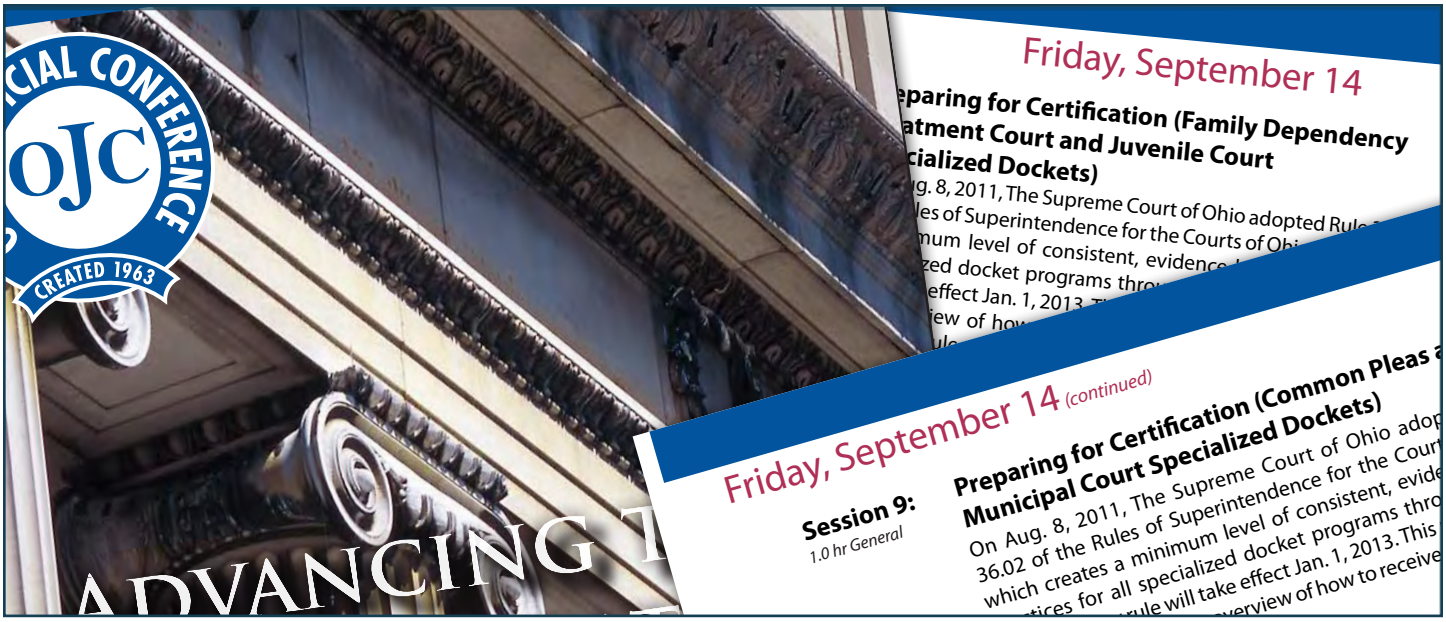
CNO REVIEW

September 2012

Certification on Agenda at Annual Judges Meeting



Every year, hundreds of judges attend the Ohio Judicial Conference annual meeting to network with colleagues and to learn about the latest developments affecting the judicial branch.

The two-day event on Thursday and Friday, September 13 and 14 at the Hilton Polaris promises to be an enriching experience for Ohio's judges with multiple topics on the agenda. One topic centers on rules adopted by the Ohio Supreme Court that require specialized docket programs to be certified and meet minimum standards by January 1, 2013. Two sessions – one for family dependency treatment and juvenile courts and one for common pleas and municipal courts – will be offered back-to-back on Friday morning.

Through these sessions participants will receive an overview of how to obtain and maintain certification.

Beyond the specialized docket sessions, the annual meeting is also an opportunity for the bench to hear Chief Justice **Maureen O'Connor** deliver her "State of the Judiciary" address. President of the Ohio State Bar Association and First District Court of Appeals Judge **Patrick F. Fischer** will also deliver his annual address to the judges. Both speeches occur around lunchtime on the first day. Ohio Supreme Court Justice **Judith Ann Lanzinger**, as chair of the committee that recommended the adoption of the new Supreme Court writing manual, will provide an overview of the three-part manual in the morning on the first day.

