



Law & Leadership

{ Introducing High School Students to the Justice System }

While many kids are on break from school this summer, hundreds of students across Ohio are preparing for life outside of high school. They are participating in the Law and Leadership Institute summer program where they are introduced to law and the justice system.

The Law and Leadership Institute is a four-year, statewide program that collaborates with the legal community to help students learn skills that may encourage them to become leaders in their communities. LLI is a non-profit organization governed by a board of directors consisting of 17 representatives of the Ohio legal community, including one designee each from the Ohio State Bar Association, the Ohio Center for Law-Related Education, the Ohio Supreme Court, and the Consortium of Metropolitan Bar Associations.

“It’s our hope that LLI alumni expand their spheres of influence and choose to lead,” said **Reina Sims**, LLI deputy director. “Ohio’s law schools and their leadership share this same belief and demonstrate that belief through supporting LLI with classrooms, staff, and support from the surrounding legal community, including local bar associations and affinity bars.”

LLI is Ohio’s version of a successful program that started in New York called Legal Outreach. LLI began in 2008 as a summer program at the Cleveland State University Marshall College of Law and The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law serving 40 ninth-grade students from the Cleveland Metropolitan School District and Columbus City Schools. It has since developed into a year-round program held at eight of Ohio’s nine law schools. The ninth law school provides off-site program

About Court News Ohio

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Inside

the August Issue



3 Cases

Court Clarifies Law on Criminal Restitution Awards

4 Happening Now

Attorney Registration Forms and Payment Due September 1



6 On the Bench

Judge Gill Selected as CSG Toll Fellow

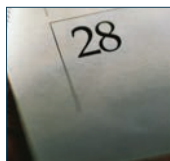
8 Legislative Digest

A compilation of bills and resolutions introduced by the Ohio General Assembly that are of interest to the judicial community



9 Rule Amendment Summary

Amendments to the Rules of Practice and Procedure



10 The Agenda

Upcoming events, training opportunities, and conferences for judges and court staff

On the Cover

Students participate in the Law and Leadership summer program held at The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law.

Cases

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

Supreme Court of Ohio

Trial Court Did Not Err by Considering Merit Issues in Ruling That ‘Phone Cramming’ Lawsuit Cannot Be Pursued as Class Action

On July 16, the Ohio Supreme Court ruled that even though a trial court improperly considered the merits of a class-action claim about unauthorized charges on telephone bills, the court’s denial to certify the class was correct because the plaintiffs’ complaint did not comply with the certification requirements set out in Ohio Civ.R. 23. The 5-2 decision authored by Justice **Sharon L. Kennedy** reversed a decision by the Sixth District Court of Appeals, reinstated the order of the trial court, and, in effect, decertified the plaintiffs’ class action lawsuit.

Stammco, L.L.C., v. United Tel. Co. of Ohio, Slip Opinion No. 2013-Ohio-3019

Court Clarifies Law on Criminal Restitution Awards

On July 17, the Ohio Supreme Court clarified the authority of a trial court to order restitution in a criminal case. While the trial court has discretion to order restitution, the legislature has specified that the amount awarded cannot be greater than the economic loss suffered as a “direct and proximate result” of the commission of the offense. In a 5-2 decision authored by Justice **Terrence O’Donnell**, the court reversed a decision by the Eighth District Court of Appeals affirming an order to pay \$63,121 in restitution to investigate and appraise the value of stolen property.

State v. Lalain
Slip Opinion No. 2013-Ohio-3093

Tax Commissioner’s Wrong Filing Instructions Creates Ambiguity for Taxpayer to Treat Assessment as Preliminary or Final

On July 23, the Ohio Supreme Court ruled that a company can choose how it will appeal a final personal property tax assessment by the State Tax Commissioner to the State Board of Tax Appeals when the commissioner issues a final assessment, but mistakenly encloses instructions about how to appeal a preliminary assessment. In a 7-0 ruling authored by Justice **Sharon L. Kennedy**, the court noted that the tax commissioner “has the obligation to furnish correct appeal instructions to the taxpayer.”

