



ANNUAL **REPORT** 2023





FROM YOUR PROSECUTOR, MELISSA A. SCHIFFEL

Dear Community and Partners:

I am proud to bring you the first annual report of the Delaware County Prosecutor's Office. This has been a goal of mine for a few years, but as our county grows so does the business of the prosecutor's office and this goal kept being pushed down the priority list. Numbers don't always tell the whole story, and that is true for the Prosecutor's Office. It is hard to try and capture all that we do in the prosecutor's office in a year--whether it be fighting crime and protecting our citizens or serving our clients like our townships who are facing unprecedented growth.

One thing that never changes year to year though is our unwavering commitment to the citizens of Delaware County. I am blessed to lead this amazing team of public servants and I am proud of the way they exemplify our values every day. Our values and mission statement are below.

Stay safe---

Melissa

MISSION STATEMENT

For the One: Excellence. Gratitude. Community.

- Gratitude: We are thankful that we are able to work. We are humbled and honored to be public servants for the one who needs us every single day.
- Excellence: We demonstrate excellence every day. Our excellence provides credibility to our jobs, our decisions, and our interactions with the one who needs us every single day.
- Community: We believe in uplifting our community and being a positive influence every single day. We believe that we are community partners, and we exist to serve the one in our community who needs us every single day.





OFFICE PROFILE

EXECUTIVE TEAM



Melissa A. Schiffel

Delaware County Prosecutor
since 2019



Mark Sleeper
Chief Criminal
Assistant Prosecutor
12 years at DCPO



Christopher Betts
Chief Civil
Assistant Prosecutor
21 years at DCPO



Elizabeth Matune
Juvenile Supervisor
Assistant Prosecutor
8 years at DCPO



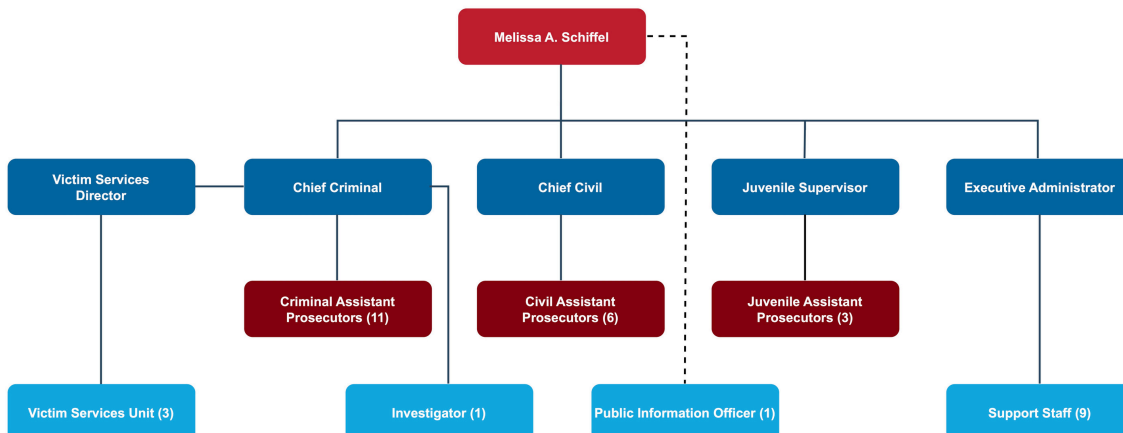
Nicole Ford
Executive
Administrator
15 years at DCPO



Trish Wright
Director
Victim Services Unit
14 years at DCPO

Collectively our executive team has over 100 years of combined experience dedicated to preserving the integrity of our office and fighting for the safety of Delaware County and its community members. We will never back down in our pursuit of justice for all victims or in our quest to keep each and every citizen safe.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



CRIMINAL DIVISION



FELONIES
INDICTED

591

CASES
OPENED

752

CASES DECLINED
FOR PROSECUTION

219

TRIALS
HELD

36

2023 TOP 3 FELONY CRIMES

1. DRUGS

2. THEFT/FRAUD

**3. ROBBERY-
BURGLARY-
TRESSPASS**

2023 HIGH PROFILE CASES

State of Ohio v. Timothy Balderick

Balderick was found guilty of aggravated murder and received 36 years to life in prison for the killing of Timothy "Scottie" Marcum whose body was discovered floating in a plastic tote in Alum Creek by a kayaker on June 28, 2021.

