

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

QUARTERLY COMMUNITY OUTREACH NEWSLETTER

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## JUSTICE DEPARTMENT TRANSFERS DAYTON PROPERTY TO OASIS HOUSE AS PART OF OPERATION GOODWILL

U.S. Attorney Carter Stewart and Acting U.S. Marshal Pat Sedoti of the Southern District of Ohio hosted an event Dec. 20 signifying the transfer of ownership of a property seized as part of a federal criminal case that will now be used as a safe house for women trying to escape prostitution and the sex industry.



*From left-to-right: Acting U.S. Marshal Pat Sedoti, U.S. Attorney Carter Stewart, Oasis House Executive Director Cheryl Oliver, Dayton Police Chief Richard Biehl, and FBI Assistant Special Agent in Charge Robert Hughes.*

The transfer marks the first time in Ohio that a property seized from a criminal has been transferred to community use through a Justice Department program known as “Operation Goodwill.”

U.S. Attorney Stewart and Acting Marshal Sedoti were joined by FBI Assistant Special Agent in Charge Robert Hughes and Dayton Police Chief Richard Biehl in presenting the keys and a ceremonial deed of transfer to Cheryl Oliver of Oasis House.

“This house is a symbol of change,” U.S. Attorney Stewart said. “Once acquired through illegal activity, it will now serve as a safe-house for women and support them as they escape the sex industry.”

Investigating agencies seized the house in 2010 during a successful investigation by the Dayton Police Department and the FBI into a Dayton drug dealer. The drug dealer purchased the house as a way of laundering proceeds from his drug dealing activity. The drug dealer was sentenced to prison. The house was forfeited to the law enforcement agencies, who agreed to turn the property over to the Oasis House.

“The Operation Goodwill program allows the Justice Department to transfer seized properties to non-profits, such as the Oasis House, to convert the property from criminal use into a positive community based endeavor,” Acting U.S. Marshal Patrick Sedoti said.

“Members of the Dayton Police Department have long recognized that arrest of persons involved in prostitution was ineffective without meaningful intervention, including residential treatment services to rehabilitate the lives of those who are ensnared in this lifestyle,” Dayton Police Chief Biehl said. “The Dayton community will now be able to provide more effective intervention for prostituted women and reduce the substantial harm they experience as well as the harm to communities from prostitution activity.”

“We are hopeful this property will be transformed into a community resource that will bring positive change to this neighborhood and the lives of those who are served at Oasis House,” said FBI Special Agent in Charge Kevin Cornelius.

“Without Operation Goodwill, women would still be cold this December and for every December coming,” said Cheryl Oliver, Executive Director at Oasis House. “Without this project, there wouldn’t be a safe place for these women to go.”

Through Operation Goodwill, forfeited real or personal property can be transferred to state or local governments in support of drug abuse treatment, drug crime prevention and education, housing, job skills and other community-based public health and safety programs. Operation Goodwill was established in 1997, but was revised in 2010 to streamline the transfer process.

Any designated non-profit organization can apply to participate in Operation Goodwill. To participate, they must complete a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Justice to use the property for at least five years under specific circumstances.

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING TRENDS IN THE UNITED STATES

Polaris Project recently released a report tracking human trafficking data in America from December 2007 to December 2012. The report is based on information received through the organization’s national hotline and includes more than 9,000 unique cases of human trafficking.

Key facts of the report include: 41% of sex trafficking cases and 20% of labor trafficking cases referenced U.S. citizens as victims. Women were referenced as victims in 85% of sex trafficking cases, and men in 40% of labor trafficking cases.

Download the report [here](#).

## U.S. ATTORNEY, U.S. SENATOR FOCUS ON REENTRY

U.S. Attorney Carter Stewart and Outreach Coordinator Jennifer Thornton joined U.S. Senator Rob Portman and his Reentry Advisory Team on Oct. 23 at the Alvis House Community Reentry Center.

Representatives from regional reentry coalitions and non-profit organizations, along with officials from the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections, Ohio Department of Youth Services, and Office of the Ohio Governor discussed the Second Chance Act's contribution to public safety in Ohio.

Enacted in 2008, the Second Chance Act was designed to give federal, state, and local governments additional tools to help inmates more successfully reintegrate into their communities upon release and avoid reoffending.

At Alvis House's Community Reentry Center, it's helped provide job readiness training, GED instruction, case management, and job retention support.

Portman introduced bipartisan legislation to reauthorize the Second Chance Act in November.

## New American Civil Rights Town Hall Scheduled for April 15

The U.S. Attorney's Office Southern District of Ohio is coordinating with the Ohio Latino Affairs Commission, the Ohio Asian American and Pacific Islander Advisory Council, and the Columbus Community Relations Commission to host the second annual New American Civil Rights Town Hall.

