



Warren County Prosecutor's Office



# 2016 ANNUAL REPORT



**DAVID P. FORNSHELL**

Prosecuting Attorney  
Warren County, Ohio



# **Fornshell Testifies Before House Judiciary Committee**

On April 28, 2015, Warren County Prosecutor David P. Fornshell testified before the Ohio House of Representatives Judiciary Committee in support of House Bill 57, known as "Justin's Law." Fornshell testified at the request of bill sponsor Representative Ron Maag and Mark and Sandy Cates, the parents of Justin Back, the 18 year old Wayne Township resident that was murdered in January 2014 by Austin Gregory Myers and Timothy Edward Mosley.

Fornshell testified as to two aspects of H.B. 57. The first would increase the range of definite sentences for aggravated murder from the current minimum of 20 years to life to a new minimum of 25 years to life, and increase the current maximum definite sentence of 30 years to life to a range of definite sentences including 35, 45, and 55 years to life.

The second aspect Fornshell addressed was making "prior calculation and design," or premeditated aggravated murder, a stand-alone capital specification, making it a death eligible offense.

To view Fornshell's remarks to the House Judiciary Committee, go to:

[http://www.co.warren.oh.us/prosecutor/community/press/2015/04292015\\_Fornshell\\_Testifies\\_Before\\_House\\_Judiciary\\_Committee.pdf](http://www.co.warren.oh.us/prosecutor/community/press/2015/04292015_Fornshell_Testifies_Before_House_Judiciary_Committee.pdf)

## **Financial Report**

As stewards of the taxpayers' money, and particularly in these economic times, it is critical that all levels of government provide better service on increasingly fewer tax dollars.

One of the primary missions of the Warren County Prosecutor's Office is to provide excellent and efficient service to the citizens of Warren County and our governmental clients. Since assuming office at the beginning of 2011, Warren County Prosecutor David Fornshell has emphasized his commitment to fiscal responsibility in managing the Prosecutor's Office's budget. Under the 2015 General Fund budget, the Prosecutor's Office expended \$2,531,078.71 and "returned" to the Warren County Auditor's Office \$110,100.29 in unused funds.

Budget Year	Expenditures
2010	\$2,641,179.01
2011	\$2,611,980.80
2012	\$2,513,838.11
2013	\$2,460,881.06
2014	\$2,614,216.63*
2015	\$2,531,078.71

\*This includes \$115,337.39 in expenditures associated with furnishing our new offices in the Warren County Justice Drive Office Building.

# **Community Involvement**

## **Ohio Wears Blue**

Wear Blue is a statewide awareness campaign that takes place on the second Wednesday of every April, Child Abuse Prevention Month. Ohioans are encouraged to wear blue to work, to school, to a community event – to show support for preventing child abuse and neglect. Warren County Prosecutor’s Office employees showed their support by wearing blue on April 8 (pictured below).



## **Victim Awareness Event**

The Warren County Prosecutor’s Office, along with other local county agencies, held its annual event on May 1, 2015, to help raise awareness of National Crime Victims’ Rights Week. Each year, the Office for Victims of Crime leads communities throughout the country in their annual observances of National Crime Victims’ Rights Week (NCVRW) by promoting victims’ rights and honoring crime victims and those who advocate on their behalf. This year’s theme was “Stop Blaming. Start Believing.” The Warren County event included Keynote Speaker Mike Pistorino, a motivational speaker using his voice as a survivor of childhood sexual abuse to change the world. Also in attendance was Agent Brandon Hoyt from the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation who presented on what our community needs to know about Teen Cyber Safety and “Sextortion.”



