



# THE OHIO PROSECUTOR

April 2026

## In This Issue

### At the Statehouse

- Top Ten Bills to Watch
- Notable Legislation

### New and Noteworthy

- Pending Supreme Court Cases of Interest
- OAG Opinions
- New Prosecutors

### Member Accomplishment

### Training

- OPAA Spring Meeting
- Online Self-Study Trainings
- 2026 Training Dates

### OPAA Officers

- 2026 OPAA Officers
- Executive and Legislative Committee Dates

## Contact Us

[www.ohiopa.org](http://www.ohiopa.org)



## From your President...



Every four years, our profession experiences a natural period of transition tied to the election cycle. As county prosecutors stand for election alongside the presidential race, we often see a changing of the guard—new leaders stepping forward, seasoned prosecutors concluding their service, and offices across Ohio entering a new chapter.

This past year, however, has been anything but typical. Over the last six to eight months, we have seen an unusual number of transitions outside the traditional election process. A significant number of our colleagues have been called to serve in new capacities—most notably through judicial appointments—while others have pursued different professional opportunities. As a result, many of our newest county prosecutors have assumed office through selection by their respective county party central committees.

While the path to office may differ, the responsibility remains the same. Each of these individuals now carries the weighty obligation of seeking justice, serving their communities, and leading their offices with integrity. I am pleased to introduce several of these new prosecutors later in this newsletter.

One of my primary goals as President of OPAA is to ensure that every county prosecutor—particularly those new to the role—knows they are not alone in this work. The responsibilities of the office are significant, and the challenges can be immediate. But so too is the support available through this Association.

In the coming weeks and months, I will be reaching out personally to each of our new prosecutors to welcome them and to better understand how OPAA can assist them in their transition and beyond. Whether it is training, legal resources, mentorship, or simply a sounding board, our mission is to stand alongside you and support your success.

The strength of our Association has always been rooted in collaboration and shared purpose. I look forward to working with this new group of leaders and continuing to build on that foundation together.

David P. Fornshell



## At the Statehouse

Below is a current list of bills that have passed at least one chamber, are companion bills in both chambers, or are otherwise a priority for OPAA. A complete list of bills can be found on our website. **Please contact Lou if you have any questions about a piece of legislation or the reason for our position.** Also, if you have any questions about the work of the legislature or the status of any legislation, please let us know!

### Top 10 Bills to Watch – April 2026

1) Senate Bill 393 (Sex Offenses – Juveniles/Animals). This is one of three pieces of legislation that would criminalize the creation, possession, and dissemination of artificial child pornography. See also Senate Bill 163 and House Bill 786. Senate Bill 393 also includes mandatory penalties for child pornography that depicts acts of violence and that depicts children under the age of 13, a 5-year specification for possession of 100 or more images of child pornography, provisions regarding sexting between juveniles who are 14 to 17 years of age, the creation of a close-in-age exception unlawful sexual conduct with a minor and gross sexual imposition, and an increased penalty for sexual conduct with an animal. OPAA supports this legislation.

2) House Bill 252 (Burglary). The bill addresses the Supreme Court of Ohio decision in *State v. Bertram*, 173 Ohio St.3d 186, in which the Court overturned the burglary conviction of an offender who walked into a victim's garage and stole a leaf blower. The conviction was overturned because the offender did not use "force, stealth or deception" in committing the theft. The bill removes the requirement of force, stealth, or deception. OPAA supports this legislation.

3) House Bill 338 (Correctional Institutions). Among other things, the bill increases the penalty for assaulting or causing the death of specified victims at state or local correctional institutions and make changes to department of rehabilitation and correction policies and procedures. The legislation is a response to the murder of corrections officer Andy Lansing at Ross Correctional Institution in December 2024. OPAA supports the legislation.

4) Senate Bill 55 (OVI – Marijuana). The bill makes changes to the laws pertaining to operating a vehicle or watercraft while under the influence of marihuana and the admissibility of evidence for purposes of OVI statutes. Specifically, it repeals the per se marijuana OVI violations based on marijuana metabolites. It retains per se violations based on blood draws. OPAA would like to amend this legislation to remove the changes regarding the admissibility of evidence. OPAA is seeking changes to this legislation.

5) House Bill 372 (Murder of First Responder – Penalties). The bill specifies that the penalty for aggravated murder for an adult offender is death or life without the possibility of parole if the victim is a peace officer, prosecutor, first responder, or military member. The act is named the Larry Henderson Act. OPAA supports this legislation.

6) House Bill 88 (Drug Trafficking). The bill increases penalties for trafficking in fentanyl, heroin, cocaine, and meth, and creates a five year sentencing specification for drug overdose deaths related to fentanyl. The bill also removes the requirement in current law for prosecutors to prove that a person in possession of schedule III, IV, or V drugs knew the drugs contained fentanyl in order for the offender to be convicted of possession of fentanyl. OPAA supports this legislation.

7) House Bill 36/House Bill 72/Senate Bill 133/Senate Bill 134 (Death Penalty). House Bill 36 enacts an alternative method of execution, nitrogen hypoxia, and reenacts confidentiality for entities that provide lethal injection drugs to the state. House bill 72, Senate Bill 133, and Senate Bill 134 all abolish the death penalty. OPAA supports legislative efforts that will help end the moratorium on the death penalty in Ohio. OPAA opposes legislation to abolish the death penalty.

8) Senate Bill 291/House Bill 556 (Community Control Sentence Length). These bills generally reduce the length of community control from 5 years to 3 years for F3/F4/F5 offenses and misdemeanors. The bill allows for the length of community control to be extended to up to 5 years under limited circumstances. The bill also imposes restrictions on the use of confinement for "technical violations" of community control. OPAA opposes these changes.

