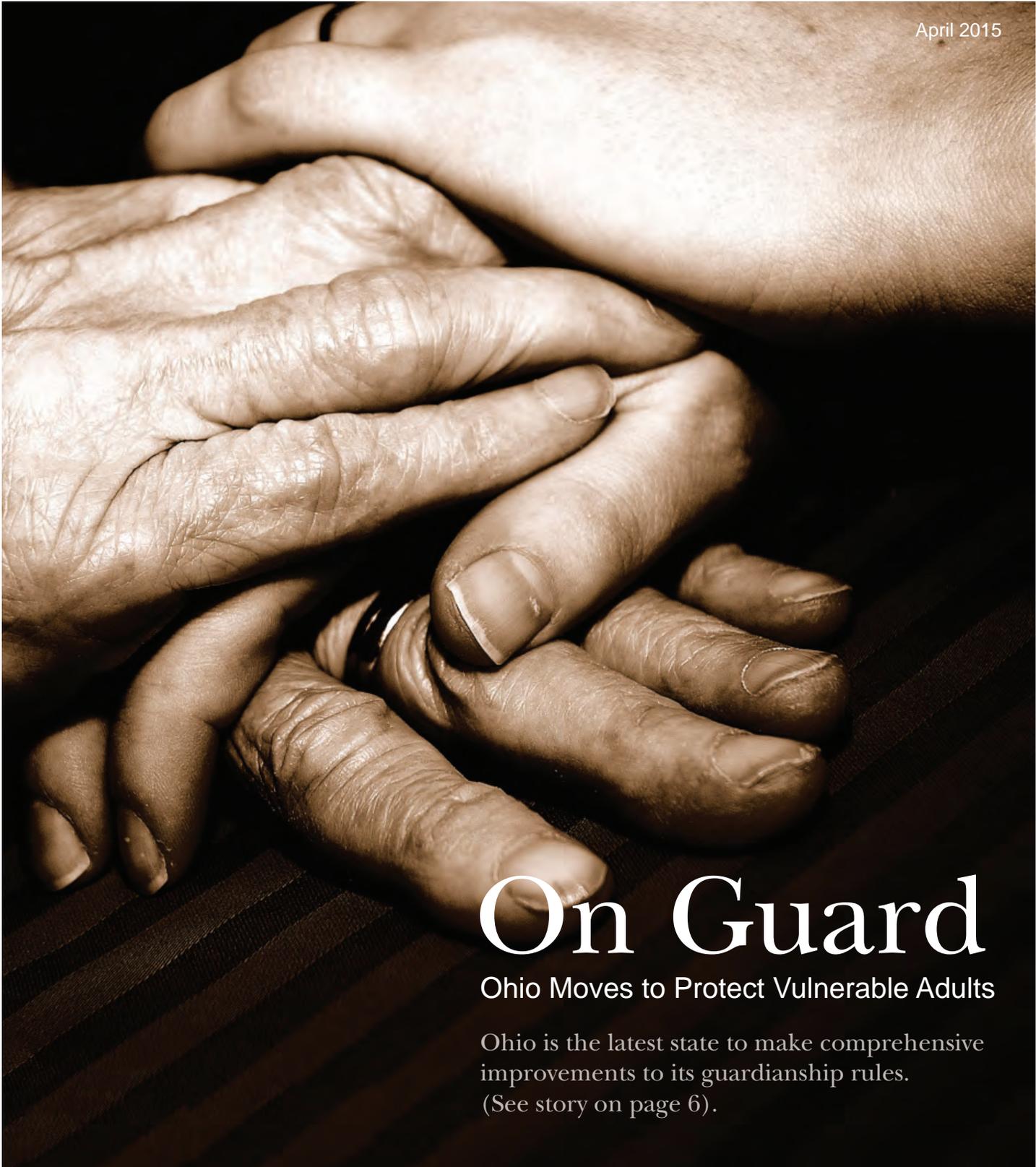


CNO REVIEW

April 2015



On Guard

Ohio Moves to Protect Vulnerable Adults

Ohio is the latest state to make comprehensive improvements to its guardianship rules.
(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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Visit courtnews.ohio.gov for the most current decisions from the Ohio Supreme Court, Courts of Appeals, and Court of Claims.

