



STARK COUNTY BAR JOURNAL

VOLUME 29 ■ NUMBER 3

MARCH, 2023

**Stark County Bar Association
Presents The ...**

2023

Law Day Luncheon

**Wednesday, May 3, 2023
Kent State University at Stark's
Conference Center**

**With Keynote Speaker
Ohio Attorney General**

Dave Yost



SCBA March 2023 Office Schedule

March 1 st	12:00 NOON	Family Law Committee Meeting
March 2 nd	12:00 NOON	Community Involvement Committee Meeting
March 3 rd	1:30 PM	Bankruptcy Committee Meeting
March 13 th	4:00 PM	Disputed Fee Committee Meeting
March 14 th	12:00 NOON	Elder Law Committee Meeting
March 15 th	12:00 NOON	Law Day Committee Meeting
March 15 th	4:00 PM	Executive Committee Meeting
March 20 th	12:00 NOON	Lawyer Referral Service Committee Meeting
March 21 st	3:45 PM	Grievance Committee Meeting
March 23 rd	12:00 NOON	Military & Veterans Affairs Committee Meeting

ELDER LAW COMMITTEE MEETING

The Elder Law Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 14, 2023, has been cancelled. The next meeting will be May 9, 2023 at 12:00 noon.

NOTARY EDUCATION CLASS & TESTING

Classes and Testing offered every 2nd & 4th Tuesday
Stark County Bar Association Office
By Appointment Only

1 Hour Renewal Education Class • 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

3 Hour New Notary Public Education Class
12:00 Noon – 3:00 PM

TESTING 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Online classes and testing
available at our website: www.StarkCtyBar.com

THE BAR JOURNAL

Official Publication of the Stark County Bar Association

FOUNDED IN 1900

Suite 400, Courtyard Centre
116 Cleveland Ave., N.W. • Canton, Ohio 44702

Stephan P. Babik, Bar President
Tina McCort, Executive Director & Editor
Paulie Wagner, Referral Secretary & Editor

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BAR OFFICE FAX 330-453-0180 • SCB@starkctybar.com
www.StarkCtyBar.com

2023 Upcoming CLE Seminars

March 29, 2023	2023 Municipal Court Seminar SCBA Conference Room See Pg. 4
April 5, 2023	2023 Family Law Seminar SCBA Conference Room See Pg. 5
April 14, 2023	The 27th Annual White-Williams Bankruptcy Institute The Hartville Kitchen See Pgs. 6 & 7
May 3, 2023	2023 Law Day Seminar Kent State Stark Conference Center See Pg. 8

CLE Self-Study Rule Changes

Effective January 1, 2023, the Supreme Court of Ohio adopted rule changes that will permanently remove the CLE self-study caps for attorneys.



Reminder: A - LI
Complete your CLE by Dec. 31, 2023

THE STARK COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION



Like us on:
facebook



follow us on
twitter

Did You Know?

As a member of the Stark County Bar Association you may request for your review our Annual Budget or our Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Assets. These financial documents are available upon request made to Tina McCort, our Executive Director.

The Bar Journal is published monthly for all bar members. Free to members, \$20.00 per year to others.

All communications and editorial material should be directed to the Bar Association office by the fifteenth day of the month preceding publication.

Opinions and positions expressed in the signed material are those of the author and may not necessarily reflect those of the Stark County Bar Association, its officers, staff or board of editors.

From Our President

A BRIEF (and recent) HISTORY OF NOTARY EDUCATION AND TESTING PROVIDED BY THE STARK COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

I. Senate Bill 263 becomes the “Notary Public Modernization Act.”

In mid-2019, the Stark County Bar Association learned of S.B. 263 which had the short title of the “Notary Public Modernization Act.” In brief, S.B. 263 would transfer the commissioning of notaries from county courts of common pleas to the Ohio Secretary of State. Of note to the Stark County Bar Association, S.B. 263 would completely change the landscape with respect to offering notary education, testing, and renewal, which, like many other local bar associations at the time, was a significant source of revenue.

What ensued after our Association learned of the Notary Modernization Act was an all-hands-on-deck effort to ensure the Stark County Bar Association could continue to provide notary education and testing to benefit our community and Association alike. Among those who stepped up to prepare materials, present videotaped seminars, and lobby for inclusion of our Association in the new notary framework were Judge Hartnett, Attorney Ivan Redinger, Jr., Attorney Anthony E. Brown, Attorney Aletha M. Carver, Attorney William Emley, Attorney Melissa S. Ulrich, and Attorney Scott G. Hastings. I would also be remiss if I did not mention the assistance we received from our State House and Senate Representatives (Scott Oelslager & Kirk Schuring) who assisted in the process of allowing the Stark County Bar Association to be grandfathered into the new system of commissioning.