**Pictured from left: Brandon Hoyt, Prosecutor Fornshell,  
and Mike Pistorino**

## **Warren County Sheriff's Office Detectives Receive Errol D. Butt Award**

Warren County Sheriff's Office Detectives Paul Barger and Michael Wyatt were presented with the 2015 Errol D. Butt Award for their investigation into the January 2014 murder of a Wayne Township man. Barger and Wyatt were the lead detectives that investigated Austin Gregory Myers and Timothy Edward Mosley for the murder of 18 year old Justin Back. Over the course of two days, Myers and Mosley planned the robbery and murder of Back at his home on Corwin Road. Initially intending on poisoning Back, Myers and Mosley ultimately strangled and stabbed Back to death as he pleaded with them to save his life. Myers and Mosley then loaded Back's body into the trunk of their car and drove around with it for several hours before dumping it in Preble County. Before leaving the area, Myers fired two shots into Back's lifeless body using a gun he had stolen from Back's residence.

In October 2014, a unanimous jury convicted Myers of aggravated murder and several other charges. At the sentencing phase, the jury recommended a sentence of death, which Warren County Court of Common Pleas Judge Donald Oda imposed. As part of a plea agreement, Mosley pled guilty to aggravated murder and several other charges in return for testifying against Myers and receiving a sentence of life without the possibility of parole.

Warren County Prosecutor David P. Fornshell presented the award to Barger and Wyatt (pictured below). "Detective Barger's and Detective Wyatt's extraordinary professional competence led to the detention and ultimate arrests of Myers and Mosley literally just minutes after they had returned home from committing this horrific crime," said Fornshell. "Arguably, numerous Sheriff's Office personnel that investigated this case could have rightfully received this award. However, Detectives Barger and Wyatt spent countless hours from the moments after Justin was murdered through the end of the trial to achieve justice on behalf of Justin Back. Their selfless service reflects greatly upon themselves, their families, and the entire Warren County Sheriff's Office," said Fornshell.

The Errol D. Butt Award is named after the long-time officer and former Prosecutor's Office Chief Investigator who succumbed to cancer in 2004. The award is given annually to the law enforcement officer or firefighter who best exemplifies the late officer's service to the local community.



Detective Paul Barger (left) and Detective Michael Wyatt (right) receive the 2015 Errol D. Butt Award from Warren County Prosecutor David Fornshell (center)

## National Night Out

Our office once again participated in National Night Out events held in Clearcreek Township and Lebanon, Ohio. The introduction of National Night Out in 1984 began an effort to promote involvement in crime prevention activities, police-community partnerships, neighborhood camaraderie and send a message to criminals that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. This event is held annually on the first Tuesday in August. National Night Out now involves over 38 million people and over 16,500 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities, and military bases worldwide.



Clearcreek Township



Lebanon

## Anti-Theft Training for Community Organizations

Warren County has been exposed to several cases involving misappropriation of funds collected for the benefit of non-profit, church, school, charitable, or other community organizations. The unfortunate consequence of these cases is that thousands of dollars raised by community organizations are not being used for their intended purpose. As a result, the Warren County Prosecutor and the Warren County Police Chiefs Association co-sponsored a community training that provided information concerning money handling systems, anti-theft procedures, and internal controls for the benefit of community organizations. The training is designed for board members, officials, directors, and volunteers associated with non-profit, church, school, charitable, or other community organizations. Future training opportunities will be offered.



## 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Blue Ribbon Nite Gala

The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Blue Ribbon Nite Gala to benefit the Child Advocacy Center of Warren County was held at the Manor House in Mason, Ohio, on November 6, 2015. This event provides a significant portion of the annual operating budget for the CAC. The theme of this year's event was "Dancing for the Blue Ribbon" and featured a Dancing with the Stars style competition featuring local business and community leaders. Several Prosecutor's Office employees assisted in the planning and attended the event.



# Criminal Division

In 2015, the Criminal Division continued its aggressive prosecution of violators of the laws of the State of Ohio, handling 1,007 felony cases and 5,539 misdemeanor cases. These cases included violent felonies, thefts, sexual assaults, domestic violence, driving under the influence, traffic offenses, and watercraft and fish and wild life violations. The prosecutors of the Criminal Division represent the State of Ohio in Common Pleas Court and Warren County Court. Additionally, assistant prosecutors handled more than 30 appeals filed with the 12<sup>th</sup> District Court of Appeals and the Ohio Supreme Court.