State of Ohio v. Eric Bellamy

Bellamy was found guilty of multiple counts of rape of a minor under the age of 10, gross sexual imposition, and menacing by stalking. For his crimes, Bellamy received life in prison, with the possibility of parole after 28 years, for repeatedly sexually assaulting a child from 2008-2010 in Delaware County.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROSECUTOR

Domestic violence cases present unique challenges and concerns. Our Domestic Violence Prosecutor focuses on achieving justice while keeping both the victim and the community at large safe from domestic violence offenders. It takes someone who understands the dynamics of domestic violence relationships, courtroom experience with evidence-based prosecutions, and a willingness to fight in the trenches for all victims—even those who cannot safely advocate for themselves.

Professionals combatting domestic violence have known for years that strangulation is the single biggest predictor of future violence. According to the Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention, "A woman who has suffered a nonfatal strangulation incident with her intimate partner is 750% more likely to be killed by the same perpetrator."

When Ohio criminalized strangulation as a standalone felony offense in 2023, it was the last state in the country to do so; prior to that it was often handled as a simple misdemeanor domestic violence offense. Our office, however, recognized the danger long before the strangulation statute was in effect, and we pursued those cases as felony offenses through other legal means.

Since Ohio's strangulation law went into effect, our office has received 27 cases alleging domestic violence strangulation. In addition to pursuing justice in those cases, we continue to work with our law enforcement partners to ensure they are equipped to investigate domestic violence strangulation and to join us in our efforts to defy that lethality statistic for each victim.

2023 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES

DV CHARGES
FILED

54

STRANGULATION
CHARGES FILED

27

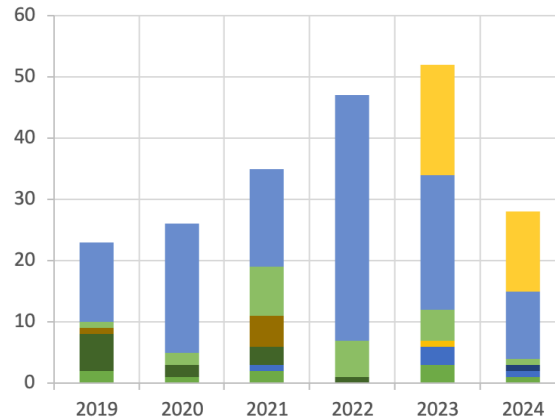




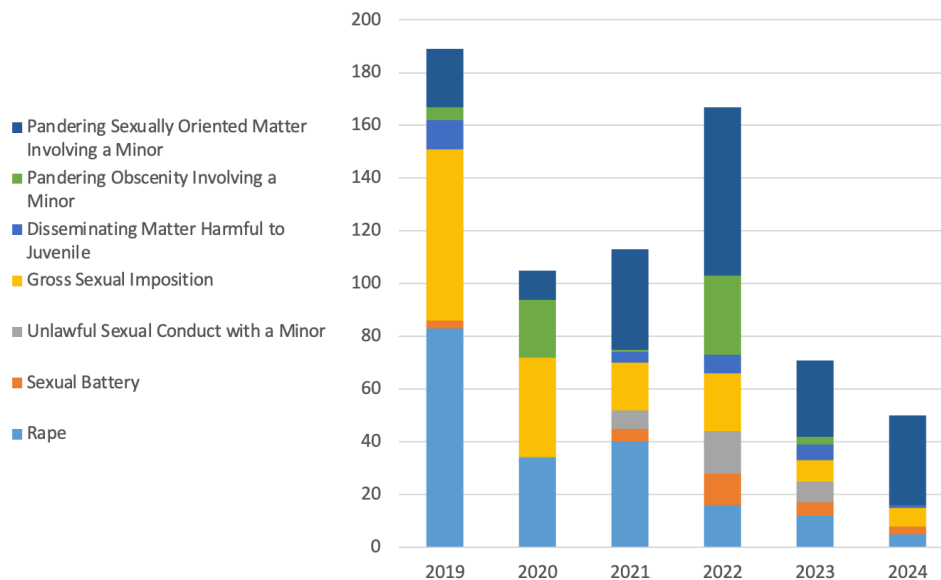
CRIMINAL CHARGES & ACTIVE CASES

- Strangulation
- Felonious Assault
- Aggravated Vehicular Assault
- Aggravated Vehicular Homicide
- Reckless Homicide
- Involuntary Manslaughter
- Voluntary Manslaughter
- Murder
- Aggravated Murder

