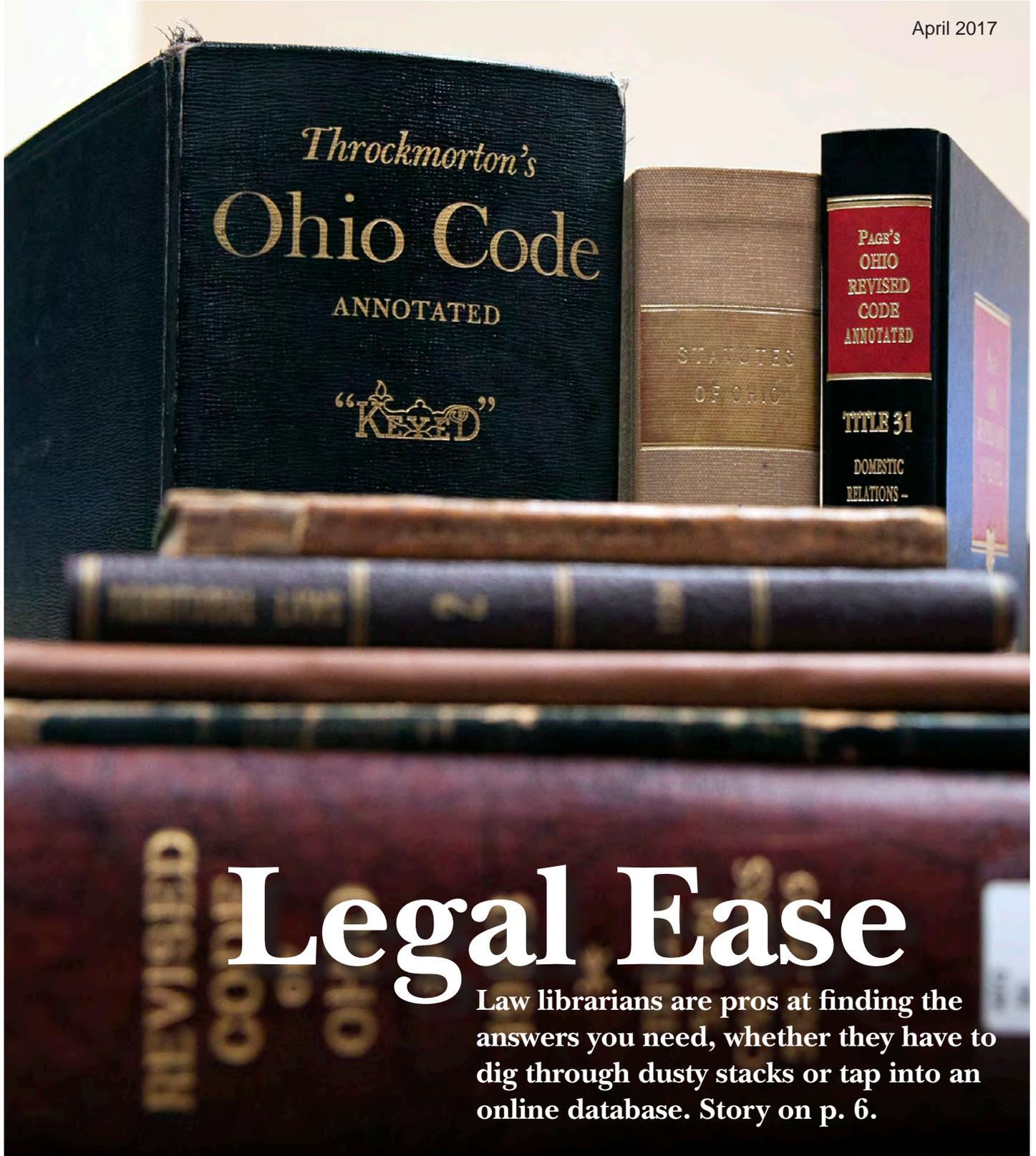


CNO REVIEW

April 2017



Legal Ease

Law librarians are pros at finding the answers you need, whether they have to dig through dusty stacks or tap into an online database. Story on p. 6.