2015 also saw the creation of two new specialized dockets in Warren County Court dealing with misdemeanor offenses. These dockets were implemented by Judge Fischer and Judge Loxley under guidance from the Ohio Supreme Court. The “Success Docket” is oriented toward offenders with mental health issues. The “Veterans Court” is for veterans of the armed forces. Both dockets seek to bring a coordinated approach toward benefits, intensive supervision, additional resources, counseling, and other programs designed to reduce recidivism.

Some of the significant criminal cases prosecuted in 2015 are listed below:

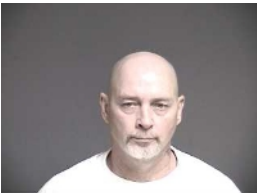
## Violent Crimes



Larry E. Tumbleson



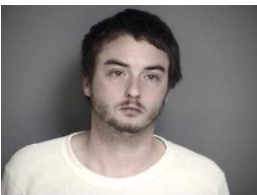
Thomas L. Fields



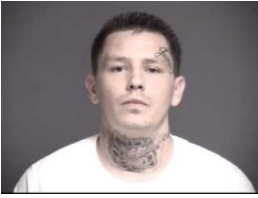
Clyde R. Fields

**Larry E. Tumbleson**, 42, **Thomas L. Fields**, 28, and **Clyde R. Fields**, 51, were convicted and sentenced to prison for their roles in a December 2014 home invasion robbery of two elderly victims in Morrow, Ohio. Tumbleson held the victims at gunpoint, and both Tumbleson and Thomas Fields bound the victims with duct tape. They stole the victims’ prescription medications along with money, jewelry, and a computer. Tumbleson pled guilty to two counts of aggravated robbery with a firearm specification and was sentenced to 13 years in prison. Thomas Fields pled guilty to aggravated robbery and kidnapping and was sentenced to nine years in prison.

Clyde Fields, father of Thomas Fields, who did not enter the residence but accompanied Tumbleson and Thomas Fields to the elderly couple’s residence, pled guilty to aggravated robbery and was sentenced to three years in prison.



**Johnathan Melton**, 24, of Lebanon, Ohio, pled guilty to aggravated robbery and was sentenced to four years in prison. On November 20, 2014, Melton entered the A-1 Carry Out in Lebanon and brandished a knife. He demanded bath salts from the cashier. When the cashier replied that they did not sell bath salts, Melton grabbed a carton of cigarettes and fled the store. Melton was arrested by Lebanon Police later that week and was found in possession of heroin.



**Zachariah Purcell**, 26, of Morristown, Tennessee, pled guilty to one count of aggravated assault and one count of assault for a fight he instigated at the VFW lodge in Mason. On January 24, 2015, Purcell entered the Mason VFW. When asked to show his membership card, Purcell stated he could not find it. At this point, members of the lodge asked him to leave. Purcell refused and subsequently assaulted two members, striking one with a pool stick and punching another. He fled out the back door, but was tracked by a police K-9 unit and was subsequently located. Purcell was sentenced to three years community control, which includes successful completion of an inpatient drug treatment program. Upon release, Purcell is to be on house arrest for 90 days, pay restitution to one victim for medical bills, and complete a mental health assessment.



In May 2013, **Hager Church**, 31, while serving a prison sentence at the Warren Correctional Institution for murder and felonious assault, assaulted another inmate with a deadly weapon, causing serious physical harm. He was convicted of felonious assault and sentenced to eight years to run consecutively to his current sentence. In May 2015, Church assaulted another inmate at WCI with a deadly weapon, causing serious physical harm. He restrained the victim prior to the assault. Church was convicted of felonious assault, possessing a deadly weapon while under detention, and kidnapping. He was sentenced to a mandatory 32 years in prison to run consecutively to his current sentence.



