

U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO

QUARTERLY COMMUNITY OUTREACH NEWSLETTER

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U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE ADDS OUTREACH RESOURCES TO THE WEB

The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Ohio has updated its Community Outreach information on its website, <http://www.justice.gov/usao/ohs/>.

The site now includes a dedicated page for outreach information and community resources.

Check it out by visiting the homepage above and clicking on the Community Outreach icon on the right-hand side.



The new page, <http://www.justice.gov/usao/ohs/outreach.html>, includes an overview of community outreach, contact information for the district's outreach coordinator, quarterly outreach newsletters, community documents, and helpful links. The documents and links address issues like gang prevention, federal resources, Internet safety, and immigration document fraud and provide information on grants and best practices.

Agencies, communities work together to prevent violent extremism

The U.S. Attorney's Office in Columbus, Ohio hosted representatives in August from the U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Agency, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, and the National Counterterrorism Center to discuss best practices for countering violent extremism.

As part of their trip, officials from Washington D.C. also met with community members at Columbus Global Academy to talk about empowering local partners.

“Building relationships and empowering local partners is integral to keeping communities safe,” U.S. Attorney Carter Stewart said. “Engagement emphasizes proactive measures and helps educate vulnerable populations.”

In September, The U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of Ohio participated in a Building Communities of Trust event with federal officials, local law enforcement, fusion centers, and community leaders.

The Building Communities of Trust initiative is a locally based initiative that connects communities and the government to address issues through community-based problem solving.

For resources related to Building Communities of Trust and Suspicious Activity Reporting, see the “If You See Something, Say Something” campaign at www.dhs.gov/if-you-see-something-say-something-campagin.

ATTORNEY GENERAL ERIC HOLDER PROMOTES “SMART ON CRIME” INITIATIVE

United States Attorney General Eric Holder announced a criminal justice reform at the American Bar Association’s 2013 Annual Meeting this summer.

The “Smart on Crime” initiative considers that America’s prison population has grown at a rate of almost 800 percent in the last three decades. Right now, federal prisons are operating at 40 percent above capacity. The combined local, state, and federal cost for maintaining prisons ran at \$80 billion in 2010 alone.

Holder said it is time to question our system of mass incarceration, and the larger approach to criminal justice it represents.

The plan begins with an emphasis on prioritizing prosecutions and focusing on the most critical cases. Specifically, alternatives to incarceration will be considered for low-level, non-violent offenses.

The Attorney General also highlighted the need for prevention and reentry work. Paying attention to inmates after prison will better prevent recidivism, he said.

To read the initiative, visit www.justice.gov/ag/smart-on-crime.pdf.

Columbus Community Engagement Council hosts Ohio Domestic Violence Network

The Columbus Community Engagement Council (CCEC) welcomed Tonia Lake and Un Jung Lim from Ohio Domestic Violence Network to its quarterly meeting September 18.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Nov 1: Assistant U.S. Attorney Kevin Kelley to address Ohio State University undergraduate students on careers in law enforcement.
- Nov 8: Assistant U.S. Attorney Heather Hill to address domestic violence legal advocates in Columbus, OH.
- Nov 10: U.S. Attorney's Office, law enforcement, and community leaders to raise awareness on "Notario" fraud to immigrant communities.
- Nov 19: U.S. Attorney Carter Stewart to address Woman's City Club, Cincinnati, OH

Lake provided domestic violence resources specific to different cultures, sexual orientations, and ages. Lim was introduced as Ohio Domestic Violence Network's newest staff member. She will serve as the outreach coordinator to underserved populations.

Kim Welter from Equality Ohio updated CCEC members on the Federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act and Ohio's Equal Housing and Employment Act. Both acts include civil rights protections for individuals related to their sexual orientation and gender identity.

Those in attendance included Gloria McCauley and Lauren MacDade (BRAVO), Mahdi Warsama (Masjid-As-Salaamah), Sunni-Ali Islam (Native Sun), Rabbi Emeritus Harold Berman (Congregation Tifereth Israel), Rev. Kristin Langstraat (Ohio Health), Kim Welter (Equality Ohio), J.S. Jindal (ASHA Ray of Hope), Jennifer Thornton (U.S. Attorney's Office), Special Agent in Charge Kevin Cornelius (FBI), and U.S. Attorney Carter Stewart.