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 publication (CNO Review), a television program (CNOTV), a Facebook page ([facebook.com/courtnewsohio](https://www.facebook.com/courtnewsohio)), a Twitter feed ([@courtnewsohio](https://twitter.com/courtnewsohio)), and a YouTube channel ([youtube.com/CourtNewsOhioTV](https://www.youtube.com/CourtNewsOhioTV)).

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

Supreme Court of Ohio

Court Changes Position on Cocaine Sentencing Law

For purposes of determining the penalty for cocaine possession, prosecutors must prove the weight of the entire “compound, mixture, preparation or substance, including any fillers that are part of the usable drug,” the Ohio Supreme Court ruled on March 6 in a rare reversal of an earlier decision.

The Court agreed to reconsider its December 2016 ruling in *State v. Gonzales*, which found that prosecutors must prove the actual weight of cocaine, excluding any filler materials, meets statutory levels when prosecuting cocaine-possession cases. That opinion affirmed a Sixth District Court of Appeals decision, and the reconsidered ruling reversed the appellate court by a 5-2 vote.

The case concerns the sale of two imitation bricks of cocaine to Rafael Gonzales by an undercover law enforcement agent. Gonzales was indicted for a first-degree-felony count of cocaine possession and was alleged to have possessed at least 100 grams of cocaine, which supported an enhanced penalty for Gonzales as a major-drug offender.

At trial, the defense argued that under R.C. 2925.01(X) prosecutors must prove the actual weight of cocaine, excluding any filler materials. The trial court ruled the law did not require a measurement of the pure cocaine and Gonzales was found guilty of cocaine possession exceeding 100 grams. With the specification as a major-drug offender, he was sentenced to a mandatory prison term of 11 years.

The Sixth District reversed, vacating the major-drug-offender sentence, and noted its ruling was in conflict with the Second District’s decision in *State v. Smith*. The Ohio Supreme Court acknowledged the conflict and accepted the case.

Chief Justice **Maureen O’Connor**, who dissented in the December decision, wrote the majority opinion and noted that the law defines cocaine in a way that anticipates it will be sold and used as a mixture that will include other drugs and diluted with fillers such as sugars and powders. Consequently, the level of penalty will be based on the total weight of the pure drug and the fillers that are part of the usable drug.

State v. Gonzales
[Slip Opinion No. 2017-Ohio-777](#)

County’s Reappraisal of Cincinnati Coca-Cola Plant Stands

The Hamilton County auditor’s \$14 million appraisal of a Cincinnati Coca-Cola bottling plant will stand despite the owner’s contention that the property is worth only about \$8.55 million, the Ohio Supreme Court ruled on March 14.

The Court affirmed the Ohio Board of Tax Appeals’ (BTA) ruling, which rejected a challenge from Johnston Coca-Cola Bottling Company Inc. to reduce its property tax value for 2011, a year in which Hamilton County reappraised and revalued property. The per curiam decision noted that the Cincinnati Board of Education opposed attempts by Johnston Coca-Cola to reduce the value of the nearly 35-acre parcel.

The county auditor initially valued the property at \$13.5 million, and Johnston Coca-Cola appealed to the Hamilton County Board of Revision. At the board of revision, Johnston presented an appraisal valuing the property at \$6.8 million, and the auditor provided testimony from an in-house certified appraiser who challenged the company’s findings. The board sided with the auditor.

Johnston appealed to the BTA, which heard the testimony of a second appraiser hired by the company. He valued the plant at \$8.55 million. The county’s expert prepared a new appraisal valuing the plant at \$14 million. The BTA concluded that the county’s conclusions were “better supported and more consistent with the market.”

Johnston Coca-Cola Bottling Co., Inc. v. Hamilton Cty. Bd. of Revision
[Slip Opinion No. 2017-Ohio-870](#)

Tax Rate Adjustment Denied to School District Levy That Wasn’t on All Voters’ Ballots

In a March 8 decision, the Ohio Supreme Court denied a request by the Delaware Joint Vocational School District Board of Education to compel Ohio Tax Commissioner Joe Testa to calculate tax rates on a 2015 multicounty renewal levy. The Court explained that the Delaware County Board of Elections did not submit the levy request to the boards of elections in Franklin, Marion, Morrow, and Union counties, and it failed to certify the election results from each of those neighboring counties.

The Supreme Court voted 4-3 to deny a writ of mandamus ordering the tax commissioner to calculate tax

Story continues on p. 9.

