



STARK COUNTY BAR JOURNAL

VOLUME 29 ■ NUMBER 11

NOVEMBER 2023

**Thank you for your continued support
and giving back to our community!**



Help set the table this Thanksgiving for our veterans in need

Join with SAM Center to collect items to provide Thanksgiving feasts to veterans, service members and military widows in our community:

- Canned soups
- Stuffing
- Mashed potatoes
- Corn muffin mix
- Egg noodles
- Broth
- Turkey gravy
- Canned corn
- Canned green beans
- Biscuit mix
- Jell-O Mix
- Fruit cocktail
- Aluminum roasting pans
- \$10 grocery store gift cards
- Notes of thanks and appreciation

Give thanks with a grateful heart

The SCBA Military Affairs and Community Involvement Committees ask that the above items or cash donations be dropped off at the SCBA Office (M-F 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at 116 Cleveland Ave. N.W., Suite 400, Canton, OH 44702), no later than Nov. 8, 2023.

Thank you for your generosity!



Serving Area Military

A Community Christmas

ADOPT-A-FAMILY

In lieu of the "Giving Tree Program", the Community Involvement Committee is adopting 2 families of 4 people this Christmas. We are currently working on their "wish lists" creating tags that will be available Monday, November 6th for members to swing by the Bar Office (like in years past) to pick up. The gifts should be wrapped and have the tag on them. There will also be an option to purchase a gift card to Walmart for groceries. Of course, you may do both. All gifts should be returned to the Bar Office by December 1st for delivery to Community Christmas.

Thank you for your participation!!

SCBA November 2023 Office Schedule

Nov. 1 st	12:00 NOON	Family Law Committee Meeting
Nov. 2 nd	12:00 NOON	Community Involvement Committee Meeting
Nov. 3 rd	1:30 PM	Bankruptcy Committee Meeting - Bistro on the Green
Nov. 10 th	Office Closed in Observance of Veterans Day	
Nov. 13 th	4:00 PM	Disputed Fee Committee Meeting
Nov. 14 th	12:00 NOON	Elder Law Committee Meeting
Nov. 15 th	12:00 NOON	Law Day Committee Meeting
Nov. 15 th	4:00 PM	Executive Committee Meeting
Nov. 21 st	3:45 PM	Grievance Committee Meeting
Nov. 23 rd – 24 th	Office Closed in Observance of Thanksgiving	

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

Honorable Frank G. Forchione, Bar President
Tina McCort, Executive Director & Editor
Chris Diaz, Bookkeeper & Editor

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2023 CLE Seminars

November 8, 2023	The 27th Annual White-Williams Bankruptcy Institute Video Replay SCBA Conference Room See Pgs. 8 & 9
November 9, 2023	Tips from the Bench Stark County Auditor's Hearing Room Suite 210 See Pg. 10
November 16, 2023	2023 Professional Conduct Seminar Video Replay SCBA Conference Room See Pg. 11
December 2023	Multi-Topic Video Replays SCBA Conference Room See Pgs. 12 & 13

Elder Law Committee Meeting

Tuesday, November 14, 2023 - 12:00 Noon
Live Interactive Webinar
Attorney Miriam Sheline, Pro Seniors, will present
"Nursing Home Litigation".

THE STARK COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION



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

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.



On-Line CLE

Take advantage of the Stark County Bar Association's **SELF-STUDY** courses through our website:
www.StarkCtyBar.com

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.

Thank You Veterans

"A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself."

– Joseph Campbell

Eight years ago my wife Rachel and I were honeymooning in the romantic city of Paris when a few glasses of wine prompted my brain to unleash the outlandish idea of taking a three hour train ride to tour the beaches of Normandy and the American Cemetery. As a World War II buff and a huge fan of Steven Spielberg and Tom Hanks' mini-series Band of Brothers, I figured this would be the perfect opportunity. Usually Rachel has the unique ability to shut down these zany thoughts of mine while allowing me to maintain some level of dignity. Maybe it was the glow of marital bliss, but surprisingly she applauded and welcomed the adventure.

We visited the fiercely defended battle site where our courageous soldiers stormed all five beaches and fought through the French countryside for our freedom.



Pointe du Hoc (Rangers climbed on June 6th)

Rachel and I pondered what could have been going through the soldiers' minds as they landed along the coastline that morning prepared to deliver the greatest blow of the war. Unfortunately, many left their hearts and souls on that beach in an attempt to end a tyrannical regime. The bluff overlooking Omaha Beach contains the remains of 9,000 young Americans in the American Cemetery. It is difficult to come up with the right words to describe this experience; surreal, heart wrenching, exhilarating.