Supreme Court of Ohio

Columbus Judge Reprimanded for Comments to Jury

On March 11, the Supreme Court publicly reprimanded Judge **Amelia (Amy) Salerno** of the Franklin County Municipal Court for remarks she made to a jury after a not-guilty verdict. Following a criminal trial, Judge Salerno told the jurors that the verdict in the case was wrong. In a unanimous decision, the Supreme Court concluded that Judge Salerno violated two judicial conduct rules – one requiring judges to behave in ways to promote the judiciary’s integrity and impartiality, and another that bars judges from commenting on jury verdicts except in a court order or opinion.

Ohio State Bar Assn. v. Salerno
Slip Opinion No. 2015-Ohio-791

Callback from 911 Operator is Public Record

The Supreme Court on March 19 ruled 6-1 that the recording of a 911 dispatcher’s outbound, return call is a public record. In the Butler County case, when the dispatcher returned a call to a previous 911 caller, the man who answered the phone said he stabbed his stepfather. The county prosecutor subsequently refused the *Cincinnati Enquirer’s* request for the outbound call’s recording and asked for and received a protective order from Judge **Michael Sage** to block the release of the call. The *Enquirer* sought a writ of mandamus from the Twelfth District Court of Appeals, and a few days before the trial, Judge Sage, of the Butler County Common Pleas Court, released the recording.

The appeals court granted the writ and awarded statutory damages to the newspaper. Justice **Judith L. French** stated the return call from the 911 operator meets the definition of a public record. Further, she ruled the protective order served only to saddle the *Enquirer* with more litigation costs. The court remanded the case to the Twelfth District to decide an attorney-fee award.

State ex rel. Cincinnati Enquirer v. Sage
Slip Opinion No. 2015-Ohio-974.

Courts of Appeals

Eighth District: Cuyahoga County Rape Conviction Reversed

Despite being found guilty by a Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court jury in 2013, and sentenced to 5 to 25 years in prison, Roosevelt Martin argued in an appeal that the indictment exceeded the 20-year limit for a rape offense and that the limit is only extended if the accused purposely tries to avoid prosecution. The Eighth District Court of Appeals agreed, and on March 5 overturned Martin’s conviction and sentence. Martin was indicted after the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation tested a 20-year-old rape kit from a March 1993 rape and kidnapping case and found the DNA matched to Martin. Judge **Eileen T. Gallagher** stated Martin’s actions, including returning to his home in Illinois after the police finished their investigation, could not be characterized as flight to avoid prosecution. Judge **Frank D. Celebreeze Jr.** dissented.

State v. Martin
2015-Ohio-761

Second District: Slurred Speech, Medications Not Enough Evidence to Convict Man for OVI and Child Endangerment

On March 4, the Second District Court of Appeals overturned a Montgomery County man’s OVI and child endangerment sentence following an October 2012 car crash in which the at-fault driver said he was taking pain medication. At the scene of the accident, the driver whose car was rear-ended noticed Clinton Richardson’s speech was slurred and also witnessed a child in his car. The responding police officer found Richardson to be incoherent. Writing for the appellate court, Judge **Jeffrey E. Froelich** stated there was no evidence linking Richardson’s impairment to drug abuse and there was insufficient evidence to convict him. Judge **Michael T. Hall** dissented.

State v. Richardson
2015-Ohio-757

Court of Claims

University Hospital Settles for \$225,000 in Medical Malpractice Case

The Ohio Court of Claims approved a \$225,000 settlement on Feb. 27 from the University of Toledo Medical Center to a Toledo woman, who, in November 2012, received vocal cord injuries resulting in the loss of her voice and ability to breathe on her own. The attorney for Ann M. Higgs said the hospital failed to adequately advise Higgs of the surgical risks that led to her injuries. The medical center did not admit to any wrongdoing.

Ann M. Higgs v. University of Toledo Medical Center, Case No. 2013-00576

HappeningNow

News and Notes from Courthouses Across the Buckeye State

Interpreters Receive Court Certification



Language has no barriers in courts across the Buckeye state thanks to these court interpreters who became certified by the Ohio Supreme Court on March 10.

For **Diana López-Alérs**, the certificate means her language interpreter services used in Warren County are validated.

“It gives you credibility about your profession, the job that you are doing. It tells everyone that you are qualified to do the job,” López-Alérs said. “That you have gone through an extensive training to be able to do this job and not just speak two languages well.”