Mahoning County Juvenile Court Judge **Theresa Dellick**, Fairfield County Juvenile/Probate Court Judge **Steven O. Williams** and Supreme Court Specialized Dockets Program Manager **Christine Raffaele** will lead the first specialized dockets certification session. Marion County Municipal Court Judge **Teresa Lyn Ballinger**, Summit County Common Pleas Court Judge **Elinore Marsh Stormer** and Supreme Court Specialized Dockets Manager **Melissa Knopp** will lead the second one.

The specialized dockets rule allows a court operating or

Story continues on page 12.

About Court News Ohio

Court News Ohio is a service of the Office of Public Information of the Supreme Court of Ohio and Ohio Government Telecommunications. Court News Ohio includes a website (courtnewsohio.gov), a monthly print publication (CNO Review), a television program (CNO TV), a Facebook page (facebook.com/courtnewsohio) and a Twitter feed (@courtnewsohio).

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On the Cover:

A photo illustration of the upcoming Ohio Judicial Conference Annual Meeting. The meeting features numerous training opportunities as well as the Chief Justice's "State of the Judiciary" address. For more information, visit ohiojudges.org.

Cases

Visit courtnewsohio.gov for the most current decisions from the Ohio Supreme Court, Court of Claims, and courts of appeals.

Supreme Court of Ohio

Judge's Error in Declaring Mistrial Barred New Trial of Defendant in Springfield Murder Case

The Ohio Supreme Court ruled July 19 that the retrial and conviction of a Columbus woman on charges of murder and other offenses violated the woman's right against double jeopardy because a Clark County judge had improperly declared a mistrial in her previous trial on the same charges.

State v. Gunnell, Slip Opinion No. 2012-Ohio-3236

Judge Ordered to Unseal Records in Youngstown Corruption Case

The Ohio Supreme Court on July 25 granted writs of mandamus and prohibition ordering a visiting judge to unseal documents that the judge allowed to be filed under seal in a 2010 Mahoning County public corruption case. The case, which has since been dismissed by prosecutors but is subject to refiling, alleged among other charges that multiple county officials accepted bribes from members of the Cafaro family, owners of the Ohio Valley Mall Company, in return for the county's continued rental of property owned by Ohio Valley Mall to house the Mahoning County Department of Job and Family Services.

State ex rel. Vindicator Printing Co. v. Wolff, Slip Opinion No. 2012-Ohio-3328

Court of Claims

$1.25 million OSU Medical Center Settlement Agreement Approved

The Ohio State University Medical Center will pay the family of a Cleveland man $1.25 million to settle a claim over surgery to treat testicular cancer that left Theodis Jackson in a vegetative state with permanent brain damage. The Court of Claims of Ohio approved the settlement agreement on August 17.

Jackson v. The Ohio State University Medical Center, Case No. C2010-06061

$1.5 Million ODOT Settlement Agreement Approved

The Court of Claims of Ohio approved a $1.5 million settlement agreement between the Ohio Department of Transportation and Kokosing Construction Co., Inc. on July 12 for extra work performed and extra costs incurred on a road construction project.

Kokosing Construction Co., Inc. v. Ohio Department of Transportation, Case No. C2008-03246

More Than $1 million Awarded in Damages for Botched Shoulder Surgeries

The Court of Claims of Ohio awarded $1.1 million in damages to Deborah and Martin Darcy on July 2 in a medical negligence and loss of consortium claim against the University of Toledo Medical Center.

Deborah Darcy, et al. V. Medical University of Ohio at Toledo, Case No. C2006-01092

Courts of Appeals

First District Strikes Down Cincinnati Residency Ordinance

The First District Court of Appeals upheld a ruling on July 13 from the Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas that struck down a Cincinnati city ordinance prohibiting city employees from living outside the state of Ohio. The court found that the city ordinance was in conflict with a 2006 state law, R.C. 9.481, that was upheld by the Ohio Supreme Court in 2009.

Cincinnati v. State, 2012-Ohio-3162

Eighth District Strikes Down State Law Due to Home-Rule Conflict

Cleveland can continue to regulate tow truck companies that operate within the city, according to a 2-1 decision on August 9 by the Eighth District Court of Appeals that found a 2003 state law unconstitutional. The court found that Ohio Revised Code section 4921.30 "unconstitutionally limits a municipality's home-rule police powers."

