

41st Annual InterCourt Conference



Session 4E: Judicial Roundtable

March 14, 2025
8:15 a.m.—9:45 a.m.

Hilton Columbus at
Easton Town Center
Columbus, OH

FACULTY BIOGRAPHY

MICHELLE L. EDGAR became the Magistrate in the Fairfield County Juvenile and Probate Court in 2013, where she hears abuse, neglect, dependency cases, private custody and juvenile delinquency/unruly matters. Magistrate Edgar graduated from Capital University with a Bachelor of Arts degree and attended law school through the evening program at Capital University Law School graduating with her Juris Doctor. She was admitted to the Ohio bar that same year. She began her legal career at a law firm, specializing in real estate and business litigation. During this time, she became a Franklin County CASA, thus beginning her work in advocating for children. In 2002, Magistrate Edgar began practicing law in Fairfield County with a small law firm, where she began practicing in family and juvenile law with a concentration in Guardian ad Litem cases. In 2007, Magistrate Edgar started her own practice representing parties and children in domestic relations and juvenile cases, but continuing with a concentration in work as a Guardian ad Litem. Magistrate Edgar was on the planning committee to develop the Family Drug Court program in the Fairfield County Juvenile Court in 2005 and on the advisory board of the Fairfield County Visitation Center. Magistrate Edgar began teaching GAL continuing education courses for The Ohio Supreme Court in 2011, when she taught the Child Protective Services course and then the pre-service course. Magistrate Edgar has served on the Ohio Supreme Court's Advisory Committee for Children and Families from 2015-2023. She has been on the Abuse, Neglect, Dependency Subcommittee since 2015 and is the current Co-Chair of that Subcommittee. She has worked on many projects in that role including: GAL Rule Workgroup, Fostering Connections Workgroup, Infusion Workgroup, Quality Hearings in A/N/D cases Workgroup, CHIPS Workgroup, and Bridges Workgroup. Magistrate Edgar is the Juvenile Practice Area Chair for the Ohio Association of Magistrates and is on the Board of Trustees for that organization. Magistrate Edgar continues to advocate for the children of Fairfield County and Ohio from her position on the bench and her work on these committees.

Judicial Roundtable

Magistrate Michelle Edgar
Fairfield County Probate & Juvenile Court



AGENDA FOR JUDICIAL ROUNDTABLE


- A. *CINCINNATI ENQUIRER V. BLOOM*
 - a. HAVE COURTS MADE ANY CHANGES TO THEIR POLICY?
 - b. HOW ARE COURT READING THE DECISION – ALL AUTOMATIC SEALING IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL OR ONLY THOSE FOLLOWING THE SPECIFIC FACTS IN *BLOOM*?
- B. MEDICAL MARIJUANA –
 - a. HOW ARE COURTS HANDLING WHEN A YOUTH HAS A CARD?
 - b. HOW ARE COURTS HANDLING WHEN PARENTS ARE POSITIVE FOR THC?
- C. LEGISLATIVE UPDATES
 - a. ENACTED AT THE END OF 2024
 - i. PSIs SHARED BETWEEN COURTS
 - ii. NEW OFFENSES NOT ELIGIBLE FOR SEALING/EXPUNGEMENT
 - iii. CHANGES TO TRAFFICE/SUSPENSIONS
 - iv. CHANGES TO WARRANTS FOR FTA
 - v. COURT COSTS/FINES/RESTITUTION AT TIME OF TRANSFER FOR DISPOSITION NOT FINAL APPEALABLE
 - b. PCSAO LEGISLATIVE WRAP UP <https://www.pcsao.org/legislative-wrap-up-how-did-children-services-legislation-fare-in-the-135th-general-assembly/>
 - i. HB583-EXPRESS INTENT TO INCREASE ACCOUNTABILITY FOR GROUP HOMES
- D. DUAL INVOLVED YOUTH
 - a. CHALLENGES
 - b. ANYTHING WORKING WELL IN YOUR COURT
- E. TASK FORCE ON JUVENILE DETENTION
- F. COMPETENCY
 - a. ISSUES WHEN YOUTH FOUND COMPETENT AT ADJUDICATION AND THEN SENT TO YOUR COURT FOR DISPOSITION AND YOU HAVE COMPETENCY CONCERNS
- G. In Re CD; https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/rod/docs/pdf/6/2024/2024-Ohio-6047.pdf?utm_campaign=website&utm_medium=email&utm_source=sendgrid
 - a. 6th District – grandparent visitation and the general division



