



# STARK COUNTY BAR JOURNAL

VOLUME 30 ■ NUMBER 6

JUNE 2024



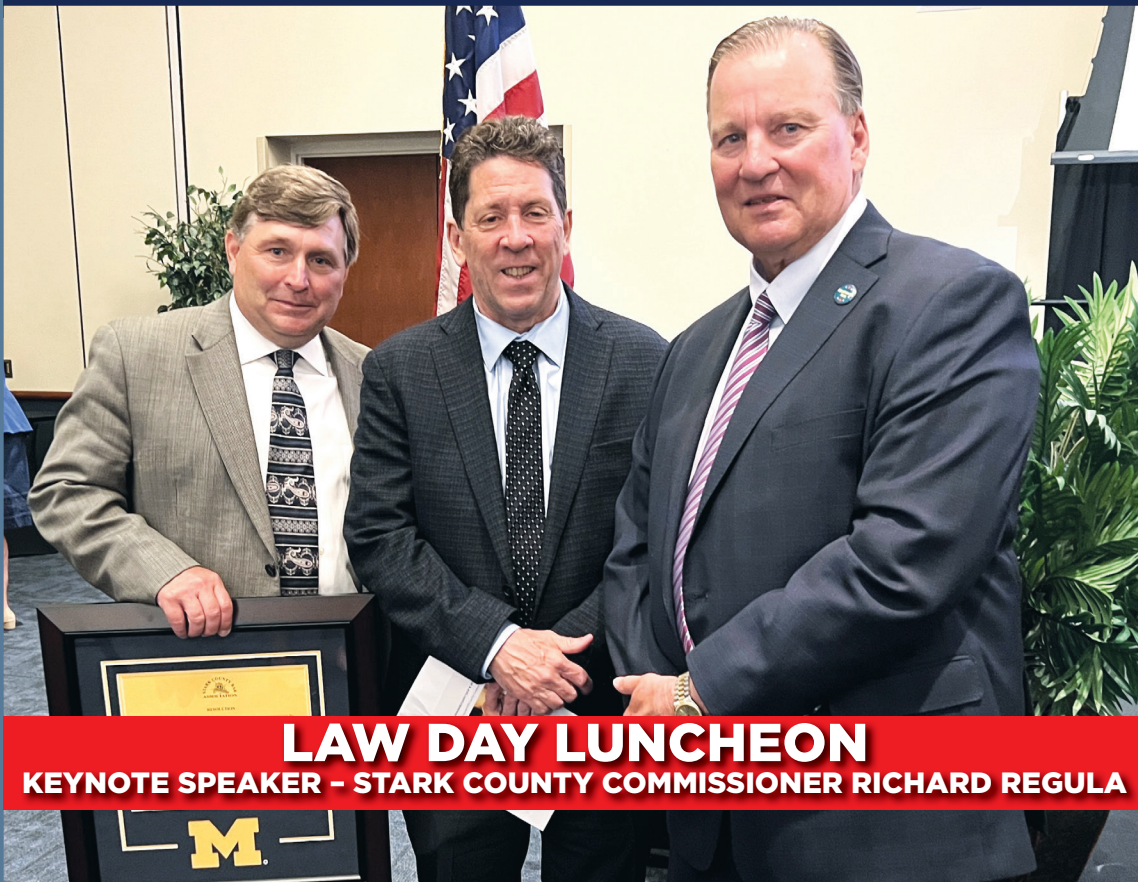
## VOICES OF DEMOCRACY

### 2024 Law Day Sponsors

- Baker, Dublikar
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### Acknowledgement

United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio



#### LAW DAY LUNCHEON

KEYNOTE SPEAKER - STARK COUNTY COMMISSIONER RICHARD REGULA



TOUR DE COURTS



TELEVISED ASK-A-LAWYER  
MASSILLON MUNICIPAL COURT



OHIO JUSTICE BUS  
"FREE LEGAL ADVICE"