**Robert Traylor**, 26, of Lebanon, Ohio, was charged with felonious assault and child endangering as the result of severely abusing his 13 day old child. The baby suffered a skull fracture, rib fractures, severe brain injuries, as well as a nose injury. Following a jury trial, Traylor was found guilty on both counts and sentenced to the maximum of eight years in prison.



In May 2015, **Rodney Armstrong**, 36, of Dayton, Ohio, became upset with the mother of his child. He grabbed her by the throat and slammed her head against a kitchen cabinet. Armstrong has eight prior domestic violence convictions and numerous other felony and misdemeanor offenses. He pled guilty to domestic violence and was sentenced to 18 months in prison.

## Sex Offenses



**Paul Byrd**, 64, of Franklin, Ohio, pled guilty to one count of sexual battery and one count of gross sexual imposition involving a child under the age of 13. He was sentenced to 12 years in prison and designated a Tier III sexual offender, requiring him to register for life. Byrd had sexual contact with the victim beginning in December 2013. Three days after the Franklin Police Department started their investigation, they were called to a wooded area behind Franklin High School where Byrd was found laying on the ground. He was apprehended without incident and had a .380 handgun in his possession.



**Timothy Schmurr**, 68, was convicted in Clermont County for pandering obscenity involving minors in 2009. In 2014, Hamilton Township Police responded to his residence at the request of Ohio parole officers. During a routine parole check at his residence, they found that Schmurr had been running an advertisement in a local newspaper offering free babysitting to parents. Subsequent investigation of the residence revealed numerous VHS tapes and photographs involving nude images of children and other child pornography. Schmurr was convicted of two counts of illegal use of a minor in nudity-oriented material and sentenced to 34 months in prison. He was also designated a Tier III sexual offender, requiring him to register for life.



The Springboro Police Department investigated **Michael Slade Randolph**, 47, of Franklin, Ohio, after receiving information that he was attempting to videotape or photograph a person tanning at the Palm Beach Tanning Salon in Springboro. Investigation by law enforcement indicated that he had videotaped or photographed two separate individuals while they tanned. Further investigation found that he was in possession of and was pandering sexually-oriented material depicting numerous images of minors engaged in sexual activity. Randolph was sentenced to 18 months in prison and designated a Tier II sexual offender, requiring him to register for 25 years.

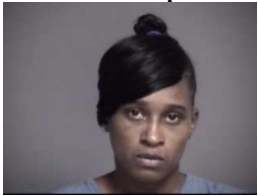


**Quirino Sanchez**, 32, of Mason, Ohio, engaged in sexual activities with a minor less than 13 years of age. Sanchez pled guilty to one count sexual battery and one count gross sexual imposition and was sentenced to 5-1/2 years in prison. He was designated a Tier III sexual offender, requiring him to register for life. It is anticipated Sanchez will be deported back to Mexico after he serves his prison sentence.

## Drug Offenses

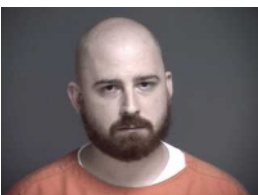


**Ernest Hampton**



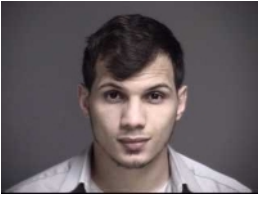
**Angela Cannon**

In March 2015, as a result of an ongoing investigation, the Warren County Drug Task Force executed a search warrant at the home of **Ernest Hampton**, 35, and **Angela Cannon**, 35, in Maineville, Ohio. They found large amounts of heroin and cocaine in baggies, as well as a digital scale and firearms at the residence. Hampton has at least three prior felony drug convictions. Hampton was found guilty of possession of cocaine and possession of heroin and sentenced to five years in prison. Cannon pled guilty to possession of cocaine, possession of heroin, and permitting drug abuse and was sentenced to three years community control.



