



# *The Prosecutor*

newsletter from  
**Mat Heck, Jr.**  
**Prosecuting Attorney**



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Summer 2012

## **Prosecutor Heck Receives 2012 Developmental Disabilities Hall of Fame Award**

Montgomery County Prosecutor Mat Heck, Jr. was named a recipient of the Directors Award and was inducted into the 2012 Developmental Disabilities Hall of Fame by the Montgomery County Board of Developmental Disabilities Services. Mr. Heck received this award at a luncheon held on April 27, 2012.

This award is to recognize and honor the unique achievements and contributions of people who support and protect those with disabilities. Prosecutor Heck was selected because of his work to collaborate with the Board to see that offenders who abuse persons with disabilities are investigated, charged, and prosecuted. Prosecutor Heck was nominated by the Director of Investigative Services, Bill Angel.

Prosecutor Heck said, "I am very proud and honored to receive this award. We must all strive to protect the most vulnerable members of our society, especially the developmentally disabled."



Prosecutor Heck Proudly Receives Hall of Fame Award  
(L to R: Mark Gerhardstine, Director, Developmental Disabilities Services; Prosecutor Heck; Emmett Orr, President, Developmental Disabilities Services Board; Bill Angel, Director of Investigative Services)

## **Jennifer Denslow Named Supervising Attorney**

Jennifer Denslow was promoted to Supervising Attorney of the Grand Jury/Intake Division on June 19, 2012. She will supervise the Assistant Prosecutors presenting criminal cases to the Montgomery County Grand Jury as well as being the assistant prosecutor with primary responsibility for reviewing requests for felony charges on adults in our county. Jennifer received her law degree from the University of Dayton School of Law in 2002 and joined the office in April of 2002. She has been a Criminal Docket Attorney since September 2005.



## 2012 Violence Prevention Project Award Winners Announced

At the 22nd Annual Violence Prevention Project awards ceremony, held on May 16, 2012, Prosecutor Heck recognized the top 150 of the nearly 2100 entries received from 46 schools in Montgomery County. Students were encouraged to create a poster or write an essay depicting alternatives to violence, or the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse, bullying, and violent behavior.

According to the Center for Disease Control, youth violence is widespread in the United States. It is the second leading cause of death for young people between the ages of 10 and 24. Although homicide rates have dropped in recent years, youth violence remains unacceptably high. Our contest is an opportunity to bring awareness to the detrimental effects of violence, drug and alcohol abuse.

We have encouraged parents and teachers to use our Violence Prevention Project as a tool to engage in discussions about violence with our youth. The project can help them to understand boundaries and acceptable behavior. Prosecutor Heck said, "Too often we focus on the negative consequences of violence instead of stressing the positive results of promoting peace. Working together, we can hopefully redirect negative behavior of our youth and help them to make better choices."

The winning posters will be featured in our 2013 calendar.



Prosecutor Heck poses with all the award winners



Prosecutor Heck, First Assistant Deb Armanini and Juvenile Division Chief Julie Bruns pose with some of the essay contest winners



All of the award winners were treated to a pizza luncheon provided by Dayton's Original Pizza Factory, Mr. Bill Daniels.

Category	1st Place Winner	2nd Place Winner
K-3 Poster	DeEric Watson	Peter Tsatalis
K-3 Essay	Waynesia Arrington	Shamarionna Black
4-6 Poster	Eda Sagnak	Abigail Kerestes
4-6 Essay	Ashley Greer	Madisyn Shivers
7-8 Poster	Willie Beckley	Olivia Livingston
7-8 Essay	Anna Haralson	J.T. Vance
9-12 Poster	Andrea Tsatalis	Cheyenne Rogers
9-12 Essay	Kayleigh Morris	Anna Mote

## Grandmother, Step-Grandfather Sentenced In Child Abuse Case

On March 17, 2012 co-defendants, **Brian G. Hart**, 51, and **Rivae L. Hart**, 49, both of Dayton, Ohio were sentenced as a result of their convictions for trapping a young relative in a bathroom area. Co-defendant Brian Hart was convicted of Permitting Child Abuse, a third degree felony and was sentenced to 3 years incarceration. Co-defendant Rivae Hart was convicted of Abduction and Endangering Children, both third degree felonies, and was also sentenced to 3 years.

Prosecutor Heck commented, "This was a particularly distressing case. These two defendants kept this little girl locked up in a bathroom area. She ate her meals there, slept there, and did her homework there. Thankfully, she is now out of that situation and can begin the recovery from this traumatic and detrimental way of life."

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## April - Child Abuse Awareness Month

April was National Child Abuse Awareness Month, but for those of us in the criminal justice system, every day we see and are aware of the reality and consequences of the physical, sexual and mental abuse of children.

The Prosecutor's Office's Child Abuse Bureau, located at our local Childrens Advocacy Center (CAC), CARE House, exclusively handles the prosecution of child abuse – in 2011, this unit approved felony charges in over 50 cases, a 13% increase from 2010. The Child Protection Unit on average handles over 1500 cases per year in which a child is the victim of abuse or neglect.

Sadly, the statistics here in Montgomery County are not unique - similar patterns of abuse and neglect appear around Ohio and the rest of the country. In fact, nearly five children die every day in this country from abuse and neglect. However, through Multi-disciplinary Teams and CACs, we are responding and actively working to combat child abuse. Locally, CARE House served 548 of the worst cases of abuse last year, and in February of 2012, CARE House handled the highest number (62) of abused children in a single month since CARE House was established in 1999. Statewide, the 26 CACs of Ohio served over 7,000 abused children in 2011, and the 700+ CACs across the country assisted over 279,000 abused children.

Prosecutor Heck commented, "Our community needs to work together as partners to help protect our children – who truly are the future of our nation."

### Summer's Here—Hot Weather Tips to Keep Your Cool

- Drink plenty of liquids
- Wear light colored, loose fitting clothes
- Limit physical activities
- Use sunscreen and sunglasses
- Wear a wide-brimmed hat
- Take a cool shower
- If working outside, get rest in shady areas
- Stay in air-conditioned places when possible
- Do not leave children/pets in vehicles
- Avoid alcoholic beverages
- Close curtains at home to keep the sun out
- Try to save outside work for the evening

## Office Staff Updates

Due to the number of staff who retired or took the County-offered buy-out in 2011, we have hired some new staff in 2012:

DATE	NAME	POSITION AND ASSIGNMENT
• 1/2/12	Nicole Bohrer	Secretary, Administration
• 1/2/12	Anthony Schoen	Assistant Prosecutor, Juvenile Division
• 2/13/12	Kraig Chadrick	Assistant Prosecutor, Child Protection Unit
• 2/21/12	Holly Sams	Legal Secretary, Case Management
• 2/27/12	Candice Hunt	Legal Secretary, Juvenile Division
• 3/5/12	Jessica Rudolf	Legal Secretary, Appellate Division
• 3/19/12	Joe Habbyshaw	Law Grad, Appellate Division
• 3/26/12	Natasha Newberry	Assistant Prosecutor, Child Protection Unit
• 5/4/12	Mary Ellen Ditchey	Assistant Prosecutor, Juvenile Division
• 6/4/12	Dawn Williams	Assistant Prosecutor, Child Protection Unit
• 7/26/12	Cynthia Mullins	Assistant Prosecutor, Juvenile Division

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