

# Monthly Columns

by Attorney General Jack Conway



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Outstanding or unserviceable warrants not only slow the criminal justice system, they jeopardize public safety. To address a backlog of some 300,000 warrants, Kentucky became one of only a handful of states to begin using an electronic warrant management (eWarrants) system. The system currently operates in six Kentucky counties and has proven effective, increasing six-fold the service rate of warrants. I am pleased to say that the eWarrants system will be installed in virtually all of Kentucky's rural counties over the next two years.

On April 22, 2009, I applied for an American Resource & Recovery Act (ARRA) grant to expand the eWarrants system. Our grant request was approved by the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, and my office has been awarded \$3.94 million to install the eWarrants system in rural counties in the Commonwealth. In this effort, my office will work closely with Kentucky's County Attorneys, the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security, Kentucky State Police and the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), which provides administrative support to the state's judges. Each of these agencies played an integral role in the initial implementation of the eWarrants system in Kentucky.

How does the eWarrants system increase public safety? eWarrants is an automated system that facilitates the sharing of information concerning active warrants among law enforcement agencies throughout the Commonwealth. Any backlog of this system can allow individuals charged with multiple offenses, or even violent crimes such as domestic violence, to remain at-large in communities to possibly victimize again.

The ARRA grant is a real victory for the criminal justice community. The expansion of the eWarrants system will be an important tool for those of us who work every day to combat illegal drugs, make communities across the Commonwealth safer and give a voice to those who no longer have one. I will continue to fight to make Kentucky a safer place to live, work and raise a family and to ensure that the

voices of victims of violent crime in Kentucky are never forgotten.

## Free CybersafeKY Regional Workshops Planned in Hazard, Bowling Green

Another top priority of mine has been to make the Internet a safer place for Kentucky kids. In addition to passage of my comprehensive cybercrimes legislation earlier this year, I've visited more than 100 schools and presented our cybersafety message to 24,000 people. I have also forged an Internet safety partnership (CybersafeKY) with the Kentucky Department of Education and ConnectKentucky, a non-profit organization that works to improve technology use and literacy in Kentucky.

In October, CybersafeKY will host two free regional workshops to instruct parents about how to use technology and monitor their children's activities on the Internet. The workshops are October 15 from 6-7:30 p.m. (EDT) at the Hazard Community and Technical College-First Federal Building and on October 22 from 6-7:30 p.m. (CDT) at Western Kentucky University, Kentucky Building, Kentucky Room. Thanks to the generosity of ConnectKentucky, a total of 50 wireless printers will be given away as door prizes at the workshops—25 at each event. Working together, we can make the Internet a safer place for our kids.

You can register for the workshops online by visiting [www.ag.ky.gov/cybersafety](http://www.ag.ky.gov/cybersafety). You'll hear more about our back to school cybersafety efforts in the coming weeks.

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