



New Year Brings Change to the Bench

Three of the new judges will take their seats on the Ohio Supreme Court bench.

The New Year will result in a lot of new faces on the bench in Ohio. Of the 724 judgeships in the state, 37 posts will have a new judge behind the bench with the majority of those filled by attorneys who have never been judges.

Three of the seven Ohio Supreme Court justices are new to the court but not to the bench. Justice **Sharon L. Kennedy**, who defeated **Yvette McGee Brown** in the November election, was sworn in to office December 7. Gov. **John Kasich** appointed Tenth District Court of Appeals Judge **Judith L. French** on December 20 to the seat vacated by retiring Justice **Evelyn Lundberg Stratton**. Former Eleventh District Court of Appeals Judge **William M. O'Neill**, who defeated **Robert R. Cupp** in November, took the oath of office on December 27.

But the changeover doesn't end there. Many district appeals courts, common pleas courts, and county courts are under new management as well.

The newest members of Ohio's judiciary may come to the job with a lack of experience, but they won't arrive empty-handed. Over four days in early December, each attended an intense and comprehensive new judge orientation organized by the Ohio Judicial College.

The orientation is intended to help newly elected and recently appointed judges learn more about how to succeed on the bench and make a smooth transition from the bar to the bench. The judges attended sessions focusing on judicial ethics, access to justice and fairness in the courts, caseload management, and court security.

Throughout the week, the appellate, common pleas, municipal, county, domestic relations, probate, and juvenile judges broke out into sessions related to their specific jurisdictions to discuss civil case matters, sentencing, domestic violence, and traffic law. The judges also attended workshops on trial skills and accepting a plea.

About Court News Ohio

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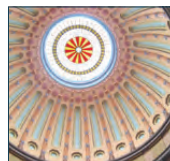
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Cases

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

Supreme Court of Ohio

As part of a year-end transition process in which the Supreme Court released a large number of decisions, the court announced its rulings in a number of cases, including the following.

ODNR Found In Contempt, Given Deadlines to Start Appropriation Actions

On December 5, the court ruled that the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) was in contempt for failure to comply with a 2011 writ in which the court ordered the department to immediately commence appropriation proceedings to determine the amount of their taking of the property of owners whose land suffered repeated flood damage as a result of the widening of a spillway at Grand Lake St. Mary's. The decision set specific deadlines for ODNR to complete all appraisals and file appropriation actions for properties covered by the 2011 writ.

State ex rel. Doner v. Zehringer
Slip Opinion No. 2012-Ohio-5637

Court Affirms Death Sentence in 2007 Akron Rape, Murder

On December 6, the court upheld the aggravated murder conviction and death sentence of Phillip L. Jones of Akron for the 2007 rape and strangulation killing of Susan Yates in a Summit County cemetery.

State v. Jones
Slip Opinion No. 2012-Ohio-5677

Court Affirms PUCO Order; Utility Must Rebate \$42 Million

On December 6, the court upheld an order of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) finding that, compared to similar companies, Columbus Southern Power Company (CSP) realized "significantly excessive earnings" of more than \$42 million from the rates it charged customers during 2009, and ordering CSP to rebate those excessive earnings to its customers.

In Re Application of Columbus Southern Power Co.
Slip Opinion No. 2012-Ohio-5690

Court Upholds 4-Year Statute of Repose for Bringing Medical Malpractice Lawsuits

On December 6, the court upheld as constitutional a 4-year statute of repose for filing medical malpractice lawsuits set forth in R.C. 2305.113(C). Accordingly, the court reversed a decision of the Twelfth District Court of Appeals that had allowed a malpractice action to go forward despite the passage of more than 10 years between the alleged malpractice and the filing of the plaintiff's suit. In its decision, the court invoked the criteria for abandoning one of its precedents set forth in *Westfield Ins. Co. v. Galatis* (2003), and formally overruled a 1987 Ohio Supreme Court decision, *Hardy v. VerMeulen*, which held that a previous statute of repose for medical malpractice actions violated an injured party's constitutional right to a remedy.