9) House Bill 667 (GPS Monitoring/Warrant Requirements). The bill requires that certain warrants be entered into LEADS and NCIC within 48 hours, requires active GPS monitoring of offenders released from prison, expands the exceptions to TCAP to address repeat offenders and offenders on PRC, and modifies how offenders on PRC are sentenced for the commission of a new felony while on PRC. OPAA supports this legislation.

10) House Bill 5 (Repeat Weapons Offenders). Creates a repeat offender classification and gun specification, increases the penalties for other firearm specifications and for repeat weapons under disability offenses, reduces the penalty for most first-time weapons under disability offenses from an F3 to an F4, broadens the scope

of relief from firearms disability, and requires courts to provide notice of eligibility for record sealing to certain offenders. OPAA supports the provisions of the bill that increase penalties for weapons offenses. OPAA opposes the provisions of the bill that reduce first-time weapons under disability offenses to an F4 and the changes to the timelines for record expungement.

### Notable Legislation

- HB1 PROPERTY PROTECTION ACT** (KING A, KLOPFENSTEIN R) To modify the law that prohibits certain governments, businesses, and individuals from acquiring certain real property and to name this act the Ohio Property Protection Act.  
*Position:* Amend  
*State Bill* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-1>  
*Page:* /legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-1
- HB3 SCHOOL BUS SAFETY ACT** (WILLIS B, THOMAS C) To address school bus safety, to designate this act as the School Bus Safety Act, and to make an appropriation.  
*Position:* Support  
*State Bill* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-3>  
*Page:* /legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-3
- HB5 REPEAT OFFENSE CLASSIFICATION, PENALTIES** (WILLIAMS J, WILLIS B) To enact the Repeat Offender Act to create a repeat offender classification, to create and modify certain firearm specifications, to increase the penalties for certain firearm offenses and specifications, to broaden the scope of relief from firearms disability, and to modify the Sealing and Expungement Law.  
*Position:* Amend  
*State Bill* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-5>  
*Page:* /legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-5
- HB20 PROHIBIT HARASSING EMERGENCY SERVICE RESPONDERS** (HALL T, PLUMMER P) To increase the penalty for obstructing official business when the victim is an emergency service responder who is engaged in the lawful performance of a legal duty and to clarify that heightened penalties apply for menacing a probation officer.  
*Position:* Support
- HB72 LETHAL INJECTION DRUG PROHIBITIONS** (SCHMIDT J, MATHEWS A) To prohibit public funding for and insurance coverage of the use of lethal injection drugs in nontherapeutic abortions and assisting suicide, to abolish the death penalty, and to modify the number of jurors that may be challenged in cases where a defendant may be sentenced to life imprisonment.  
*Position:* Oppose

*State Bill* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-72>  
*Page:* /legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-72

- HB86 LAW CHANGES-TAX FORECLOSURE, LAND REUTILIZATION** (DEMETRIOU S) To make changes to the law relating to tax foreclosures and county land reutilization corporations, and to name this act the Gus Frangos Act.  
*Position:* Monitor  
*State Bill* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-86>  
*Page:* /legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-86
- HB88 DRUG TRAFFICKING PENALTIES, FENTANYL AWARENESS** (ABRAMS C, PLUMMER P) To modify penalties for drug trafficking and possession, to require schools and institutions of higher education to incorporate instruction and policies on fentanyl awareness and abuse prevention, and to designate the month of August as "Fentanyl Poisoning Awareness Month."  
*Position:* Support  
*State Bill* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-88>  
*Page:* /legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-88
- HB90 SET LEGAL ANTI-SEMITISM DEFINITION** (SCHMIDT J, PIZZULLI J) To define antisemitism for the purpose of investigations and proceedings in courts and state agencies and for state employee anti-bias training.  
*Position:* Amend  
*State Bill* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-90>  
*Page:* /legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-90
- HB102 SEX OFFENDER RESIDENCY LIMITS** (KLOPFENSTEIN R, WILLIAMS J) To prohibit a sex offender or a child-victim offender from residing within 2,000 feet of the residence of the victim and from loitering within 1,000 feet of the residence of the victim.  
*Position:* Support  
*State Bill* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-102>  
*Page:* /legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-102
- HB108 SELF-DEFENSE PRETRIAL PROCEDURE** (WILLIAMS J) To enact the Self-Defense Protection Act to create a pretrial procedure for a person asserting self-defense, defense of another, or defense of that person's property.  
*Position:* Oppose  
*State Bill* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-108>  
*Page:* /legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-108

**HB132 MOVE OVER DUTY-STATIONARY VEHICLES**

(CRAIG M, MILLER M) To increase penalties for failing to slow down or change lanes when approaching specified stationary vehicles, to increase penalties for vehicular homicide and vehicular assault resulting from that offense, and to name this act Philip Wigal's Law.

**Position:** Monitor

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-132>

**HB168 OFFENSE REQUIREMENTS-CRIMINAL CHILD ENTICEMENT** (WILLIAMS J, BRENNAN S) To

require that a person act with a sexual motivation or an unlawful purpose to commit the offense of criminal child enticement.

**Position:** Support

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-168>

**HB185 PROHIBIT UNAUTHORIZED DEEPPFAKE**

**RECORDINGS** (MATHEWS A, MATHEWS T) To make changes to the law relating to the unauthorized use of an individual's persona and to prohibit certain unauthorized deepfake recordings.

**Position:** Monitor

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-185>

**HB200 IMMIGRATION PROHIBITIONS, REQUIRE ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION** (CLICK G,

SANTUCCI N) To enact the America First Act to prohibit a person who is unlawfully present in the United States from entering or being present in Ohio, to require law enforcement agencies and detention facilities to cooperate in the enforcement of federal immigration laws, and to withhold state local government funds from a subdivision that does not abide by the act.

