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CNO REVIEW

March 2015



Courts Follow in Footsteps of Ohio Supreme Court Female Majority

Now in its fifth year with four women on the bench, Ohio's Supreme Court continues its longest consecutive streak with a female majority. Meanwhile, other courts in the state and around the country continue to grow in the ranks of women judges. (See story on page 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 (CNO TV), a Facebook page (facebook.com/courtnewsOhio), a Twitter feed (@courtnewsOhio), and a YouTube channel (youtube.com/CourtNewsOhioTV).

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

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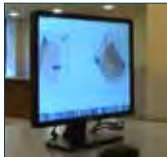
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Supreme Court of Ohio

Firearms Charge Does Not Apply to Ottawa Hills Police Officer in On-Duty Shooting

The case of an Ottawa Hills police officer convicted of felonious assault for shooting a man during a traffic stop returns to the trial court following a Feb. 18 Supreme Court decision. The court ruled that the firearms specification against the officer did not apply in his case, the jury instructions misled the jury in evaluating the officer's use of deadly force, and the trial court should not have excluded testimony about crimes the officer believed the victim had committed. In an opinion written by Justice **Terrence O'Donnell**, the court affirmed the judgment of the Sixth District Court of Appeals.

State v. White
Slip Opinion No. 2015-Ohio-492

City's Drilling Ordinances Clash with State Oil and Gas Law

Local drilling and zoning ordinances in Munroe Falls cannot be enforced because they conflict with state law regulating oil and gas wells and operations, the Supreme Court concluded on Feb. 17. The court ruled that a Munroe Falls' zoning ordinance and four local laws governing oil and gas drilling are not an appropriate exercise of the city's home rule powers. The city had obtained a court order stopping Beck Energy Corporation from drilling until the company complied with local law. In the Supreme Court's lead opinion, Justice **Judith L. French** wrote that home rule does not allow a municipality "to discriminate against, unfairly impede, or obstruct oil and

gas activities and operations that the state has permitted under R.C. Chapter 1509."

State ex rel. Morrison v. Beck Energy Corp.
Slip Opinion No. 2015-Ohio-485

Provision in Gross Sexual Imposition Statute Found Unconstitutional

The Supreme Court ruled on Feb. 11 that part of the state's gross sexual imposition law is unconstitutional. The problematic provision mandates a prison term when evidence other than the victim's testimony corroborates the offense. The penalty provision has no rational basis for distinguishing between cases with or without corroborating evidence – a violation of due process protections in the U.S. Constitution, Justice **Judith Ann Lanzinger** wrote in the court's majority opinion. In addition, when a defendant pleads guilty to gross sexual imposition and corroborating evidence is shown, the defendant's constitutional right to a jury trial is infringed upon when a court imposes the mandatory prison term, the court determined.

State v. Bevly
Slip Opinion No. 2015-Ohio-475

Courts of Appeals

Tenth District: Marketing Firm Retains Right to Sell Disputed Shipwreck Treasure

A state appeals court ruled on Feb. 3 that investors must keep their deal with the firm contracted to sell treasure from an historic shipwreck that is still being recovered from the sea. The Tenth District Court of Appeals reversed a Franklin County Common Pleas Court decision that

authorized a receiver for the investors to cancel its contract with California Gold Marketing Group. California Gold signed a deal with the treasure hunters in 1998 to market and sell what was brought up from the shipwreck. Investors raised concerns about the profitability and desirability of having California Gold involved in the next round of coin sales.

Dispatch Printing Co.
v. Recovery Ltd. Partnership
2015-Ohio-381

Court of Claims

Court of Claims: Prison at Fault for Injuries of 80-Year-Old Inmate Who Fell from Bunk

The state prison system is liable for the injuries an 80-year-old inmate suffered when he fell out of the top of a bunk bed in the Hocking Correctional Facility, a Court of Claims magistrate ruled. The Department of Rehabilitation and Correction had 14 days to appeal the Feb. 5 ruling by Magistrate **Robert Van Schoyck** that the prison should have clearly known about the mental and physical limitations of octogenarian inmate **Roy Buchanan** and the risks of assigning him to a top bunk. Buchanan's complaint filed in the Court of Claims was split into two matters, one determining the liability of the department, and the other the extent of his damages. Van Schoyck only ruled on liability.