The Supreme Court, through its Language Services Program, began certifying court interpreters in 2010. In January 2013, all Ohio courts were required to use a certified language or sign language interpreter during court proceedings when available to ensure equal access to justice to all deaf and limited English proficient individuals.

Born in New York, López-Alérs moved to Puerto Rico at a young age and considers Spanish as her first language. She first moved to Ohio in the mid-80s and started interpreting for the court system in 2009.

“It’s very rewarding,” López-Alérs said. “You’re guiding them about the process in court. Most people don’t know how the court works.”

López-Alérs was just one of nearly two dozen interpreters who passed written and oral tests in 2014 and 2015 in seven different languages.

Justyna Ragiel-Smith became the first Polish certified interpreter in the state and is just one of 14 in the country.

“I’m very proud of it. It feels great,” Ragiel-Smith said. “I just fell in love with it – the whole settings, the court register– and I just realized it’s a very interesting thing to do and also to help people who can feel comfortable in court settings. I’d be happy to help them.”

Chief Justice **Maureen O’Connor** commended the interpreters and said the Supreme Court is committed to supporting their important work.

Supreme Court Hires Judicial College Director



There’s a new leader in charge of educational programs and activities for Ohio judges. The Ohio Supreme Court

welcomed **Christy Tull** as director of the Ohio Judicial College on March 1.

Tull is no stranger to the Supreme Court as she has worked with the Judicial College since 1997. She most recently served as the College’s interim director since Sept. 1, 2014, and prior to that, she served as manager of curriculum development.

“I am appreciative of the opportunity to serve as director alongside a fantastic team of colleagues as we continue to serve the judiciary and public,” Tull said.

Tull has more than 27 years of education experience. Prior to coming to the court, she worked at the Center for Law-Related Education and the Legislative Office of Education Oversight.

“Christy’s extensive experience in judicial education makes her the perfect fit as director for the Judicial College,” Chief Justice **Maureen O’Connor** said. “We are pleased that she’s continuing to lead this division for the court.”

Tull received her bachelor’s degree in speech communication from Albion College and her master’s degree in public policy and management from The Ohio State University. She also holds the Certified Court Manager credentials from the Institute for Court Management.

Story continues on page 9.

First-Time Mock Trial Champions Take Home Trophy



The Westerville North High School mock trial team hoists the trophy while celebrating their victory at the 32nd annual High School Mock Trial Competition.

More than 300 high school students from 32 teams competed during a three-day period, with one team emerging victorious.

Westerville North High School defeated Ashland High School to win the 32nd annual High School Mock Trial Competition on March 14. It was the first time a Westerville North team won the mock trial final.

“For us to be the first people to actually win it, let alone get here, it was breathtaking, unbelievable, nerve-wracking, and crazy,” Westerville North’s **Amy Cox** said after the competition.

Her teammate, **Matthew Spadarow**, was named the outstanding witness. As to the key to their victory, Spadarow said: “It was definitely all the preparation for this. Having attorney coaches and teacher coaches like we have is just amazing.”

Students had to prepare arguments for both the plaintiff and defense for a case focused on the Eighth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution that prohibits cruel and unusual punishment.

“I have learned so much. I have so much more confidence in public speaking – all aspects. Even if I don’t go into law, the lessons I’ve learned are incredible,” **Jacqueline Kloos** of Westerville North said of her mock trial experience.

Ohio Mock Trial is a program put on by the Ohio Center for Law-Related Education and is Ohio’s largest high school academic competition. More than 3,500 students participate each year, and approximately 1,000 legal professionals volunteer to serve as judges and team advisors.

Westerville North will represent Ohio at the National High School Mock Trial Championship May 14-16 in Raleigh, N.C.

The entire final competition can be viewed on The Ohio Channel (www.ohiochannel.org).

Court Technology Grant Application Deadline: May 15, 2015

There’s still time to apply for technology grant funds to support local court technology projects that aid in removing barriers to efficient and effective administration of justice. 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.

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 at www.sc.ohio.gov/grants. Questions? Contact **Colleen Rosshirt**, Case Management Counsel, at techgrant@sc.ohio.gov.

Nearly 400 Take Ohio Bar Exam

The Ohio Supreme Court administered the bar examination Feb. 24-26 to 397 aspiring lawyers at the Greater Columbus Convention Center.

April 24 is the next date circled on the calendar for those who took the exam. That’s when results will be released by the Supreme Court Office of Bar Admissions on the court’s website. An admission ceremony for the successful examinees who meet all other admission requirements will be on May 4 at the Ohio Theatre in Columbus.