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General Overview

- General Assembly Session (Lame Duck) ended December 2024.
- Will provide an overview of bills that were passed that impact courts.
- ***This overview is no substitute for reading the bill fully and knowing the various aspects of it.***



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The slide features a title 'General Overview' in a dark red serif font. Below the title is a bulleted list of three items. The third item is bolded and italicized. To the right of the list is a photograph of a silver gavel resting on a wooden block, with a building and trees in the background. The slide is framed by a thin gold border. At the bottom right, the text 'THE SUPREME COURT of OHIO' is written in a serif font.

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Previous Matters

- **SB 94- E-Filing in common pleas, municipal, and county courts**
 - Requires courts of common pleas, municipal courts, and county courts to provide for the electronic filing of pleadings or documents beginning 270 days **after the effective date of the bill- July 21, 2025***. The amendment excludes juvenile and probate courts from the requirements.

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Attorney General Opinion [2024-007](#)

- Attorney General recently released an opinion asked by the Lake County Prosecuting Attorney on Marsy's Law and courts' obligations for appropriate compliance.
- In sum, the Attorney General reached was that:
 1. The protection afforded a crime victim by R.C. 2930.07 against disclosure of identifying information applies and attaches to case documents associated with criminal or delinquent cases but only in limited circumstances in civil matters.
 2. A clerk of court's duty to redact a victim's information from all records relating to a civil protection order is triggered only when the order is violated, but the redaction requirement for a violation of a protection order, an offense of violence, or a sexually oriented offense applies automatically when the matter is filed with the clerk of courts and without any request by the victim.

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Enacted Bills Judges and Court Employees

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Enacted Bills: Judges and Court Employees

HB 106- Paystub Protection Act (Governor signed, effective date 4/9/25)

- Requires an employer, on the employer's regular paydays, to provide each of the employer's employees with a statement or access to a statement of the employee's earnings and deductions for the pay period.
- Paystub Statement Requirements:
 - 1. The employee's name and address;
 - 2. The employer's name;
 - 3. The total gross wages earned by the employee during the pay period;
 - 4. The total net wages paid to the employee for the pay period;
 - 5. A listing of the amount and purpose of each addition to or deduction from the wages paid to the employee during the pay period;
 - 6. The date the employee was paid and the pay period covered by that payment;
 - 7. For an employee who is paid on an hourly basis, all of the following information: a. The total number of hours the employee worked in the pay period; b. The hourly rate at which the employee was paid; c. The number of hours the employee worked in excess of 40 in one workweek.

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Enacted Bills: Judges and Court Employees

HB 265- Public Records Exemptions (Governor signed, effective date 4/9/24)

- Various public records changes in the bill:
 1. The act expands protections to “qualifying former designated public service workers” (defined as former designated public service worker with a minimum of five years of qualifying service who was an employee in good standing at the completion of such service).
 2. Exempts the work schedules and redaction request forms of “designated public service workers” from disclosure under the Public Records Law.
 3. Requirement of Contacting Public Office/Person Responsible Prior to Suit
 4. Statutory Damages Unavailable to Inmates
 5. Exempts redaction request forms from disclosure under Public Records Law.
 6. Redaction Ability Extended to Qualifying Former Designated Public Service Workers
 7. Judges and Prosecutors Included in Ability to Submit an Affidavit to the County Auditor
 - R.C. 319.28 to now include Judges and Prosecutors (which were previously excluded) to be able to submit an affidavit to the county
 8. Vexatious Litigants Public Records Restrictions
 9. PSI Report Sharing Ability
 - Clarifies that the contents of a presentence investigation report or part of a presentence investigation report may be shared between courts.