Cleveland v. State, 2012-Ohio-3572

Ninth District Rules in Second Amendment Case

A trial court will have to revisit a case about the improper handling of a firearm in a motor vehicle to determine whether the Second Amendment right to bear arms applies and whether the state statute in question violates those rights, according to an August 22 decision by the Ninth District Court of Appeals.

State v. Shover, 2012-Ohio-3788

Happening Now

News and notes from courthouses around the Buckeye State.

Eschleman Takes Reins at OCLRE

To say Lisa Eschleman is excited to be the new executive director of the Ohio Center for Law-Related Education is an understatement.

She calls the new opportunity a "once in a lifetime" job. Leading one of the country's premiere civic education organizations feels like it was meant to be, she said.

"As a volunteer since 1995, there's nothing more professionally rewarding than to see these students in action and engaged in learning how participating in our democracy can create positive systemic change," she said.

OCLRE provides civic education programs to teachers and hosts mock trials and civic competitions for students with a goal of bringing citizenship to life. The Ohio Supreme Court supports OCLRE as a sponsor along with the ACLU of Ohio Foundation, the Attorney General's Office, the Ohio State Bar Foundation, and the Ohio State Bar Association.

Eschleman replaces Deborah DeHaan who served as executive director for 13 years.

Bound Volumes of Appellate Decisions Discontinued

Effective July 1, the publication of bound volumes of Ohio appeals court and trial court decisions was discontinued. Amendments to the Rules for the Reporting of Opinions adopted by the Supreme Court of Ohio reflect these changes

The declining demand for print volumes due to the availability of the opinions via electronic publication was the major reason for the decision.

Ohio Supreme Court opinions are not affected and will continue to appear in the Ohio State 3d bound volumes as well as on the Supreme Court's website. All appeals court opinions will continue to be available on the Supreme Court's website.

The change also affects the frequency of publication for the Ohio Official Reports Advance Sheets, which will be changed to every other week instead of the current weekly publication. A table that includes a brief description of every court of appeals decision will continue to be published in the Advance Sheets by the Ohio Supreme Court Reporter's Office.

NCSC Survey Examines Judicial Salaries Nationwide

Judges salaries nationwide and in Ohio are not keeping pace with inflation, according to an annual report released in July.

The 2011 survey of judicial salaries shows an average increase of slightly more than one-half of 1 percent from the year before, while inflation rose 3.2 percent in 2011 based on Consumer Price Index data from the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Published for nearly 30 years by the National Center for State Courts, the survey serves as the primary record of compensation for state judicial officers and state court administrators.

While a handful of states experienced slight salary increases for judges last year, Ohio did not. In fact, there's been no salary increase for Ohio judges since 2008. As far as where states rank in the survey, Ohio is in the bottom half for each category: 33 for highest court, 30 for intermediate appellate courts, and 41 for general jurisdiction trial courts.

Case Activity

10-Year Low in New Cases Filed

The total number of new cases filed in Ohio courts in 2011 reached a 10-year low, according to the annual Ohio Courts Statistical Summary, released by the Ohio Supreme Court.

For the third consecutive year, the total number of new cases (2,710,144) decreased last year. While the number has fluctuated over a decade, the 2011 total represents a 21 percent decrease from a high of 3,421,193 in 2002.

Total new traffic filings in municipal and county courts (1,173,672) remained the primary contributor for the overall decline, as this category also bottomed out at a 10-year statistical low. New traffic cases in juvenile court (44,834) also dipped to a 10-year low.

Mayor's Court New Case Activity Drops Again

The number of new cases filed in Ohio's 318 mayor's courts in 2011 decreased for the second straight year, according to an annual report released by the Ohio Supreme Court.

The total new filings for all case types fell to 273,169 in 2011, mainly due to more than 17,000 fewer "Other Traffic" cases, which includes any traffic cases other than OVI (operating a vehicle while under the influence) cases.

Ohio law allows mayors of municipalities with more than 100 residents without a municipal court to conduct mayor's court. These courts hear only cases involving violations of local ordinances and local and state traffic laws.

In 2011, Linndale mayor's court in Cuyahoga County led the state with more than 2,500 cases per 100 residents, just as it led the state in cases per 100 residents in 2010, 2009, 2008 and 2007. Statewide, mayor's courts averaged about 19 cases per 100 residents in 2011, a full percentage point decrease from 2010.

Survey Says

More state judges and courts in the United States report using social media like Facebook and Twitter, according to a national survey report released in August.