**Position:** Monitor

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-200>

**HB203 INCREASED PENALTIES-SCHOOL ZONES**

(HALL T, WILLIAMS J) To increase penalties for vehicular assault and vehicular homicide within an active school zone, to allow a court to impose doubled fines for specified traffic violations in portions of an active school zone, and to name this act Aspen Runnels' Law.

**Position:** Amend

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-203>

**HB210 REGARDING USED CATALYTIC CONVERTER SALES** (ROEMER B, PLUMMER P) Regarding the sale of used catalytic converters.

**Position:** Support

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-210>

**HB211 SENTENCING CONSIDERATION-PRIMARY CARETAKERS** (HUMPHREY L, WILLIAMS J) To

require a court to consider an offender's status as a primary caretaker of a child in determining whether the offender is amenable to a community control sanction or to intervention in lieu of conviction.

**Position:** Oppose

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-211>

**HB217 MISSING PERSONS REPORTING**

**REQUIREMENTS** (COCKLEY C, RITTER K) To enact Andy Chapman's Act to require law enforcement agencies to enter information relating to a report of a missing person in the national missing and unidentified persons system (NamUs).

**Position:** Support

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-217>

**HB249 LAW CHANGES-INDECENT EXPOSURE** (KING A, WILLIAMS J) To enact the Indecent Exposure

Modernization Act.

**Position:** Oppose

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-249>

**HB251 UAV LAW ENFORCEMENT USE, AVIATION FACILITIES** (WILLIS B) To establish requirements

related to the use and purchase of an unmanned aerial vehicle by law enforcement and other public entities and to expressly incorporate additional aviation facilities into the Aeronautics Law.

**Position:** Monitor

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-251>

**HB252 OFFENSE MODIFICATIONS-BURGLARY,**

**TRESPASS** (CLICK G, BIRD A) To modify the offenses of burglary, aggravated burglary, breaking and entering, and trespass in a habitation when a person is present or likely to be present.

**Position:** Support

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-252>

**HB260 RELATIVE TO COURTS, COURT PROCEDURES** (ODIOSO M, MATHEWS

A) Relative to courts and court procedures.

**Position:** Monitor

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-260>

**HB296 DELAY FINANCIAL SANCTIONS AFTER RELEASE** (MILLER M) To delay financial sanctions for one hundred eighty days after an offender's release from prison or completion of transitional control.

**Position:** Oppose

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-296>

**HB314 RESTRICT DISRUPTIVE RECORD REQUESTS** (ISAACSOHN D, RAY S) To restrict harassing or disruptive public records requests and permit private contractors to respond to voluminous public records requests.

**Position:** Support

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-314>

**HB331 RECLASSIFICATION-FIREARM MUFFLERS, SUPPRESSORS** (DEETER K, FISCHER T) To remove firearm mufflers and suppressors from the classification of dangerous ordnance.

**Position:** Monitor

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-331>

**HB338 INCREASED PENALTIES-CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION ASSAULTS** (JOHNSON M, PLUMMER P) To enact Andy's Law to increase the penalty for assaulting or causing the death of specified victims at state or local correctional institutions and to make changes to department of rehabilitation and correction policies and procedures.

**Position:** Support

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-338>

**HB343 EXPAND OFFENSE-BREAKING, ENTERING** (LORENZ B) To expand the offense of breaking and entering to include vehicles and to increase penalties for criminal damaging or endangering.

**Position:** Support

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-343>

**HB345 INCREASED PENALTIES-VOYEURISM** (LARE J) To increase the penalties for voyeurism.

**Position:** Support

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-345>

**HB346 CHILD ABUSE MANDATORY REPORTING** (KISHMAN M, WILLIAMS J) To enact V.J.'s Law to require mandatory reporters of child abuse or neglect to report to both a peace officer and the public children services agency.

**Position:** Monitor

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-346>

**HB371 MANDATORY REPORTING-ELECTED OFFICIALS** (PLUMMER P, YOUNG T) To make elected officials mandatory reporters of child abuse and neglect.

**Position:** Monitor

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-371>

**HB372 INCREASED PENALTY-MURDER OF FIRST RESPONDERS, MILITARY** (ABRAMS C, PLUMMER P) To enact the Larry Henderson Act to specify that the penalty for aggravated murder for an adult offender is death or life without the possibility of parole if the victim is a peace officer, prosecutor, first responder, or military member.

**Position:** Support

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-372>

**HB382 SAFEGUARD FIREARM RIGHTS** (FISCHER T) To enact the Second Amendment Protection Act to safeguard the right to keep and bear arms.

**Position:** Oppose

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-382>

**HB478 OFFENSE CREATION-JURY TAMPERING** (THOMAS D, SYNENBERG E) To create the offense of jury tampering and to include a public servant in the offense of intimidation of an attorney, victim, witness, or public servant in a criminal case.

**Position:** Support

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-478>

**HB487 CREATE REPEAT DRUG OFFENDER SPECIFICATION** (WILLIAMS J, PLUMMER P) To create a repeat drug offender specification.

**Position:** Support

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-487>

**HB492 EXPAND PROHIBITION-INTERFERING WITH ARREST** (RAY S, ABRAMS C) To expand the prohibition against interfering with arrest to all motor vehicle-related laws and require drivers and passengers to disclose their name, address, and date of birth to a peace officer on request.

**Position:** Amend

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-492>

**HB495 LAW CHANGES-CONCEALED WEAPONS**

(GROSS J, WILLIAMS J) To enact the Freedom to Carry Act to rename a concealed handgun license a concealed weapons license and to allow a concealed weapons licensee to carry a concealed deadly weapon other than an exclusive deadly weapon.

