

Settlements Approved in Two Lawsuits Against
Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center (p.3)

Requirement to Submit Statistics Electronically for Ohio
Municipal and County Courts Effective in February (p. 4)

CNO REVIEW

December 2015



YEAR IN REVIEW

2015

Tackling Access to Justice • Improving Adult Guardianships
Retaining and Attracting Talented Public Servants • See 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 print publication (CNO Review), a television program (CNOTV), a Facebook page (facebook.com/courtnewsOhio), a Twitter feed (@courtnewsOhio), and a YouTube channel (youtube.com/CourtNewsOhioTV).

Content is produced and edited by the Public Information staff with video production assistance from the staff of Ohio Government Telecommunications. The views expressed in CNO content do not necessarily reflect those of the justices of the Supreme Court of Ohio, and the justices do not exercise direct editorial control over the content.

Submissions can be e-mailed to CNO@sc.ohio.gov or sent through the U.S. mail to:

Court News Ohio
65 S. Front Street
10th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

A free monthly subscription to the CNO Review can be requested by e-mail or U.S. mail, or by calling 614.387.9250.



facebook.com/courtnewsOhio



@courtnewsOhio



youtube.com/CourtNewsOhioTV

Inside

the December Issue



3 Cases

Supreme Court: Sex-Offender Registration and Notification Mandates Are Constitutional



4 Happening Now

Jailed Youth Decreases, Forum Finding Ways to Reduce Recidivism

6 Cover Story

2015 Year in Review

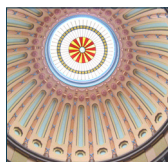
8 On the Bench

Five Incumbent Judges Lose in Municipal Court Election



9 Rule Amendment Summary

Several Rules to Take Effect Jan. 1, 2016



10 Legislative Digest

Compilation of Bills and Resolutions Introduced by the Ohio General Assembly of Interest to the Judicial Community

11 The Agenda

Dec. 7-10: New Judges Orientation, Part I

Cases

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

Supreme Court of Ohio

Sex-Offender Registration and Notification Mandates Are Constitutional

State law requires convicted sex offenders to register and to verify their addresses periodically with authorities. The Supreme Court ruled on Nov. 12 that those requirements for certain offenders do not amount to cruel and unusual punishment. The obligations for Tier II sex offenders “are not so extreme as to be grossly disproportionate to the crime or shocking to a reasonable person and to the community’s sense of justice,” Justice **Judith Ann Lanzinger** wrote in the Court’s lead opinion, concluding that the requirements violate neither the U.S. Constitution nor the Ohio Constitution. The decision affirmed the judgment of the Second District Court of Appeals.

State v. Blankenship
Slip Opinion No. 2015-Ohio-4624

Separate Sentences Permitted for OVI and Aggravated Vehicular Assault

A trial court may impose separate sentences on a defendant convicted of aggravated vehicular assault and of operating a vehicle while under the influence (OVI) when the OVI offense is the underlying conduct that led to the vehicular assault, the Supreme Court held on Nov. 10. Writing for the Court, Justice **Judith Ann Lanzinger** concluded that the two crimes are not allied offenses, so a defendant can be convicted of and sentenced for each offense. The decision resolved a conflict on this issue among the state’s appellate courts and affirmed the judgment of the Eighth District Court of Appeals.

State v. Earley
Slip Opinion No. 2015-Ohio-4615

Courts of Appeals

Eighth District: Court to Decide if Indians Fan Hit by Ball Was Forced to Leave His Seat

A trial court must decide if a fan hit by a foul ball during a Cleveland Indians game was forced to clear out of his seat for an after-game fireworks show or if he moved into the ball’s flightpath on his own, an Ohio appeals court ruled. The Eighth District Court of Appeals on Nov. 5 reversed the decision of a Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court that used the traditional “baseball rule” to clear the Indians of a negligence claim by Keith Rawlins. The appeals court overturned the summary judgment ruling granted to the Indians, and sent the case back to the trial court for further testimony.