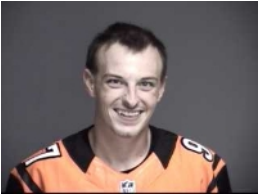
**James Morger**, 27, of Mason, Ohio, was convicted of possession of marijuana, attempted illegal manufacture of drugs, and child endangering. While executing a search warrant to investigate charges of dissemination indecent material, the Clearcreek Township Police Department discovered that Morger was manufacturing hash oil from marijuana. Morger was sentenced to a total of three years in prison.



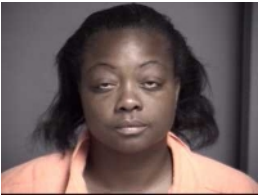


**Jacob Alhashimi**, 24, of Centerville, Ohio, was indicted for several counts of trafficking in Ecstasy and trafficking in cocaine. Following a trial, he was convicted of six counts of trafficking in drugs and sentenced to a total of eight years in prison.

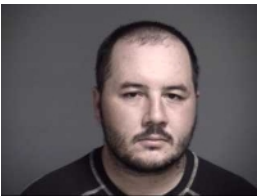
### Other Notable Crimes



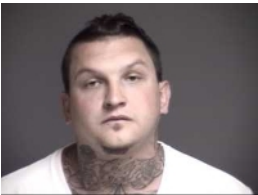
**Jason Pittman**, 24, of Lebanon, Ohio, pled guilty to theft and was sentenced to three years community control, which included restitution to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. Pittman applied for unemployment benefits in April 2012 after being laid off by Premier Energy Services and began receiving unemployment compensation benefits. Pittman returned to work at Premier Energy Services in September 2013, but continued to claim unemployment benefits. Each week, he falsely certified that he was not working. While employed, Pittman received \$6,400 in benefits as the result of his fraudulent claims.



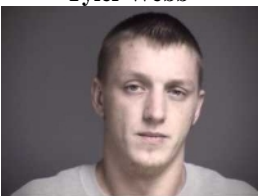
**Kennyetta Louis**, 34, of Cincinnati, Ohio, pled guilty to identity fraud and aggravated theft. Louis formerly worked as a temporary employee for Luxottica Retail as Manager of Corporate Credit Division. While in this capacity, she was notified of the death of a Luxottica employee and was directed by the company to cancel the company American Express card that was issued to the deceased employee. Instead, Louis called American Express and advised them to begin sending the credit card statements to her home address. During the time of July through November 2014, Louis charged \$189,652 in various items and services, such as clothing, jewelry, appliances, new windows for her residence, airline tickets, hotel rooms, entertainment tickets, and dental services. Louis told investigators she stole the items because she felt she was underpaid. Louis was sentenced to two years in prison and restitution to Luxottica.



**Joshua Kash**

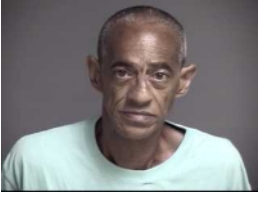


**Tyler Webb**



**James Wilson**

In May 2015, **Joshua Kash**, 31, **Tyler Webb**, 27, and **James Wilson**, 29, were involved in a fire set at the Regulator Rider's Motorcycle Clubhouse in Franklin, Ohio. They bought gas at a nearby gas station and caused more than \$20,000 in damage to the building. Kash, Webb, and Wilson were each sentenced to 12 months in prison and are required to register as arson offenders for ten years.



**George Tribune**, 56, of Wilmington, Ohio, was sentenced to the maximum of eight years in prison and a lifetime driver’s license suspension as the result of his 20<sup>th</sup> OVI conviction. In July 2015, Tribune’s vehicle was stopped by an Ohio State Highway Patrol trooper on Interstate 71 North in Washington Township, Warren County, Ohio, after another driver reported Tribune as a possible impaired driver. The trooper detected a strong odor of alcohol from Tribune and observed an open alcoholic beverage can at his feet. Tribune failed field sobriety tests at the scene and was placed under arrest for OVI. At the Lebanon patrol post, Tribune provided a breath sample that tested .222 BAC. The legal limit in the State of Ohio is .08 BAC.