MOOT COURT COMPETITION



COMMUNITY LEGAL AID  
PRO BONO WINNER  
ATTORNEY ROSEMARY RUBIN



LIBERTY BELL WINNER  
DUANE WYKOFF (RECEIVED  
BY SCOTT SCHNYDERS)

# SCBA June 2024 Office Schedule

June 6 <sup>th</sup>	12:00 NOON	Community Involvement Committee Meeting
June 10 <sup>th</sup>	4:00 PM	Disputed Fee Committee Meeting
June 12 <sup>th</sup>	4:00 PM	Executive Committee Meeting
June 13 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 AM	Bar Applicant Interviews
June 18 <sup>th</sup>	3:45 PM	Grievance Committee Meeting
June 19 <sup>th</sup>		Office Closed In Observance of Juneteenth Day
June 20 <sup>th</sup>	11:45 AM	Installation Luncheon
June 24 <sup>th</sup>	3:30 PM	SCBA 125 <sup>th</sup> Celebration Committee Meeting

## 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](http://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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[www.StarkCtyBar.com](http://www.StarkCtyBar.com)

## 2024 CLE Seminars

June 14, 2024	13th Annual “Justice For All: Protecting the Elderly And Disabled” First Christian Church See Pg. 6
June 20, 2024	2024 Professional Conduct Seminar SCBA Conference Room See Pg. 7
July 18, 2024	2024 The Tech Summertime Series Generative AI Webinar See Pg. 8

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS DETAILS TO COME

Aug. 20, 2024	2024 The Tech Summertime Series Cyber Security In-Person & Webinar
Sept. 19, 2024	2024 The Tech Summertime Series Digital Forensics Webinar



**Reminder: M - Z!**  
**Complete your CLE by Dec. 31, 2024**

### THE STARK COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION



## 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

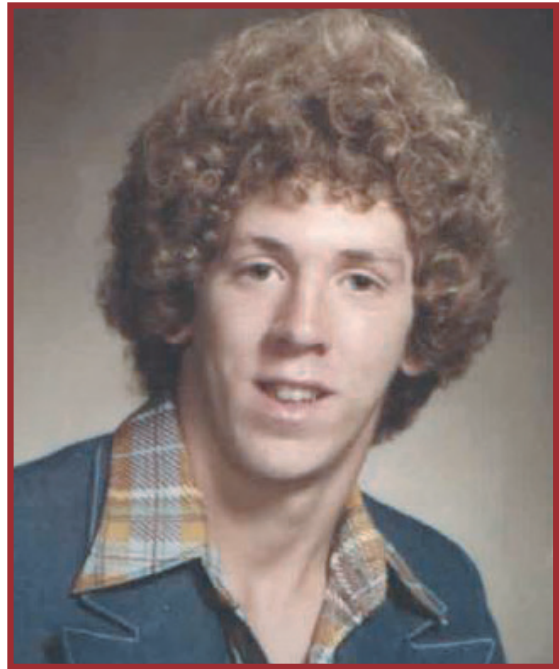
# IT'S GRADUATION DAY!!

*"Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened!"*

*Dr. Seuss*

Some of television's favorite moments take place on Friday nights when Jimmy Fallon writes hilarious thank you notes on The Tonight Show. It's graduation day for me as I conclude my service as the Bar President, grateful that I survived without any impeachment proceedings, and I wanted to offer my heartfelt thanks, which may not be as funny as those dished out on NBC.

- To Steve Babik and Aletha Carver for showing me the way: These two extraordinary past presidents provided commitment, guidance and assistance to me, as well as to the Bar, even after their tenure was over. In my opinion, maybe they should consider a run for presidency on the national level.
- To the chairpersons of all the committees: After sitting in on numerous meetings, I'm amazed at your selflessness, dedication and willingness to offer your time and effort to improve our Bar.
- To all those who attended the Bar Dance: What a magical evening! It was great to see so many members socialize with smiles on their faces. More importantly, it was nice to meet new attorneys, as well as their charming spouses, on such a festive evening. For those who didn't attend, **no continuances for you!**
- To those who took the time to read the monthly President's Column: As President Bill Clinton used to say, "I feel your pain." It's not easy to write twelve different articles on topics that are non-offensive, nonpolitical, noncontroversial, and nonthreatening.