Crown Communication, Inc. v. Testa
Slip Opinion No. 2013-Ohio-3126

Court of Appeals

Construction Company Not Liable for Employee’s Death, Tenth District Affirms

On July 8, the Tenth District Court of Appeals affirmed a Franklin County Common Pleas Court ruling that a construction company was not liable for the death of an employee. Tenth District Court of Appeals Judge **Julia L. Dorrian** wrote the court’s majority opinion. The court, citing the Ohio Supreme Court decision *Houdek v. ThyssenKrupp Materials N.A., Inc.*, 134 Ohio St.3d 491, 2012-Ohio-5685, affirmed the trial court’s opinion. Judges **Gary Tyack** and **John W. McCormac** concurred.

Johnson v. Cincinnati Ins. Co.

Parma Firefighter to Receive Back Pay, Benefits

A fired Parma firefighter will receive back pay and benefits for the 21 months that lapsed between an arbitrator’s decision and his reinstatement after a ruling July 3 by the Eighth District Court of Appeals. The 3-0 decision, authored by Judge **Kathleen Ann Keough**, reversed and remanded the case to the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court.

Parma v. Parma Firefighters Assn., Local 639

Results of Urine Test Should Be Suppressed for OVI Conviction

On June 25, the Fourth District Court of Appeals ruled that a woman’s urine test should have been suppressed during her OVI trial due to an Ohio state trooper’s failure to follow protocol. In a 2-1 decision, Judge **William H. Harsha III** noted in the court’s opinion that different appeals courts across Ohio have determined different timeframes for what is considered out of compliance. The court ruled, however, that the 12-hour time period between when the sample was taken and when it was tested was too long and out of compliance and, therefore, Mullins’ urine sample should have been suppressed.

State v. Mullins

Happening Now

News and notes from courthouses
across the Buckeye State.

Attorney Registration Forms and Payment Due September 1

Ohio attorneys are reminded to register for the upcoming biennium by September 1.

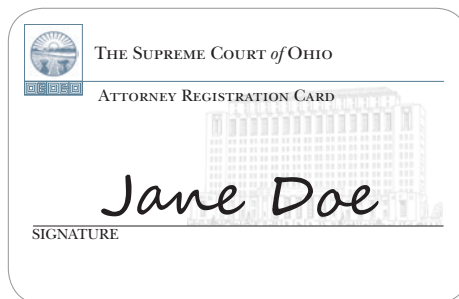
Ohio Supreme Court Attorney Services Director **Susan Christoff** said all attorneys on active or corporate status must register with Attorney Services and pay a \$350 registration fee every odd-numbered year. Christoff said attorneys who fail to register and pay the fee by the September 1 deadline or within the late registration period will be suspended. The registration fee has not increased since the 2007/2009 registration period, Christoff noted.

Active and corporate attorneys should have received a packet of registration materials in early July containing instructions on how to register and a form to verify the accuracy of their contact information, including a current residence, office, and e-mail address.

Attorneys can register either by mail or electronically. Mailed registrations will be deemed timely if postmarked by September 1, or earlier. Online registrations must be completed by 11:59 p.m., September 1 to be deemed timely. Attorneys who successfully complete the process will receive confirmation by mail. Those who do not receive confirmation should contact Attorney Services.

To make the registration process easier, attorneys can also click on the “Biennial Attorney Registration” button on the front page of the court’s website. The button is located on the right-hand side of the page and will take the user directly to the Online Attorney Services portal. From there, the user should click on the “Access Online Attorney Services” link.

Attorneys have a continuing obligation to keep the Supreme Court apprised of their most current residence, office and email addresses to ensure registration and other materials are timely received. Attorneys may update their own records online or mail the changes directly to Attorney Services.



Commission Certifies First Specialized Dockets in Ohio

Five specialized dockets became the first in the state to receive final certification June 28 from the Commission on Specialized Dockets.

The specialized dockets are:

- ❶ Ashtabula County
Common Pleas Drug Court
- ❷ Clermont County
Municipal OVI Court
- ❸ Columbiana County
Municipal Mental
Health Court — STAR Program
- ❹ Franklin County
Family Drug Court
- ❺ Licking County Common Pleas
Drug Court — CIA Program

In November, the Ohio Supreme Court adopted rules outlining the specialized docket certification procedures, which include submitting an application, undergoing a site visit, and forwarding specific program materials to the Specialized Dockets Section.