**Michal Bean**, 53, of Sabina, Ohio, ran a local tax preparation and bookkeeping firm. She obtained more than \$59,000 from one of her clients, which was intended to pay the client’s federal and state taxes. Instead, she diverted the funds to her personal account and never paid the client’s taxes. She was convicted of unauthorized use of property and sentenced to six months in jail.

### **Parole Watch**

In addition to prosecuting current cases and appeals, our office is advised by the Ohio Parole Board when convicted felons are eligible for parole. In 2015, the Prosecutor’s Office responded to more than 15 such notifications. Under current statutes, only the most serious offenses are eligible for parole. In other cases, offenders were convicted of serious offenses some years ago, but are still serving life sentences or very lengthy prison sentences. Our office routinely reviews these cases and opposes the release of violent felons.

The public can follow the status of these cases by accessing the “Parole Watch” function on the Prosecutor’s website: [www.warrencountyprosecutor.com](http://www.warrencountyprosecutor.com). This function also allows the public to directly communicate its views regarding parole to the Ohio Parole Board. Users can also share Parole Watch information directly to their social media contacts. In our experience, a demonstration of public concern is frequently the factor that keeps these dangerous criminals behind bars.

In 2015, we continued to review and oppose cases where inmates were being considered for parole. Among the worst of those cases are the following:

**Glendon Robinson, Inmate A217927 – Felonious Assault, Rape**

On the evening of July 8, 1989, the 15 year old victim of this case went out with several friends. At some point, she left her friends in a car with three individuals, including Robinson. Ultimately, they ended up in a remote area near Morrow, Ohio. At some point, two of the three companions left the victim alone with Robinson. Robinson opened the car door, pulling the victim out of the car, and began beating her. As the assault continued, Robinson continued to beat her, choked her, forcibly removed her clothing, and he then raped her. The assault and rapes continued for some period of time until the victim passed out. When she regained consciousness, Robinson was gone and the victim was able to crawl and walk to a nearby residence. Robinson pled guilty and was convicted of felonious assault and rape. He was sentenced to 6 to 15 years on the felonious assault charge and 10 to 25 years for rape, to be served consecutively. He is currently incarcerated at Ohio State Penitentiary.

Our Victim Witness Services Division assisted the victim in opposing Robinson’s release, as well as initiated community outreach to encourage the public to write the Parole Board on our Parole Watch site. His next parole hearing is scheduled for May 2020.

**Rodney Brown, Inmate A326830 – Murder**

On November 29, 1995, Brown and Beth Davenport were living together in a Lebanon residence. That evening, they quarreled over a number of issues, and Davenport expressed her concern about the ongoing abuse by Brown. After verbal altercations, Davenport left the kitchen area where she was seated with Brown and several other individuals. Brown became angry, followed her into an adjacent bedroom, and returned some time later. Brown then went into an adjacent room and returned with a .20 gauge shotgun. He sat down and ejected two live rounds from the shotgun. He then held the barrel of the gun at Davenport’s face and said, “is this shell yours?” and fired the weapon at almost point blank range. The witnesses who were present immediately sought to leave the residence, and Brown encouraged them not to tell anybody what had happened. However, he was ultimately discovered. After a jury trial in 1996, Brown was found guilty of murder and an additional specification of using a firearm during the commission of a crime. He was sentenced to 15 years to life, plus an additional three years actual incarceration on the gun specification. Brown is currently incarcerated at Allen Correctional Institution.

Our Victim Witness Services Division assisted the Davenport family in opposing Brown’s release, as well as initiated community outreach to encourage the public to write the Parole Board on our Parole Watch site. His next parole hearing is scheduled for October 2020.