With all of their help, the Stark County Bar Association had weathered the storm and managed to continue as one of the few local county bar associations still capable of providing notary education and testing. In October of 2019, a brief reception was held to thank those who had helped along the way.

II. COVID-19 and the cessation of in-person notary education and testing.

Shortly after we had obtained certification for the Stark County Bar Association to provide notary testing and education, our Association decided to also incorporate an online presence that would advertise our services and provide order forms for notary public supplies, such as stamps. When COVID-19 hit, together with the associated closures and cessations of in-person gatherings, we were once again faced with uncertainty and our Association’s ability to provide



Stephan P. Babik

President, Stark County Bar Association

notary education and testing was at risk of grinding to a halt. Our Officers recognized that we needed an online solution and it would need to be implemented quickly.

When third-party vendor options all fell through, I spent the next weekends building what I hoped would become a functional education and testing platform at ohionotaryclass.com. After the content and payment portal were complete, I ran a demo registration, education, and testing session and... it worked! To date, I am happy to report that ohionotaryclass.com has served us well and is currently the single largest source of revenue received by the Stark County Bar Association outside of membership dues. Even with the “return to normal” in a post-COVID world, online education and testing continues to significantly outpace in-person education and testing by a wide margin.

III. House Bill 567 and Senate Bill 131 present new challenges to address.

All was proceeding without significant issue when, on May 18, 2022, the Ohio House of Representatives passed H.B. 567. At the time of passage, the bill had a single (laudible) purpose and proposed amendments to R.C. 2303.12 to “generally require the clerk of the court of common pleas to make available the court’s general docket ... on the clerk of court’s website.”

In written testimony offered by the Ohio Judicial Conference, the Executive Director noted H.B. 567’s worthy
(continued next page)

From Our President (continued from previous page)

purpose to “make the practice of law more efficient for Ohio’s lawyers.” Also offering support of H.B. 567, the Ohio Association for Justice accurately noted that “[o]pen access to public records is a cornerstone of American democracy. Such access is central to electing and monitoring public officials and evaluating government operations.”

Later, on December 14, 2022, when H.B. 567 passed in the Ohio Senate, the three-page piece of legislation had blossomed from a single purpose vehicle (to amend R.C. 2303.12) into a forty-four-page bill amending or enacting twenty separate sections of the Ohio Revised Code. Among the statutes to be amended, was R.C. 147.011 which defines the word “acknowledgement” for purposes of notarial acts. House Bill 567 was then signed into law on January 5, 2023 with an effective date of April 6, 2023.

On February 3, 2023, the Stark County Bar Association received notice of how these changes would impact our ability to continue to provide notary education and testing in the State of Ohio. Among the necessary changes include, not only the H.B. 567 changes, but also some additional changes set forth in S.B. 131 which has an effective date of April 3, 2023 and, for the sake of space, is not discussed here. To ensure that we can receive the requisite approval in advance of the April 6, 2023 effective date, we have been instructed to submit

materials on or before March 6, 2023 to ensure that they are reviewed before that deadline.

Once again, notary education and testing at our local Bar Association is facing legislative headwinds with a truncated timeline for implementation. In the short time since we learned of the statutory changes, First Vice President/Notary Committee Co-Chair Judge Forchione and Second Vice President/Notary Committee Co-Chair Angela Vagotis have dedicated their weekends to analyzing the legislation and identifying necessary changes. Executive Director Tina McCort and Notary Secretary/Bookkeeper Chris Diaz have begun modifying presentation materials and gathering necessary information. Past President Attorney Aletha Carver has agreed to assist with updating education materials. Bob Aman, long-time supporter of our Association and professional videographer at Pro Video Services, has met to discuss how he can provide technical assistance in preparing updated materials.

Beyond the pressing and immediate changes that will need to be implemented, looking towards the long-term, our Association will have to revamp and update some of our notary education and testing materials. In this regard, and in the words of Jake Elwood, “we’re putting the band back together.” If you believe you can assist, please contact Tina.