The 2012 CCPIO New Media and the Courts Survey gives the judicial community in the United States its first year-to-year comparison spanning three years of data unraveling how social media and broader changes in the media industry are impacting state and local judges and courts.

The report found that judges are becoming more comfortable with social media, but they continue to approach it cautiously. The complete results are at ccpio.org.

The survey was conducted by the Conference of Court Public Information Officers, an organization of more than 100 communications professionals working in state and federal courts in the United States and worldwide. Project partners include the National Center for State Courts, the nation's leading center for research assistance to the country's state court systems, and the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism at Ohio University.

Chief Justice O'Connor: Lack of Court Funds is an Access-to-Justice Problem

Courts shouldn't limit access to justice due to a lack of court funding, Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor along with **William Robinson**, president of the American Bar Association, told members of the Columbus Metropolitan Club (CMC) in mid-August, as part of a discussion about the topic "Queries of Justice: A Court Funding Crisis."

Chief Justice O'Connor said 42 states, including Ohio, cut their courts' budgets in 2011, reducing access to justice for millions of Americans through layoffs, reduced court hours and other money-saving measures.

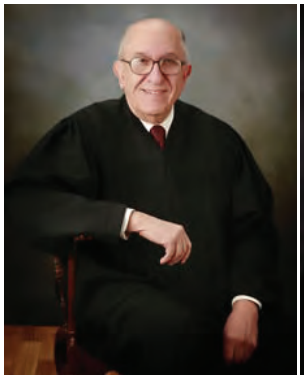
She also said that while courts must contribute their share to address state and local budget deficits, there are limits to how far court budgets can be cut. "We have to keep the doors open," Chief Justice O'Connor said. "We have to be accessible. We can't curtail the hours because citizens need to access the courts."

Last year, Chief Justice O'Connor established the bi-partisan, 29-member Task Force on the Funding of Ohio Courts to examine the current structure and the funding of the judicial branch. She said determining where the courts currently stand continues to be a challenge.

"Because of the way in which the Ohio judicial system is structured and funded, there is no collective dollar amount that can easily be identified that's dedicated to the judicial system in Ohio," Chief Justice O'Connor said. "We do need to find out what the dollar amount is that is allocated currently for our systems. Are they being allocated in the most conscientious and responsible way? What are our priorities?"

ON THE BENCH

Retired Judge Marks 40 Years of Trial Handbook Updates



Retired Judge **Richard M. Markus** (above left), who formerly sat on the Eighth District Court of Appeals, recently marked the 40th anniversary of writing the first edition of the "Trial Handbook for Ohio Lawyers."

As the guide to the substantive and procedural law of trials in Ohio, the handbook informs trial court judges of the latest developments in case law around the state over the prior year. Now known as "Ohio Trial Practice," Markus convinced the publisher to change the name in 2011.

Maintaining a publication for four decades (he wrote a second edition in 1991, annual supplements from 1973 to 2000 and new editions beginning in 2001) would seem to offer enough to do as a side project all on its own. But "Ohio Trial Practice" is not the only publication Markus has authored. Others include an alternative dispute resolution manual, a handbook about damages and settlement, and publications about the Ohio Rules of Evidence.

Ninth District Court of Appeals Judge **Clair E. Dickinson** (above right) made his debut this year as co-author of "Ohio Trial Practice." And Markus said an update to the 2013 edition is in progress.

Retirements

Logan County Family Court Judge **C. Douglas Chamberlain** retired in August. Judge Chamberlain heard domestic relations, juvenile and probate matters. His term expires on January 1, 2017.

Pike County Court Judge **Cassandra S. Bolt-Meredith** retired at the end of August. She served on the bench in Pike County for 17 years, first as a common pleas judge and then on the county court beginning in February 2005. Judge Bolt-Meredith's term expires on December 31.

About midway through his second term on the bench, Miami County Municipal Court Judge **Mel Kemmer** retired in August, citing "OPERS benefit limitations" in SB 343 as the reason for his early retirement. Elected to the position in 2003, Judge Kemmer was re-elected in 2009. Judge Kemmer's term expires on December 31, 2015. Until his successor is named, Judge Kemmer will continue to serve the municipal court as a retired assigned judge.

Governor Appoints Judges to Juvenile Justice Council

One sitting judge and two retired judges were appointed to the Governor's Council on Juvenile Justice.

