



## WEATHERING THE STORM

Logan County Courthouse Closed After Damage, But Operations Continue

Debbie Egbert and her courthouse co-workers were wrapping up their week at 4 o'clock on Friday, June 29 when an approaching wind storm forced them to take cover in the basement.

**G**usts of 80 mph battered the 143-year-old Logan County courthouse that day. The National Weather Service Forecast Office in Wilmington tracked thunderstorms that developed in Chicago and matured into a derecho as they entered the forecasting area. According to a storm summary, “the term (derecho) is used to describe a long-lived, violent straight-line convective wind storm” that is often mistaken for a tornado because of its “violent and turbulent nature.”

Egbert, who serves as the common pleas general division court administrator, said it was very loud. “You

know everybody says a tornado sounds like a freight train, and I think there were a few of us who thought it could have been something that devastating. Once we left the courthouse and started looking out in different spaces the debris was amazing from just different buildings damaged downtown.”

The courthouse was damaged too. Structural engineers hired by the county conducted inspections that Saturday and deemed it unsafe because the bell tower had shifted off its foundation and had a gaping hole in its south side. They were afraid the tower could come tumbling down, so it was lifted by crane and

## About Court News Ohio

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LEFT: Repair work begins with the removal of the Logan County Courthouse tower. CENTER: The interior of the tower suffered extensive damage. RIGHT: The Logan County courthouse today.

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# Cases

Visit [courtnewsohio.gov](http://courtnewsohio.gov) for the most current decisions from the Ohio Supreme Court, Court of Claims, and courts of appeals.

## Supreme Court of Ohio

### Cleveland Attorney Suspended

On February 14, the Supreme Court indefinitely suspended the law license of Cleveland attorney Gary Ray Axner for neglect of five separate legal matters, failure to reasonably communicate with some of those clients, employment of a suspended attorney without notifying the proper authorities of that relationship, and initially failing to cooperate with the investigation of his misconduct. The court adopted findings by the Board of Commissioners on Grievances & Discipline that in two bankruptcy cases, Axner accepted fee advances from clients and then completely neglected or failed to complete the necessary legal work to obtain a bankruptcy decree. The court found that Axner repeatedly ignored or evaded client inquiries about the status of their cases, and when the clients were able to reach him, made false and misleading statements to them about the imminent resolution of their cases.

Cleveland Metro. Bar Assn. v. Axner, Slip Opinion No. 2013-Ohio-400

### Columbus Attorney Suspended

On February 13, the Supreme Court indefinitely suspended the law license of Columbus attorney April M. Bogdanski for violations of professional conduct rules in her dealing with three clients, and for failing to cooperate with the investigation of her misconduct,

including failing to appear for a scheduled hearing before a state disciplinary panel. The court adopted findings by the Board of Commissioners on Grievances & Discipline that in one case Bogdanski forged the signature of a client on two documents and then notarized those signatures. The court also found that Bogdanski provided incompetent and negligent representation to clients in two divorce cases, misinformed the clients about the status of their cases, and repeatedly failed to appear for scheduled hearings, causing significant harm to her clients and months of needless delay in the resolution of their legal affairs.

Disciplinary Counsel v. Bogdanski  
Slip Opinion No. 2013-Ohio-398

## Court of Claims

### Court of Claims Approves OSU Medical Center Patient's Settlement

The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center will pay a Columbus woman more than half a million dollars (\$550,000) to settle a claim over an emergency tracheostomy. The Court of Claims of Ohio approved the settlement agreement on February 6. According to a June 13, 2011 complaint, Pamela F. Turner explained to OSU Medical Center personnel her history of difficult intubation. Despite those warnings and receiving her past medical records from another

hospital, special precautions “were not taken by the anesthesia team” in preparation for her cancer surgery, the complaint states. Five unsuccessful intubation attempts resulted in Turner becoming “asystolic” (flat lining) and eventually in having an emergency tracheostomy.

