



# for the RECORD

NEWS FOR THE OHIO COURTS

## ANNUAL MEETING LEGISLATIVE PANEL: A DISCUSSION OF WHAT'S HAPPENED AND WHAT'S TO COME

The OJC's Annual Meeting included a legislative panel, which this year was composed of Senate President Larry Obhof, Senator Joe Schiavoni, Representative Bob Cupp and Representative Tavia Galonski. The panel was moderated by the co-chairs of the OJC Legislative Committee, Judge Stephen Powell and Judge John Willamowski.

One of the first questions posed to the panel was what could be expected in the upcoming lame duck session as well as the upcoming 2019-2020 General Assembly. The panelists agreed that the tone for the rest of the year will be set on Election Day. Sen. Obhof pointed out that many criminal justice bills had been voted out of the legislature and sent to the Governor already. He mentioned that Ohio has led the way on sentencing reform, starting with HB 86 (in 2011) to the recently enacted SB 66 (effective as of October, 2018). Representative Cupp opined that the last few sessions have been extraordinary and that pre-adjournalment – or lame duck – can be a dangerous time. According to the Representative, there should be some parameters to what can be heard in lame duck, prioritized by urgency and lack of controversy. He added that HB 394 (the juvenile justice omnibus) may get some attention in lame duck but that he believes the bill tries to do too much in making juvenile bindover entirely discretionary. Representative Galonski is ready for lame duck to go in either direction. She expects to play defense on bills like the Stand Your Ground Bills (HB 228, SB 180), but also believes lame duck could be very productive.

Senator Schiavoni was the first to answer questions about Issue 1, the only statewide issue on the ballot this fall. He said that he wishes it was in the form of legislation that could be fixed and pointed out that it is not properly funded, but that some portions of Issue 1, like earned credit, have merit. A real concern of his, however, is that Issue 1 will undermine drug courts and probation programs. Representative Galonski pointed out that some of Issue 1's provisions may be in conflict with some legislative initiatives to curb human trafficking, but that she viewed Issue 1 as a positive signal that Ohio is poised for gigantic change. Representative Cupp added that everyone would prefer treatment to prison, but that is not correctly configured in Issue 1. Senator Obhof referred to Issue 1 as one of the most destructive ideas he'd seen in his career. He reminded the audience that fighting the opioid epidemic has been the number one priority of the legislature in the recent past. He agreed that piecemeal legislation making misdemeanors into felonies is a problem; the solution, according to the Senator, is taking up the recommendations of the Recodification Committee, which the Senate intends to do in the next General Assembly.

The last question to the panel concerned a similar recodification of Title 45 and an effort to make license reinstatement and driving under suspensions laws clear and uniform. All the panelists agreed that this is a problem that affects constituents in their respective districts and that it will get attention in the upcoming General Assembly. Judge Musick of Jackson County heartily encouraged their efforts on this. The panel presentation ended with a reminder that judges should make and maintain relationships with their legislators and that this is the best way to ensure that the legislature always considers the fair administration of justice.

Marta Mudri

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## CALMING THE MUNICIPAL COURT ACCUSED

*Judge Tom Januzzi*

In the almost 17 years on the Municipal Court, bench litigants have been observed in various frames of mind ranging from unhappy to very unhappy to angry. In these almost 17 years I have not once held anyone in contempt of court for their behavior in court. It is my experience that if the judge is calm and treats the person appearing before the court with respect and dignity that the persons appearing before the court will reciprocate. Further, if a person is disrespectful or inappropriate if the judge does not overreact the person most times can be calmed so that a civil exchange can be had.

Reasons for anger include distrust or mistrust of the legal system, disdain for the court and/or the judge or the justice system, perceived mistreatment by others including law enforcement officers, creditors, creditors' attorneys, court personnel, and other litigants. Since their perception is their reality a judge may find herself or himself having to calm the person or at least diffuse the anger, distrust or disdain prior to proceeding with the procedural and substantive issues in the case.

Some of the reasons that the litigants are unhappy or angry include:

1. The person is suffering from a medical condition or has a sick, suffering, or dying friend or family member or has just experienced the death of a loved one. These persons may be angry not solely because of mistrust or perceived mistreatment by the justice system but just because life has not been kind.
2. The person has had experiences in life that cause a general distrust of authority figures.
3. The person has had an encounter specific to the event that brings them to court. This may include an unpleasant experience with a law enforcement officer or the opposing side or their attorney.
4. The person has mental issues.
5. The person may have had an unpleasant experience in another court matter.

Judges take an oath to administer justice “without respect to persons.” Litigants are not subject to a rule that requires the litigant to subject themselves to the judicial process trusting the judge “without respect to judges”. In other words, litigants carry their own prejudices and biases that may include race or gender or other bias against the judge. As Martin Luther King Jr. advises in his speech “Love your Enemies” – “Now, I’m aware of the fact that some people will not like you, not because of something you have done to them, but they just won’t like you. I’m quite aware of that. Some people aren’t going to like the way you walk; some people aren’t going to like the way you talk. Some people aren’t going to like you because you can do your job better than they can do theirs. Some people aren’t going to like you because other people like you, and because you’re popular, and because you’re well-liked, they aren’t going to like you. Some people aren’t going to like you because your hair is a little shorter than theirs or your hair is a little longer than theirs. Some people aren’t going to like you because your skin is a little brighter than theirs; and others aren’t going to like you because your skin is a little darker than theirs. So some people aren’t going to like you. They’re going to dislike you, not because of something that you’ve done to them, but because of various jealous reactions and other reactions that are so prevalent in human nature.”

And so we encounter litigants that are angry because they are predisposed to be angry with the Judge or the justice system which in their minds are against them. We might add to Dr. King’s list that “some people aren’t going to like you because you have a black robe on, some people aren’t going to like you because they had a bad experience with another person who had a black robe on, some people aren’t going to like you because you are part of the establishment, some people aren’t going to like you based on information received from other persons including their attorney, some people aren’t going to like you because of something they read or heard in the news – so some people just aren’t going to like you.”