Rawlins v. Cleveland Indians
Baseball Co., Inc.
2015-Ohio-4587

Court of Claims

Settlements Approved in Two Lawsuits Against Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center

The Court of Claims approved settlements totaling \$3.45 million in separate lawsuits brought against The OSU Wexner Medical Center. OSU agreed to pay the estate of Michael McNew \$1.7 million. McNew died in 2009 after he received treatment from a doctor at OSU Internal Medicine at Stone Ridge for extreme rectal pain. In the lawsuit, filed with the Court of Claims in 2010, McNew’s family and estate administrator contended the care he received fell below the accepted standards when he was not properly diagnosed and blood tests were not ordered. The agreement accepted by the court on Oct. 30 means OSU will make one payment of \$1.4 million to McNew’s wife and estate and periodic payments

for four years, totaling \$300,000 to fund a structured settlement annuity for McNew’s three children. OSU also agreed to pay a \$1.75 million settlement to Bryan A. Huff of Marietta who suffered from injuries after undergoing surgery for a spinal injury in February 2013. According to the complaint filed with the Court of Claims, during the course of the surgery, air was detected in the tubing connected to Huff’s catheter. That allowed air to travel through the line and enter his circulatory system. He suffered an air embolism that resulted in multiple complications, including heart attacks, brain and spine strokes, vision problems, and numbness. As part of both settlements, OSU does not admit to any wrongdoing, and both plaintiffs agree not to make further claims against OSU.

Matthew Ries, Admr., et. al.
v. The Ohio State University Medical Center
2010-10335

Bryan A. Huff v. The Ohio State University
Medical Center
2014-00468

Contractor Agrees to Repay ODOT for Faulty Fuel Management System

The Court of Claims approved a \$1.25 million settlement between the Ohio Department of Transportation and a Texas firm that was unable to fulfill its \$6 million contract to install a system to track and improve fuel use by the department’s vehicle fleet. The court approved San Antonio-based E.J. Ward, Inc.’s plan to pay back \$1.25 million after ODOT had sought \$2.1 million in payments it made to the company plus additional funding to secure a substitute vendor. As part of the settlement, Ward does not admit to wrongdoing, and both parties agree not to make further claims against the other.

Ohio Department of Transportation
v. E. J. Ward, Inc.
2014-00405

HappeningNow

News and Notes from Courthouses Across the Buckeye State



Jailed Youth Decreases, Forum Finding Ways to Reduce Recidivism

Ohio court staff and state representatives attended a two-day conference in Austin, Texas to talk about ways to reduce the likelihood of previously jailed teens and young adults from being rearrested and ending up in the adult criminal justice system.

About 300 representatives from all 50 states gathered on Nov. 9 and 10 at the forum, “Improving Outcomes for Youth in the Juvenile Justice System,” to develop plans to improve outcomes in the juvenile justice system. New data released by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention showed 47 states reduced the number of youth jailed from 1997 to 2013.

Ohio had a nearly 55-percent reduction rate for jailed juveniles in the 16-year study, and Ohio’s Department of Youth Services (DYS) population decreased from an average of 730 youth in facilities in 2011 to under 500 youth today. But the study also showed that while incarcerated youth decreased, they were less likely to stay crime-free, achieve academically, and receive jobs after they left prison.

Ohio Supreme Court Children and Families Section Manager **Stephanie Graubner Nelson**, Franklin County Juvenile Court Judge **Elizabeth Gill**, DYS Director **Harvey Reed**, Holmes County Probation Officer **David Williams**, State Rep. **Dorothy Pelanda**, and Assistant Policy Director **Deborah Herubin** from the governor’s office attended the conference.

Judge Gill said the Franklin County Juvenile Court is dedicated to continuing its efforts to reduce recidivism.

“We are committed to assist youth involved in the juvenile court system to grow to be healthy productive members of our society,” Judge Gill said. “The court will continue to collect and analyze data in an effort to better understand what each child and family needs to give them the best chance of not returning to the juvenile court or entering into the adult correctional system.”

Story continues on p. 9

Requirement to Submit Statistics Electronically for Ohio Municipal and County Courts Effective in February

As of Nov. 24, all Ohio trial courts have the ability to submit their caseload statistics using eStats. Municipal and county courts were the final group of trial courts to receive access to the online portal to electronically submit caseload information.

Municipal and county court judges won’t be required to use eStats to submit their monthly reports until Feb. 15, but may begin doing so immediately. Amendments to Rule 37 of the Rules of Superintendence for the Courts of Ohio took effect in July 2013, calling for mandatory electronic submission.

Tasha Ruth, the Ohio Supreme Court’s Case Management Section manager, said eStats streamlines case statistical reporting.

“We are excited that courts in Ohio can use eStats to submit their statistical reports and retrieve data about their caseload statistics from the portal,” Ruth said. “This method provides immediate access to the data they submit, which allows courts to make more informed case management decisions.”