Roy Buchanan v. Department
of Rehabilitation and Correction
Case No. 2013-00671

Happening Now

News and Notes from Courthouses Across the Buckeye State



Grant funds are now available to support local court technology projects that aid in removing barriers to efficient and effective administration of justice.

The Ohio Supreme Court announced the funds are offered through the Ohio Courts Technology Initiative, and any court of appeals, common pleas court, municipal court, or county court is eligible to apply.

Technology grant funds may be awarded to courts for the following projects:

- Connection to Ohio Courts Network
- Electronic transfer of final disposition data to the Computerized Criminal History database
- Minor upgrade to an existing case management system
- Upgrade to network infrastructure
- Additional or replacement software or hardware
- Upgrade to or purchase of technology equipment
- Purchase and installation of new or additional self-service kiosks for jurors, litigants, or probationers.

Specific examples include security checkpoint screening equipment, cameras in the courtroom, and electronic case document filing.

Review of applications and selection began March 1, 2015, and applications will be accepted and reviewed on an ongoing basis through the end of the business day on May 15, 2015.

Details about the grants, including instructions on how to apply, are available online. Questions? Contact **Colleen Rosshirt**, Case Management Counsel, at techgrant@sc.ohio.gov.



Court's Mentoring Program Changing Lives

Spencer Kirksey and **Noah Mirando** are two friends bowling after school.

"Oh, my goodness – come on, come on. So close," Mirando laughs.

They've only been hanging out since September, but already Kirksey says he's good pals with 14-year-old Mirando.

"He's really opened up. He was really shy in the beginning, and now it's like I'm hanging out with one of my buddies," Kirksey said.

Life threw Mirando a curveball when his mother became sick.

"I would get into arguments and every once in a while I would start fighting people and always getting into trouble, always getting called down to the court, and they said the next time I would be sent to juvi and then foster home," Mirando said. "I didn't want to leave because my mom was the only one I looked up to – she was the only parent in the household. She was the only one I could count on, and I didn't want to leave her. I wanted to always stay by her side."

With his mother now in a nursing home and his older brother working 12-hour shifts to keep the rest of his family in their apartment, Mirando needed a healthy outlet to express his anger and he needed a friend.

So every week Kirksey and Mirando meet up and hang out for a few hours.

The two met through the Delaware County Juvenile Court's T.E.A.M. Mentoring Program. The program started in 1999, but didn't become part of the Delaware County Juvenile Court until a year later. **Patty Cram** took over the program in 2003, and she said it's flourished ever since.

Story continues on page 11.

Supreme Court Unveils New Search Features for Opinions & Announcement Web Page

The Ohio Supreme Court on Feb. 11 unveiled an easier-to-use Opinions & Announcements Web page with greater search capability.

Website users search the Opinions & Announcements page for Supreme Court, Court of Claims, and appeals court opinions as well as Supreme Court motion and procedural rulings, case announcements, and administrative actions.

With the enhancements, users can search for specific topics or issues such as mandamus actions, attorney discipline matters, or expedited election cases. Other new features enable users to search court decisions by county, case number, and author. Many of these categories were available for display by columns on the old Opinions & Announcements page, but users could not search for them and filter out other information.

Attorneys may find useful the added ability to search a Supreme Court opinion by the citation, which encompasses the number of the bound volume containing the published opinion and its page number in the bound volume.

In addition, searching by the designated Supreme Court WebCite number is now more convenient. Users simply plug in the year and WebCite number – on either side of the word “Ohio” – and click search. Different from the case number assigned by the clerk’s office, the reporter’s office assigns each opinion, case announcement, or administrative action with a unique WebCite number to differentiate them from all others.

To access the Opinions & Announcements page, click on the Opinions & Announcements button on the right-hand side of the Supreme Court home page at www.sc.ohio.gov.



Supreme Court Hires New Director of Legal & Policy Affairs

The Ohio Supreme Court welcomed **Craig Mayton** as its new Chief Legal Counsel and Director of Legal & Policy Affairs on Feb. 9.

