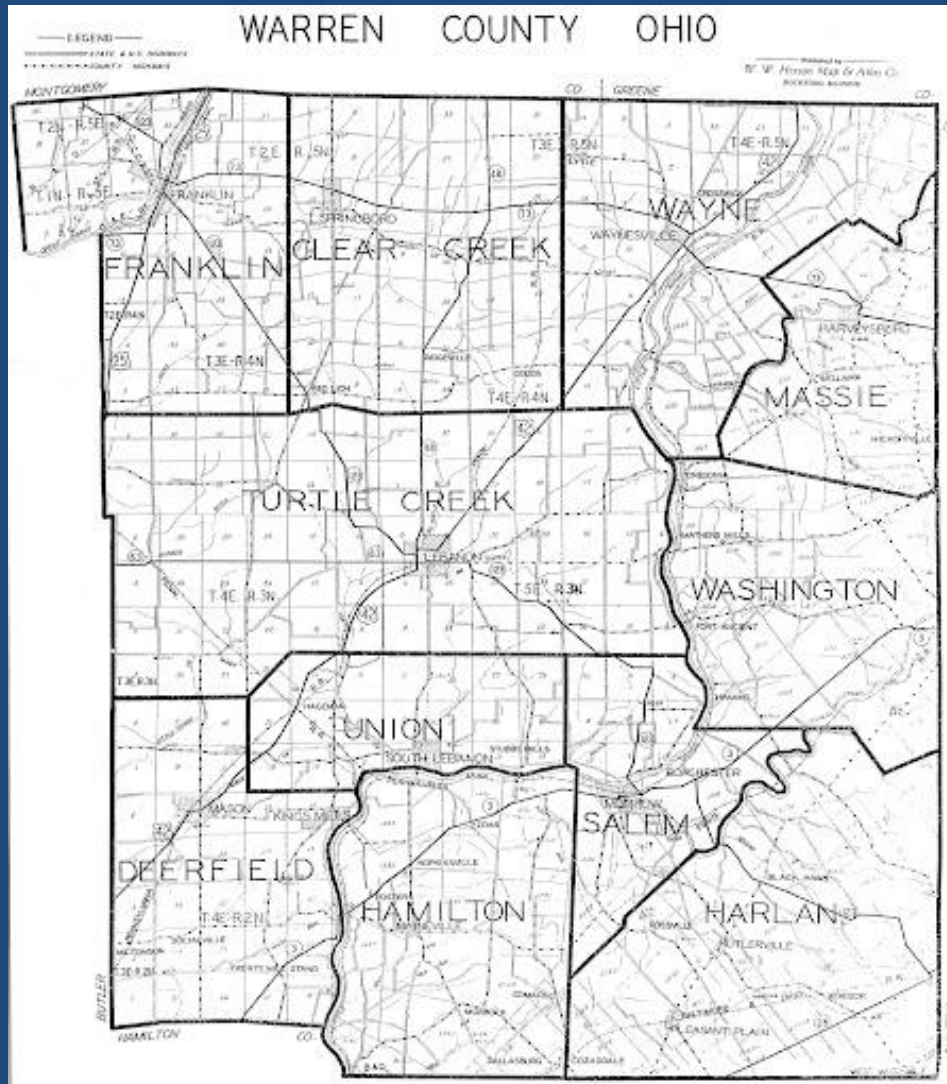
- Board of Developmental Disabilities (13%)
- Treasurer (13%)
- Board of County Commissioners (6%)
- Board of Health of the Warren County Combined Health District (6%)
- Engineer (6%)
- Telecommunications (5%)
- Children Services (4%)
- Prosecutor (4%)
- Sheriff (3%)

- 50 other statutory clients (40%):
 - Auditor
 - Recorder
 - Clerk of Courts
 - Common Pleas Court Judges
 - County Court Judges
 - Board of Elections
 - Board of Revision
 - Harlan Township
 - Franklin Township
 - Massie Township
 - Salem Township
 - Turtlecreek Township
 - Union Township
 - Washington Township
 - Wayne Township
 - Public Libraries
 - Veteran's Services Board
 - Mary Haven Youth Center
 - Soil and Water Conservation District
 - Park Board
 - Airport Authority Board
 - Data Board
 - Human Services
 - Water and Sewer Department
 - Dispatch/ Emergency Services
 - Regional Planning Commission
 - Building & Zoning Department
 - Board of Zoning Appeals
 - Facilities
 - Garage
 - Drug Task Force



DELINQUENT PROPERTY TAX COLLECTION

The Warren County Prosecutor's Office collected \$13.985 million dollars in delinquent real estate and manufactured home taxes. This is the largest collection in the last 21 years and represents a 39 percent increase over the previous year. The delinquency rate for Warren County is at 2.4 percent, which is a relatively low rate among other counties in the State.