Jackson County Juvenile/Probate Court Judge **Stephen D. Michael** was appointed by Gov. Kasich to a term that ends in October 2014 as was retired Stark County Family Court Judge David E. Stucki. Retired Hamilton County Juvenile Court Judge **Thomas R. Lipps** was appointed to a term that ends in January 2015.

Among other duties, the council advises the Ohio Department of Youth Services on matters related to juvenile justice and the administration and implementation of federal grant programs that support state and local delinquency prevention and intervention efforts and juvenile justice system improvements.

Judge Michael has presided over probate and juvenile matters in Jackson County since 1991. Judge Stucki served on the family court for 18 years before resigning in 2011. Judge Lipps retired in 2010 after serving 12 years on the bench and a total of 37 years as a juvenile court employee.

Judicial Profiles

Judge Robert A. Douglas Jr.

Youngstown Municipal Court

Judge **Robert A. Douglas Jr.** sat on the Youngstown Municipal Court bench since 1997, when he was appointed by former Governor George Voinovich. Nearly 15 years later, Judge Douglas retired. His last day on the bench was July 31 – more than a year earlier than when his elected term expires in 2013. "I wanted to pick my time. And, now it just feels like the right time," Judge Douglas said.

"I've been a social worker, I've been an administrator, practiced law, prosecuting attorney, and it's just something that I felt would culminate my career with all my experience, and so it's quite rewarding and fulfilling that I've been able to do all that I've been able to do," Judge Douglas said.

"Many people know this court was in quite a disarray when I came here and many systems were lacking and just needed a lot of improvement. I'm very proud that I brought with me some administrative skills and leadership skills in particular to have been able to bring this court to a point where it's much more respected," Judge Douglas said.

Judge Douglas said he knows he'll be remembered as a judge who gave everyone a fair chance.

"That he's fair, that he can be tough when necessary, he treats you with respect, so I'm really pleased with my reputation out in the community," Judge Douglas said.

Judge John P. Bessey

Franklin County Common Pleas Court

Franklin County Common Pleas Court Judge **John P. Bessey** will miss many aspects of his job when he retires at the end of the year: court staff, learning new things and the new courthouse itself.

After 19 years as a judge, the last four of which were spent presiding over commercial docket cases, Judge Bessey will conclude a career in public service.

Since assuming office in 1994, Judge Bessey said he feels fortunate to have worked throughout momentous changes. For example, he witnessed court staff go from using electric typewriters to the gigabytes of information considered in trying cases now.

"Every day when you come to work here it's an opportunity to learn something that you didn't know when you walked through the door. And I find that very exciting, and it's good exercise for the brain."

Judge Bessey plans to continue exercising his brain when he retires. He has plenty of experience with dispute resolution and plans additional training to bolster his mediation skills. In retirement he plans to offer his mediation services pro bono to smaller counties.

"The people that we're dealing with in one form or another have problems and a lot of times the judge resolves those problems for them. And it's a real feeling of satisfaction when you can do that. And that's what I most enjoy," he said.

Ohio Judges Attend FBI Training Seminar

Thirty-one judges from Ohio were the first group invited to an FBI training session centering on data submitted to and available from the bureau's Criminal Justice Information Services Division.

The training's purpose was to improve the quality of data sent to the FBI, which will result in more accurate data available to justice system partners.

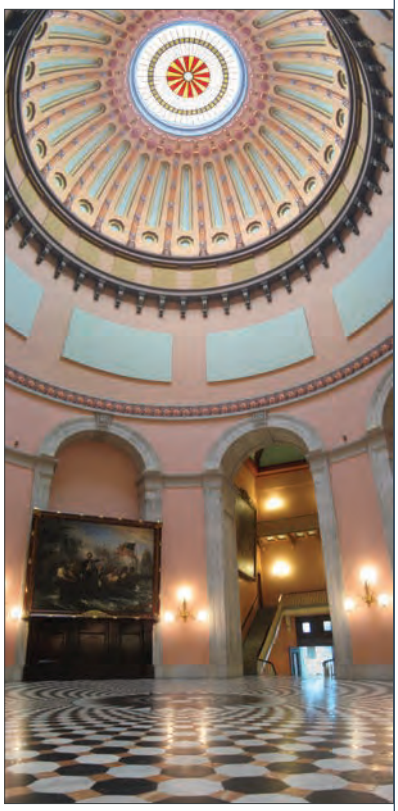
One area of focus was properly cataloging defendants who should be flagged for a weapons disqualification, and therefore, unable to buy or possess a firearm. Judges also learned about fingerprint/biometric identification, the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, uniform crime reporting, and other topics.