Over the years, I have made many observations regarding various issues and concerns that persons charged with mainly misdemeanor crimes and traffic offenses have and take the opportunity at the beginning of each arraignment session to address those issues and concerns which in turn has a tendency to calm those that are very unhappy or angry. Their disposition is often apparent from their facial expressions, demeanor and sometimes blunt verbal outbursts. With arms crossed and grimaces on their faces they stare down the judge and court staff [as if they are the enemy]. Many see the judge as part of the unfair system that has landed them in their predicament. They do not understand that the judge is not the same as the police and the prosecutor seeking to prosecute them. They have either had a bad experience with the justice system, or a perhaps a member of their family has had an unpleasant experience or perhaps that is the way they were raised to distrust all authority figures who have anything to do with the justice system. This is true although the good and honest and fair judge has nothing against them and fully intends on honoring her/his oath of office to administer justice without respect to persons these persons are convinced otherwise.

Now that you have the attention of the litigants (and hopefully they can tell you are sincere) we sprinkle in other information to bolster confidence in the judicial system while communicating mandatory information regarding the litigant's rights:

How can a Judge calm these persons? In the Oberlin Municipal Court, the judge greets those appearing for arraignments [and their family and friends that have accompanied them] with the following:

“Welcome to the Oberlin Municipal Court. Before we get started we are going to give you some information – and it’s really good information” [make sure to smile here and often during this informational session.] “Our goal is to help you make a good decision. Some of you have never been in court before so we assume at least one of you is nervous – at least one of you is nervous.” [Usually this elicits a smile or even a raising of a hand by one of more of the persons and sometimes a verbal ‘that would be me’] “Most people who sit in those seats out there are a little bit unhappy to be here. Some people are very unhappy to be here” [At this point the judge makes a grimace as many persons are becoming engaged and it can be visibly seen on their faces that they are becoming curious] “Some people are not only very unhappy to be here – some people are angry that they are here” [The judge makes an angry face and clenches his hands in front of his face and at this point smiles abound, even a light chuckle is heard, and friends and family that have accompanied the accused person can be seen turning and looking at their friend or family member acknowledging that they fit the category while the grimace and frown on the accused face usually remains] “If that is you – hopefully it is not... by the way no one can make you angry except for yourself. Oh, we all become upset – that is a human emotion and reaction and part of our human condition – but to harbor anger inside – that is not healthy – think about that. In any event if you have any anger at all – especially about the event that brings you here today – we would like you to do this – don’t worry if you cannot – it is not a requirement – but try this.

“You should have received a copy of the charge or charges. What does that mean? It means either a ticket or a complaint. If you did not receive a copy of a ticket or a complaint please tell us when your case is called. If you do not say anything about that we will assume that you received a copy and read it.”

“You then have a decision to make. You can plead either not guilty, guilty or no contest. This sounds pretty simple and you might even know what each of the pleas means. But remember what our goal is – to help you make a good decision. So here is some really good information about the pleas. The first plea is not guilty – it is a denial of the charge – ‘I didn’t do it.’ When should you plead not guilty? Some people think you can only plead not guilty if you think you are not guilty. Not true. You can plead not guilty for any reason or no reason at all. Even if you are sitting there thinking to yourself ‘Boy am I guilty.’ Even you can plead not guilty. Do you want to know why?” [Here gesturing toward the United State flag] “Because you live in the United States of America – and in the United States of America you are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.” [At this point you may start to lose some of the audience and grimaces may start to return and doubt and sarcastic grins appear on some of the faces] “Oh, some of you don’t believe that do you? We don’t blame you. Maybe your experience in life tells you that it is not true. ‘Your honor, I just don’t believe that. I read the newspaper, I watch TV, I look at the internet. As a matter of fact I can prove to your honor that I am not presumed innocent – because I am sitting here right now. What are going to say about that Judge?’ Wow. That is pretty hard to argue with. The couple of times that I received a traffic ticket – after the police officer let me go – if the person sitting next to me would have said ‘you know you are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt,’ I probably would have glared at them, showed them the ticket and said something like ‘Does this look like innocence? Presumed innocent? Ha!’”



“Well that’s not what the presumption of innocent means. And what we are going to do right now is give you some information that will help you understand the presumption of innocence in this court. Do you know how we all have experiences and based on those experiences we make judgments about people or situations or circumstances? Well we in the Oberlin Municipal Court have court experience. So we are going to share with you our court experience to help you understand the presumption of innocence. Of the last 80 trials in these four (4) walls 44 have been not guilty. Let’s repeat that: of the last 80 trials in these four (4) walls 44 have been not guilty. And we have two types of trials, jury trials and bench trials. A bench trial is a trial just before a judge. Now if you have a case where there is a possible jail penalty you can choose which one you want – a jury trial or a bench trial. But if you have a case where there is no jail penalty [that’s a good thing] and you want to have a trial then you have to have a trial just before the judge. You may ask: ‘A trial just to the judge? You mean my word against the police officers?’ Possibly ‘I don’t like my chances. I bet I know how that turns out?’ Do you? Let’s ask. Out of the last 53 bench trials how many of those do you think were not guilty? And don’t say 2 or 5 because those are the usual answers. No not 2 or 5 but 31 – yes 31 of the last 53 bench trials just to this judge have been not guilty. Surprised, shocked, amazed?” [The faces and nods of the head confirm the disbelief] “You know the people who arrive here late watch these proceedings out in the lobby on the television screen. We had a gentlemen several months ago listening to similar statistics and he blurted out ‘That’s a lie!’ Did you ever meet anybody like that? Nothing goes their way. Everything goes everyone else’s way. They don’t trust anybody that crosses their path.” [At this point some of the friends and family turn and give an acknowledgement that the person sitting next to them falls into that category] “Of course, we should not criticize those persons. That is probably their reality and their experience. We should not judge them for that. But that is why we are giving you this information. You are presumed innocent in this court and you can plead not guilty for any reason or no reason at all.”

