



May 4, 2026

In Case You Missed It:

The Board of Professional Conduct Issued an [Ethics Guide on AI for Lawyers and Judicial Officers](#)

The OJC's Annual Judicial-Legislative Exchange is Set for May 20, 2026. [Contact Justin Long to sign up!](#)

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

Legislative News: Two-Week Review

- [SB 432](#) (Sen. Manning) **Abuse of Corpse**, introduced 4.27.26. The bill clarifies the offense of Abuse of a Corpse (RC 2927.01) and increases the penalty (M2 to F5). The currently prohibited behavior is treating a human corpse "in a way that would outrage reasonable community sensibilities."
- [HR 406](#) (Rep. White) **Crime Victims' Rights Week**, introduced 4.27.26. The resolution recognizes the week of April 19 through April 25, 2026 as National Crime Victims' Rights Week in Ohio.
- On 4.22.26, the Ohio Supreme Court decided [State v. J.B.](#) (Slip Opinion No. 2026-Ohio-1405), stating the Revised Code does not prohibit a trial court from considering the number and nature of a person's convictions when that person is applying to **seal criminal records** under RC 2953.32. Just because the state does not object to the application to seal, does not mean the trial cannot balance the interests of the government against the interests of the applicant.
- On 4.22.26, the Ohio Supreme Court decided [In re Complaint of Ohio Power Co. v. Nationwide Energy Partners](#) (Slip Opinion No. 2026-Ohio-1406), stating that a submetering company that arranges with landlords to sell electricity to apartment tenants is a "**public utility**" subject to regulation by the PUCO.
- On 4.23.26, the Ohio Supreme Court decided [State v. Hill](#) (Slip Opinion No. 2026-Ohio-1427), stating that RC 2953.21 provides the only mechanism by which a person may bring a collateral challenge to the validity of a conviction or sentence. Civil Rule 60(B) cannot be used by a capital defendant to bypass statutory requirements for successive postconviction relief petitions.
- On 4.28.26, the Ohio Supreme Court decided [In re L.E.S.](#) (Slip Opinion No. 2026-Ohio-1449), stating that RC 3111.95(A) does not apply to same-sex couples who were not married at the time of insemination, even if they could not be legally married at that time. RC 3111.95(A) creates the statutory process by which the consenting spouse of a woman who conceives a child through artificial insemination can be **recognized as the natural parent of the child**.
- On 4.30.26, the Ohio Supreme Court decided [State v. Morris](#) (Slip Opinion No. 2026-Ohio-1519), stating that the **right to counsel** in the Ohio Constitution does not extend to a defendant's pre-indictment investigatory interview; Article 1 Section 10 of the Ohio Constitution guarantees the right to counsel "in any trial, in any court." While the 6th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees right to counsel, the defendant in the case was found to have waived that right and, despite asking about an attorney midway through the police interview, was not found to have unambiguously and unequivocally invoked that right.
- The **Ohio Public Defender released** a [memo](#) outlining amendments to Ohio Administrative Code sections 120-1-04 and 120-1-10, which became effective 4.17.26. The amendments offer expanded pathways for appointed counsel to meet the qualifications for reimbursement.
- **Don't forget!** The new **Superintendence Rule 5(F)** goes into effect 7.1.26. The Supreme Court has developed [templates for sample rules and plans](#).

For a complete list of bills & the latest Enactment News, 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



[Justin Long](#)

Legislative Services
Specialist; Public Con-
fidence & Outreach