**Position:** Monitor

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation>

**Page:** </legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-495>

**HB507 PROHIBIT RECEIVING PROSTITUTION**

**PROCEEDS** (NEWMAN J, JOHN M) To prohibit a person from receiving proceeds of prostitution.

**Position:** Support

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation>

**Page:** </legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-507>

**HB519 PROHIBIT POSSESSING DEVICE-VEHICLE**

**THEFT** (WHITE A) To prohibit possession of an electronic device under circumstances indicating an intent to commit a theft offense that involves a motor vehicle.

**Position:** Undetermined

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation>

**Page:** </legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-519>

**HB532 REQUIRE IMMEDIATE CHILD CUSTODY**

**ACTIONS** (MILLER K) To require a public children services agency to take immediate custody of specified children who cannot be released to a parent, guardian, or custodian.

**Position:** Support

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation>

**Page:** </legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-532>

**HB533 EXPAND VEHICULAR HOMICIDE LIST**

(MILLER K) To add to the list of vehicles that can be used to commit a vehicular homicide or vehicular assault.

**Position:** Monitor

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation>

**Page:** </legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-533>

**HB556 MAXIMUM SENTENCING PERIOD CHANGES**

(MATHEWS A, WILLIAMS J) To change the maximum periods of community control sanctions authorized for felonies and misdemeanors and to modify the confinement sanctions authorized for a technical violation of community control sanction conditions.

**Position:** Oppose

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation>

**Page:** </legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-556>

**HB557 PROHIBIT JUDICIAL RELEASE DENIAL-OFFENSE CLASSIFICATION**

(WILLIAMS J) To prohibit denial of judicial release based solely on the classification of an offense.

**Position:** Oppose

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation>

**Page:** </legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-557>

**HB560 FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION-VULNERABLE**

**ADULTS** (SWEARINGEN D, WHITE A) To prevent financial exploitation and fraud against vulnerable adults and to name this act the Protect Our Parents Act.

**Position:** Monitor

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation>

**Page:** </legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-560>

**HB565 RECORDS EXEMPTION-GRAND JURY**

(JARRELLS D, ODIOSO M) To exempt from disclosure under Public Records Law, the name and address of a grand juror and the signature of a grand-jury foreperson, and to name this act the Grand Jury Privacy and Protection Act.

**Position:** Support

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation>

**Page:** </legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-565>

**HB626 ELECTRONIC NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT-COURT HEARINGS**

(WILLIAMS J) To require courts to supply electronic notification of hearings to defendants in criminal and traffic cases and to make an appropriation.

**Position:** Oppose

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation>

**Page:** </legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-626>

**HB647 LAW CHANGE-PUBLICLY FUNDED CHILD**

**CARE** (PLUMMER P, YOUNG T) To revise the law governing the publicly funded child care program, modify an appropriation for the Child Care Cred Program, and to make an appropriation.

**Position:** Oppose

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation>

**Page:** </legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-647>

**HB649 CHILD CARE FRAUD PREVENTION**

**ENACTMENT** (WILLIAMS J, SWEARINGEN D) To enact the Child Care Fraud Prevention Act.

**Position:** Oppose

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation>

**Page:** </legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-649>

**HB654 PENALTY INCREASE-CORPSE ABUSE**

(DEETER K, MANNING G) To enact Amanda Dean's Law to increase the penalties for abuse of a corpse.

**Position:** Support

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation>

**Page:** </legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-654>

**HB667 GPS MONITORING, WARRANT**

**REQUIREMENTS** (ABRAMS C) To enact the Reagan Tokes and Patrick Heringer Act to require certain warrants to be entered into LEADS, to require GPS monitoring of offenders released from prison, and to modify T-CAP requirements.

**Position:** Support

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation>

**Page:** </legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-667>

**HB677 CUSTODY INTERFERENCE, MISSING CHILD**

**ALERTS** (SYNENBERG E, ABRAMS C) To modify the law governing interference with custody, to require wireless service providers to provide call location information to law enforcement in certain emergency situations, and to create an endangered missing child alert.

**Position:** Support

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation>

**Page:** </legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-677>

**HB689 MODERNIZE FINGERPRINT, DISPOSITION**

**REPORTING** (WHITE A) To amend Section 221.40 of H.B. 96 of the 136th General Assembly, as subsequently amended, to align and modernize fingerprinting and disposition reporting.

**Position:** Amend

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation>

**Page:** </legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-689>

**HB727 DYS GRANT FORMULA MODIFICATION**

(FISCHER T, PLUMMER P) To modify the formula for grants to counties from the department of youth services to operate community corrections facilities for felony delinquents.

**Position:** Support

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation>

**Page:** </legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-727>

**HB728 JUVENILE DELINQUENCY INFORMAL HEARING, DISMISSALS ELIMINATION**

(ODIOSO M, PLUMMER P) To eliminate informal hearings and dismissals in the best interest of the child in certain juvenile delinquency cases.

**Position:** Support

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation>

**Page:** </legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-728>

**HB786 PROHIBIT ARTIFICIAL MINOR DEPICTION-OBSCENITY**

(KLOPFENSTEIN R, WILLIAMS J) To prohibit use of an artificially generated depiction of a minor for obscene purposes.

**Position:** Support

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation>

**Page:** </legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-786>

**SB4 ESTABLISH ELECTION INTEGRITY UNIT**

(GAVARONE T) To establish the Election Integrity Unit in the Office of the Secretary of State and to modify the law governing the prosecution of Election Law violations.

**Position:** Oppose

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation>

**Page:** </legislation-summary?id=GA136-SB-4>

**SB5 EXPEDITE REMOVAL-UNAUTHORIZED RESIDENTIAL OCCUPANTS**

(BRENNER A, HUFFMAN S) To provide for the expedited removal of unauthorized occupants from residential property and to prohibit the use and sale of fraudulent deeds.

