



The Prosecutor

newsletter from
Mat Heck, Jr.
Prosecuting Attorney



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Winter/Spring 2021

Prosecutor Heck Sworn In for Eighth Term of Office

On January 4, 2021, Prosecutor Mat Heck, Jr. was sworn in to begin his eighth term of office. The Honorable Daniel G. Gehres, Judge of the Dayton Municipal Court, administered the Oath of Office.



During the ceremony, Prosecutor Heck stated that he has just as much excitement and enthusiasm today as he did during his first oath of office ceremony in August 1992. After taking the oath of office, Prosecutor Heck discussed why he worked so hard to become an attorney, and more importantly, a prosecutor. Mr. Heck's father, Mathias Heck, Sr., was the elected Montgomery County Prosecutor for 16 years. Mr. Heck realized years ago that being a prosecutor is a calling, and not just a job.

Mr. Heck noted that as the elected prosecutor, he is given the opportunity to help victims of crime who are seeking justice. He loves the feeling of accomplishment that comes from helping victims fight for their rights.

Speaking to his staff after administering their oath of office, Mr. Heck said, "As prosecutors, we have entrusted to us a responsibility much more arduous and different from other lawyers—to do and seek justice. Our responsibility is not to see simply how many convictions we can obtain. It is to put doing the right thing over and above what is easy and convenient.

We do not just prosecute crimes, but we also engage with our community partners in an attempt to prevent crime and offer services to those who need them. It is said that prosecutors 'are the crusaders, the last frontier of American justice, knowing that if a person cannot feel safe, they will never feel free.' We are the gatekeepers to the criminal justice system."

In closing, Prosecutor Heck added, "As my staff and I begin this new term in office, we pledge to continue the hard, often thankless but always rewarding, work we do to make our community a safer place to live, work, and play."

Assistant Prosecutor Daniel J. Brandt Promoted to Chief of the Criminal Division

On January 7, 2021, Prosecutor Heck announced that Mr. Daniel J. Brandt was being promoted to the position of Chief of the Criminal Division of the office, after the announced retirement of Mr. Leon J. Daidone. (See page 3)

Mr. Brandt graduated from the University of Toledo College of Law and joined the office in August 1997. He was originally assigned to the Child Support Enforcement Division. He subsequently was assigned to the Child Protection Unit, and then the Intake/Grand Jury Section before being assigned as a Docket Attorney in June 2000. In 2004, he was promoted to Trial Team Supervisor, supervising a criminal trial team. In February 2007, he was promoted to his most recent position as a member of the Violent Crimes Bureau. This unit is staffed with the most experienced and outstanding assistant prosecutors in the office who handle homicide and other high-profile cases.

Ms. Lynda A. Dodd Promoted to Deputy Chief of the Criminal Division

Also on January 7, 2021, Prosecutor Heck announced that Ms. Lynda A. Dodd was being promoted to the newly created position of Deputy Chief of the Criminal Division of the office.

Ms. Dodd graduated from the University of Dayton School of Law and joined the office in August 1997. She was originally assigned to the Child Support Enforcement Division before being assigned to the Appellate Division of the office. In October 1999, she was assigned as a Docket Attorney, and in August 2006 she became the Supervising Attorney of the Intake/Grand Jury Section. In March 2007, she was promoted to Trial Team Supervisor, and in June 2014 she was promoted to her most recent position as a member of the Violent Crimes Bureau.



Mr. Daniel Brandt



Ms. Lynda Dodd

Prosecutor Heck commented, “Dan and Lynda have both handled numerous difficult cases. I believe they are both very talented prosecutors with the experience, knowledge, maturity, and temperament necessary to lead the Criminal Division.”

Mr. Leon J. Daidone Retires After 39 Years of Service

On February 26, 2021, after 39 years with the Prosecutor's Office, Mr. Leon J. Daidone retired from public service. Mr. Daidone served as the Chief of the Criminal Division for the past 14 years.

Mr. Daidone received his law degree from the Ohio Northern University Claude Pettit College of Law and joined the office in November 1981. He was assigned to various divisions in the office before being promoted to the Violent Crimes Bureau in January 1993. In 1990, he was assigned to the Ohio Organized Crime Task Force. In January 2007, he was promoted to Chief of the Criminal Division, after the retirement of Mr. James Levinson.