HappeningNow

News and Notes from Courthouses Across the Buckeye State

New Ohio Supreme Court Exhibit – ‘Eye in the Sky’ – Features GPS Case



The Ohio Supreme Court in March unveiled a new Visitor Education Center exhibit about law enforcement use of a tracking device to uncover a drug deal.

“Eye in the Sky” features a satellite hanging above visitors’ heads and a panel of information that explains the decisions in the case by the U.S. Supreme Court, the Ohio Supreme Court, and lower courts.

Based on tips from informants, the Butler County Sheriff’s Office suspected Sudinia Johnson of buying and selling large amounts of cocaine. A deputy sheriff placed a tracking device on Johnson’s van without obtaining a warrant.

Law enforcement tracked the van by Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) to Chicago, where Johnson met with an accomplice. The two men drove separately back to Butler County, where officers stopped and searched both

vehicles, found about 15 pounds of cocaine, and arrested Johnson.

The local trial court determined that the seized cocaine was obtained legally by police for use as evidence. Johnson was convicted and given a 15-year prison sentence, which was upheld by the Twelfth District Court of Appeals. Johnson appealed to the Ohio Supreme Court.

But while Ohio’s highest court was considering the case in 2014, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in a case from another state, that officers must have a warrant before placing a GPS tracking device on a suspect’s motor vehicle. The Ohio Supreme Court returned Johnson’s case to the trial court with instructions to apply the new U.S. Supreme Court ruling.

The Butler County court upheld Johnson’s sentence, saying officers acted in good faith at the time they placed the GPS device on Johnson’s van – because they did so before the U.S. Supreme Court ruling. The Twelfth District Court of Appeals and the Ohio Supreme Court agreed.

Johnson’s conviction remained in place. However, because of the U.S. Supreme Court ruling, officers in nearly all cases are now expected to obtain a warrant before placing a GPS device on a vehicle.

Opened in 2005, the Visitor Education Center uses interactive exhibits to convey the role of the courts in Ohio. Visits are scheduled weekdays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 614.387.9223 or e-mail courtours@sc.ohio.gov to schedule a tour. School tours typically last 90 minutes. More than 12,000 visitors toured the center in 2016.

Board of Professional Conduct Offers Succession Planning Tips

The Ohio Board of Professional Conduct on March 29 released an [Ethics Guide on Succession Planning](#). The guide outlines the steps a lawyer should take to protect the interests of the lawyer’s clients in the event of the lawyer’s death, disability, disappearance, or discipline.

The guide describes a succession plan as a comprehensive document that details key information about the lawyer’s practice, including the status and location of files, how to access the calendaring system, and contact information for staff and key vendors. The guide also recommends that a lawyer, as part of an overall succession plan, enter into a written agreement with the successor lawyer. The written agreement can contain core elements such as authority to notify clients of the death or disability of the lawyer, review and inventory of the lawyer’s client files, and authority to access financial and bank information. The successor lawyer may, with the client’s prior consent, carry out actions needed to preserve the client’s interests in litigation.

The Ohio Rules of Professional Conduct do not mandate that a lawyer create a succession plan. However, the guide cites rules and comments, that when read together, strongly encourage the development of a plan. By publishing the guide, the Board joins other state lawyer regulatory bodies nationwide in educating

Story continues on p. 9.

Judicial Appointments

Gov. John Kasich recently appointed the following judges to courts across Ohio



Jill Flagg Lanzinger
Summit County
Common Pleas Court

Barberton Municipal Court Judge **Jill Flagg Lanzinger** became the newest Summit County Common Pleas Court judge on April 3 after her appointment on March 17 by Gov. John R. Kasich.

Judge Flagg Lanzinger must win in the November 2018 general election to retain the seat for the full six-year term commencing May 17, 2019. She replaces Judge **Thomas A. Teodosio** who was elected to the Ninth District Court of Appeals.

Judge Flagg Lanzinger received her bachelor's degree from Heidelberg University and her law degree from the University of Akron. In addition to other duties as one of two judges on the municipal court, she presided over the drug court. She is a member of the Akron Bar Association, the City of Green Opiate Task Force, and the Portage Lakes Advisory Council. She was admitted to the practice of law in Ohio on May 9, 2005.