Ruther v. Kaiser
Slip Opinion No. 2012-Ohio-5686

Use of CAT Revenues From Sale of Motor Vehicle Fuel For Non-Highway Purposes is Unconstitutional

On December 7, the court ruled that the state tax law imposing a Commercial Activity Tax (CAT) on the gross receipts of most Ohio businesses, and allocating the revenues generated by that tax to the state's General Revenue Fund, is unconstitutional as applied to CAT taxes that are collected on gross receipts from the sale of motor vehicle fuel. The court clarified that its ruling is to be applied only prospectively.

Beaver Excavating Co. v. Levin
Slip Opinion No. 2012-Ohio-5776

Address Change Violation by Sex Offender Classified Under Megan's Law Subject to Megan's Law Penalty Provisions

On December 6, the court held that when a sex offender who was originally classified under Megan's Law is convicted of failing to comply with statutory address change notification requirements, the offender must be sentenced according to the penalty provisions of Megan's Law, despite the fact that his address change violation did not occur until after January 1, 2008, the effective date of the Adam Walsh Act.

State v. Howard
Slip Opinion No. 2012-Ohio-5738

Happening Now

News and notes from
courthouses around the
Buckeye State.



Chief Justice Leads Electoral College in Oath

As the 18 members of the Ohio Electoral College met December 17 to cast their votes for president and vice president, Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice **Maureen O'Connor** played a traditional role by administering the oath of office to the electors.

Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted convened the 53rd meeting of the Electoral College since 1803. Federal law requires each state's electors to meet in their state capital and cast their electoral votes on the Monday following the second Wednesday of December. Ohio's Electoral College met at noon in the Statehouse's Senate Chambers.

Chief Justice O'Connor said she gladly accepted Husted's invitation to administer the oath.

"This event sends an unmistakable message to the citizens of the state of its three branches of government working together and its two political parties coming together so the electors can fulfill their constitutional duties," she said, noting that those involved in conducting the meeting encompass Democrats and Republicans.

The group elected Ohio Democratic Party Chairman Chris Redfern as chairman of the Electoral College. Former Gov. Ted Strickland delivered the keynote address.

In the history of U.S. presidential elections, Ohio has missed out on only four electoral votes, and they all occurred before 1803 (the year Ohio became a state).



Grievances & Discipline Board Elects 2013 Chair, Vice Chair

Wooster attorney **David E. Tschantz** (*above left*) was elected chairman of the Ohio Supreme Court Board of Commissioners on Grievances & Discipline December 7. The board also elected as vice chairman **Paul M. DeMarco** (*above right*), a partner in the Cincinnati law firm of Markovits, Stock & De Marco LLC. Their one-year terms begin January 1, 2013.

Tschantz begins his third, three-year term on the board in 2013. He served as vice-chair in 2012 and as a member of one of the board's two probable cause panels. In addition to his board service, Tschantz is vice president-claims, corporate counsel and director of the Wayne Insurance Group, as well as director of the Pike Mutual Insurance Company. He earned his law degree from the University of Akron and his undergraduate degree from Kent State University.

"I am greatly honored to have been asked to serve in this position and to have the support of my fellow commissioners," said Tschantz. "I look forward to serving the board and working more closely with the board staff."

De Marco enters his sixth year on the board in 2013. He chairs the board's advisory opinion committee. De Marco is a graduate of the University of the Pacific law school and received his undergraduate degree from the College of Wooster.

Learn more about the Board of Commissioners on Grievances & Discipline at www.sc.ohio.gov/Boards.

Rule Amendment SUMMARY

Each month, Court News Ohio Review summarizes select significant rule amendments proposed or enacted by the Ohio Supreme Court. Below is a summary of the many rule changes going into effect January 1, 2013.

Code of Judicial Conduct

In December, the Supreme Court announced several changes to the Code of Judicial Conduct, including the addition of the “domestic partner” definition to another section already applicable to Canons 1 through 3 of the code. Other changes include:

- Increasing judicial campaign contribution limits.
- Prohibiting a judicial candidate from placing an office title immediately before or after the candidate’s name if the candidate does not currently hold the office.
- Permitting candidates to make a general solicitation of campaign contributions via electronic communications in a text format.
- Eliminating the prohibition against candidates participating or receiving campaign contributions from a tiered judicial fundraising event.
- Requiring candidates who use the term “former” or “retired,” before “judge” to use the term each time and to display the term in prominent lettering.
- Defining “prominent lettering” of the words “elect,” “vote,” and “for” in a candidate’s campaign literature as not less than the size of the largest type used to display the title of office or the court to which the candidate seeks election.