Pamela F. Turner, et al. v. The Ohio State University Medical Center, Case No. C2011-08555

## Court of Appeals

### 12th District Reverses Trial Court Over Intoxilyzer 8000 Results

The Twelfth District Court of Appeals found that breath-alcohol content results from a West Chester traffic stop should not have been suppressed by the trial court because the proper procedures in administering the test were followed. Accordingly, the appeals court reversed the decision by the Butler County Area Court III and remanded the case. The unanimous decision discusses the admissibility of Intoxilyzer 8000 test results in light of the Ohio Supreme Court's 1984 decision in *State v. Vega*.

State v. Dugan, 2013-Ohio-447

# Happening Now

News and notes from courthouses around the Buckeye State.

## Check Scam Targeting Law Firms

**N**ortheast Ohio law firms should be aware of a check scam making the rounds, according to **Fred Harvey**, senior investigator for KeyBank's Great Lakes Region.

He contacted the Ohio Supreme Court's Board of Commissioners on Grievances & Discipline about the scam to alert the state's legal community.

Law firms receive a KeyBank certified check for \$95,000 in the name of "Bernard Stilwell" with a routing number for an Oregon law firm that's also a KeyBank client, Harvey said. The communication also includes instructions that the check is a retainer for future services.

"If any of the attorneys deposited the checks, I would assume someone is going to ask for at least some of the money back," Harvey said.

KeyBank's corporate investigations unit is trying to determine if the scope of the solicitation extends to other parts of Ohio.

## Hard Work Pays Off For Court Interpreters



Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor (left) congratulates newly certified court interpreter Marina Camacho. Camacho was one of several interpreters who were sworn in during a ceremony at the Thomas J. Moyer Ohio Judicial Center on February 4. Learn more about her story at [courtnewsohio.gov](http://courtnewsohio.gov).

## Supreme Court Appoints Commission Leadership

The Ohio Supreme Court appointed new leadership to commissions that help meet the court's constitutional and statutory authority to regulate the practice of law and exercise general superintendence over Ohio courts. The following appointees' terms began January 1.



Licking County Domestic Relations Court Judge **Craig R. Baldwin** and Tuscarawas County Common Pleas Court Administrator



**Elizabeth W. Stephenson** were appointed chair and vice chair of the Commission on the Rules of

Superintendence for Ohio Courts for one-year terms. The commission assists the Supreme Court in exercising its general powers of superintendence over the courts of Ohio granted by the constitution by making recommendations to the court on the adoption of new superintendence rules and amendments.



Mahoning County Domestic Relations Court Chief Magistrate **Mark A. Huberman** was appointed vice chair of the Commission on

the Rules of Practice & Procedure in Ohio Courts for a two-year term. The commission reviews all rules governing practice and procedure in the courts of Ohio.



Fifth District Court of Appeals Judge **John W. Wise** was appointed vice chair of the Commission on Technology and the Courts for a three-

year term. The commission advises the Supreme Court on statewide technology issues.



## Diversity in the Judicial System

**Janet E. Jackson** witnessed a lot of change on the bench and bar from when she first received her law degree in the 1970s. She spoke about those changes and the need for improving diversity in the judicial system at the Ohio Supreme Court Black History Month Celebration February 5.

All it took was a lost bet. Jackson (above left) went to law school because she lost a bet to her fiancé.

“It was really because I had never thought about it and because when I looked around in my world, I had no role models. I had never personally met an African-American lawyer,” Jackson said.

The bet paid off in the long run as Jackson went on to become the first African-American woman to serve on any Franklin County court. She was 34 years old when she was appointed to the municipal court bench, and she served there for 10 years. She then became the first woman to serve as the Columbus city attorney, where she worked for 6 years. Today she’s the CEO and president of United Way of Central Ohio.

“I’ve taken on the mantel many times of being the first, but one of the things I never want to be is the last,” Jackson said.

Jackson said while great strides are made daily, there is still a long way to go.

“Any system of justice that does not adequately reflect the diversity of the constituents it serves will struggle to find harmony with those constituents and the community as a whole,” Jackson said. “I truly believe that embracing inclusion and diversity is not an option. It’s a necessity.”

The Black History Month Celebration also featured **McKenna Sinclair Hensley** (above center), the 2013 Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Oratorical Contest Junior Division winner, and **Maya Gordon** (above right), a senior at the Charles School at Ohio Dominican University and a dancer on the Thioassane West African Dance Institute.