Mr. Daidone was an adjunct professor at Sinclair Community College for 24 years and was frequently an instructor at the Dayton Police Academy. Mr. Daidone was also a highly rated lecturer at various National District Attorney Association seminars. In 2011, Mr. Daidone was named the "Outstanding Assistant Prosecutor of the Year" by the Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association. In 2008, he was inducted as a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, and in 2012 he was appointed as the Chair of the Prosecuting Attorneys Committee.

Prosecutor Heck said, "Leon's dedication and work ethic were truly exemplary. He has always shown compassion for victims of crime and true professionalism in the courtroom. He will certainly be missed, but I think I speak for everyone in the office when we wish him a very happy and well-deserved retirement."

Staff Updates

Since the last edition of *The Prosecutor*, we have hired a number of staff members to replace retiring staff or those who left to pursue other employment.

On January 4, 2021, **Ms. Elizabeth A. Ellis** joined the staff of the office as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, assigned to the Appellate Division of the office. Ms. Ellis received her undergraduate degree in English Literature and Communications from Dennison University in Granville, Ohio, in 1997. She received her law degree from the University of Dayton School of Law in 2001. For the past 18 years, Elizabeth served as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney in Greene County, Ohio, most recently as the Chief of the Civil Division.

On February 4, 2021, **Ms. Mackenzie Banfield** joined the staff of the office as a Victim Advocate. Ms. Banfield is a 2020 graduate from Wright State University, where she majored in Psychology with a double minor in Forensics and Criminal Justice.

On February 4, 2021, **Ms. Macey Boring** joined the staff of the office as a Victim Advocate. Ms. Boring is a 2020 graduate from Wright State University, where she majored in Psychology with a minor in Forensics.

On February 4, 2021, **Ms. Hannah Ingram** joined the staff of the office as a Victim Advocate. Ms. Ingram is a 2019 graduate from Bowling Green State University, where she majored in Criminal Justice.

On February 8, 2021, **Ms. Anu Sharma** joined the staff of the office as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, assigned to the Civil Division. Ms. Sharma received her undergraduate degree in Health Information Management & Systems from The Ohio State University in 2001. She received her law degree from the University of Dayton School of Law in 2005. For the past six years, Anu has served as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney in Greene County, Ohio, most recently in the Civil Division.

Prosecutor's Office Staff Work Anniversaries

Congratulations to the following staff of the Montgomery County Prosecutor's Office who celebrated work anniversaries in January, February, March, or April:

January Anniversaries

29 years—Tonya Rader, 1/13/1992
 23 years—Erin Claypoole, 1/5/1998
 22 years—Todd Ahearn, 1/4/1999
 12 years—Linda Henderson, 1/5/2009
 9 years—Anthony Schoen, 1/2/2012
 5 years—Holly Creekmore, 1/4/2016
 4 years—Bryan Moore, 1/3/2017
 4 years—Brooklyn McGinnis, 1/30/2017
 2 years—Franklin Gehres, 1/22/2019

February Anniversaries

26 years—Diane Williams, 2/6/1995
 26 years—Margie Kern, 2/6/1995
 22 years—Nancie Challie, 2/22/1999
 14 years—Dianna Clutter, 2/5/2007
 13 years—Terri Maruca, 2/29/2008
 4 years—Michael Allen, 2/21/2017
 3 years—Carly Arnold, 2/5/2018
 2 years—Jennifer Comes, 2/11/2019
 2 years—Meggan Lanahan, 2/20/2019
 1 year—Sarah Jankowski, 2/3/2020

March Anniversaries

26 years—Laura Mariani, 3/16/1995
 7 years—Jessica Newsom, 3/10/2014
 5 years—Alexandra Lesko, 3/15/2016
 2 years—Shaina Hombach, 3/11/2019

April Anniversaries

22 years—Lora Jonas, 4/12/1999
 19 years—Jennifer Weber, 4/26/2002
 3 years—Eric Whitelow, 4/3/2018
 3 years—Victoria Nilles, 4/9/2018
 2 years—Kaylin Ely, 4/18/2019
 2 years—Jamie Robinson, 4/22/2019

Defendants Sentenced for Kidnapping and Robbery of Elderly Man

On February 12, 2021, Jessica Rose Boomershine was sentenced to a range of 25 to 30-1/2 years in prison after being convicted for the kidnapping and robbery of an elderly Miamisburg man. A co-defendant, Billy Joe Farra, was sentenced on January 22, 2021, to a range of 55 to 60-1/2 years in prison.

On Wednesday, January 15, 2020, the defendants broke into the Miamisburg home of the 85-year-old victim. The defendants took the victim's firearm and, after firing a round in the bedroom of the victim, kidnapped the victim. The defendants assaulted the victim and forced him into his vehicle.