Honorable Frank Forchione
President, Stark County Bar Association



American Cemetery - Normandy

(Rachel told many friends it was her favorite part of the vacation –I'm not sure what that says about me on a honeymoon.) It was even more shocking when later that evening Rachel and I were relaxing in an Italian restaurant in the nearby town of Bayeux, once again drinking too much wine and reliving the incredible day, when a stranger approached our table and asked, are you Judge Frank Forchione?" After a brief introduction, we saluted the troops with Attorney Mark Skakun's brother John, an accountant in downtown Canton, which really goes to show – "it's a small world."

(continued next page)

From Our President *(continued from previous page)*

Veterans Day is our opportunity to offer gratitude and appreciation to those members who made so many sacrifices to protect our country at home and abroad. It is meant to honor all Veterans of uniformed services who served or are still serving during times of peace or war. We are inspired by their valor. They unselfishly placed their lives on the line for our benefit. They heard a call of duty and answered it. Veterans Day is the perfect time to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country and willingness to serve. It's an honor that only a small percentage of Americans can claim.

Most of us can never understand the many challenges they've undergone – family separations, missing the births of children, trying to survive in freezing temperatures, baking in wild jungles, and often losing limbs or lives. They possess dedication, fortitude and integrity. We can learn so much from their bravery and plan of action. Think about it – we can embrace the same simple principles that our infantry followed to improve our workplaces and even at home with our families – complete every mission, one united team, looking out for one another, having each other's backs, and never leave anyone behind.

It is important that we let everyone who put on a uniform know that they are valued. They are never forgotten. They've done it for us. They've done it for America. These men and women are the spine of our country, our spirit, ready to defend and serve to fight for our values.

Every year there are numerous Veteran celebrations throughout Stark County. I always choose to attend the ceremony at Westbrook Veterans Memorial Park in Canton. It is emotional, moving and reflective, especially since many were wrongfully ignored upon returning to the United States. I even received the privilege of being asked to speak several years ago. I found it to be a great honor, but nerve-wrecking as I questioned my own worthiness of the selection.

So on November 11th, please say thank you and recognize those who served by attending a Veterans'

ceremony. In the alternative, maybe reach out to a Veteran with a phone call, visit or dinner. Perhaps place a small flag on a Veteran's grave. Or even take a stroll through the Ohio Veterans Memorial Park in Clinton, Ohio. (You'll even see the brick commemorating my own father's service.) You can make a Veteran feel seen and appreciated. We owe them our thanks, our respect, and to celebrate those who gave up their lives for our freedom. They truly are heroes. It's better said by the author Claudia Pemberton, "America without her soldiers would be like God without his Angels."

- Speaking of Veterans, help set the table this Thanksgiving for our Veterans in need. We're joining with the SAM Center to collect items to provide Thanksgiving feasts. Any act of kindness would be appreciated. It will also make your own Thanksgiving meal taste much better. Items or cash donations can be dropped off at the Bar Association.
- In order to reduce the backlog of civil cases in Summit County, the Judges have announced the hiring of Superhero Judge Richard D. Reinbold to manage and mediate the open cases. His unique skills will certainly be an asset to them and help resolve disputes.
- Attorney Justin Greenfelder of Buckingham, Doolittle & Burroughs is making a bigger name for himself as a high school basketball coach at Dalton High School. In his first season he was named the Northeast Inland and All-District 4 Coach of the Year. His team fell just short of getting to Columbus and the final four, losing in the Regional Finals. He better be careful or the Big Ten may soon be calling.
- Let's not forget the speedy attorney Paul Pusateri, who set a recent Ohio Road Record in the one mile, finishing in five minutes and 20 seconds. He has now vowed to settle his cases quick as well.

- We appreciate Attorney A. Michelle Jackson Limas, the Bankruptcy Committee Chairman taking charge with the plaque designed to salute the Honorable Russ Kendig, who recently retired from the bench. The Bar will miss his light-hearted laugh and command of the courtroom.
- The Boy Scouts thoroughly enjoyed our talented members of the Bar who resurrected their roles in the theatre production of the Civil



Andersonville Trial at Camp Tuscazoar

War “Andersonville Trial” at Camp Tuscazoar. I’ve had the opportunity to see it twice and it is a wonderful show.

- One of the themes of my Presidency has been “mentoring”. I had a wonderful lunch at the Bar Association with Attorneys Carrie Freeman, Matthew Mutigli, Haley Walker and Bailey Ricci. If these young lawyers are the future of our Stark County Bar, we’re in really good shape.
- If you want to make the Christmas season very special, plan on attending the Bar Association Holiday party. It is a laid-back fun-filled event hosted by Judges Kristin Farmer and Natalie Haupt. It’s even more fun if Attorney Bob Tscholl comes. Please put this on your calendar for Friday, December 8, 2023 at Brookside County Club.
- The revenues earned from our Notary and Education Services are a large component of our yearly budget. Unfortunately, the past sev-

eral years it appears that steps have taken place in Columbus which would limit our ability to provide this important service and allow this organization to survive.