**Position:** Oppose

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation>

**Page:** </legislation-summary?id=GA136-SB-5>

**SB55 CHANGE OVI LAWS-MARIHUANA**

(MANNING N) To change the laws pertaining to operating a vehicle or watercraft while under the influence of marihuana and the admissibility of evidence for purposes of OVI statutes.

**Position:** Amend

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation>

**Page:** </legislation-summary?id=GA136-SB-55>

**SB61 RELATIVE TO COURTS, COURT PROCEDURES**

(GAVARONE T, MANNING N) Relative to courts and court procedures.

**Position:** Monitor

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation>

**Page:** </legislation-summary?id=GA136-SB-61>

**SB62 SCHOOL BUS SAFETY-PENALTIES, MONTH DESIGNATION**

(GAVARONE T) To authorize a civil penalty system related to drivers who illegally pass a school bus but cannot be identified, to designate the month of August as "School Bus Safety Awareness Month," and to designate this act as the School Bus Safety Act.

**Position:** Amend

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation>

**Page:** </legislation-summary?id=GA136-SB-62>

**SB87 DEFINE ANTI-SEMITISM, EXPAND ETHNIC INTIMIDATION**

(JOHNSON T) To define antisemitism for specific purposes and to expand the offense of ethnic intimidation to include the offenses of riot and aggravated riot committed by reason of the race, color, religion, or national origin of another person or group of persons.

**Position:** Amend

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation>

**Page:** </legislation-summary?id=GA136-SB-87>

**SB88 OHIO PROPERTY PROTECTION ACT** (JOHNSON T) To modify the law that prohibits certain governments, businesses, and individuals from acquiring certain real property and to name this act the Ohio Property Protection Act.

**Position:** Amend

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-SB-88>

**SB102 GUS FRANGOS ACT** (PATTON T) To make changes to the law relating to tax foreclosures and county land reutilization corporations, and to name this act the Gus Frangos Act.

**Position:** Monitor

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-SB-102>

**SB133 ABOLISH DEATH PENALTY, COURT CHANGES** (ANTONIO N, HUFFMAN S) To abolish the death penalty and to modify the number of jurors that may be challenged in cases where a defendant may be sentenced to life imprisonment.

**Position:** Oppose

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-SB-133>

**SB134 ABOLISH DEATH PENALTY, PROHIBIT LETHAL INJECTION DRUGS** (ANTONIO N, HUFFMAN S) To abolish the death penalty, to modify the number of jurors that may be challenged in cases where a defendant may be sentenced to life imprisonment, and to prohibit public funding for the use of lethal injection drugs in nontherapeutic abortions, assisting suicide, and executing a death sentence.

**Position:** Oppose

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-SB-134>

**SB143 PROHIBIT CRIMINAL BACKGROUND QUESTIONS-EMPLOYMENT APPLICATIONS** (CRAIG H, BLESSING III L) To prohibit private employers from including on an employment application any question concerning the criminal background of the applicant.

**Position:** Monitor

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-SB-143>

**SB163 VARIOUS REGULATIONS-ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE** (BLESSING III L, JOHNSON T) To require AI-generated products have a watermark, to prohibit simulated child pornography, and to prohibit identity fraud using a replica of a person.

**Position:** Support

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-SB-163>

**SB188 EXPANDED OFFENSE-FAILURE TO COMPLY** (PATTON T) To expand the offense of failure to comply with an order or signal of a law enforcement officer.

**Position:** Amend

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-SB-188>

**SB214 REMOVE DANGEROUS CLASSIFICATION-FIREARM MUFFLERS, SUPPRESSORS**

(KOEHLER K) To remove firearm mufflers and suppressors from the classification of dangerous ordnance.

**Position:** Monitor

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-SB-214>

**SB225 EXPAND ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM** (MANCHESTER S) To expand the Address Confidentiality Program.

**Position:** Monitor

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-SB-225>

**SB242 REGARDING SALE-USED CATALYTIC CONVERTERS** (JOHNSON T) Regarding the sale of used catalytic converters, and to make an appropriation.

**Position:** Support

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-SB-242>

**SB270 MODIFY COMMITMENT OF DELINQUENT CHILDREN** (MANNING N, HICKS-HUDSON P) To modify provisions relating to commitment of delinquent children to the department of youth services.

**Position:** Oppose

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-SB-270>

**SB291 CHANGE SANCTIONS-COMMUNITY CONTROL** (MANNING N, REYNOLDS M) To change the maximum periods of community control sanctions authorized for felonies and misdemeanors and to modify the confinement sanctions authorized for a technical violation of community control sanction conditions.

**Position:** Oppose

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-SB-291>

**SB303 ALLOW HANDGUN PURCHASE-18-21 YEAR OLDS** (JOHNSON T) To allow a person who is between eighteen and twenty-one years old to receive or purchase a handgun from a federally licensed firearms dealer.

**Position:** Monitor

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation>

**Page:** </legislation-summary?id=GA136-SB-303>

**SB321 CARRYING OF FIREARMS-SPECIAL POLICE OFFICERS** (SCHAFFER T) Regarding the carrying of firearms by certain special police officers.

**Position:** Monitor

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation>

**Page:** </legislation-summary?id=GA136-SB-321>

**SB392 CONCEALED WEAPONS-POSSESSION, TRANSPORTATION** (CUTRONA A, JOHNSON T) To enact the Freedom to Carry Act to rename a concealed handgun license a concealed weapons license, to allow a concealed weapons licensee to carry a concealed deadly weapon other than an exclusive deadly weapon, and to allow the possession or transportation of a loaded firearm while in a motor vehicle or vessel.

**Position:** Oppose

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation>

**Page:** </legislation-summary?id=GA136-SB-392>

**SB393 SEXUAL OFFENSES-JUVENILES, ANIMALS** (TIMKEN J, MANNING N) To make changes to various sexually oriented offenses involving juvenile victims and to create the offenses of creating or possessing material depicting sexual conduct with an animal.

