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CNO REVIEW

March 2016



In Their Own **HANDS**

A new program allows youth to be involved in their foster care placement plans. **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 (CNOTV), a Facebook page (facebook.com/courtnewsOhio), a Twitter feed (@courtnewsOhio), and a YouTube channel (youtube.com/CourtNewsOhioTV).

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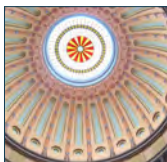


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Supreme Court of Ohio

Sale of State Prison Constitutional

The sale of a state prison to a private corporation did not violate the Ohio Constitution, the Supreme Court ruled on Feb. 11. In a 5-2 decision, the Court cleared the sale of the Lake Erie Correctional Facility in Ashtabula County, which was authorized by the Ohio General Assembly in the 2011 state budget bill. Writing for the Court, Justice **Judith L. French** also stated that the State Employment Relations Board is authorized to determine if employees at another privatized state prison should still be considered public employees with the same benefits as those working in state-owned-and-operated prisons.

State ex. Rel. Ohio Civ. Serv. Emps. Assn. v. State
Slip Opinion No. 2016-Ohio-478

Court Clarifies Standards for Admitting Blood Test Evidence in OVI Cases

The state must substantially comply with Ohio Department of Health regulations requiring refrigeration of blood in a prosecution for operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol (OVI), the Court ruled on Feb. 10. The Court remanded the matter to allow the accused an opportunity to demonstrate that the failure to refrigerate the blood sample for more than four hours caused the test results to be unreliable. In a majority opinion authored by Justice **Terrence O'Donnell**, the Court reversed trial and appellate court decisions that ruled that because the state did not strictly comply with the refrigeration requirement, the sample could not be used against Michael D. Baker in connection with a 2011 OVI charge that arose from an accident that killed a pedestrian. Citing two prior Supreme

Court rulings, the Court explained that a blood sample left unrefrigerated for up to five hours substantially complies with a Department of Health rule requiring a blood sample to be refrigerated when it is not in transit to a lab or under examination. In a separate concurring opinion, Chief Justice **Maureen O'Connor** urged the Department of Health to revise the regulation and provide more guidance regarding the purpose of refrigeration and the effects non-refrigeration has on the reliability of bodily fluid specimens.

State v. Baker
Slip Opinion No. 2016-Ohio-451

Beck Energy Leases with 700 Landowners Valid Despite Years Without Drilling

Beck Energy Corp.'s leases with nearly 700 southern and eastern Ohio landowners require the company to commence preparations to drill wells within 10 years of signing the agreements if it wants to maintain control of the properties for oil and gas exploration, the Court ruled on Jan. 21. Landowners who initiated a class-action lawsuit against Beck Energy complained the company has gone for years after signing leases without drilling for or producing oil or gas, and they believed the leases were crafted to allow Beck Energy to perpetually control the land by only paying minor fees to the property owners. Writing for the majority, Justice **Judith L. French** explained the valid leases do require Beck Energy to commence preparations for drilling wells within the first 10 years of leasing the rights. In a separate matter, the Court denied a request to toll the terms of Beck Energy leases involved in the case.

State ex rel. Claugus Family Farm, L.P. v. Seventh Dist. Court of Appeals
Slip Opinion No. 2016-Ohio-178

Court of Claims

Family of Man Whose Airway Was Ignited by Laser Receives \$800,000 in Medical Negligence Case

The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center agreed to an \$800,000 settlement with the family of Charles E. Cooper, who died four years after a laser surgical procedure in his throat caused a fire. The Court of Claims approved the settlement on Feb. 9. Cooper underwent the procedure in July 2010, to treat a lesion on one of his vocal cords. According to the lawsuit filed by his wife, a fire ignited in his airway during the surgery because 100 percent oxygen was flowing when the laser was used. Following the treatment, Cooper had to have a tube placed in his throat to breathe, suffered multiple complications, and lost much of his ability to taste and smell, court documents state. He died in May 2014.