Last year, a new measure was implemented by the Ohio Secretary of State, which surprisingly provided us short notice that we needed to modify all of our education materials immediately or we would lose our privileges. Fortunately the Board, along with the leadership of past Presidents Aletha Carver and Steve Babik, took quick action that allowed us to maintain our services.

A new roadblock has appeared as we now try to compete and enter online Notary education and testing. Steve, board members Angela Vagotis, Beverly Proctor-Donald, Tina McCort and I met with State Representative Scott Oelslager to discuss amending the current statute that limits us in participating and allows us to continue in providing this service to assist in our association’s vitality. Hopefully, Representative Oelslager will deliver good news.

- Last month’s article focused on the pleasure of reading a good book. Unexpectedly, I soon received one delivered by Amazon that I clearly did not order titled “Remarkably Bright Creatures”, a fictional story of friendship, reckoning and hope tracing a widows unlikely connection with a giant Pacific Octopus. Just before I started to throw it away I unexpectedly received a text from Central Catholic grad Attorney Fred Scott confessing to the perceived prank. Obviously this had to be offered to humiliate a St Thomas Aquinas graduate. However, to be the better person I took on the challenge and to my surprise enjoyed the creative, heart-warming story. It doesn’t mean I’ll show up to work wearing the Crusader’s colors of green and white but thank you Fred. I will pass the book on to another!”

(continued next page)

From Our President *(continued from previous page)*

- Please feel free to play Santa and help the Community Involvement Committee who is adopting 2 families of 4 people this Christmas. A wish list will be available in the Bar Office November 2nd. If members would be kind enough to jump off their sleigh and pick up a tag on their “wish list” it will put a smile on someone’s face this holiday season. The

generous gifts should be wrapped and please have a tag on them. Also consider gift cards if it’s easier to provide. If you’re really in the Christmas spirit you can do both. Please return any gifts to the Bar Office by December 1st for delivery to Community Christmas. Nothing brings people together like Christmas! Ho-Ho-Ho!!

PRESIDENT’S DINNER

October 25, 2023 • Freudy’s Bar & Grille



Front L to R: Anthony E. Brown, Grievance Committee Vice-Chairman; Honorable Frank Forchione, SCBA President; Kristen Bates Aylward, Grievance Committee Chairman; J. Sean Keenan, Legal Aid/Pro Bono Committee Vice-Chairman; Christy Pierson, Community Involvement Committee Co-Chairman; Todd W. Evans, Law Day Committee Chairman; Stacey Zipay, Criminal Law Committee Chairman; Beverly Proctor-Donald, Executive Committee-Secretary; Joseph Martuccio, American Citizenship Committee Vice-Chairman; Stephan P. Babik, Immediate Past President; Aletha M. Carver, Executive Committee; and Julie Jakmides, Executive Committee.

Back L to R: Daniel Eisenbrei, Executive Committee Member; Ralph F. Dublikar, Disputed Fee Committee Chairman; Lemuel R. Green, Memorial Committee Vice-Chairman; Michele Hammers, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee Vice-Chairman; Andrea Scassa, Executive Committee-Secretary and Vice-President & Community Involvement Committee Co-Chairman; Cathy Horner, Finance Committee Chairman; A. Michelle Jackson Limas, Bankruptcy Committee Chairman; and Matthew Kreitzer, Family Law Committee Bench Chairman.

Let's Get Our Merry On - and - Celebrate the Holidays

Join us for a casual evening, Friday, December 8, 2023, 6:30 PM
Brookside Country Club

\$100.00 per person, includes
Food Stations, Open Bar, Dancing & Valet Parking

Music provided by the MJB Trio featuring Melanie John

Guests Welcome
Reservation Deadline November 30, 2023

RSVP: Stark County Bar Association at 330-453-0685

Make checks payable to the Stark County Bar Association



Changes of Address

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624 FIFTH STREET NW • CANTON, OHIO 44703
PHONE (330)454-9141

THANK YOU VETERANS FOR YOUR SERVICE AND COMMITMENT TO OUR COUNTRY

By: Michele Hammers, Co-chairperson
of SCBA's Military and Veterans Affairs
Committee and Director of the Stark County
Honor Court (Justice involved Veteran
Treatment Court)

I have been very fortunate in life with the ability to travel abroad. During my travels, I make a point to visit historical sites. I have stood on the beaches of Normandy, toured the Ste-Mere Eglise Village and visited Pearl Harbor. I have the freedom to travel, the freedom to learn and the responsibility to remember. That freedom did not come without sacrifice. My freedom came from the dedication of the men and women who committed their lives to our country. My freedom came from the history of those who gave their lives on the beaches of Normandy, the attack on Pearl Harbor and all the wars and special operations thereafter.