## Nuzum Named Judicial & Court Services Director



**W. Milton Nuzum III** was named director of the Ohio Supreme Court Judicial & Court Services Division on February 11, a position he has held on an acting basis since May 2011.

As the division director, Nuzum oversees the Case Management Section, the Children, Families & the Court Section, the Dispute Resolution Section, the Domestic Violence Program, the Interpreter Services Program, and the Specialized Dockets Section. He also will continue to serve as director of the Judicial College.

“Milt has done a terrific job serving as the acting director of the division by providing patient leadership to staff, and quietly assisting courts throughout the state on matters that require diplomacy and delicate handling,” Administrative Director **Steven C. Hollon** said. “In doing so, he places the position of the court and its programs above personal promotion.”

Nuzum earned his law degree from the Indiana University School of Law and graduated from The Ohio State University College of Pharmacy, where he received its Distinguished Alumni Award. In addition to practicing as a pharmaceutical process engineer, pharmacist, and attorney, he served as a Marietta Municipal Court judge for 13 years before joining the Supreme Court in 2007. He is a member of the American Judges Association, where he served on its Board of Governors and as editor of “Benchmark.”

He is also a member of the National Association for Court Management and National Association of State Judicial Educators, where he serves as a member of the International Committee and chair of its Futures Committee. Nuzum recently presented papers at the International Organization for Judicial Training in Sydney, Australia, and Bordeaux, France.

## Judges Association Elects Officers

Municipal and county court judges took the oath of office February 6 after being elected to leadership positions by the statewide membership of their association.

Ohio Supreme Court Justice **Terrence O'Donnell** conducted the swearing-in ceremony during the group's annual three-day winter meeting.

Defiance Municipal Court Judge **John T. Rohrs** (president) took the bench in 1994 and served as the city's law director for 10 years before that. He also worked in private practice. He earned his law degree from the Ohio Northern University Claude W. Pettit College of Law.

"Starting my 20th year on the bench, I'm still impressed with a fact shared in 2010 that municipal and county court judges make up 35 percent of the judges in Ohio and handle 78 percent of all legal filings in the state," Judge Rohrs said. "To clear a caseload of that magnitude, one has to be dedicated, willing to put in the necessary hours, and pretty efficient. Also, 78 percent of the citizens involved with the legal system will be in our municipal and county courts, and that will form their impression of the justice system in Ohio. I am truly humbled to be the president of an association that has such a positive impact on our profession and the people with whom we deal."

The educational portion of the winter conference included sessions devoted to the admissibility of evidence obtained from the Intoxilyzer 8000; authorizing, collecting, and assessing court costs; and information about the new court interpreter rule.

### 2013 Association of Municipal/County Judges of Ohio Officers



President

**Judge John T. Rohrs III**  
Defiance Municipal Court



First Vice President

**Judge Beth W. Root**  
Fairborn Municipal Court



Second Vice President

**Judge William A. Grim**  
Athens County  
Municipal Court



Secretary

**Judge Michael R. Goulding**  
Toledo Municipal Court



Treasurer

**Judge Michael T. Brandt**  
Franklin County  
Municipal Court

### Ghiz Appointed to Hamilton County Bench



Gov. **John Kasich** appointed **Leslie Ghiz** to the Hamilton County Common Pleas Court on February 4. She assumed office on February 6.

Ghiz was elected in November to the full six-year term that begins April 1. The seat was previously held by Judge **Dennis L. Helmick**, who retired on December 31 before the expiration of the term.

Ghiz received her bachelor's degree from West Virginia University and earned her law degree from Capital University. She has practiced law for 18 years and began her own practice in 2007, focusing on employment discrimination and labor law.

Ghiz served on Cincinnati City Council from 2005 to 2011 where she was a member of the Public Safety, Strategic Growth, and the Budget & Finance committees. She is actively involved at Holy Trinity-St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, and her community involvement includes tutoring children in Cincinnati Public Schools.

## Starn Joins Judicial College Board of Trustees



Chief Justice **Maureen O'Connor** appointed Findlay Municipal Court Judge **Jonathan P. Starn** to the Judicial College Board of Trustees on February 1. He fills

the unexpired term of retired Athens County Common Pleas Court Judge **Michael W. Ward**.