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Enacted Bills: Judges and Court Employees

SB 58- Second Amendment Financial Privacy (Governor signed, becomes effective 4/9/25)

- Second Amendment Financial Privacy Act
 - Prohibits government entities from keeping any list of privately owned firearms or owners of firearms.
 - Empowers the Attorney General to investigate alleged violations of the above prohibitions and to bring a civil action against the perpetrator.

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Children and Families

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Enacted Bills: Children and Families

HB 5- Adoption Modernization Act (Governor signed, effective 3/20/25)

- General Changes to Adoption Law
 - Makes changes to the requirements governing who may adopt and requires spousal consent (instead of support) in certain cases;
 - Permits adult adoption of a person with a developmental disability (rather than solely an intellectual disability as in current law);
 - Makes changes to the language required in notices of the filing of an adoption petition and to certain requirements of adoption proceedings regarding closed hearings and recordkeeping;
 - Permits a court to reconsider and vacate the adoption decree of a child if there is clear and convincing evidence the child was a victim of trafficking in persons;
 - Allows for a foreign decree of adoption to be accepted and considered final in Ohio if certain conditions are met, rather than requiring the adoptive parent to petition the court for finalization of the adoption;
 - Applies the best interest factors set forth in continuing law governing contested adoptions to other continuing Adoption Law provisions where "best interest" is not defined in current law;
- Court Requirement Changes
 - Requires the court to apply the amount of time a child has lived in the home of a child's relative, kinship caregiver, legal custodian, or guardian (in addition to the child's foster caregiver in continuing law) who is adopting the child prior to the date that person filed the adoption petition toward the six-month waiting period required before an adoption is final;
 - Requires the court to notify any agency with permanent custody of the child to be adopted of an adoption petition filing and the adoption hearing.

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Enacted Bills: Children and Families

HB 338- Child Support Order for Kids with Disabilities, Lebanon Municipal Court, Court Computerization Fees (Governor signed, effective 3/20/25)

- Court child support orders for a child with a disability
 - Clarifies that a child support order may continue beyond the age of majority for a person with a disability.
 - Allows a court to issue or modify a child support order for the care of a child who is a person with a disability as part of a marriage termination proceeding or when issuing or modifying a court-issued child support order, regardless of whether the child is over or under the age of majority at the time.
 - Allows a court to terminate a child support order for a person with a disability upon satisfactory proof that the person is no longer mentally or physically disabled or is capable of supporting or maintaining oneself.
- Lebanon Municipal Court
 - Converts the part-time judge of the Lebanon Municipal Court to a full-time judge beginning on the effective date of the bill until December 31, 2027, when the current part-time judge's term expires.
- Court Computerization fees (relates to SB 94, an additional fix)
 - Specifies that an elected clerk of a county court may make a determination that additional funds are required to computerize the office of the clerk, and retains the court's authority to do so when the clerk is appointed.
 - Clarifies that an elected clerk of a municipal or county court may disburse computerization funds subject to an appropriation by the commissioners, while in a court with an appointed clerk, the court may issue an order to disburse the funds subject to an appropriation by the commissioners.
 - Specifies that in a court of common pleas where the clerk is appointed, the court may authorize and disburse computerization funds, instead of the county executive.

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Criminal Law and Sentencing

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Enacted Bills: Criminal Law and Sentencing

HB 234- Alford Plea, Expungement, R.C. 3.16 Procedure Changes (Governor signed, effective 3/20/25)

- Alford Plea
 - Prohibits a court, when determining an appropriate sentence when an offender enters an Alford plea, from considering whether an offender showed genuine remorse for an offense.
- Sealing and expungement
 - Allows for multiple third-degree felonies to be treated as a single conviction for purposes of sealing and expungement under certain circumstances.
 - Eliminates eligibility for sealing or expungement of a conviction for theft in office.
 - Allows an offender to seal, but not expunge, a conviction record for third degree misdemeanor domestic violence or a conviction record for violating a protection order.
- Suspension of local officials (non-judges) (R.C. 3.16, Supreme Court Process)
 - Renames the defined term “prosecuting attorney” to “prosecuting officer” and expands the term to include the Attorney General and special prosecutors.
 - Permits federal prosecutors to serve as prosecuting officers at the federal prosecutor’s own volition.
 - Establishes what constitutes a period of time under the provision.