Mayton leads the newly formed office within the Supreme Court and supervises the positions of Senior Policy & Research Counsel, Government Relations Counsel, Criminal Justice Policy & Research Counsel, and staff attorney.

“I am honored to have the opportunity to serve the Supreme Court of Ohio,” Mayton said.

Prior to working at the court, Mayton spent eight years at the Ohio attorney general’s office, including four years as the first assistant attorney general and three years with the State Employment Relations Board. He also served as chief legal counsel to the state auditor. He most recently served in private practice and was chairman to the Ohio State Bar Association’s Access to Justice Committee.

“Craig brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in the legal profession and his hire attests to the high standards we have here at the Supreme Court,” Chief Justice Maureen O’Connor said. “He’s a dedicated public servant, and we are grateful for his service.”

Mayton received his bachelor of arts in Russian Studies from the University of Maryland and his law degree from The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law.

Legal Misconduct Complaints Increased in 2014

A nearly 33 percent increase in misconduct complaints against Ohio lawyers and judges is among the highlights in the Board of Professional Conduct annual report.

The board, formerly the Board of Commissioners on Grievances & Discipline, notes a significant increase in new cases for the year in its 2014 annual report to the Ohio Supreme Court. There were 109 new filings, up from 82 in 2013.

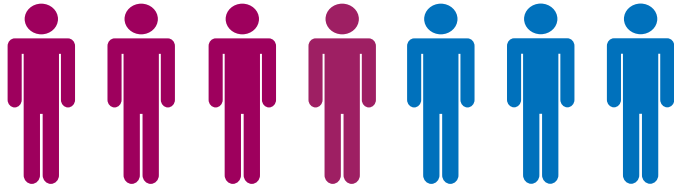
The three-commissioner hearing panels conducted 45 hearings throughout the year, certified 53 reports to the Supreme Court with recommendations for sanctions, and disposed of 84 cases. There were 73 pending active cases at the end of the year.

“The annual report of the Board of Professional Conduct documents the work of the volunteer commissioners to fairly and promptly adjudicate disciplinary cases and provide recommendations to the Supreme Court,” Board Director **Richard A. Dove** said. “The annual report also illustrates the efforts of the board staff to promote a greater understanding of and compliance with the ethical standards applicable to members of the Ohio bench and bar.”

Other report highlights included:

- Updated disciplinary rules and regulations
- Four formal advisory opinions issued
- Responses to approximately 2,000 requests for advice from lawyers, judges, and judicial candidates
- 15-percent reduction in operating expenses, bringing the total reduction to more than \$287,000 in the past three years.

The board is composed of 28 volunteer commissioners appointed by the Supreme Court. The commissioners include judges, lawyers, and members of the public. In addition to disciplinary hearings, the board also conducts educational programs on ethics for judges, lawyers, and judicial candidates.



Courts Follow in Footsteps of Ohio Supreme Court Female Majority

Now in its fifth year with four women on the bench, Ohio's Supreme Court continues its longest consecutive streak with a female majority. Meanwhile, other courts in the state and around the country continue to grow in the ranks of women judges.

In January, Arkansas became the ninth state to have a female majority on its highest court, joining Ohio, California, Wisconsin, Washington, Maryland, New York, North Carolina, and the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals (Texas has two courts of last resorts, one civil and one criminal). That's an increase from seven in 2014. The District of Columbia's highest court also has a female majority.

Including the all-women Ninth District Court of Appeals, five of Ohio's 12 appellate districts now have women majorities - the Seventh, Eighth, Tenth, and Eleventh. As the nation celebrates Women's History Month, the National Women's Law Center notes that nearly 50 percent of law school students are now women, and the number of women in the judiciary is on the rise nationally.

"Whether we are talking about gender diversity or racial/ethnic diversity, a diverse judiciary enhances public confidence and benefits the judiciary itself," said Magistrate Judge **Stephanie K. Bowman** of the U.S. District Court Southern District of Ohio in Cincinnati.

Judge Bowman is the immediate past president of the Ohio Women's Bar Association whose mission is to promote the leadership, advancement, and interest of women

attorneys. Judge Bowman refers to a quote from **Dina Refki**, executive director of the Center for Women in Government & Civil Society at University at Albany-SUNY, when noting ways the legal system benefits from the diversity of its judges.