Rules for the Government of the Bar

The court adopted a new rule that permits military attorneys stationed in Ohio to represent lower-ranking attorneys in Ohio tribunals as part of the Expanded Legal Assistance Program for Military Attorneys. Also adopted was an amendment eliminating the requirement for attorneys seeking admission without examination to declare their intent to practice law in Ohio.

Supreme Court Rules of Practice

The Rules of Practice have been renumbered to mirror the flow of a case before the court. The reorganization presents a more logical ordering of the rules intended to help attorneys and self-represented litigants locate Supreme Court filing requirements.

Rules for the Government of the Judiciary

Gov.Jud.R. VII requires judges who leave the bench before the expiration of their term to submit a letter of resignation to the governor and a notification letter to the chief justice at least three days before leaving office. The rule also instructs departing judges to submit papers, books, and other property to their successors.

Rules of Superintendence

- Sup.R. 36.02-36.09 – Outline the procedures for courts seeking Supreme Court certification as a specialized docket program. Courts must submit an application, undergo a site visit, and submit specific program materials to the Supreme Court Specialized Dockets Section. Those courts complying with the initial stages of the process will be initially certified pending a final review. Initial certification is required by January 1, 2014. The rule amendments also create a Commission on Specialized Dockets to apply the certification requirements and determine program certification. Certification details and forms are available at www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/JCS/specDockets/certification.
- Sup.R. 88 – Requires that courts hire a certified foreign language interpreter, when available, to ensure the “meaningful” participation of deaf and limited English-proficient individuals in court proceedings, and to use “all reasonable efforts” to avoid appointing interpreters who may have a conflict of interest.
- Probate Forms 17.0, 21.0, and 21.2 – Relate to the appointment of a guardian for an alleged incompetent, and name changes for adult minors.

ON THE BENCH

Harcha to Lead Common Pleas Judges in 2013

Scioto County Judge **Howard H. Harcha III** will serve as president of the Ohio Common Pleas Judges Association for 2013 after his election during the group's annual winter conference.

Chief Justice **Maureen O'Connor** administered the oath of office to Judge Harcha and the other judges elected to leadership positions. She also spoke briefly and assisted in handing out 13 Golden Gavel awards to retiring judges with at least 10 years of service on the bench.

Nearing the completion of his 22nd year on the bench in Portsmouth, Judge Harcha served one six-year term in Portsmouth Municipal Court. Currently serving his third term on the common pleas bench, he was elected in 1996 and has been re-elected twice.

"I consider it an honor to serve the association, and I appreciate the trust my fellow judges have placed in me to serve as their president," Judge Harcha said.

The Golden Gavel honorees were:

- **Judge John F. Bender**, Franklin County
- **Judge John P. Bessey**, Franklin County
- **Judge Susan E. Boyer**, Washington County
- **Judge Neal B. Bronson**, Warren County
- **Judge Charles E. Brown Jr.**, Stark County
- **Judge Dennis S. Helmick**, Hamilton County
- **Judge James D. Jensen**, Lucas County
- **Judge Lee Sinclair**, Stark County
- **Judge John M. Stuard**, Trumbull County
- **Judge Ronald Suster**, Cuyahoga County
- **Judge Richard K. Warren**, Allen County
- **Judge Roger B. Wilson**, Champaign County
- **Judge Edward M. Zaleski**, Lorain County

The association's membership includes all general division judges of the state's common pleas courts, and its mission is "to improve the law, the legal system, and the effective administration of justice."

2013 Officers

Ohio Common Pleas
Judges Association

President-Elect

Judge Jonathan P. Hein
Darke County

First Vice President

Judge Guy L. Reece II
Franklin County

Second Vice President

Judge Thomas M. Marcelain
Licking County

Third Vice President

Judge David T. Matia
Cuyahoga County

Fourth Vice President

Judge Linda J. Jennings
Lucas County

Secretary

Judge Barbara P. Gorman
Montgomery County

Treasurer

Judge Mark K. Wiest
Wayne County

Past President

Judge Peter J. Kontos
Trumbull County

Magistrates Appointed to Cuyahoga, Stark County Benches

Magistrate **Kristin G. Farmer** was appointed to the Stark County Common Pleas Court. She takes the bench January 7.