The Ohio Judicial College was created in 1976 to help judges meet their mandatory education requirements. It is partially funded by attendee registration fees and federal grants.

Consisting of 10 members plus the chief justice, who serves ex officio, the trustees provide advice to the Judicial College. The membership consists of seven judges appointed by the various judicial associations, one magistrate appointed by the Ohio Association of Magistrates, and two judges appointed by the chief justice.

Judge Starn took the bench on January 1, 2010, after his election to fill the seat vacated by the retirement of Judge **Kevin Smith**. Previously, Judge Starn served as a Hancock County Common Pleas Court magistrate and a Findlay Municipal Court magistrate. Before that, Judge Starn was in private practice and served as an assistant Hancock County prosecutor.

Judge Starn received his bachelor's degree and law degree from Capital University.

## Weathering the Storm | Continued from page 1.

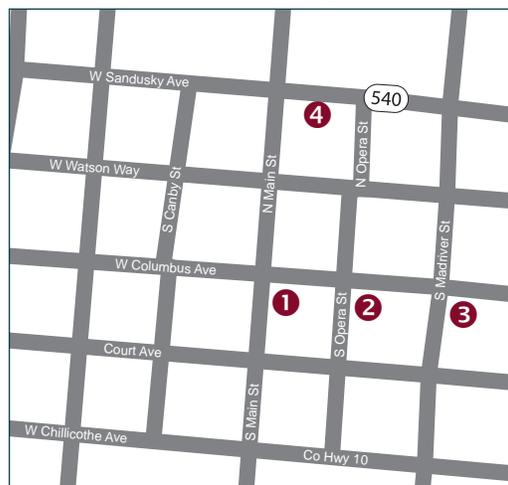
dismantled. It will be replaced. The county commissioners notified elected officials on the Sunday of the evacuation order. They also mapped out a plan of where everyone would go temporarily. (The Union County courthouse also suffered damage because of the storm).

For a county seat the size of Bellefontaine (13,370 residents according to the 2010 U.S. Census), relocating its courthouse offices and court personnel to available spaces downtown would have been a challenge without the cooperation of other county and city offices, according to County Commissioner **Tony Core**, especially with the lack of high-rise buildings like in bigger cities.

The court offices moved out that Monday morning with a goal of still holding court that day, which they met.

The general division moved to the jail facility outside of town. The family court divisions moved to Veterans Memorial Hall across the street from the courthouse (see map below). The clerk's office and probation department moved into the Juvenile Detention Center. Other clerk's functions and judges'/magistrates' offices moved in with the commissioners.

### Downtown Bellefontaine (Logan County)



- 1 **Logan County Courthouse**
- 2 **Veterans Memorial Hall**  
Family Court Divisions
- 3 **Juvenile Detention Center**  
Clerk's Office & Probation Dept.
- 4 **Carnegie Library**  
New temporary home of Common Pleas & Family Court

Not pictured:  
**Jail Facility**  
General Division

"Within an hour, we were issuing marriage licenses, we were having court hearings," Core said. "All of that continued to operate and truly everybody just chipped in and made it work."

Egbert said Judge **Mark S. O'Connor** opened court only a half an hour later than usual. Before leaving the courthouse, she had grabbed Monday's court files, her phone, and her computer. She said it helped that employees can access the county's network anywhere downtown simply by plugging a phone into a computer.

Egbert said it also helped that she had attended one of the Ohio Supreme Court's Continuity of Operations training classes and that court staff had met to discuss emergency preparedness. While there was no written plan in place, she knew what she had to do.

Fortunately, the displacement for the general division was not as abrupt because Judge O'Connor already was conducting arraignment hearings in criminal cases three times a week in the



## 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 9, Rep. Peter Stautberg (R-Cincinnati)**

To add to and clarify the powers of a receiver and to provide a procedure for a receiver's sale of real property.

**STATUS:** Introduced January 30, 2013 and referred to House Judiciary Committee. First committee hearing on February 6, 2013.

### **HB 14, Rep. Dorothy Pelanda (R-Marysville)**

With respect to a school district's withholding or transfer to another district or school of the records of a child who is alleged or adjudicated an abused, neglected, or dependent child.