"When we see more judges who look like us, it inspires trust, credibility and confidence in the judicial system," Refki said. "We feel more confident that this system of justice is representative. We have trust that these judges will be fair, because the system is 'of the people.'"

In the past six years, the number of active female federal judges increased from 25 percent to 32 percent. The National Women's Law Center says despite the record number of women appointed to the federal bench in recent years, the federal courts still have a long way to go in reaching gender equality.

In Ohio, where judges are elected, or appointed then stand for election, 30 percent of the 705 active judges are women. There are presently 17 judicial vacancies in Ohio courts.

Judge Bowman said the judiciary is doing better than the larger law firms in recognizing the value of having women in leadership roles. And while it's impossible to point to one specific thing contributing to

the increase in women on the bench, she noted that women are applying for federal judicial positions and running for election in state judicial races in higher numbers than in the past.

"It is possible that women are seeking out judicial positions in part because women are not advancing in firms as quickly as they might like," she said. "Alternatively, women may be more comfortable putting themselves out there and taking their career advancement into their own hands."

Ohio's Women Fare Better in the High Court

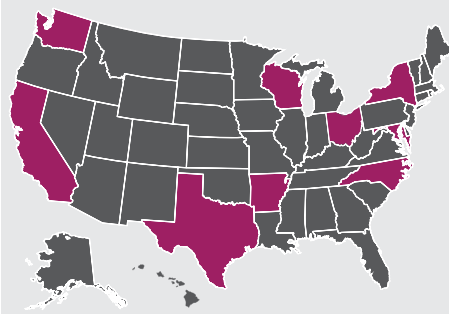
Most notably, Ohio women are outpacing the federal courts at the Supreme Court level. Of the 112 justices in U.S. Supreme Court history, only four have been women, beginning with the appointment of Justice **Sandra Day O'Connor** in 1981.

Ohio's first female justice, **Florence Allen**, was elected in 1922. She was the first woman in the United States elected to a court of last resort. Allen held several "firsts" in her illustrious career, including being the first woman elected to a judicial office in Ohio, the first woman assistant county prosecutor in the nation, and the first woman appointed to a federal appeals court. She retired as chief judge of the Sixth District Court of Appeals in 1959.

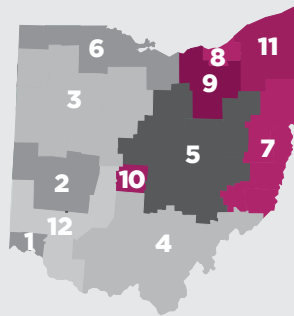
Compared to the four total and three present on the U.S. Supreme Court, Ohio has had 10 women (four present) among the 156 justices to serve on the state's highest court. Chief Justice **Maureen O'Connor** won election as Ohio's first woman chief justice in 2010, and she is now in her 12th year on the court.

The march toward prominence from the first woman justice to first woman chief justice was a long one. Following Florence Allen, 50 years passed before another woman sat on the Ohio Supreme Court bench.

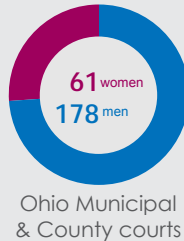
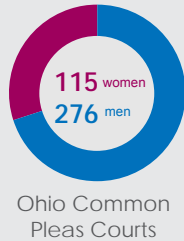
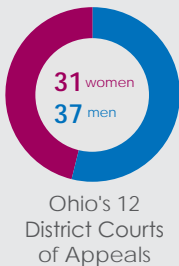
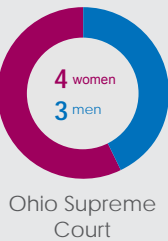
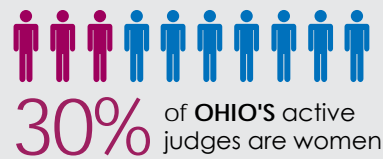
WOMEN ON THE BENCH






Ohio is one of **NINE** states with a female majority on the highest court.



5 of Ohio's 12 appellate districts have women majorities.