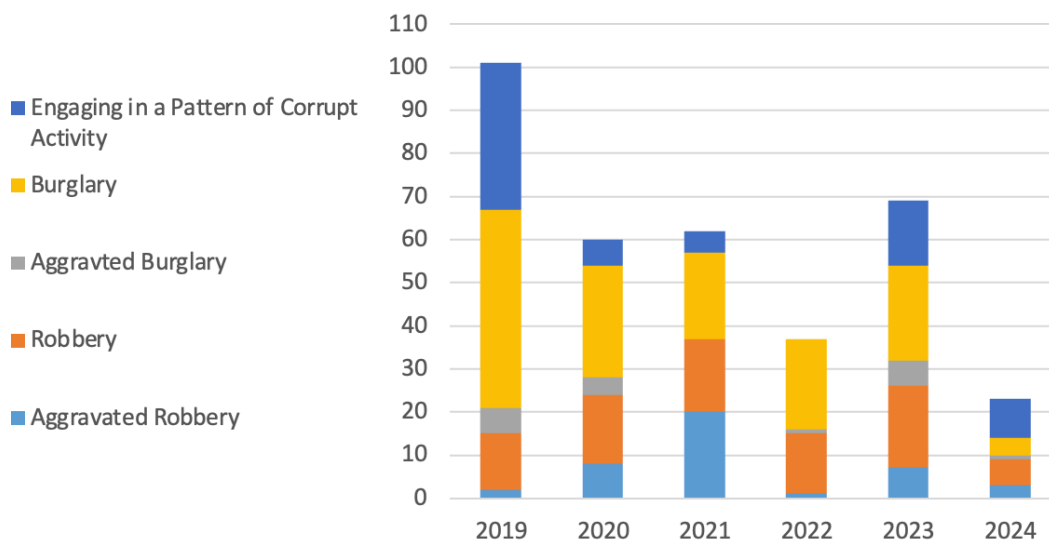
Violent Offenses



Sexual Offenses



Robbery/Burglary/Engaging





SPECIAL VICTIMS PROSECUTOR

The purpose of the Special Victims Prosecutor is to prosecute crimes against children, internet crimes against children, and cases involving sexual assaults. With a vertical prosecution structure, SVP handles every case from pre-indictment review through sentencing and post-conviction. Using a trauma informed approach to prosecution, the SVP strives to provide the best possible outcome for these sensitive cases and vulnerable victims. The SVP is part of a larger multidisciplinary team approach aimed at supporting victims while holding offenders accountable.

SVP STATS

CASES OPENED

57

DECLINED PROSECUTION

19

INDICTED

31

TRIALS

5



CRIMINAL APPEALS

Our Appellate Attorney represents the state in defending a criminal conviction that are challenged by the defendant on appeal. Our office reviews the defendant's arguments and prepares a counter-argument in a written brief to justify the trial court's decision and the defendant's conviction as well as provide the legal rationale to uphold the original verdict. In some rare instances, oral arguments are presented before the Fifth District Court of Appeals, during which the assistant appellant attorney responds to questions from the judges and cites legal precedent and statutes that support the state's position.