“What are some of the reasons that people plead not guilty? Some people plead not guilty because they do not have enough information. May be there is someone that you talk to about important things and you have not had enough time to talk to them. Good reason. Some people plead not guilty because they want to be represented by an attorney. That is a great reason. You can be represented by an attorney from the smallest case that ever was to the biggest case that ever will be and all the cases in between. And if you have a case where you might be subject to a jail penalty then not only do you have the right to hire an attorney of your own choosing but if you cannot afford an attorney the law will provide one to you at no cost, right?” [Pause] “Well, almost no cost. The people who we elected to make the laws decided that even if a person cannot afford an attorney that they can probably come up with \$25.00. So they tell the Judge: ‘Even if the person cannot afford to pay an attorney, your honor, you must collect \$25.00 from that person if you use taxpayer money to appoint an attorney.’ Can they do that? Well, they do. And that is the law. And as you will see here, we always follow the law. What do you do with that money? Well, we can assure you that the money does not stay here. Like much of the money that you pay to the court, it does not stay here. Every once in a while someone comments ‘All the judge wants is money for the court. I can pay you ‘your money’ in so many days’ they say. The [this] court is not all about the money. The primary purpose of the court is to do justice, provide you with due process and to be fair and impartial. Yes, some people have to pay money for fines and costs. The fines are supposed to be to help us make better decisions but that is not the focus of the case. OK, so what happens to that money? We send it to Columbus to the Ohio Public Defender’s office to help pay the cost of the operation of the Ohio Public Defender’s office to lessen the burden on the taxpayers. The bottom line is that if you have a case where there is a possible jail sentence we are going to make sure that you have an attorney represent you – because our liberty, your liberty, is so precious that we do not allow someone to be subjected to a loss of liberty without legal representation.”

“What are some of the other reasons a person might plead not guilty? Someone might plead not guilty because they think it would be unfair to be found guilty. Maybe that is you. Maybe you went to bed last night thinking: ‘This is ridiculous. I should not have been charged. I should have gotten a warning. Don’t people get warnings anymore? I had something important to tell the officer and I did not get a chance. That was not fair. They asked the other side lots of questions and they only asked me a couple of questions or none at all. They asked the other side to put something in writing. I told them I would put something in writing but they said ‘no we don’t need that’ - and that wasn’t fair. Do you know I told the officer what happened and the officer agreed with me and still gave me a ticket and that is just not fair and I am all stressed out about this.’ Take a deep breath” [at this point the judge takes a deep breath, holds her/his hands up for a couple of seconds, exhales and lets her/his hands down] “... and just plead not guilty. Not guilty is a great plea. It can never be held against you. Now, if you plead not guilty, will you be found not guilty like those 44 people we talked about? You might. You might not. But you do not have to worry about pleading not guilty today and being found guilty later on. No one is going to give you a double fine or put you in jail just because you plead not guilty. We don’t do that here. Threatening someone with a penalty or higher penalty just because they choose to plead not guilty and exercise their right to go through the process and have a trial is improper and should never happen. Oh, some people have to go to jail, because the law says so, or because the person has been before the court so many times that no one can stand it anymore. Sometimes jail is the great equalizer helping people make better decisions.”

“No one is going to look at you and say ‘You should have pleaded guilty, you are guilty, and you are wasting our time.’ We do not do that here either. No judge should ever tell you that you are wasting the court’s time. That is why we are here – to give you your day in court. If a judge has told you that, the judge was possibly having a bad day. Judges, believe it or not, some people do not know this, are human beings.” [Here the judge pinches himself and says ouch] “And sometimes a judge may say something that she/he should not say and the judge would owe you an apology. I would owe you an apology. Again, you can plead not guilty for any reason or no reason at all.”

We then explain in detail the guilty and no contest pleas:

“Some people do not want to plead not guilty. ‘Your honor, thank you for explaining the not guilty plea but I want to finish my case today. I am so busy and cannot come back. How can I finish my case today?’ There are two ways. You can either plead guilty or no contest. Guilty is a complete admission of guilt. It goes like this: ‘I did it. I don’t like the fact that I did it, but I did do it. Let’s just talk about what my consequence is.’ The last plea is no contest. It is a funny, strange sounding plea isn’t it? Some of you may not be familiar with the plea. We start out by talking about the word that is used because if you understand the word you will understand the plea. The word is contest. You know the word. Every once in awhile a person comes up to the bench and says I plead ‘no content.’ Well, you can pronounce the word that way and we will not criticize or make fun of the way you pronounce the word but if you think the word is ‘content’ you will not understand the plea because the word is ‘contest.’ There is an ‘s’ in the word. You know the word because when we were in school the teacher said we are going to have a contest. And when the basketball player goes up for a shot the announcer says ‘they did not even contest the shot.’ Why are we talking about basketball? Because the ticket is like the basketball and the judge is like the hoop and you are going to let the ticket come to the judge. You are not going to block it from the judge but let it come right to the judge – you do not contest it. So what do you do legally when you say ‘no contest’? You say to the judge, ‘Your honor, I demand that you use the information in the ticket or complaint to find me guilty or not guilty because I agree with everything in the ticket. I agree I was traveling 80 in a 65 MPH zone. I agree I was driving under that type of suspension. I agree that happened on the date and time and place written in the ticket. No contest to all of that.’ You might say ‘that sounds exactly like pleading guilty. Why do we have this no contest plea?’”

“The people that make the law want a person to be able to finish their criminal or traffic case and not have their plea or the admissions held against them in another civil or criminal case. Can I give you an example? Yes. Let’s say you were involved in an automobile accident. I know most of you were not. Or let’s say that you are accused of hurting someone or damaging someone’s property. I know most of you weren’t. If you think someone might want to sue you or ask them to pay you money for something that happened in this event and you plead guilty...they can use that against you in the other case. They will say: ‘Aha! You pleaded guilty. A complete admission of guilt and all we have to do is decide how much you owe me.’ But if you plead no contest that plea cannot be held against you in the other case. You see guilty pleas follow you wherever you go...to another case, if you make an application for a license or perhaps if you are called as a witness in a case. But if you plead no contest we keep the plea in these four walls and we lock the door on it. And yes, you will make the judge use the information in the ticket of the complaint to find you guilty or not guilty but the plea and the admissions cannot be used outside these four walls.”

“You might now say ‘That sounds very interesting your honor but that is not what I thought no contest meant. I thought no contest meant that I tell you what happened and you find me not guilty. Do you know why I thought that? Because I have told everyone I know what happened. I told my family. I told all my friends. I told the people I work with. Do you know what they all told me? They all said ‘just tell the judge what happened. No judge would find you guilty.’ I even put this on my Facebook page, I received 98 likes and all the comments were excellent. So this is easy, I tell you what happened and like everyone else in my world you agree with me and find me not guilty. This is really simple.’ Don’t we wish it was that simple? If it were that simple you would not need a judge to make the decision. It is not that simple because at least one person, no matter what they told you, thinks you did something wrong. Otherwise they would not have given you a ticket. If you believe strongly that you are not guilty then the plea should be not guilty. Again, not guilty is a great plea.”

