

# CNO REVIEW

July 2014



## eStats

Ohio's general division common pleas courts are being encouraged to immediately begin using a new online system that will streamline the reporting of case statistics. **(Story on page 6).**

## About Court News Ohio

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

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# Cases

Visit [courtnewsOhio.gov](http://courtnewsOhio.gov) for the most current decisions from the Ohio Supreme Court, Courts of Appeals, and Court of Claims.

## Supreme Court of Ohio

### Supreme Court Decides Payday Loan Case

Legislation passed in 2008 to reform the regulation of payday loans does not apply to similar types of loans made under another section of law, according to a June 11 Ohio Supreme Court decision. Writing for the unanimous court, Justice **Judith L. French** determined that the Short-Term Loan Act does not prohibit lenders registered under the separate Mortgage Loan Act (MLA) from making interest-bearing, payday-style loans. Also, under the MLA, a registered lender is permitted to require that an interest-bearing loan be repaid in a single installment, Justice French wrote.

Ohio Neighborhood Fin., Inc. v. Scott  
Slip Opinion No. 2014-Ohio-2440

### Group Does Not Have Right to Challenge the Constitutionality of JobsOhio

On June 10, the Supreme Court ruled that a public policy group and two legislators are not the proper parties to challenge the constitutionality of JobsOhio, the nonprofit economic development corporation formed by the state. In a 5-2 decision, the court held that ProgressOhio.org, Ohio Senator **Michael J. Skindell**, and former Ohio House member **Dennis E. Murray** do not have standing under the public-right doctrine to bring an action against the JobsOhio legislation. The court held that the public-right doctrine does not apply to lawsuits filed in common

pleas courts, and that the parties would otherwise still fail to meet the requirements of the doctrine.

ProgressOhio.org, Inc. v. JobsOhio  
Slip Opinion No. 2014-Ohio-2382

### Supreme Court Orders Reopening of Sealed Records in Rape-Flier Case

On June 5, the Supreme Court directed a Butler County judge to set aside his order sealing records related to a charge against a student who posted a flier advocating the rape of women at an Ohio university. In a 5-2 decision, the court ruled that the judge in the case did not adhere to the requirements of Ohio law when sealing the criminal case. The Cincinnati *Enquirer* had requested the records be reopened. Justice **Judith Ann Lanzinger**, who wrote the court's opinion, denied the *Enquirer's* requests for two other writs in a related case.

State ex rel. Cincinnati Enquirer v. Lyons  
Slip Opinion No. 2014-Ohio-2354

## Court of Claims

### Family Awarded \$350,000 in Wrongful Death Claim of Inmate

The Court of Claims of Ohio awarded the family of a deceased Warren Correctional Institution inmate \$350,000 in damages on May 29. **Brandon Copas'** mother and next of kin sued the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC) for compensatory damages for Copas' wrongful death. The Court of

Claims previously found DRC liable because of a delay in sending Copas to an outside facility after being admitted to the infirmary as "the proximate cause of Copas' death."

Brooke Fraley-Arpan v. Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction  
Case No. 2012-03140

### Court of Claims Approves UTMC Botched Kidney Transplant Settlement for \$650,000

The mistaken disposal of a healthy donor kidney meant for the donor's sister will cost the University of Toledo Medical Center \$650,000, under a settlement approved by the Court of Claims on May 28. According to a July 29, 2013, complaint, on August 10, 2012, UTMC threw away a "perfect match" kidney being donated by **Paul Fudacz Jr.** to his older sister, **Sarah A. Fudacz**, 24, who was suffering from end-stage renal disease. The mix-up occurred after a nurse who wasn't present for the surgery returned from a lunch break and disposed the contents of a slush machine that contained Paul's kidney, according to the complaint.

Sarah Fudacz v. University of Toledo Medical Center  
Case No. 2013-00441

# Happening Now

News and Notes from Courthouses Across the Buckeye State



## Supreme Court Approves Accelerated Path to Law Degree

As of July 1, law students may be able to reach their goal one year sooner if Ohio colleges and universities choose to start offering accelerated “3+3” programs.

