

Baxter is named prosecutor of the year

The Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association bestowed its Outstanding Prosecutor of the Year Award on Erie County Prosecuting Attorney Kevin J. Baxter at its annual meeting in Columbus on December 3.

Kevin Baxter began his career as an Erie County Prosecutor in 1989. During his career, his success rate on murder prosecutions is 100%. He further successfully concluded the prosecution of three Hell's Angels responsible for the 1988 murder of David Hartlaub featured on "America's Most Wanted."

Kevin has also been a special prosecutor in a number of key cases in Northern Ohio, i.e. the Iaconna case in Medina County, the prosecution of the Mayors of City Medina and the City of Toledo in Lucas County, and most recently the prosecution of the Board of Election Managers in Cuyahoga County which led to the forced resignation of the Election Board leading to a systemic change in the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections.

Since becoming prosecutor, Kevin has helped establish the Erie County Drug Task Force, the Child Abuse Task Force, the Welfare Fraud Unit, the Victim of Violent Crimes Division, the Benchmark Program (which is the Drug Court of Erie County), the Domestic Violence Task Force and the Erie County Sexual Assault Nurse Program, and Michael's House which is the Child Advocacy Center for Erie County.

Kevin is the chairperson of the Community Correction Board in Erie County. Kevin was on the Governor's Task Force on the investigation and

prosecution of child abuse cases. In 1996, Kevin received the Outstanding Young Ohioan Award from the Ohio Jaycees.

Kevin is a past president of the Ohio Prosecuting Attorney Association. He has been the Ohio Director for the National District Attorneys Association Board of Directors and is a past vice-president. Kevin was the representative from the Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association on Statewide Welfare/Food Stamp Fraud Committee. Kevin received the Prestigious Leadership Award from the Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association and was the speaker at the 25th Anniversary Conference Recognizing Ohio Ethics Law.

Besides his legal career, Kevin has contributed locally as president of Erie County American Heart Association, chairperson for the March of Dimes Walkathon, chairperson for the American Heart Association Heart Ball, past president of the Sandusky State Theater Board of Trustees; board member of Tri-County Addiction Center, board member of the Providence Fund and a member of the Sandusky Lions Club and Sandusky Jaycees and past vice president of Bayshore Counseling Board of Trustees.

This impressive list of accomplishments is a testimony to the character and competence of Kevin Baxter and the Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association is proud to recognize Kevin as Ohio's Prosecuting Attorney of the Year for 2009.