The next bar exam will be administered July 28-30 at the Roberts Centre near Wilmington.



On Guard

Ohio Moves to Protect Vulnerable Adults

Americans are living longer. In fact, the fastest-growing segment of the American population is comprised of those 85 and older, according to the U.S. Census. Among this group, the number of individuals with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, and adults with intellectual disabilities is also on the rise, according to the World Health Organization. Consequently, the need to assist those no longer able to make critical decisions for themselves has led to a greater need to rely on adult guardianships.

Ohio is the latest state to make comprehensive improvements to its guardianship rules. On June 1, the Ohio Supreme Court's nine new rules for protecting the state's vulnerable adults take effect. The court approved rules 66.01 through 66.09 of the Rules of Superintendence for the Courts of Ohio that were recommended by its Advisory Committee on Children and Families.

"The result of countless hours of work from the committee members are rules that will align Ohio with standards set by the National Guardianship Association in adult guardianship cases and raise the level of professionalism among our guardians," Chief Justice **Maureen O'Connor** said. "We know this has been a long process, but we have never lost sight that the ultimate goal is to provide our probate courts with

effective means to ensure the safety and well-being of people who need our protection."

The Ohio Association of Probate Judges was a prominent participant on the committee advising the court. The county probate judges will be charged with implementing the new rules in their jurisdictions throughout the state. Each of Ohio's 88 counties has a probate court, and there are 95 probate judges. Five counties have two probate judges, Cuyahoga, Champaign, Logan, Marion, and Morrow; and Erie County has three.

"I think the impact of the new rules will be quite significant in many respects. First, it is a reminder to all probate judges of the serious responsibilities we have to protect wards as the court is the superior guardian in all cases," said Pickaway County Probate and Juvenile Judge **Jan Michael Long**.

Judge Long is the president-elect of the probate judges association and said the association will work with the Ohio Judicial College to train judges on the new rules so they can begin implementation.

"These new rules are perhaps one benchmark in an ongoing process to improve upon our guardianship laws. The rules undoubtedly will continue to be a work in progress, and as its implementation occurs throughout the state, (the process) will be subject to suggestions for positive changes to it that will improve its administration," he said.

The Case for New Rules

The concern about the ability to provide suitable guardians has been ongoing for many years across the United States. The U.S. Government Accountability Office reported in 2010 that it identified hundreds of allegations of abuse, neglect, and exploitation by guardians in 45 states and the District of Columbia. A *Columbus Dispatch* survey of Ohio's county probate courts found about 65,000 adult Ohioans have a guardian.

The court published the Advisory Committee on Children and Families' draft rules for Ohio in May 2014, seeking public comment. It received more than 100 pages of written comments from judicial officers, attorneys, social service providers and others.

Certified Master Guardian **Julia R. Nack**, who is past president of the National Guardianship Association, served on the committee. She described the rules as a good step forward as Ohio moves toward adopting best practices in guardianship. Nack is one of two Ohioans nationally certified as a master guardian and is the volunteer guardian program director for the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging.

"There are many other positive changes that will bring consistency across Ohio in how the courts administer adult guardianships. It is important now for Ohio lawmakers to take up the issue of guardianship and provide the courts with the statutory and financial support they need to make these changes effective," Nack said.

Some of the key provisions of the rules include:

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

Guardians who fail to comply will be ineligible for new appointments.

The new rules were lauded by the *Dispatch*, which recently produced a series on the deficiencies in the current state system, noting that Ohio had no statewide minimum expectations for how guardians carry out their responsibilities. Finding that some of the "worst cases of exploitation by guardians have involved family members," a March 15 *Dispatch* editorial found applying the rules to family members was important.

The newspaper noted one reason the state was hesitant to develop strict guardian standards was that probate judges, who are responsible for finding guardians, sometimes have trouble finding family members willing to serve as guardians and were concerned that more-demanding standards might lead to even fewer agreeing to do it.

"When a court takes away a person's autonomy, that person should be guaranteed protections. The new guardianship standards, at long last, provide some of that protection," the *Dispatch* editorial said.

Launching Education Requirements

Rules 66.06 and 66.07 include a one-time mandatory course on the fundamentals of adult guardianship and a continuing-education requirement for guardians.