Barbara A. Cooper, Executor,
v. The Ohio State University Medical Center
Case No. 2015-00017

Wrongfully Imprisoned Cleveland Man Settles for \$337,000

The Court of Claims approved a \$337,000 settlement between the state and a Cleveland man accused of arson. A Cuyahoga County judge, who deemed the man wrongfully imprisoned, found him to be the victim of a plot to kill him by setting a building on fire. The state Controlling Board has been asked to approve a payment of \$178,603 to Jack M. Dempsey and another \$158,830 payment to his attorneys for Dempsey's 2,512 days of incarceration from October 1996 through August 2003.

Jack M. Dempsey v. State of Ohio
Case No: 2015-00909

HappeningNow

News and Notes from Courthouses Across the Buckeye State

Regional Courses Offered to Juvenile Courts to Enhance Abuse and Neglect Case Management

Ohio juvenile courts are invited to assemble teams to attend a regional abuse, neglect, and dependency (AND) caseflow management course.

The Ohio Supreme Court and Ohio Department of Job and Family Services will host one-day courses for juvenile courts and their community partners to examine local practices in AND cases, including processes that may impact Child and Family Service Review (CFSR) performance measures.

The course is open to teams of up to five people identified by the local juvenile court judge. Typically, each team will include court staff responsible for the dependency docket, the child welfare agency director or designee(s), and other court or community representatives who impact how AND cases go to and progress through the court.

The course covers the fundamentals of caseflow management and differentiated case management, as well as their practical application in AND cases. Teams will develop action plans for improving and assessing practices while strengthening oversight of AND cases.

The goal is to enhance the judiciary's oversight of AND cases through the juvenile justice system in order to ensure the timeliness for children to reach appropriate placement and permanency by:

- Providing the opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness of the juvenile court's current caseflow management system with tools and techniques to enhance or create a caseflow management system and specifically, the processing of dependency cases
- Increasing courts' understanding of the CFSR and local court performance and caseflow data from multiple sources
- Providing courts the opportunity to work with their justice partners to assess best practices and proven strategies and their application to issues confronting their juvenile dependency dockets throughout all stages of the process.

Regional Abuse, Neglect, and Dependency Caseflow Management Courses

April 7, 2016
Perrysburg Hilton Garden Inn

April 26, 2016
Beavercreek Hilton Garden Inn

May 12, 2016
Quest in Columbus

May 24, 2016
Akron Fairlawn Hilton

Additional information, including registration, will be sent to each juvenile court and public children services agency.

Board Increases Dispositions and Reduces Pending Disciplinary Cases in 2015

The Board of Professional Conduct released its 2015 annual report on Feb. 17 and noted a nearly 20 percent decrease in active pending disciplinary cases against Ohio lawyers and judges.

There were 59 pending active cases at the end of the year, a 19.2 percent decrease from 2014. The board also noted a decrease in the number of new and reopened filings; 85 in 2015, down from 109 in 2014.

The three-commissioner hearing panels conducted 48 hearings throughout the year, certified 61 reports to the Supreme Court with recommendations for sanctions, and disposed of 102 cases, a 21.4 percent increase in dispositions from 2014.

Other annual report highlights include:

- Issuing two formal advisory opinions, including an opinion on judicial performance of same-sex marriages that was featured in national judicial ethics publications
- Responding to approximately 2,000 requests for advice from lawyers, judges, and judicial candidates
- Board staff presenting at 26 professional education offerings
- Conducting a hearing at an Ohio law school for the first time since 2012.

"The volunteer commissioners fairly and promptly resolved disciplinary cases and provided detailed reports and recommendations to the Supreme Court," Board Director **Richard A. Dove** said. "By making themselves available to respond to inquiries and participating in education seminars, the board's staff promotes a greater understanding of and compliance with the ethical standards applicable to Ohio's judges and lawyers."

National Resources Sought in Reducing Ohio's Repeat Juvenile Offenders

The Ohio Supreme Court hosted a two-day meeting focused on finding ways to reduce the number of repeat juvenile offenders.

Ohio is one of eight states selected to participate in a site visit with the Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center's National Reentry Resource Center (NRRC). The site visit on Feb. 17 and 18 at the Thomas J. Moyer Ohio Judicial Center focused on:



Nina Salomon, senior policy analyst at the Council of State Governments Justice Center, talks with probation and correction officers during a site visit at the Moyer Judicial Center.