Ohio’s law school deans asked the Supreme Court to consider allowing applicants to apply for the bar exam after graduating from a six-year joint bachelor’s/law degree program instead of the traditional seven-year program (four years of undergraduate study, plus three years of law school).

Under the recently adopted amendments to Rule I of the Supreme Court Rules for the Government of the Bar of Ohio, applicants for admission to the practice of law in Ohio would only be required to obtain a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university before admission to the practice of law rather than before admission to law school.

As it stands now, bar exam applicants who graduate from a “3+3” program must seek a waiver of the rule in order to sit for the exam, according to **Lee Ann Ward**, director of the Office of Bar Admissions at the Ohio Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court alerted Ohio college and university presidents to the proposal in a letter and noted that the decision whether to offer a 3+3 program lies with Ohio’s law schools, colleges, and universities. The amendments allow for the possibility of 3+3 programs in Ohio because no Ohio law school offers one currently. Creation of 3+3 programs depends on whether the educational community wants to establish such programs.

Access the amendments, which took effect July 1, at [www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/RuleAmendments](http://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/RuleAmendments).

## Grosko Appointed Supreme Court Clerk of the Court

The first woman to fill the Reporter of Decisions position in the history of the Supreme Court of Ohio became the third woman to serve as clerk of the court on July 1.



Grosko

The justices approved the appointment of **Sandra Huth Grosko** to replace **Mark Reed**, who returned to his former position as the clerk for the Court of Claims of Ohio. Grosko has served as the Reporter since August 2011. She also previously served as interim clerk of the Court in 2007.

The clerk of the court for the Supreme Court oversees the Office of the Clerk, which is responsible for administering the filing of cases and documents before the court and other important functions of case management.

Grosko also will serve as interim reporter until a permanent reporter is hired.

Grosko joined the Supreme Court in 1995 as a law clerk to former Justice **Deborah Cook** and later served as case management counsel in the Office of the Clerk for nine years. Grosko earned her law degree cum laude from the University of Toledo and also earned the Certified Court Manager credentials from the National Center for State Courts’ Institute for Court Management.

Previous to her employment at the Supreme Court, Grosko served as a judicial attorney for Summit County Common Pleas Court Judge **Patricia Cosgrove**, as a law clerk for then-Ninth District Court of Appeals Judge Cook, and as a law clerk for the Toledo Edison Company and Marathon Oil Company.

Grosko received her bachelor’s degree from Ohio University. She lives in Gahanna with her husband and son.

## National Family Courts Group Recognizes Ohio Leaders

The Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC) 51st annual conference in Toronto May 28-31 included several Ohio ties.

Fulton and Henry County Common Pleas Courts Magistrate **Dick Altman** began his one-year term as president of the AFCC board of directors, and **Pamela Hayman-Weaner**, a Legal Aid of Western Ohio attorney for 23 years, accepted an award on behalf of the organization.



Altman

Hayman-Weaner

AFCC is an interdisciplinary and international association of professionals dedicated to the resolution of family conflict. AFCC has more than 4,900 members and 22 chapters throughout the U.S., Canada, and in nearly 30 other countries.

Altman is a member of the Supreme Court of Ohio Commission on Dispute Resolution. He is a faculty member for the Supreme Court and assists with statewide rule and curriculum development. He has worked as an attorney and mediator in the areas of civil law, domestic relations, and parenting issues. Altman is a member of the American, Ohio State, and several local bar associations.

Hayman-Weaner also serves as regional coordinator for the Family Justice Center of Northwest Ohio. She received her law degree from the University of Michigan Law School and her master's degree from Western Michigan University. She has conducted legal advocacy on behalf of survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault since 1991 in the areas of family law, immigration, and protection orders.

Ohio's AFCC ties do not end with Altman and Hayman-Weaner. Supreme Court Dispute Resolution Section Manager **Jacqueline C. Hagerott** serves as an AFCC board member, and Henry County Family Court Judge **Denise McColley** previously served as president of the AFCC board.

## New Thomas J. Moyer Professorship, Fellowships Selected

The Ohio State Bar Association announced the recipients of the professorship and fellowships named for the late Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice **Thomas J. Moyer**.