	U.S. SUPREME COURT	OHIO SUPREME COURT
TOTAL Female Justices	4 out of 112	10 out of 156
CURRENT Female Justices	3 out of 9	4 out of 7
First Female Justice	 1981 Sandra Day O'Connor	 1922 Florence Allen
First Female Chief Justice	---	 2011 Maureen O'Connor

Justice **Blanche Krupansky** was elected in 1981 and served until 1983. Justice **Alice Robie Resnick** became the third woman justice when she joined the court in 1989.

The pace of women joining the court picked up in the 1990s, and has gained steam ever since, as Justice **Deborah Cook** joined in 1995, and Justice **Evelyn Lundberg Stratton** took a seat in 1996. In 2003, the court saw its first female majority when Justice O'Connor was elected, and joined Justices Cook, Lundberg Stratton, and Resnick on the bench.

The first 4-3 gender split lasted only a few months as Justice Cook was appointed to the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in May 2003. When Justice **Judith Ann Lanzinger** became the seventh woman justice in 2005, the court again experienced a female majority, which lasted two years until

Justice Resnick left at the end of her term on Jan. 1, 2007.

The Supreme Court's current longest sustained period with a female majority began in January 2011, when **Yvette McGee Brown** was appointed to the seat vacated by Justice O'Connor, when she won election as chief justice. Not quite two years later, **Sharon L. Kennedy** defeated Justice McGee Brown in the 2012 general election, and **Judith L. French** was appointed to Justice Lundberg Stratton's seat after she retired at the end of 2012. Justices Kennedy and French were elected to six-year terms in 2014.

Gaining Momentum in the Lower Courts

Success for women on the ballot continues in the Buckeye State. In the past year, Ohio's judiciary increased in

women judges from about 25 percent to 30 percent.

The state has a variety of court structures within its 88 counties, and Ohio now has a majority of women judges in two types of courts. Among the 30 standalone domestic relations common pleas court judges, 19 (63 percent) are women, and in the 15 combined common pleas domestic relations/juvenile courts, 10 (67 percent) are women. The standalone juvenile court is evenly split 10-10 between men and women.

The next closest in gender equality are the 12 Ohio District Courts of Appeals, where the margin has narrowed to 37 males and 31 females (46 percent) with one vacancy. The largest gender divide in Ohio is among the municipal and county courts. Of the 239 active judges, 61 (26 percent) are women and 13 seats are vacant. ■

Judicial Elections SURVEY

New Study Highlights Need for Expanded Voter Information in Judicial Races



The biggest reason Ohioans say they don't vote for judges is because they don't know enough about the candidates. These and other results from a survey of more than 1,000 registered Ohio voters were discussed on Jan. 29 at the annual Associated Press Legislative Preview by Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice **Maureen O'Connor**.

The survey, which was conducted in October 2014 by the Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics at the University of Akron, focused on the drop-off in votes cast in judicial races.

Chief Justice O'Connor partnered with Bliss, the Ohio State Bar Association, the League of Women Voters of Ohio, and the Ohio Newspaper Association to better educate Ohioans about judges to increase voter participation.

Scheduled to launch in time for the November 2015 election, the partners will use the survey results to build a one-stop-shop judicial voter education website containing information on all individual judicial candidates in all jurisdictions, an explanation of what judges do, and descriptions about the duties of different

courts. Associated marketing and communications efforts will raise awareness of the existence of the website and the method for judges and judicial candidates to submit their information to populate the site.

In speaking out on the issue over the past two years, Chief Justice O'Connor has expressed concern that in some elections more than a quarter of the electorate skips voting for judges who are listed near the bottom of the ballot.

About half of the 2014 survey admitted not voting in judicial elections.

"Judges make decisions daily that impact the lives and liberties of Ohioans," Chief Justice O'Connor said. "We are doing a disservice to Ohio voters when they tell us we are not getting them the information they need to make an informed choice. That's why we want to supply voters with comprehensive and quality information about judges and emphasize that it's important to vote for judges."

"The Ohio State Bar Association has a longstanding commitment to civics education, to helping Ohioans understand

the importance of our three co-equal branches of government, and to instilling public trust and confidence in our judiciary, said **Martin E. Mohler**, OSBA president. "This joint effort we are undertaking to inform citizens about judicial candidates and the positions they seek goes a long way toward fulfilling these goals and will provide a substantive, meaningful, and independent source of information for Ohio voters."