**Position:** Support

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation>

**Page:** </legislation-summary?id=GA136-SB-393>

**SB394 REQUIRE ELECTRONIC NOTIFICATION-CRIMINAL, TRAFFIC HEARINGS** (BLESSING III L) To require courts to supply electronic notification of hearings to defendants in criminal and traffic cases and to make an appropriation.

**Position:** Oppose

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation>

**Page:** </legislation-summary?id=GA136-SB-394>

**SB413 TRANSPORT FIREARM-MOTOR VEHICLE** (SCHAFFER T) To modify the circumstances in which a person may transport a firearm in a motor vehicle.

**Position:** Monitor

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation>

**Page:** </legislation-summary?id=GA136-SB-413>

**SB418 EXPEDITED SEALING-CERTAIN CRIMINAL RECORDS** (REYNOLDS M) To allow for the expedited sealing of certain criminal records.

**Position:** Oppose

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation>

**Page:** </legislation-summary?id=GA136-SB-418>

**SB432 MODIFY OFFENSE-ABUSE OF CORPSE** (MANNING N) To modify the offense of abuse of a corpse.

**Position:** Support

**State Bill** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation>

**Page:** </legislation-summary?id=GA136-SB-432>

actionTRACK - Hannah News Service, Inc.

## New and Noteworthy



### Merit Decisions of Interest Since 2/1/26

*In re P.M.S.*, 2026-Ohio-1543. The Court (7-0) upheld the sufficiency of the evidence supporting the juvenile's delinquency adjudication for forcible rape. (Decided 5-1-26; Warren County)

*State v. Morris*, 2026-Ohio-1519. The Court (7-0) concluded that the Ohio constitutional right to counsel did not apply to the defendant's pretrial interrogation and (4-3) held that the defendant's federal right to counsel had not been violated when police continued to interview him after he made ambiguous references to counsel. (Decided 4-30-26; State's appeal, Hamilton County)

*State v. Hill*, 2026-Ohio-1427. The Court (7-0) concluded that the statute governing the pursuit of successive post-conviction claims applied to the defendant's attempt to relitigate his *Atkins*

intellectual-disability claim and that the defendant's reliance on Civ.R. 60(B) was inappropriate. (Decided 4-23-26; State's appeal, Trumbull County)

*State v. J.B.*, 2026-Ohio-1405. The Court (6-1) concluded that the appellate court had improperly substituted its judgment for that of the trial court when it reversed the trial court's denial of the defendant's sealing request. While the General Assembly has expanded eligibility vis-à-vis the number of convictions, the fact remains that the statutory scheme still leaves in place the trial court's discretion to deny the request, and the trial court can consider the number of prior convictions in denying sealing. (Decided 4-22-26; State's appeal, Hamilton County)

*State v. Seymour*, 2026-Ohio-1249. The Court (7-0) held that, in an overdose-death prosecution, the drug supplied by the defendant to the decedent will meet a but-for standard for causation even when it would not have alone caused the death and even when the State does not negate the existence of other causes as contributing to the death. (Decided 4-9-26; State's appeal, Franklin County)

*State v. Fips*, 2026-Ohio-1207. The Court (6-1) reversed the appellate court and reinstated the trial court's denial of the motion to suppress, concluding that, even after the original reasonable suspicion prompting the traffic stop had been dispelled, the officer could continue with the stop in light of new reasonable suspicion that the driver was driving without a valid license. (Decided 4-7-26; State's appeal, Cuyahoga County)

*State v. Reed*, 2026-Ohio-1174. The Court (6-1) held that the trial court did not abuse its discretion in applying the "simple and direct" test to deny the defendant's pretrial motion to sever child sex abuse charges under Crim.R. 14. (Decided 4-3-26; State's appeal, Fairfield County)

*Doe v. Columbus*, 2026-Ohio-1095. The Court (5-2) held that a preliminary injunction enjoining enforcement of a statute or ordinance constitutes a provisional remedy that is immediately appealable under R.C. 2505.02(B)(4) because making the sovereign wait until final judgment to appeal would be ineffective given the sovereign's interest in the enforcement of its duly-enacted laws. (Decided 4-1-26)

*State v. Ballish*, 2026-Ohio-503. The Court (7-0) recognized that the test established in *State v. Jones*, 49 Ohio St.3d 51 (1990), for imposing a special probationary condition is not controlling when the sentencing statute expressly provides for the imposition of the condition. When the statute specifically authorizes the imposition of the condition, the court's imposition of that condition is reviewed only for an abuse of discretion, and the *Jones* test is inapt. (Decided 2-18-26; State's appeal; Geauga County)

#### **Newly-Accepted Criminal Law Cases Since 2/1/26**

None to report.

#### **Recent and Upcoming Oral Arguments**

25-952/962 *State v. Burrell* Whether a trial court's order amending a domestic-violence charge to delete a degree-raising prior-conviction element amounts to a dismissal of part of the indictment so that the State can immediately appeal as of right under R.C. 2945.67(A). (State's appeals; Muskingum County) (Argument on 3-25-26)

25-670 *State v. Holliman* Whether a defendant found guilty of one-year and three-year firearm specifications can be sentenced by the trial court to only the one-year firearm term when the prosecutor objects and would elect the three-year firearm term instead. (State's appeal; Cuyahoga County) (Argument on 4-14-26)

25-573 *State v. McClain* (1) Whether the 2-1 appellate majority was applying a de facto "manifest weight" standard in reversing based on alleged "insufficiency"; (2) Whether the State satisfied its burden of production under R.C. 2907.02(A)(1)(c) to prove the defendant's knowledge of the victim's substantial impairment when the victim's testimony permitted reasonable inferences of such knowledge; (3) Whether certain out-of-court statements violated the hearsay rule when they were merely admitted to explain the actions of the victim and other witnesses. (State's appeal; Cuyahoga County) (Argument on 4-15-26)