The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law Professor **Ric Simmons** received the Chief Justice Moyer Professorship for the Administration of Justice and the Rule of Law. Simmons joined the Moritz faculty in 2003. A graduate of Columbia Law School, he was a Stone Scholar and a senior editor of the Columbia Law Review. He currently teaches evidence and criminal law.



Simmons

Three law students were awarded 2014 Moyer Fellowship Grants: **Abigail Mack**, Moritz College of Law; **Prad Georges**, University of Akron School of Law; and **Benjamin Imdieke**, University of Toledo College of Law.

The annual fellowships are awarded by the Chief Justice Thomas J. Moyer Legacy Committee to exceptional first- or second-year students from Ohio law schools and are designed to honor Chief Justice Moyer's commitment to improving access to courts, advancing civility and ethics, working with national and international organizations to promote the rule of law, and promoting civic education. Fellowship recipients receive \$3,000 from the Moyer Legacy Fund at the Ohio State Bar Foundation and \$1,000 from their law schools to fund a summer opportunity advancing these principles.



## Rule Amendment Summary

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

### Probate Forms

Amendments to the standard probate form concerning the Medicaid Estate Recovery Program were approved in June. The Supreme Court is also taking public comment until July 9 on proposed amendments to new and existing probate forms, including Form 14 (Application to Approve Settlement and Distribution of Wrongful Death and Survival Claims), Form 22.5 (Application to Settle a Claim of an Adult Ward), Form 22.6 (Entry Approve Settlement of a Claim of an Adult Ward), Form 22.7 (Report of Distribution).

### Supreme Court Seeks Public Comment on Amendments to Appoint Capital Case Counsel for Indigent Defendants

Under proposed rule changes, the Supreme Court would alter some of the qualifications required for court-appointed attorneys who seek appointment by a court to represent indigent defendants in capital cases. The Supreme Court took public comments until July 1 on the rule changes that concern the qualification for lead counsel and co-counsel.

### Rules Proposed to Clarify Commercial Docket Judge Designation

Common pleas courts that establish commercial dockets would have more guidance about designating judges to preside over these cases under proposed rule amendments announced in June by the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court will take public comment until July 9 on the changes to Rule 49 and 49.02 of the Rules of Superintendence for the Courts of Ohio.



# eStats

Ohio courts are being encouraged to immediately begin using a new online system designed to streamline the reporting of case statistics.

Image: antishock/iStock/Thinkstock

Judges who hear criminal and civil cases in all 88 of Ohio's common pleas courts will soon be required to submit caseload statistics electronically.

Amendments to Rule 37 of the Rules of Superintendence for the Court of Ohio took effect July 1, 2013, allowing the electronic submission, according to **Tasha Ruth**, manager of the Supreme Court's Case Management Section.

The mandatory process is being rolled out by reporting form type, beginning with Form A, which is used to report cases in the general divisions of common pleas courts. It is anticipated that by the end of 2015, all courts will report statistics electronically.

Over the past year, two general divisions – in the Lorain and Montgomery county common pleas courts – piloted the electronic submission process.

**Mary Kay Stirling**, program director with the Montgomery County Common Pleas Court, said her experience as a pilot court for the submission of eStats was very good.

"The training provided was hands on and the website is user friendly," she said. "Submission of the stats is simply just copying the numbers into the established forms, uploading the forms (one for each judge) and sending them with a few clicks of a mouse. Any revisions are submitted with the same process."

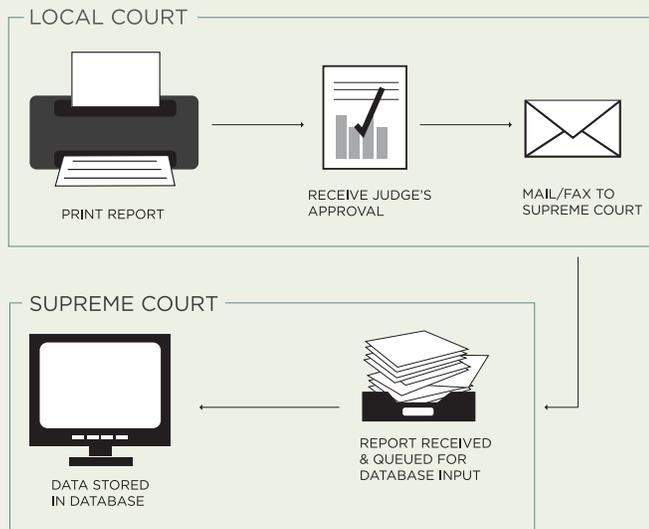
She said the only disadvantage she sees in the process is having to duplicate the reports. She was hopeful that this process could be automated in the future.