- Research that demonstrates effectiveness in reducing recidivism and improving outcomes for youth arrested and in contact with the juvenile justice system
- Best practices for measuring recidivism and other youth outcomes and using this data to guide system policy and resource allocation
- The opportunity to receive federally funded technical assistance from the NRRC to develop a statewide plan to improve outcomes for youth.

Chief Justice **Maureen O'Connor** spoke to the group about progress being made to improve outcomes for youth under supervision in the state and local juvenile justice system. She noted the ability of courts and justice system partners to share information through the Ohio Courts Network (OCN).

"Currently, 63 percent of the cases in juvenile court is searchable in the OCN. We continue to make headway here as there are nine juvenile courts coming online soon that will account for an additional 12 percent of the juvenile case volume available through the OCN," Chief Justice O'Connor said.

Additionally, she talked about the proposed amendment to the Rules of Superintendence for the Courts of Ohio that, if approved, would mandate local courts adopt rules to better regulate shackling of youths during court proceedings.

There were several different stakeholder groups who met with NRRC, including judges, state lawmakers, and probation and correction officers.

Holmes County Chief Probation Officer, and a member of the Ohio planning team, **Dave Williams**, stated that in his focus group there was consensus that local communities are open to consistent statewide practices, and there is an opportunity to improve accessible services that are evidence-based for all children in Ohio.

The Ohio team, which includes staff from the Ohio Supreme Court, county juvenile courts, the Ohio General Assembly, the Department of Youth Services, and the Ohio Attorney General's Office, will formally ask to be a part of the CSG Justice Center's Statewide Juvenile Justice Improvement Initiative.



Black History Month Celebration

Former Columbus Mayor **Michael B. Coleman** was the keynote speaker at the Ohio Supreme Court's Black History Month Celebration on Feb. 17. Coleman spoke to high school students, Supreme Court staff, and members of the community about making a difference. Watch video of the event at ohiochannel.org.

Technology Grant Deadline: March 15, 2016

The deadline for Ohio courts to apply for grant money through the Ohio Supreme Court's technology initiative is March 15. The funding is available to any Ohio appeals, common pleas, municipal, or county court for projects that would remove barriers to efficient and effective administration of justice. Grant funds can be used to buy new or upgraded systems, hardware, or equipment for projects.

Review of applications and selection will begin on March 16. The application form and other information is available at sc.ohio.gov/grants/technology.

Email questions to Grant Administrator Nida Reid-Williamson at: Nida.Reid-Williamson@sc.ohio.gov



Hidden Treasure at Defiance College

During a sabbatical in 1981, college-professor-turned-artist Hermann Wiebe started painting Ohio's county courthouses. Ten years later, he had painted all 88. His son, Harry, said it was a project of love. The paintings are now housed in Pilgrim Library on the Defiance College campus. For Harry, the collection brings a source of comfort. Wiebe died in 2006. His memory, though, lives on through his paintings. Watch the video at courtnewsOhio.gov/happening/2016/defiancePaintings_012816.asp

In Their Own HANDS

A new program allows youth to be involved in their foster care placement plans.

Ky'Asia Cook-Snow was 6 years old when her mom left her and her three siblings, all under the age of 4, with their aunt.

The next day her aunt packed up her apartment and left, telling Cook-Snow she wasn't going to come back for them.

"My aunt's neighbors called the police after hearing me screaming for help," Cook-Snow said. "We could not get out of the house, so I tried to cut through an upstairs screen with a knife to get us out."

Eventually police came to help, but were unable to locate Cook-Snow's mom and other relatives couldn't take them in. The four children were split up and placed in foster care. All but Cook-Snow were later adopted or went to live with a relative.

"I spent 10 long years in foster care," Cook-Snow said. "I had over 22 placements while in care. I felt like there was no hope for me. I wanted to give up."

It can be hard for older children, like Cook-Snow, going through the foster care system to be adopted; they lack the permanent status with a family they so long for. A new program allows 12-to-18 year-olds to explore ways to help control their own future.