**STATUS:** Introduced January 30, 2013 and referred to House Education Committee.

### **HB 20, Rep. Michael Stinziano (D-Columbus)**

To permit a person to present proof of financial responsibility to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles, a peace officer, a traffic violations bureau, or a court through use of an electronic wireless communications device.

**STATUS:** Introduced January 30, 2013 and referred to House Transportation, Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee. First committee hearing on February 6, 2013.

### **HB 49, Rep. Mike Dovilla (R-Berea); Rep. Wes Retherford (R-Hamilton)**

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

**STATUS:** Introduced on February 12, 2013 and referred to the House Judiciary Committee. First committee hearing on February 20, 2013.

### **HB 50, Rep. Tracy Heard (D-Columbus); Rep. Ross McGregor (R-Springfield)**

To protect the rights of children before and during custodial interrogations.

**STATUS:** Introduced on February 12, 2013 and referred to the House Judiciary Committee. First committee hearing on February 20, 2013.

**HB 59, Rep. Ron Amstutz (R-Wooster)**

Budget Bill: To make operating appropriations for the biennium beginning July 1, 2013, and ending June 30, 2015; to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of state programs.

**STATUS:** Introduced on February 12, 2013. Referred to House Finance and Appropriations Committee. Fourth committee hearing pending.

**HB 61, Rep. Dorothy Pelanda (R-Marysville)**

Allows adopted persons within a specified time period to access their adoption records.

**STATUS:** Introduced in the House on February 12, 2013. Referred to House Judiciary Committee. First committee hearing on February 20, 2013.

**HB 64, Rep. Jack Cera (D-Bellaire)**

To provide that if a secured party does not convey to the owner of a motor vehicle a physical certificate of title after the security interest has been discharged, the owner may obtain one physical certificate of title from a clerk of a court of common pleas at no charge.

**STATUS:** Introduced in the House on February 15, 2013. Referred to House Transportation, Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee.

**SB 7, Sen. Chris Widener (R-Springfield); Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City)**

To require that a court report certain information to the local law enforcement agency for entry into the appropriate National Crime Information Center file if the court approves the conditional release of a person found incompetent to stand trial or not guilty by reason of insanity or orders a person convicted of an offense of violence to receive mental health treatment and to name this act the Deputy Suzanne Hopper Act.

**STATUS:** Introduced in the Senate on February 12, 2013. Referred to the Senate Criminal Justice Committee.

**SB 16, Sen. Joe Schiavoni (D-Canfield)**

To provide that a person is not criminally or civilly liable for trespassing on certain abandoned land or similar places of public amusement if the person enters or remains on the land or place of public amusement to remediate it.

**STATUS:** Introduced in the Senate on February 12, 2013. Referred to the Senate Civil Justice Committee.

**SB 23, Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City); Sen. Dave Burke (R-Marysville)**

Allows adopted persons within a specified time period to access their adoption records.

**STATUS:** Introduced in the Senate on February 12, 2013. Referred to the Senate Medicaid, Health and Human Services Committee.

**SB 29, Sen. Tim Schaffer (R-Lancaster)**

To enable a judgment creditor landlord to obtain a court order directing the Tax Commissioner to pay the judgment debtor tenant's income tax refund to the landlord.

**STATUS:** Introduced in the Senate on February 12, 2013. Referred to the Senate Ways and Means Committee.

**SB 43, Sen. Dave Burke (R-Marysville)**

To make changes to the laws governing the civil commitment of and treatment provided to mentally ill persons.

**STATUS:** Introduced in the Senate on February 14, 2013. Referred to Senate Criminal Justice Committee.

**SB 44, Sen. Kevin Bacon (R-Columbus)**

To authorize the civil commitment of certain sexually violent predators and to provide for the GPS monitoring of sexually violent predators who are released from prison.