Another survey statistic found that 45 percent of registered voters say that a non-partisan guide to judicial elections would be "very helpful."

"For 95 years, the League of Women Voters has worked to provide voters with the information they need to make informed choices about their government," said **Nancy G. Brown**, LWV of Ohio president. "We are delighted to work with the Chief Justice, Bar Association, and Bliss Institute to bring Ohioans information they want on how to select our state judges. We are particularly pleased to see the survey results that voters find the professional background of judges to be the most important

63%

Don't know
enough about
candidates

thing to know, far above the political party affiliation, as the League supports a nonpartisan judiciary.”

The judicial voter website is one part of the chief justice's three-point plan to reform judicial elections in Ohio. The other aspects include moving judicial elections to odd years and judicial candidates to the top of the ballot, as well as increasing the qualifications to serve as a judge.

“The results are revealing as to why voters are not voting for other candidates lower on the ballot, such as judges, and an overwhelming majority say they don't know enough about the candidates,” said **John C. Green**, director of the Bliss Institute and a Distinguished Professor in Political Science. “Our task now will be to take what we've learned in this survey of 1,067 registered voters and develop accessible material to help all Ohioans become better informed about judicial candidates and thus increase participation in judicial elections.”

Access the survey from the Bliss website at uakron.edu/bliss/.

Judicial Appointments

Gov. John Kasich recently appointed the following judges to fill vacancies:



C. Chris Amato

Columbiana County
Municipal Court

Amato began his service on Feb. 2.

He must win in the November 2015 election to retain his seat for the remainder of the unexpired term, which ends Jan. 1, 2020. He replaced Judge **Carol A. Robb**, who was elected to the Seventh District Court of Appeals.



Marianne T. Hemmeter

Delaware Municipal Court

Hemmeter began her judgeship on Feb. 17.

She replaced Judge **David Gormley**, who was elected to the Delaware County Common Pleas Court. She must win the November 2015 election to retain her seat for the remainder of the unexpired term, which ends Jan. 1, 2020.



Jill Flagg Lanzinger

Barberton Municipal Court

Flagg Lanzinger took over as judge on Feb. 19, replacing

Judge **Todd M. McKenney**, who was elected to the Summit County Common Pleas Court. She must win in November 2015 to retain her seat for the remainder of the unexpired term, which ends on Dec. 31, 2017.



Curtis E. Kissinger

Hamilton County
Municipal Court

Kissinger began his appointment on Feb.

9. He replaced Judge **Russell J. Mock**, who was elected to the First District Court of Appeals. Kissinger must win in November 2015 to retain his seat for the remainder of the unexpired term, which ends on Jan. 2, 2018.



James F. Long

Kettering Municipal Court

Long was appointed to replace Judge **Thomas M. Hanna**, effective

Feb. 5. He must win in November 2015 to retain his seat for the remainder of the unexpired term, which ends Dec. 31, 2017.



James H. Hewitt

Cleveland Municipal Court

Hewitt began his service on March 1.

He replaced Judge

Anita Laster Mays, who was elected to the Eighth District Court of Appeals. Hewitt must win the November 2015 election to retain his seat for a full term commencing on Jan. 1, 2016.



J. Curtis Werren

Canton Municipal Court

Werren took over as judge in Canton on Feb. 9 for Judge

Stephen F. Belden, who resigned. Werren must win in November 2015 to retain the seat for the remainder of the unexpired term, which ends Jan. 1, 2018.



Laura M. DiGiacomo

Ashtabula Municipal Court

DiGiacomo became judge on Feb. 17 when she replaced Judge

Albert Camplese, who was elected to the Ashtabula County Common Pleas Court, Probate and Juvenile Divisions. DiGiacomo must win in the November 2015 general election to retain the seat for the remainder of the unexpired term, which ends Dec. 31, 2019.



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 10, Rep. Jim Butler (R-Oakwood)

To provide transparency in contracts between the state and private attorneys.