On November 11th, we observe U.S. Military Veterans Day. It is the official day of recognition for those who have served in the armed forces. It is the day we recognize their commitment to the separation from friends, family and loved ones. The understanding of the possibility they may

fight and die for our country. Our Veterans do not expect us to understand what they endured overseas while defending our country, but what they want is respect. Respect is what they have earned.

So this Veterans Day, take a moment of your time to acknowledge them. Look into their eyes and let them know how much you appreciate and respect them. A simple heartfelt "thank you for your service and commitment to our country" will go a long way.

The Stark County Bar Association is fortunate to have our very own members of the U.S. Military and we would like to share their names and service branch with you.

As a special thank you, the Stark County Veterans Service Commission and the Stark County Honor Court extend an invitation to all veterans of the Stark County Bar Association to join us on Thursday, November 9, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at the Stark County Courthouse, where the VSC board members will personally pin each veteran in attendance with the new Stark County Veterans lapel pin.

To our Bar member Veterans, we thank you for your service and commitment to our country:

RICHARD ARNOLD	U.S. ARMY
GENE BARNHART	U.S. NAVY
DOUGLAS BOND	U.S. MARINES
EDWIN BREYFOGLE	U.S. ARMY
HON. CHARLES BROWN	U.S. MARINES
MELISSA BROWN	U.S. ARMY
PETER CAHOON	U.S. MARINES

LAWRENCE CHAPANAR	U.S. AIR FORCE/NATIONAL GUARD
RICHARD CHAPIS	U.S. ARMY
JAMES CHAPMAN	U.S. ARMY
JAMES CONLEY	U.S. ARMY
MELINDA COOPER	U.S. ARMY/RESERVES
HON. EDWARD ELUM	U.S. NAVY & RESERVES
WILLIAM EMLEY	U.S. ARMY RESERVES/NATIONAL GUARD
C. RICHARD ESHELMAN	U.S. ARMY
JOHN FINNUCAN	U.S. ARMY
TOM FERRERO	U.S. ARMY
BRANDON HARNED	U.S. AIRFORCE
BENJAMIN HORVATH	U.S. ARMY RESERVES
BERNARD HUNT	U.S. ARMY
A. MICHELLE JACKSON LIMAS	U.S. ARMY/RESERVES
KEITH JARVIS	U.S. AIR FORCE/RESERVES
THOMAS LALLY	U.S. AIR FORCE
DAVID LUNDGRIN	U.S. AIR FORCE
MEL LUTE	U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
JAMES MANNOS	U.S. ARMY
BROOKE MENESES	U.S. MARINES
WILLIAM MORRIS	U.S. ARMY RESERVES
JOHN MORRIS	U.S. ARMY
KENT MYERS	U.S. ARMY RESERVES
TIMOTHY PIATT	U.S. NAVY
KEVIN W. POPHAM	U.S. ARMY RESERVES
DONALD ROBBINS, JR	U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD
THEODORE SCRIBNER	U.S. ARMY/NATIONAL GUARD
CHRISTIAN TURNER	U.S. ARMY
MICHAEL VACCARO	U.S. ARMY RESERVES
JOSEPH VITALE	U.S. ARMY
JOHN WERREN	U.S. AIR FORCE
EJ WISE	U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

The 27th Annual White-Williams Bankruptcy Institute



akron bar
association

Video Replay • SCBA Conference Room

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

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



- 8:10 am** **Registration**
Coffee and water provided. You may bring your own refreshments/snacks.
- 8:25 am** **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 am** **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 am** **Case Law Update**
Hon. John P. Gustafson, *US Bankruptcy Court, Northern District of Ohio*
Thomas D. DeCarlo, Esq., *Osipov Bigelman, P.C.*
- 10:30 am** **Break**
- 10:45 am** **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 am** **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. Tiara N. A. Patton, *US Bankruptcy Court, Northern District of Ohio*
- 11:45 am** **Lunch - On your own**
- 12:45 pm** **Student Loan Issues**
Suzana K. Koch, Esq., *Assistant US Attorney General*
Richard H. Nemeth, Esq., *Nemeth & Associates, LLC*
- 1:15 pm** **Chapter 7 Panel**
Lisa Barbacci, Esq., *Canton Chapter 7 Trustee*
Ryan McNeil, Esq., *McNeil Law Firm, LLC*
- 1:45 pm** **Tax Claims**
Trish D. Lazich, Esq., *Director of Bankruptcy & Legal Support, Office of the Ohio Attorney General*
- 2:45 pm** **Break**
- 3:00 pm** **Succession Planning & Due Diligence**
Gretchen J. Mote, Esq., *OBLIC Director of Loss Prevention*
- 4:00 pm** **Closing Remarks**