Farmer fills the vacancy left by former Judge Charles E. Brown Jr. who retired October 31. Farmer will serve at least two years by filling the unexpired term that ends December 31, 2014. If she chooses to run for a full six-year term, she would need to run in the November 2014 general election.

Janet R. Colaluca was appointed to the Cuyahoga County Domestic Relations Court, effective January 7.

She fills the vacancy left by former Judge Kathleen O'Malley, who died in October. Colaluca will need to win the November 2014 general election to fulfill the remaining years on the unexpired term ending January 12, 2017. Colaluca previously served as one of four magistrates for the Village of Bratenahl Mayor's Court.

JUDICIAL PROFILES

DAVID BASINSKI & THOMAS GRADY



Judge David Basinski
Lorain County Domestic Relations Court

It took more than five decades for Judge David Basinski to first sit on the bench. He received his law degree from Case Western Reserve University in 1966 and practiced law in Lorain County for more than 20 years before being elected to the Lorain County Domestic Relations Division.

“I was 51 years old. I didn’t have to run against a sitting judge,” Basinski said. “This was an opportunity for a new seat. I had a contested primary and a contested general. Since then I’ve run three more times and that’s all been uncontested.”

Now Judge Basinski’s time on the bench comes to an end as he retires on January 3.

While serving in the domestic relations court, Judge Basinski said it was important to keep the focus on the families who came before him.

“As a judge I sometimes lose sight of the fact that for that person sitting down there in the well that this is important. It might be my third divorce that day, but for them that’s their first ever, so you have to be considerate of that,” Judge Basinski said.

Ever thoughtful of those who came before him in court, Judge Basinski took a leadership role in parental education and often gave courses to divorcing parents. He said it’s imperative for parents to do well by their children.

“My favorite part is when parents – you are in the middle of a trial – and you keep talking to them about resolving it, and they finally do, and the way that they resolve it is best for their children and not for them, so that’s probably the best part,” Judge Basinski said.

Though he is retiring, Judge Basinski said he hopes Lorain County residents haven’t seen the last of him on the bench.

“I’d like to sit as a visiting judge. As you know, I do domestic relations and juvenile. I think there is a demand for those kinds of people.”

Also, during retirement, Judge Basinski said he plans to relax with his wife, Ellen, and spend more time with his 15 grandchildren.



Judge Thomas Grady
Second District Court of Appeals

Judge Thomas Grady is hanging up his robe after nearly 24 years on the bench.

Prior to his time on the bench, Judge Grady served as a trial attorney with the U.S. Federal Trade Commission, the civil rights division of the U.S. Department of Justice, and served as an advisor to the U.S. Attorney General.

“You sort of follow your opportunities,” Judge Grady said.

Judge Grady continued pursuing his own path and, with no prior bench experience, successfully ran for Ohio’s Second District Court of Appeals in 1988. He started his first term the next year.

“I had some interest in it before, so I filed, and ran an election, and won,” Judge Grady said.

Judge Grady has advice for any lawyer wanting to follow in similar footsteps, and become a good judge.

“You have to be neutral, obviously. You have to set yourself apart personally from the issues, and you also have to deal fairly with people,” Judge Grady said.

“Our role is, I think, first and last is resolve a controversy between people in a way that lets the parties and even the person who didn’t prevail walk away and say, ‘Well I may not agree with the outcome or like it, but I can accept it.’ And if you do that, then I think you’ve done your job,” he added.

Judge Grady said he’ll miss his colleagues the most, but they should still see him around as he plans to apply to sit by assignment on cases after he retires.



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

The Ohio General Assembly passed all of the bills listed below during a busy post-election session in November and December. With the end of the current General Assembly, all pending legislation is cancelled and would need to be reintroduced during the next legislative session, which begins January 1, 2013. **All items listed were signed by the governor on December 20.**

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

Implements recommendations of the Joint Committee to Study Court Costs and Filing Fees, including allowing clerks of court to “write off” uncollectible debt after five years; allowing trial courts to suspend the imposition or payment of court costs after the court has imposed sentence in response to the ruling in *State v. Clevenger*, (2007), 114 Ohio St.3d 258, 2007-Ohio-4006; providing that court costs be assessed on each case as defined by the Rules of Superintendence for the Courts of Ohio. Amendments were added to the bill unrelated to the original provisions, changing the term “chief justice of the court of appeals” to “chief judge” and provisions related to when the Supreme Court must meet in session.