STATUS: Introduced in the House on Jan. 28, 2015, and referred to the House Government Accountability & Oversight Committee. The first hearing was Feb. 17, 2015.

COMPANION BILL: SB 38, Sen. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati)

HB 11, Rep. Andy Brenner (R-Powell); Rep. Margaret Ann Ruhl (R-Mt. Vernon)

To create a domestic relations division of the Delaware County Court of Common Pleas and to create a judgeship for that division.

STATUS: Introduced in the House on Jan. 28, 2015, and referred to the House Judiciary Committee. Its first hearing was Feb. 17, 2015.

HB 24, Rep. Wes Retherford (R-Hamilton); Rep. Mike Dovilla (R-Berea)

To revise the laws governing the provision of adult protective services.

STATUS: Introduced in the House on Jan. 29, 2015, and referred to the House Judiciary Committee. The first hearing was Feb. 17, 2015.

HB 50, Rep. Dorothy Pelanda (R-Marysville); Rep. Cheryl Grossman (R-Grove City)

To extend the age for which a person is eligible for federal foster care and adoption assistance payments under Title IV-E to age 21, to provide a ward's bill of rights, to require that a guardian receive the Ohio

Guardianship Guide, and to make an appropriation.

STATUS: Introduced in the House on Feb. 10, 2015, and referred to the House Community & Family Advancement Committee.

HB 57, Rep. Ron Maag (R-Lebanon)

To change the sentence for aggravated murder.

STATUS: Introduced in the House on Feb. 11, 2015, and referred to the House Judiciary Committee. Its first hearing was Feb. 17, 2015.

HB 59, Rep. Jack Cera (D-Bellaire)

To increase to 10 years the mandatory prison term for a person who is convicted of a felony and who possessed a firearm while committing the felony, if the person displayed or brandished the firearm, indicated possession of it, or used it to facilitate the felony or if the firearm was an automatic firearm or was equipped with a muffler or silencer.

STATUS: Introduced in the House on Feb. 11, 2015, and referred to the House Judiciary Committee. Its first hearing was Feb. 17, 2015.

HB 64, Rep. Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell)

To make operating appropriations for the biennium beginning July 1, 2015, and ending June 30, 2017, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of state programs.

STATUS: Introduced in the House on Feb. 11, 2015, and referred to the House Finance & Appropriations Committee. The first hearing on the budget bill was Feb. 12, 2015.

**SB 15, Sen. Joe Uecker
(R-Loveland); Sen. Keith Faber
(R-Celina)**

To require the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, by Dec. 15, 2015, to study the feasibility of converting an existing facility into a substance abuse recovery prison and to specify that the General Assembly is to consider expanding the pilot program for medication-assisted treatment for drug offenders.

STATUS: Introduced in the Senate on Feb. 2, 2015, and referred to the Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee.

**SB 44, Sen. Joe Schiavoni
(D-Boardman)**

To allow the enforcement of child car seat, booster seat, and seat belt requirements as a primary offense and to repeal a provision of law that declares that the failure of an operator of a motor vehicle to secure a child in a car seat, in a booster seat, or with a seat belt is inadmissible in certain criminal proceedings.

STATUS: Introduced in the Senate on Feb. 11, 2015.

SJR 1, Sen. Keith Faber (R-Celina)

To establish the Public Office Compensation Commission.

STATUS: Introduced in the Senate on Feb. 2, 2015. Referred to the Senate Finance Committee.



Rule Amendment Summary

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

Capital Case Counsel for Indigent Defendants Appointment Rules

Under new rules that took effect Feb. 1, the Supreme Court altered some qualifications required for court-appointed attorneys who seek appointment by a court to represent indigent defendants in capital cases. Attorneys who wish to be appointed by a court to represent indigent defendants in capital cases must apply for certification from the Commission on Appointment of Counsel in Capital Cases. To be certified by the commission as trial lead counsel, trial co-counsel, or appellate counsel, attorneys must meet certain qualifications and possess specific practice experience. The rule changes address both trial lead counsel and co-counsel qualifications.

MENTORING PROGRAM | Continued from page 4.

“The first year it just went ‘boom, boom,’” Cram laughed.