**Honorable Frank Forchione**  
*President, Stark County Bar Association*

Although I must admit several lawyers were dying to find out the name of the lawyer who called me a "coward" in the email attached to their opponent's motion, then later denied it as I described in my commentary, "Let's Be Civil."

- To the members of the Bar Association: We appreciate you joining, participating, and for your services on the numerous committees. By the way, most people don't realize there are 33 different committees. If anyone can honestly sit down and correctly list all of them within 15 minutes after reading this, I will treat you to Benders for lunch. But be honest!
- To the officeholders of the SCBA: What a great group to work with. Angela Vagotis will be next year's President and she will be outstanding! The incomparable Treasurer Gust Callas stands alone throughout the State of Ohio. Magistrate Andrea Scassa, Magistrate Beverly Proctor-Donald and

*(continued next page)*

Jonathan Morris are so talented and will make a huge impact on the direction of this organization.

- To my staff Diane Barr, Abbey McConnell and Magistrate Gretchen Stocker, who were kind enough to proofread my thoughts to make sure nothing would land me in front of the Disciplinary Counsel or trending on social media. They make me a better judge each day.
- To my wife Rachel: Although “the Texan” may not have been thrilled to be mentioned in so many articles, she loves the many adventures that we’ve taken in life so far. However, there was a price to be paid – on Valentine’s Day, I was required to take her to Columbus “to the world’s greatest Texas rodeo.”
- To Young Lawyers: One of my focuses this term was on mentoring. It was wonderful to meet so many bright young lawyers at lunch, seminars, or for a few drinks at happy hour. To be candid, I think I learned a lot more from them than they did from me.
- To the Stark County Bar Association staff: Linder Joseph was an incredible hire, although he is no longer with the SCBA. As our CLE director, he was caring, and his enthusiasm for the field of law was refreshing. Chris Diaz cannot be matched in her professionalism as our bookkeeper and other sticky financial issues. Somehow she has kept us clear of any type of nasty audits or indictments.
- There cannot be enough said about our Executive Director, Tina McCort. Tina has been the heart and soul of this organization for over 24 years. Whether it’s assisting those desperately seeking pro bono services, helping educate the public on legal issues, or assisting lawyers frantically looking for last minute CLE credits, Tina is always

there with the answers. Her compassion is revealed each day through her kindness in handling the requests of demanding members of the public, directions she offers to distressed lawyers, and her suggestions to flustered chairpersons trying to put out the latest fires that have ignited within their committees. It is inspiring to watch her leadership each day. Her work ethic gives lawyers a reason to join the Association and actively participate. Most members don’t even comprehend that over the past year, she has performed practically two jobs as we struggled to find a new CLE Director. Her adaptability shines as she attempts to meet, know, and assist a new Bar President each year from different backgrounds, varying political beliefs, and ambitious agendas. Tina’s commitment has enhanced our reputation throughout the county and State of Ohio. She continues to lead the charge through the needs of a changing profession and a challenging world.

- With that, goodbye and thank you for being a part of this remarkable journey. And for those of you who fell for my April Fool’s prank, may you never run out of funny moments to brighten your days.

Arrivederci,  
Judge Frank Forchione

## LAW WEEK

Law Week is always such a magical time for the Bar Association. After witnessing all the events firsthand, I can’t say enough about the package put together by the Law Day Committee headed by Todd Evans, Chairman, and Richard Kuhn, Vice Chairman, along with the Honorable Edward J. Elum, Teresa Cusma, Sara Strattan, and Mary Lynn Pac-Urar, and our angel in heaven, the Honorable John R. Milligan. What an astounding program that they put together. Judge Elum was the master host for the televised Ask-A-Lawyer production. I was fortunate to partici-

*(continued next page)*

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pate along with Dick Kuhn, fellow Tigers Judge Joel Fichter, Law Director, Justin Richard, and Magistrate Andrea Scassa, who offered so much vital information to the public about our Bar and how it benefits our community.