**Russell Marriott, Inmate A268994 – Rape**

In 1992, Marriott was convicted of rape and three counts of attempted rape in Warren County. He was sentenced to serve 5 to 25 years on the rape charge and 3 to 15 years on each count of attempted rape. The underlying offenses involved having sex with a juvenile female over approximately a ten year period, beginning when she was about five years of age.

Marriott is currently incarcerated at Madison Correctional Institution. His next parole hearing is scheduled for January 2016.

## **Juvenile Division**

In 2015, the Juvenile Division was responsible for handling over 2,600 cases. The Juvenile Division worked to ensure that minors who violated the law were punished, rehabilitated, and that they understood the consequences of their illegal actions. The cases handled within the Juvenile Division range from truancy and traffic to rape and homicide charges. It is the goal of the Juvenile Division to protect Warren County from juvenile delinquency, while at the same time preventing the juvenile offenders from becoming the next generation of defendants in the adult criminal system. While advocating on behalf of the victims is our primary goal, our office is also of the belief that many youth have the potential to avoid this fate with the right support and rehabilitation. Our office works with the courts to recommend rehabilitative sentences, such as community service, mental health services, and drug treatment, whenever it is appropriate to do so. Additionally, the Juvenile Division is responsible for handling child protection cases and providing legal representation to Warren County Children Services, as well as handling Adult Protective Services cases.

## **Investigative Division**

The Investigative Division consists of three Investigators, all of which are certified peace officers. They operate as a close link between law enforcement agencies and the Prosecutor's Office. The Investigative team provides assistance to law enforcement and valuable information to the Prosecuting Attorney from investigation to arrest to trial.

In 2015, the Investigators were responsible for the intake of over 900 cases. This includes follow-up investigation, serving subpoenas, and working with prosecutors to ensure successful prosecutions.

## **Victim Witness Services Division**

The Mission of the Victim Witness Services Division is to serve victims with compassion while promoting the judicial process. Our Victim Witness Coordinators provided services to almost 3,000 victims in 2015. This division served victims of crime in Common Pleas Court, Warren County Court, Juvenile Court, Lebanon Municipal Court, Franklin Municipal Court, and Mason Municipal Court. Criminal justice support and services were also made available to physically and sexually assaulted children at the Child Advocacy Center of Warren County. This commitment is currently met through a staff of four full-time and two part-time Victim Witness Coordinators. The victim assistance efforts in Warren County are comprehensive and effective, ensuring victim's rights under Section 2930 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Our team ensures that victims are educated on their statutory and constitutional rights as a crime victim in the State of Ohio. The Victim Witness Program also provides victims, whose offender is incarcerated, VINE information and works closely with Warren County Pretrial Services, Warren County Community Corrections, the Warren County Adult Probation Department, and the Ohio Parole Board regarding offender supervision status and restrictions.

The Warren County Prosecutor's Office and Victim Witness Services Division is actively involved in the following collaborations to provide education, training, and support to coordinating agencies and disciplines: Warren County Coordinating Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Victim Awareness Collaboration, Sexual Assault Response Team, and Child Abuse Multi-Disciplinary Team.

Victim Witness Coordinators offer services to all victims of crime. Some of the services our program offers are:

- 24-hour response to law enforcement requests for intervention and assistance
- Court advocacy, escort, and support during all stages of the criminal justice process
- Assistance in completing a Victim Impact Statement
- Assistance with VINE registration/State Victim Notification Program
- Referrals to appropriate social service agencies
- Notification and explanation of all court proceedings
- Victims of Crime Compensation application assistance
- Provision of information regarding the Ohio Parole Board

## **Civil Division and Delinquent Tax Division**

The Civil Division represents Warren County in legal matters and litigation where the County is a party. The Civil Division is the County's in-house law firm, providing legal services to County officials, the courts, and to the County's many departments, agencies, boards, and commissions. The Civil Division also provides legal services to eight townships and five public libraries. The Civil Division provides legal services on litigation, employment issues, zoning and land use planning matters, and contract negotiations.