T.E.A.M. stands for “Together Everyone Achieves More,” and for Cram that means pairing at-risk youth with mentors from across the county.

“They have some problems somewhere along the line – that’s why the school, or even parents, wants them in the program,” Cram said.

At the program’s beginning most mentors were adult community members. Now Cram said most of the T.E.A.M. mentors are from Ohio Wesleyan University. The college students have to perform community service for a class, and from September through May, the students hang out with their mentees, who range in age from 10 to 14. More than 300 kids have benefited from the program since its inception.

“You just keep getting better and better.’ ‘You’ve turned it around.’ ‘You’re maturing. I think this school year you’ve really matured a lot.’ ‘I think hanging out with an older boy...’ ‘Helps a little bit, right?’” Cram, Mirando, and Kirksey reminisce.

Kirksey liked the program so much he’s now in his second year mentoring.

“I wanted to keep going with the program because I liked what it stood for and helping out the community,” Kirksey said. “I enjoy my time with Noah. It doesn’t feel like I’m volunteering. It feels like I’m just hanging out with a friend.”

And Mirando likes the activities they do and knowing that he can count on Kirksey to be there in his life.

“I love hanging out with Spencer,” Mirando said. “He takes me places. He’s like a big brother to me – a big brother that I never had. My brother, he was never there for me.”

And it’s that relationship that makes the T.E.A.M. program a win-win.

The Delaware County Juvenile Court also has a program that supports teen moms called M.O.M.S. – or Moms Offering Mentoring Support. That program started in 2005. Find more information on both mentoring programs on the court’s website at www.co.delaware.oh.us/index.php/juvenile-court.

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

March 10

**Probation Officer Training Program:
Offender Behavior Management**

Probation Officers, Toledo/Perrysburg

March 11 – 13

**Court Management Program 2016
Module 3: Managing Court Financial
Resources**

CMP 2016 Class, Columbus

New Magistrate Orientation

Magistrates, Mt. Sterling

March 17

**Probation Officer Training Program:
Cognitive Behavioral Interventions**

Probation Officers, Akron/Fairlawn

Guardian ad Litem Continuing

Education Course: Divorce:

The Impact on Children

Guardians ad Litem, Columbus

1 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

March 18

Guardian ad Litem Continuing

Education Course: Divorce:

The Impact on Children

Guardians ad Litem, Columbus

8:30 a.m. – Noon

March 24

**Probation Officer Training Program:
Intro to Offender Behavior**

Management

Probation Officers, Columbus

March 25

**Supervisor Series: Hiring, Firing,
and Retention for Court Personnel
Supervisors (1 of 2)**

Court Personnel, Columbus

March 26

**Criminal Procedure for
Acting Judges (1 of 4)**

Judges, Magistrates & Acting Judges,
Toledo/Perrysburg

**Supervisor Series: Hiring, Firing,
and Retention for Court Personnel
Supervisors (2 of 2)**

Court Personnel, Columbus

April 1

Guardian ad Litem

Pre Service Course (3 of 9)

Guardians ad Litem, Columbus

April 7

**Probation Officer Training Program:
Introduction to Motivational
Interviewing**

Probation Officers, Dayton/
Beavercreek

Dispute Resolution Training

sc.ohio.gov/JCS/disputeResolution

March 26 & 27

**Basic Mediation/Uniform Mediation
Act Training**

Columbus

Language Services Events

sc.ohio.gov/JCS/interpreterSvc

March 21

Introduction to Court Interpreting

Cincinnati

Supreme Court of Ohio

sc.ohio.gov

March 10, 11 & 24

Oral Arguments

March 25

**Oral Arguments at Off-Site Court
Mansfield**

March 31

**Attorney Pro Bono Activity
Reporting Deadline**

April 1

**Application Deadline to Take
the July 2015 Bar Exam**

Ohio Center for Law-Related Education

oclre.org

March 12 – 14

**High School Mock Trial
State Competition**

Columbus

March 18

Moot Court 2015

Professional Development

Columbus

March 20

**Youth for Justice/Project Citizens
2015 Professional Development**

Columbus

CONFERENCES

**Ohio Court
Reporters Association
Annual Conference**

ocraonline.com

March 27 – 29

Columbus