Attorney Cari Evans, Attorney Don Robbins and Attorney Courtney Morgan judged the Moot Court competition at the Fifth District Court of Appeals, where the high school students were so thoroughly prepared and focused their arguments, appearing more like seasoned veterans.

The Ohio Justice Bus rolled in on the corner of Second and Market in 80 degree weather. We were able to assist over 20 members of the community looking for answers. Dick Kuhn, Todd Evans, David Butz, the Ohio Justice Bus staff, Stark County Family Court and Judge Rosemary Hall were helpful in providing assistance and accommodations.

We held a special School Days program at Canton South High School, where the Fifth District Court of Appeals judges and their staff were kind enough to make arrangements to hold a special session so that students could observe arguments and later the judges could engage with the students.

One of the more enjoyable moments of the week was watching the awards ceremony for the poster, essay, digital media presentation and Moot Court contestants. Magistrate Christy Pierson, Magistrate Scassa, Attorney Aletha Carver and Attorney Jason Bing helped judge these competitive contests. These young students with smiles on their faces celebrated this great moment with their families and teachers, and the Bar Association made it a very special ceremony. Watching over these talented students gave me faith in the future of our community. Later they all joined us at the luncheon.

Commissioner Richard Regula entertained all

of us with his mesmerizing presentation, “My Father and Seven Presidents”, which captured all our attention while displaying enchanting pictures of his family and unique stories of their relationship with seven different United States Presidents. Judge Elum presented the award to the Liberty Bell winner, Duane Wykoff. A special thank you goes to Theresa Cusma for her role in assisting with the selection of the winner. We also presented an honorary award and plaque in full Michigan colors, as he would like it, for our longest and most valued member of the Law Day Committee, the Honorable John R. Milligan, who passed away several weeks before Law Day. Judge Milligan’s contributions to the Bar Association are endless and he will be severely missed. Attorney Ken Mirkin from Community Legal Aid presented the Pro Bono Recognition Award to Rosemary Rubin.

Our Law Day Seminar provided vital information and CLE’s with Gust Callas, advising us “not to panic” over the new marijuana laws. Ohio State Representatives Scott Oelslager and James Thomas, and Scott Lundregan from the OSBA, addressed our members on the legislative process and the impact on our practice.

Finally, we held a Tour de Courts session with several sets of Stark County high school students visiting the different courthouses and getting a firsthand glimpse of the legal system being run on a daily basis. Thank you for the tour guides, Seth Marcum and Andrew Glantz, Administrator Dwaine Hemphill, Magistrates Gretchen Stocker, Steve Babik, Julie Geiser-Everett and Amanda Paar; Jake Morgan at Family/Juvenile Court, Judge Baldwin, Judge King and David Wigginton, Court Administrator, Fifth District Court of Appeals, Judge Guardado and Magistrate Derek McClowry, Canton Municipal Court, and Judge Patton and Deputy Clerk Karen Rupert at the Bankruptcy Court.

# NOTICE: PUBLIC DEFENDER COMMISSION

The Stark County Court of Common Pleas is seeking applicants to be considered for appointment to fill an unexpired term on the Stark County Public Defender Commission ending February 28, 2026. The candidate will then be eligible for reappointment to a full four year term. In accordance with Ohio Revised Code section 120.13, the Court of Common Pleas is responsible for appointing two members of the Public Defender Commission. The position is open immediately.

Individuals interested in being considered for appointment to this position should submit a cover letter stating the reasons for their interest in the position, and a resume' which includes the address of their residence and information regarding relevant experience and background.