We then give the person an example of what happens if they plead no contest or guilty:

“What we are going to do right now is give you an example of what happens if you plead no contest or guilty in open court. In a few minutes a prosecutor is going to be seated right there. And if you plead no contest or guilty we are going to ask the prosecutor to tell us what happened and why you are here. By the way, the judge does not know anything about your case. Let me repeat that, the judge does not know anything about your case. Unless the judge issued a warrant for your arrest or set a bond for you, the judge knows nothing about your case. The judge is supposed to have an open mind and not have prejudged your case. That is a good thing. Who knows about your case? The police and the prosecutor do. So we are going to ask the prosecutor ‘tell us what happened, why did you bring this nice person to court?’ And then the prosecutor is going to tell us what happened. After that you may say something. You may say: ‘Why should I say something? You just told me that if I plead no contest you have to use everything in the ticket or complaint to find me guilty or not guilty. Should I say something or I am wasting my time?’ You are not wasting our time. We would still like to hear from you. First, if you are found guilty we must give you a consequence and something you say might help us decide your consequence. Things happen in life. You may want to say something like ‘I cannot agree with everything the prosecutor and police said but let me just tell you what happened, why I was where I was and why they said what I did. And your honor I have a really good record or no record at all.’ We can take all these things into consideration in deciding what your consequence is. And then, every once in awhile this happens: The prosecutor reads the report, the person says something and then the prosecutor stands up and says something like this ‘Your honor, I have reviewed the facts of this case and listened to the person and I do not want to prosecute this case and would like permission to dismiss the case.’ And the judge says ‘Case dismissed.’ [You might say] ‘Aw c’mon your honor that does not happen!’ Yes it does. Why can it happen, why does it happen? Because the prosecutor is a public servant who takes an oath and part of the oath says ‘I will only prosecute cases where there is good and sufficient evidence.’ We call that probable cause. We could give you dozens and dozens of examples but we only have time for one.”



“Here is the example: I am driving down the street and a police officer takes a laser [have you heard of it?] and points it at my license plate and immediately on the police officer’s screen it tells the police officer that the owner of the car that I am driving is under suspension. Here goes the lights and here goes the siren and the police officer pulls me over and approaches my window and says ‘Are you the owner of this car?’ ‘Yes, officer, I own the car.’ ‘Well sir, you are driving under suspension because you did not pay your insurance.’ I breathe a sigh of relief and say ‘Oh, officer I can explain that.’ Now this conversation is happening on a Saturday of a Holiday weekend and I tell the officer: ‘Officer, yesterday I went to my insurance office and paid my insurance, here is my receipt. As you can see my license should not be suspended.’ The officer looks at my insurance and says ‘Oh, I agree with you.’ That was close. I then expect the officer to say ‘Fasten your seat belt and have a nice day’ – right? Wrong. Instead the officer begins to write me a ticket. Now I was always taught growing up not to argue with someone who has a gun, handcuffs and the back seat of the car does not open. I do not like my chances. But I wanted to ask the officer a question. My good father always taught me when speaking to a person in a position of authority to be kind, polite and respectful. You might get somewhere that way. Oh, by the way son, you might not. But at least you will have a chance. So I decided to ask the officer a question. ‘Do you mind if I ask you why you are writing me a ticket?’ ‘Of course,’ says the officer, ‘for driving under suspension.’ Again I tried to show the officer my insurance receipt but the officer said ‘Wait a minute – I did not say I did not agree with you. Let me tell you why I am writing you this ticket. Do you have a boss at work?’ ‘Yes.’ ‘Do you follow your boss’ orders?’ ‘Of course, I do not want to be fired.’ ‘Well I follow my boss’ orders, too. And here are my orders. Officer, take your laser, point it at license plates and if a person is found driving under suspension, write them a ticket.’ Again I tried to show my insurance receipt. The officer said, ‘Wait a minute; I am not done with my story. One day I got the courage to raise my hand and said: Supervisor, what happens if the person convinces me that their license should not be under suspension? My supervisor said: officer, that is not going to happen. You are going to rely only on what is on the computer screen. We don’t care who the person is, who they know, who they don’t know, their circumstances or anything else. If the computer says they are under suspension give them a ticket and a court date. So here is your ticket and your court date.’ And hopefully, there is not a tow truck coming down the road. Now the person is very unhappy. But thankfully you live in the United States of America and not in a Country where you are convicted on the side of the road or at the police station. You get to come to court. And when you come to court, and the dust settles, sometimes the prosecutor will ask the judge to dismiss the case.”

Because many people do not understand the difference between the three parts of the government, we also take some time to explain the role of the three branches of the government:

“That is how the pleas work. Now we are going to shift gears and give you some additional information which hopefully will help some of you make a good decision this morning. Remember, there are three parts of the government. At this point at least one of you is saying ‘Your honor, do we really have to go over this?’ Yes we do. Here is why. Because neither you nor the judge made the law that is written on your ticket or complaint and you and the judge have something very much in common. Neither you nor the judge can change the law. Sometimes people say to the judge ‘Oh, you can do whatever you want to do because you are the judge.’ Do you believe that? Do not believe that. It is not true. A judge has to follow rules just like the rest of us. The judge receives her/his rules from a solemn oath that we take: ‘I promise to follow the law.’”

“Here are a few examples: A person approaches the bench and says, ‘Your honor, I don’t mind paying a fine but I do not want any points on my license. I already have a lot of points and I know if I get 12 points in 2 years I lose my license for 180 days’ or ‘I have a really good driving record,’ or ‘I drive for a living, or I don’t want my insurance rates to go up. I would be really thankful if you could not give me points.’ Can we do that? Let’s ask the people we elected to make the law. Here is what they say: ‘No person shall fail to follow the points law. And if they do they are subject to removal from office.’ Who are they talking to? Yes, the Judge. You see some of the people who make the law think that judges and lawyers do not follow the law. So they put right in the law – if you do not follow the law you are subject to removal from office. Should they have to put that in the law? No. Any good and honorable judge knows to follow the law.”