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Enacted Bills: Criminal Law and Sentencing

HB 289-Sex Offender Registration and Notice (“SORN”) Law Updates (Governor signed, effective 3/20/25)

- Registration of a fixed address
 - Requires that an offender or delinquent child include in their registration a current fixed address.
 - Requires the offender or delinquent child, if the residence address is not to a fixed residence address, to include in the registration a detailed description of the place or places at which the offender or delinquent child intends to stay for the following 30 days.
- Change of address notification
 - Requires the offender or delinquent child to provide written notice of a change of address at least 20 days prior to changing the residence address.
- Registration of new address
 - Requires the offender or delinquent child who is required provide written notice of a change of address to also register the new address.
- Penalty
 - Applies current law penalties for failure to register to a residence address, failure to send notice of intent to residence, failure to notify a sheriff of a change of address, and failure to register a new residence address.
- Tolling period of time offender has to comply with SORN Law
 - Provides that if an offender or delinquent child is required to register as a Tier I or Tier II Sex Offender/Child-Victim Offender and the person fails to comply with the SORN Law, the period of time that the person has a duty to comply with the SORN Law is tolled for the amount of time the person is in violation of the SORN Law.
 - Specifies that the period of time the offender or delinquent child has a duty to comply with the SORN law resumes once the person is no longer in violation of the SORN Law. Notice of sex offender release in another county.
- Defendant subpoenas of victim’s records
 - The bill repeals a provision of current law that requires a defendant who seeks to subpoena records of or concerning the victim to serve the prosecutor, the victim, and the victim’s attorney, if applicable, with a copy of the subpoena. The provision requires the prosecutor to ensure that the defendant is provided the information necessary to effect service.
 - The bill also repeals current law that allows the court, pursuant to Criminal Rule 17, on a motion made promptly and at or before the time specified in the subpoena for compliance, to quash or modify the subpoena if compliance would be unreasonable or oppressive.
 - The repealed provisions also provide a process for a victim to be subpoenaed by a defendant to testify at any pretrial hearing, if the defendant shows good cause at a hearing with the prosecutor and the victim, victim’s representative, and victim’s attorney, if applicable, as to why the court should issue the subpoena.

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Enacted Bills: Criminal Law and Sentencing

HB 531- Braden's Law (Governor signed, effective 4/9/25)

- Custodian Compliance
 - Requires a court, within 30 days, to adjudicate an application for a court order requiring a custodian to disclose the digital assets or terminate the account of a deceased user who was less than 18 years of age if the request was initiated by a parent or legal guardian of the deceased user.
 - Requires the court to impose a civil penalty on the custodian if the custodian fails to comply with the court order.
- Sexual Extortion Offense
 - Creates the offense of sexual extortion.
 - Prohibits a person from asserting a cause of action in any Ohio court against any provider of an information, interactive computer, or telecommunications service for any injury, death, or loss to person or property in accordance with a court order issued in relation to sexual extortion.
 - Provides that a person who conspires with another who is actively involved in the creation or knowing distribution of material related to sexual extortion or who knowingly advertises the material is guilty of sexual extortion.
 - Provides that a person cannot be convicted of an offense, and a child cannot be adjudicated a delinquent child, for disseminating private images of that person or child to another person as a result of committing the crime of sexual extortion when the person or child is a victim.
- Sentencing Guidelines
 - Adds the following factors a sentencing court must consider indicating that the offender's conduct is more serious than conduct normally constituting the offense:
 - The victim of the offense suffered serious physical, psychological, or economic harm, including serious physical harm the victim caused to the victim's self, as a result of the offense.
 - The victim died by suicide as a result of the offense.
- Electronic Search Warrants
 - Requires a provider of an electronic communication service or of remote computing service operating in Ohio to comply with any court-issued search warrant or interception warrant, regardless of whether user data is held at a location within Ohio or at a location in another state.
 - Permits a court to issue an order on a service provider that is a corporation or entity that is incorporated or organized in Ohio, or a company or business entity doing in Ohio under a contract or terms of a service agreement with an Ohio resident.