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

Requires prosecutors to notify victims of judicial release hearings and requires courts to notify prosecuting attorneys when a felon is being released. The bill was amended to clarify that a court has discretion to sentence an offender to prison in sex offense cases.

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

Authorizes a municipal, mayor’s, or county court to order community service in lieu of costs for an offender who is unable to pay costs; authorizes a municipal, mayor’s, or county court to order an offender to pay costs in installments if the offender is not able to pay the costs in full when due; requires municipal and county courts send certain fees and other money collected to the treasurer of the appropriate political subdivision by the 20th day of the month following the month in which the money is collected; allows for blocking of a vehicle registration or a transfer of registration if a person has unpaid costs; directs judges to consider military service when sentencing an offender; allows a general division common pleas court to assess up to \$20 for a clerk’s computerization fee and \$6 for the court’s legal research fee.

HB 279: Rep. Cheryl Grossman (R-Grove City)

Expands the class of persons who may execute a caretaker authorization affidavit or are designated as attorney in fact under a power of attorney in fact, for purpose of authority of care, custody, and control of a child and to enhance Ohio's policies regarding kinship caregivers.

HB 27: Peter Stautberg (R-Cincinnati)

Addresses the issue of jurisdiction over adult guardianships and other protective proceedings in interstate jurisdiction controversies. Ensures that only one state has adult guardianship jurisdiction of an incompetent person at a time. Specifies a procedure for transferring a guardianship to another state and for emergency situations.

Am. Sub. HB 62: Rep. Anne Gonzales (R-Westerville)

Authorizes a \$5,000 fine for assault when the victim is a judge, magistrate, prosecutor, or court official, or employee whom the offender knows or has reasonable cause to know is a judge, magistrate, prosecutor, or court official, or employee and the victim is engaged in the performance of the victim's duties; to increase the penalty for assault to a felony of the fifth degree when committed against any of the specified justice system personnel in the specified circumstances if the offender previously was convicted of a specified assault or homicide offense committed against any of the specified justice system personnel in the specified circumstances; to include felony assault when committed against any of the specified hospital or justice system personnel in the specified circumstances within the community control presumption of the Felony Sentencing Law; to make clarifying changes in that presumption.

Am. Sub. SB 70: Sen. Tim Schaffer (R-Lancaster)

Establishes a registry for arson offenders.

Am. Sub. HB 461: Rep. Gerald Stebelton (R-Lancaster)

Establishes a statutory collaborative family law process to aid in the resolution of family law disputes, to clarify when an order of spousal support may be modified, and to clarify the circumstances under which a client's statements may compel an attorney to testify regarding attorney-client communications.

Sub. H.B. 606: Rep. Robert Hagan (D-Youngstown)

Abolishes a judgeship of the Youngstown Municipal Court; increases 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.

Am. Sub. HB 380: Rep. Louis Blessing (R-Cincinnati)

Requires claimants in asbestos tort actions to make certain disclosures pertaining to asbestos trust claims that have been submitted to asbestos trust entities for the purpose of compensating the claimant for asbestos exposure.

Sub. HB 479: Rep. Robert Hagan (D-Youngstown)

Adopts the Ohio Legacy Trust Act; modifies certain property rights in the Ohio Trust Code; requires the recording of personal property transfers with the county recorder upon request; regulates the temporary conveyance of trust real property for financing purposes; grants probate courts concurrent jurisdiction with court of common pleas general divisions over certain actions involving the designation or removal of certain beneficiaries, title change involving joint and survivorship interests, alleged gifts, or the passing of assets upon death other than by will, intestate succession, or trust; regulates the use and enforceability of certain loan covenants in nonrecourse commercial loan transactions; and makes certain changes in the exempt interests law, the fraudulent transfers law, the secured transactions recording law, and the rule against perpetuities.

