

# NEWS RELEASE

**Ilene Shapiro – Summit County Executive**  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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## **Medical Examiner Dr. Lisa Kohler honored by Ohio State Coroners Association**

**SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO**—Summit County Medical Examiner Dr. Lisa Kohler, MD was honored recently at the Ohio State Coroners Association Annual Meeting with the Samuel R. Gerber Award. The award commends faithful, dedicated public servants who go over and above the ordinary, in a professional and objective manner to the general public while promoting a better understanding of the Office of the County Coroner.

“The stellar work that Dr. Lisa Kohler brings to the Medical Examiner’s Office is a shining example of Summit County excellence,” said Executive Shapiro. “Dr. Kohler’s professionalism, objectivity, and commitment to serving the public make her the obvious choice when recognizing extraordinary performance both in the field of pathology and public service.”

A Norton native, Dr. Kohler started out as a summer intern at the Summit County Coroner’s Office in 1985. She received her Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of Toledo in 1988 and her Doctor of Medicine from the Medical College of Ohio at Toledo in 1993. She became chief resident during her pathology residency at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. Dr. Kohler continued her training through a forensic pathology fellowship with the Chief Medical Examiner of Richmond, Virginia.

Dr. Kohler returned to Summit County after this extensive post-secondary education. She launched her forensic pathology career as a deputy medical examiner at the Summit County Medical Examiner’s Office in 1998. She has served as Chief Medical Examiner since 2001 and is the longest serving director in the Summit County Executive’s Office. She is board certified in both anatomic and clinical pathology and forensic pathology.

Dr. Kohler teaches as an assistant professor of pathology at Northeastern Ohio Universities of Medicine and is an expert witness in the states of Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. She has written and contributed to various academic publications. She also has given countless lectures to a wide variety of audiences, including medical and paramedical professionals, law enforcement professionals, forensic professionals, law students and attorneys, and the public.

The Samuel R. Gerber Award is the newest addition to Dr. Kohler's three decades of recognition for her exceptional work and study in the field of pathology. The award is named after Cuyahoga County Coroner Samuel Gerber who modernized the Office of the Coroner during his 49-year period in office. In a similar vein, Dr. Kohler made history by becoming the first female Medical Examiner in Ohio history in 2001. Twenty-two years into her service as Medical Examiner, she and her team of two deputy Medical Examiners carry full caseloads. They are involved in every crime investigation that involves a fatality and aid in determining the cause and manner of death for people when it is unclear. In 2022, Dr. Kohler and her team performed 640 examinations and reviewed 204 records to determine cause of death.

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