THE 27TH ANNUAL WHITE-WILLIAMS BANKRUPTCY INSTITUTE VIDEO REPLAY

Wednesday, November 8, 2023 SCBA Conference Room

*Members: \$180.00 Associate Members: \$150.00 Non-Members: \$330.00

Name _____ Atty. Reg. No. _____

Address _____

E-mail Address _____

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

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

Do you prefer to receive the seminar materials via E-mail or Hard Copy on the day of the seminar? Circle one.

NO REFUNDS UNLESS RESERVATION CANCELLATION IS RECEIVED 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF SEMINAR.
6.0 CLEs applied for (5.00 General Hours & 1 Professional Conduct Hour)

Continuing Legal Education

Looking For Free CLE?

The Stark County Bar Association is in need of Moderators for CLE video replays at our office. We need attorneys throughout the year, especially during the month of December, who would be willing to serve in this capacity. **In order to qualify as a Moderator, the Supreme Court requires that an attorney must have experience in the area of law in which they will be serving, must have reviewed the recorded materials prior to the replay, and must remain in the room with the attendees during the entire video. The Moderator will attend the video replay free of charge and receive CLE credit for the program.**



If interested, please indicate the areas of law in which you would be willing to serve and email the Bar Office, CLE@StarkCtyBar.com or Fax: 330-453-0180.

Name: _____ EMail: _____

☐ Elder Law

☐ Professional Conduct

☐ Family Law

☐ Litigation

☐ Other (s)

☐ Municipal Court

☐ Probate

☐ Real Estate

☐ Criminal Law



Stark County Bar Association
TIPS FROM THE BENCH SEMINAR
Thursday, November 9, 2023

Stark County Office Building
110 Central Plaza South
Auditor's Hearing Room, Suite # 210
Canton, OH 44702

NEW LAWYER TRAINING!!
Non-new attorneys will receive 1.00 CLE General Credit Hour

**Sponsored by the Young Lawyer's Committee of the Stark County Bar Association
and the Stark County Law Library**

Lunch provided by the Stark County Law Library

11:30 A.M. **TODAY'S RESOURCES AT THE LAW LIBRARY**
Jenny Myers, *Director of the Stark County Law Library*

12:00 NOON **TIPS FROM THE BENCH**
Presented by the Honorable Frank G. Forchione
Stark County Court of Common Pleas General Division
President of the Stark County Bar Association

Program content: Picking the Right Client; Own Your Mistakes; Know Your Judge; Find a Mentor; Select an Expert that Can Help You Win; Professionalism; Communication and Networking.

1:00 P.M. **ADJOURN**

Members/Assoc. Members/Non-Members \$30.00
Registration deadline is Monday, November 6, 2023

The boxed lunch options are as follows:

____ Turkey Boxed Lunch ____ Ham Boxed Lunch ____ Herbivore (vegetarian) Boxed Lunch
____ Grilled Chicken House Salad (Select either Ranch or Balsamic Vinaigrette Dressing)

*All lunches come with chips, pickle, cookie, bottled water, and utensils.

Name: _____ Atty. Reg. No. _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

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

*** Seating is Limited***

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

NO REFUNDS UNLESS RESERVATION CANCELLATION IS RECEIVED 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF SEMINAR.
Application has been made for 1.00 NLT/General CLE Credit Hour.



2023 PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT VIDEO REPLAY

NOVEMBER 16, 2023
SCBA Conference Room

- 12:45 P.M. REGISTRATION - Coffee & water provided.
You may bring your own refreshments/snacks.
- 1:00 P.M. ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND FAIRNESS
Honorable Kristin G. Farmer, *Stark County Common Pleas Court*
- 1:50 P.M. ETHICS
Peter T. Cahoon, Esq., *Plakas Mannos*
Maria Klutinoty Edwards, Esq., *Plakas Mannos*
- 2:40 P.M. BREAK
- 2:55 P.M. PROFESSIONALISM
James M. Williams, Esq.
Krugliak, Wilkins, Griffiths & Dougherty Co., LPA
- 3:45 P.M. ADJOURN

2023 Professional Conduct Video Replay

Thursday, November 16, 2023

*Members: \$75.00 Associate Members: \$62.50 Non-Members: \$137.50

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 seminar? Circle one.