Reports, which can be accessed through eStats, will now provide caseload information and performance measures, such as overage rates and clearance rates. These allow courts to examine incoming caseload trends and evaluate their ability to dispose of cases within the Supreme Court’s case processing time standards.

To submit their monthly reports, judges or authorized staff log in to the Supreme Court’s new secure eStats Web portal. Courts should direct questions about the electronic submission process to casemgmt@sc.ohio.gov.

Veterans Legal Clinic Established by Widow to Honor Fallen Soldier Going Strong

Jenna Grassbaugh has two tattoos that honor the memory of her late husband, Jonathan, an Army captain who, in 2007, was killed in action in Iraq. But she wanted to do more to honor his name.

Grassbaugh said her husband had a personal motto – non sibi – which means “not for oneself.” And with the thought of selfless service, she donated half of a \$500,000 life insurance policy she received to The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law to fund the Captain Jonathan D. Grassbaugh Veterans Project.

Now in its third year, the Grassbaugh Veterans Project helps veterans who find themselves in need of legal assistance in the areas of housing and consumer issues. Housing matters include landlord-tenant issues, evictions, and foreclosure. Consumer issues include creditor/debtor and credit agency disputes, as well as assisting in cases involving relief from default judgment. Assistance is provided to veterans at no cost and by volunteer lawyers and Moritz students selected and trained to work with veterans.

Stephen Huefner directs the clinical programs at Moritz, and said the project has been well-received by the community. Three third-year law students actively work on the cases while three second-year students provide support. All supervision is done by non-faculty lawyers who volunteer their time.

While originally limited to Franklin County veterans, the program is now open to veterans in all contiguous counties and is getting referrals from many sources, including legal aid and community programs that assist veterans.

Grassbaugh, who is originally from Acton, Mass., enrolled at Moritz partly as an attempt to distance herself from the pain of the past. A 2014 graduate of the school, she said spending the insurance money on anything other than honoring her husband’s memory did not seem right. Grassbaugh met her husband at age 18, when both were in Army ROTC. She is also a veteran who served in Iraq.

The clinic was established because Grassbaugh and the law school were aware that thousands of Ohio veterans and military service members seek legal services each year. They return home from tours of duty with particularly unique challenges and often with inadequate resources to hire attorneys.

The project helps veterans for free. Huefner said donations have nearly reached the school’s goals of matching Grassbaugh’s initial donation. He said the program is encouraging lawyers, particularly those with experience in housing and consumer law, to volunteer to be supervising attorneys. He said there is no set time commitment, but only that lawyers be able to dedicate some time when the students need the help.

Additional Information



Lawyers who would like to learn more about how to contribute their time to the Grassbaugh Veterans Project can contact: **Cybele Smith** at **614.292.7707** or **smith.302@osu.edu**.

Those who want to learn more about the project or to donate can visit the **Grassbaugh Veterans Project** at **moritzlaw.osu.edu/grassbaugh**.



Lawyers Sing and Dance as Founding Fathers to Benefit Bar Foundation

Imagine our country’s founding fathers singing and dancing while debating independence from Britain, and you get the Delaware County Bar Association and Arena Fair Theatre’s production of “1776, The Musical,” which took place Nov. 13 and 14 at Delaware Hayes High School.

More than half of the signers of the Declaration of Independence were lawyers, so it seems fitting about that number were also in the cast of the production to raise funds for the newly formed bar foundation. Watch the lawyers in action at www.courtnewsOhio.gov.



Nearly 700 New Lawyers Take Oath of Office

New lawyers walked across the stage on Nov. 16 during two special Ohio Supreme Court sessions at the Ohio Theatre in Columbus as they were admitted to the practice of law in the Buckeye state.

The lawyers, who passed the July 2015 Ohio Bar Exam and satisfied all of the Supreme Court’s other requirements, received their certificates of admission.

Chief Justice **Maureen O’Connor** administered the oath of office, and Ohio State Bar Association President **John Holschuh Jr.** also spoke at the ceremony.

Of 1,045 applicants who sat for the exam, 779, or 75 percent, received passing scores and 691 walked the stage to receive their certificates during the ceremonies.