Past Due Bills Will Be Mailed April 1st **Don't Miss The Value of Your SCBA Membership!**

Stark County Bar Association

Administrative Professionals Day Luncheon **Wednesday, April 26, 2023**

BENDER'S TAVERN, DOWNTOWN CANTON

12:00 Noon • \$24.50 per person

LUNCH ENTREES:

- Chicken Marsala with Mashed Potatoes - Served with a House Salad & Bread
- Scrod ala Foley with Rice - Served with a House Salad & Bread
- Chef Salad - Served with Bread

*All lunches will include a Bender's Mini Sundae.
Choice of coffee, iced tea, hot teas or soft drink.*

Please call the Bar Office (330-453-0685) or e-mail (SCB@StarkCtyBar.com), no later than April 21st to make your reservations. We hope to see you and your staff!

Stark County Family Court Attorneys

The Stark County Family Court is initiating a Pro Se Help Desk to assist unrepresented individuals in completing their paperwork, obtaining dates and filing. We are looking for attorneys to work at the Help Desk, which will be open from 10am to 1pm on Mondays.

The Help Desk will assist in both Juvenile Custody and Domestic Relations cases. The Court will pay the Help Desk attorney \$275 total for the three hours and they will be located in an office at the Court. We are looking for experienced attorneys to staff the Help Desk.

If you want to do it weekly, great. But we can also work with multiple attorneys on a rotating basis. The Court proposes a three-month trial period for the Help Desk to see if the time and services are being used by the Pro Se litigants, then re-evaluate based upon usage and benefit.

If you are interested in applying to staff the Help Desk, please contact Judge Hall at 330-451-7308 or rahall@starkcountyohio.gov.

Stark County Bar Association Legal Scholarship

The Stark County Bar Association offers a Legal Scholarship. Consideration is given to the following:

- Students enrolled or accepted as a full or part-time student at an educational institution accredited to award a Juris Doctorate degree;
- Students pursuing a course of study designed to result in a Juris Doctorate degree; and
- Students in good academic standing in Law School or in prior academic work, as determined by the Scholarship Committee.

The Scholarship Committee also gives priority consideration to students with demonstrated financial need; students from the Stark County area; and students likely to pursue a law career in the Stark County area.

Stark Community Foundation administers our Scholarship, and the Scholarship Application may be found on their website at www.starkcf.org. The Application Deadline is April 1, 2023.

New Member

Janel M. Newell, Esq.
Associated with: Sole Practitioner
1150 Saint Abigail Street, SW
Hartville, OH 44632
PH: 864-316-3541
Email: janel@k2closellc.com

Move Recently?



We want to know where you are!
E-mail Paulie at: scbareferral@starkctybar.com
with all change of
RESIDENCE and BUSINESS
address information.



Stark County Bar Association

2023 MUNICIPAL COURT SEMINAR

Wednesday, March 29, 2023 • SCBA Conference Room

12:30 P.M.

REGISTRATION

1:00 P.M.

CANTON MUNICIPAL COURT

Honorable Curt Werren

Magistrate Jeremy J. Foltz

Magistrate Derek C. McClowry

Magistrate Christy M. Pierson

Practice in the Canton Municipal Court - Policies and Procedures

1:50 P.M.

MASSILLON MUNICIPAL COURT

Honorable Edward J. Elum

Honorable Joel C. Fichter

Magistrate Andrea M. Scassa

1. Basic Forms to Survive and Updates/Changes to the Law
2. Landlord/Tenant Current Issues, Hearings, and Mediations
3. Coordinated Probation/Community Control Orders

2:40 P.M.

BREAK

2:55 P.M.

ALLIANCE MUNICIPAL COURT

Honorable Andrew L. Zumbar

Policies, Procedures, and Updates

3:45 P.M.

MENTAL HEALTH COMMITMENTS FROM CRIMINAL MUNICIPAL COURT CASES WITH SAMPLE FORMS

Honorable Dixie Park, Stark County Probate Court

4:15 P.M.

ADJOURN



2023 Municipal Court Seminar

*Members: \$90.00

Associate Members: \$75.00

Non-Members: \$165.00

Name _____ Atty. Reg. No. _____

Address _____

Email _____

***PLEASE NOTE:** If you are currently a member of any local bar association, you may attend at our members' price.

Do you prefer to receive the seminar materials via Email or Hard Copy on the day of the seminar? Circle One.

Please mail checks to: Stark County Bar Association

116 Cleveland Avenue, N.W., Suite 400, Canton, Ohio 44702-1728

NO REFUNDS UNLESS RESERVATION CANCELLATION IS RECEIVED 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF SEMINAR.