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Enacted Bills: Criminal Law and Sentencing

HB 29- License Suspensions, Driving Penalties (Governor signed, effective 4/9/25)

- Changes regarding driver's license suspensions for:
 - Drug offenses
 - Removes the possible penalty of a driver's license suspension for a drug abuse offense unless the offender used a vehicle to further the commission of the offense or, as retained from current law, the offense occurs under the same circumstances as an OVI-offense.
 - Failure to pay a court fine or appear
 - Eliminates the driver's license suspension for failure to pay a court fine or fee.
 - Specifies that a person can enter into a payment plan with the clerk of court in order to avoid an arrest warrant for failure to appear or failure to pay a fine.
 - Requires, rather than authorizes as under current law, a court to issue a supplemental citation to a person who fails to appear in court, and delays issuance of a summons or arrest warrant by the court for failure to appear until 30 days after the supplemental citation is issued.
 - Failure to pay child support
 - Authorizes a person who is in default on child support payments to present evidence that a driver's license suspension would effectively prevent that person from paying child support or the arrearage due under the child support order.
 - Authorizes the child support enforcement agency to consider that evidence in determining whether to notify the Registrar to terminate a driver's license suspension on the person in default.
 - Delays the implementation of a driver's license suspension on a person who is in default on child support payments for 30 days after the child support enforcement agency sends notice to the person.
 - Authorizes a person whose driver's license is suspended for failure to pay child support to file a motion with a court with jurisdiction over the child support order for limited driving privileges in all circumstances, not just when the motion is made during contempt proceedings as under current law.
- Stopping for on-track equipment at a railroad crossing
 - Generally, authorizes a court to order an offender to attend and successfully complete a remedial safety training or presentation regarding rail safety in lieu of a fine or jail term for failing to stop appropriately at a railroad crossing.

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Enacted Bills: Criminal Law and Sentencing

HB 37- OVI Penalties (Governor signed, effective 4/9/25)

- Aggravated vehicular homicide penalties
 - Establishes a new, tiered-system, based on the number of prior offenses and the nature of the offense, in order to trigger increased minimum mandatory prison terms for aggravated vehicular homicide that is the proximate result of operating a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, a drug of abuse, or a combination of them (OVI) offense.
 - Increases the possible financial penalties for aggravated vehicular homicide committed as the proximate result of an OVI offense by raising the maximum fine to \$25,000.
- Oral fluid testing
 - Authorizes law enforcement to collect an oral fluid sample from a person arrested for OVI.
 - Authorizes the oral fluid sample and its test results to be used as evidence related to OVI charges.
 - Specifies that any person who operates a vehicle or who is in physical control of a vehicle has given consent to have that person's oral fluid collected and tested if arrested for OVI ("implied consent").
 - Makes conforming changes to the laws governing OVI while operating a watercraft or a commercial motor vehicle and the release of drug test records in criminal cases.
- OVI penalties
 - Increases the minimum criminal fines for OVI by an additional \$190, while lowering the related driver's license reinstatement fees by \$160, resulting in a net increase of \$30 in OVI minimum financial penalties.
 - Modifies when a court must condition the granting of limited driving privileges to an OVI offender on use of an ignition interlock device.