YEAR in REVIEW

The Ohio Supreme Court led the state's judiciary through significant changes in 2015 that seek to keep up with the ever-changing needs of Ohioans. The most significant included: **tackling access to justice, improving adult guardianships, and retaining and attracting talented public servants.**

ACCESS TO JUSTICE



Since the 1990s, Ohio legal aid organizations and many of their counterparts across the United States were able to supplement federal funding with interest derived from the trust funds lawyers were obligated to keep for their clients. But when the recession began to decimate the nation's economy in 2008, interest rates dropped to nearly zero. Low interest rates caused a 90-percent decline in IOLTA/IOTA revenue, going from \$22.3 million in 2007 to \$2.6 million in 2014.

Legal aid advocates began seeking new and innovative ways to serve those who qualify for their assistance. Chief Justice **Maureen O'Connor** established the Task Force on Access to Justice to address the stark realities facing the system. The group began its work in August 2014, with a charge to uncover the gaps in and obstacles to accessing the civil justice system.

The task force report was released in April 2015. Among the suggestions outside of funding were:

- Developing and maintaining a statewide website that provides free and accurate legal information, including standardized forms and videos describing how to navigate the civil justice system.
- Promoting self-help centers located in or near courthouses, with knowledgeable staff available to assist those unable to afford attorneys with completing forms and preparing for hearings.
- Providing clear guidance under the Rules of Professional Conduct regarding when a lawyer may provide limited-scope representation for those who only need attorneys for portions of their case.

The Supreme Court has already begun to take public comment on proposals that would increase funding for legal aid services.

The Court is taking public comments until Dec. 24 on:

- Raising the pro hac vice registration fees from \$150 to \$300 with the new proposal.
- A \$50 voluntary "add on" fee to the biennial attorney registration to support civil legal services. The \$350 registration fee hasn't been raised since 2007.

The Court is accepting comments until Jan. 7, 2016, on a proposal to allow an "emeritus status" to practice law in Ohio to attorneys who are associated with a law school clinic, legal aid, approved legal services organization, public defender's office, or other legal services organization. To qualify, applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Engaged in the practice of law for a minimum of 25 years or a minimum of 15 years if 65 or older;
- Is in good standing with the Court;
- Has not resigned from the practice of law with discipline pending or in order to avoid disciplinary proceedings;
- Has not been disciplined for professional misconduct within the past 10 years.

Chief Justice O'Connor is committed to a thorough analysis of all the findings. "My colleagues and I on the court will consider the task force recommendations and decide which ones to endorse and pursue. Part of the important work to be done now is to give each recommendation due consideration, including all the consequences," she said.

ON GUARD: Ohio Moves to Protect Vulnerable Adults

The fastest-growing segment of the American population is comprised of those 85 and older. Consequently, the need to assist an aging population who may become incapacitated and other Ohioans who no longer are able to make critical decisions for themselves has led to a greater reliance on adult guardianships.

On June 1, nine new rules for protecting the state's vulnerable adults took effect. The Court approved rules that were recommended by its Advisory Committee on Children and Families.

The concern about the ability to provide suitable guardians has been ongoing for many years across the United States, and interest in reform was high. The Court published draft rules in May 2014, and received more than 100 pages of written comments from judicial officers, attorneys, social service providers, and others.

Certified Master Guardian **Julia R. Nack**, a committee member, described the rules as a good step forward as Ohio moves toward adopting best practices in guardianship.

Launching the Education Requirements

To assist guardians in meeting the requirements of these new rules, the Supreme Court Judicial College developed two versions of the fundamentals course, one for attorneys and non-attorney professional guardians, and the other one for layperson guardians (e.g., family members, friends, or volunteers).

From June to December, nearly 7,000 guardians of adults participated in live or live-broadcast education sessions delivered from the Thomas J. Moyer Ohio Judicial Center in Columbus to sites across the state. More than 30 local courts hosted the broadcast program and many offered additional education to their guardians. In addition, nearly 2,500 guardians enrolled in the Ohio Judicial College online courses, which are available on demand.

Key Provisions of the Adult Guardianship Rules

- ❖ Probate courts must adopt local rules to address emergency guardianship procedures and establish a complaint process.
- ❖ Those who want to be guardians are required to take a six-hour course and three hours of continuing education annually.
- ❖ Both professional guardians and family members acting as guardians are covered by the rules.
- ❖ Courts must maintain and monitor a roster of guardians with 10 or more wards under their care.
- ❖ Guardians must meet with wards under their care at least quarterly.
- ❖ Guardians who fail to comply will be ineligible for new appointments.