Whitman Sworn in as New Cuyahoga County Juvenile Judge

Judge **Anjanette A. Whitman** was sworn in as the new Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court judge in late July, given the oath of office by Ohio Supreme Court Justice **Terrence O'Donnell**.

Judge Whitman was appointed to the vacant position in June by Gov. **John R. Kasich**. She replaced former Judge **Peter Sikora** who died April 18. Judge Witman must run in November's general election to retain the seat for the unexpired term, which ends December 31, 2016.

"After serving as an attorney specifically in the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court for 11 years, I am honored to have been appointed by Governor Kasich to be the newest member of the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court Judiciary. I take this responsibility seriously for it affects the integrity of the families throughout Cuyahoga County," he said.



CNO Legislative Digest

Each month, Court News Ohio Review tracks bills and resolutions pending in the Ohio General Assembly that are of interest to the judicial community.

Photo courtesy of the Ohio Statehouse Photo Archive

SB 224, Sen. Larry Obhof, (R-Montville Twp.)

Generally shortens the period of limitations under prior law for an action upon a specialty (an instrument under the seal of the signer) or an agreement, contract, or promise in writing from 15 years to eight years after the cause of action accrued, with certain exceptions.

STATUS: Signed into law June 26, 2012. Effective date: September 28, 2012.

SB 254, Sen. Tom Patton (R-Strongsville)

To increase from more than 100 to more than 200 the population necessary for a municipal corporation to have a mayor's court unless the municipal corporation is located entirely on an island in Lake Erie.

STATUS: Introduced November 9, 2011. Pending in Senate Judiciary Committee. Two hearings have been continued.

SB 160, Sen. Kevin Bacon (R-Columbus)

To require automatic notice to victims of first, second, or third degree felony offenses of violence of certain prisoner or alleged juvenile offender release or transfer proceedings; to expand victim participation in parole hearings; to make other changes in procedures effecting crime victims.

STATUS: Introduced in Senate April 28, 2011. Passed Senate May 3 (33-0). Pending in House Criminal Justice Committee since May 8.

Sub. HB 247, Rep. Jim Butler (R-Oakwood)

To authorize a court to cancel claims for uncollectible amounts due the court, to authorize a sentencing court to waive, suspend, or modify payment of the costs of prosecution, to define "case" in connection with the imposition of costs in a criminal case, and to abolish the Felony Sentence Appeal Cost Oversight Committee.

STATUS: Introduced June 1, 2011. Passed House December 6 (92-0) Amended and reported out of Senate Judicial Committee June 6, 2012.

Am. Sub. SB 337, Sen. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati)

Excludes most juvenile proceedings and adjudications from criminal records checks; ensures that persons sentenced to confinement receive credit for time served in juvenile facilities; expands eligibility for the sealing of criminal records and to eliminate the prohibition of the sealing of juvenile records in certain cases; provides that a court's failure to warn an offender at sentencing about the possibility that the court may order community service if the offender fails to pay the costs of prosecution does not negate or limit the authority of the court to so order community service; increases from eighteen to twenty-one the age at which certain offenders may be held in places not authorized for the confinement of children; and increases the juvenile court's jurisdiction over certain specified cases solely for the purpose of detaining a person

while the person's case is heard in adult court; and makes other changes in law designed to reduce recidivism aid nonviolent criminals in reassimilation.

STATUS: Signed into law June 26, 2012. Effective September 28, 2012.

HB 265, Rep. Lynn Slaby (R- Copley Township); Rep. Sean O'Brien (D-Brookfield)

To authorize prosecuting attorneys to demand a jury trial in a criminal case, notwithstanding a defendant's waiver of trial by jury and over a defendant's objection.

STATUS: Introduced in House June 14, 2011. Passed House (50-41) March 28, 2012. Pending in Senate Judiciary Committee.

HB 197, Rep. Stephen Slesnick (D-Canton)

To require that all moneys collected by the clerk of a municipal or county court be paid to the appropriate person, fund, or entity on or before the 20th day of each month; to permit a municipal or county court to collect unpaid court costs, fees, or fines from an obligor's state income tax refund; to require the auditor of state to create and maintain a chart detailing the distribution of court costs, fees, and fines collected by municipal and county court clerks; to create the Committee on Court Costs; and to make other changes.