“The next example: The person pleads no contest. The prosecutor reads the report: 88 in a 50 mph zone in Brownhelm Township, Ohio. The person says to the judge ‘Your honor, do you have a minute? Could you come out and look at my car? It’s in the parking lot. As soon as you see my car you will know immediately that car cannot go 88 mph.’ The judge says ‘I do not need to look at your car.’ ‘You don’t?’ ‘No, I don’t, because your case is dismissed!’ ‘Wow! Thank you your honor. I thought after is told you that little story about my car that you were just going to reduce my fine. Can you tell me why you dismissed my case?’ ‘Yes.’ ‘Do you remember we said the judge must follow the law?’ ‘Yes.’ ‘Well, the people who make the law say the judge in Oberlin can only make decisions in a certain part of the State and Brownhelm Township is not in this part of the State and therefore your case is dismissed.’”

“The next example: The person approaches the bench and says, ‘Your honor, I know I am supposed to have insurance but I did not. But look what I did. Within 1 hour after the police officer let me go I went down to my insurance agent and reinstated my insurance’ or ‘I called that 800 number on the television screen and got insurance the same day’ or ‘Isn’t the internet great? Within 21 minutes after the officer let me go, I got insurance – you are not going to mark down that I did not have insurance for 21 minutes are you your honor?’ Let’s ask the people who make the law. What do they say? They say ‘Your honor, when someone comes before you charged with a traffic offense you have to ask if they had insurance at the time they were driving – not 21 minutes later, not 1 hour later, not a day later, and not when they come to see you – and we are watching you – and your job is simple – find out if the person had insurance when they were driving and notify the BMV and that is the end of that story.’ [After all, if the law simply permitted a person to show insurance after the fact then the mandatory insurance law would be a fiction, a nullity, meaningless. If persons who receive tickets, especially habitual offenders, are taught that all that is necessary is that they show insurance after the fact, many of these persons will know that if they receive a ticket they simply obtain short-term insurance after the fact to avoid the legal consequence of driving without insurance and then their insurance lapses until the next ticket and court appearance ad infinitum.]”

“The last example: If a person has a repeat OVI offense within 10 years the law has mandatory penalties. For example, a 2nd offense in 10 years the person must spend at least 10-20 days and up to 180 days in jail, receive a fine of at least \$525.00 and up to \$1,625.00, have her/his license suspended up to 7 years and have her/his vehicle immobilized for 90 days. On a 3rd offense in 10 years the person must spend at least 30-60 days and up to a year in jail, pay a fine of at least \$850.00 and up to \$2,750.00, have her/his license suspended for up to 12 years and the vehicle is forfeited. ‘But my lawyer said it was 6 years.’ The law was changed last year to 10 years and the legislature could change it to 12 years, 15 years or more and they might. You see, every time a person is killed by a drunk driver the grieving family members seek justice. The first way they seek justice is that they want the person that caused the death of their family member to spend as many years as possible in prison. And some of the grieving families want ‘big justice.’ Big justice is the passage of a new law to give greater penalties to OVI offenders so that other families do not have to suffer like they are. The newest law was passed last year. They called the law ‘Annie’s Law’ named after a young attorney that was killed by a drunk driver. What does it mean to ‘forfeit’ the car? Right now, the City of Amherst police drive a Hummer automobile that used to be owned by a person who stood right here – 3rd offense. The Village of Wellington drives a \$30,000.00 automobile that used to be owned by a person that stood right here – 3rd offense. And the City of Amherst recently received a \$24,000.00 truck owned by a man that stood right here – 3rd offense. We have other forfeitures pending. If you know someone that has an OVI on their record or you know someone that you love and care about that refuses to stop drinking and driving, please help us by calling them and letting them know about these new penalties. You might just save a life.”



“Does the judge have to impose those mandatory penalties? Remember we said that a judge takes an oath to follow the law? A good and honorable judge will always follow the law. If the attorneys approach the judge and ask the judge to not impose the mandatory penalties and the judge signs an agreement of the attorneys that does not include the mandatory penalties the judge would be violating her/his oath of office and the agreement could be void. Judges in the Oberlin Municipal Court do not sign agreements for less than the mandatory penalties because we always follow the law.”

“The last part of the government that you need to know about is the executive branch – the police and the prosecutor. The police officer gave you a ticket or a complaint. What does that mean? It means you are charged with something. You are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.” [Here the judge gestures toward the United States Flag.] “Ask those 44 people that we talked about. They will tell you that you are presumed innocent. The police officer passes the case to the prosecutor who now has to decide whether to prosecute you or not. I think we know that judges do not prosecute people – yes? Sometimes we wonder. Sometimes people come up to the bench and say something like this [usually an angry person]: ‘You guys took my car’ or ‘You guys did this’ [referring to the police as an arm of the court]. We feel sorry for people that utter those words and think those thoughts. They have either had a bad experience with the law or a family member has or that is just the way they were raised. We do not criticize those persons and certainly understand why they might feel that way. But we assure you that the judges in the Oberlin Municipal Court are not part of the executive branch. Judges do not hire and fire police officers or tell them how to do their jobs. Judges do not hire and fire prosecutors. No. Judges are part of the third and independent branch of the government – the judicial branch. What is the job or role of the judge, then? First and foremost to provide you access to the justice system. That is why we have taken this time to talk to you – not because the judge likes to hear her/his self talk. Then the judge enforces the rules to make sure the process is fair. Do judges sentence people? Yes. But this is not prosecuting someone. This is giving someone a consequence after they have been through the process and found guilty.”

“Now remember what our goal is – to help you make a good decision. Now if I were you sitting there listening to the same voice for ½ hour or so my mind would have wandered 4 times. And if I was having a bad day – it would have wandered 8 times. And do know how life comes after you all at once? Maybe you are overwhelmed by life right now and cannot concentrate. Maybe you did not get enough sleep last night and cannot concentrate. Maybe you could not concentrate for ½ hour even if your life depended on it because that is the way you were made. Maybe you are sitting there thinking: ‘Judges and courts, they are all the same, this is a waste of my time, why can’t we just call the cases and get on with this – I know what I want to do.’ Yes, we have people that think that way too. But do not worry we are not angry with any of you. We have not walked a day in your shoes and we do not know what you might be going through in your life right now and what burdens you carry with you. We are not here to make you happy or unhappy. We just want to help you make a good decision. So if there is something you did not understand or you want something repeated or if there is some question you have that we have not covered please feel free to ask a question when you approach the bench.

Thank you.”

This is the explanation that we give at the beginning of each arraignment session. We have had very good response to the explanation and much positive feedback. It seems to calm most if not all of the participants and their family and friends. It takes a little extra time at the beginning of the session but seems to save time in the final analysis.