The deadline for submitting the required information is Friday, June 21, 2024. The application should be submitted to:

Dwaine R. Hemphill, Court Administrator  
Suite 400, 115 Central Plaza North  
Canton, Ohio 44702

## Community Involvement Committee Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank May 11, 2024



### NEW PRICES EFFECTIVE 6/3/24

# Notary Stamp Prices

The Stark County Bar Association is offering for sale Attorney and Non-Attorney Notary Public Stamps and Seals. If you are interested in purchasing these items, please contact the Stark County Bar Association at 330-453-0685, or visit our website at [www.starkctybar.com](http://www.starkctybar.com).

### PRICE INFORMATION:

1. Notary Name Stamp and Embossed Seal (to be used with ink pad)..... (\$46.75 + \$2.65 tax) = \*\$49.40
2. Notary Self-Ink Stamp with seal (includes name stamp & notary seal in one) .....(\$42.50 + \$2.37 tax) = \*\$44.87
3. Notary Self-Ink Stamp without seal (name stamp only in self-ink) .....(\$37.00 + \$2.02 tax) = \*\$39.02
4. Notary Pre-Ink Stamp with seal (includes name stamp & notary seal in one).....(\$44.75 + \$2.52 tax) = \*\$47.27
5. Notary Pre-Ink Stamp without seal (name stamp only in pre-ink).....(\$37.85 + \$2.07 tax) = \*\$39.92
6. Notary Name Stamp Only (to be used with ink pad) .....(\$24.40 + \$1.20 tax) = \*\$25.60
7. Embossed Seal Only ..... (\$33.70 + \$1.80 tax) = \*\$35.50
8. Felt Stamp Pad Black Ink..... ( \$11.35 + \$0.35 tax) = \*\$11.70

*\*Prices include 6.50% Sales Tax & Shipping Charges*

# Congratulations To Our New Officers And Executive Committee Members

The ballots have been counted and we are pleased to announce our newly elected Officers and Executive Committee members as follows:

President	Angela T. Vagotis
First Vice President	Beverly Proctor-Donald
Second Vice President	Andrea M. Scassa
Secretary	Jonathan E. Morris
Treasurer	Gust Callas

Newly Elected Members of the Executive Committee:

Taryn A. Douglas • Honorable Kristin G. Farmer • Evan J. Heck  
Stacie L. Roth • Honorable Curt Werren

We would like to extend a huge thank you to the Nominating Committee and everyone who agreed to have their name placed on the ballot. We would also like to express our appreciation to all of you who took the time to vote in the election as well as the Inspectors of Election who tabulated the ballots. Please join us at the Installation Luncheon on Thursday, June 20, 2024 at Bender's Restaurant. Following the luncheon will be the 2024 Professional Conduct Seminar. Please see Page 7 to make reservations.



## *A Special Thank You!*

*The Stark County Bar Association would like to thank the following sponsors of the*  
**28TH ANNUAL WHITE-WILLIAMS BANKRUPTCY INSTITUTE**  
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Stark County Bar Association  
and  
Stark County Probate Court - Judge Dixie Park  
and

Stark Multi Disciplinary Advocacy/Protective Resources Team (SMART)  
Present

# 13TH ANNUAL “JUSTICE FOR ALL: PROTECTING THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED”

Friday, June 14, 2024

First Christian Church • 6900 Market Avenue North, Canton, OH 44721

- 8:15 A.M. REGISTRATION & CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
- 9:00 A.M. ADDRESSING THE LINES OF DEFENSE: PREVENTING ABUSE OF THE DISABLED  
Dr. Al Condeluci, Ph.D, *University of Pittsburgh’s School of Social Work*
- 10:30 A.M. BREAK
- 10:45 A.M. TRAUMA INFORMED RESPONSE TO ELDER ABUSE  
Kim Kehl, *Trauma Informed Care Coordinator, Ohio Dept. of Job and Family Services*
- 12:15 P.M. LUNCH
- 1:00 P.M. PANEL DISCUSSION  
Kim Kehl, *Trauma Informed Care Coordinator, Ohio Dept. of Job and Family Services*  
Kyle Stone, *Stark County Prosecutor*  
Melinda Mason, *Stark County Board of DD Investigative Agent*  
Terri Down, *Coleman Professional Services APS Investigator*  
Robert Fenn, *Emcee - Social Security Administration Public Affairs Specialist*
- 2:30 P.M. ADJOURN



## “Justice for All: Protecting the Elderly and Disabled”

\*Members: \$135.00    Associate Members: \$112.50    Non-Members: \$247.50

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.