25-643 *State v. Lebron-Novas* (1) Whether the trial court's decision upholding the traffic stop and denying the motion to suppress must be affirmed when the dash cam video provided sufficient evidence to show the follow-too-close traffic violation, even despite the supposed inconsistencies in the trooper's testimony as to what the video showed; (2) Whether the trial court's error in relying on the trooper's supposed inconsistencies should have resulted in a limited remand for the trial court to deliberate again on whether there was reasonable suspicion to support the stop, instead of a remand requiring the outright granting of the motion to suppress. (State's appeal; Erie County) (Argument on 4-15-26)

25-912 *State v. Barton* Whether the drug dog's brief three-second instinctual intrusion of its head into the open driver's side window of a lawfully stopped vehicle before the dog alerted constituted a Fourth Amendment violation. (Hamilton County) (Argument on 4-15-26)

25-913 *State v. Jones* (1) Whether R.C. 2953.74 requires the court to determine whether an exclusion result would be outcome determinative, rather than allowing DNA testing to be ordered based on speculation that "DNA from a third-party" would be outcome determinative; (2) Whether the appellate court substituted its own judgment for that of the trial court and misapplied the abuse-of-discretion standard when reviewing the trial court's decision to reject the application for postconviction DNA testing. (State's appeal; Stark County) (Argument on 5-19-26)

25-1103/1210 *State v. Dowell* (1) In the context of a patient who was taken into emergency police detention pursuant to R.C. 5122.10, whether the patient's acts of resistance can constitute obstructing official business under R.C. 2921.21 and resisting arrest under R.C. 2921.33; (2) Whether this issue can be raised by a

pretrial motion to dismiss. (Hamilton County) (Argument on 5-20-26)

25-1215 *State v. Smith* In a case in which the sex offender registered the name of his employer in the county where the employer was located but did not register in every county in which he performed regular work, whether the concept of registering the “place of employment address” is void for vagueness because the statute does not define the concept. (Geauga County) (Argument on 6-9-26)

25-1430 *State v. Jackson* Whether the sentencing court’s explanation sufficiently rebutted the presumption of vindictiveness that applied to the increased sentence it was imposing after a retrial. (State’s appeal; Lake County) (Argument on 6-9-26)

### **Keep an Eye Out for These Cases Awaiting Decision**

24-1038 *State v. Fraley* Whether the 365-day time period for filing a post-conviction petition after the filing of the transcript in the court of appeals in the direct appeal will be considered to start running when the transcript is not filed during the direct appeal but, instead, is only filed during a reopened appeal. (Butler County) (Argument on 6-25-25)

23-891 *State v. Brinkman* Death Penalty case (Cuyahoga County) (Argument on 8-19-25)

24-930 *State v. Khalif* (1) on State’s appeal: Whether a guilty verdict “as charged” is sufficient to comply with R.C. 2945.75(A)(2) and to thereby constitute a guilty verdict for the charged offense (instead of the least degree of the offense); (2) on defendant’s cross-appeal: Whether the “Stand Your Ground” statutory amendment as to self-defense effective on 4-6-21, which removed the duty to retreat for most situations, applies to post-effective-date trials of offenses that occurred before the amendment’s effective date. (Franklin County) (Argument on 8-20-25)

24-1187/1301 *State v. Simmons* Whether evidence of force in the nature of manipulating a sleeping victim’s clothing to facilitate sexual conduct with the victim is sufficient by itself to establish forcible rape in violation of R.C. 2907.02(A)(2), or whether said evidence is insufficient because the force did not compel the victim to submit to the sexual conduct in question. (State’s appeals; Montgomery County) (Argument on 9-16-25)

24-312 *State v. Polizzi* Whether trial courts and appellate courts must consider the overall number of consecutive sentences and the aggregate sentence when imposing or reviewing consecutive sentences. (Lake County) (Argument on 10-7-25)

24-1050 *State v. Striblin* Whether the Fifth District erred in sustaining the defendant’s facial constitutional challenge on Second Amendment grounds after the defendant’s no contest plea to a charge under R.C. 2923.121(A) for illegal possession of a firearm on a liquor permit premises. (State’s appeal; Muskingum County) (Argument on 10-8-25)

24-1608 *State v. King* Whether the State can appeal from a trial court’s judgment of acquittal entered pursuant to Crim. R. 29(B) following a jury’s guilty verdict, when the judgment of acquittal should not be considered a “final verdict” under R.C. 2945.67(A) and when a State’s appeal from a post-verdict judgment of acquittal does not violate double jeopardy. (State’s appeal; Cuyahoga County) (Argument on 10-28-25)

25-93 *State v. Thoen* (1) Whether jeopardy attaches when a trial court unconditionally accepts a defendant’s guilty plea; (2) When the trial court erroneously accepted the defendant’s guilty plea, whether there was a manifest necessity for the prosecution to dismiss the bill of information and to indict the case when any such error could be resolved by restoring the parties to their pre-plea positions. (Knox County) (Argument on 11-18-25)

24-1715 *State v. Bradley* Whether plain error occurred when the trial court failed to instruct on transferred self-defense but the jury was otherwise instructed on self-defense without defense objection. (State’s appeal; Belmont County) (Argument on 11-19-25)

25-66 *State v. Rodriguez* (1) When an individual is charged with multiple “carbon copy” counts of the same crime, whether the State can sustain a conviction for each count if it presents evidence of discernible facts to substantiate the separate counts; (2) Whether a reviewing court may find plain error in the absence of binding authority that clearly demonstrates an obvious defect in the proceedings below. (State’s appeal; Hamilton County) (Argument on 1-6-26)

24-1770 *State v. Bissell* Whether the appellate court erred in reversing the conviction for felony murder predicated on felonious assault after concluding that the evidence of “knowingly” as to serious physical harm was insufficient in a case in which the defendant hit a plainly-visible first-responder pedestrian in an active highway accident scene. (State’s appeal; Cuyahoga County) (Argument on 2-11-26)

### ***Ohio Attorney General Opinions***

provided by the Ohio Attorney General’s website at <https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Files/Legal/Opinions>

#### **2026-003**

*Requested by: Fayette County Prosecuting Attorney*

A township may not use revenue from the motor fuel excise tax to fund any portion of the purchase of a fire tanker truck for its fire department.