PERMANENCY ROUNDTABLES

Six Ohio counties — Athens, Fairfield, Guernsey, Hamilton, Montgomery, and Summit — participated in the pilot program in 2014, and it has since grown to 11 counties across the state. **Fawn Gadel**, with the Family and



Youth Law Center at Capital University and the pilot program's coordinator, said the Youth-Centered Permanency Roundtables (PRTs) use a model that helps establish permanent connections for foster children and allows the children to be included in the process.

"This initiative was started by Casey Family Programs as a means to reduce the number of children emancipating from foster care without a permanent home and is part of Ohio's larger initiative to reduce the number of children emancipating from Ohio's foster care system without a form of legal permanency," Gadel said.

Led by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and Public Children Services Association of Ohio, the PRTs focus on finding permanent stability for those older children who have been in foster care for 17 months or longer.

Most PRTs consist of the child, his or her caseworker and supervisor, a facilitator, and someone with experience in helping children establish permanency. A support person identified by the foster care child is also included in the PRTs team that empowers the youth by selecting

goals and people who are important to them and creating an action plan to achieve some kind of "permanent support relationship" for the child. The child directs his or her action plan, and the adults help guide them through the process.

"I believe the Youth-Centered Permanency Roundtables help youth in foster care by creating a sense of urgency surrounding creating permanency for each youth involved in the initiative," Gadel said.

CHILD WELFARE CUSTODY

Tim Beasley, Montgomery County Department of Job and Family Services permanency planning coordinator, said there are generally three types of child welfare custody:

- **Temporary custody** – parental rights haven't been terminated with a goal of reunification with the parent.
- **Long-term foster care, called "Planned Permanent Living Arrangement"** – the child isn't available for adoption and

generally remains in foster care until he or she turns 18.

- **Permanent custody** – parental rights have been terminated and the child can be adopted.

Beasley said the PRTs entrust the children when making important life choices.

“Those involved in the Montgomery County PRTs program credit its success to the fact that the roundtables are youth-driven,” Beasley said. “The meeting focuses on what the youth wants for their future – where they want to live – and allows them the opportunity to formulate the plan on how to make that happen. The youth is empowered and sees that oftentimes – for the first time – they are being heard and valued.”

Subsequent meetings throughout the year are led by the foster care children to evaluate the progress of their plan and change or add goals if needed until permanency is achieved, Beasley said.

PRTS IN FAIRFIELD COUNTY

Nearly 40 children have gone through PRTs in Fairfield County, and Juvenile and Probate Judge **Terre Vandervoort** said a third wave of roundtable sessions soon will include 13 more youth.

“In court, we have seen motions and requests for different alternative permanency planning at either the annual review or oral hearings on those motions,” Judge Vandervoort said.

The Fairfield County court receives reports from Child Protective Services, which includes what PRTs have happened or will be happening and the result or outcome of the PRTs. Judge Vandervoort said some of the court’s staff members have been asked to be the youth’s support person during the PRT sessions.

“The court has noticed an increase in creative permanency outcomes and planning through the use of permanency roundtables by Child Protective Services, which the youth embrace by being involved in decisions for their future,” Judge Vandervoort said. “I feel it is a positive step toward permanency for the youth in the system and promotes engagement of the youth in planning for their futures.”

COOK-SNOW REUNITES WITH MOM

Cook-Snow got back in contact with her mom in 2011 through a Wendy’s Wonderful Kids adoption recruiter.

“I could see that she changed,” Cook-Snow said. “I begged [the recruiter] to get me back with my mom. I really thought it would never happen.”

Last year, due to her age and the length of time she spent in foster care, Cook-Snow was selected to participate in a permanency roundtable.

“The PRTs meeting was a good experience because it was the first time my voice was heard,” Cook-Snow said. “I attended two Youth PRTs [meetings] and invited my mom both times. At both meetings I told them I wanted to return to my mom.”