STATUS: Introduced in House April 12, 2011. Pending in House Judiciary & Ethics Committee.

SB 358, Sen. Tim Schaffer (R-Lancaster). Companion bill HB 576, Jay Hottinger (R-Newark)

To require the court clerk to promptly give written notice to the county sheriff and chief law enforcement officer of the political subdivision in which a person accused of an offense of violence will reside as a condition of bail if the offense was not committed in that political subdivision and to require the Adult Parole Authority to give similar notice to the chief law enforcement officer of the political subdivision in which an inmate who served a prison term for an offense of violence and is on parole or post-release control establishes a residence if not the political subdivision in which that offense was committed.

STATUS: Introduced in Senate July 9, 2012.

COMPANION BILL STATUS: Introduced in House July 12, 2012.

Rule Amendment Summary

A summary of select significant rule amendments proposed or enacted by the Ohio Supreme Court.

CLE Changes

Proposed changes announced in June would double the number of online credit hours attorneys could earn, allow attorneys to earn a portion of their CLE hours by engaging in approved pro bono activities, and eliminate the requirement to file final reporting transcripts.

Specialized Docket Certification

Proposed changes announced in July would require courts operating a specialized docket to submit an application, undergo a site visit, and submit specific program materials as part of the certification process.

Expanded Military Representation

A new proposed rule announced in July would permit military attorneys stationed in Ohio to represent lower-ranking service members in Ohio tribunals as part of the Expanded Legal Assistance Program (ELAP) for Military Attorneys.

Admission Without Examination

Proposed changes announced in August would eliminate the requirement for attorneys seeking admission without examination from declaring their intent to practice law in Ohio. A working group found that a few states prohibited Ohio attorneys from seeking admission without examination in their jurisdictions because they believe Ohio's rules were too restrictive on their attorneys seeking admission in Ohio.

FALL CONFERENCES

September 12
Ohio Courts of Appeals Judges Association
Columbus/Polaris

September 13 & 14
Ohio Judicial Conference Annual Meeting
Columbus/Polaris

September 19 & 21
Ohio Bailiffs & Court Officers Association
Columbus

October 3–5
Ohio Association of Magistrates
Columbus

October 11 & 12
Ohio Bailiffs & Court Officers Association
Columbus

Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections
Columbus

October 17–19
Ohio Association of Court Administrators
Location TBA

The Agenda

Upcoming events, training opportunities and conferences for judges and court staff. For more information, contact the event sponsor at the website provided.

Court Management Program

judicialecademy.ohio.gov

September 5–7
Court Performance Standards
CMP 2014 Class, Columbus

September 19–21
Level II Module IV: Visioning and Strategic Planning
CMP 2013 Tier II Class, Columbus

October 3–5
Module VI: Managing Human Resources
CMP 2012 Class, Columbus

Judicial College Courses

judicialecademy.ohio.gov

September 7
Abuse, Neglect, Dependency Update
Judges & Magistrates
Video Teleconference

CMP 2014 Scarlet Class: DiSC & Online Module Orientation
CMP 2014 Class, Columbus

September 13
Looking Beyond Partner Violence
Probation Officers, Columbus

September 14
Official Court Reporter Seminar
Court Personnel, Columbus

September 19
Guardian Ad Litem 3-Hour Course (17 of 23) 8:30 a.m. to Noon
Attorneys, Columbus

Guardian Ad Litem 3-Hour Course (18 of 23) 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Attorneys, Columbus

September 20
Acting Judge Course (2 of 4) Avoiding Potential Minefields
Magistrates, Judges & Acting Judges
Perrysburg - Toledo

September 25
Substance Abuse
Probation Officers, Columbus

September 26
Street Smart on Drugs
Probation Officers, Columbus

September 27
Legal Responsibility of Court Clerks
Court Clerks, Mt. Sterling

October 9 & 10

Mentally Ill Youth in the Courts
Probation Officers, Columbus

October 10

Guardian Ad Litem 3-Hour Course
(19 of 23) 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Attorneys, Dayton South

October 11

Guardian Ad Litem 3-Hour Course
(20 of 23) 8:30 a.m. to Noon
Attorneys, Dayton South

