



Media Advisory:
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13th Annual Community Justice Academy to be hosted in October by the Marion County Prosecutor's Office

INDIANAPOLIS Ind. — Marion County Prosecutor Ryan Mears announced today that his office will host its 13th annual Community Justice Academy in October. This year, the Community Justice Academy will feature three in-person sessions.

“We are excited to offer three presentations on issues that are important topics of discussion in the community,” Prosecutor Mears stated. “It’s important that, as a public safety agency, we continue to educate and engage with the people we serve, and this longstanding program is vital to that effort.”

What: 13th Annual Marion County Prosecutor's Office Community Justice Academy

When: All three sessions will be held from 6 – 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 4, 2023: Dealing in a Controlled Substance Resulting in Death

In 2020, the Marion County Prosecutor's Office obtained the state's first Dealing a Controlled Substance Resulting in Death conviction. Since the law's inception in 2018, law enforcement has increasingly pursued these investigations and one thing has become clear— collaboration is key to successful prosecution. Hear from the local and federal agencies dedicated to pursuing these complex investigations.

Wednesday, Oct. 11, 2023: Exploring Indiana's first Conviction Integrity Unit

Marion County established the state's first Conviction Integrity Unit in 2021. Since then, the unit, consisting of a small team of attorneys and a paralegal, have reviewed hundreds of applications to identify, remedy and prevent wrongful convictions. Why was this unit created? What does that process consist of? How has the CIU engaged the community in the first two years? Find out during this in-depth discussion with Prosecutor Ryan Mears.

Wednesday, Oct. 18, 2023: Mental Health and the Criminal Justice System

Mental health issues have historically been catalysts for involvement in the criminal justice system. During this presentation, the office's dedicated prosecutor and a public defender will discuss what programs exist to address these often-complicated issues and how the community can help those needing mental health treatment.

Where: Library Services Center, 2450 N Meridian St, Indianapolis, IN 46208

The Community Justice Academy is free to attend, and all are welcome. Visit the following link for more information about each session and to register for the event: <https://forms.gle/YzpZrWPRBqvJC7na9>

NOTE: Prosecutor Mears will be available before each presentation to speak with the media. Please contact Communications Director Michael Leffler to schedule an interview.

The Community Justice Academy was established in 2011 as part of a comprehensive effort by the Prosecutor's Office to educate and engage residents about crime prevention strategies and the criminal justice system. Each year, guest speakers and experts from the Marion County Prosecutor's Office present information to attendees on a variety of current topics.