WINTER CONFERENCES

February 6 - 8

**Association of Municipal
& County Judges of Ohio
Winter Conference**
Judges, Columbus

STATE HOLIDAYS

January 21, 2013

Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Supreme Court Offices Closed

February 18

Presidents Day
Supreme Court Offices Closed

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

January 15

**Deadline for late application to
register as a candidate for the July
2013 bar examination**

January 31

CLE Transcripts Deadline
Judges and attorneys whose last names begin with the letters M-Z are reminded to complete their final 2012 CLE transcripts and return them to the Ohio Supreme Court. Final transcripts must be postmarked by January 31, 2013. Transcripts also may be submitted electronically through the online Attorney Services site.

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

judicialecademy.ohio.gov

January 10

**Guardian ad Litem 6 Hour
Pre-Service Course**
Public, Fairborn-Dayton

January 24

**Guardian ad Litem Continuing
Education Course: Report Writing**
Guardians ad Litem, Columbus
(1 to 4:30 p.m.)

January 25

**Guardian ad Litem Continuing
Education Course: Report Writing**
Guardians ad Litem, Columbus
(8:30 a.m. to noon)

January 31 & February 1

Court Executive Team Seminar
Judges, Magistrates
& Court Personnel
Columbus

February 5

**Guardian ad Litem Continuing
Education Course: Substance Use**
Guardians ad Litem, Mansfield
(1 to 4:30 p.m.)

February 6

**Guardian ad Litem Continuing
Education Course: Substance Use**
Guardians ad Litem, Mansfield
(8:30 a.m. to noon)

Judicial Candidates Seminar
Judicial Candidates, Dublin
(3:45 to 5:45 p.m.)

Dispute Resolution Training

sc.ohio.gov/JCS/disputeResolution

January 2 & 3

**Basic Mediation & Uniform
Mediation Act, Toledo**

January 4 & 5

**Domestic Abuse Issues
for Mediators**
Toledo

Supreme Court of Ohio

sc.ohio.gov

January 8 & 9

Oral Arguments
Thomas J. Moyer
Ohio Judicial Center

January 10

**Justice Terrence O'Donnell
Oath of Office Ceremony**
1:30 p.m., Courtroom
Thomas J. Moyer
Ohio Judicial Center

January 22 & 23

Oral Arguments
Thomas J. Moyer
Ohio Judicial Center

Miscellaneous

January 10 & 11

**Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys
Association New Prosecutor Training**
ohiopa.org | Columbus

January 16

**Ohio Center for Law-Related
Education Youth for Justice
Professional Development**
ocltre.org | Columbus

January 25

**OCLRE We the People
State High School Competition**
Thomas J. Moyer
Ohio Judicial Center

January 25

**OCLRE We the People
Professional Development**
Thomas J. Moyer
Ohio Judicial Center

February 1

**OCLRE High School Mock Trial
District Competition**

New Judges | Continued from page 1.

The Judicial College conducts the first weeklong orientation session annually in December, after the November election but before the beginning of the new judges' terms. The judges attend a second weeklong orientation in April.

In her welcoming remarks to the new judges on December 10, Chief Justice **Maureen O'Connor** explained the importance of topics they would learn about, shared some anecdotes from her days as a new judge, and encouraged them to make use of the services available from the Supreme Court.

She congratulated them on joining the judicial community.

"You have responsibilities to the public that elected you, the staff you inherited, and the litigants and defendants who will come before you in court," Chief Justice O'Connor said. "It's true that you are an independent officeholder, but with independence comes responsibility. I urge you to keep your docket up to date and to be visible in the community, whether inside the courthouse or out."

She also asked that the new judges consider getting involved in educating the public about the judiciary and what judges do.

Two new judges who attended the orientation spoke of what they hoped to learn about serving on the bench.

Former Champaign County Prosecutor **Nick Selvaggio** was set to don the judge's robe January 1.

He said he found the orientation to be helpful and that he was looking forward to serving his community.

Selvaggio is making the switch from a job he held for 16 years to presiding over the county's common pleas bench. He said it will be a new perspective listening to both sides of the bar.

"It's a lot like being a parent. You know growing up you always think if you are a parent this is how you would do it. And when you become a parent you realize, 'oh, my parents were actually right in the way they were raising me,' so I wonder if it's going to be the same as a judge," Selvaggio said.

Recent municipal court magistrate **Marie Hoover** will take her skills to a new level as she becomes the first woman and first Asian-American to preside over the Fourth District Court of Appeals. She said she's looking forward to taking the next step.

