



September 3, 2024

In Case You Missed It:

[Training videos](#) for both grand juries and petit juries are available from the Supreme Court.

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

- **HB 653** (Rep. Lorenz) **Vehicular Manslaughter, Assault**, introduced 8.13.24. The bill increases the penalty for Vehicular Manslaughter (to an M1, and to an F4 if the offender was driving under suspension or otherwise did not have a valid license), subject to a class 4 suspension (currently a class 6 suspension). It also expands the offense of vehicular assault to include causing serious physical harm to another as a result of committing a minor misdemeanor traffic offense. The same increased penalties apply to Vehicular Assault.
- **HB 656** (Rep. Patton) **Sanctions for Employing Unauthorized Immigrants**, introduced 8.19.24. The bill prohibits an employer from employing an unauthorized immigrant and creates a process by which the Attorney General or a local prosecutor can pursue a case, which a court must expedite.
- In [Weidman v. Hildebrant](#), (Slip Opinion No. 2024-Ohio-2931) decided on 8.8.24, the Ohio Supreme Court ruled that the statute of limitations on libel suits doesn't start until the plaintiff discovers the offending statement if the libelous statements are secretive, concealed, or otherwise inherently unknowable to the plaintiff.
- On 7.23.24, the Ohio Supreme Court agreed to hear [State v. Balmert](#), (2024-Ohio-2718) concerning law enforcement's ability to tell whether a driver is actually under the influence of marijuana when stopped. See [SB 26](#), which is trying to determine what level of what chemical in what bodily fluid reliably shows THC intoxication, as opposed to remnants of prior use.
- **HB 33**, the state operating budget, amended R.C. 117.103 to require the Auditor of State to create training material detailing **Ohio's fraud-reporting system** and the means of reporting fraud, waste, and abuse. The section stipulates the [training is mandatory](#) for all public employees and elected officials.
- [Issue 1](#) on the November ballot would change the Ohio Constitution to create an Ohio Citizens Redistricting Commission in place of the current Redistricting Commission. The commissioners will be chosen by a bipartisan screening panel (along with a search firm); **the panel is to be comprised of 4 retired judges**. The application process and qualifications are outlined in the amendment language, as is the work of the panel. The retired judge panel is also responsible for selecting a pool of special masters, who would serve in the event of a legal challenge to a redistricting plan.
- As announced at the Annual OJMA meeting on 4.26.24, **the Ohio Jury Management Association will voluntarily dissolve**. A special meeting of membership has been scheduled for 9.11.24, at 8:30 a.m., via Zoom. All members are invited to join.
- **Save the Date:** The Miami County Common Pleas Mental Health Court is hosting a [Mental Health & Community Resource Fair](#) on 9.5.24, starting at 10:30, at the Miami County Courthouse Plaza.
- **Registration Ends 9.4.24:** The [OJC Annual Meeting](#) is 9.19.24 and 9.20.24 at the Hilton Columbus at Easton. A total of 10.25 CJs are pending approval and the agenda includes presentations on Marsy's Law, competency, artificial intelligence, interpreters, and more.

[For Tools & Bench Aids, and the latest Bill Impact Statements, please visit the OJC Website](#)



[Marta Mudri](#)

Legislative Counsel
Civil Law; Specialty
Courts; Community
Corrections



[Shawn Welch](#)

Deputy Legislative Counsel
Probate Law; Domestic
Relations Law; Juvenile Law



[Josh Williams](#)

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



[Justin Long](#)

Legislative Services
Specialist;
Publications; PCCO