VICTIM WITNESS SERVICES DIVISION

OVER 2,200 VICTIMS SERVED IN 2023

SIX VICTIM ADVOCATES • SIX WARREN COUNTY COURTS

The mission of the Victim Witness Services Division is to serve victims with compassion, while promoting the judicial process. Warren County Common Pleas Court, Warren County Court, Warren County Juvenile Court, Lebanon Municipal Court, Franklin Municipal Court, and Mason Municipal Court each have a Victim Coordinator assigned to the scheduled docket who serves as a liaison between a victim and the prosecutor. Criminal justice support and services were also made available to physically and sexually assaulted children at the Child Advocacy Center of Warren County.

MONITORING

The Victim Witness Services Division also provides victim information and notifications through VINE (Victim Information and Notification Everyday) and works closely with Pretrial Services, Community Corrections, the Adult Probation Department, and the Ohio Parole Board regarding offender supervision status and restrictions.

MARSY'S LAW

2023 was an important year for victims of crime with the implementation of House Bill 343 which contains new requirements for law enforcement agencies and courts regarding victim notification, maintenance and confidentiality of victim information, and restitution awards.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Every August, the Warren County Prosecutor's Office participates in National Night Out events held throughout Warren County. National Night Out is a national community-building campaign that promotes police and community partnerships to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. Millions of communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, and military bases worldwide participate on the first Tuesday of August every year. This year, five communities in Warren County held National Night Out events, and representatives from the Prosecutor's Office participated in each one.

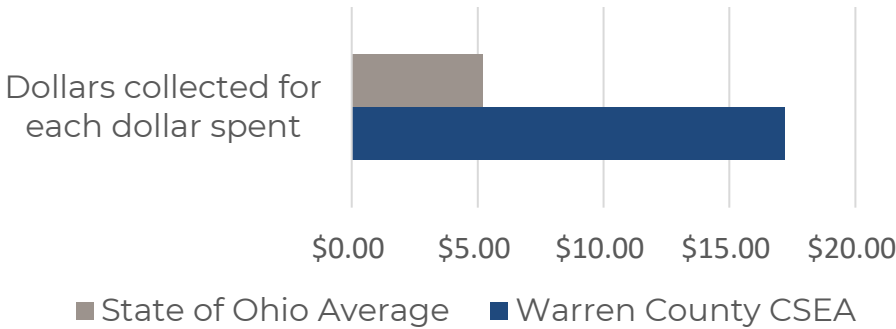
CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: CLEARCREEK TOWNSHIP, HAMILTON TOWNSHIP, CITY OF LEBANON, CITY OF FRANKLIN, CITY OF CARLISLE



CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

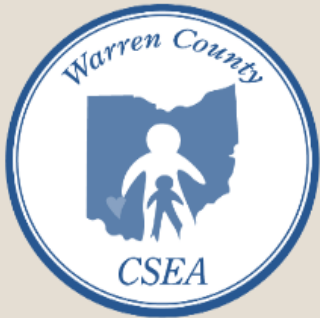
In 2023, the CSEA managed approximately 11,825 cases, providing the full range of child support services, including establishment of paternity and support orders; collection and enforcement of support orders; location of parents; and modification and termination of support orders. The agency collected more than \$36.4 million dollars, including more than \$13.7 million to recoup public assistance monies.

Warren County CSEA continued to be recognized for outstanding performance. The agency won awards for Best Performance in Support Order Establishment; Best Performance in Collections on Current Support; and Best Performance in Total Disbursement. Of note, the CSEA collected approximately \$17.21 per every dollar spent. That is more than triple the state average of \$5.22 per dollar spent. Warren County CSEA is a leader in cost effectiveness as compared to other CSEAs. Further, only 7.6% of the agency’s cases had an unlocatable child support obligor as compared to the state average of 15%.



**11,825 ACTIVE
WARREN COUNTY
CHILD SUPPORT
CASES**

**\$36.4 MILLION
COLLECTED
IN 2023**



ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

Warren County CSEA uses multiple enforcement techniques to ensure child support payments are received timely for the families that depend on them. In 2023, the agency collected over \$125,000 from obligors that had been indicted for felony non-support. That included one obligor paying approximately \$10,000 while on Community Control. To encourage obligors at risk of being indicted for a felony started on making their payments, Warren County CSEA has a program called Squared Away. In 2023, over \$26,000 was collected from obligors in the program. Several enforcement highlights from 2023 are included to the right.