Application has been approved for 3.00 General CLE credit hours.



Stark County Bar Association

2023 FAMILY LAW SEMINAR

Wednesday, April 5, 2023
SCBA Conference Room

8:30 A.M.

REGISTRATION

Doughnuts, coffee & water provided.

9:00 A.M.

FACES OF MENTAL ILLNESS

Aimee Thomas, Ph.D., J.D., P.C.C.-S

Lighthouse Family Center, Ltd.

Catherine M.W. Bell, Esq.

Magistrate Stark County Family Court

10:30 A.M.

BREAK

10:45 A.M.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Scott Lundregan, Esq.

Legislative Counsel/Director of Policy, Ohio State Bar Association

11:45 A.M.

COMMON PITFALLS OF GRIEVANCE COMPLAINTS

Richard S. Milligan, Esq., SCBA Bar Counsel

Milligan & Pusateri Co., LPA

12:15 P.M.

ADJOURN



2023 Family Law Seminar

Wednesday, April 5, 2023

*Members: \$90.00

Associate Members: \$75.00

Non-Members: \$165.00

Name _____ Atty. Reg. No. _____

Address _____

Email _____

***PLEASE NOTE:** If you are currently a member of any local bar association, you may attend at our members' price.

Do you prefer to receive the seminar materials via Email or Hard Copy on the day of the seminar? Circle One.

Please mail checks to: Stark County Bar Association

116 Cleveland Avenue, N.W., Suite 400, Canton, Ohio 44702-1728

NO REFUNDS UNLESS RESERVATION CANCELLATION IS RECEIVED 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF SEMINAR.

Application approved for 3.00 CLE credit hours, including 2.0 Professional Conduct CLE credit hours.

THE 27TH ANNUAL WHITE-WILLIAMS BANKRUPTCY INSTITUTE

April 14, 2023

The Hartville Kitchen

1015 Edison Street NW, Hartville, OH 44632

6.00 CLEs applied for (5.00 general hrs. & 1 professional conduct hr.)



akron bar
association



- 7:45 A.M. **REGISTRATION**
- 8:25 A.M. **WELCOME**
Michelle Jackson Limas, Esq., *Chair, Bankruptcy Committee, Stark County Bar Association*
Michael Steel, Esq., *Chair, Bankruptcy & Commercial Law Section, Akron Bar Association*
- 8:30 A.M. **U.S. TRUSTEE UPDATE**
Amy L. Good, Esq., *Office of the U.S. Trustee*
Scott R. Belhorn, Esq., *Office of the U.S. Trustee*
- 9:00 A.M. **CASE LAW UPDATE**
Hon. John P. Gustafson, *US Bankruptcy Court, Northern District of Ohio*
Thomas DeCarlo, Esq., *Osipov Bigelman, P.C.*
- 10:30 A.M. **BREAK**
- 10:45 A.M. **CHAPTER 13 PANEL**
Hon. Alan M. Koschik, *US Bankruptcy Court, Northern District of Ohio*
Dynele L. Schinker-Kuharich, Esq., *Canton Chapter 13 Trustee*
Keith L. Rucinski, Esq., *Akron Chapter 13 Trustee*
- 11:15 A.M. **VIEWS FROM THE CANTON BANKRUPTCY COURT BENCH**
Hon. John P. Gustafson, *US Bankruptcy Court, Northern District of Ohio*
Hon. Mary Ann Whipple, *US Bankruptcy Court, Northern District of Ohio*
Hon. Tiiara N. A. Patton, *US Bankruptcy Court, Northern District of Ohio*
- 11:45 A.M. **BREAK** – Please leave meeting room for staff to prepare for lunch.
- 12:00 NOON **LUNCH** Presentation by George Vogl of Stretto
- 1:00 P.M. **STUDENT LOAN ISSUES**
Suzana K. Koch, Esq., *Assistant US Attorney General*
- 1:30 P.M. **CHAPTER 7 PANEL**
Lisa Barbucci, Esq., *Canton Chapter 7 Trustee*
- 2:00 P.M. **TAX CLAIMS**
Trish D. Lazich, Esq., *Director of Bankruptcy & Legal Support,
Office of the Ohio Attorney General*
- 3:00 P.M. **PIE BREAK** sponsored by Vance P. Truman, Esq.
- 3:15 P.M. **SUCCESSION PLANNING & DUE DILIGENCE**
Gretchen J. Mote, Esq., *OBLIC Director of Loss Prevention*
- 4:15 P.M. **CLOSING REMARKS AND DRAWING FOR
DEAN WYMAN SCHOLARSHIP**

FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 2023 - 27th ANNUAL WHITE-WILLIAMS BANKRUPTCY INSTITUTE

Register online at www.akronbar.org/events. Register by phone Akron Bar Association 330-436-0112,
OR Register online and choose "Payment at Later Time," then mail this form with your check to:
Akron Bar Association, 57 S. Broadway St., Akron, OH 44308.