Although courts will not be required to submit their reports electronically until September 15, the Case Management Section sent letters in mid-June encouraging courts to begin using the portal now.

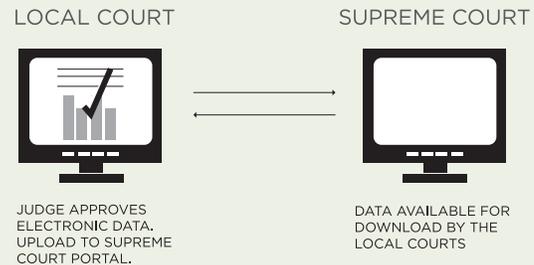
**Elizabeth W. Stephenson**, court administrator with the Tuscarawas County Common Pleas Court, General Division, said she and Clerk of Court **Jeanne Stephen** discussed the changes.

"We are eager to try the new method – although anxious about the change," Stephenson said. "One huge benefit will be the reports that we can receive back from

## CURRENT SUBMISSION PROCESS



## eSTATS SUBMISSION PROCESS



To access a frequently asked questions document about eStats, go to <http://sc.ohio.gov/JCS/casemng/statisticalReporting/eStats.pdf>. The eStats Program is available at: [ohiocourts.gov](http://ohiocourts.gov). Courts should direct questions about the electronic submission process to [casemgmt@sc.ohio.gov](mailto:casemgmt@sc.ohio.gov) or call 614.387.9410.

the Supreme Court Case Management staff and eStats portal utilizing our data. That will help us to examine our docket trends and evaluate our court using standard performance measures. I am certain that it will be a powerful tool for our court.”

To submit reports, judges or authorized staff log in to the Supreme Court’s new secure eStats Web portal and download the Excel template, which is nearly identical to the traditional, paper-based form. Courts enter data into the Excel form and upload it through the portal. This process does not require modifications to existing case management systems. Courts needing help with the process can access step-by-step instructions on how to upload a report by visiting <http://sc.ohio.gov/JCS/casemng/eStats/instructions.pdf>.

Ruth said that when fully implemented, the new system will streamline the report submission process, eliminating redundancy in data entry and allowing caseload statistics to be more readily available. This information forms the basis of the annual *Ohio Courts Statistical Report*. It also is used to analyze case-filing patterns and trends to assist local courts in managing their resources.

Currently, Case Management Section staff manually enter data from hard-copy report forms. More than 2.2 million individual points of data must be entered and reviewed each year (240 data points per each of the

2,928 Form A reports for common pleas courts’ general divisions across the state), creating the potential for erroneous data becoming part of the official database of court statistics. Directly populating the database eliminates the potential for error, Ruth said.

Under the current paper-reporting process, any errors existing within a report are not identified until after pending for a period of time in the Supreme Court’s data-entry queue. With eStats, errors are automatically identified upon electronic submission of the reports and can be corrected immediately.

Ruth said the time case management staff now spends on data entry will instead be dedicated to analysis and feedback geared toward assisting local courts in monitoring trends and improving the administration of justice.

The Case Management Section collects eight standard reporting forms from different courts in the state. Appellate courts submit two forms, one for the presiding judge of the court and another for the remaining individual judges. Municipal/county courts submit forms for the administrative judge and individual judges. The remaining four reports are for the different common pleas court divisions — Form A for general divisions, Form B for domestic relations, Form C for probate judges, and Form D for juvenile courts.

Story continues on page 11.