In 2015, the Civil Division worked extensively with the Warren County Commissioners, the Harlan Township Trustees, and the Lebanon Public Library to bring construction projects to completion, including the County's new state of the art office building located at 520 Justice Drive in Lebanon, Ohio. The Civil Division continues to be involved in legal work to assure controlled growth of telecommunication facilities throughout the County to meet the needs of public safety forces, government offices, and the public. The Civil Division represented the Warren County Commissioners in the negotiations and asset transfer of the Waynesville Wastewater Treatment Plant and Collection System.

In addition, the Delinquent Tax Collection Division represented the Warren County Treasurer in foreclosure actions and collected over \$9.7 million in delinquent taxes and assessments on real property, manufactured and mobile homes, and personal property, representing an increase of over \$944,000 from the previous year. Through the efforts of the Delinquent Tax Collection Division, the rate of delinquent taxes and assessments is one of the lowest in the State of Ohio.

## **Child Support Enforcement Division**

The Child Support Division handled over 12,300 cases in 2015 and provided the full range of Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) services, including collection and enforcement of support orders, establishment of paternity and child support orders, location of parents, and modification and termination of orders. In 2015, the Child Support Division collected over \$44 million. CSEA collections included over \$3.8 million to recoup public assistance money, and nearly \$7.2 million was collected for 2,800 children of lower-income working families in danger of going on cash assistance. The division also collected \$114,862 to reimburse IV-E foster care costs. The Warren County CSEA was again recognized by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services in three performance categories: Best Performance on Current Support, Best Performance in Support Order Establishment, and Best Performance in Total Disbursements per Total Full-Time Equivalent. The agency continues to be one of the most cost-effective Child Support Enforcement Agencies in the State of Ohio, collecting nearly \$14.00 per dollar spent and maintaining spending at 2011 levels.

On September 17, 2015, Prosecutor Fornshell hosted a luncheon in honor of Warren County CSEA long-term employees (15+ years). The honorees and Prosecutor Fornshell are pictured below.



## **Outstanding Team Member Award**

Melissa Kennard and Adam Nice recently received the “Outstanding Team Member Award” from Prosecutor Fornshell. The annual award is based on nominations from members of the Prosecutor’s Office and is given to the employee(s) who exhibit outstanding commitment to their colleagues while carrying out the ideals and principles of the Prosecutor’s Office. Employees nominated 17 different individuals for the award, with Kennard and Nice receiving the highest number of nominations from their colleagues, and almost half the total number of nominations cast.

Kennard has been with the Prosecutor’s Office since 2011 and serves as a Victim Witness Coordinator in the Common Pleas Division. In her nominations, Melissa’s colleagues noted: “Melissa has always been dependable, efficient, and remarkably helpful. Always presenting herself in a professional manner, she never hesitates to help her fellow employees, victims, or walk-in citizens. She cares deeply about every case she gets involved in. She is always willing to listen and provide words of encouragement. I believe there is no one that is better deserving of this award.”

Nice has been with the Prosecutor’s Office since 2010 and serves as an Assistant Prosecutor, splitting his time between the Juvenile Division and Civil Division. In his nominations, Adam’s colleagues noted: “Adam has selflessly, and with great energy, covered for colleagues during extended periods of time when he had to do what often seemed like the workload of two or three attorneys. When he covers for someone in any capacity, whether for a 12-week leave or just a quick hearing, he treats the case as if it were his own. I don’t think I’ve worked with anyone better.”

“We constantly emphasize ‘teamwork’ in the Prosecutor’s Office. Melissa and Adam are so deserving of this award because on a daily basis, they demonstrate that quality in their commitment to their colleagues, as well as to everyone outside the office with whom they interact. I’m not surprised that they were the overwhelming choice of so many of their colleagues to receive this award,” said Prosecutor Fornshell.



Pictured from left: Melissa Kennard, Prosecutor Fornshell, and Adam Nice

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