



August 21, 2017

**Legislation and Policy in the News:**

[Suit: Nearly 300 million doses of opioids flood greater Cincinnati area over five years: Cincinnati Enquirer, Aug. 15, 2017](#)

[Neo-Nazi website faces federal lawsuit over defamation: Dayton Daily News, Aug. 16, 2017](#)

*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 177](#) (Sen. Lehner) **Expand Volunteer Health Care Civil Immunity**, introduced 8.10.17. The bill expands the circumstances under which a volunteer health care services provider may be subject to immunity from civil liability.
- [SB 180](#) (Sens. Uecker & Hottinger), **Self-Defense and Weapons Control**, introduced 8.15.17. The bill assigns to the prosecution the burden of disproving a self-defense claim, and removes any duty to retreat from the element of self-defense, if the person claiming the defense was in a place where he or she was lawfully allowed to be.
- The Senate will meet on August 22, 2017, to consider possible override votes to line items that Gov. Kasich vetoed in H.B. 49, the biennial budget bill.
- In recent interviews with Statehouse news media, committee chairs have identified several bills as priorities when legislative activity resumes this fall. According to Rep. Jim Butler, chair of the House Civil Justice Committee, his committee plans to move forward with [HB 7](#) (Rep. Cupp – medical claims and provider immunities), [HB 147](#) (Rep. Hambley – pertaining to humane society agents), and [HB 271](#) (Reps. McColley and Rezabek – allowing aggrieved parties to provide notice of alleged accessibility law violations before filing a civil action). Sen. Kevin Bacon, chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, has identified as priorities for his committee [HB 1](#) (Reps. Manning and Sykes – dating violence protection orders) and [HB 6](#) (Rep. Barnes – prohibiting fees for correcting sealed/expunged criminal record information published by third parties).
- The Supreme Court is seeking public comment on [proposed amendments](#) to the Supreme Court Rules for the Government of the Bar of Ohio, pertaining to magistrate orientation and CLE requirements. Comments will be accepted through August 30, 2017.
- The Ohio Civil Justice Reform Task Force has released its recommendations, which the Judicial Conference has summarized [here](#).
- The Ohio Board of Professional Conduct released an [advisory opinion](#) concluding that court employees in a specialized drug court cannot be simultaneously employed by a nonprofit drug treatment facility that is under contract with the court. The opinion also concludes that a court employee cannot engage in any fundraising activity for the treatment facility.
- **Today is the last day to register for the 2017 OJC Annual Meeting**, “Adapting Justice to a Dynamic Society,” will take place in Columbus from 8.31.17 to 9.1.17. Look for registration information in the mail, or register [online](#). The legislative panel, composed of State Senators and Representatives, is scheduled for the morning of 9.1.17 (Friday) and will include a question and answer session. *If you have questions you would like to submit to the legislative panelists, please forward them to [Marta.Mudri@sc.ohio.gov](mailto:Marta.Mudri@sc.ohio.gov).*

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



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