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

NO REFUNDS UNLESS RESERVATION CANCELLATION IS RECEIVED 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF SEMINAR.
Application has been submitted for 2.50 Professional Conduct CLE Credit Hours.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
DECEMBER 2023		28	29	30	1 2023 Criminal Law Seminar 9:00am - 12:15pm	2
3	4	5 2023 Municipal Court Seminar 1:00pm - 4:15pm	6	7 2023 Professional Conduct Seminar 1:00pm - 3:45pm	8	9
10	11	12	13 2023 Professional Conduct Seminar 1:00pm - 3:45pm	14	15 2023 Family Law Seminar 9:00am - 12:15pm	16
17	18	19 2023 Professional Conduct Seminar 9:00am - 11:45am	20	21 2023 Municipal Court Seminar 9:00am - 12:15pm	22	23
24/31	25 Office Closed	26	27 2023 Law Day Seminar 1:00pm - 4:15pm	28	29 2023 Professional Conduct Seminar 9:00am - 11:45am	30

Stark County Bar Association Video Seminars

Friday, December 1, 2023 – 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
2023 CRIMINAL LAW SEMINAR VIDEO REPLAY
 Members: \$90.00 – Assoc. Members: \$75.00 – Non-Members: \$165.00
 Application made for 3.00 CLE Credit Hours including .50 Professional Conduct Credit Hour.

Tuesday, December 5, 2023 – 1:00 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.
2023 MUNICIPAL COURT SEMINAR VIDEO REPLAY
 Members: \$90.00 – Assoc. Members: \$75.00 – Non-Members: \$165.00
 Application made for 3.00 General CLE Credit Hours.

Thursday, December 7, 2023 – 1:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.
2023 PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT SEMINAR VIDEO REPLAY
 Members: \$75.00 – Assoc. Members: \$62.50 – Non-Members: \$137.50
 Application made for 2.50 Professional Conduct CLE Credit Hours.

Wednesday, December 13, 2023 – 1:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.
2023 PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT SEMINAR VIDEO REPLAY
 Members: \$75.00 – Assoc. Members: \$62.50 – Non-Members: \$137.50
 Application made for 2.50 Professional Conduct CLE Credit Hours.

Friday, December 15, 2023 – 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
2023 FAMILY LAW SEMINAR VIDEO REPLAY
 Members: \$90.00 – Assoc. Members: \$75.00 – Non-Members: \$165.00
 Application made for 3.00 CLE Credit Hours including 2.00 Professional Conduct Credit Hours.

Tuesday, December 19, 2023 – 9:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.
2023 PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT SEMINAR VIDEO REPLAY
 Members: \$75.00 – Assoc. Members: \$62.50 – Non-Members: \$137.50
 Application made for 2.50 Professional Conduct CLE Credit Hours.

Thursday, December 21, 2023 – 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
2023 MUNICIPAL COURT SEMINAR VIDEO REPLAY
Members: \$90.00 – Assoc. Members: \$75.00 – Non-Members: \$165.00
Application made for 3.00 General CLE Credit Hours.

Thursday, December 29, 2023 – 9:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.
2023 PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT SEMINAR VIDEO REPLAY
Members: \$75.00 – Assoc. Members: \$62.50 – Non-Members: \$137.50
Application made for 2.50 Professional Conduct CLE Credit Hours.

Wednesday, December 27, 2023 – 1:00 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.
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“CORNERSTONES OF DEMOCRACY: CIVICS, CIVILITY, AND COLLABORATION”
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 - Guardian ad Litem Program (1.00 General CLE credit hour)
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Legal Avenues: Your Road to Solutions

Understanding and Combatting Burnout: A Quick Guide to Well-Being

Presented by

the Stark County
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The world of legal practice is demanding and full of high-stake cases. Burnout can manifest from stressful conditions and can be difficult to spot. While burnout is not a medical condition, it can affect your state of being. The Cleveland Clinic defines burnout as, “a physical, emotional or mental exhaustion, accompanied by decreased motivation, lowered performance and negative attitudes towards oneself and others.”¹ Recognition, setting boundaries, practicing mindfulness, and therapy can aid in combatting and reducing the feelings of burnout.

Recognizing burnout is the first step toward recovery. As legal careers continue to call for working in fast-paced environments, the feelings behind burnout are often set aside until an individual slows down. While being able to work under pressure is crucial, it is nearly impossible to keep that momentum for long. Burnout can be described as feeling devoid of motivation and increased apathy towards a person’s career.² The symptoms of burnout are not limited to mental aspects; they also manifest emotionally and physically.