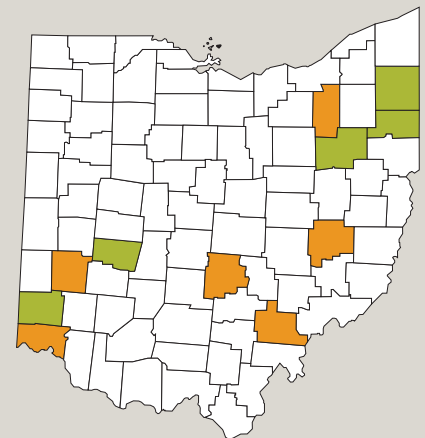
On Aug. 10, 2015, a judge gave her mom legal custody and she and Cook-Snow were reunited. Cook-Snow is grateful to her adoption recruiter and the PRTs team members who were able to reconnect the two. Now 17-years-old, she lives with her mom in Dayton.



“It feels really good to be back with my mom,” Cook-Snow said.

PERMANENCY ROUNDTABLES

a program for
12-18 YEAR OLDS
who’ve spent
17+ MONTHS
in the foster-care system

11 PARTICIPATING COUNTIES



 2014 pilot program participants
 Subsequent program participants

“The PRTs meeting was a good experience because it was the first time my voice was heard.”

- Ky’Asia Cook-Snow -

Top National State Court Leadership Associations Launch National Task Force on Fines, Fees, and Bail Practices

Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor to Co-Chair the Task Force

The country's two national state court leadership associations have formed a National Task Force on Fines, Fees, and Bail Practices to address the ongoing impact that court fines and fees and bail practices have on communities – especially the economically disadvantaged – across the United States. The Conference of Chief Justices (CCJ), the association of the top judicial leaders from the 50 states, Washington, D.C. and the U.S. territories; and the Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA), the association of court executives who oversee judicial administration in the state courts, are leading this effort.

The task force is comprised of national judicial and legal leaders, legal advocates, policy makers from state, county, and municipal government, academics, and the public interest community. It is co-chaired by Chief Justice **Maureen O'Connor** and Kentucky State Court Administrator **Laurie K. Dudgeon**. The task force is working with the support and commitment of the State Justice Institute (SJI), and is coordinating with key stakeholders, including the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). Several CCJ and COSCA members attended a two-day White House hearing in December led by the DOJ, which outlined the severity of this issue and the critical need to find solutions.

The task force co-chairs formed three working groups:

- Access to Justice and Fairness
- Transparency, Governance and Structural Reform
- Accountability, Judicial Performance and Qualifications, and Oversight.

Among other responsibilities, the task force will:

- Draft model statutes, court rules, written policies, processes and procedures for setting, collecting, and waiving court-imposed payments
- Compile and create suggested best practices for setting, processing, and codifying the collection of fines and fees and bail/bonds
- Review and revise suggested guidelines for qualifications and oversight of judges in courts created by local governments or traffic courts, including reviewing and updating state codes of judicial conduct and the jurisdiction of judicial conduct commissions to ensure their applicability to all judges
- Sponsor a court “hackathon” designed to develop innovative technological solutions to ensure courts are providing 21st century customer service through mobile applications and software platforms
- Develop an online clearinghouse of information containing resources and best practices.

CCJ and COSCA have long taken the position that court functions should be funded from the general operating fund of state and local governments to ensure the judiciary can fulfill its obligation of upholding the Constitution and protecting individual rights of all citizens. In 1986, CCJ and COSCA adopted “Standards Relating to Courts Costs.” Subsequently, in 2012, CCJ and COSCA adopted a position paper titled “Courts are Not Revenue Centers” and the “Principles of Judicial Administration,” developed by the National Center for State Courts (NCSC).

Skype Connects Judges in Cleveland and Ukraine



In two offices half a world apart, judges in Cuyahoga County and Kyiv, Ukraine, met on Feb. 17 to discuss how their courts operate.

Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court Administrative and Presiding Judge **John J. Russo** was joined in his chambers by U.S. District Court, Northern District of Ohio Chief Judge **Solomon Oliver Jr.** and Cleveland Municipal Court Administrative Judge **Ronald Adrine** to take part in the Skype meeting with judges in Ukraine.

The meeting was facilitated by the American Common Law Center (ACLC), a division of the law faculty of the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv. The ACLC was co-founded by Cleveland-area attorney **Alek El-Kamhawy**, who organized the conversation.

“The meeting was quite positive in terms of establishing a question and answer process. Both sides are open to continuing to exchange ideas,” El-Kamhawy said.