# OJC TIPS AND TRICKS

*This is a fluid list that will constantly change. We will always be adding items as they become frequent questions, but if you have anything to add, please feel free to contact [Justin Long](#).*

- Feel free to submit any articles you would like to have added to the quarterly For the Record in the future.
- The [Judicial Advisory Group \(JAG\)](#) is available for judges who need need a group to extend its ability to provide confidential assistance to judges.
- There is a "[Who Do You Know](#)" document that is available for judges to fill out if any current legislators they may know could be of assistance to the OJC.
- For help signing into the Ohio Judicial Conference's website, [www.ohiojudges.org](http://www.ohiojudges.org), please see this [document](#).
- Annually, the OJC hosts a Judicial-Legislative Exchange program, which allows a day for judges to come to Columbus to shadow legislators, hopefully from their districts. The idea is for the legislators to then shadow the judges in their court for the day.

# OJC LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

TO HAVE ACCESS TO OUR FULL LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM, PLEASE VISIT OUR [WEBSITE](#)

PLATFORM ISSUE	ACTIONS/STATUS
<b>Determination of Indigency in Civil Filings.</b> The determination of indigency in civil filings needs to be modernized and made uniform (R.C. 1901.26, 1907.24, 2323.30, 2323.31, 2323.311, 2746.001)	<b>JIS Adopted</b> <b>Possible Sponsor Identified</b>
<b>Jail Cap, R.C. 2929.16.</b> Under R.C. 2929.16(A)(2), a violation of a community control sanction should include a 6-month cap, equivalent to other penalties in that section. This change clarifies that a new violation during community control can lead to a jail penalty, even if the original time sentenced has already been served.	<b>JIS adopted</b> <b>Draft language approved</b> <b>Pending in <a href="#">SB 66</a></b>
<b>Removing One-Year Minimum, R.C. 2929.13.</b> At R.C. 2929.13(B)(1)(a), the statute currently requires the judge to sentence an offender to a community control sanction for at least one year.	<b>JIS adopted</b> <b>Draft language approved</b> <b>Pending in <a href="#">SB 66</a></b>
<b>Court Reporting and Transcripts.</b> Make changes to 2301.18-2301.26 such that they are consistent with current practices and can accommodate future technological changes in court reporting.	<b>JIS adopted</b> <b>Seeking Sponsor</b>
<b>Indigent Defense.</b> Improve funding for public defenders and appointed counsel, and ensure that any increased funding is used to improve the overall quality of indigent defense.	<b>JIS Adopted</b> <b>Seeking Sponsor</b>
<b>Judicial Authority to Operate the Court, Make Hiring Decisions, and Compensate Court Personnel.</b> Repeal portions of R.C. 307.01, 2101.11, and 2151.10 as amended in Substitute Senate Bill 63 (effective 7-26-79), consistent with court rulings declaring this change to be an unconstitutional expansion of the powers of local funding authorities over court budgets, and modify R.C. 1901.31, 1901.33, 1901.331, 1901.36, 1907.20, and 1907.201 to ensure that all judges, regardless of whether in the municipal, county or common pleas courts, have the statutory power to hire and compensate court personnel.	<b>JIS Adopted</b> <b>Seeking Sponsor</b>
<b>Segregation of Funds Collected by Courts.</b> Enact legislation to direct state and county auditors to keep all monies collected by a court segregated in a separate account from the general revenue fund at the state, county and local level. (This entry was adopted and added to the Platform on February 25, 2011.)	<b>JIS Adopted</b> <b>Seeking Sponsors</b>

<b>Exempting Judges' Addresses from County Auditors' Databases.</b>	JIS Adopted  Pending in <a href="#">HB 341</a>
<b>Criminal Code, Traffic/DUI Law, and Drug Law Simplification.</b> Work with the Criminal Sentencing Commission and other interested parties in the criminal justice system to revise and simplify Title 29, Title 39 (Drug Laws), and Title 45 (Traffic Laws/DUI Law)	JIS adopted  Draft language approved  Seeking sponsors
<b>Definition of Drug of Abuse.</b> Review 4511.19, 3719.011, and 4511.181 and clarify references to "drugs of abuse," "harmful intoxicants," and "dangerous drugs," especially with regard to the establishment of impairment in OVI cases.	JIS adopted  Possible Sponsor Identified
<b>F4/F5 45-day Offender Placement Language.</b> Make changes to 2929.13(B)(1)(a), 2929.13(B)(1)(b) and 2929.13(B)(1)(c) to reinstate judicial discretion to sentence offenders to a term of imprisonment in cases where the offender has been convicted or pleaded guilty to a felony of the fourth or fifth degree and the court believes that no community control sanctions would adequately fulfill the overriding principles and purposes of sentencing; modify 2951.03 to grant permissive authority for courts to order presentence investigation reports for felony offenders where necessary.	JIS adopted  Submitted to Criminal Recodification Committee
<b>State v. Bodyke (126 Ohio St.3d 266, 2010).</b> Develop changes consistent with the <i>State v. Bodyke</i> ruling by eliminating 2950.031 and 2950.032.	JIS adopted  Submitted to Criminal Recodification Committee
<b>Re-Offender Sentencing.</b> Unless the journal entry provides otherwise, a sentence imposed pursuant to R.C. § 2929.141 (Person On Release Committing a Felony) shall be served before any other sentence, including specifications. Various specifications (such as gun specifications) state that the sentence shall be served consecutively and prior to the underlying sentence, but no such direction is given regarding post-release control.	JIS Adopted  Submitted to Criminal Recodification Committee
<b>Sec. 2929.19(B)(2)(f).</b> R.C. 341.26, 753.33, and 5120.63 lay out the authority of county and municipal jails and the ODRC to conduct random drug testing of inmates. R.C. 2929.19(B)(2)(f) needlessly duplicates these sections and requires a sentencing judge to inform an offender about the prohibition against using drugs. In instances where a judge has overlooked this requirement, almost all appeals have found it to be harmless error, but the appeals are nonetheless unnecessary and costly. R.C. 2929.19(B)(2)(f) should be deleted.	JIS adopted  Possible Bill Identified
<b>State v. Nucklos (2009).</b> To change the definition of "affirmative defense" to correspond with recent case law.	JIS Adopted  Submitted to Criminal Recodification Committee