To assist guardians in meeting the requirements of these new rules, the Ohio Judicial College is developing two offerings of the fundamentals course, one for attorneys and non-attorney professional guardians, and the other one for lay-person guardians (e.g. family member guardians). The Judicial College said the six-hour fundamentals courses will be:

- Aligned with the new rules
- Provided free of charge

- Delivered regionally and monthly
- Made available online by the end of 2015.

The three-hour continuing education seminars will also be developed and available annually, delivered regionally, and provided at no charge beginning in the first quarter of 2016.

By the end of April 2015, fundamentals course dates and locations, registration, and other information will be posted on the Judicial College's website.

Regarding actions in his county, Judge Long said not only will he be trained on the new rules, but the court staff will be as well.

Along with emergency procedures and a complaint process, the local courts will need to establish, by local rule, compensation to be paid to guardians, and all courts will need to assure that background checks are performed and also be vigilant to ensure guardians comply with the mandatory educational requirements.

Judge Long suspects the Supreme Court's Probate Court Standard Forms Committee will examine the necessity of preparing new Standard Probate Forms or revising existing forms to implement some of these changes. The courts also are expected to promote the rules to inform local attorneys and family members serving as guardians about the new expectations.

"We will be posting notices on our court website and in the courthouse, as well as our office, about the educational training necessary for guardians," Judge Long said. "I contemplate making an appropriate announcement to our local bar about the new rule."

The Supreme Court is also providing its support to implement the program. In March, **Kevin Duerler** joined the court as a program coordinator in the Office of Judicial Services, where he will provide support for all aspects of the Adult Guardianship Education Program.



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 6, Rep. Sarah LaTourette (R-Chagrin Falls); Rep. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard)

To extend the period of limitations for commencing a rape or sexual battery prosecution against a person who is implicated in the offense by DNA analysis.

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

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. Its third committee hearing was March 17, 2015.

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 and referred to the House Judiciary Committee on Jan. 28, 2015. Reported out of committee during its second committee hearing on March 3, 2015. Passed the House on March 17, 2015 (93-0).

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. Amended language approved and reported out of committee during its third hearing. Passed the House on March 17, 2015 (95-0).

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 a guardian to receive the Ohio Guardianship Guide, and to make an appropriation.

STATUS: Introduced in the House and referred to the House Community & Family Advancement Committee on Feb. 10, 2015. Its third committee hearing was on March 17, 2015.

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

To change the sentence for aggravated murder.

STATUS: Introduced in the House and referred to the House Judiciary Committee on Feb. 11, 2015. Its third committee hearing was March 10, 2015.

SB 50, Sen. Michael Skindell (D-Lakewood)

To allow any person or entity that registers with the secretary of state to solemnize marriages.

STATUS: Introduced in the Senate on Feb. 11, 2015, and referred to the Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee.

**SB 76, Sen. Kevin Bacon
(R-Minerva Park); Sen. Gayle
Manning (R-North Ridgeville)**

To provide that service of a protection order or consent agreement upon a person is not necessary for the person to be convicted of the offense of violating a protection order if the person had actual notice of the order or agreement and the person recklessly violated its terms.

STATUS: Introduced in the Senate on Feb. 23, 2015, and referred to the Senate Criminal Justice Committee. Its first committee hearing was on March 11, 2015.

**SB 83, Sen. Sandra Williams
(D-Cleveland)**

To establish an address confidentiality program for individuals who reasonably believe they are in danger of being threatened or physically harmed by another person, to exclude the residential and familial information of a federal law enforcement officer from the definition of a public record, to include federal law enforcement officers among the protected individuals who are authorized to request a public office other than the county auditor to redact the person's address from any record made available to the general public on the Internet, and to include those officers among the protected individuals who may request the county auditor to replace the person's name with the person's initials on the general tax list and duplicate.

STATUS: Introduced in the Senate on Feb. 23, 2015, and referred to the Senate State & Local Government Committee.



Rule Amendment Summary

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

Professional Conduct Rule Amendments

The Supreme Court adopted amendments to the Ohio Rules of Professional Conduct concerning technology, confidentiality, client development, client solicitation, and other matters. The rules take effect April 1. An update to the American Bar Association's Model Rules of Professional Conduct spurred the changes.