RESERVATION DEADLINE: JUNE 7, 2024

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 4.50 General CLE Credit Hours  
and 4.50 Credit Hours of Guardian Continuing Education by the Stark County Probate Court.





# SCBA INSTALLATION LUNCHEON

*Bender's Restaurant &*

## 2024 PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT SEMINAR

*SCBA Conference Room*

**Thursday, June 20, 2024**

11:45 A.M. INSTALLATION LUNCHEON  
Angela T. Vagotis, President-Elect, Officers and Newly Elected Executive Committee Members

1:00 P.M. SEMINAR REGISTRATION – SCBA CONFERENCE ROOM

PROMOTING CONFIDENCE IN THE COURTS THROUGH ETHICS AND PROFESSIONALISM

1:30 P.M. OVERVIEW OF PROCEDURE  
Richard A. Dove, Esq., *Director, Board of Professional Conduct, Supreme Court of Ohio*

2:30 P.M. BREAK

2:45 P.M. Justice Melody J. Stewart, *Ohio Supreme Court*  
Justice Michael P. Donnelly, *Ohio Supreme Court*

*Seminar Moderator: Honorable Taryn L. Heath, Stark County Common Pleas Court, General Division*

Topics include: Duty to Report                      Recusal - The Art of Self-Interrogation  
Transparency    Disciplinary Considerations  
Areas of Caution                                        Power of Dissent  
Professionalism and Civility – How to Respectfully Disagree  
Interacting with Self Represented  
Strategies for Insuring Gender Fairness in the Courtroom  
Maintaining Public Confidence in the Justice System

4:15 P.M. ADJOURN



Luncheon Only: \$25.00

Luncheon & Seminar: \*Members: \$100.00    Associate Members: \$87.50    Non-Members: \$162.50

\*\*\*Please make your lunch selection\*\*\*

Chicken Marsala     Scrod a la Foley     Marinated Sliced Sirloin

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.

**RESERVATION DEADLINE: JUNE 13, 2024**

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 2.50 Professional Conduct CLE Credit Hours.



## The Stark County Bar Association Technology Committee Presents: **THE TECH SUMMERTIME SERIES**

The Stark County Bar Association Technology Committee's Tech Summertime Series is a series of three (3) continuing legal education sessions of one hour each. Each session will be to introduce and present ways and methods that attorneys are using technology to make their practices more efficient, more effective, and, generally, to make life in the profession better.

**SESSION ONE: Generative AI**  
Merisa K. Bowers, *Loss Prevention Counsel, Ohio Bar Liability Insurance*

**DATE/TIME:** Thursday, July 18, 2024 @ 12:00 Noon - 1:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Webinar

**COST:** \$30.00 Members  
\$25.00 Associate Members  
\$55.00 Non-Members

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Atty Reg. No.** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**NO REFUNDS UNLESS RESERVATION CANCELLATION IS RECEIVED 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF SEMINAR.**  
Application will be submitted for 1 General CLE Credit Hour.

**Session Two: Cyber Security** will be offered **In-person & Webinar** on **August 20th @ 12:00 Noon**  
**Session Three: Digital Forensics** will be offered by **Webinar** on **Sept. 19th @ 12:00 Noon**

**Mark your calendar and watch for details in your Bar Journal.**

# The SCBA's CLE Director/Referral Secretary Position is Available

The Stark County Bar Association is currently seeking a full time CLE Director/Referral Secretary/Receptionist.

