



Prosecuting Attorney
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NEWS
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Summit County to Handle Prosecution of Craigslist Killer
Death penalty to be sought against Beasley

AKRON, OHIO – December 5, 2011 – Summit County Prosecuting Attorney Sherri Bevan Walsh today announced that her office will be prosecuting Richard J. Beasley for the murder and attempted murder of the four victims of the so-called “Craigslist murders” in Noble and Summit Counties. This decision comes after discussions between Prosecutor Walsh, Noble County Prosecuting Attorney Cliff Sickler, the Ohio Attorney General’s Office and the U.S. Attorneys for the northern and southern districts of Ohio.

"In deciding where and how to try this case, our primary concern was doing what is in the best interest of the victims and their families," said Prosecutor Walsh. "In trying the case in Summit County, we will ensure the surviving victim and the families of the other victims do not suffer through multiple lengthy trials and will provide a more convenient location for at least some of the families and the surviving victim."

All of the criminal activity originated in Summit County. Additionally, most of the victims' families have ties to the Stark and Summit County area. The prosecution will be seeking the death penalty against Beasley.

The drug and prostitution charges for which Beasley was arraigned last week are moving forward as scheduled. His next court appearance on those charges will be December 22.