#### **2026-002**

*Requested by: Wyandot County Prosecuting Attorney*

Generally, a person may not serve simultaneously as a juvenile court probation officer and as a member of a school district board of education located within the same county.

#### **2026-001**

*Requested by: Lake County Prosecuting Attorney*

Revenue from a special tax levy designated for the “benefit of Lake County for the purpose of providing funds for police equipment

and personnel for the Lake County Narcotics Agency” may continue to be used for that purpose notwithstanding that the agency may become a division within the county sheriff’s office for governance purposes.

#### 2025-024

*Requested by: Highland County Prosecuting Attorney*

A coroner may appoint a dentist as an investigator under R.C. 313.05. A dentist, however, is not a licensed physician or pathologist under the Revised Code and may not be appointed as deputy coroner under R.C. 313.05.

#### 2025-023

*Requested by: Defiance County Prosecuting Attorney*

The Adult Parole Authority may enter into a written agreement with a multi-jurisdictional drug unit to share information, personnel, and services for crime interdiction and fugitive apprehension. However, if a parole officer is not also certified as a peace officer, designating the officer as a special deputy sheriff does not confer any additional authority upon the officer to make arrests, execute search warrants, or engage in the use of force. The officer has more limited authority and would risk incurring personal liability if he exceeds that authority.

### Welcome New Prosecutors!

As President Fornshell mentioned above, the below 5 prosecutors have made their way to the helm mid-term. Most, if not all, have been assistants for some time:

**Adams** – Ariana Bowles Norris has taken over for retired Prosecutor Aaron Haslam. Ariana has been an APA in Adams and Allen Counties. She received her BA from Ohio University, MBA from Northern Kentucky University, and JD from the University of Cincinnati College of Law.

**Paulding** – Matthew A. Miller was appointed as Paulding County Prosecuting Attorney following the retirement of Joseph R. Burkard. He is a graduate of The Ohio State University and Capital University Law School. He has been serving as assistant prosecuting attorney in Paulding County since 2008.

**Jackson** – Trent Douthett was appointed to serve as the Jackson County Prosecuting Attorney to fill the vacancy created when former Prosecutor Randy Dupree was elected to serve as Jackson County Municipal Court Judge.

**Tuscarawas** – R. Scott Deedrick was appointed the Tuscarawas County Prosecutor in March succeeding now Judge Ryan Styer. Scott had been an Assistant P.A. for the office since 1997. While principally a felony prosecutor he had also handled juvenile matters, misdemeanor prosecutions, children services and child support cases. Scott is a graduate of The Ohio State University Moritz School of Law (J.D., 1991) and Ohio Northern University (BA, 1988).

**Van Wert** – Dillon W. Staas, IV graduated with honors from the Ohio State University in 2004 and earned his juris doctor from the Ohio Northern University Pettit College of Law in 2009. He has practiced law in Van Wert County for the past 17 years – in private practice and as an assistant prosecutor, handling felony, juvenile, and AND cases as well as providing counsel to county and township officials on a variety of civil matters.

Welcome to the Association!



## OPAA Member Accomplishments

### Ashland County Prosecutor takes 2<sup>nd</sup> place at Nationals

After winning the Midwest Adult 40+ NTRP Section Championships in men’s 4.0 singles back in February, Ashland County Prosecuting Attorney (and current OPAA Treasurer) Chris Tunnell traveled to San Diego in April and finished runner-up at the national 40-over United States Tennis Association tournament at the Barnes Tennis Center. He competed at the 4.0 level, his rating according to the National Tennis Rating Program.

Congratulations Chris!



## OPAA Training

The OPAA Spring Training was held April 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> in Columbus. We welcomed 116 attendees from 43 counties.



Thanks to all that attended, trained, and provided for us!

### **2026 On-Demand CLE**

OPAA Members has access to online self-study CLE webinars which have been approved for CLE credit in 2026. These are a great way to get CLE hours that fit your schedule with topics designed for Ohio prosecutors.

We currently have 20.5 hours available including 5.5 hours of professional conduct credit! All have been approved by the Supreme Court of Ohio Commission on Continuing Legal Education through 12/31/2026. Most trainings are \$60 each. 2 hour training courses are \$79 and 3 hour presentations are \$119 each. All are available at <https://opaaclewebinars.ce21.com>

### **2026 Training Dates**

Summer Workshop - June 26th and 27th  
Fall - September 24th - 25th  
Admin Professionals - October 15th  
Annual Meeting- December 3-4

Locations and full information will be forwarded to the office as available.



## Your 2026 OPAA Officers



David P. Fornshell  
Warren County  
President



Gwen Howe-Gebers  
Henry County  
President-Elect



Steven D. Barnett  
Carroll County  
Vice President



Christopher R. Tunnell  
Ashland County  
Treasurer



Elliot Kolkovich  
Summit County  
Secretary

### **2025 OPAA Executive and Legislative Committee Meeting Dates**

May – Thursday, May 28  
June – Thursday, June 25  
August – Thursday, August 27  
September – Wednesday, September 23  
October – Thursday, October 29  
December – Wednesday, December 2