The applicant must have the collegiality and professionalism necessary to work well serving the public and the members of the bar association.

Primary responsibilities will be applying for CLE with the Supreme Court of Ohio, working with committees to schedule meetings to plan seminars; work with speakers and their equipment requirements, prepare Agendas; prepare and put together hand-out material; handle registration and attend all seminars; scheduling of the facility; gather information for mailings, and send e-mail blasts. Applicant will also conduct webinars via Zoom.

The Referral Secretary makes referrals to attorneys, works with the Referral Service Committee, prepares and sends reports including the Annual Supreme Court Referral Service Report.

The ideal candidate must have some previous work in the legal field, be organized, manage time effectively, be a self-starter, very dependable, work well independently, be a team player, and enjoys working with the public. The applicant must display a positive attitude and be willing to do such other tasks as assigned.

Proficiency with Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, and Outlook) is a must.

Please send resume to Stark County Bar Association, 116 Cleveland Ave., N.W., Suite 400, Canton, Ohio 44702.

## *In Memory* Robert I. Friedman, Esq.

We are deeply saddened by the loss of our longtime partner, colleague, and friend, Bob Friedman. He earned his Juris Doctorate from The Ohio State University College of Law in 1964. After practicing with his own firm for several years, he joined Black McCuskey in 1987 and served as Managing Partner for seven years.



Bob mentored many young attorneys throughout his career. Additionally, he was deeply engaged in the Stark County Community and held leadership roles in various organizations. Bob's legacy is one of unwavering service, integrity, and commitment.

He loved to travel, but his greatest joy was spending time with his family. Bob was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. We mourn the loss of Bob along with his family and friends, knowing that he lives on in the hearts of those who knew him. He will always be a member of the Black McCuskey family.

Law Firm of Black McCuskey Souers & Arbaugh



# ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

## SUMMIT MEMORIAL AWARD

**Peyton C. Craig** — North Canton Hoover High School

### Division I — Grades 7th & 8th

- 1st Place **Lucinda Motts** — East Canton Middle School
- 2nd Place **Avery Chavez** — Individual (St. Paul's School)
- 3rd Place **Kolin Sisco** — East Canton Middle School

### Division II — Grades 9th & 10th

- 1st Place **Grace Swihart** — Individual (Lake High School)

### Division III — Grades 11th & 12th

- 1st Place **Samantha Bresaw** — Tuslaw High School
- 2nd Place **Hailey Conrad** — Tuslaw High School
- 3rd Place **Anna McCune** — Tuslaw High School

# POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

## Category 1 — Grades K through 2

- 1st Place **Layne Fowler** — Lake Cable Elementary

## Category 2 — Grades 3 through 5

- 1st Place **Lydia Fowler** — Lake Cable Elementary
- 2nd Place **Sophia Kisner** — Lake Cable Elementary
- 3rd Place **Olivia Keller** — Lake Cable Elementary

## Category 3 — Grades 6 through 8

- 1st Place **Ava Foss** — East Canton Middle School
- 2nd Place **Owen Boyle** — East Canton Middle School
- 3rd Place **Caidyne Murphy** — East Canton Middle School

# MOOT COURT COMPETITION

Lake High School

## APPELLANTS

- 1st Place **Paige Bays**
- 2nd Place **Sydni Wyant**
- 3rd Place **Isabella Johnson**

## APPELLEES

- 1st Place **Naomi Cain**
- 2nd Place **Lexie Shundry**
- 3rd Place **Audrey Brubaker**

# 2024 LIBERTY BELL AWARD WINNER

**Duane Wykoff**

# “WHY I WANT TO BECOME A LAWYER” ESSAY CONTEST SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

**Ronald P. Perdue** — The University of Akron School of Law

# DIGITAL MEDIA CONTEST WINNER

**Caidynce Murphy** — East Canton Middle School

# COMMUNITY LEGAL AID PRO BONO WINNER

**Attorney Rosemary Rubin**



# 2024 LAW WEEK ESSAY WINNER

“Voices of Democracy”

