



ARNOLD, “OUTSTANDING TEAM MEMBER”, RETIRED FROM PROSECUTOR’S OFFICE

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Assistant Prosecuting Attorney John J. Arnold retired on Friday, February 7, 2025, after 42 years of combined service with the Warren County Prosecutor’s Office and the Hamilton County Prosecutor’s Office.

During his time as an assistant prosecutor, John served in both the Criminal and Civil Divisions, and prosecuted many high-profile cases on behalf of the Office, including the prosecution of Marcus Isreal for the murder of Warren County Sheriff’s Office Sergeant Brian S. Dulle, the death penalty conviction of Austin Myers for the aggravated murder of Justin Back of Wayne Township, and the conviction of Mohammed Laghaoui for the attempted murder of Warren County Sheriff’s Deputy Katie Barnes.

In addition to his service as an assistant prosecutor, John also served as a Captain and later as a Lt. Colonel in the Judge Advocate General’s Corps of the United States Army. John is also heavily involved in the local agricultural community, specifically the Warren County Farm Bureau and 4-H programs.

Before announcing his retirement, John also received the Warren County Prosecutor’s Office’s highest honor, the 2024 “Outstanding Team Member Award”, from his peers. In their nominations, John’s colleagues had the following comments about him:

“John is always willing to talk through a case with a less experienced attorney, and he is approachable for advice. Not to mention, he has a great variety of knowledge of many areas of the law. Even though we work in different divisions, he always asks, ‘what’s going on in your world?’ and he truly wants to know, and he usually also has a nugget of advice because he’s handled the same kind of matter sometime in his own vast experience. His guidance is always welcome and valued.”

“Although I have never actually been assigned as his legal assistant long term, I have had the occasional opportunity to provide coverage for him over the years. John is one of my favorite attorneys to work with and I mean that wholeheartedly. I very much like the fact that John is decisive and knows what he wants and that makes him easy to work with because he has clear expectations. He often flies under the radar as he is always moving forward with his caseload and not always sharing everything that happened in Court that day. He is not the most social but when

he does stop by for a chat, I feel like he is genuinely interested in how things are going in my life. He offers coverage assistance when needed or his advice when asked. He works hard, he is dedicated to his role in this Office, and I respect the way he interacts with members of the Office and law enforcement. I will always be impressed with how quickly he embraced Matrix, and I would also like to shout out the amount of patience he graced me with each time his Bluetooth keyboard quit working, and he required it to be reset. That alone is probably enough to make him outstanding in my eyes this year.”

“This year I nominate my mentor and friend John Arnold. John has always been an incredible resource to the office and to me personally. He has a depth and breadth of legal knowledge and courtroom experience that is unrivaled. John is the first attorney in the office I turn to when I need to discuss a legal or factual issue. In my many years working with John, there has never been an issue that was beyond his experience or that he could not quickly provide resources to address. He is always willing to discuss cases and problem solve solutions and always shares the benefit of his considerable experience with others. He is a mentor, colleague and role model.”

“It is difficult to put into words how deserving John is of this award. He is an invaluable asset to this office and everyone in it. Ever the champion of what is just, John never shies away from doing what is right. His commitment to his cases is second to none.”

“John is always ready to help everyone with his wealth of knowledge and experience. There aren’t many situations John hasn’t faced, and I believe everyone in the office has benefited from his guidance and experience not only this past year, but long before. I hope he knows the depth of his impact not only on myself but on everyone that surrounds him.”

“This year, I would nominate John for outstanding employee of the year. John is one of our best attorneys at resolving cases in an effective and efficient manner. He works really hard to make sure that all of his discovery is exchanged before the first pretrial and has typically communicated with defense counsel before the first hearing as well. He is well respected by the Court, the defense bar, and local law enforcement. He has a reputation for being tough, yet fair, and is not afraid to take a case to trial when necessary. Beyond being a good attorney, John is a good person who cares about his co-workers and has actively sought out opportunities to mentor attorneys in the Office with less experience. It will be hard to replace his wisdom, judgement, and experience when he retires next year.”

“Mr. Arnold is the definition of what outstanding is. He does an exceptional job on all of his cases; he makes sure that our community continues to be a safe place to live and raise a family. He is a wealth of knowledge. People are constantly visiting his office to ask for advice – both for work matters and personal matters. Mr. Arnold will always provide his insight on the situation and will always end it with a quick and witty remark. I truly have never met anyone as sharp and witty as Mr. Arnold, and I am sure that anyone that knows Mr. Arnold would share the same sentiment. He tells the best stories; he has had some very interesting experiences in his life. He sure knows how to captivate an audience. Mr. Arnold is such a force, and I am so lucky to have crossed paths with him here in our Office. One of these days, I will convince him to tell us about his experience on the Widmer case without walking away with his head down and shaking! Mr. Arnold will sure be missed in his retirement.”

“This nomination is for his leadership he has shown our office over many years. Of course, he deserves this award for calmly and competently handling the matters office handles, and also from both his days as a civil attorney and a criminal attorney. He often serves as a mentor to the less experienced attorneys in the office, and he continued this practice in 2024. I found myself stopping

him at the coffee pot or sitting down in his office unannounced many times throughout the last year to get his ideas on handling novel issues. I know that when attorneys in our office have a chance to seek out a co-chair to help with a difficult case, John Arnold is the first choice.”

“When John first came to Warren County, many of us were not sure what to make of the sometimes grumpy, very seasoned attorney that had just arrived from that county to the south of us. He seemed to have a less than warm and fuzzy presence about him. Which is why the fact that he has become affectionately known as “Papa Bear” to the entire office (I am assuming John knows this), is somewhat humorous. That being said, John really is Papa Bear, and he genuinely cares about this office and everyone in it. He easily engages with our staff, asking about their personal lives and their cases. He serves as a sounding board and gives advice to both new and older attorneys. And his reputation is outstanding throughout the entire county and all of our partnering agencies. John truly raises the bar for our office, he provides leadership and sets an example of professionalism that we should all strive for, and he makes our office a better place to work for every staff member.

So, what we truly know about that sometimes grumpy, very seasoned attorney that came here from that county to the south of us, is that his tough façade is just that...a façade...and when he does decide to say goodbye and close this chapter, Papa Bear will be incredibly missed by all!”



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