Curt C. Hartman
Hamilton County
Common Pleas Court

Cincinnati lawyer **Curt C. Hartman** joined the Hamilton County Common Pleas Court on March 20 after his appointment on March 10 by Gov. John R. Kasich.

Hartman must win in the November 2018 general election to retain the seat for the remainder of the unexpired term, which ends Feb. 10, 2021. Hartman replaces Judge **Beth A. Myers**, who was elected to the First District Court of Appeals.

Hartman received his bachelor's degree from the U.S. Naval Academy, his master's degree from Georgetown University, and his law degree from Vanderbilt University. He practiced law at Langdon and Hartman, LLC and previously served as special counsel to the Mason Municipal Court. He is a member of the Ohio State Bar Association, the Cincinnati Bar Association, and a former member of the Pierce Township Board of Trustees. He was admitted to the practice of law in Ohio on Nov. 14, 1994.



Ronald J. O'Leary
Cleveland Housing Court

Ronald J. O'Leary, former director of the Cleveland Department of Building and Housing, will fill a vacant judgeship on the Cleveland Housing Court on April 10.

O'Leary must win in the November 2017 general election to retain the seat for the remainder of the unexpired term, which ends Jan. 1, 2020. He replaces Judge **Raymond L. Pianka**, who died on Jan. 21.

O'Leary received his bachelor's degree from Miami University and his law degree from Case Western Reserve University School of Law. He is a former adjunct professor at Case's law school and a member of the Northeast Ohio Law Directors' Association and the Cuyahoga County Vacant and Abandoned Property Action Council. He was admitted to the practice of law in Ohio on Nov. 10, 1997.



LEGAL EASE

Erin Waltz relishes how her job as a librarian and public services manager at the Ohio Supreme Court is different every day.

“It’s never the same question,” Waltz said. “Being a librarian, you get so much variety.”

Her voice percolates with enthusiasm, for example, about putting together a comparison of Australian and U.S. legal systems earlier this year for the chief justice. The Supreme Court’s librarians love a novel and challenging request.

Talented staff inhabit legal libraries statewide that are specifically dedicated to the needs of the bench, bar, and public. Their curiosity and persistence – and that of librarians serving in more than 100,000 libraries throughout the country – are acknowledged and honored during National Library Week each April.

Researchers Extraordinaire

At the [Ohio Supreme Court Law Library](#), the staff focuses, not surprisingly, on research for the justices, including digging up the history of legislation or an earlier version of a statute as background for the cases the Court considers. Lesser known, Waltz said, is the work the library is willing and able to do for judges and courts throughout Ohio.

Among the projects the Court library has taken on: collecting bond schedules from every municipal court in the state; compiling information about each judge who served on one court throughout its history; and assembling data for a statewide task force about in-court and out-of-court hourly fees charged for appointed counsel.

Librarian Erin Waltz knows where to find the answers at the Ohio Supreme Court.

“We will dive deeply for them,” she said, yet many judges don’t realize the extent of services available.

Awareness is growing, though. Last year, the Court’s library staff completed its own version of a 5K, fulfilling more than 5,000 in-depth research requests. They also answered 1,853 questions for judges and court employees in Ohio – a ninefold increase over 2014 when they responded to 202 questions. Waltz enjoys the opportunity to share the possibilities when she speaks at conferences or talks to judges.

“I tell them, ‘We can save you so much time and energy,’” she said.

Delving into the Law

County law libraries provide another valuable resource for the legal profession. The [Hamilton County Law Library](#) responds to many requests from solo and small firm lawyers, said Lauren Morrison, the library’s director. Most practice in the municipal or common pleas courts, which are housed in the same building as the library. Morrison said their primary request is for sample legal documents, including complaints, answers, leases, and trusts.

“The forms provide a good starting point so lawyers aren’t reinventing the wheel,” she said.

Lawyers also frequently ask for treatises covering specific fields of law, court decisions, and statutes that include annotations of relevant history and case law. Hamilton County offers these services as part of an annual subscription, which includes access to the library’s print and electronic collections, continuing legal education seminars, and video conferencing, among other benefits.

At the [Delaware County Law Library](#), chief administrator and librarian Judith Maxwell said lawyers typically want law review articles or legal handbooks on topics such as juvenile law, basic evidence, or operating a vehicle while under the influence.