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

To specify that aggravated menacing, menacing by stalking, and menacing include words or conduct that are directed at or identify a corporation, association, or other organization that employs the victim or to which the victim belongs and to authorize the corporation, association, or other organization that employs two or more victims or to which two or more victims belong to seek protection orders in certain cases.

**STATUS:** Introduced in the House April 16, 2013. Passed the House on January 22, 2014 (87-0). Passed the Senate on June 3, 2014 (32-1). House concurred in Senate amendments on June 4, 2014 (79-0). Signed by the Governor on June 17, 2014. Effective September 16, 2014.

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

To authorize a judge or magistrate to order the testimony of a minor victim of trafficking in persons to be taken by closed circuit television equipment under certain circumstances; to generally prohibit the disclosure of names or other information in a routine police report that is highly likely to identify an alleged delinquent child arrestee who is abused and under 18; to specify that a public children services agency or private child placement agency is not required to make reasonable efforts to prevent the removal of a child from the child's home, eliminate the continued removal of a child from the child's home, or return a child to the child's home and that a court find that a child cannot be placed with either parent under specified circumstances; to enact the offense of commercial sexual exploitation of a minor; to remove the element of "compulsion" from the offense of trafficking in persons when a minor under 16 years of age or developmentally disabled person or in certain circumstances a minor who is 16 or 17 years of age is recruited or otherwise obtained or held to engage in certain specified sexual, nudity, or obscenity related activities and to modify the definition of human trafficking in a similar manner; to increase the penalty for soliciting when the person solicited is a minor or a developmentally disabled person in specified circumstances; to

require offenders convicted of solicitation when the person solicited is a minor or a developmentally disabled person in specified circumstances to register as sex offenders; to allow a victim of trafficking in persons to be eligible for intervention in lieu of conviction; to confirm and continue the amendments to sections 2901.13, 2907.22, and 3319.073 of the Revised Code regarding the period of limitations for trafficking in persons prosecutions, elements of the offense of promoting prostitution, and inclusion of human trafficking content in school safety and violence prevention training that were made in Am. Sub. H.B. 59 of the 130th General Assembly; to prohibit certain advertising related to massage, massage techniques or methods, or related services with the suggestion or promise of sexual activity; and to declare an emergency.

**STATUS:** Introduced in the House April 16, 2013. Passed the House June 26, 2013 (93-0). Passed the Senate on June 3, 2014 (33-0). House concurred in Senate amendments on June 4, 2014 (86-0). Signed by the Governor on June 20, 2014. Effective immediately.

### **HB 213, Rep. Dorothy Pelanda (R-Marysville); Rep. Nicholas Celebrezze (D-Parma)**

To permit a court to grant a motion for permanent custody of a child to a movant if the child or another child in the custody of the parent has been adjudicated an abused, neglected, or dependent child on three separate occasions.

**STATUS:** Introduced in the House on June 18, 2013. Substitute language passed the House on January 22, 2014 (90-0). Amended language passed in the Senate June 3, 2014 (33-0). House concurred in Senate amendments on June 16, 2014. Signed by the Governor on June 17, 2014. Effective September 16, 2014.

### **HB 309, Rep. Dorothy Pelanda (R-Marysville)**

To prohibit the taxation of interpreter's fees as court costs if the party to be taxed is indigent and require payment of the fees by the legislative authority of the court, to eliminate the requirement that

a court of common pleas evaluate the qualifications of an interpreter for a mentally retarded or developmentally disabled person before appointing the interpreter, to provide that no fee, cost, deposit, or money may be charged to a person who seeks a protection order for the modification, enforcement, dismissal, or withdrawal of a domestic violence, anti-stalking, sexually oriented offense, or other type of protection order or consent agreement or for the service of a witness subpoena, and to remove certain exemptions from the collection of additional filing fees for civil actions.

**STATUS:** Introduced in the House on October 22, 2013. Amended language passed the House on February 12, 2014 (92-0). Passed the Senate on June 4, 2014 (31-0). House concurred in Senate amendments on June 4, 2014 (93-0). Signed by the Governor on June 17, 2014. Effective September 16, 2014.