Among the topics discussed in the one-hour meeting: length of judicial terms, how American judges are elected/appointed, caseloads, and the basic legal process in the United States.

“I thought it was a pretty interesting way to get together,” Judge Russo said. “For us, it was a morning meeting and for our Ukrainian counterparts, it was the end of the work day. Using the [video conferencing system] almost made it feel like we were in the same room.”



Rule Amendment Summary

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

Case Processing Time Standards

Time standards for court cases are under review by the Supreme Court. A proposal by the Court’s Advisory Committee on Case Management would change, and in some cases establish, the disposition time allowed under Rule 39 of the Rules of Superintendence for the Courts of Ohio in nearly all types of trial and appeals court cases.

An example of the changes:

Case Type	Current Standard	Recommended Standard
Appeals Court Original Actions	100 percent in 180 days	95 percent in 480 days 75 percent in 320 days
Common Pleas Court Criminal Cases	100 percent in 180 days	95 percent in 270 days 75 percent in 180 days
Common Pleas Court Guardianships of Minors	None	95 percent in 180 days (decision on application)
Municipal and County Court Felonies (Preliminary Hearings Only)	100 percent in 30 days	95 percent in 60 days

The new standards were selected after examining national model standards and considering comments from judges and court officials to establish a reasonable set of expectations for the courts, lawyers, and the public.

Written public comment will be accepted until May 16, and should be addressed to:

Tasha Ruth
Case Management Section Manager
Ohio Supreme Court
65 South Front Street, 6th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3431
or Tasha.Ruth@sc.ohio.gov

Email submissions should include a full name and regular mailing address.

The Case Management Section will make a final recommendation to the Court after the public comment period. The Court will then decide what action, if any, should be taken.

The Agenda

Upcoming events, training opportunities, and conferences for judges and court staff.
For more information, contact the event sponsor at the website provided.

Judicial College Courses

judicialacademy.ohio.gov

March 8

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

Probation Officers
Perrysburg

March 9 - 11

**Court Management Program (CMP)
Module III: Visioning & Strategic
Planning**

CCE CMP 2017 Level II
Columbus

New Magistrate Orientation

Magistrates
Columbus

March 11

Jury Trial Skills

Judges
Columbus

March 15

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

Probation Officers
Akron

March 16

**Guardian ad Litem Continuing
Education Course – The GAL
Interview**

Guardians ad Litem
Columbus
1 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

March 17

**Guardian ad Litem Continuing
Education Course – The GAL
Interview**

Guardians ad Litem
Columbus
8:30 a.m. – Noon

March 17 & 18

Court Executive Team Seminar Part I
Judges & Court Personnel

Columbus

March 18

Domestic Relations Spring Seminar

Judges & Magistrates
Columbus

March 22

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

Probation Officers
Columbus

March 24

**Acting Judge Course: Avoiding
Potential Minefields**

Judges, Magistrates & Acting Judges
Toledo

March 30

Guardian ad Litem

Pre Service Course

Guardians ad Litem
Columbus

April 5

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

Probation Officers
Dayton

April 6 - 8

**Court Management Program (CMP)
Module V: Managing Human
Resources**

CCM CMP 2016 Class
Columbus

April 7

**Managing Mentally Ill Youth on
Probation**

Probation Officers
Akron

April 7 & 8

Capital Cases

Judges
Columbus

Dispute Resolution Training

sc.ohio.gov/JCS/disputeResolution

March 30

Parenting Coordinators Roundtable
Teleconference

Language Services Training

sc.ohio.gov/JCS/interpreterSvcs

March 24

Written Exam for Certification

Exam Candidates
Columbus

March 25

Introduction to Court Interpreting

Columbus

March 31

Written Exam for Certification
Exam Candidates
Columbus

Children & Families Training

sc.ohio.gov/JCS/CFC

March 22

Adult Guardianship Summit
Columbus

Local Court Roundtables

sc.ohio.gov/JCS/roundtables

March 8

**Municipal/County Administrators
& Clerks: Midsize and Rural Courts
of 69K or Less Population**
Columbus

April 1

**Ohio Juvenile Diversion Association:
All Counties**
Columbus

April 5

**Juvenile Courts, Title IV-E: All
Counties**
Columbus

Supreme Court of Ohio

sc.ohio.gov

March 8 & 9

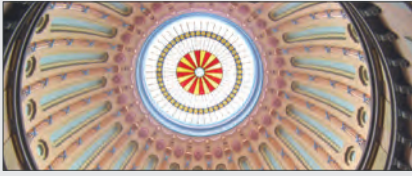
Oral Arguments

March 30

Deadline for CLE Late Compliance

April 1

**Application Deadline to take the July
2016 Bar Exam**



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.

