

Ray Tonkin timeline District Attorney's Office

1998 Ray helps write a manual on DUI law in Pennsylvania that is published through a major legal publishing company. The book was used by many lawyers throughout Pennsylvania when researching DUI law.

May 1999- graduates from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law

July 1999 successfully takes the Pennsylvania Bar exam

December 1999- appointed as an Assistant District Attorney by Charles Lieberman

July 2000- Ray prosecutes his first jury trial which results in a guilty verdict for the crime of Driving Under the Influence. The case involved use of scientific evidence that was precedent setting in the state of Pennsylvania. The case was appealed which Ray litigated on behalf of the District Attorney's Office. The Superior Court of Pennsylvania issued a written Opinion which is something they do only in rare cases which means the case could be cited as legal authority for lawyers from that point forward. The Superior court in their Opinion agreed with Ray and affirmed the guilty verdict. The crime occurred in Palmyra Township.

May 2002- Ray prosecutes one of the worst elder abuse cases in Pike County's history. During the jury trial which Ray personally tries, Ray proves that a nurse's aide sexually assaulted an elderly female victim while in the victim's home. The jury hears that her immobilized husband viewed the entire assault, helpless to defend his wife. Ray is able to obtain a felony conviction to the top charges in the case and the defendant was sentenced to state prison. The crime occurred in the Hemlock Farms Community in Blooming Grove Township.

May of 2003- Ray begins the prosecution of his first homicide case. The case involved a driver crashing his vehicle into a tree on Route 739 in Blooming Grove Township, the passenger in the defendant's vehicle was killed by the impact. Ray successfully prosecutes the case and obtains a conviction on the charge of Homicide by Vehicle, the driver was sentenced to state prison.

September 2003- Ray is appointed as the First Assistant District Attorney by Douglas Jacobs. The position of First Assistant District Attorney is created by statute in Pennsylvania. Pursuant to law, in 6th class counties such as Pike County the First Assistant automatically succeeds a District Attorney who is unable to finish their term. In addition, First Assistant District Attorneys usually are assigned various administrative duties in addition to their role as a prosecutor. Ray was the first full time First Assistant District Attorney appointed in Pike County's history. This was a part of larger overall movement in the Office toward full time prosecutors who specialized in criminal law which allowed for greater success in the Office.

June of 2004- Ray obtains his first conviction after trial for a crime involving the trafficking of drugs. This would be the first of several drug dealers Ray convicted through trials. This case represented the completion of a full circle for Ray in that he first became involved in Pike County's fight against drug dealers by being a police officer who volunteered as a member of Pike County's Drug Task Force. Now

he was leading the prosecution of cases as a prosecutor for Pike County's Drug Task Force. The offense occurred in Greene Township.

April 2005- Ray prosecutes his first jury trial involving murder charges. The case stemmed from a murder that occurred in Dingman Township in 2004 where one individual shot another at close range with a shotgun. The defense attempted to argue that the Defendant was intoxicated at the time of the murder and could only be found guilty of third degree murder pursuant to Pennsylvania Law. Although the defense's case included an expert in toxicology, Ray was able to obtain a first degree murder conviction. In over 5 decades in Pike County, no other prosecutor had obtained a first degree murder conviction through trial that was upheld on appeal. It would be the first of several such convictions for Ray.

January 2006- The jury trial commences for arguably the worst murder case in Pike County's history, up to that point. A 17-year-old girl and her 7-month-old baby were murdered in Greene Township. The killer strangled the mother and drowned the baby by holding her underwater, then, attempted to stage the crime scene to make it appear as though the baby accidentally drowned and the mother committed suicide. Ray assumed a supervisory role over the investigation including attending the autopsy of the two victims. The investigation led to charges against Gregory Rowe who was the 18-year-old father of the child. Ray was the lead prosecutor throughout the case including the jury trial, which occurred in January of 2006. Ray was able to piece together numerous pieces of circumstantial evidence including a new type of DNA evidence that resulted in 2 First Degree Murder Convictions for the murders of Kristen and Kaylee Fisher. After numerous appeals, both Pennsylvania and United States' Courts have upheld the convictions.

2007- Ray as the First Assistant District Attorney handled numerous appeals before both the Superior Court in Philadelphia and the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in Harrisburg. During this particular year, Ray handled the appeal of a school teacher who a jury had convicted of molesting 2 girls in a classroom in the Shohola Elementary School. The school teacher was not only sent to prison but he also was one of the first in Pike County to receive the designation of being a sexually violent predator under Meghan's Law. Due to Ray's work in the appellate courts, the conviction and his status as a sexually violent predator were upheld after multiple rounds of appeals. The perpetrator is still serving his state prison sentence.

November of 2007- Ray is elected to be Pike County's District Attorney. He had previously won both the Republican and Democratic primaries. Ray became the first full-time District Attorney in Pike County's history. Pennsylvania had recently passed a law requiring district attorneys to serve full-time in all but the smallest counties. The law was part of an effort to create greater specialization for the state's top prosecutors recognizing the increasing knowledge and responsibilities the office requires. The full-time status also serves to limit potential conflicts of interests in prosecution decisions. Ray furthered this movement in Pike County in the years to come by reorganizing the Office so that all of the prosecutors that served in his Office would be full-time, thus creating the most experienced, specialized and conflict-free office possible for the people of Pike County.