NAME: _____

FIRM: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

PHONE: (____) ____-____ E-MAIL: _____
(must provide in order to receive registration confirmation/receipt/link to materials)

OHIO REG. # _____

LUNCH CHOICE:

Baked Boneless Chicken____ OR Baked Fish____ OR Vegetarian Pasta____ No Lunch____

SEMINAR FEE

(includes continental breakfast, lunch and electronic materials)

Akron Bar Member _____\$239.00

Stark County Bar Member _____\$239.00

Attorney Non-Member _____\$389.00

Non-Attorney _____\$139.00

Bankruptcy Judge or
Law Clerk _____ COMP

Late Registration Fee: _____ \$25.00
(after 4/5/23)

TOTAL FEE: \$_____

Registration Options:

Online: www.akronbar.org
with credit card payment

Phone: Akron Bar Association 330-436-0112

Register online, choose "Payment at a Later Time",
and mail this form with your check to:
Akron Bar Association
57 S. Broadway St.
Akron, OH 44308

Registration Info: Registration fee includes CLE,
electronic materials, continental breakfast & lunch.
Registrations received after 4/5/23 will incur an
additional \$25 fee.

GENERAL SEMINAR INFORMATION:

MATERIALS: Handouts for this program will be provided to all attendees in electronic, rather than hard copy format. When you register, be sure to include your email address so that we can notify you when the electronic materials are available. **WI-FI access may be interrupted at the Hartville Kitchen, attendees are encouraged to download the handouts to their devices and ensure that the device is fully charged before arriving at the seminar or print materials prior to the seminar.** The materials will be available at www.akronbar.org (under CLE heading, click on "Seminar Materials").

CANCELLATION POLICY: Cancellations must be submitted in writing via email: cle@akronbar.org. Refunds will be made with the following charge: a \$45.00 cancellation fee. If no cancellation is received PRIOR to 12:00 p.m. the day before the seminar, no refund will be issued. The Akron Bar Association reserves the right to change or cancel the program if circumstances warrant.

ACCREDITATION: The Akron Bar Association is an approved sponsor of Continuing Legal Education seminars. Under Rule X (Ohio CLE) we will request credit for this program.

SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: If special arrangements are required for individuals to attend this seminar, please contact the CLE Department at 330-436-0112, at least one week prior to the seminar.

DIRECTIONS TO HARTVILLE KITCHEN:

FROM AKRON: Take I-77 S to OH-241 Exit (Exit #118) towards OH 619/Massillon. Turn LEFT on Massillon Rd./OH-241. Turn RIGHT on E. Turkeyfoot Lake Rd./OH-619. Follow OH-619 past Cleveland Ave. The Hartville Kitchen is on the left side of the street.

FROM CANTON: Take I-77 N to OH-241 Exit (Exit #118). Turn RIGHT on Massillon Rd./OH-241. Turn RIGHT on E. Turkeyfoot Lake Rd./OH-619. Follow OH-619 past Cleveland Ave. The Hartville Kitchen is on the left side of the street.

Stark County Bar Association

2023 LAW DAY SEMINAR

"Cornerstones of Democracy: Civics, Civility, and Collaboration"



Wednesday, May 3, 2023
Kent State University At Stark's Conference Center

12:45 P.M. REGISTRATION

1:15 P.M. FEATURING THE STARK COUNTY COMMON PLEAS COURT JUDGES
The Honorable Taryn L. Heath
The Honorable Natalie R. Haupt
The Honorable Kristin G. Farmer
The Honorable Frank G. Forchione
The Honorable Chryssa N. Hartnett

4:30 P.M. ADJOURN



2023 LAW DAY SEMINAR

"Cornerstones of Democracy: Civics, Civility, and Collaboration"

Wednesday, May 3, 2023

LUNCH & SEMINAR:

*Members: \$141.00 Associate Members: \$126.00 Non-Members: \$216.00

SEMINAR ONLY:

*Members: \$132.00 Associate Members: \$117.00 Non-Members: \$207.00

Name: _____ Atty. Reg. No. _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

***PLEASE NOTE:** If you are currently a member of any local bar association, you may attend at our members' price.

Do you prefer to receive the seminar materials via Email or Hard Copy on the day of the seminar? Circle One.