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Enacted Bills: Criminal Law and Sentencing

HB 77- Drone Requirements and Restrictions (Governor signed, effective 4/9/25)

- Prohibitions on the use of an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV)
- Prohibits a person from operating a UAV as follows:
 - In a manner that knowingly endangers any person or property, or purposely disregards others' rights or safety;
 - If federal law or regulations prohibit its operation, unless the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has authorized the person to use the UAV;
 - In a manner that disrupts, interrupts, or impairs the operations or activities of law enforcement, fire departments, or emergency medical services; and
 - To photograph, record, or loiter over or near a critical facility with purpose to further another criminal offense that involves physical harm to another person or with purpose to destroy or tamper with the critical facility.

HB 111- Domestic Violence Increased Sentencing Range (Governor signed, effective 3/20/25)

- Creates a presumption for a prison term for third degree felony domestic violence.
- Increases the sentencing range for third degree felony domestic violence.

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Enacted Bills: Criminal Law and Sentencing

HB 322- Sex Offenses- Childhood Abuse (Creates Grooming) (Governor signed, effective 4/9/25)

- Childhood Sexual Abuse Registration and Community Notification
 - Provides that if a registrant for the Child Sexual Abuse Registry fails to comply with registration, notice, and verification requirements, the penalty for a violation of the offense is a civil penalty of up to \$2,500, instead of a fifth degree felony.
 - Allows the prosecuting attorney to file a civil action against the registrant, but if the prosecuting attorney does not file the civil action within 45 days after the referral, the aggrieved person may file the civil action.
- Creates offense of grooming
 - The offense is a first or second degree misdemeanor, except under specified circumstances in which the offense is a felony.

HB 366- Theft Offenses (Governor signed, effective 4/9/25)

- Theft
 - Specifies that an offender is guilty of grand theft, a fourth degree felony, if the offender has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a felony theft offense within the previous three years.
 - Specifies that an offender is guilty of aggravated theft, a third degree felony, if the offender two or more times has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a felony theft offense within the previous three years.
 - Specifies that an offender is guilty of theft from a person in a protected class, a fourth degree felony, if the offender has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a felony theft offense within the previous three years, and a third degree felony if the offender two or more times has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a felony theft offense within the previous three years.
- Theft of mail
 - Creates the crime of theft of mail, which is generally a fifth degree felony, but can escalate as high as a first degree felony depending on the value of the mail stolen and other specified circumstances.
- Organized theft of retail property
 - Creates the crime of organized theft of retail property, is generally a third degree felony, but can escalate as high as a first degree felony depending on the value of the retail property stolen and other specified circumstances.
- Counterfeiting
 - Expands the offense of counterfeiting

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Enacted Bills: Criminal Law and Sentencing

SB 100- Device Tracking/Tobacco Sales to Minors (Governor signed, effective 3/20/25)

- Illegal use of a tracking device or application
 - Prohibits a person from knowingly installing a tracking device or tracking application on another person's property without the other person's consent.
 - Specifies that a violation of the prohibition is the offense of "illegal use of a tracking device or application," generally a first degree misdemeanor.
 - Specifies that illegal use of a tracking device or application is a fourth degree felony in listed circumstances.
 - Specifies circumstances in which previously granted consent to the installation of a tracking device or application is presumed to be revoked and situations that are exempt from the prohibition.
- Penalties for selling tobacco products to underage persons
 - Specifies fines for repeated violations of the prohibitions against selling tobacco products to underage persons and selling tobacco products without checking the consumer's identification.
 - Expands the definition of "public nuisance" to include those places or businesses that repeatedly violate the prohibitions against selling tobacco products to underage persons or selling tobacco products without checking the consumer's identification.

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Enacted Bills: Criminal Law and Sentencing

SB 109- Sex Offenses, Medical Professionals (Governor signed, generally effective 3/21/25)

