



**Prosecuting Attorney**  
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**NEWS**  
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**Court of Appeals Reverses Prade Exoneration**  
*Appellate Court finds Judge Hunter abused her discretion*

**AKRON, OHIO – March 19, 2014** – Summit County Prosecuting Attorney Sherri Bevan Walsh today announced that the Ninth District Court of Appeals reversed Judge Judy Hunter’s ruling exonerating former Akron Police Captain Doug Prade in the murder of Dr. Margo Prade.

“In order to be exonerated, Prade and his attorneys needed to show *clear and convincing evidence* of his innocence – not simply create doubt,” said Prosecutor Walsh. “They failed.”

In a unanimous judgement released today, Judge Beth Whitmore wrote that Judge Hunter abused her discretion in declaring Prade innocent. The Court deemed Prade’s latest DNA results “wholly questionable” and the exclusion of his DNA “meaningless.” After citing the numerous pieces of evidence used to convict Prade in 1998, the Court found that “[g]iven the enormity of the evidence in support of Prade’s guilt and the fact that the meaningfulness of the DNA exclusion results is far from clear, this Court cannot conclude that Prade set forth clear and convincing evidence of actual innocence.”

Prade has a motion for a new trial pending in the Summit County Court of Common Pleas. Judge Christine Croce must now decide whether to issue a new trial or send Prade back to prison to serve the remainder of his sentence. The State is filing a motion for a capias warrant on Prade to permit law enforcement to return him to prison based on the appellate decision.

A jury convicted Doug Prade in 1998 of murdering his ex-wife, Dr. Margo Prade. The Ohio Innocence Project, on behalf of Doug Prade, filed a petition for either post-conviction relief or a new trial based on their claim that new DNA testing would prove Doug Prade’s innocence. Judge Hunter issued a ruling on January 29 exonerating Doug Prade. The State appealed Judge Hunter’s ruling to the Ninth District Court of Appeals on the grounds that the DNA did not show Prade’s innocence.

Prade’s conviction on six counts of Interception of Wire, Oral or Electronic Communications and one count of Possessing Criminal Tools was not part of his motion for his conviction to be overturned.