Symptoms of burnout include but are not limited to:

- Frequently feeling tired and drained,
- Frequent headaches or muscle pain,
- Sense of failure and self-doubt,
- Loss of motivation,
- Decreased satisfaction and sense of accomplishment,
- Withdrawing from responsibilities.³

Create firm boundaries. A boundary is a line created that defines what behaviors are acceptable.⁴ Boundaries for work help you manage and negotiate expectations. Reflect on your work routines and check if you are taking breaks and making time to socialize with others when you are not working. An example of a workplace boundary is establishing the hours you work and delegating work to others appropriately.⁵

Practice being mindful. The art of mindfulness is not an elaborate process. Meditation is meant to be simple and bring focus to the present and not worry about the future.⁶ An easy meditation for beginners is to close your eyes and breathe in deeply for 5 seconds and exhale for 5 seconds. To calm wandering thoughts, you can say, “Breathing in I am breathing in. Breathing out I am breathing out.”⁷ and follow your breath. Being mindful encompasses taking care of and identifying your emotions. Be kind to yourself and treat yourself with compassion. Lean on the people you trust and seek them out.⁸

Take time to examine whether you are showing any signs of burnout. Allow yourself to check-in and see how you are doing emotionally and physically. Reach out to others and see what they think of your self-assessment. Be proactive in seeking help for your mental health. If you are struggling, please reach out to the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline at 988. Psychology Today offers a tool to help find a therapist near you at:
<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/therapists>.

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

Footnotes

¹“What Is Burnout?” *Cleveland Clinic*. Last Updated 1 February. 2022. Accessed 19 September. 2023. Available at: <https://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/adult-health/in-depth/burnout/art-20046642>

²Smith, Melinda, et al. “Burnout Prevention and Treatment” *HelpGuide.org*. Accessed 19 September. 2023. Available at: <https://www.helpguide.org/articles/stress/burnout-prevention-and-recovery.htm>

³“What Are the 5 Stages of Burnout?” *INTEGRIS Health*. Last Updated 5 November. 2021. Accessed 19 September. 2023. Available at: <https://integrisok.com/resources/on-your-health/2021/november/what-are-the-5-stages-of-burnout>

⁴“Boundaries: What Are They and How to Create Them” *University of Illinois Chicago*. Last Updated 25 February. 2022. Accessed 19 September. 2023 Available at <https://wellnesscenter.uic.edu/news-stories/boundaries-what-are-they-and-how-to-create-them/>

⁵Hardy, Jayne. “How to Set Clear Work Boundaries — and Stick to Them” *Ideas TED*. 14 January. 2021. Accessed 20 September. 2023. Available at: <https://ideas.ted.com/how-to-set-clear-work-boundaries-jayne-hardy/>

⁶Shaw, Haley. “How Lawyers Can Recognize and Combat Burnout” *Bar Bulletin of the Maryland State Bar Association*. Vol. 35. Issue 11. P18-23. 15 November. 2018. Accessed 20 September. 2023.

⁷Hanh, Thích Nhất. *You Are Here*. Shambala. 2018.

⁸“Advocate with Feeling: Practicing Law with EQ and Self-Regulation” *Law Practice Today*. May. 2023. Accessed 20 September. 2023. Available at: <https://www.lawpracticetoday.org/article/advocate-with-feeling-practicing-law-with-eq-and-self-regulation/>

It is time to start asking uncomfortable questions: How to help someone who might be suicidal

By Scott R. Mote, Esq., Executive Director of the Ohio Lawyers Assistance Program

The Texas and Pennsylvania Lawyers Assistance Programs created a video that shows how lawyers and others are affected by suicide. In the video, a lawyer speaks about a friend who attempted suicide by jumping off the Golden Gate Bridge when he was 17, but he survived, and he lived to tell his story. The day he decided to die, he was sobbing. He saw his father, while crying, and he hugged his father for the last time, or so he thought. He got on a bus—still crying—and nobody asked him if he was ok. He got to the bridge, still sobbing, and instead of asking him if he was ok, a woman asked him to take her picture. He took her picture, and then he jumped. He said that if one person would have asked him if he was ok, he would not have jumped. The second he jumped, he regretted it. He said that the saddest thing in the four seconds it took him to hit the water was that he was going to die and his family did not know that he wanted to live.

Why was it that not one person asked this young man if he was ok? I believe there are several reasons why we do not stop and ask. We were taught to mind our own business. We do not want to get involved. We are too busy. We are afraid of legal implications. We do not know how to help or what to say. We respect that person's privacy. We do not want to cross a boundary. It is imperative that we stop minding our own business and learn how to ask uncomfortable questions. Asking a person "Are you ok?" or "Are you having suicidal thoughts?" shows the person that you cared enough to ask. Most people do not want to die; they just want their pain to end, but they do not know how to get help or are afraid to ask for help. By asking these uncomfortable questions, you could save a life.