MARKET ADJUSTMENT



In September 2015, judges received the first of four 5-percent pay increases, ending a long period of frozen salary rates. The last market increase for judges was approved in 2000 with just incremental annual cost-of-living adjustments between the passage of that law and the 2015 raise. The judicial compensation schedule hasn't been adjusted in Ohio since Jan. 1, 2008.

Three more 5-percent market adjustments will occur on New Year's Day in 2017, 2018, and 2019. Work

on the increases began with Chief Justice O'Connor meeting with Gov. **John R. Kasich** during the lame-duck legislative session in 2014. He backed the raise and included it in his two-year 2015-2016 budget. "The governor never wavered in his support," Chief Justice O'Connor said.

Throughout the process, the effort drew wide-ranging bipartisan support as well as major organizations such as the Ohio State Bar Association, the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation, the National Federation of Independent Businesses, the

Retail Merchants of Ohio, the Ohio Manufacturer's Association, the Ohio AFL-CIO, and the plaintiff's bar.

The market adjustment brings Ohio's judges into greater parity with the courts' workloads and counterparts around the nation. Ohio's general jurisdiction trial judges' compensation previously ranked 45th in the nation, even though Ohio is the fifth-busiest court system in the United States.

ON THE BENCH

Five Incumbent Judges Lose in Municipal Court Election



Voters in 29 Ohio counties on Nov. 3 selected municipal court judges. Of the 58 judicial races on the ballot, 21 (36 percent) were contested with two or more candidates and 37 (64 percent) were uncontested.

Five incumbent judges lost bids to retain their seats, including three gubernatorial appointees who sought election for the first time. Eleven new judges will take the bench.

Two incumbent judges on the Cleveland Municipal Court opposed each other, as Judge **Edward Wade** ran for a different seat on the bench and defeated Judge **Pauline Tarver** – who has served on the court since 2004.

Only 28 votes separated the candidates in the Conneaut Municipal Court contest, where Judge **Carl DiFranco** received 1,470 votes to **Charles Lafferty's** 1,442. The margin of victory was slightly higher than the amount needed for an automatic recount.

In five judicial races, three or more candidates were on the ballot. **Suzan Marie Sweeney** topped three other candidates for a seat on the Cleveland Municipal Court. Winners in three-way races were: Judge **Laura DiGiacomo** in Ashtabula, **Michelle Paris** in Bedford, **Eileen Paley** in Franklin County, and Judge **Lisa Coates** in Stow.

With 2015 being an odd-numbered year, municipal court judges were up for election. Next year, elections will be held for the Ohio Supreme Court, appeals courts, common pleas courts, and county courts. Candidates for those races will be asked to submit biographical information and provide answers that may provide an understanding of his or her interest in a particular judicial seat. The information will be available to voters at JudicialVotesCount.org before the March 15, 2016 primary.

Unofficial results compiled by Supreme Court staff are available at www.courtnewsOhio.gov.

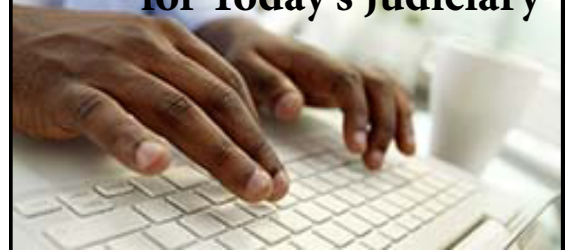
Landefeld Appointed to Fairfield County Municipal Court Bench

David L. Landefeld, who won election on Nov. 3 to a full six-year term as a Fairfield County Municipal Court judge, took his seat early after his appointment by Gov. **John R. Kasich** on Nov. 17. Landefeld replaced Judge **Patrick N. Harris**, who resigned.

Landefeld received his bachelor's degree from Kenyon College in 1973, and his law degree from The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law in 1976. Landefeld was the Fairfield County prosecutor from 1983 to 2011. Upon retirement, he joined Crabbe, Brown & James where his practice focused on government relations, general litigation, and legislative affairs.

Landefeld is a member of the Fairfield County and Ohio State bar associations and the Lancaster Kiwanis Club. During his time as prosecutor, he served as president of the Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association, receiving Outstanding Prosecuting Attorney of the Year in 2005. He was admitted to the practice of law in Ohio on Nov. 19, 1976.

Education Innovation for Today's Judiciary



Judge, magistrate, administrator, clerk. Search for, register, and participate in continuing education classes. All without leaving the office.