**STATUS:** Introduced in the Senate on February 20, 2013. Referred to the Senate Criminal Justice Committee.

## Local Court Roundtable Meetings

Office of Judicial & Court Services  
sc.ohio.gov/JCS

March 5  
**Municipal/County Administrators and Clerks**  
Midsized courts, 42-69K

March 7  
**Municipal/County Administrators and Clerks**  
Rural courts, 41K or less

March 8  
**Juvenile Chief Probations Officers**  
Less than 100K

March 21  
**Municipal/County Administrators and Clerks**  
Large courts, more than 70K

March 22  
**Juvenile Chief Deputy Clerks**  
Rural courts, less than 60K

March 28  
**Domestic Relations Administrators**  
All counties

March 29  
**General Division Administrators**  
Midsized courts, 1 to 5 judges

**Probate Magistrates**  
Urban courts, urban environment

April 4  
**Juvenile Administrators**  
Midsized & rural courts

April 5  
**Municipal Administrators**  
Urban courts, urban environment

April 11  
**Probate**  
Midsized & rural courts, rural and midsized counties

April 12  
**Juvenile Chief Deputy Clerks**  
Midsized & urban courts, more than 60K

# 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](http://judicialacademy.ohio.gov)

March 5  
**Ohio Guardian ad Litem Education Program: Psychiatric Disorders in Children**  
Guardians ad Litem, Cincinnati  
1 to 4:30 p.m.

March 6  
**Ohio Guardian ad Litem Education Program: Psychiatric Disorders in Children**  
Guardians ad Litem, Cincinnati  
8:30 a.m. to Noon

March 6 - 8  
**Court Management Program, 2013 Level II, Module V: Leadership**  
CMP Participants 2013 II, Columbus

March 8  
**Judicial Candidates Seminar**  
Judicial Candidates, Dayton  
1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

March 13 -15  
**2013 New Magistrate Orientation**  
Magistrates, Mt. Sterling

March 14  
**Judicial Candidates Seminar**  
Judicial Candidates, Cleveland  
1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

**Ohio Guardian ad Litem Education Program: Divorce – Impact on Children**  
Guardians ad Litem, Columbus  
1 to 4:30 p.m.

March 15  
**Criminal Procedure by the Numbers: Part 1**  
Judges & Magistrates, Columbus

**Ohio Guardian ad Litem Education Program: Divorce – Impact on Children**  
Guardians ad Litem, Columbus  
8:30 a.m. to Noon

March 20 - 22  
**Court Management Program 2014B Gray Class: Caseflow**  
CMP Participants 2014, Columbus

March 21  
**Interviewing Children**  
Judges & Magistrates, Columbus

March 22  
**Child Support & Custody**  
 Judges & Magistrates, Columbus

April 3  
**Guardian ad Litem**  
**Pre-Service Course (3 of 9)**  
 Guardians ad Litem, Akron

April 4  
**Current Issues in Jury Management**  
 Judges & Court Personnel  
 Columbus

April 5  
**Probate Seminar**  
 Judges, Columbus

April 11  
**Managing a Diverse Workforce**  
**(1 of 2)**  
 Court Personnel, Columbus

April 12  
**Acting Judge Course:**  
**Small Claims (1 of 3)**  
 Judges, Magistrates  
 & Acting Judges, Dayton

**Managing a Diverse Workforce**  
**(2 of 2)**  
 Court Personnel, Columbus

**Introduction to Housing Options**  
**Available to People with Mental**  
**Illness (1 of 2)**  
 Judges, Magistrates  
 & Court Personnel  
 Self Study, CLE Webinar  
 Noon to 1 p.m.

**Interpreter Services**  
**Training**  
[sc.ohio.gov/JCS/interpreterSvcs](http://sc.ohio.gov/JCS/interpreterSvcs)

March 16  
**Introduction to Court Interpreting**  
 Dayton

March 29  
**Deadline to register**  
**for Written Exam**

**Dispute Resolution**  
**Training**  
[sc.ohio.gov/JCS/disputeResolution](http://sc.ohio.gov/JCS/disputeResolution)

March 28 & 29  
**Basic Mediation/Uniform**  
**Mediation Act Training**  
 Columbus

**Specialized Dockets**  
**Training**  
[sc.ohio.gov/JCS/specDockets](http://sc.ohio.gov/JCS/specDockets)

March 14  
**Achieving Clinical Excellence:**  
**Three Steps to Superior**  
**Performance**  
 Court & Agency Personnel  
 Columbus