They include:

- Requiring lawyers to maintain competency regarding the risks and benefits of technology (Rule 1.1), including preventing the unauthorized disclosure of confidential client information (Rule 1.6).
- Revising Rule 4.4 (Rights of Third Persons) to add electronically stored information.
- Modifying Rules 7.1, 7.2, and 7.3 (Lawyer Advertising) to reflect advertising and solicitations via the Internet and in electronic format.
- Amending Rule 7.3 to prohibit the solicitation of potential clients who are minors or who are unable to make informed decisions regarding representation.

Judicial Emergencies Rule

Updates to Ohio law and Rule 14 of the Rules of Superintendence for the Courts of Ohio went into effect March 23 to help local courts that must temporarily relocate outside their territorial jurisdiction during emergencies.

The changes include:

- The administrative judge of the court or division is permitted to issue an order authorizing the court or division to operate at a temporary location either inside or outside its territorial jurisdiction.
- While the court or division operates at the temporary location, it continues to have its normal territorial jurisdiction and has jurisdiction to hear actions and conduct proceedings the same as if it were operating within its territorial jurisdiction.

COURT INTERPRETERS | Continued from page 4.

"It really is an institution that we've developed here and it is not only an institution for Ohio, but it's recognized nationally for what we do in training interpreters. It's used as a model, and we're very proud of that," Chief Justice O'Connor said.

There are currently 76 court certified interpreters across Ohio and a new group began their testing cycle last month, which will bring a new certified class next year.



Conferences & Meetings

April 7

**Ohio Judicial Conference
Court Technology Conference**
ohiojudges.org
Columbus

April 23 & 24

**Ohio Community Corrections
Association 14th Annual
Conference: “Re-Integration:
Conquering Recidivism”**
occaonline.org
Dublin

April 24

**Ohio Jury Management
Association Jury Services
Conference**
ohiojury.org
Columbus

April 29 – May 1

**Ohio Association of
Magistrates Spring Conference**
ohiomagistrates.org
Member Magistrates
Cambridge

April 29 – May 1

**Ohio State Bar Association
Annual Convention**
ohiobar.org
Sandusky

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

April 7

**Probation Officer Training Program:
Introduction to Motivational
Interviewing**
Probation Officers
Dayton/Beavercreek

April 14

**Guardian ad Litem Continuing
Education Course: Understanding
Child Development**
Guardians ad Litem, Ashland
1 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Probation Officer Training Program:
Introduction to Assessment and Case
Planning**

Probation Officers, Toledo/Perrysburg

April 15

**Guardian ad Litem Continuing
Education Course: Understanding
Child Development**
Guardians ad Litem, Ashland
8:30 a.m. – Noon

April 15 – 17

**Court Management Program
(CMP) Level II, Module I: Essential
Components**
CMP 2017 Class, Columbus

April 16 & 17

Capital Cases
Judges, Columbus

April 21

Basic Defensive Tactics (1 of 2)
Probation Officers, London

April 21

**Probation Officer Training Program:
Introduction to Motivational
Interviewing**
Probation Officers, Akron/Fairlawn

**Understanding Our Community:
Communicating Effectively with All
Court Users**
Court Personnel, Columbus

April 22

Advanced Defensive Tactics (1 of 2)
Probation Officers, London

April 23

Interpreter Course
Judges, Magistrates & Court Personnel
Columbus

April 24

Domestic Relations Spring Seminar
Judges & Magistrates, Columbus

When Your Case is in the News

Judges, Court Personnel
& Jury Managers
Columbus

April 28

**Probation Officer Training Program:
Introduction to Assessment and Case
Planning**
Probation Officers, Columbus

April 29

**Guardian ad Litem Continuing
Education Course: The GAL Interview**
Guardians ad Litem, Columbus
1 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

April 30

Guardian ad Litem Continuing Education Course: The GAL Interview
Guardians ad Litem, Columbus
8:30 a.m. – Noon

May 4 – 7

New Judges Orientation, Part II
New Judges, Columbus

May 4 – 8

Firearms Qualification Course
Probation Officers, London

May 5

Probation Officer Training Program: Introduction to Offender Skill Building
Probation Officers
Dayton/Beavercreek

Children & Families Training Events

sc.ohio.gov/JCS/CFC

April 21

Safe and Together Regional Judicial Meeting
Juvenile Judges & Judge-Led County Teams
Dayton/Beavercreek

April 22

Safe and Together Regional Judicial Meeting
Juvenile Judges & Judge-Led County Teams
Columbus