Please mail checks to: Stark County Bar Association
116 Cleveland Avenue, N.W., Suite 400, Canton, Ohio 44702-1728

RESERVATION DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2023

NO REFUNDS UNLESS RESERVATION CANCELLATION IS RECEIVED 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF SEMINAR.

Application will be submitted for 3.00 General CLE Credit Hours.

Stark County Bar Association **2023 LAW DAY LUNCHEON**

Wednesday, May 3, 2023 - 11:45 A.M.

KENT STATE UNIVERSITY AT STARK'S CONFERENCE CENTER



The Law Week theme this year is “Cornerstones of Democracy: Civics, Civility, and Collaboration”. Our program at the Law Day Luncheon will feature Keynote Speaker Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost.

The luncheon is open to the public and the Bar Association cordially invites your staff, fellow attorneys, family members and friends to attend the luncheon.

Tickets will be \$26.00 per person. Please note that the luncheon will begin promptly at 11:45 A.M. We cannot reserve tables other than for the award recipients so it is suggested that you arrive early.

We will be recognizing the recipients of the Liberty Bell Award as well as the winners of the Moot Court Competition, Digital Media Contest, Essay and Poster contests. Please join us as we honor these deserving award winners.

Reservations must be made by 4:30 P.M. on Wednesday, April 26th. Please mail your reservation form to the Bar Office or call in your reservation at 330-453-0685.

We look forward to seeing you on May 3rd.

Todd Evans, Chairman
Law Day Committee



2023 Law Day Luncheon
Wednesday, May 3, 2023 - 11:45 A.M.
Kent State University at Stark's Conference Center
\$26.00 per Person

Number of Reservations: _____ Total Enclosed: _____

Name (s): _____

Address: _____

Please mail: Stark County Bar Association
400 Courtyard Centre * 116 Cleveland Ave., N.W. * Canton, OH 44702
Phone: 330-453-0685

LAW DAY SPONSORSHIP

2023 Law Week May 1 - May 5

The Law Day Committee is asking local attorneys and law firms if they would be willing to make a donation in the amount of \$400.00 to help sponsor our Law Day Events. As you may know, we offer various events during this week:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|---|--------------------|
| ■ Essay and Poster Contest | ■ Moot Court Competition | ■ Tour de Courts |
| ■ Televised Ask-A-Lawyer | ■ CLE Seminar | ■ Ohio Justice Bus |
| ■ Law Day Luncheon | ■ "Why I Want To Become A Lawyer" Essay Contest | |

This year our Keynote Speaker for the Law Day Luncheon will be Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost.

In return for your valuable sponsorship, you will receive four tickets to the Law Day Luncheon on Wednesday, May 3, 2023 and will also receive recognition in the Law Day Program and in the Stark County Bar Journal. Don't miss out on what is an important event for our bar association.

If you are able to help sponsor these events, please forward a check in the amount of \$400.00 made payable to the Stark County Bar Association, Attn: Tina McCort.

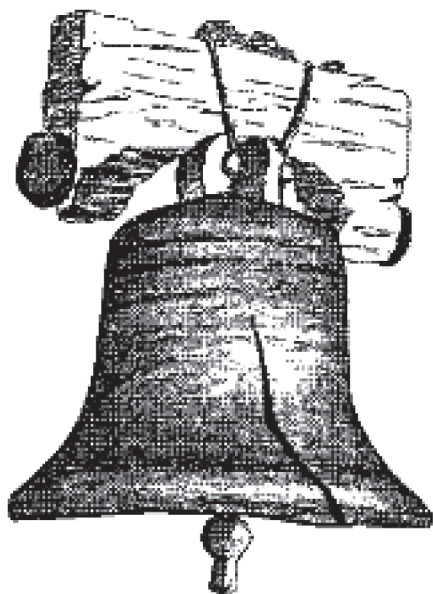
Thank you in advance for your support. We hope to see you at these events.