HB 335, Rep. Hearcel Craig (D-Columbus); Rep. Cheryl Grossman (R-Grove City)

To specify the jurisdiction of municipal and county courts over municipal traffic ordinances and to establish requirements governing fines, fees, or other charges for traffic violations and infractions imposed by a municipal corporation that does not have the authority to establish a mayor's court.

STATUS: Introduced in the House on Sept. 22, 2015, and referred to the House Local Government Committee. Reported out of committee on Feb. 16, 2016.

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

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

STATUS: Introduced in the House on Nov. 2, 2015, and referred to the House Local Government Committee. Reported out of committee on Feb. 16, 2016.

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

To authorize a court to grant unlimited driving privileges with an ignition interlock device to first-time OVI offenders, to expand the penalties

related to ignition interlock device violations, to modify the law governing the installation and monitoring of ignition interlock devices, to extend the look-back period for OVI and OVI-related offenses from 6 to 10 years, and to modify the penalties for OVI offenses.

STATUS: Introduced in the House on Nov. 5, 2015, and referred to the House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs & Public Safety Committee. Its third committee hearing was Feb. 23, 2016.

HB 437, Rep. Janine Boyd (D-Cleveland Heights); Rep. Christie Kuhns (D-Cincinnati)

To require every law enforcement agency to adopt a written policy that requires an investigation into a death resulting from the actions of a law enforcement officer employed by the law enforcement agency and to require the investigation to be conducted by at least two law enforcement officers who are not employed by a law enforcement agency that employs any law enforcement officer involved in the officer-involved death.

STATUS: Introduced in the House on Jan. 27, 2016, and referred to the House Judiciary Committee.

SB 263, Sen. Jim Hughes (R-Columbus)