- Expands the offense of sexual battery by prohibiting:
 - 1. Engaging in “sexual activity” (“sexual contact” or “sexual conduct,” as defined in continuing law) rather than just sexual conduct under existing law, under specified circumstances;
 - 2. Causing another to engage in sexual activity with the offender; or causing two or more other persons to engage in sexual activity, under specified circumstances;
 - 3. Adding to those specified circumstances that the offender is a licensed medical professional, the other person, or one of the other persons, is a patient of the offender, and the sexual activity occurs in the course of medical treatment.
- If the sexual battery offender is a licensed medical professional, requires the following:
 - The prosecuting attorney handling the case to send written notice of the indictment or charge to the regulatory board or agency with administrative authority to suspend or revoke the medical professional's professional license, certification, registration, or authorization;
 - The court, upon conviction of the offender, to transmit a certified copy of the judgment entry of conviction to the regulatory board or agency with administrative authority to suspend or revoke the medical professional's professional license, certification, registration, or authorization.
- For any offense for which sentence is being imposed, if the offender previously has been convicted of the expanded offense of sexual battery if the sexual activity involved is sexual conduct, and also of a sexually violent predator specification, requires the court to impose upon the offender a term of life imprisonment without parole.
- Provides that the physician-patient relationship or physician assistant-patient relationship is not a ground for excluding evidence against the medical professional in any judicial proceeding resulting from such report regarding the person's knowledge of, or reasonable cause to suspect, the medical professional's commission of a sex offense.

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Court Procedures

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Enacted Bills: Court Procedures

SB 237- Uniform Public Expression Protection Act (Anti-Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation or Anti-“SLAPP”) (Governor signed, effective 4/9/25)

- Court Procedures Involved in Anti-SLAPP
 - Requires a stay of proceedings in the action prior to a ruling on the motion for expedited relief, other than for a motion for attorney's fees, court costs, and other litigation expenses.
 - Permits a court to, upon request, stay a hearing or motion involving another party in the action, if the hearing or ruling on the motion for expedited relief would adjudicate an issue material to the issue of the hearing or the motion.
 - Specifies that the court will consider the pleadings, the motion, any response to the motion, and any evidence that could be considered in ruling on a motion for summary judgment under Civil Rule 56 of the Ohio Rules of Civil Procedure in ruling on the motion for expedited relief.
 - Specifies on what grounds the court will dismiss a cause of action, or part of a cause of action, with prejudice.
 - Permits a court to allow discovery during a stay if the party seeking discovery shows that specific information is necessary to establish whether a party has satisfied a burden to prove that the party's cause of action should not be dismissed.
 - Permits a court to hear and rule on a motion unrelated to the motion for expedited relief or a motion seeking a temporary or preliminary injunction to protect against an imminent threat to public health or safety during the stay for a motion for expedited relief.
 - Specifies that an order denying a motion for expedited relief is a final appealable order.
- Eviction Actions
 - Prohibits any person from filing a forcible entry and detainer action listing a minor tenant as a defendant if a parent or adult guardian is also listed as a defendant on the same complaint.
 - Requires the court to dismiss without prejudice any action filed in violation of the prohibition in the preceding dot point and order the person that filed the action to pay the minor tenant's reasonable attorneys' fees.

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Enacted Bills: Court Procedures

HB 403- Vehicle Towing Cause of Actions (Governor signed, effective 4/9/25)

- Civil actions related to towing
 - Establishes a process for a commercial motor vehicle owner to file a civil action to dispute a towing service or storage facility's charges related to the towing and storage of that owner's commercial motor vehicle, cargo, or personal property after a motor vehicle accident, similar to the process used by insurance companies under current law.
 - Also authorizes a towing service or storage facility to file a civil action against a motor vehicle owner if all of the following apply:
 - The commercial motor vehicle, cargo, or personal property was removed, towed, or stored after a motor vehicle accident;
 - The owner has not paid the bill or filed a civil action to dispute the charges within 45 days of the owner receiving the bill sent by the towing service or storage facility; and
 - The towing service or storage facility is not attempting to take title to the motor vehicle until after any final judgments are entered for the current civil action.
 - Requires a motor vehicle owner to pay the undisputed amount and to post a bond for the disputed amount of the towing service or storage facility's charges.
 - Requires the bond amount to be used to pay the remaining disputed amount of the bill or to be returned, depending on the civil action's outcome.
 - Requires the court to determine the reasonableness of the amount charged by the towing service or storage facility if that amount is in dispute.