Ohio’s county law libraries are diverse (from top, left to right): Champaign, Fairfield, and Franklin counties; Gallia, Hancock and Jefferson counties; Madison, Morgan, and Williams counties. Photos courtesy of: [Statewide Consortium of Ohio County Law Libraries](#).

Maxwell and Morrison are both attorneys. Morrison, who is on inactive status, noted that she had good research skills as a lawyer, but her research chops are much better now as a librarian.

“Librarians play an important role as search experts because we have a full grasp of the resources available,” she explained.

Law library staffs often notice legal trends as they develop, too. Long before appeals wound their way to the Supreme Court, Waltz said they saw inquiries about the state’s Dormant Mineral Act escalate as natural gas

drilling disputes began to crowd the dockets of eastern Ohio trial courts.

Guiding the Public

Law librarians also devote significant time to serving the public. It’s a central and essential mission for the libraries, not only as a basic civic duty but in support of access to justice efforts throughout the courts.

Maxwell finds herself frequently assisting people trying to handle a domestic relations issue or charged with a crime. Without providing any legal advice, she may direct them to the Ohio Revised Code,



The Hamilton County Law Library is housed in the beautiful, century-old county courthouse in Cincinnati. Photo courtesy of: Hamilton County Law Library.



The home of the Delaware County Law Library was once the sheriff's residence, which was attached to the local jail. Photo courtesy of: Delaware County Law Library.

Ohio Administrative Code, or Ohio Jurisprudence. She has pointed out that certain crimes come with possible jail time and referred patrons to legal clinics or lawyer locator services.

"A lot of what I do is triage," Maxwell noted.

Popular areas of interest for non-lawyers contacting the Hamilton County Law Library involve search and seizure rights, custody issues, and landlord/tenant law, Morrison said.

"We can guide people to potentially helpful resources," she said. Her staff helps the public navigate various online databases, look up citations and cases, and find overviews describing the law on a specific topic. Several times each year, the library also presents education events on legal issues for the public.

Waltz said the most frequent requests at the Supreme Court are for forms, especially in the probate and domestic relations areas, and for help fixing legal problems. Although they can't give legal advice, the Supreme Court's librarians spend considerable time educating patrons about how the state and federal court systems work, she said. The staff members do what they can to ensure the public's access to the library's extensive resources. Besides in-person assistance, the staff will email information, mail it to a physical address, or deliver it to any public library for the patron to pick up locally.

"Regardless of who you are, we're here to help you," Waltz explained.

Disparate Funding

State law mandates that county law libraries supply research and reference services to county, municipal, and township officials and to the courts. Because the libraries are funded by court, traffic, and liquor fines and penalties, resources fluctuate widely from county to county and from year to year. In 2015, the statutory revenue generated to operate the state's 88 county libraries ranged from \$28,000 to \$1.16 million for the year, with the median hovering near \$139,000,

according to a [survey of the county law libraries](#).

Some law libraries, like Hamilton County's, have a handful of staff, while others can afford only a part-timer, as in Delaware. Maxwell, who also serves as executive director of the Consortium of Ohio County Law Libraries, said she knows of law libraries that consist only of a few shelves in a judge's chambers. The Delaware law library is located in an old but ornate house that was once the sheriff's residence connected in the back to the local jail. The Hamilton County Law Library, established in 1834, has resided for the last century in the Hamilton County Courthouse in downtown Cincinnati. Hours vary, too. Certain county law libraries open their doors only a few days each week and have limited hours, while others operate during business hours on weekdays.