October 12

Juvenile Traffic
Judges & Magistrates
Video Teleconference

Dispute Resolution Training

sc.ohio.gov/JCS/disputeResolution

September 19 & 20

Domestic Abuse Issues: Training for Mediators & Other Professionals
Portsmouth

October 4 & 5

Parenting Coordination
Cincinnati

October 9–10 & 16–18

Specialized Divorce/Family Mediation
Portsmouth

Interpreter Services Training

sc.ohio.gov/JCS/interpreterSvcs

September 8

Interpreter's Forum
Columbus

September 20 & 21

Modes of Interpretation for Oral Exam
Columbus

September 22

Interpreter Ethics
Columbus

October 11 & 12

Legal Procedure & Terminology
(Restriced for test candidates only)
Columbus

October 13

Idioms, Slang & Metaphors
Columbus

Supreme Court of Ohio

sc.ohio.gov

September 11 & 12

Oral Arguments
Columbus

September 25

Oral Arguments: Off-Site Court Program
Case Western Reserve University School of Law, Cleveland

September 26

Oral Arguments: Off-Site Court Program
Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas, Cleveland

September 27

Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism 20th Anniversary Luncheon
Columbus

Ohio Center for Law-Related Education

oclre.org

September 11 & 12

Ohio Government in Action
Thomas J. Moyer Ohio Judicial Center, Columbus

September 22

Mock Trial Professional Development (MS & HS)
Dublin Justice Center, Columbus

September 23 & 24

Law & Citizenship Conference
Crowne Plaza, Dublin

Miscellaneous

September 13

Office of Criminal Justice Services Free Grant-Writing Seminar
Columbus

September 18 & 19

Ohio Clerks of Courts Association Meeting
Columbus

September 20 & 21

Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association 2012 Fall Training
Cleveland

October 5

Ohio Mediation Association Meeting
Westerville

Specialized Dockets | Continued from page 1

establishing a particular session of court to apply for certification of the session from the Supreme Court. The session must offer a therapeutically oriented judicial approach to providing court supervision and appropriate treatment to individuals placed in it. Once certified, the session can be referred to as a "specialized docket."

Since the establishment of the Hamilton County Drug Court in 1995, Ohio has been recognized as a national leader in the implementation of specialized dockets. In 2001, the Supreme Court created the Specialized Dockets Section to assist and support local courts in developing specialized programs uniquely tailored to helping specific populations within the court system. Today, there are nearly 150 specialized dockets operating in Ohio, including drug courts, mental health courts, re-entry courts, OVI courts, veterans courts, sex offender courts, felony non-support courts, and domestic violence courts.

The 12 standards included in Rule 36.02 of the Rules of Superintendence for the Courts of Ohio are intended to create a minimum level of uniform practices while still allowing courts to tailor operations to meet their local needs. The standards spell out the procedure for certification, which requires courts to engage in a planning process for their specialized docket programs, use a non-adversarial approach, hold regular treatment team meetings, and conduct regular status review hearings for individuals placed in the programs. The standards specifically exempt commercial dockets, housing dockets, and environmental dockets from the requirements of the rule.

The Supreme Court closed the public comment period last month on amendments outlining the procedures to receive Supreme Court certification for a specialized docket program.

Under the proposed amendments, courts operating specialized dockets would be required to submit an application, undergo a site visit, and submit specific program materials to the Specialized Dockets Section as part of the certification process.

In addition, specialized dockets that comply with the initial stages of the certification process would be initially certified pending a final review.

The amendments also would create a new Commission on Specialized Dockets and amend the definition of a specialized docket in the Code of Judicial Conduct.

Other highlights of the annual meeting include seminars on:

- Court budgets and dealing with funding authorities
- Adapting the law to new technologies
- Court-based innovations to providing access to justice for the self-represented
- Hearsay and the Confrontation Clause in criminal cases
- New directions in understanding, assessing, and responding to cases involving partner abuse
- A judge's guide to the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act
- Cloud computing, remote appearances, and iPads in the courtroom.

SNAPSHOT: FORUM ON THE LAW

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum historian **Dr. William Meinecke** will outline the role of pre-World War II German courts in Nazi atrocities in his lecture "How the Courts Failed Germany" in Cleveland on Thursday, September 6. The "Forum on the Law" event is hosted by the Jewish Federation of Cleveland in collaboration with the Ohio Supreme Court. Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor will introduce Dr. Meinecke's lecture, which is scheduled to begin at 5 p.m. Watch live and archived at ohiochannel.org.

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