By January 1, 2014, Ohio courts that operate specialized docket programs will be required to be initially certified by the Supreme Court.

The 22-member commission advises the Supreme Court and its staff regarding the promotion of statewide rules and uniform standards concerning specialized dockets in Ohio courts, the development and delivery of specialized docket services to Ohio courts, and the creation of training programs for judges and court personnel. The commission makes all decisions regarding final certification.

There is a button on the Supreme Court website (www.sc.ohio.gov) that takes you to more information.

CLE

CHANGES COMING IN 2014

In less than six months, significant continuing legal education (CLE) improvements will take effect that impact attorneys, judges, magistrates, and new lawyers.

The CLE amendments will apply first to attorneys and judges whose last names begin with the letters M through Z and whose biennial compliance period ends December 31, 2014.

A-through-L attorneys and judges still will be required to comply with the current CLE rule and requirements for the biennial compliance period that ends December 31, 2013. The changes will impact this group beginning with the 2014/2015 biennial compliance period.

To provide guidance to Ohio's legal professionals about what those changes entail, and how to compare what's required now with what will be required come January, the Office of Attorney Services posted several reference guides on the court's website.

There are separate charts comparing the current and amended rules for attorneys, judges, magistrates, and new lawyers. There are also FAQs with several frequently asked questions and answers about the current and amended CLE rules for attorneys, judges, and new lawyers.

In November, the Ohio Supreme Court adopted changes to 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.

Under the rule changes, the self-study credit hours an attorney can earn each biennial period will increase from 6 to 12 hours. Self-study includes online courses.

As for pro bono credit, attorneys could receive 1 hour of CLE credit for every 6 hours of pro bono service, up to a maximum of 6 credit hours for service performed during a biennial compliance period. To be eligible for such credit, the pro bono service must be verified by a bar association or other organization recognized by the commission as providing pro bono programs and services in Ohio, and must occur on or after January 1, 2014.

Attorneys still will be required to earn 24 hours every 2 years and be subject to monetary sanctions and suspensions for failing to meet the minimum hour requirement. However, attorneys no longer will be required to file a final reporting transcript.

Other CLE changes include:

- Awarding credit for presentations that occur concurrent with the consumption of a meal.
- Lowering the range of recommended sanction fines for noncompliant attorneys for hour deficiencies with the upper limit reduced from \$500 to \$300.
- "Unbundling" attorney "professional conduct" instruction (i.e. instruction on ethics, professionalism, and substance abuse) to allow attorneys more flexibility in choosing courses that most closely meet their professional and practice needs. Courses on mental-health issues and access to justice and fairness in the courts also would qualify for "professional conduct" credit.

As for judges, they will be required to obtain 3 hours of "judicial conduct" instruction through courses offered by the Ohio Judicial College. Judicial conduct includes instruction on judicial ethics, professionalism, access to justice and fairness in the courts, and/or alcoholism, substance abuse, or mental-health issues. Judges will no longer be required to take 2 separate hours of instruction on access to justice and fairness in the courts, but may include such instruction toward their 3-hour judicial-conduct requirement.

ON THE BENCH

Judge Gill Selected as CSG Toll Fellow

Franklin County Common Pleas Judge **Elizabeth Gill** was selected as a Council of State Governments' Henry Toll Fellow for 2013.

The Toll Fellowship Program is considered one of the nation's leading development programs for government officials.

Judge Gill is one of 48 Toll Fellows from across the country representing all three branches of government. The state policymakers will travel to Kentucky in August for an "intellectual boot camp," where the fellows will participate in sessions for personality assessment, media training, and adaptive leadership, among others. Judge Gill said she is excited to take part in the program.

"I believe participation in the fellowship program will allow me my best opportunity to develop a solid foundation to motivate and implement ongoing system change and reform during the time I am fortunate enough to hold this leadership position as a juvenile/domestic judge," Judge Gill said.

Judge Gill, who's currently the lead juvenile judge of Franklin County, applied to become a Toll Fellow because she said she wanted to continue to grow intellectually and learn from her colleagues.

"As elected officials, we work in limited windows of opportunity to effectuate change. Leadership training allows us to enhance our skills and to refocus our energies into immediate and ongoing action," said Judge Gill. "My ultimate goal is to instill institutional reforms and policies that will continue well beyond my time as a judge."