The intent of the CCEC is to build relationships with and learn from community leaders who represent the city's diversity in terms of ethnicity, religion, and sexual orientation.

The next formal CCEC meeting will be scheduled for early 2014. Details and request for agenda topics will be sent in December. If you're interested in joining CCEC, please contact Jennifer Thornton at jennifer.thornton@usdoj.gov or 614-255-1570.

NEW REPORT OFFERS STRATEGIES TO KEEP KIDS OUT OF GANGS

The U.S. Department of Justice and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services have released *Changing Course: Preventing Gang Membership*, a report that offers strategies for schools, law enforcement, public health officials, and community leaders to prevent youth from joining gangs.

In the report, the National Institute of Justice emphasizes collaboration for a community-based prevention model.

You can view the report at <https://ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/239234.pdf>.

2013 VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT NEEDS ASSESSMENT COMPLETED

The Violence Against Women Act needs assessment is a two-part comprehensive statewide analysis of community-based services for families and individuals



affected by domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

Part One of the assessment consists of an online survey that was distributed to direct service providers. Part Two includes focus groups with a total of 102 direct service providers across Ohio.

The study will be used by the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services and the Family Violence Prevention Center Advisory Council to establish priorities as they work to increase the safety of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking victims statewide.

The needs assessment can be found at

www.publicsafety.ohio.gov/links/2013_VAWA_Needs_Assessment.pdf.

OUT AND ABOUT

- Aug. 27: U.S. Attorney Carter Stewart and Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney Bob Behlen participated in the Multi-Cultural Advisory Council's quarterly meeting at the Center for Holocaust and Humanity Education in Cincinnati, OH.
- Sept. 11: Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney Bob Behlen presented at The Islamic Center of Greater Cincinnati's National Day of Service & Remembrance.
- Sept. 13: Criminal Chief Kenneth Parker presented at the Ohio Judicial Conference Annual Meeting in Columbus, OH.
- Sept. 13: Outreach Coordinator Jennifer Thornton provided human trafficking resources at the new school nurses' statewide conference in Reynoldsburg, OH.
- Sept. 19: Criminal Chief Kenneth Parker participated in two call-in sessions with the Cincinnati Initiative to Reduce Violence.
- Sept. 25: U.S. Attorney Carter Stewart spoke to law students at the University of Cincinnati about the work of the U.S. Attorney's Office and the students' future career goals.



- Oct. 17: Criminal Chief Kenneth Parker presented at the Color Wellness Alliance Meeting in Cincinnati, OH.
- Oct. 29: Assistant U.S. Attorney Tim Mangan and Criminal Chief Kenneth Parker addressed the Indian American Chamber of Commerce on common cyber scams for businesses and individuals in Cincinnati, OH

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

FREE GRANT WRITING SEMINARS

The Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) is hosting free Grant Writing seminars in 2013. OCJS's grant trainings provide an overview of identifying grant sources, analyzing program objectives, creating a budget, seeking letters of support, and writing proposals. Federal and state grants available to criminal justice professionals are discussed. Grant Writing 101 trainings take place on the following dates: **November 7 and December 12**. All trainings are held from 9 a.m. to 2p.m. in the Ohio Department of Public Safety's Motorcycle Classroom, located at 1970 W. Broad St., Columbus, on the first floor. Click [here](#) to register.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

SIGN UP FOR FEDERAL GRANT ALERTS

To subscribe to federal grant announcements, visit www.grants.gov/manage-subscriptions.html. Here, you can subscribe to receive email alerts of all grant notices, or you sign up for notices based on criteria such as topic, sub-agency, and funding opportunity number.



Outreach event dates are subject to change. If you have questions or suggestions regarding community outreach at the U.S. Attorney's Office Southern District of Ohio, contact Jennifer Thornton at jennifer.thornton@usdoj.gov or 614-255-1570.

221 E. FOURTH ST. SUITE 400
CINCINNATI, OH 45202
513-684-3711

303 MARCONI BLVD. SUITE 200
COLUMBUS, OH 43215
614-469-5715

200 W. SECOND ST. SUITE 600
DAYTON, OH 45402
937-225-2910