<b>Public Pension Reform and Marital Property.</b> Seek changes to Title 31 to clarify that Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) funds constitute marital property, to clarify that certain post-divorce and post-dissolution disability benefits are marital property, to codify the <i>Cosby v. Cosby</i> (96 Ohio St.3d 228, 2002) ruling regarding pre-retirement rights of survivorship, and to require the state retirement systems to automatically implement court division of property orders.	JIS Adopted  Proposal drafted  Seeking Sponsor
<b>Parenting Time Enforcement.</b> Create a procedural mechanism as an alternative to a motion for contempt that would permit a parent to file a motion for parenting time enforcement.	JIS Adopted  Seeking Sponsor
<b>Parental Duty of Support-Age Limit and School Enrollment.</b> Clarify current law regarding a court's authority to continue a child support order beyond age 18 if, among other things, the child continuously attends a recognized and accredited high school on a full-time basis on and after the child's eighteenth birthday;	JIS Adopted  Seeking Sponsor
<b>Unemployment of Child Support Obligor.</b> To develop an automatic adjustment of a child support obligation when the obligor goes on unemployment.	JIS Adopted  Seeking sponsor
<b>Social Security Benefits.</b> To clarify that receipt of social security benefits does not require the judge to find a person legally disabled in domestic relations court.	JIS Adopted  Seeking sponsor
<b>Permissive Appointment of Use of Private Judge.</b> To make R.C. § 2701.10 permissive in terms of the judge making a referral for adjudication of civil actions or proceedings to a private judge if the parties have agreed to utilize a private judge.	JIS Adopted  Seeking sponsor
<b>Planned Permanent Living Arrangements (PPLA).</b> Amend 2151.353 and 2151.415 to permit juvenile courts to order PPLA if not requested by children services agencies in response to <i>In re A.B.</i> , 110 Ohio St.3d 230, 2006.	JIS Drafted  Seeking sponsor
<b>Juvenile Justice Reform.</b> Problems that have arisen as a result of implementing the juvenile justice reform provisions of 129 HB 86 need to be addressed.	JIS Drafted  Seeking Sponsor
<b>Make Computerization Fees uniform for all court Jurisdictions.</b> 129 <sup>th</sup> GA passed increase in Cap for Common Pleas General Division only. Similar provisions in other sections regarding other court jurisdictions should be increased as well.	JIS Adopted  Seeking Sponsor
<b>Court Costs in Transferred Cases.</b> To clarify the law that levying a cost in a case when the juvenile is transferred does not automatically create a final disposition of the case.	JIS Adopted  Seeking Sponsor
<b>Domestic Relations/Juvenile Jurisdiction Transfer.</b> R.C. 2151.23, 2151.231, and 2301.03 and Chapter 3105 should be amended to grant Ohio courts with domestic relations jurisdiction the authority to hear and determine child support and child custody cases in which the child's parents are still married but living separately and enable juvenile courts to certify certain cases to the division of the court with domestic relations jurisdiction.	JIS Adopted  Seeking Sponsor



## VISIT THE OHIO JUDICIAL CONFERENCE WEBSITE!

[WWW.OHIOJUDGES.ORG](http://WWW.OHIOJUDGES.ORG)

CONTACT JUSTIN LONG AT THE OHIO JUDICIAL CONFERENCE FOR LOGIN ASSISTANCE

[justin.long@sc.ohio.gov](mailto:justin.long@sc.ohio.gov)

<b>Ex Parte Order Expungement.</b> R.C. 2151.34, 2903.213, 2903.214, 2919.26, and 3113.31. The most recent budget included language that requires, on the court's own motion and after the time for appeals has lapsed, the destruction of records relevant to an ex parte protection order if, after a full hearing, a protection order was not issued. The provision presents several practical burdens, and should be corrected to allow for efficient implementation.	<b>JIS Adopted</b>  <b>Seeking Sponsor</b>
<b>Structured Settlements.</b> R.C. 2323.58 <i>et seq.</i> should be modernized to provide a more workable procedure for approval of transfers of structured settlements.	<b>JIS Adopted</b>  <b>Pending in <a href="#">HB 223</a> &amp; <a href="#">SB 152</a></b>
<b>Trust to Age 25 in Minor Settlements.</b> A change is needed to mirror in trust actions the authority the court has in wrongful death proceedings where a minor is the beneficiary.	<b>JIS Adopted</b>  <b>Possible Sponsor Identified</b>
<b>"Safe Harbor" Provision for Trafficked Juveniles.</b> Currently, the law allows a charge against a juvenile to be held in abeyance if the juvenile is a victim of human trafficking and the juvenile is undergoing treatment. The law allows only a 90-day time frame for the abeyance, with the possibility of 2 extensions of 90 days each. This time frame should be extended considerably or left open-ended to allow for the extensive treatment necessary for a trafficked juvenile.	<b>JIS Adopted</b>  <b>Pending in <a href="#">HB 56</a></b>
<b>Title 45 "Corrections."</b> Several oversights were identified in Title 45, including F3 OVI Sentencing; enhanced penalties for speeding; and an affirmative defense for emergencies when driving under suspension; discrepancy between length of driving suspension and length of vehicle immobilization.	<b>JIS Adopted</b>  <b>Possible Sponsor Identified</b>
<b>Driving Under Suspension.</b> Current statutory language prohibiting driving under suspension of a license should include the language "or whose privilege to obtain a license has been suspended."	<b>JIS Adopted</b>  <b>Seeking Sponsor</b>
<b>Limited Driving Privileges for Child-Support Suspensions.</b> A person who has had his license suspended in domestic relations court for not paying child support has no mechanism, short of being found in contempt, for asking the court to allow limited driving privileges to work.	<b>JIS Adopted</b>  <b>Possible bill identified</b>
<b>Insurance Verification Modernization.</b> The Department of Public Safety Financial Responsibility Study Committee report, most recently published in 2014, recommends eliminating the financial responsibility random verification. Because insurance verification has such a tremendous impact on the caseload of a municipal court, a real-time electronic insurance verification method should be implemented. Proof of insurance should also be required upon renewing or obtaining vehicle registration.	<b>JIS Adopted</b>  <b>Seeking Sponsor</b>

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## OHIO JUDICIAL CONFERENCE

## SUPREME COURT OF OHIO JUDICIAL COLLEGE

### COURSE CALENDAR

*(for Judges, Magistrates, Acting Judges, Court Personnel, Judicial Candidates, and Guardians)*