Judge Gill started her term in the domestic and juvenile divisions of the Franklin County Common Pleas Court in 2007. Before she sat on the bench, Judge Gill was in private practice. She received her law degree from The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law in 1987.



Judge's Blog Aims to Educate

Medina County Common Pleas Judge **James Kimbler** is combining his love of the rule of law with his passion for teaching by blogging about court cases.



"I do enjoy teaching, and because I get a lot of interaction with people, the blog is a way for me to teach," Judge Kimbler said.

In 1986, Judge Kimbler started serving on the Wadsworth Municipal Court bench. Around 10 years later, he became a Medina County Common Pleas Court judge, a position he's held ever since.

I do enjoy teaching, and because I get a lot of interaction with people, the blog is a way for me to teach.

Judge Kimbler started his blog in 2006, but it wasn't until recently that he's focused his interest on the Ninth District Court of Appeals. Judge Kimbler writes summaries of the appeals court's cases about once a week. He also adds short video clips of lectures he's given or other observations about the court system.

Judge Kimbler said his blog is primarily for attorneys wanting to know more about Medina County courts, the appellate courts, and the Supreme Court.

“I hope they read something they didn’t know before,” Judge Kimbler said. “I hope that it’s a positive experience going to the blog and learning something that they didn’t know before.”

I hope that it’s a positive experience going to the blog and learning something that they didn’t know before.

Judge Kimbler said he also benefits from the blog because he reviews all decisions that come out of the Ninth District. Besides satisfying his curiosity, Judge Kimbler said it’s a great way to share what he’s read.

“I’m a trial judge, and I’m interested in evidence rules, civil rules, and criminal cases,” Judge Kimbler said. “I hope this blog makes the court look more accessible and makes me look more accessible.”

Judge Kimbler is in the minority when it comes to court personnel using blogs. In 2012, the Conference of Court Public Information Officers released a nationwide study where it found that only 1.8 percent of respondents used a blog for court interaction. CCPIO recently completed work on the 2013 survey where judges and other court employees were asked to answer questions about social media and the courts. The results will be reported in August.

Justice **Judith Ann Lanzinger** is one Ohio judge who also blogs like Judge Kimbler, but her posts have a different focus. The Justice Judy blog is an educational tool mostly used to educate middle and high school students about the judicial system, though it’s an educational tool for the public in general. She started the blog in 2010.

Check out Judge Kimbler’s blog at <http://lawtalk.blogspot.com>.



Judicial Appointments

The governor’s office continues to fill the large number of judicial vacancies left after dozens of judges retired from the bench last year. Gov. John Kasich recently appointed the following judges to courts around Ohio.

Charles J. Bauernschmidt Cleveland Municipal Court

Bauernschmidt, a former magistrate for the Village of Bratenahl’s mayor’s court, took the bench July 17. He replaced Judge **Michael J. Ryan**, who was elected in November to the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court.

Daniel R. Hawkins Franklin County Municipal Court, Environmental Division

Hawkins, the former director of the Franklin County Prosecutor’s Special Victims Unit, took the bench July 29. Hawkins replaces retired Judge **Harland H. Hale**, and he must run in this November’s general election to retain the seat for the unexpired term ending January 7, 2016.

Thomas M. O’Diam Greene County Probate Court

O’Diam, an attorney with the Dayton firm of O’Diam, Stecker & Sove Law Group, Inc., will take the bench on August 5. He replaces retired Judge **Robert A. Hagler**. O’Diam must run in the November 2014 general election to serve a full six-year term starting February 9, 2015.

Terre L. Vandervoort Fairfield County Probate/ Juvenile Court

Lancaster’s law director and city prosecutor will take the bench on August 5. Vandervoort replaces retired Judge **Steven O. Williams**. She must run in the November 2014 general election to serve a full six-year term starting February 9, 2015.

Kevin W. Dunn Medina County Court of Common Pleas, Probate & Juvenile Divisions

Dunn, prosecutor for the City of Medina, will assume office on August 5, and must run in November 2014 to serve a full six-year term commencing February 9, 2015. Dunn replaces Judge **John J. Lohn**, who retired.