**HB 483, Rep. Ron Amstutz (R-Wooster)**

To make operating and other appropriations and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of state programs in the mid-biennium review budget. SB 336 (Sen. Gayle Manning), to convert the part-time judgeship of the Avon Lake Municipal Court into a full-time judgeship, was included in final legislation.

**STATUS:** Introduced in the House on March 18, 2014. Amended bill passed the House on April 9, 2014 (57-33). Amended bill passed the Senate on May 21, 2014 (24-8). Senate insisted on its amendments on May 28, 2014. House refused to concur in Senate amendments on May 28, 2014. Senate and House both adopted the conference committee report on June 4, 2014. Signed by the Governor on June 16, 2014. Some sections effective immediately, others effective September 15, 2014.

**SB 43, Sen. Dave Burke (R-Marysville); Sen. Charleta Tavares (D-Columbus)**

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. Amended language passed by the Senate on February 19, 2014 (32-0). Passed the House on June 3, 2014 (89-0). Senate concurred in House amendments on June 4, 2014. Signed by the Governor on June 17, 2014. Effective September 16, 2014.

**SB 143, Sen. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati); Sen. Shirley Smith (D-Cleveland)**

To permit the Attorney General to authorize the release of information relating to certain arrests and delinquent child adjudications pursuant to a request for a criminal records check; to regulate the confidentiality of personal information related to community service block grants; to clarify the authority of boards of county commissioners to establish a community alternative sentencing center; to modify the procedure for sentencing and admitting an eligible offender to a community alternative sentencing center; to clarify that an eligible offender must successfully complete any term in a center as a condition of a community residential sanction; to include the best interests of the person as a reason for which an alleged or adjudicated delinquent child who is at least 18 but younger than 21 may be held in an adult detention facility; to modify the waiting period for making a motion or application for the sealing of a juvenile court record of a person who is 18 years of age or older; to reaffirm that BCII is a public office or agency for purposes of notification of a delinquency record-sealing order; to specify that most identifying information that relates to the admission and confinement in an adult detention facility of a person under 21 generally is confidential; to clarify a court's authority to commit a delinquent child to the Department of Youth Services for a violation of supervised release; to authorize a court to order restitution if a person convicted of driving under suspension or driving under financial-responsibility-law suspension or cancellation fails to

provide proof of financial responsibility; to authorize a person charged with multiple offenses in connection with the same act to apply for the sealing of records pertaining to an acquitted charge; to modify the requirements regarding testing for HIV of persons charged with specified sex offense; to increase the sentence of imprisonment that disqualifies an inmate from participating in the prison nursery program; to remove the cap of 40 hours per month and give a court discretion in setting the amount of credit for community service ordered for failure to pay a criminal court cost judgment; to authorize a court that receives or is forwarded a petition for a certificate of qualification for employment to direct the clerk of court to process and record all required notices; to include persons convicted twice of the same misdemeanor as eligible offenders for purposes of sealing records of the convictions; to provide a qualified immunity in specified circumstances to a government official who mistakenly releases information from a sealed or expunged record; and to clarify the application of the Conviction Record Sealing Law to individual convictions and bail forfeitures.

**STATUS:** Introduced in the Senate June 12, 2013. Amended language passed the Senate on November 19, 2013 (31-2). Amended language passed the House on June 4, 2014 (80-5). Senate concurred in House amendments on June 4, 2014. Signed by the Governor on June 20, 2014. Effective September 19, 2014.

**SB 261, Sen. Kevin Bacon (R-Columbus); Sen. Gayle Manning (R-North Ridgeville)**

To provide that a person who recklessly violates a protection order issued upon a petition alleging that the person committed an act of domestic violence, menacing by stalking, or a sexually oriented offense, is guilty of the offense of violating a protection order if the person has actual notice of the protection order, notwithstanding that the person has not been served with a copy of the protection order, to increase



## Conferences & Meetings

July 14 – 16

**Association of Municipal/County Judges of Ohio (AMCJO) Summer Conference**  
Member Judges, Huron

July 15 & 16

**Ohio Clerks of Court Association Conference**  
occaohio.com

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### LOCAL COURT ROUNDTABLES

[sc.ohio.gov/JCS](http://sc.ohio.gov/JCS)