SB 63- Asbestos Lawsuit Changes (Governor signed, effective 4/9/25)

- Requires a plaintiff in a tort action alleging an asbestos claim to provide all parties a sworn statement of specified disclosures within 60 days of filing the complaint.
- Requires the plaintiff to continue to supplement the information that the plaintiff is required to disclose
- Provides for the dismissal of an asbestos claim under specified circumstances but prohibits the dismissal of an asbestos claim under those circumstances upon a showing of good cause by the plaintiff.

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Court and Judgeship Changes

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Court and Judgeship Changes

HB 497- Various County Law Changes (Governor signed, effective 4/9/25)

- County Law Changes
 - Allows counties to designate additional public depositories of active moneys during the four-year designation period.
 - Modifies the approval process for county courthouse and jail projects with an estimated cost of \$75,000 or less.
 - Increases, from \$1,000 to \$20,000, the threshold at which a county prosecutor is required to approve contracts related to county improvements.
- County Juvenile Court Transfer
 - Specifies that any court cost, fine, restitution, or other monetary penalty imposed at the time of a transfer to the juvenile court of the child's residence is not a final, appealable order.
- Public Notice Requirements
 - Requires a publisher to establish a government rate for posting legal advertisements, notices, and proclamations that are required by law to be published, in a newspaper of general circulation's digital edition on the newspaper's website.
 - Permits a county to publish required county advertisements in only the digital edition of a newspaper of general circulation within the county, or only on the county's website and social media account.
- Erie County Municipal Court
 - The bill extends the territorial jurisdiction of the Erie County Municipal Court beyond the south shore of Lake Erie to the international boundary line between the U.S. and Canada.

SB 158- Add Judgeship in Adams County Court of Common Pleas (Governor signed, effective 4/9/25)

- Creates a new judgeship of the Adams County Common Pleas Court, to be elected in 2026, six-year term to begin February 9, 2027.
- Provides that beginning on February 9, 2029, such judge will be designated as the judge of the Adams County Common Pleas Court, Probate and Juvenile Division, with the powers relating to juvenile courts and probate courts.

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Miscellaneous

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Enacted Bills: Miscellaneous

HB 315- Township Omnibus Bill (Governor signed, effective date immediate for appropriations (1/2/25), certain provisions 7/1/25, and 4/3/25* generally for other portions) *Date identified by General Assembly online

- Judges and Prosecutors Included in Ability to Submit an Affidavit to the County Auditor
 - Identical ramifications of HB 265, the bill edits the language of R.C. 319.28 to now include Judges and Prosecutors (which were previously excluded) to be able to submit an affidavit to the county auditor.
- Law Enforcement Video- Public Records
 - A state or local law enforcement agency may charge a requester the actual cost associated with preparing a video record for inspection or production, not to exceed seventy-five dollars per hour of video produced, nor seven hundred fifty dollars total.
 - When considering whether a state or local law enforcement agency promptly prepared a video record for inspection or provided a video record for production within a reasonable period of time, in addition to any other factors, a court shall consider the time required for a state or local law enforcement agency to retrieve, download, review, redact, seek legal advice regarding, and produce the video record.
- Zoning violations
 - The bill establishes a civil enforcement process for township zoning violations.
 - Establishes that each day the violation continues – beginning the day the judgment granting relief is issued – is a separate offense.
- Notary Law Changes
 - Various changes made, including requiring notaries to take the oath of office in person.
- Cost-sharing restrictions
 - Prohibits a health benefit plan from imposing cost sharing for occupational therapy, physical therapy, or chiropractic services that is greater than the cost sharing for an office visit to a primary care physician or osteopath physician.
 - Requires a health plan issuer to clearly state on its website and on all relevant literature that coverage for occupational therapy, physical therapy, and chiropractic services is available along with any limitations.
 - Makes a violation of the bill's provisions an unfair and deceptive practice in the business of insurance.
- Madeline's Law – health insurance coverage of hearing aids and related services
 - Requires health plan issuers to cover hearing aids and related services for persons 21 years of age and younger.

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