The defendants then drove the victim to an ATM and forced him, at gunpoint, to give them his ATM PIN, and then took funds from the victim's account.

Eventually, the defendants bound the victim and forced him into the trunk of his car, which was then abandoned at the Rumpke waste facility on East Monument Avenue in Dayton.

The victim was able to locate and pull the emergency release in the vehicle's trunk. The victim climbed out of the trunk and made his way into the Rumpke facility, where he was later discovered by employees.

The defendant was able to identify defendant Boomershine as being someone he had recently met at a local casino. Investigators were able to locate the defendants and take them into custody.

Additionally, on January 21, 2020, defendant Boomershine attempted to climb into the ceiling of a holding area in the jail while she was waiting to be transported to court. Jail staff was able to pull her from the ceiling without injury to her, but the ceiling sustained significant damage.

Prosecutor Heck said, "This pair terrorized the victim in this case. They certainly deserved the lengthy prison sentences they received."

Multiple Staff Promotions

On February 3, 2021, Prosecutor Heck announced that Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Kimberly A. Melnick was promoted to the Violent Crimes Bureau of the Criminal Division of the office. The Violent Crimes Bureau handles the prosecution of homicide and other high-profile criminal cases that occur in Montgomery County. Ms. Melnick graduated from Wright State University in 1990, majoring in Marketing. In 1993, she received her law degree from the University of Dayton School of Law. In January 1994, Kim joined the prosecutor's office as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney and was assigned to the Child Support Enforcement Division. She was subsequently assigned to the Juvenile Division and the Intake/Grand Jury Unit before being promoted to Criminal Docket Attorney in the Criminal Division. In 1998, Kim left the Prosecutor's office for two years to work in private practice. She returned to the office in 2000, and then left in April 2002 and relocated to Golden, Colorado where she served as a Deputy District Attorney for Jefferson County, Colorado. In October 2006, Kim returned to Ohio and was hired as a Criminal Docket Attorney and became the Supervising Attorney of the Adult Protection Unit. In May 2019, Kim was promoted to Criminal Trial Team Supervisor.

On March 3, 2021, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Dylan G. Smearcheck was promoted to the position of Supervising Attorney of the Intake/Grand Jury Section of the office. As Supervising Attorney, she will supervise the Assistant Prosecutors presenting criminal case to the Montgomery County Grand Jury. She will also be the primary Assistant Prosecutor responsible for reviewing cases presented by law enforcement for felony criminal charges. Ms. Smearcheck received her undergraduate degree in Justice Studies from Kent State University in Kent, Ohio in 2005. She received her law degree from The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law in 2009. Dylan joined the prosecutor's office in June 2014 and was assigned to the Juvenile Division. She was subsequently assigned to the Appellate Division and the Intake/Grand Jury Section before being promoted to Criminal Docket Attorney in March 2016. In 2018, Dylan was assigned to the Child Abuse Bureau.

On March 3, 2021, Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys Jonathan W. Sauline and Richard F. Glennon were promoted to Criminal Trial Supervisor in the Criminal Division of the office. As Supervisors, they will be supervising a Criminal Trial Team of Assistant Prosecutors handling criminal dockets in Common Pleas Court.

Mr. Sauline received his undergraduate degrees in Political Science and French from John Carroll University in Cleveland, Ohio in 2009. Jonathan joined the Prosecutor's office in May 2014 and was assigned to the Juvenile Division. He was subsequently assigned to the Intake/Grand Jury Section, before being promoted to Criminal Docket Attorney in August 2015. In 2018, Jonathan was assigned to the Child Abuse Bureau before returned as a Criminal Docket Attorney in February 2020.

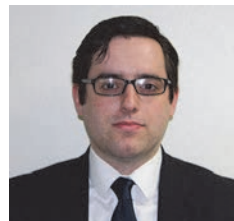
Mr. Glennon received his undergraduate degree in English from Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio in 2008. In 2009, he received his Master's degree in Humanities from the University of Chicago. He received his law degree from The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law in 2013. Richard joined the Prosecutor's office in August 2014 and was assigned to the Child Protection Unit. He was subsequently assigned to the Intake/Grand Jury Section before being promoted to Criminal Docket Attorney in the Criminal Division. In February 2019, Richard was promoted to the position of Supervising Attorney of the Intake/Grand Jury Section of the office.



Kimberly A. Melnick



Dylan G. Smearcheck



Jonathan W. Sauline



Richard F. Glennon

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