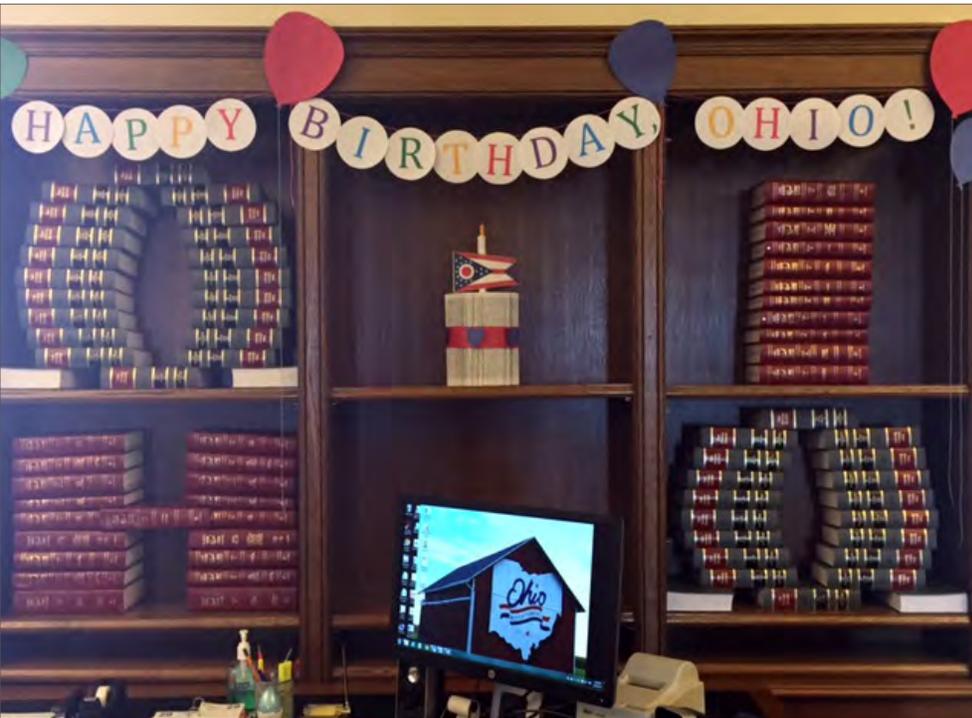
The statewide consortium strives to fill in the gaps so each library can adequately serve its patrons, Maxwell said. For law libraries that are lean on funds, the consortium has purchased materials, such as Ohio Jury Instructions and legal handbooks. Maxwell turns to the consortium to obtain law review articles and access to pricy online databases for her patrons. The libraries also share and swap materials, she said.

"Even for a county with only a few thousand dollars a year from fees, the consortium can still help locate information that wouldn't otherwise be available," she said.

Not Without Levity

Despite any struggles, the librarians seem fueled by notably high spirits and a commitment to sharing knowledge. They're far from the staid and serious stereotype associated with their profession.

When bats descended some time ago from the library's tower, Maxwell regularly carried a catcher's mitt and a cardboard box to the office to capture the pesky creatures. A constant companion in her library is "Flexible



The Ohio Supreme Court's creative library staff assembled this display in honor of the day statehood was granted to Ohio.

Fred,” a plastic skeleton that’s used in trials at the nearby courthouse. Attorneys dress up Fred and place him in the library’s windows. In March, he donned a green fedora for St. Patrick’s Day. Last year, it was Cleveland Indians’ garb.

The Supreme Court’s librarians are renowned, at least among those in the building, for their clever arrangements of the abundant books at their disposal. They annually build a green book tree for the Christmas holidays and create colorful book displays each month to commemorate events such as Constitution Day and Ohio’s statehood.

Morrison’s team in Cincinnati likes to adorn the busts of historical figures that sit in the library’s main room. During Mardi Gras, masks appeared on statues of former Ohio governors Edward Follansbee Noyes and Salmon P. Chase (who also served as chief justice of the United States). The staff shares these playful moments on the

library’s humorous and informative Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram feeds.

“We’re not so straight-laced and stoic that we can’t have a little fun,” Morrison noted.

The librarians hope these lighthearted efforts draw people in to raise awareness of the vast and treasured resources waiting to enlighten and inform their patrons.

“We try to serve as many people as we can the best we can,” Morrison said.

“I think the health of our civilization, the depth of our awareness about the underpinnings of our culture, and our concern for the future can all be tested by how well we support our libraries.”

– Carl Sagan

CASES | continued from p. 3

rates in the school district so that the renewed levy could be included on tax bills issued to property owners in 2017. The majority explained: “Because no proper certification of the multicounty election has been presented to the tax commissioner demonstrating that the tax is ‘authorized to be levied,’ the tax commissioner does not have a clear legal duty to calculate tax rates for this levy.”

In a dissenting opinion, Chief Justice **Maureen O’Connor** noted that 98.4 percent of the district is in Delaware County and the renewal passed by more than 10,000 votes. Even if all 1,026 registered voters in Franklin, Marion, Morrow, and Union counties that are in the district voted against the levy, it still would have passed. She also disputed that the board of elections had to provide the form the tax commissioner required.