August 1

**Municipal Administrators, Urban Courts**  
Urban Counties

August 5

**Municipal/County Administrators & Clerks, Large Courts**  
More than 70K Population

August 7

**Municipal/County Administrators & Clerks, Rural Courts**  
41K or Less Population

# 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

[judicialeducation.ohio.gov](http://judicialeducation.ohio.gov)

July 8

**Probation Officer Training Program: Intro to Motivational Interviewing (016)**

Probation Officers, Toledo

July 9

**Guardian ad Litem Continuing Education Course: Divorce: The Impact on Children - What a GAL Needs to Know**

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

July 10

**Guardian ad Litem Continuing Education Course: Divorce: The Impact on Children - What a GAL Needs to Know**

Guardians ad Litem, Athens  
8:30 a.m. to Noon

July 15

**Probation Officer Training Program: Intro to Assessment & Case Planning (013)**

Probation Officers, Akron

July 17

**Your Best Self at Work: Managing Your Words, Your Time, and Your Interactions (1 of 2)**

Court Personnel, Columbus

July 18

**Your Best Self at Work: Managing Your Words, Your Time, and Your Interactions (2 of 2)**

Court Personnel, Columbus

July 22

**Probation Officer Training Program: Intro to Motivational Interviewing (016)**

Probation Officers, Columbus

July 24

**Search Drills for Adult Probation Officers**

Adult Probation Officers  
London

July 24 & 25

**Certified Court Manager Seminar**  
Court Managers  
Location TBA

July 25

**Search Drills for Juvenile Probation Officers**

Juvenile Probation Officers  
London

July 29

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

July 30

**Guardian ad Litem Continuing Education Course: Report Writing**  
Guardians ad Litem, Youngstown  
8:30 a.m. to Noon

August 5

**Probation Officer Training Program: Professional Communication – Oral & Written Communication Skills (014)**  
Probation Officers  
Dayton/Beavercreek

August 6

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

## Dispute Resolution Training

[sc.ohio.gov/JCS/disputeResolution](http://sc.ohio.gov/JCS/disputeResolution)

July 17 & 18

**Basic Mediation/Uniform Mediation Act Training**  
Columbus

July 31 – August 2 and August 8 & 9

**Forty-hour Specialized Family or Divorce Mediation Training**  
Cincinnati  
[partnersinmediation.com](http://partnersinmediation.com)  
\$850 fee

## Language Services Training

[sc.ohio.gov/JCS/interpreterSvcs](http://sc.ohio.gov/JCS/interpreterSvcs)

July 11 & 12

**Modes of Interpretation for Oral Exam Candidates**  
Columbus

## Supreme Court of Ohio

[sc.ohio.gov](http://sc.ohio.gov)

July 4

**State Holiday – Court Offices will be Closed**

July 8 & 9

**Oral Arguments**

July 15

**Mayor's Courts Statistical Report Deadline for Second Quarter**

July 29 – 31

**Administration of the July Bar Exam**

August 15

**Late Application Deadline to Register as a Candidate for the February 2015 Bar Exam**

## Miscellaneous

July 1 – July 18

**National Judicial College Webinar – Ethics and Judging: Reaching Higher Ground**

No cost  
CJE credits available  
[judges.org](http://judges.org)

August 5

**Ohio Community Corrections Association**  
“Try It on for Size – The Importance of Role Play in Skill Acquisition”  
Columbus  
[occaonline.org](http://occaonline.org)

**eStats: Story continued from page 7.**

As for the next courts to submit their reports electronically, Ruth said domestic relations divisions of common pleas courts will file their Form B reports online. Juvenile divisions of common pleas courts will follow and so on, she said.

While the eStats program is rolling out in stages now, Ohio's 300-some mayor's courts have had the ability to file their statistics electronically through a dedicated portal since late 2003. Some of the same benefits to be realized with the eStats program have already occurred through the use of the mayor's court portal.

Both initiatives adhere to Chief Justice **Maureen O'Connor's** push for more electronic transactions between local courts and the Supreme Court.