Suicide is serious. It is the 10th leading cause of

death in the United States, and the second leading cause of death in the 15- to 34-year age range (<https://ajp.psychiatryonline.org/doi/10.1176/appi.ajp.2020.20060864>). Legal professionals are not immune. We have a responsibility to help people, and it is time that we start learning the warning signs and asking others if they are ok if we believe that they are struggling.

Warning signs

If you see a person exhibiting any of the following behaviors, it is time to ask if they are ok.

- Increasing use of alcohol or drugs
- Acting anxious or agitated
- Behaving recklessly
- Sleeping too little or too much
- Withdrawing or isolating themselves
- Showing rage or talking about seeking revenge
- Extreme mood swings

Examples of what legal professionals might say if they are contemplating suicide:

- "I hate being a lawyer. Sometimes I just want to jump off a building."
- "Nothing will ever change for me. I will always be a failure."
- "My family/law practice will be much better off without me. I'm such a burden."
- "I have no reason to live."
- "I don't like being a judge, but I'm trapped and I cannot change it."

What to do

The field of suicide prevention suggests the following five action steps that are supported by evidence for communicating with someone who may be suicidal.

Ask

If a person opens up to you and tells you what is wrong, just listen. Do not try to fix their problems. Sometimes a stressed/depressed/anxious person just needs to let it out. Listen and ask how you can help. It's ok to ask the person if they are having suicidal thoughts. Some people believe that if they ask that question, that they are putting the idea of suicide in the other person's mind, but that is not true. Rather, it makes the person pause for a moment to think about the severity of their state of mind. "If someone asks me if I'm ok, then I must not be doing ok because they noticed that I'm not being myself."

Be there

Being there for a person in a time of crisis can be life-saving. This can be in their physical presence or letting them know that you are a phone call away. Listening to the person vent or cry is being there for them. If you are unable to be there, find others who are willing to be there in your absence. Do not commit to anything that you are unable to do. This could make the person feel more isolated if you do not keep your word.

Keep them safe

Try to determine all you can about the person's mental health history and status. Has the person tried this in the past? Does the person know by what means they will go through with it? If a person already has a plan in place, the risk of them committing suicide is much higher. If you can, remove all access to harmful items, such as drugs, alcohol or weapons.

Help them connect

Let them know that there are plenty of helpful resources for them.

988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

988 has been designated as the new three-digit dialing code that routes callers to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline is a national network of local crisis centers that provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in the United States.

Ohio Lawyers Assistance Program

www.ohiolap.org

800-348-4343

The Ohio Lawyers Assistance Program (OLAP) helps lawyers, judges and law students cope with the stresses of the legal profession. OLAP has saved hundreds of lives and families. OLAP helps those in the legal profession with depression, mental health disorders, burnout, substance use disorders, anxiety, gambling disorders, and more. It is difficult to ask for help when you are struggling, but asking for help is a sign of strength, not weakness. OLAP understands your concerns about privacy, which is why OLAP is governed by strong rules of confidentiality.

Judicial Advisory Group

The Judicial Advisory Group (JAG) is a peer-based confidential assistance group that helps judges and magistrates with personal and professional issues. For more information, go to www.ohiolap.org/judges or call (800) 348-4343.

Follow up

Make sure you follow up with a person who is thinking about suicide. You can send a message, send a text, or call them. See if there is anything else you can do to support them. Following up increases feelings of connectedness and can potentially reduce their risk for suicide.

Remember: If a person decides to take their own life, it is not your fault. You did not make the person take this action. Dying by suicide is that person's choice and no matter how much you

(continued next page)

tried to stop them or help them, it is not your fault.

The stigma

Unfortunately, there is still a stigma that surrounds people who have mental health issues, which leads to many negative effects for a person who is contemplating suicide. Mental health stigma occurs when someone views you in a negative way because you have an illness that is thought to be a disadvantage. Stigma can lead to discrimination. Harmful effects of stigma can lead to:

- A person refusing to seek help or treatment
- Family, friends, co-workers or others who don't understand

- And the belief that you'll never succeed at certain challenges or that you can't improve your situation

Fortunately, people are going public with their stories so that others can learn that it is possible to recover from mental health challenges, even suicidal thoughts. Hopefully this helps break the stigma of mental health disorders.

As a legal professional, your job is to help people. The next time you see a co-worker, friend, family member or stranger in distress, I encourage you to ask if they are ok. Your question might lead them to seek help so they can live to tell their stories, which, in turn, will help others know that they will survive.

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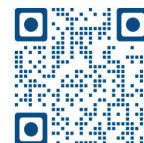
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