SUCCESSION PLANNING | continued from p. 4

lawyers about the need to adequately plan for their death or disability.

The Ethics Guide on Succession Planning is the second in a series of guides produced by Board staff. In 2016, the Board published the [Ethics Guide on Client File Retention](#). Future guides will address issues such as lawyers transitioning to the bench from private or public practice and leaving a law firm.



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.

HB 1 – PROTECTING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS, Rep. Emilia Sykes (D-Akron) & Rep. Nathan Manning (R-North Ridgeville)

To authorize the issuance of dating violence protection orders with respect to conduct directed at a petitioner alleging dating violence, to provide access to domestic violence shelters for victims of dating violence, and to require the Attorney General's victim's bill-of-rights pamphlet to include a notice that a petitioner alleging dating violence has the right to petition for a civil protection order.

STATUS: Introduced in the House on Feb. 1, 2017. Passed by House on Feb. 28, 2017 (91-0). There have been two hearings in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

HB 4 – COCAINE AMOUNTS DETERMINATION, Rep. Bob Cupp (R-Lima) & Rep. John Rogers (D-Mentor-on-the-Lake)

To provide that in determining the amount of cocaine for trafficking and possession offenses, it also includes a compound, mixture, preparation, or substance containing cocaine, and to declare an emergency.

STATUS: Introduced in the House on Feb. 1, 2017. Passed the House on Feb. 15, 2017 (97-0). There have been three hearings in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

HB 117 – OPIOID THERAPY FOR DRUG OFFENDERS, Rep. Stephen Huffman (R-Tipp City) & Rep. Andrew Brenner (R-Powell)

To establish a statewide pilot program for the provision of long-acting opioid antagonist therapy for offenders convicted of an opioid-related offense who will be released from confinement on supervised release, and to specify that the therapy is to be provided during

both their confinement and their supervised release.

STATUS: Introduced in the House on March 7, 2017. There have been two hearings in the House Criminal Justice Committee.

HB 139 – PUBLIC RECORD DISCLOSURE EXEMPTIONS, Rep. Rick Perales (R-Beavercreek) & Rep. Candice Keller (R-Middletown)

To eliminate the public disclosure exemption for any permanently retained record 100 years after the date of its creation.

STATUS: Introduced in the House on March 21, 2017. Referred to the House State & Local Government Committee.

HB 141 – INVOLUNTARY MANSLAUGHTER-CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE, Rep. Jonathan Dever (R-Cincinnati) & Rep. Scott Wiggam (R-Wooster)

To provide that causing or contributing to the death of another person as a result of the offender's sale, distribution, dispensation, or administration of a controlled substance or controlled substance analog is a violation of the offense of involuntary manslaughter and to make this offense a strict liability offense.

STATUS: Introduced in the House on March 21, 2017. Referred to the House Criminal Justice Committee.

SB 7 – PROTECTION ORDER VIOLATIONS, Sen. Kevin Bacon (R-Minerva Park) & Sen. Gayle Manning (R-North Ridgeville)

To provide that service of a protection order or consent agreement upon a person is not necessary for the person to be convicted of the offense of violating

a protection order if the person had actual notice of the order or agreement and the person recklessly violated its terms.

STATUS: Introduced in the Senate on Jan. 31, 2017. Passed the Senate on March 7, 2017 (32-0). There have been two hearings in House Criminal Justice Committee.

SB 25 – PERRY COUNTY MUNICIPAL COURT, Sen. Jay Hottinger (R-Newark)

To create the Perry County Municipal Court in New Lexington on Jan. 1, 2018, to establish one full-time judgeship in that court, to provide for the nomination of the judge by petition only, to abolish the Perry County Court on that date, to designate the Perry County Clerk of Courts as the clerk of the Perry County Municipal Court, and to provide for the election for the Perry County Municipal Court of one full-time judge in 2017.

STATUS: Introduced in the Senate on Jan. 31, 2017. Passed the Senate on Feb. 15, 2017 (33-0). Reported out of the House Criminal Justice Committee on March 21, 2017. A House floor vote is pending.