Law Day Committee

The Liberty Bell Award

In Celebration of Law Day

May 1, 2023 - May 5, 2023



The Liberty Bell Award is presented annually by the Stark County Bar Association to individual(s), particularly non-lawyers, who have rendered outstanding service to the community. All fields of endeavor are intended for promoting a better understanding of our Constitution and the Bill of Rights; encouraging a better respect of the law and the courts; stimulating a deeper sense of individual responsibility so that citizens recognize their duties as well as their rights; contributing to the effective functioning of our institutions of government; and fostering a better understanding and appreciation of the rule of law.

For further information, please contact Teresa P. Cusma, Liberty Bell Award Committee Chairman at 330-324-3982. Nominations will close Friday, March 31, 2023.

Stark County Bar Association

400 Courtyard Centre Building
116 Cleveland Avenue NW
Canton, Ohio 44702-1728
330-453-0685 • SCB@StarkCtyBar.com

Legal Tech Update: Artificial Intelligence

Artificial Intelligence (AI) appears to be everywhere. It is the topic of numerous headlines on blogs, podcasts, etc. In particular, the AI program ChatGPT has been recently making headlines due to its generating capabilities with its 3.5 upgrade.¹ While the discussion of AI feels new, it was first developed in the late 1950s.² AI has grown immensely since its initial development. AI has steadily become integrated into our daily lives and is used in auto-correct, new routes when we're stuck in traffic, your favorite music app's algorithm, and ads curated by Google. AI's learning behaviors continue to spark innovative ideas and lessen our daily workload. While AI can be used in everyday life, what does it look like in the legal sphere? Can AI be a great asset to law firms?

AI is defined as the simulation of human intelligence processed by machines.³ The AI will gather data, analyze, and create predictions. It does this by acting on data, learning from new data, and improving over time.⁴ A simple reason to choose a program that utilizes AI is due to its ability for quality improvement. While it is important to not rely on AI entirely, it is good practice to use a program that can assist with searching for inaccuracies and errors. Within the legal realm, AI is primarily used as an analytic tool rather than a generation tool.

Unlike ChatGPT, Westlaw Edge's AI is primarily known for its analytic capabilities. Westlaw's KeyCite feature provides warnings and context for cases, statutes, administrative decisions, and regulations.⁵ KeyCite helps determine whether it is good law and assists in retrieving citing references.

WestSearch Plus is an AI-driven legal research tool. You can search using plain language and even type in a question. It also creates recommendations based on what you are typing. The search results list law summaries with relevant information to your query.⁶ It also creates case synopses from your search results to save time from browsing the entire document. Another beneficial feature Westlaw provides is its AI-driven litigation analytics and statutes comparison tool. It provides detailed analytics

covering judges, attorneys, courts, and law firms (both federal and state) along with comparing changes to statutes.⁷ **Westlaw Edge is available at the Stark County Law Library.**

AI can be used in a variety of ways, from generating text and documents to gathering and analyzing data. AI also can compare documents and organize information, along with identifying missing terms and definitions.⁸ These abilities are primarily in smart-software that maintains internal organization.

Due diligence is another area AI can be utilized to review contracts, conduct legal research, and electronic discovery.⁹ The AI used is also known as Technology-Assisted Review (TAR). Emerj, an AI research and advisory company, has compiled a list of useful TAR programs.

Legal AI Programs*

Kira Systems

Kira Systems was formed by a former lawyer. Kira has the capability to create summaries and can be customized to find specific clauses and data points unique to your search.¹⁰

eBrevia

eBrevia was created by junior associates in partnership with Columbia University. eBrevia was designed to review contracts in half the amount of time a person would review. This program is able to extract information from scanned documents and the software can then convert it to searchable text.¹¹

Casetext

Casetext states that it can review any brief uploaded and share the list of authorities cited. It has the ability to find other sources with the same legal issues, facts, and jurisdiction.¹²

**These services were recommended by Daniel Faggella from Emerj. These services have not been tested and are not endorsed by the Law Library.*

By Kasey Brown
Stark County Law Library
kcbrown@starkcountyohio.gov

Footnotes

¹“ChatGPT: Optimizing Language Models for Dialogue” OpenAI. 30 November. 2022. Accessed 26 January. 2023 Available at: <https://openai.com/blog/chatgpt/>

²Copeland, B.J. “Alan Turing and the Beginning of AI” Britannica. Accessed 25 January. 2023. Available at: <https://www.britannica.com/technology/artificial-intelligence/Connectionism>

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