



**Prosecuting Attorney**  
County of Summit

**NEWS**

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**CONTACT: April Wiesner**  
**Phone: (330) 604-2739**  
**[wiesner@prosecutor.summitoh.net](mailto:wiesner@prosecutor.summitoh.net)**

**Jury Recommends Death for Craigslist Killings Mastermind**  
*Formal sentencing set for Tuesday, March 26*

**AKRON, OHIO – March 20, 2013** – Summit County Prosecuting Attorney Sherri Bevan Walsh and Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine today announced that a jury recommended that Richard Beasley, 53, of Yale Street in Akron, receive the death penalty. The jury deliberated for slightly more than two hours following a one-day mitigation hearing.

“I appreciate and commend the jury for their hard work in listening to weeks of testimony, considering the evidence and then determining Mr. Beasley’s guilt and recommending he be put to death for his actions. That cannot have been easy, and I am certain they did not make these decisions lightly,” said Prosecutor Walsh. “I would also like to thank the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation for conducting a thorough and exhaustive investigation and the Ohio Attorney General’s Office Special Prosecution Division for joining my office in prosecuting both Beasley and his accomplice, Brogan Rafferty.”

Beasley and his then-16-year-old accomplice, Brogan Rafferty of Stow, lured unemployed men to Akron using an ad on Craigslist. The ad offered a farm caretaker job in Noble County with a weekly salary of \$300, housing and use of the property and vehicles on that property. Beasley and Rafferty shot four of the men who responded to the ad. Ralph Geiger, 56, of Akron; David Pauley, 51, of Norfolk, VA; and Timothy Kern, 47, of Massillon, all died and were buried in shallow graves. Scott Davis, 48, of South Carolina, managed to escape and seek help at a nearby house.

“Richard Beasley was found guilty of committing very serious crimes, taking the lives of three innocent men who were simply looking for a new start in life, and injuring another,” said Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine. “He is now going to be held accountable for his actions.”

“Beasley is a master manipulator. He manipulated his victims, and then he tried to manipulate the jurors into believing his incredible story of innocence and tales of woe in an effort to spare his life,” said Prosecutor Walsh. “I am glad that the jury was able to see through his lies and recommend an appropriate punishment.”

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On March 12, the jury found Beasley guilty of:

- Nine counts of Aggravated Murder with
  - Gun specification
  - Multiple victims death specification
  - Aggravated robbery death specification
  - Kidnapping death specification
  - Under detention death specification
- One count of Attempted Murder with a gun specification,
- Four counts of Aggravated Robbery with gun specifications,
- Four counts of Kidnapping with gun specifications,
- Four counts of Having Weapons Under Disability,
- One count of Identity Fraud
- Two counts of Grand Theft, and
- Two counts of Petty Theft.

After considering the jury's recommendation, Judge Lynne Callahan will sentence Beasley on Tuesday, March 26 at 1:15 p.m.

Rafferty was sentenced to life in prison without parole eligibility on November 5 after a jury found him guilty of:

- Nine counts of Aggravated Murder with firearm specifications;
- One count of Attempted Murder with a firearm specification;
- Four counts of Aggravated Robbery, a felony of the first degree, with firearm specifications;
- Four counts of Kidnapping, a felony of the first degree;
- Once count of Grand Theft, a felony of the third degree;
- Once count of Grand Theft, a felony of the fourth degree;
- Receiving Stolen Property, a felony of the fourth degree; and
- Three counts of Petty Theft, a misdemeanor of the first degree.