SB 66 – SENTENCING MODIFICATION-REHABILITATION, Sen. John Eklund (R-Chardon) & Sen. Charleta Tavares (D-Columbus)

To modify criminal sentencing and corrections law by including rehabilitation as a purpose of felony sentencing, removing the one-year minimum for presumptive fourth- or fifth-degree felony community-control sanctions, modifying sanctions for a violation of a community-control condition, modifying the manner of calculating confinement credits, modifying eligibility criteria and procedures for granting

intervention in lieu of conviction, making offenders convicted of certain multiple fourth- or fifth-degree felonies eligible for conviction-record sealing, revising procedures for the Adult Parole Authority to grant a final release or terminate post-release control, and modifying the criteria for considering a prison term sanction for a post-release control violation.

STATUS: Introduced in the Senate on Feb. 21, 2017. There have been three hearings in Senate Judiciary Committee.

SB 100 – CIVIL RIGHTS-DISCRIMINATION PROHIBITIONS, Sen. Michael Skindell (D-Lakewood) & Sen. Charleta Tavares (D-Columbus)

To prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity or expression, to add mediation to the list of informal methods by which the Ohio Civil Rights Commission must attempt to induce compliance with Ohio's Civil Rights Law before instituting a formal hearing, and to eliminate certain religious exemptions from the Ohio Civil Rights Law.

STATUS: Introduced in the Senate on March 14, 2017. Referred to the Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee.



Rule Amendment Summary

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

Commercial Dockets

The Court adopted changes to court rules governing commercial dockets, which include transferring the power to appoint commercial docket judges to local courts and altering rules that concern commercial docket judges' qualifications, term lengths, and education requirements. The rules took effect on March 1.

Guardianship, Probate Forms

The Court adopted new and updated forms for adult guardianship cases and other probate matters that took effect on March 1. The guardianship-related changes consist of 13 new forms (Standard Probate Forms 27.0 to 27.12). In other probate areas, the amendments adjust forms about adoptions, minors' estates, and the appointment of appraisers. Click [here](#) to access all the new forms.

The Agenda

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

Conferences & Meetings

May 2 - 5

[Ohio Association for Court Administration \(OACA\)](#)
Spring Conference
Court Personnel Members
Cleveland

April 20 & 21

[Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association](#)
Spring Training
Columbus

April 21

[Ohio Jury Management Association \(OJMA\)](#)
Conference
Judges, Magistrates & Court Personnel
Columbus

April 25

[Ohio Judicial Conference Technology Conference](#)
Columbus

Judicial College Courses
judicialcademy.ohio.gov

April 7

Supervisor Series
Court Personnel
Columbus

April 12

Guardian ad Litem Continuing Education Course: The GAL Interview
Guardians ad Litem
Ashland
12:30 p.m. - 4 p.m.

April 21

Abuse, Neglect, Dependency Course
Judges & Magistrates
Web Conference

Consumer Law
Judges & Magistrates
Cleveland

April 26 - 28

Court Management Program Level I: Managing Court Financial Resources
CMP 2017 Class
Columbus

April 27

Guardian ad Litem Continuing Education Course: Report Writing
Guardians ad Litem
Cincinnati
12:30 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Guardian ad Litem Pre Service
Guardians ad Litem
Cincinnati

May 1 - 4

New Judges Orientation Part II
New Judges
Columbus

Court Services Training
sc.ohio.gov/JCS/courtSvc

April 18

Mediator Roundtable Meeting
Columbus

April 19

Advanced Mediation Training
Columbus

Parenting Coordination Roundtable Teleconference

April 25 & 28

Regional Judicial Trauma Training for Abuse, Neglect, and Dependency Cases
Juvenile Judges, Child Welfare Directors, and System Partners

Court Roundtables
sc.ohio.gov/JCS/roundtables.pdf

Note: All meetings are at the Thomas J. Moyer Ohio Judicial Center in Columbus

April 11

Domestic Relations Administrators
All Counties

April 13

Juvenile Courts, Title IV-E
All Counties

April 20

Court of Appeals Administrators
All Districts

Supreme Court of Ohio
sc.ohio.gov

May 2 & 3

Oral Arguments
Live stream at 9 a.m. at sc.ohio.gov

May 16 & 17

Oral Arguments
Live stream at 9 a.m. at sc.ohio.gov