5TH DISTRICT COURT OF APPEALS

CASES FILED BY DEFENDANTS

25

AFFIRMED IN FAVOR OF THE PROSECUTION

22

APPEAL DISMISSED BY COURT

12

APPEAL DISMISSED BY APPELLANT

5

OHIO SUPREME COURT

CASES FILED

6

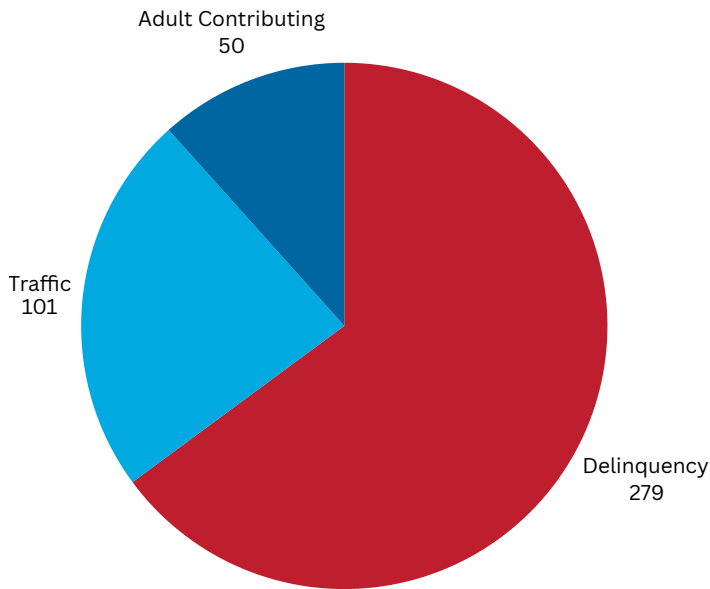
JURISDICTION DECLINED

7

APPEAL DISMISSED BY COURT

2

JUVENILE DIVISION



2023 TOTAL NUMBER OF
JUVENILE CASES: **430**

2023 TOP 3 JUVENILE CRIMES

1. **UNRULY**
2. **DISORDERLY CONDUCT**
3. **THEFT**

CIVIL STATS

NEW MATTERS
OPENED

1326

CONTRACTS
REVIEWED

385

LEGAL OPINIONS
PROVIDED

274

TOTAL NUMBER OF
CLIENTS

60

CIVIL DIVISION



The Civil Division represents county and township governments. With the anticipated continued growth of Delaware County, the need for legal work and the demands on our civil division continue to increase each year. Matters will continue to be more complex and increasingly involve new and novel issues, but we welcome the challenges ahead and look forward to continuing to help and to advise our clients.



VICTIM SERVICES UNIT

2023 TOTAL FILES OPENED

407

ADULT

264

JUVENILE

143

2023 was a busy year for our Victim Services Unit. In addition to the thousands of victims they assisted through Common Pleas Court and Civil Protection Orders last year, they also absorbed the role of advocacy for victims in the Delaware County Juvenile Court.

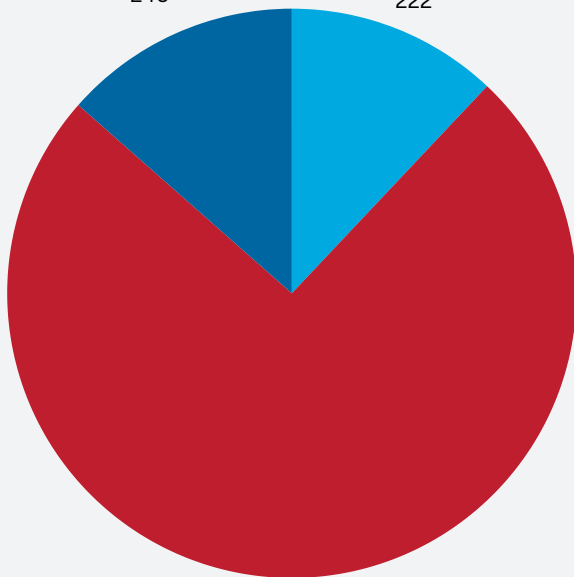
Our four-person unit is comprised of advocates who are specifically trained to support victims of crime, offering emotional support and physically accompanying them through court proceedings. Additionally, they work with other local criminal justice and social service agencies to provide resources for crisis intervention, safety planning, and so much more.

2023 TOTAL CIVIL PROTECTION ORDER ASSISTS

1845

Hearings & Filings
249

Walk-Ins
222



Phone Calls & Emails
1374

2023 TOP 3 VICTIM ORIENTED OFFENSES

- 1. IDENTITY THEFT / FRAUD / FINANCIAL CRIME**
- 2. DOMESTIC / FAMILY VIOLENCE**
- 3. STALKING / HARASSING / MENACING**



SPECIAL PROGRAMS



DIVERSION PROGRAM

The Diversion Program is created by statute-but managed by the prosecutor's office- offered to certain 1st time, non-violent offenders resulting (if completed) in their charge or case being dismissed without a conviction on their permanent record. The Diversion Program was enhanced with a new partnership with the Public Defender's Office in 2023.

CASES ENTERING
DIVERSION IN 2023

9

2023 CASES STILL
ACTIVELY IN
DIVERSION

2

2023 SUCCESSFUL
DIVERSION
COMPLETIONS

3

COURT COSTS
RECOVERED

\$2,693.03

RESTITUTION PAID

\$5,092.25

COMMUNITY SERVICE
HOURS SERVED

456

SCHIFFEL'S SAFETY SCHOLARS

Schiffel's Safety Scholars began in 2021 and partners with the counties local libraries to offer drug, alcohol, vaping, and tobacco prevention education. Schiffel's Safety Scholars is funded by monies seized from drug forfeiture cases in our county.



Book signing for 2023 You Be the Author book writing contest winner Lucy Walk.



Winning design for the 2023 You Be the Artist billboard design contest created by Reese Fellinger.

VOLLEY AGAINST VIOLENCE



2023 Champs: SandBar Station

12 Teams

Over 70 Players

20 Different Community Sponsors

\$4,545.00 cash/in kind donations

63 donations for raffles

\$9,369.54 raised for Turning Point



THANK YOU

One of the most important aspects of our office include investing in our community beyond the courtroom. We do this through many annual programs like Schiffel's Safety Scholars and Volley Against Violence. However, we can't do any of this without great community partners. Our Delaware County Commissioners and Administrators support our many missions along with our many law enforcement partners. But truly, THANK YOU to our community.

CONTACT US



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