Hon. Frank A. Fregiato Belmont County Court of Common Pleas

Judge Fregiato will move from the Belmont County Court Northern Division to the county’s common pleas bench on August 12. He replaces retired Judge **Jennifer L. Sargus**. Judge Fregiato must run in the November 2014 general election to serve a full six-year term that begins February 9, 2015.



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

HB 69, Rep. Ron Maag (R-Lebanon)

To prohibit the use of traffic law photo-monitoring devices by municipal corporations, counties, townships, and the State Highway Patrol to detect traffic signal light and speed limit violations, except in certain circumstances.

STATUS: Introduced in the House and referred to the House Transportation, Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee on February 20, 2013. Amended and passed the House on June 26, 2013 (61-32).

HB 126, Rep. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard); Rep. Michael Stinziano (D-Columbus)

Allows a person who creates a durable power of attorney for health care to authorize the attorney in fact to obtain health information about the person, makes an individual who is designated as an alternate attorney in fact ineligible to witness the instrument that creates a durable power of attorney for health care, permits the principal to nominate a guardian in a durable power of attorney for health care, and establishes a presumption that a valid living will declaration revokes all prior declarations.

STATUS: Introduced in House on April 16, 2013, and referred to House Judiciary Committee on April 17, 2013. Passed the House on June 12, 2013 (93-0). Referred to Senate Civil Justice Committee on June 18, 2013.

HB 130, Rep. Teresa Fedor (D-Toledo)

Increases penalties for traffickers and “johns” who victimize children, raises the penalty for solicitation from a third degree misdemeanor to a third degree felony when the person solicited is a minor, requires that

offenders register as sex offenders, removes the mistake of age defense from the offense of importuning when the person importuned is 16 or 17 years old, removes the need to prove that a minor victim was compelled to engage in sex for hire, and provides that children services agencies are not required to make reasonable efforts to prevent the removal of children from their homes or place children back into homes where a parent has trafficked them.

STATUS: Introduced in the House on April 16, 2013 and referred to the House Judiciary Committee. Substitute bill accepted and reported out of committee on May 29, 2013. Emergency clause added and approved on June 26, 2013 by 91-0 vote. Amended bill passed the House on June 26, 2013 (93-0).

HB 138, Rep. Jeff McClain (R-Upper Sandusky); Rep. Tom Letson (D-Warren)

To make changes to the law governing the Board of Tax Appeals, including authorizing a small claims division within the Board, requiring the Board to institute measures to manage certain appeals, requiring the Board to receive notices of appeal and statutory transcripts electronically, providing pleading standards for appeals to the Board, granting the Board authority to grant summary judgments and consider motions, vesting hearing examiners with the authority to determine credibility of witnesses and issue statements of fact and conclusions of law separately, and authorizing the Board to require parties to engage in mediation, and to authorize the Tax Commissioner to expedite and issue a final determination for residential property value appeals with written consent of the parties.

STATUS: Introduced in the House on April 23, 2013 and referred to the

House Ways & Means Committee. Passed by the House May 29, 2013 (93-0). Passed the Senate on June 26, 2013 (31-1). Signed by governor on July 11, 2013. Effective October 11, 2013; some provisions effective on other dates.

HB 141, Rep. Rex Damschroder (R-Fremont)

To abolish the Fostoria Municipal Court and the Tiffin Municipal Court, to create the Tiffin-Fostoria Municipal Court, and to declare an emergency.

STATUS: Introduced in the House on April 24, 2013 and referred to the House Judiciary Committee. Passed by the House on May 22, 2013 (90-1). Referred to the Senate Public Safety, Local Government and Veterans Affairs Committee. Passed by the Senate on June 20, 2013 (32-0). Signed by the governor on June 27, 2013; effective the same date.

SB 64, Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City); Sen. Gayle Manning (R-North Ridgeville)

Requires as an element of the offense of criminal child enticement that the

offender solicit, coax, entice, or lure the child for an unlawful purpose and otherwise modifies the offense.

STATUS: Introduced in the Senate on March 7, 2013, and referred to the Criminal Justice Committee on March 12, 2013. Passed by the Senate on May 30, 2013 (30-2). Referred to the House Judiciary Committee. House approved an emergency clause on June 25, 2013 (97-0) and passed the bill on the same date (97-0). Senate concurred with House amendments (27-5) and approved the emergency clause (27-5) on June 27, 2013. Signed by the governor on July 11, 2013; effective the same date.