## WHY I WANT TO BECOME A LAWYER

By Ronald P. Perdue

### (1) Why I Want to Be a Lawyer

It is often a comical thought that my eight year old self would promptly exclaim “LAWYER” to the very common question, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” Looking back, I had zero knowledge of what a lawyer was. I had never even watched the infamously inaccurate *Law & Order*. However, somehow, from a special place inside my heart, becoming a lawyer was my calling. I would stop at nothing to ensure my accomplishment of that goal. From the moment I became old enough to understand what decisions would put me in the best position to attain a juris doctorate degree, I have made every effort to embark on such a path.

During my freshman year of high school, I discovered my passion for argumentation when being accidentally placed in a debate course due to a mistake in the guidance counselor’s office. This accident was perhaps the defining moment in my life where my passion for seeking a legal education was solidified. Through patience, kindness, and instruction, the debate coaching staff introduced me to the art of argumentation and taught me how to apply it to meaningful issues that impact people on a large scale. It was particularly memorable to qualify for the national tournament twice and be invited to a community of future professionals sharing similar goals. This passion for advocacy led me to enrolling in an accelerated pre-law undergraduate program to further develop my passion for advocacy.

During my undergraduate years, the program did not disappoint. Through rigorous introductory coursework in constitutional law, business law, international law, and media law, I was able to gain foundational knowledge in the topics to be discussed in greater depth during law school. I even tacked on a second major in professional writing, completing both programs in just three years. During my free time, I began volunteering as a debate coach at my

former high school hoping to make the lasting impact their program had on me.

### (2) Plans Upon Completing of JD

As I am nearing the conclusions of my academic career, it has become a pressing issue to determine goals for my professional future. As an adult soon to be equipped with a legal education, there has been a dramatic shift in focus; as effortless as it once was to shout “LAWYER”, it is now equally effortless to shout “SERVE MY COMMUNITY”. Through furthering education and maturity, it has become increasingly apparent that much of my success is attributed to the local community’s provision of investment and opportunity that others have not had the luxury of receiving.

Particularly in the legal context, it is with great gratitude that I recognize the invaluable guidance and mentorship that local attorney George Urban has provided me; in offering me a position to work as his assistant for the duration of my education. I have been given the opportunity to refine my skills and apply content from the classroom to the professional workplace to obtain practical knowledge. Mr. Urban’s dedication to upholding Christian values in serving his community has been a massive inspiration. Throughout the past three years, I have had the privilege of witnessing firsthand how his faith-based compassion, understanding, and integrity drive his legal practice for the betterment of our shared community. Candidly, Mr. Urban has been the cornerstone of my professional development, and I do not believe my upcoming career would be possible without him. I am eager to follow in his footsteps, subscribing to the highest levels of competence and ethics.

# CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Aaron Kovalchik, Esq.  
401 Tuscarawas Street West  
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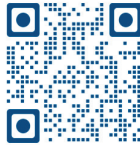
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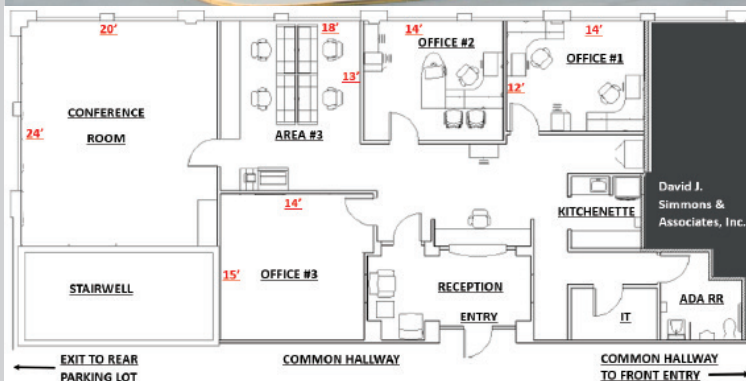
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