



August 1, 2016

### **Legislation and Policy in the News:**

[New Mexico's Top Judge Pushes for Bail Reform; The Plain Dealer, July 26, 2016](#)

[Opinion: Ohio's Medical Marijuana Law Will Not Protect Patients in the Workplace; Cleveland.com, July 27, 2016](#)



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

## Legislative News: Two Week Review

- **SB 340** (Sen. Seitz) **Indemnity Clauses in Public Improvement Contracts**, introduced 7.25.16. The bill allows a public authority to, by contract, require a contractor to indemnify and hold harmless the public authority if the contractor is working in connection with a public improvement.
- Sens. Hite and Gardner announced 7.29.16 that they plan to introduce legislation creating a [violent offender registry](#).
- The **Ohio Criminal Recodification Committee** is scheduled to release its recommendations today, 8.1.16. The Committee may not have completed its work on Chapters 2925 (Drug Offenses) and 2929 (Sentencing).
- The **Ohio Public Defender** announced adoption of rules pursuant to a 2015 administrative code change, 7.22.16. The rules apply to appointed counsel systems, including standards of indigence; minimum caseload standards; and minimum qualifications of appointed counsel. Tables are available online for [juvenile cases](#),  [misdemeanor](#) and [felony](#) cases, [capital cases](#), and [adult](#) and [juvenile appeals](#).
- The National Center for State Courts released findings from its 2015 poll, "[The State of State Courts](#)," which suggest that support for the courts is strong but shows signs of softening and that concerns among the public about unfairness and inefficiency in the court system are real and deep-seated.
- The inaugural conference of the **National Association for Presiding Judges and Court Executive Officers (NAPCO)** is being held September 25-28, 2016 in Cleveland. Registration is open [online](#).
- Save the Date: **The OJC's Annual Meeting, "...And Justice for All: The American Promise,"** (9.75 total CJE hours) will take place on September 15 & 16 at the Columbus Hilton at Easton. Registrations have been mailed and it is possible to register via mail, fax, or [online](#).
- The OJC is currently working on its 2017-2018 Legislative Platform, which will guide our work throughout the next General Assembly. If you have an idea for a legislative change, please send it to [Marta.Mudri@sc.ohio.gov](mailto:Marta.Mudri@sc.ohio.gov) for review by our Legislative Committee.
- The OJC bids farewell to John Ryan, who staffed the Probate, Juvenile, and Domestic Relations Law and Procedure Committees. John has moved on to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio and we wish him much luck and success there. We also welcome Aleta Burns, our new fiscal officer.

**For a complete list of bills that affect the judiciary, please visit the [OJC website](#).**



[Marta Mudri](#)

Legislative Counsel  
*Civil Law; Specialized Dockets; Jury Service*



[Josh Williams](#)

Deputy Legislative Counsel  
*Criminal Law; Traffic Law; Appellate Law; Magistrates*



[Justin Long](#)

Legislative Services Assistant  
*Publications; Public Confidence and Community Outreach*