SB 98, Sen. Larry Obhof (R-Medina)

To expand the list of entities that may serve as statutory agents.

STATUS: Introduced in the Senate on April 9, 2013 and referred to the Senate Civil Justice Committee. There was one hearing on June 18, 2013. Amended and passed the Senate on June 27, 2013 (32-0).

SB 147, Sen. Tim Schaffer (R-Lancaster); Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Sabina)

To increase the penalty for an assault committed by a prisoner at a state correctional institution or delinquent child detained at a Department of Youth Services institution on an employee of the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction or Youth Services on the grounds of the state correctional institution or Department of Youth Services institution and to eliminate the increased penalty for an assault committed by such a prisoner or delinquent child, a parolee, or an offender under any type of government supervision on a probation department employee or by an offender under any type of government supervision on an employee of the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction or Youth Services.

STATUS: Introduced in the Senate on June 20, 2013 and referred to the Senate Justice Committee on June 25, 2013.



Rule Amendment Summary

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

Rules of Practice and Procedure. Effective July 1, amendments to the Rules of Practice and Procedure that concern service by posting and where to publicize a posting were adopted by the Supreme Court. The amendments include changes to the rules of appellate procedure, civil procedure, criminal procedure, and juvenile procedure. Many of the changes target inconsistencies, remove outdated concepts, and clarify the rules. The amendments to Civ.R. 4.4 and Juv.R. 16 make it clear that service by posting can be used in initial actions and expand it to post-decree matters. In addition to the traditional “posting” of a notice on the courthouse bulletin board, service would use the county clerk of court’s website if it exists, although the amendments don’t require electronic posting.

LOCAL COURT ROUNDTABLES

[sc.ohio.gov/JCS]

August 15

Population: 41K or Less

Municipal/County
Administrators and Clerks, Rural
Courts — Columbus

August 16

Urban Environment

General Division Administrators,
Urban Courts — Columbus

August 20

Population: 42 to 69K

Municipal/County
Administrators and Clerks,
Mid-Sized Courts — Columbus

August 22

Population: More than 70K

Municipal/County
Administrators and Clerks, Large
Courts — Columbus

August 23

Urban Environment

Municipal Administrators, Urban
Courts — Columbus

August 23

Population: Less than 100K

Juvenile Chief Probation
Officers — Columbus

August 30

Courts with 1 to 5 Judges

General Division Administrators,
Mid-Sized Courts — Columbus

The Agenda

Upcoming events, training opportunities, and
conferences for judges and court staff.

For more information, contact the event
sponsor at the website provided.

Judicial College Courses

judicialacademy.ohio.gov

August 8

**Guardian ad Litem Pre-Service
Course (6 of 9)**

Guardians ad Litem
Toledo

August 9

**Delinquency and Unruly Video
Teleconference**

Judges & Magistrates
1 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.

August 13

**Guardian ad Litem Continuing
Education Course: Understanding CPS**

Guardians ad Litem, Youngstown
1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

August 14

**Guardian ad Litem Continuing
Education Course: Understanding CPS**

Guardians ad Litem, Youngstown
8:30 a.m. to noon

August 15

Judicial Candidates Seminar

Judicial Candidates, Columbus
1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

August 16

**Computer Lab: Electronic
Legal Research**

Judges & Magistrates
Parma/Cleveland

August 23

Probate Seminar

Judges & Magistrates
Columbus

September 3

**Guardian ad Litem Continuing
Education Course: Substance Use**

Guardians ad Litem, Athens
1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

September 12

**Clerks' Course: Improving
Our Performance**

Court Clerks
Columbus

September 13

Realtime: Back to Basics

Official Court Reporters
Columbus

Interpreter Services Training

sc.ohio.gov/JCS/interpreterSvc

August 17

Interpreter Ethics Training
Columbus

September 6

Legal Procedure & Terminology (Restricted Enrollment)
Columbus

September 7

Slang, Metaphors & Idioms (Restricted Enrollment)
Columbus

Dispute Resolution Training

sc.ohio.gov/JCS/disputeResolution

August 9

Truancy Mediation
Toledo

September 12 & 13

Basic Mediation/Uniform Mediation Act
Marysville

September 16 & 17

Parenting Coordination
Cincinnati

Supreme Court of Ohio

www.sc.ohio.gov

August 15

Late Application Deadline to Register as a Candidate for the February 2014 Bar Exam

