



FIRST 100 DAYS REPORT

Presented by the Mahoning County Prosecutor's Office
Lynn Maro, Prosecutor

Prosecutor Lynn Maro takes action, outlines first 100 days as new Mahoning County Prosecutor

The first 100 days of a new administration sets the foundation for lasting change. Since taking office, Prosecutor Lynn Maro has worked diligently to address the issues she identified during the campaign; results everyone has confidence in, better prosecution practices for violent offenses, consistency, and professionalism.

Throughout the past 100 days, the office has prioritized justice for victims, strengthened its approach to criminal prosecution, improved civil division operations, and enhanced support for witnesses and victims.

First 100 days: Criminal Division

Criminal Division: Chief of Criminal Division – John Juhasz

In the first 100 days, Prosecutor Lynn Maro has made important improvements to the Criminal Division of the Mahoning County Prosecutor's Office, focusing on aggressively prosecuting violent felonies, stronger support for victims, and closer coordination with law enforcement.

Key Actions Taken:

In order to provide greater consistency in the resolution of violent felonies and murder cases, approval from the Chief of the Criminal Division or Prosecutor Maro must be obtained to amend or reduce such cases. Prosecutor Maro is also placing a strong focus on securing convictions for high-level felony cases reducing plea bargaining for the most serious and violent offenses. This approach reflects a commitment to holding violent and dangerous offenders fully accountable under the law.

An on-call phone resource is available after hours, giving police officers access to legal guidance when they need it most. Though the phone was available, most police departments were unaware of the availability of after hours support or even the phone number.

Prosecutor Maro has changed the grand jury procedures. Victims and witnesses are called to testify in front of the Grand Jury. This standard practice in all other counties enables the Grand Jurors to better assess the strengths and weaknesses of a case.

When a defendant is sentenced, Prosecutor Maro sends the Police Chiefs and detectives notification that the case has been concluded. This new system keeps law enforcement updated so they can properly manage their records and evidence rooms. Previously, police chiefs might go for months without learning the outcome of a case investigated by that police department.

The Prosecutor's Office has also expanded victim-witness services, working more closely with community organizations to provide better resources and support to victims.

Prosecutor Maro has begun developing a data base to track how cases are resolved, and why plea offers are made. The objective of the data base is to provide greater consistency in the resolution of cases.



First 100 Days: Criminal Divison Cont.

Trials (Since 1/6/2025):

In the first 100 days, the Mahoning County Prosecutor's Office has taken 5 felony level cases to trial, with 4 cases concluding with guilty verdicts.

These Trials include:

Thomas Spencer – Found guilty on 3 counts of Gross Sexual Imposition

Brianna Zagotti – Found guilty of 1 charge of Child Endangerment

Zackary Runion – Found guilty of Failure to Provide Notice of Change of Address

Andre Bailey – Found guilty of Aggravated Murder, Murder, Aggravated Robbery, Tampering with Evidence, and Having Weapons Under Disability

Robert Baxa - Found not guilty of multiple counts of rape, gross sexual imposition and sexual battery after a jury trial.

County Courts:

Implemented procedures to provide consistency between the 4 County Courts.

Key Action Taken:

Placed an Assistant Prosecutor in the Courtroom for arraignments to provide guidance on bond recommendations and to assist in resolving traffic offenses. This has reduced the number of traffic cases that are reset for a second hearing and has reduced the need to have law enforcement subpoenaed for cases that can be resolved without the need for a court hearing.

Redirected essential duties back to the Prosecutor's Office. Court staff was tasked with issuing subpoenas and providing victim witness notifications. These are the responsibility of the Prosecutor's Office and are duties now performed in a uniform manner in all County Courts.



First 100 days: Civil Division

CIVIL DIVISION: Chief of Civil Division – Kathy McNabb Welsh

The focus of the Civil Division changes has been on providing better client services to the statutory clients. This has involved enhanced communication with the client and more timely responses when assistance has been requested.

Key Actions Taken:

Improving Client Communication in the Civil Division:

Our clients, including townships, government organizations, and various public agencies rely on timely legal guidance to navigate complex legal matters. To streamline communication and enhance service, we have issued a comprehensive list of departments and legal topics along with a list of which attorney in the Civil Division should be contacted to provide assistance. By providing clear prosecutorial assignments, each client has a designated prosecutor, eliminating confusion and ensuring continuity in legal representation.

Providing timely guidance to clients when new laws take effect:

The Mahoning County Prosecutor's Office has been proactive in helping local law enforcement prepare for the implementation of House Bill 315. Since body and dash camera videos have become common place, public records requests for such recordings have overwhelmed local law enforcement and placed a significant strain on departments. Ohio House Bill 315 introduced key changes affecting township governance and public records policies. The bill revises township regulations and allows law enforcement agencies to charge fees for processing and releasing body camera, dash camera, and jail surveillance footage. Our office provided law enforcement agencies with detailed information on House Bill 315 before the law took effect. We have provided guidance on the importance of proper camera usage, data retention, and public records compliance to build trust between law enforcement and the community.



First 100 Days: Juvenile & Staffing Changes

Juvenile Division: Chief of Juvenile/CSB Division – Jennifer Robbins

Operational & Procedural Enhancements:

The Mahoning County Prosecutor's Office has prepared and implemented records/data management policy between Mahoning County Children Services and the Mahoning County Prosecutor's Office. Procedure streamlines hard copy & electronic management of records and data. The changes have provided greater efficiency and security for sensitive records.

The Mahoning County Prosecutor's Office has developed and implemented standardized discovery responses. This procedure provides more timely production of records to opposing counsel in a manner that provides better tracking of information for the case.

Established coordinated procedures between Children Services and the Prosecutor's Office to provide a more uniform responses to emergency cases.

Staffing Additions and Changes:

- Assistant Prosecutor **Shantell George** has joined the County Courts.
- Assistant Prosecutors **Mark Carfolo** and **Melissa Dinsio** have joined the Criminal Division.
- Assistant Prosecutor **Leonard Hall** has joined the Civil Division.
- Assistant Prosecutor **Anissa Moderelli** was transferred from the Juvenile Division to the Criminal Division.
- Assistant Prosecutor **Anthony Carbone** has joined the Juvenile Division.
- **Brenda Gray** joined the Victim Witness Division.
- **Linda Long** joined the Office serving as a paralegal in the County Courts.
- **Amanda Ponevac** and **Sharon Kosko** joined the office as legal secretaries in the Criminal Division
- **Tara Peters** joined the Office as a paralegal in the Civil Division

Longtime Prosecutor's Office employee sets eyes on retirement:

In April we said goodbye to a longtime employee at the Mahoning County Prosecutor's Office. Linda Kerr had been the fiscal officer for The Prosecutor's Office for over 20 years. She had planned to retire at the end of 2024 and graciously agreed to stay and help with the new administration's transition. We are grateful for her professionalism, dedication and help!

Lindsay Hospodar has taken over as Fiscal Officer and we are thrilled to have her take on this new role in the Prosecutor's Office