

# ***THE PROSECUTOR***

A NEWSLETTER FROM

## **MAT HECK, JR.**

Dayton-Montgomery County Courts Building, P.O. Box 972, 301 W. Third St., Dayton, OH 45422 (937) 225-5757

Autumn 2008

### **Owner of Equity Land Title Convicted; Sentenced**

On May 30, 2008, Steven L. Clayton, the 49 year old former owner of Vandalia based Equity Land Title was convicted of 19 felony counts, including Aggravated Theft, two counts of Engaging in a Pattern of Corrupt Activity and 16 counts of Money Laundering. On August 25, 2008, Clayton was sentenced to 12 years in the penitentiary.

The defendant was found to have been withdrawing funds from an escrow account that held the money of prospective home buyers and used these funds for his personal use. The defendant purchased trips to Disney World and Las Vegas, luxury cruises, box seats to Cincinnati Reds and Bengals games, and expensive cars. In total, between January 1995 and April 2002, the defendant stole over \$8,500,000.

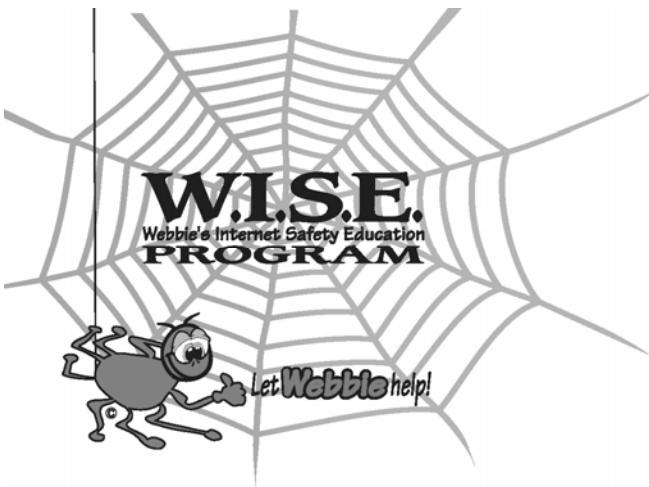
### **Owner of Payroll Data Systems Convicted; Sentenced**

On October 1, 2008 Rodney R. Richley, 60, entered pleas of Guilty as Charged to the March, 2007 indictment against him. Richley was charged with two counts of Aggravated Theft over \$100,000. He was ordered to serve the maximum of five years in the penitentiary and pay over \$180,000 in restitution.

Richley owned and operated Kettering based Payroll Data Systems. The firm provided payroll services to local businesses, including the preparation of payroll checks, payment of employee taxes withheld, as well as the computation and payment of other taxes withheld. Between August 2002 and March 2003, the defendant received money from his clients to pay payroll tax withholdings, but he failed to make those payments and kept the money for his own use.

### **Area Schools Taking Advantage of WEBBIE Program**

Since the announcement and introduction of the W.I.S.E. (Webbie's Internet Safety Education) Program, nearly 50 presentations have been given by the staff of the Prosecutor's Office. Those presentations were to groups as small as 4 and as large as 600 students. In all, over 3,500 students have received information about the dangers of the internet and how to be safe while online. The program aims to educate our youth about predators and cyberbullies, as well as keeping personal information private. For more information, visit the W.I.S.E. program website at [www.wiseprogram.org](http://www.wiseprogram.org).



**State v. Todd and Alison  
Wilkerson**  
***Couple Convicted in Scheme to  
Defraud Employer***

On April 2, 2008 the Montgomery County Grand Jury issued an indictment for multiple felony counts against Oakwood residents Todd D. and Alison L. Wilkerson. Todd D. Wilkerson, 43, was employed as the Client Services Director of the Dayton based advertising firm Blue Dog Productions. His wife, 42 year old Alison, was employed by Blue Dog Productions on a contractor basis as an Account Executive.

The defendants created a sham company, 'Blue Dog Advertising', and diverted approximately \$280,000 in payments intended for Blue Dog Productions to the bogus Blue Dog Advertising account. The couple were able to accomplish this theft by reporting to the owners of Blue Dog Productions that the clients in question had decided to not purchase advertising. In fact, the clients had purchased advertising, and the work was being performed by employees of Blue Dog Productions.

The defendants set up three separate Blue Dog Advertising bank accounts, and were able to confuse the issue by the fraudulent use of the "Blue Dog" name.

On September 8, 2008 the defendants both entered pleas of no contest to one count each of Aggravated Theft over \$100,000, Money Laundering and Engaging in a Pattern of Corrupt Activity.

On October 15, 2008, defendant Todd Wilkerson was sentenced to three years in the penitentiary. Defendant Alison Wilkerson has relocated to Alabama, and her sentencing will take place on a later date.

Prosecutor Mat Heck, Jr. said, "These defendants used their positions to solicit and engage clients for their employer, then embezzled hundreds of thousands of dollars for their own use."

**Convicted Rapist Receives  
54 Year Prison Sentence**

On October 15, 2008 Travanti Martin, 23, was sentenced to 54 years incarceration. Martin was convicted on August 28, 2008 when he pled guilty as charged to the Grand Jury indictment.