*Additional Judicial College courses are available online for self-study hours via the link below.  
<http://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/Boards/judCollege/calendars/OnlineSS.pdf>*

**Note:** Listed judicial and professional conduct hours are projections. Refer to course announcements for final and approved judicial college hours.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>COURSE</u>	<u>FOR</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
<b>October 2018</b>			
2	Tue	Probation Officer Training Program: Motivational Interviewing	Probation Officers Akron
4	Thu	Evidence	Judges & Magistrates Cleveland
5	Fri	Judicial Conduct	Judges & Magistrates Cleveland
5	Fri	Law Clerk/Staff Attorney Course	Court Personnel Columbus
16	Tue	Probation Officer Training Program: Assessment and Case Management	Probation Officers Columbus
17	Wed	Beyond the Basics for Probation Officers: Motivational Interviewing Skills (Part 2 of 3)	Probation Officers Columbus
18	Thu	Adult Guardianship 3 Hour Continuing Education Course: Alzheimer's and Dementia (AM Session: 8:45-noon)	Adult Guardians Columbus
18	Thu	Adult Guardianship 3 Hour Continuing Education Course: Alzheimer's and Dementia (PM Session: 1:00-4:15 p.m.)	Adult Guardians Columbus
19	Fri	Criminal Rules by the Numbers: Part V	Judges & Magistrates Columbus

### November 2018

29 - 30	Thu - Fri	Ohio Association of Juvenile Court Judges (OAJCJ) Winter Conference	Judges*	Columbus
30	Fri	Acting Judges Course (4 of 4 offerings)	Judges, Magistrates & Acting Judges	Columbus
30	Fri	Street Smart	Court Personnel	Columbus

### December 2018

4	Tue	Probation Officer Training Program: Behavioral Management	Probation Officers	Akron
5	Wed	Supervisor Series (1 of 2 offerings)	Court Personnel	Columbus
5 - 7	Wed - Fri	Ohio Common Pleas Judges Association (OCPJA) Winter Conference (Judicial Conduct hours will be requested)	Judges*	Columbus
6	Thu	Supervisor Series (2 of 2 offerings)	Court Personnel	Columbus
7	Fri	Sex Offender Management Webinar	Probation Officers	Webinar
10 - 13	Mon - Thu	New Judges Orientation Part I	New Judges	Columbus
13	Thu	Clerk's Course	Court Personnel	Columbus
14	Fri	Judicial Conduct Webinar	Judges & Magistrates	Webinar
18	Tue	Probation Officer Training Program: Cognitive Behavioral Interventions	Probation Officers	Columbus
19	Wed	Guardian ad Litem Continuing Education Course: GAL Symposium (AM Session 8:45-12:15 p.m.)	Guardians ad Litem	Columbus
19	Wed	Guardian ad Litem Continuing Education Course: GAL Symposium (PM Session 1:00-4:30 p.m.)	Guardians ad Litem	Columbus
19	Wed	Guardian ad Litem Pre Service Course	Guardians ad Litem	Columbus

**WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO OUR NEXT EDITION OF FOR THE RECORD?  
 OJC IS ALWAYS INTERESTED IN ARTICLES AND IDEAS TO POST.**

**Please contact Justin Long**  
[justin.long@sc.ohio.gov](mailto:justin.long@sc.ohio.gov)

**PLEASE NOTE:**

*PLEASE NOTE:*

*This schedule is SUBJECT TO CHANGE. View the Judicial College homepage for course schedule updates and additional information via <http://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/Boards/judCollege/default.aspx#>.*

*To register for a Judicial College course or to view a course announcement, please visit our online registration site at <http://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/Boards/judCollege/default.aspx#>.*

1. Every two years, full-time judges, part-time judges, and retired judges eligible for assignment are required to obtain 40 hours of CLE. Of the 40 hours, 10 hours must be obtained from the Judicial College and include 3.00 hours of Judicial Conduct. (Gov.Jud. R. IV, §3 A-C).
2. Every two years, magistrates are required to obtain 24 hours of CLE. Of the 24 hours, 10 hours must be obtained from the Judicial College and 2.50 hours of professional conduct are required. Magistrates may obtain professional conduct hours from the Judicial College or another approved provider. (Gov.Bar R. X, §12).
3. Every two years, acting judges are required to obtain 24 hours of CLE. Of the 24 hours, 10 hours must be obtained from the Judicial College and 2.50 hours of professional conduct are required. Acting Judges may obtain professional conduct hours from the Judicial College or another approved provider. (Gov.Bar R. X, §11).
4. Full-day courses of legal education typically consist of 5.5 Judicial College or CLE credit hours and are from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., unless otherwise noted.
5. **NEW:** “Webinars” now replace “Web Conferences” formerly delivered via local host sites. Individuals may now participate in these courses via their personal/work computers. Webinars will qualify for self-study credit hours. Check individual course announcements for the time of the courses and approved credit hours.
6. The Judicial College cannot accept registration for courses until the course announcement has been emailed and online registration is opened through OhioCourtEDU.
7. (\*) Indicates course registration through an association. Please check the event announcement when it is distributed by your association to confirm the credit hours to be offered.
8. For all non-association courses, please check the Judicial College course announcement when it is emailed to confirm whether judicial and/or professional conduct hours will be offered.
9. (\*\*) There is no pre-registration or tuition for the Judicial Candidates Seminars.
10. **NEW:** Additional providers and courses for probation officers (e.g., firearms) and court security officers (e.g., subject control, formerly “defensive tactics”) can be accessed via the following links  
<http://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/Boards/judCollege/courtSecurityEd/default.asp> and  
<http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Law-Enforcement/Ohio-Peace-Officer-Training-Academy/Course-Catalog/Course-Categories/Court-Services>

***Please refer to individual course announcements for the approved Judicial College or CLE credit hours and for course registration information.***

To access Gov. Jud.R. IV and Gov.Bar R. X, please go to: [www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/LegalResources/Rules/default.asp](http://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/LegalResources/Rules/default.asp).  
To access CLE rule changes and FAQs, go to: [www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/AttySvcs/CLE/ruleChanges2014/judgeFAQ.asp](http://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/AttySvcs/CLE/ruleChanges2014/judgeFAQ.asp).

OHIO JUDICIAL COLLEGE

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