



August 24, 2020

**Legislation and Policy
in the News:**

[Jury Selection: John
Oliver's Last Week
Tonight, August 16, 2020](#)

[Ohio Public Health Orders](#)

The Ohio Judicial Conference is dedicated to serving all Ohio judges. It is the primary resource to ensure the fair, unbiased, open, and effective administration of justice.

Legislative News: Two-Week Review

- [SB 353](#) (Sens. S. Huffman, Manning) **Bail Reform**, introduced 8.19.20. This bill requires the use of a validated risk assessment tool and prohibits a bond schedule (unless a judicial officer is not available to make a bond determination) under Sec. 2903.212 (which applies to offenses of menacing by stalking, etc.) and Sec. 2919.251 (which applies to offenses of violence). What constitutes a validated risk assessment tool will be determined by the Supreme Court and a list will be posted on their website. A task force is required to convene to create the list. Every court (municipal, county, and common pleas) is required to adopt a "continuum of pretrial supervision options" to be considered when setting bail. Courts are encouraged to consider expansion of use of technology in the bail process and courts are required to "utilize existing justice system partners for pretrial supervision services." In 7.19, the Supreme Court's Task Force to Examine the Ohio Bail System produced a [report with bail reform recommendations](#).
- On 7.31.20, the Ohio Supreme Court issued an [order](#) allowing courts, hearing panels, boards and/or commissions to waive any requirement in a Rule for in-person service or appearance. Appearance, service or oral argument by use of technology is allowed if it sufficiently guarantees the integrity of the proceedings and protects the parties' interests and rights.
- The Ohio Judicial Conference has just updated its [Budget Resource Handbook](#). The case law is now updated through 2020, new guidance on the use of special project funds is included, and a new section on budget crises has been added.
- Several Court Rule [amendments](#) went into effect 7.1.20; an explanation of the changes to **Civil Rules of Practice and Procedure** 4, 16, 26, and 53 written by Judge Frye of Franklin County (Chair of the Civil Rules Committee) for the OSBA can be found on the OJC website.
- If you are interested in how **pre-trial services agencies** have adapted to work during the pandemic, consider this [webinar](#) from the National Institute for Corrections. Decisionmakers who were responsible for upholding COVID-19 directives will share their challenges and experiences, as well as the opportunities they found for adopting long-term changes.
- On 8.18.20, the Ohio Supreme Court heard oral arguments in [State v. Christian Carlisle](#), which challenges the implementation of the statutorily-required **arson registry**. The defendant is arguing that R.C. 2909.15(D)(2)(b) violates the separation of powers doctrine because the judge does not have the discretion to decide whether to shorten the registration period without a request from the prosecutor and the investigating agency.
- The **OJC's Annual Meeting**, initially planned to be an in-person and virtual event will now be a virtual-only event. This year's Annual Meeting, "Breaking Barriers," will focus on the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage with a panel including the Chief Justice. Other speakers include perennial favorites Professor Erwin Chemerinsky and author James Robenalt. Registration information is available [here](#), or call 614.387.9750.

For a complete list of bills & the latest issue of **BillBoard**, please visit the [OJC website](#).



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