Martin was indicted by the Grand Jury on June 27 for 19 felony counts including:

- 5 counts Rape by force
- 2 counts Kidnapping for sexual activity
- 2 counts Intimidation of a Crime Victim
- 1 count Felonious Assault (serious harm)
- 4 counts Gross Sexual Imposition by force
- 2 counts Robbery (physical harm)
- 1 count Attempted Rape by force
- 1 count Aggravated Burglary
- 1 count Kidnapping (felony or flight)

On June 19, 2008 the defendant grabbed the first victim in a church parking lot on Shoop Avenue, near her home. He raped her, then forced the victim to take him to her home, which was nearby. Once inside the home, the defendant grabbed a butcher knife and proceeded to repeatedly rape the 18 year old daughter of the victim. The defendant then stole \$10 from the second victim, and threatened to rape a second child living in the home. Before the defendant left, he told the victims that he knew where they lived and would return to revenge if they called the police.

Thankfully, the victims called 911 and Dayton Police officers responded to the area and searched for a suspect matching the description provided by the victims. Police officers found a suspect and after a brief foot chase he was apprehended.



## **Assistant Prosecutors Kim Melnick and Ward Barrentine Promoted**

On September 12, 2008 Montgomery County Prosecuting Attorney Mat Heck, Jr. announced that Kim Melnick was promoted to Criminal Trial Team Leader, and Ward Barrentine was promoted to Supervising Attorney of the Intake and Grand Jury Division.

Ms. Melnick will supervise the Assistant Prosecutors handling Criminal Dockets in Common Pleas Court. She received her law degree from the University of Dayton School of Law in 1993. Ms. Melnick was an Assistant Prosecutor from January 1994 until April 1998. During 2000-2002 she was a Deputy District Attorney in Golden, Colorado. Ms. Melnick returned to our office in October, 2006 and was assigned to the Intake and Grand Jury Division. In February of this year, she was promoted to the Supervising Attorney of the Intake and Grand Jury Division.

Mr. Barrentine will supervise the Assistant Prosecutors presenting criminal cases to the Montgomery County Grand Jury as well as the Assistant Prosecutors handling Preliminary Hearings in Municipal Court. He received his law degree from the University of Dayton School of

Law in 2001. Mr. Barrentine joined the prosecutor's office in August 2001, and was assigned to the Support Enforcement and Paternity Division. Mr. Barrentine was assigned to the Intake and Grand Jury Division in September 2002, and was promoted to Criminal Docket Attorney in June 2003.

Prosecutor Heck said, "I believe with her extensive experience as a trial attorney and as an effective supervising attorney, Kim will make an excellent Criminal Trial Team Leader. Ward has an excellent reputation as a criminal docket attorney, and with the experience and knowledge he has to offer, and I believe he will make an excellent supervisor."



Kim Melnick



Ward Barrentine

## **Harrison Township Bar Denied Liquor Permit Renewal *Northtown Sports Bar and Grill a Drain on Township Resources***

The Montgomery County Prosecutor, on behalf of the citizens and trustees of Harrison Township, filed formal objections to the request for renewal of their liquor license filed by the Northtown Sports Bar and Grill, located at 4256 North Main Street.

During a hearing before the Ohio Department of Commerce Division of Liquor Control, the Prosecutor's Office presented evidence of unruly crowds, fights, disorderly conduct, shootings, drug possession and usage, as well as littering in the residential neighborhoods adjacent to the bar and nightclub.

On September 4, 2008 the Division of Liquor Control denied and rejected the bar's renewal request for their liquor license. They found that the Northtown Sports Bar and Grill "has operated its liquor permit business in a manner that demonstrates a disregard for the laws, regulations, or local ordinances of the State." In addition, the Board found that the bar "is so located with respect to the neighborhood that substantial interference with public decency, sobriety, peace, or good order would result from the issuance of the permit..."

# Prosecutor Briefs

The following are staff additions since our last newsletter:

**Kathryn Bowling**, Law Grad

University of Dayton School of Law 2008

**Lisa Browning**, Attorney — Child Protection Unit

Case Western Reserve College of Law 2008

**Kelly Crammer**, Attorney — Appellate Division

University of North Dakota School of Law 2005

**Melissa Ford**, Attorney — Appellate Division

University of Dayton School of Law 2008

**Dustin Hurley**, Attorney — Juvenile Division

University of Dayton School of Law 2008

**Emily Sluk**, Attorney — Juvenile Division

University of Dayton School of Law 2007



On Halloween, the Prosecutor's Office was visited by some of the children of our staff for a Trick-or-Treat trip around the office. Thanks to all who participated!

The Prosecutor is published as a public service by the Montgomery County Prosecutor's Office. For questions or comments about articles appearing in The Prosecutor, or to recommend topics you'd like to see, contact: Mr. Greg Flannagan at 937-225-5610 or e-mail [flannagan@mcoho.org](mailto:flannagan@mcoho.org).

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