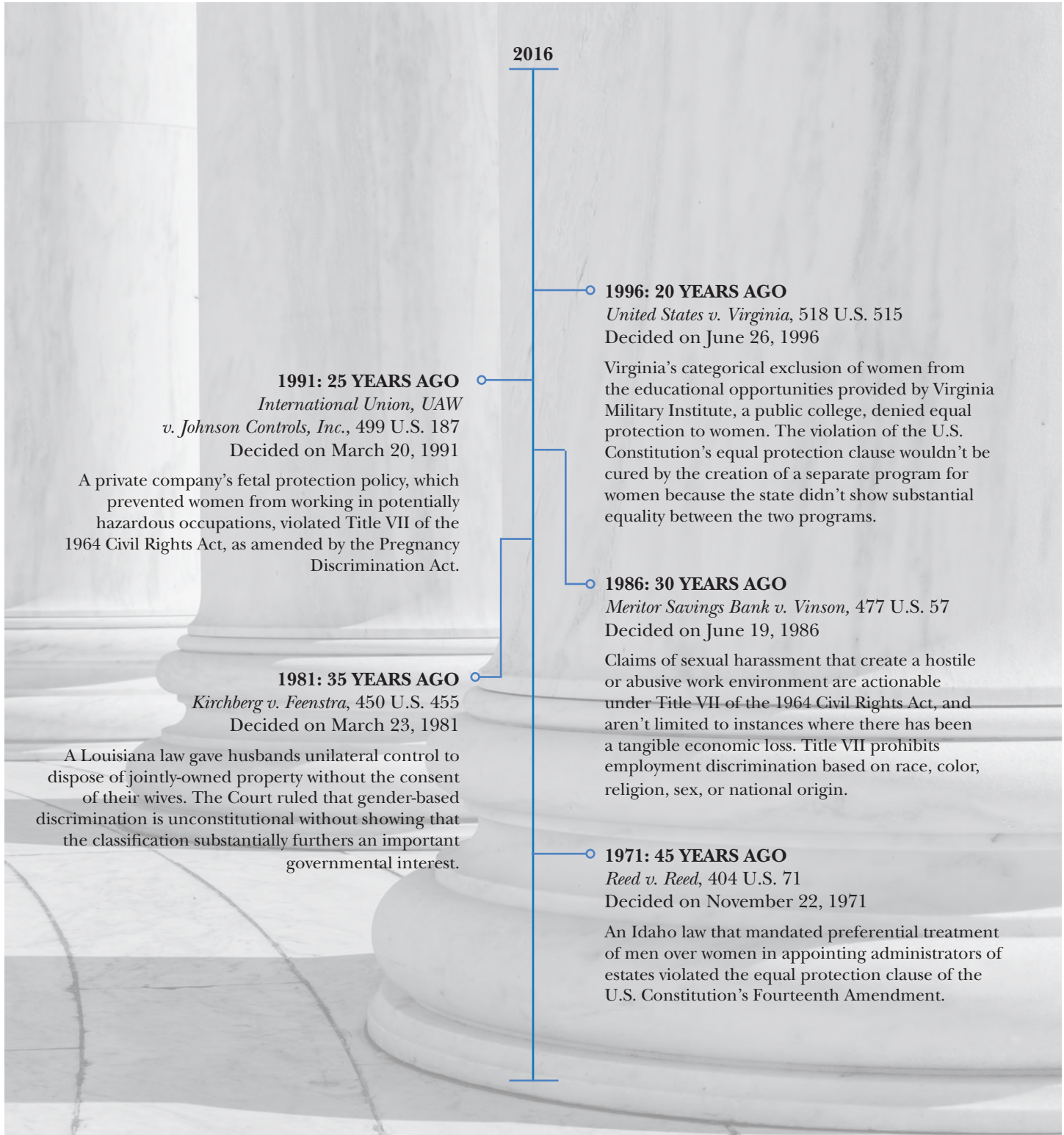
To authorize a court, upon request of the prosecution, to cancel a negotiated plea in a felony or first-degree misdemeanor case if the offender does not provide information, cooperate with law enforcement, or perform another function or activity when required as a condition of the underlying agreement.

STATUS: Introduced in the Senate on Jan. 25, 2016, and referred to the Senate Criminal Justice Committee. Its first committee hearing was Feb. 24, 2016.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

NOTABLE RULINGS IN WOMEN'S RIGHTS

This year marks several significant anniversaries of U.S. Supreme Court decisions supporting women's equality. In honor of Women's History Month, here's a look back at some important opinions.



2016

1996: 20 YEARS AGO

United States v. Virginia, 518 U.S. 515
Decided on June 26, 1996

Virginia's categorical exclusion of women from the educational opportunities provided by Virginia Military Institute, a public college, denied equal protection to women. The violation of the U.S. Constitution's equal protection clause wouldn't be cured by the creation of a separate program for women because the state didn't show substantial equality between the two programs.

1986: 30 YEARS AGO

Meritor Savings Bank v. Vinson, 477 U.S. 57
Decided on June 19, 1986

Claims of sexual harassment that create a hostile or abusive work environment are actionable under Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, and aren't limited to instances where there has been a tangible economic loss. Title VII prohibits employment discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

1971: 45 YEARS AGO

Reed v. Reed, 404 U.S. 71
Decided on November 22, 1971

An Idaho law that mandated preferential treatment of men over women in appointing administrators of estates violated the equal protection clause of the U.S. Constitution's Fourteenth Amendment.

1991: 25 YEARS AGO

International Union, UAW v. Johnson Controls, Inc., 499 U.S. 187
Decided on March 20, 1991

A private company's fetal protection policy, which prevented women from working in potentially hazardous occupations, violated Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, as amended by the Pregnancy Discrimination Act.

1981: 35 YEARS AGO

Kirchberg v. Feenstra, 450 U.S. 455
Decided on March 23, 1981

A Louisiana law gave husbands unilateral control to dispose of jointly-owned property without the consent of their wives. The Court ruled that gender-based discrimination is unconstitutional without showing that the classification substantially furthers an important governmental interest.