**Supreme Court of Ohio**  
[www.sc.ohio.gov](http://www.sc.ohio.gov)

March 12 & 13  
**Oral Arguments**

April 1  
**Application Deadline to Take**  
**the July 2013 Bar Exam**

April 9 & 10  
**Oral Arguments**

April 15  
**Mayor's Courts' 1st Quarter**  
**Reports Due**

**Ohio Center for Law**  
**Related Education**  
[www.oclre.org](http://www.oclre.org)

March 7 - 9  
**High School Mock Trial State**  
**Competition**

April 11 & 12  
**Middle School Mock Trial**  
**Showcase**

April 12  
**We the People Middle School State**  
**Showcase Registration Deadline**

## **Miscellaneous**

March 26  
**Ohio Community Corrections**  
**Association "Case Planning"**  
**Training**  
[occaonline.org](http://occaonline.org) | Columbus

April 9 -12  
**Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys**  
**Association: The Reid Technique**  
**of Interviewing**  
 Union County Sheriff's Office  
[www.ohiopa.org](http://www.ohiopa.org) | Marysville

**Weathering the Storm | Continued from page 7.**

courtroom at the county jail. All proceedings moved there in the interim, except for jury trials. Those were held in the Bellefontaine city council chambers.

As court operations settled in to their temporary locations downtown, the commissioners used \$700,000 in insurance money to begin rehabilitating the county's old Carnegie Library in October so that all the courthouse offices could be housed under one roof. While it's still a temporary solution until the courthouse can be repaired, the public will no longer have to go all over town, Core said. Court operations opened in the renovated space at the library on February 19.

But as with most things, the process of refurbishing the Carnegie Library was not as easy as it seemed at first glance. First the commissioners had to find space for the two offices located in the old library. The commissioners found a home for the Ohio State University Extension Office elsewhere, and the Child Support Enforcement Agency moved in with the other divisions of the county Job and Family Services agency.

Another step in the process, however, proved serendipitous. A state law provides for county commissioners to employ a project manager for any construction or rehabilitation that occurs to a courthouse. The commissioners didn't have to look too far for the perfect candidate. Recently retired and construction-experienced Logan County Family Court Judge **C. Douglas Chamberlain** served as the liaison between the commissioners and the court.

"It was helpful from the commissioners' perspective because the commissioners don't have to check with each court division and judge about every decision," Core said. "Judge Chamberlain communicates with the judges, and the commissioners work with insurance. We can say here's what insurance is saying. He can tell us here's what the courts and the clerks need to have."

What they have is enough room for the clerk's office, cubicles for employees, offices for judges and magistrates, and four hearing rooms for six judicial officers, including Judge O'Connor, current family court judges **Michael L. Brady** and **Dan W. Bratka**, and three magistrates, Chamberlain said.

The new space is also a little different in that the judges can't have a dedicated courtroom like at the courthouse because the hearing rooms are different sizes. "We will have to juggle courtrooms in Carnegie," Chamberlain said. "Everyone will have to share and rely on the assignment commissioner to work out scheduling. The concept is the same no matter the courtroom, just a little smaller."

He said the courthouse has about 21,000 square feet, while Carnegie has about 8,500 square feet. The only entity that didn't make the move to the more permanent location was the probation department because of the space crunch.



The Carnegie Library has been transformed into the new temporary home of the Logan County Common Pleas Court. County commissioners used insurance money to pay for the refurbishment.

While there's no longer the daily hubbub in the courthouse more than seven months after the storm, Egbert said she still finds herself there frequently. Until the court's operations moved into the Carnegie building, she needed access to case files. Only two years worth of files were moved with the clerk's office to the detention center. Files from prior years remained at the courthouse.

"It's just a completely different atmosphere when you walk into the building," Egbert said. "It's eerie. It's just so quiet. You are used to hearing printers running, and fax machines running, and copiers running, and people laughing, but it's very dark. You just lose the whole entire personality of the building and the space."

Core said some residents had questioned rebuilding the courthouse and wanted it torn down. He said it will be rebuilt as it was, with a new bell tower in place, and the tower will be able to withstand even greater wind speeds.