August 20 & 21

Oral Arguments

September 1

Attorney Registration Deadline

September 10 & 11

Oral Arguments

September 12

State of the Judiciary Address
Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor
Columbus

Miscellaneous

September 26

Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association Fall Training
ohiopa.org
Cleveland

September 11

Ohio Courts of Appeals Judges Association (OCAJA) Fall Conference
Association Judges, Columbus

Law & Leadership: Continued from page 1.

support. More than 400 students in the cities of Akron, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Columbus, Dayton, and Toledo participate in the institute program.

“LLI works to enhance the legal profession in Ohio by guiding talented students from a multiplicity of background into the profession,” said Sims. “The majority of students are from underserved urban high schools, identify themselves as racial minorities, and most will be the first in their families to attend college.”

The students are challenged in the program in ways that could lead them to the path of higher education, Sims said. LLI does that by providing curriculum that prepares them for college. The curriculum is divided into six components: personal leadership, external leadership, college planning, law and literature, core academic skills, and legal.

“The students get introduced to a way of thinking that may not be something they are introduced to in high school, and that really is kind of the critical analysis, problem solving, and approach that is used in law school to train students,” said **Kathy Northern**, a LLI site administrator.

Taylor Moss, a junior high school student from Columbus, said she is able to experience something new every summer, including interning at a law firm and participating in a mock trial. She said she keeps coming back every year because of the friends she’s made throughout her three years in the program, as well as the skills she learns through hands-on experiences. She said she plans to attend an in-state college and

Story continues on page 12.

FALL
CONFERENCE

Law & Leadership: Continued from page 11.



“I think it will put me a step or two ahead when it comes down to being in my freshman year in college because there’s things you learn here that you don’t learn in high school.”

- Taylor Moss

work in the medical field, possibly in medical law.

“I think it will put me a step or two ahead when it comes down to being in my freshman year in college because there’s things you learn here that you don’t learn in high school,” said Moss.

Northern said the students keep coming back every year because they spend time with their peers who are also interested in higher education.

“It’s a lot of fun to be surrounded by other students who are like-minded, willing to spend time during

“With the program, we actually get to learn what a trial is like. And so we learn the whole steps to a procedure and we learn different stuff with the law, and I think that’s just the part I kind of fell in love with.”

- Ares Harper

their summer in a really challenging environment,” Northern said. “I hope the students get out of the program a sense that they have a very strong potential to do well in whatever area, and that college is certainly a possibility for them.”

Ares Harper, a junior from Columbus, said he is not sure whether he wants to go into law or theater when he graduates from high school, but said he will go to college. Harper said the program is a good opportunity to learn more about the court system.

“With the program, we actually get to learn what a trial is like. And so we learn the whole steps to a procedure and we learn different stuff with the law, and I think that’s just the part I kind of fell in love with,” Harper said.

Both Harper and Moss said the institute provides them opportunities outside the classroom that they cannot get elsewhere.

The summer institute feeds into a year-round program where

the ninth-through-twelfth graders are encouraged to attend Saturday sessions twice a month during the school year. During their four years in the institute, the students take part in mock trials, intern at a law firm for a month, visit college campuses across the state, and engage in debates. They also prepare for the ACT and SAT college admission examinations.

“Often students are not discouraged, but not really encouraged to aspire as high as they might otherwise aspire, and our goal

is to get the students to see that their capabilities are very high and that they can go far,” Northern said.

Sims said the students are supplied with constant feedback throughout the program so they can work on their respective strengths and weaknesses. She said the institute has unique learning approaches to help students become more active and attentive when they participate in deliberative forums, debates, and moot court.

While in the program, students are provided with free materials, field trips, lunch, and transportation at all LLI activities. Students are encouraged to apply for the Law and Leadership Institute when they are in the eighth grade. The application period begins in January of each year and ends April 15.

Teachers can also nominate student candidates.

Visit lawandleadership.org for more information.