



December 23, 2024

**In Case You Missed It:**

[Summary of Petition to End Qualified Immunity Approved by Attorney General Yost](#)

[Nearly 200 People Have Been Pardoned in the First 5 Years of the Governor's Expedited Pardon Project](#)

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

## Legislative News: Two-Week Review

- The following are some of the bills the Legislature voted out on 12.18.24: [HB 37](#) (Reps. Johnson, Miller K.) alters penalties for OVI; [SB 63](#) (Sen. Lang) changes filing procedure for asbestos cases; [SB 158](#) (Sen. Cirino) adds a judge in Adams County; [SB 237](#) (Sens. Gavarone, Manning) creates an expedited procedure to dismiss defamation claims in conflict with constitutional rights, clarifies the types of cases that can be brought in small claims court, and prohibits naming a minor as a party in an eviction case; [HB 497](#) (Reps. Klopfenstein, Stewart) includes a clarification that restitution and fines imposed upon transferring a juvenile case to another county are not final appealable orders; [HB 531](#) (Reps. Lear, Lorenz) prohibits sexual extortion and authorizes access to digital assets of a deceased minor. *Enactment summaries will be available soon on our website.*
- The following are some of the bills the Governors signed on 12.19.24: [HB 5](#) (Reps. Baker, Ray) modernizes adoption; [SB 100](#) (Sens. Antonio, Manning) prohibits using a tracking device without a person's knowledge; [HB 111](#) (Reps. LaRe, Miller K.) creates a presumption in favor of prison for F3 domestic violence; [HB 234](#) (Reps. Rogers, Williams) prohibits consideration of genuine remorse upon an Alford plea and makes changes to record sealing and expungement; [HB 289](#) (Reps. Robb Blasdel, Swearingen) makes changes to how time is tolled for SORN registrants and repeals Marsy's Law language concerning procedure for subpoenas of victim records; [HB 338](#) (Reps. Sweeney, White) authorizes child support orders for adult children with developmental disabilities, changes the status of the Lebanon Municipal Court judge, and partially corrects language concerning computerization fee funds. *Enactment summaries will be available soon on our website.*
- On 12.4.24, in *State ex rel. Martens v. Findlay Mun. Court*, [Slip Opinion No. 2024-Ohio-5667](#), the Ohio Supreme Court overturned a decision that allowed filing lawsuits despite suffering no injury.
- On 12.9.24, in *State v. Beatty*, [Slip Opinion No. 2024-Ohio-5684](#), the Ohio Supreme Court ruled that state law allows a trial court to impose a **maximum of two consecutive prison terms for firearm specifications**.
- On 12.9.24, in *State v. Grad*, Slip Opinion No. 2024-Ohio-5710, the Ohio Supreme Court ruled that a **significant post-trial change in scientific knowledge** involving key evidence may be considered newly discovered evidence.
- On 12.10.24, in *In re Natl. Prescription Opiate Litigation*, [Slip Opinion No. 2024-Ohio-5744](#), the Ohio Supreme Court ruled that pharmaceutical chains can't be sued as **public nuisances for selling opioids**; such a lawsuit must be brought under the Ohio Product Liability Act.
- The [Social Security Fairness Act \(H.R. 82\)](#) repeals Social Security's **windfall elimination provision** and **government pension offset**. The windfall elimination provision reduces the Social Security benefits of retired federal workers and other public servants who spent a portion of their careers in the private sector. The government pension offset reduces spousal and survivor Social Security benefits in families with retired government workers. [H.R.82 passed on 12.20.24.](#)
- This is the last newsletter for 2024. Have a happy New Year!



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