



KELLER J. BLACKBURN
Athens County Prosecuting Attorney

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From: Keller J. Blackburn, Athens County Prosecuting Attorney

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Investigator Jay Barrett receives 2014 Ohio Prosecuting Attorney's Association Peace Officer of the Year Award

Jay Barrett, Director of Outreach and Secret Service in the Athens County Prosecutor's Office, was named the 2014 Peace Officer of the Year by the Ohio Prosecuting Attorney's Association today at its Annual Meeting in Columbus, Ohio.

Jay was nominated for this award by Keller J. Blackburn, Athens County Prosecuting Attorney. Prosecutor Blackburn cited many reasons Jay was worthy of this award including the fact that "Jay Barrett has committed himself not only to the investigative mission of the Prosecutor's Office, but also to building collaborative relationships throughout our entire region. He has led by example, earned the trust and respect of colleagues in the Courthouse and throughout the County, and is somebody the entire community can be proud of."

Among Jay's many accomplishments since October of 2013, include: 1) leading a homicide investigation that resulted in a Life Sentence for the murder of Paul E. Roberts, who had been killed by his son and buried in a well underneath his house; 2) assisting BCI in the investigation, arrest, and conviction of Glouster Police Chief Lucas Mace; and 3) solving a rape case that had been stalled for lack of sufficient evidence.

Prosecutor Blackburn credits Jay's largest investigative accomplishment this past year as his work in bringing down a former Detroit cop who had sold over 3 million dollars worth of Oxycodone, 30 mg pills, in Athens and Meigs counties. Blackburn stated, "The investigation began in January of 2014, and included more than a dozen local arrests. Information Jay gained from personal relationships, suspects, concerned members of the community and other law enforcement officers was the driving force behind the investigation. Without Jay and his work

with Officers Chuck Haegele, Mike Swearigen and Tom McKnight, the investigation would have merely stalled with local arrests as have so many similar investigations in the past. Instead, armed with only minimal leads, Jay led an investigation that worked with over 40 agencies at the local, state and federal level, in five different states, to identify and arrest a man simply known as Rico, while he was attempting to flee the country. Thanks to Jay's efforts in this case, one of the largest drug traffickers in Athens County history is now serving a 17 year prison term, and drug traffickers well beyond our county and even our state's borders, now know there are severe consequences for trafficking drugs in Athens County."

Prosecutor Blackburn concluded, "In addition to his investigative work in the community, Jay makes a difference every day around the courthouse, conducting trial preparation, running the county's diversion program, building collaboration among law enforcement and other community partners and raising morale and respect for law enforcement in our region."

Jay's career in law enforcement began at the Gallia County Prosecutor's Office where he was appointed to the former SECO narcotics task force for two years. Jay spent fourteen years as a Deputy for the Athens County Sheriff's Office, held the Chief position at the Glouster Police Department and later served as an Environmental Officer for the Athens County Sheriff's Office prior to joining the Athens County Prosecutor's Office in July of 2012.

Present at the awards ceremony were Jay's wife Tia, his mother Linda and father Paul, as well as Prosecutor Keller Blackburn and members of his staff, Athens County Commissioner Charlie Adkins, Athens County Sheriff Rodney Smith, and the Honorable Judge George P. McCarthy. Jay credits his wife Tia for her unwavering support and encouragement.