THE SUPREME COURT of OHIO
JUDICIAL ACADEMY

ORAL ARGUMENTS
LIVE ARCHIVED
At your fingertips

www.supremecourt.ohio.gov



Rule Amendment Summary

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

An amendment to Rule VI of the Rules of the Government of the Bar of Ohio takes effect Dec. 1, 2015, and includes the new status of “suspended” that can be applied by the Supreme Court’s attorney services office to a suspended attorney’s registration.

The designation is intended to reduce confusion as to whether an attorney registered for “active” status may continue to practice after being suspended from the practice of law. The designation would be lifted when the attorney is reinstated.

The Court also is accepting written comments until Dec. 24, 2015, on a proposed amendment to Rule 8 of the Rules of Superintendence for the Courts of Ohio. The proposal would ensure an “equitable distribution” for appointing lawyers for indigent criminal defendants and would require courts to consider five factors when making lawyer appointments: case complexity; defendant’s language, educational or other challenges; relevant attorney experience; avoidance of conflict of interest; and other factors, including lawyer’s commitment to providing timely, quality representation to the client.

On Dec. 7, the Court also will open the public comment period for two proposed rule amendments:

- Rules of Superintendence for the Court of Ohio (Sup.R. 5.01) – Local rules to regulate shackling of youths
- Rules for the Government of the Bar of Ohio (Gov.Bar R. VI) – Add an emeritus attorney status

Public comment for both proposals closes on Jan. 7, 2016.

Rule Amendments Effective Jan. 1, 2016

- **Rules of Superintendence for the Courts of Ohio**
Sup.R. 44 – Domestic relations and juvenile court records public access exemptions
- **Board of Professional Conduct Procedural Regulations**
Reg. 14 – Biennial review and recertification of Certified Grievance Committees

JAILED YOUTH: Continued from p. 4

A comprehensive plan will be created as the team continues to meet and identify additional partners to work with who can help reduce the likelihood that youth will be rearrested.

“Our team is taking a careful look at how we can do a better job ensuring that youth are released from facilities and community supervision positioned to succeed by staying crime-free, achieving academically, and getting and keeping jobs,” Pelanda said.

Team members will apply for grants available through the Council of State Governments Justice Center (CSG) as well as collaborate with Ohio’s employers, schools, and other community organizations.

“We want the very best for the youth that we serve,” Reed said. “I am thankful for the support and opportunity to unite with this inter-branch team. By working together, we can improve outcomes for youth in our juvenile justice system and ultimately make for a safer Ohio.”

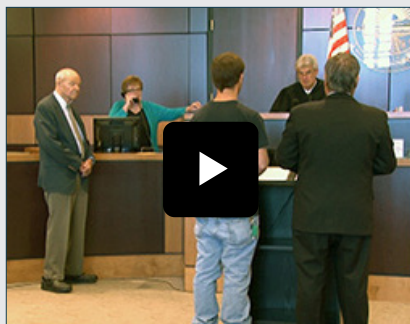
Judge Gill said the court is in its seventh year working with the Anne Casey Foundation Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) to better understand data involving these youth.

“Understanding that more harm than good may be accomplished by placing low-risk offenders into detention or deeper into the system, the court has initiated diversion programs including Community Restorative Justice Circles; the Reception Center, where youth that are charged who are assessed to be low-risk are diverted from the detention center and given immediate access to necessary services; and Domestic Violence Respite care,” Judge Gill said.

Seven other Ohio counties — Cuyahoga, Lucas, Mahoning, Marion, Montgomery, Summit, and Trumbull — are also participating in JDAI.

FEATURED VIDEO

Each Thursday morning, you’ll find 92-year-old Jack Kinsner at the Avon Lake Municipal Court. Kinsner is one of five volunteers who’ve retired from long-time professions and now spends a day each week helping Judge Darrel Bilancini and his bailiff with paperwork and other duties during court days. Watch the video about the program at courtnnewsOhio.gov/happening/2015/retireeVolunteers_112415.asp





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 359, Rep. Mike Duffy (R-Worthington); Rep. Anne Gonzales (R-Westerville)

SB 222, Sen. Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering); Sen. Sandra Williams (D-Cleveland)

To create the address confidentiality program for victims of domestic violence, menacing by stalking, human trafficking, trafficking in persons, rape, sexual battery and other crimes.