"Just to be able to help with justice and fairness and all those things that you want to do as a lawyer or as a young lawyer when you come out of law school," Hoover said. "I think this is the best way to try and help people and serve."

New Judges | Continued from page 11.



Justice Kennedy brings to the Supreme Court 14 years of experience on the bench after serving as a Butler County Domestic Relations Court judge. From 2005 until December of 2012 she served as the court's administrative judge.

During her swearing-in ceremony, Justice Kennedy spoke of the many changes in the law since she became a judge and one constant: the constitutional protection of individual freedom. "And as a judge, my role is limited. I am required to faithfully, fairly, and impartially uphold the law as written and to honor the separation of powers as carefully crafted by our Founders in the Constitution."



Justice O'Neill was elected in 1996 to the Eleventh District Court of Appeals and re-elected in 2002. He served two terms as presiding judge for the appellate court for Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake, Portage, and Trumbull counties.

In a recent interview, Justice O'Neill said that after deciding more than 3,000 appellate cases and taking the required new judges classes, he hopes to be prepared to sit among the state's top judicial authorities. "It's an awfully big job, and I hope I'm up to the task."

At the press conference announcing her appointment to the Supreme Court, Justice French outlined her judicial philosophy.

"As the newest justice I plan to continue to serve the standard I set for myself really as an appeals court judge, and that is to rule justly and fairly, to interpret Ohio law strictly, to always remember that my role as a judge is limited and to serve all of Ohio and to give it my very best," she said.

Justice French was appointed to the appeals court, which serves Franklin County, in 2004 and won election to a full six-year term later that year. She was re-elected to the seat in 2010. Justice French can run in the November 2014 general election for a full six-year term on the Supreme Court.



Coming on Board

Below are the names of the 26 incoming rookies – new judges with no prior judicial experience.

Judge David A. Cheney
Allen County Common Pleas Court

Judge Eric N. Costine
Belmont County Court
Western Division

Judge Nicola A. Selvaggio
Champaign County
Common Pleas Court

Judge Cassandra Collier-Williams
Judge Steven E. Gall
Judge Michael E. Jackson
Cuyahoga County
Common Pleas Court

Judge Denise N. Rini
Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court

Judge John T. McCormack
Eighth District Court of Appeals

Judge Marie Corazon Moraleja Hoover
Fourth District Court of Appeals

Judge Terri Babbette Jamison Gary
Franklin County Domestic Relations
and Juvenile Court

Judge Kimberly J. Brown
Franklin County Common Pleas Court

Judge Leslie E. Ghiz
Hamilton County Common Pleas Court

Judge John R. Miraldi
Lorain County Common Pleas Court

Judge Frank J. Janik III
Judge Lisa I. Swenski
Lorain County Domestic Relations
and Juvenile Court

Judge James W. Slagle
Marion County Common Pleas Court

Judge I. Carson Crow
Meigs County Common Pleas
and Domestic Relations Court

Judge Michael W. Krumholtz
Montgomery County
Common Pleas Court

Judge Jennifer L. Hensal
Ninth District Court of Appeals

Judge Paul F. Price
Pike County Court

Judge Robert N. Rosenberger
Pike County Probate
and Juvenile Court

Judge Mary E. Fiser
Sandusky County Court

Judge Jerry L. Buckler
Scioto County
Domestic Relations Court

Judge Robert M. Platt Jr.
Trumbull County Court
Eastern Division

Judge Sandra S. Weddell-Harwood
Trumbull County Domestic Relations
and Juvenile Court

Judge Randall G. Burnworth
Washington County Common Pleas
and Domestic Relations Court

Along with Justices Kennedy, French, and O'Neill, an additional nine judges switched one court for another or formerly served on the bench.

Judge Michael J. Ryan
Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court

Judge Eileen T. Gallagher
Eighth District Court of Appeals

Judge Colleen M. O'Toole
Eleventh District Court of Appeals

Judge Richard Patrick DeWine
First District Court of Appeals

Judge Jeffrey M. Welbaum
Second District Court of Appeals

Judge James D. Jensen
Sixth District Court of Appeals

Judge Elinore M. Stormer
Summit County Probate Court

Judge Ronald J. Rice
Trumbull County Common Pleas Court

Judge Donald E. Oda II
Warren County Common Pleas Court