“Quick, easy, reliable access to data is essential for the Supreme Court to do its job, just as it is for local courts around Ohio,” Chief Justice O'Connor said. “Part of instilling trust and confidence in courts is transparency in our operations, and the eStats program furthers this goal.”

**Leg. Digest: Continued from page 9.**

the penalty for violating a protection order or consent agreement issued or entered into in order to protect a family or household member from domestic violence, and to require law enforcement agencies to enter certain protection orders into the National Crime Information Center Protection Order File.

**STATUS:** Introduced in the Senate on January 2, 2014. Passed the Senate on March 12, 2014 (32-0). Amended language passed the House June 4, 2014 (89-0). Senate refused to concur in House amendments on June 4, 2014. Conference committee to convene at a later date.

# ON THE BENCH

## Judicial Appointments

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



**Amy L. Searcy**  
Hamilton County  
Domestic Relations Court

**Amy L. Searcy** took the bench on June 2. She replaced Judge **Elizabeth B. Mattingly**, who resigned. Searcy must win in the November general election to retain the seat for the full term commencing July 1, 2015.

Searcy worked as a Hamilton County public defender and a magistrate for the Hamilton County Municipal Court. She served as the deputy director for the Hamilton County Board of Elections from 2009 until 2012, when she assumed the director's post.



**Robert N. Rusu**  
Mahoning County Probate Court

Canfield Mayor's Court magistrate **Robert N. Rusu Jr.** will take the bench this month, replacing Judge **Mark A. Belinky**, who resigned. Rusu must win in the November general election to retain the seat for the full term commencing February 9, 2015.

Rusu is the co-owner and managing partner of Lane & Rusu Co. L.P.A. and serves as corporate legal counsel for Lane Funeral Home Inc./ Lane Lifetrans Inc. In addition, Rusu serves as chairman of the Court Consolidation Committee of the Mahoning County Bar Association.

## Warhola Moves on to November Guernsey County Ballot

After an automatic recount May 29 by the Guernsey County Board of Elections, **Andrew J. Warhola Jr.** will face off with **David B. Bennett** in the November general election for Guernsey County Probate/Juvenile Court judge.

According to Board of Elections Director **Sandra K. Miller**, the recount confirmed a nine-vote winning margin in the May 6 Democratic primary for the judgeship. Warhola received 930 votes to 921 for **Kent D. Biegler**.

Warhola and Bennett are seeking to replace retiring Judge **Robert S. Moorehead Jr.**, who is prevented from running again due to the constitutional age restriction.

## Quick Legal Reference Developed for Ohio Probate Judges

Ohio probate judges and magistrates now have bench cards available on a variety of legal issues that come before them.

The 16 bench cards cover topics related to estate, adoption, and guardianship law. Copies were distributed June 18 in Columbus at the 2014 Conference of the Ohio Associations of Probate, Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court Judges, which feature a speech from Chief Justice **Maureen O'Connor**.

Supreme Court staff developed the bench cards in cooperation with the Ohio Association of Probate Judges and past president Judge **Kathleen L. Giesler** of the Ottawa County Probate and Juvenile Court.

"Ohio has 62 combined jurisdictions that preside over both juvenile and probate matters, with a wide range of legal issues that affect children and families," Judge Giesler said. "The new bench cards will provide us with a tremendous tool to provide comprehensive and timely judicial decisions."

Additional support for development of the bench cards was provided by Montgomery County Probate Court Chief Magistrate **David M. Farmer**, former Licking County Probate Court Chief Deputy Clerk **Bill Fisher**, Cuyahoga County Probate Court Magistrate **Roseanne Hilow**, Cuyahoga County Probate Court Administrator and Magistrate **John R. Homolak**, **Samuel A. Peppers III** of Dinsmore & Shohl LLP, Hamilton County Probate Court Chief Magistrate and Administrator **Paul D. Rattermann**, and Shelby County Probate Court Chief Deputy Clerk **Tricia Rosengarten**.

Download the bench cards at [www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/JCS/CFC/resources/probateBenchCards/default.asp](http://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/JCS/CFC/resources/probateBenchCards/default.asp).