At the first summit in April 2013, community leaders gathered in Columbus to talk about employment, housing, and language rights, hate crimes, and police relations.

In the spirit of continued cultural competency and collaboration, the second annual summit will

**Protecting Civil Rights Town Hall:  
Competence & Collaboration**

A summit coordinated by the U.S. Attorney's Office of the Southern District of Ohio, the Ohio Latino Affairs Commission, the Ohio Asian American and Pacific Islander Advisory Council, and the Columbus Community Relations Commission

**Save the date: April 15, 2014**

**What's the big idea?**  
CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

Join us to learn how our agencies are helping New Americans and their communities understand and use civil rights laws that protect them from unfair treatment and discrimination.

At our first summit April 23, 2013, we brought together leaders to talk about your rights on your job or when you look for work, when you rent or buy housing, when people suffer or are threatened with violent hate crime, and in your dealings with police, sheriffs, and other law enforcement.

At our second annual summit we want to continue the spirit of cultural competency and collaboration with in-depth discussion of hate crimes and building relations between the community and law enforcement.

Our goal is to bring together those who have immigrated to Ohio from places all over the world to understand their rights, learn best practices, and work together to create better communities for all.

Learn more about the event [here](#)

**be informed  
access resources**



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Jan. 9: U.S. Attorney Carter Stewart to participate in legal panel at Ohio Human Trafficking Awareness Day in Columbus.
- Jan. 11: Outreach Coordinator Jennifer Thornton to participate in panel at “Break Every Chain” Human Trafficking Awareness Day in Reynoldsburg.
- Jan. 13: U.S. Attorney Carter Stewart to teach at Harvard Law School’s Trial Advocacy Workshop.
- Jan. 14: Criminal Chief Kenneth Parker to participate in the Southern District of Ohio Federal Bar Seminar in Cincinnati.
- Jan. 30: Criminal Chief Kenneth Parker to present at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Civil Rights Symposium in Columbus.
- Feb. 18: U.S. Attorney Carter Stewart to participate in career day panel at Columbus Global Academy.

include in-depth discussion of hate crimes and building relations between the community and law enforcement.

The goal of the event is to bring together those who have immigrated to Ohio from places all over the world to understand their rights, learn best practices, and work together to create better communities for all.

Learn more about the event [here](#) or by contacting Jennifer Thornton at [jennifer.thornton@usdoj.gov](mailto:jennifer.thornton@usdoj.gov) or 614-255-1570.

More details and registration information to come.

## Federal Trade Commission Offers Immigration Services Fraud Resources

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) provides consumer information online regarding scams against immigrants.

The information provided includes how to avoid a scam, how to find the right help, and how to file a complaint.

The website offers resources like “10 Ways to Avoid Fraud” and explains topics like government imposter scams and using money transfer services. Both PDF documents and videos are available for free in a variety of languages.

Check out more of the FTC’s resources [here](#).

The screenshot shows the FTC's 'Consumer Information' page for 'Scams Against Immigrants'. The page features a navigation menu on the left with categories like 'MONEY & CREDIT', 'HOMES & MORTGAGES', 'HEALTH & FITNESS', 'JOBS & MAKING MONEY', 'PRIVACY & IDENTITY', 'BLOG', and 'VIDEO & MEDIA'. The main content area includes a 'SCAM ALERTS' banner, a search bar, and social sharing options. The article text discusses the importance of choosing the right person for immigration assistance and warns against notarios. A sidebar on the right offers a 'Related PDF' for free and 'Related Items' such as 'Immigration Help', 'Diversity Visa Lottery Scams', and 'File a Complaint with the FTC'. The page is available in Spanish, as indicated by the 'ESPAÑOL' button in the top right corner.

## SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION LAUNCHES REENTRY SECTION ON WEBPAGE

The Social Security Administration has launched a new section on its website with information about benefits after incarceration. The site includes information about services available to help returning offenders, and includes frequently asked questions and links to other services.

Visit the webpage [here](#).

## FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES ENGAGE COMMUNITY TO COUNTER VIOLENT EXTREMISM

On Dec. 5 Outreach Coordinator Jennifer Thornton participated in a Countering Violent Extremism Exercise (CVEX) in Chicago, IL with officials from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties and the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC).

“We recognize that empowering communities and building trust is necessary in preventing all crime, including acts of violent extremism,” U.S. Attorney Carter Stewart said.