January 2009- The first degree murder trial commences for a defendant who along with two other conspirators breaks into a home in the Saw Creek development in Lehman Township resulting in the murder of a father, who in the last moments of his life was attempting to protect his daughter. The three conspirators were armed and broke into the house in the middle of the night in an attempt to steal more firearms. After breaking into the house, two of the conspirators took the young woman at gun point toward her father's bedroom where he died after attempting to defend her from the masked intruders. The victim was a retired correctional officer from New York. Ray not only supervised the investigation but was also the lead prosecutor in the case. The defendant who shot and killed the victim was found guilty of first degree murder. In the following months, Ray prosecuted the two conspirators on charges which included Second Degree Murder due to their role in the conspiracy to commit the crime of Robbery which resulted in the death of the victim. Ray obtained guilty verdicts for the two conspirators as well. Each of the three defendants are serving life sentences.

2010-Ray is appointed to the Pennsylvania District Attorneys' Institute. The PDAI was formed in 1983 to educational and training materials for Pennsylvania's prosecutors. This was a natural extension of not only Ray's experience as a prosecutor but the extensive training he had already received. Ray had benefitted himself from PDAI training over his time as a prosecutor and he had participated in trainings through the National College of District Attorneys and extensive trial training programs offered by the National Advocacy Center in Columbia South Carolina. Through these national trainings, Ray was able to learn from prosecutors around the country and bring that shared experience to Pike County.

April of 2010 Ray prosecutes two men for a murder that occurred in Porter Township. The two men were a part of a large drug dealing operation. Ironically, the drug dealing operation had no connection to Pike County, but, instead, was based out of the Easton area in southeastern Pennsylvania and the operation extended all the way to central Pennsylvania in Harrisburg. The leader of the drug operation concluded that the eventual victim had stolen money from him and decided to kill him. To complete this planned execution, the two defendants drove the man from Easton all the way to a remote area of Pike County where they repeatedly shot him resulting in his death. The prosecution resulted in 2 first degree murder convictions for the 2 defendants. The jury deadlocked on the issue of whether the Defendants should receive the death penalty and both men received life sentences for their crimes. Ray has prosecuted more murder cases than any District Attorney in the history of Pike County.

May of 2011 Ray prosecutes a man who assaulted his estranged wife by stabbing her, hitting her with a hammer and placing a bag over her head. In a bizarre twist in the case, the woman likely survived the assault because the Defendant took her to a hospital after he had assaulted her. A jury found the Defendant guilty and he was sentenced to up to 70 years in prison. The crime happened in Delaware Township.

2012 Ray is appointed to be the President of Pike County's Criminal Justice Advisory Board replacing President Judge Joseph Kameen. The Criminal Justice Advisory Board is a collaborative effort between various state and county government agencies including law enforcement officials to develop effective policies in the criminal justice community and in problem solving efforts. The Board considers not only the input of governmental agencies but also community groups. During Ray's time as president, the

board has made various improvements to our local criminal justice community and has applied for and obtained grant funding for our County. Ray also has used the Board to invite speakers to provide information to help in developing policy. For example, Ray brought a specialist in veterans outreach services to help in educating our criminal justice community in developing programs for veterans whose crimes are specifically related to various problems specifically related to their service. This information would eventually lead to Ray's Veterans Intervention Program developed to help veterans who are criminal defendants receive all of the services they are entitled to.

2013 Ray becomes a member of the Pennsylvania District Attorney's Association Executive Committee. The Pennsylvania District Attorney's Association assists our state legislature and Governor in relation to criminal justice issues. By being a member of the executive committee Ray ensures that Pike County has a voice in criminal justice issues in our state capitol. During his time as District Attorney has been active at the state level including successfully testifying before our state sentencing commission resulting in increased penalties for individuals possessing child pornography.

September of 2014- two Pennsylvania State Troopers are shot at the Blooming Grove Barracks. Corporal Bryon Dickson was killed and Trooper Alex Douglass was severely wounded. Ray oversees the largest investigation in Pike County's history resulting in charges and the capture of a Defendant. Ray has once again assumed the role of lead prosecutor in the case. While charges are still pending Ray was already able to prove to a magisterial district judge that the case should proceed to trial. Ray and his First Assistant District Attorney who are prosecuting the case are the only prosecutors in Pike County's history to obtain multiple first degree murder convictions through trials and the only prosecutors who have been involved in multiple capital cases (cases involving the death penalty).

January 2015 Ray's office opposes the release of a video taken from the Blooming Grove Barracks that was used during a preliminary hearing in the prosecution of Eric Frein. The video displayed the moment Corporal Dickson and Trooper Douglas were both shot. Ray's Office presented evidence from the FBI showing that such videos are often used as recruitment tools by terrorists. Opposing the release were various news agencies including national news agencies such as CNN which had their own legal counsel fighting to release the video. Ray's Office was successful and won its fight to keep the video sealed from public release to news agencies in a precedent setting case for such matters.

May 2015 Ray teaches fellow prosecutors on matters involving death penalty cases through the Pennsylvania District Attorney's Institute.