

MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

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Man Found Guilty of Gaming Charges

(Akron, September 1, 2009) ... Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Don Michel, 69, of Clinton, OH, was found guilty today by a jury of Engaging in a Pattern of Corrupt Activity, a felony of the first degree, nine counts of Money Laundering, and Tampering with Evidence, felonies of the third degree.

Michel will be sentenced by Judge Elinore Stormer on September 30, and faces between three and 60 years.

From 2000 to 2003, Michel was operating a gaming store. The police advised Michel that given the investigation, he should not tamper with the game boards. When police returned the machines were gone. When the machines were finally found, game boards were removed. In 2004, Michel started an illegal game of chance business. He was using the money from the business to expand his enterprise and start new stores. All payments were done in cash where he bought either money orders or bank checks to hide the money trail.