Language Services Events

sc.ohio.gov/JCS/interpreterSvc

April 24 & 25

Orientation Training for Certification Written Exam
Columbus

May 9

Interpreter Ethics
Cleveland

Dispute Resolution Training

sc.ohio.gov/JCS/disputeResolution

April 30

Conceptualize Parenting, Consensualize Parenting Plans
Columbus

Supreme Court of Ohio

sc.ohio.gov

April 15

Mayor's Court Quarterly Report Deadline (First Quarter, 2015)

April 24

February 2015 Bar Exam Results Announced

May 5 & 6

Oral Arguments

Miscellaneous

April 10

Ohio Community Corrections Graduated/Advanced Practice in CBT for Community Correction
occaonline.org
Columbus

April 15 – 17

Ohio Center for Law-Related Education Middle School Mock Trial
ocle.org
Thomas J. Moyer Ohio Judicial Center
Columbus

April 23 & 24

Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association Spring Training
ohiopa.org

April 23 – 25

Ohio Court Reporters Association Realtime and Captioning Training (Boot Camp Workshop)
ocraonline.com
Springfield

Court Rountable Meetings

All Meetings at Moyer Judicial Center in Columbus

April 9

Juvenile Court Administrators
Midsized & Rural Courts

April 10

General Division Court Administrators
Urban Courts

Juvenile Chief Probation Officers Conference

Courts in Counties of Less than 100K in Population

April 23

General Division Court Administrators
Midsized Courts/Courts with 1 to 5 Judges

April 28

Juvenile Court Chief Deputy Clerks
Midsized & Urban Courts with Population of More than 60K

May 1

Common Pleas Court Judges
Rural Courts

May 7

Domestic Relations Court Magistrates
Rural & Midsized Counties

May 8

Probate Court Administrators & Clerks
Midsized & Rural Counties

ON THE BENCH

Courts Still Most Trusted Branch of Government

Voters continue to have more confidence in the court system than any other branch of government, according to a national survey released by the National Center for State Courts (NCSC).

“Total confidence” figures in the State of the State Courts survey put the U.S. Supreme Court at 71 percent, the state court system at 68 percent, the executive branch at 52 percent, and legislative branch at 41 percent.

The survey of 1,000 registered voters last November found that public perceptions of the courts rose across the board compared to an NCSC survey in April 2012, including an 8 percent increase in the number of people who think courts are fair and impartial.

The survey also showed there’s a strong demand for greater availability of online services, especially among those under 40 years old. Ohio courts are already using technology to enhance service to the public, including online access to court records and electronic payment of court costs and fines.

Key findings of the 2014 survey:

71 PERCENT Agree with the statement that courts in their state “treat people with dignity and respect.”

46 PERCENT Agree that state court judges make decisions based more on their own beliefs and political pressure.

72 PERCENT Who had direct interaction with the courts said they were satisfied with fairness of the process.

Judicial Appointments

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



Shane Leuthold
Crawford County Municipal Court

Shane Leuthold began his judicial service on March 30, replacing his brother, **Sean Leuthold**, who was elected to the Crawford County Court of Common Pleas. Shane must win in the November 2015 municipal court general election to retain the seat for the remainder of the unexpired term, which ends Dec. 31, 2019.



Peter J. Stautberg
First District Court of Appeals

Stautberg begins his judgeship on April 20, 2015, and must win in November 2016 to retain the seat for the remainder of the unexpired term, which ends Feb. 9, 2019. He replaces Judge **Patrick T. Dinkelacker**, who was elected to the Hamilton County Common Pleas Court.



Sean V. McCarthy
Franklin County Common Pleas Court

McCarthy began his judicial service on March 16, 2015, and will serve for the remainder of the unexpired term, which ends July 1, 2015. He replaces Judge **Timothy S. Horton**, who was elected to the Tenth District Court of Appeals.



Megan E. Shanahan
Hamilton County Common Pleas Court

Judge Shanahan, previously on the Hamilton County Municipal Court, begins service in the common pleas court on April 13, 2015. She must win in November 2016 to retain her seat for the full term commencing Jan. 15, 2017. She replaces Judge **Ralph Winkler**, who was elected to the Hamilton County Probate Court.



Jeffrey L. Dean
Bedford Municipal Court

Dean began his judicial service on March 23, 2015. He must win in the November 2015 general election to retain the seat for the full term commencing Jan. 1, 2016. Dean replaces Judge **Harry J. Jacob III**, who retired.