The CVEX is a table-top exercise designed to improve trust, understanding, and communication between law enforcement and communities. It is based on a program that has been conducted more than 50 times in the United Kingdom with success, and has now been piloted in Washington D.C. and Chicago, IL.

Using an unfolding scenario of possible violent extremist activity, participants (either community leaders or law enforcement) switch roles in order to learn different perspectives. The scenario is based on actual past cases and is revealed in several stages.

The activity concludes with law enforcement and community members working together to create a community action plan regarding countering violent extremism.

Officials from DHS, NCTC, and the U.S. Attorney’s Office Southern District of Ohio are planning to host the exercise in Columbus, OH in 2014.

## OUT AND ABOUT

- Oct. 29: Assistant U.S. Attorneys Christy Muncy and Heather Hill and Outreach Coordinator Jennifer Thornton attended the Ohio Attorney General’s Crimes Against Children Symposium.
- Oct. 29: Assistant U.S. Attorney Tim Mangan presented on cyber crime, and Criminal Chief Kenneth Parker attended, the Indian American Chamber of Commerce in Sharonville, OH.
- Nov 1: Assistant U.S. Attorney Kevin Kelley spoke to undergraduate students at The Ohio State University about careers in law enforcement.

- Nov 8: Assistant U.S. Attorney Heather Hill presented on federal jurisdiction at the Ohio Domestic Violence Annual Legal Advocacy Caucus Meeting in Dublin, OH.
- Nov. 9: Outreach Coordinator Jennifer Thornton participated in a Restored Citizens event at Christian Valley Missionary Baptist Church with the federal probation department. Probation clients served hot meals and helped provide blankets, coats, and toiletries to local homeless men, women, and children.
- Nov 19: U.S. Attorney Carter Stewart presented on the school-to-prison pipeline to the Woman's City Club in Cincinnati, OH
- Nov. 19: Assistant U.S. Attorney Doug Squires participated in a panel to discuss federal health care fraud prosecutions at the Ohio Association of Medical Equipment Services in Columbus, OH.
- Nov. 19-20: Outreach Coordinator Jennifer Thornton participated in a conference focused on Countering Violent Extremism and Community Engagement hosted by the National Counterterrorism Center in McLean, VA.
- Dec. 4: Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney Bob Behlen and Outreach Coordinator Jennifer Thornton participated in the FBI's Multi-Cultural Advisory Council in Cincinnati, OH.
- Dec. 5: U.S. Attorney Carter Stewart spoke with undergraduate students studying human trafficking at the University of Dayton in Dayton, OH.
- Dec 6: Assistant U.S. Attorney Mary Beth Young presented at the Ohio State Bar Association regarding "The Supreme Court Year in Review" in Columbus, OH.
- Dec. 11: Outreach Coordinator Jennifer Thornton attended the Columbus Urban League's African American Male Initiative reentry programs graduation ceremony in Columbus, OH.
- Dec. 11: Tim Mangan presented on cyber crime to the Cincinnati Citizens Police Academy in Cincinnati, OH.

To arrange a presentation for your group, contact Jennifer Thornton at [jennifer.thornton@usdoj.gov](mailto:jennifer.thornton@usdoj.gov) or 614-255-1570.

## TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

### FREE GRANT WRITING SEMINARS

The Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) is hosting free Grant Writing seminars in 2014. 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: **February 4, April 1, May 6, June 3, August 5, October 7 and December 2**. 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](http://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.

### OVW FY 2014 JUSTICE FOR FAMILIES PROGRAM GRANT

U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office on Violence Against Women

<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=249658>

### OVW FY 2014 LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR VICTIMS GRANT PROGRAM-SEXUAL ASSAULT

U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office on Violence Against Women

<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=249238>

### OVW FY 2014 RURAL SEXUAL ASSAULT, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE AND STALKING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM GRANT

U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office on Violence Against Women

<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=249240>

### OVW FY 2014 GRANTS TO ENHANCE CULTURALLY SPECIFIC SERVICES FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE AND STALKING PROGRAM SOLICITATION GRANT

U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office on Violence Against Women

<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=249172>

### OVW FY 2014 ENHANCED TRAINING AND SERVICES TO END ABUSE IN LATER LIFE PROGRAM GRANT

U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office on Violence Against Women

<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=249175>

### OJP RELEASES API OF GRANT AWARD DATA

In keeping with President Obama's Digital Government Strategy, the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) recently published an application programming interface (API) that provides access to 20 years of OJP Grant Awards Data (1993–2013) in open, machine-readable formats, including current-year grant awards data that is updated daily. The API can be accessed at

<http://data.ojp.gov/developer/index.html>



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](mailto:jennifer.thornton@usdoj.gov) or 614-255-1570.