- A Warren County obligor paid over \$40,000 to have his passport reinstated
- \$20,000 was intercepted from an obligor's lump sum payment
- More than \$21,000 was taken from an obligor's bank account
- Approximately \$15,000 was taken from jail commissary funds of incarcerated obligors

(RIGHT)
IN AUGUST,
CSEA
EMPLOYEES
WORE GREEN
IN SUPPORT
OF CHILD
SUPPORT
AWARENESS
MONTH



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

In 2023, members of the Prosecutor’s Office continued to participate in community outreach activities. In addition to office-wide events, many members of the Prosecutor’s Office volunteer in their private capacities, contributing talents ranging from legal skills, to leadership and athletic abilities to serve their personal and professional communities. Just some of those contributions are featured here.



Top left to right: Assistant Prosecutor **Jennifer Nicholson** coaches youth soccer; Assistant Prosecutor **Travis Vieux** leads Boy Scout Troop 750 in Mason, and was named the 2023 Scoutmaster of the Year for the Fort Ancient District; Assistant Prosecutor **Kevin Hardman** serves as the Mayor of the City of Sharonville; Assistant Prosecutor **Katie Horvath** leads Kings Service Unit Girl Scout Troop 4679; Assistant Prosecutor **John Arnold** serves on the Veteran’s Memorial Committee and the Law and Ordinance Committee for the City of Loveland; **Middle left to right:** Assistant Prosecutor **John Rye** participated in a “fly along” with the Ohio State Highway Patrol; First Assistant Prosecutor **Steve Knippen** serves on the Warren County Bar Association Character and Fitness Interview Committee and coaches youth basketball; Assistant Prosecutor **Derek Faulkner** serves as an advisor to the Kings High School Mock Trial Team; Victim Witness Coordinator **Nicky Hawkins** is an officer for Springdale Youth Boosters and volunteers for numerous events for Princeton Community Schools, and serves as a facilitator for Stewards of Children, training local organizations, schools, and parent groups about how to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse; Director of Technology **Jaclyn Zaczek** dressed up as the Easter Bunny for her neighborhood’s easter egg hunt; **Bottom left to right:** Members of the Prosecutor’s Office participated in the Justin Back Be a Hero 5K walk/run event in memory of Justin Back, who was brutally murdered in 2014; Assistant Prosecutor **Chris Watkins** serves in a number of volunteer roles through his church, as well as the charitable organizations Hope Worldwide and People Working Cooperatively.

OUTSTANDING TEAM MEMBER AWARD

SIDNEY LOGSDON

Sidney Logsdon received the “Outstanding Team Member Award” in 2023. The award is based on nominations from members of the Warren County Prosecutor’s Office, and is given to the employee who exhibits outstanding commitment to their colleagues while carrying out the ideals and principles of the Prosecutor’s Office. Sidney has worked as a Legal Assistant for the Prosecutor’s Office since 2022. Sidney’s co-workers included some of the following comments about her in their nominations:

“Even though she hasn’t been here for years and years, she picks things up quickly and has continuously taken on more responsibility or projects. I am happy to work beside her and believe that she is an asset to the office..”

“She has been one of the legal assistants that has significantly reduced the amount of time that it takes for a case to move from the case intake list to being assigned to an attorney/investigator.”

“Sidney is the newest and youngest legal assistant in the Office, however, when she joined our team, she did not hesitate to jump right in and get to work.”



RETIREMENTS

TIM SHAFFNER

Tim Shaffner retired in March 2023 after 12 years of service as an investigator with the Warren County Prosecutor's Office, and following 25 years of distinguished service as a special agent for the United States Drug Enforcement Agency, four years as a police officer for the Jefferson County, Kentucky Police Department, and seven years of service to his country in the United States Marine Corps, ultimately reaching the rank of Captain. Shaffner was thanked for his 48 years of service to his country, state, and county.



AMY BREEZE

Amy Breeze retired in November 2023 after more than 31 years of service to the Warren County Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA). She began her service with the CSEA in August 1992, and held many positions within the agency, including as an investigator in intake, enforcement, and terminations. Breeze spent her last 18 years in a supervisory role.



THANK YOU

FOR ALLOWING US TO SERVE YOU

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