STATUS: HB 359 – Introduced in the House and referred to the House Government Accountability & Oversight Committee on Oct. 6, 2015. Its second committee hearing was Nov. 17, 2015; **SB 222** – Introduced in the Senate on Oct. 14, 2015, and referred to the Senate State & Local Government Committee.

HB 387, Rep. Louis Terhar (R-Cincinnati); Rep. Jonathan Dever (R-Cincinnati)

To raise the maximum allowable limit of the monetary jurisdiction of small claims divisions of municipal courts.

STATUS: Introduced in the House on Nov. 2, 2015, and referred to the House Local Government Committee.

HB 388, Rep. Gary Scherer (R-Circleville)

To authorize a court to grant unlimited driving privileges with an ignition-interlock device to first-time OVI offenders, to expand the penalties related to ignition-interlock-device violations, to modify the law governing the installation and monitoring of ignition-interlock devices, to extend the look-back period for OVI and OVI-related offenses from six to 10 years, and to modify the penalties for OVI offenses.

STATUS: Introduced in the House on Nov. 5, 2015, and referred to the House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs & Public Safety Committee.

HB 307, Rep. Dorothy Pelanda (R-Marysville)

SB 204, Sen. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati)

To make the suspension of an offender's driver's license for a violation of specified drug offenses discretionary rather than mandatory, to authorize a court to terminate a driver's license suspension imposed for specified drug offenses committed out-of-state, to generally authorize a court to terminate a previously imposed mandatory suspension for specified drug offenses, to provide for the discretionary suspension of an offender's driver's license for possessing nitrous oxide in a motor vehicle, and to make consistent the provisions of law governing the ability of a court to grant limited driving privileges.

STATUS: HB 307 – Introduced in the House on Aug. 31, 2015, and referred to the House Judiciary Committee. Its second committee hearing was Oct. 13, 2015; **SB 204** – Introduced in the Senate on Aug. 17, 2015, and referred to the Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee. Its second hearing was Nov. 18, 2015.

HB 347, Rep. Rob McColley (R-Napoleon); Rep. Tom Brinkman (R-Cincinnati)

SB 236, Sen. Kris Jordan (R-Ostrander)

To eliminate civil asset forfeiture proceedings and to modify the law governing criminal asset forfeitures.

STATUS: HB 347 – Introduced in the House on Sept. 29, 2015, and referred to the House Judiciary Committee. Its fourth committee hearing was Nov. 17, 2015; **SB 236** – Introduced in the Senate on Oct. 27, 2015, and referred to the Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee. Its first committee hearing was Nov. 18, 2015.

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

Dec. 7 – 10

New Judges Orientation, Part 1
Columbus

Dec. 8

Probation Officer Training
Program: Introduction to Cognitive Behavioral Interventions
Probation Officers
Toledo/Perrysburg

Dec. 9 – 11

Court Management Program
Module 1: Court Performance Standards with CourTools
2017 Class
Columbus

Dec. 11

Judicial Conduct Web Conferences
Judges & Magistrates

Dec. 15

Guardian ad Litem Continuing Education Course: Domestic Violence
Guardians ad Litem
Columbus
1 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Probation Officer Training
Program: Introduction to Offender Behavior Management
Probation Officers
Akron/Fairlawn

Dec. 16

Guardian ad Litem Continuing Education Course: Domestic Violence
Guardians ad Litem
Columbus
8:30 a.m. – Noon

Dec. 17

Criminal Procedure for Judges (4 of 4)
Judges, Magistrates & Acting Judges
Columbus

Fundamentals of Adult Guardianship Course

Adult Guardians – Laypersons
Sites available statewide; see Broadcast

Probation Officer Training
Program: Introduction to Cognitive Behavioral Interventions
Probation Officers
Columbus

Dec. 18

Fundamentals of Adult Guardianship Course
Adult Guardians – Professionals
Sites available statewide; see Broadcast

Jan. 5

Probation Officer Training
Program: Introduction to Assessment & Case Planning
Probation Officers
Dayton

Supreme Court of Ohio

sc.ohio.gov

Dec. 10

Late Application Deadline to Take the February 2016 Bar Exam

Dec. 15 & 16

Oral Arguments

Jan. 5 & 6

Oral Arguments

Jan. 15

Mayor's Court Quarterly Report Deadline

Ohio Center for Law-Related Education

ocle.org

Dec. 8

Moot Court Professional Development
Columbus



HAPPY NEW YEAR
From all of us at Court News Ohio